

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

RESPONSIBLE REDEPLOYMENT FROM IRAQ ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 12, 2007

Ms. McCOLLUM of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, once again the new majority in the U.S. House of Representatives is calling on President Bush to change direction in Iraq and take the steps necessary to bring America's servicemen and women home from an Iraqi civil war we should not be fighting. The Responsible Redeployment from Iraq Act, H.R. 2956, is legislation that directs the President to commence redeploying U.S. troops with April 1, 2008, as a target date for completion of the transition. I strongly support H.R. 2956 and would like to commend the efforts of Chairman SKELTON and his staff for the leadership to bring this bill before the House.

It is clear that the majority of Members of this House, the overwhelming majority of Americans, and most of the world recognize that the on-going war in Iraq has been a disaster for the U.S., for the people of Iraq, and for security and stability in the entire Middle East. It is time for an exit strategy that allows U.S. troops to come home while transferring responsibility to Iraqi political leaders and their security forces to ensure the future of their country.

After 52 months—more than 4 years—of American troops in Iraq there can be no doubt about the commitment and sacrifice these brave men and women have offered our Nation. While their comrades continue to fight in Iraq, some 2,600 Minnesota National Guardsmen and women are now returning home after 15 months of service. They are heroes who have done the job they have been asked to do by their commanders. Our Nation is proud of these Minnesota troops and we are also proud of their families who sacrificed as well.

Unfortunately, while U.S. troops fight for Iraq's future there is a tremendous failure on the part of Iraq's political leadership to make the sacrifices necessary to create a political environment that could lead to stability and security. Sectarian tensions are too often promoted by political leaders which directly or indirectly lead to violence and killings of innocent civilians, far too frequently in the most brutal fashion. If political leadership and institution building on the part of the Iraqis are the essential components that will create an environment in which easing of sectarian tensions and stability can take hold, then the Bush administration has failed completely.

In Iraq, car bombings, suicide bombers, roadside bombs, sectarian executions, kidnappings and assassinations are all daily events that I regret to say are now normal for those of us who read any American newspaper. From the safety of thousands of miles away this is a tragedy for the Iraqi people and for those coalition forces trying to achieve their

mission. For many of us it is also a tragedy because the war was manufactured by an American President who now appears to be completely out of touch with the dimension of the disaster he has created. Rather than rationally disengaging from the escalating violence inside Iraq, President Bush has escalated the U.S. presence with a "surge" strategy that in turn has cost more American lives.

Adding 30,000 U.S. troops since the beginning of 2007 has done nothing to change the fact that it is Iraqis who need to take control of their own country and confront the forces, including terrorists, militias, sectarian police, soldiers and politicians, that continue to eviscerate, day-by-day, their own nation. If President Bush added 100,000 more U.S. troops I am unconvinced that any change in the current situation would take place. Only a political solution can unify Iraqis in a manner that will allow them to focus their energy and resources on building a nation and ending the bloodshed.

The President's refusal to understand that Iraq is now damaging America—our military, our standing in the world, and the lost opportunities at home—is alarming. The fact is the Bush administration's actions in Iraq have resulted in far more harm, cost and pain to the U.S. than Saddam's regime ever could have inflicted on our Nation. Yet, the President's defenders in Congress and in the media continue to urge a "stay the course" strategy while invoking the name of Gen. David Petraeus as if he can singlehandedly erase four years of mistakes and ineptitude. General Petraeus is an excellent soldier and a talented leader, but he is not a miracle worker.

The time has come to for a rational, strategic plan to bring our troops home from Iraq and H.R. 2956 provides sound direction. The U.S. has interests in Iraq and the region which we must defend using our diplomatic, economic and military resources. We need to engage to a much greater extent with neighboring countries and the global powers to affect change inside Iraq. All this can be done while the 160,000 U.S. troops in Iraq are being withdrawn.

While I will vote for H.R. 2956 and I expect it to pass this House) I am also under no illusion that my Republican colleagues will vote against putting in place a strategy to bring our troops home. I have no doubt that President Bush would veto this legislation if it were to pass the Senate and be sent to the White House. Like the situation in Iraq, change cannot occur with regard to our policy in Iraq unless a political solution can be achieved in Congress with a veto proof majority of Members of the House and Senate. The American people must use their voice and put the pressure on House and Senate Republicans to support commonsense, responsible legislation, like H.R. 2956, which will put America's interests ahead of the President's hopelessly uncompromising commitment to a war without end in Iraq.

Finally, I want to commend Speaker Pelosi for her tireless leadership and commitment to

ending the war in Iraq while always working to advance America's interests. The Speaker knows our Nation's security is paramount and the policies of the current Administration have put America at risk. Her continued leadership will ultimately result in Americans coming home safer and sooner from Iraq.

IN WELCOMING THE PRESIDENT OF POLAND TO THE UNITED STATES

HON. RAHM EMANUEL

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 17, 2007

Mr. EMANUEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to welcome President Lech Kaczynski of Poland to our nation's capital. After taking office in December of 2005, President Kaczynski has strengthened Poland's already close ties with the United States.

Under the leadership of President Kaczynski, Poland has been one of the United States closest allies in strengthening democracy in Europe. Poland is a partner in the war against terrorism and provides support and stability to American efforts throughout the world.

President Kaczynski is scheduled to meet with President Bush today, and both presidents plan to discuss the possible inclusion of Poland in the Visa Waiver Program. As I have said before, Poland is a first class friend of the United States, and should not be treated like a second-class citizen.

I look forward to working with President Kaczynski and President Bush in modernizing the Visa Waiver Program to provide our closest international partners the opportunity to travel to the United States while simultaneously strengthening our security.

President Kaczynski's leadership has been vital to continuing the dialogue between Poland and the United States on important issues ranging from the war on terror to economic issues, and I look forward to continuing to work with his government.

On behalf of the more than 110,000 residents of the Fifth Congressional District of Polish decent, I welcome President Kaczynski to Washington and thank him for his fine work and commitment to democracy.

HONORING GENERAL MARIANO GUADALUPE VALLEJO

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 17, 2007

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the 200th anniversary of the birth of General Mariano Guadalupe Vallejo. General Vallejo was instrumental in the creation of a free California and

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

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

the drafting of the State constitution, and was the first great legislator from northern California.

Mariano Vallejo was born on July 4, 1807 in Monterey, then the capital of Spanish California. After Mexico gained independence from Spain in 1821, Vallejo joined the newly formed Mexican Army in California, where he served for the remainder of Mexican rule. As a successful commander, Vallejo was given command of the Presidio in San Francisco, where he was charged with defending northern California and pushing back against Russian advances along the coast. He founded a presidio in Sonoma as a military outpost to extend Mexican influence into the northern Bay Area. He also began construction of a casa grande in the town square, part of which remains today.

In 1835, Vallejo was drawn into politics when his nephew Juan Alvarado, falsely claiming to act on orders from Vallejo, precipitated an uprising against the unpopular Mexican Governor. The uprising was successful, and Vallejo traveled to Monterey where he was appointed Comandante General of the Free State of Alta California. Subsequent recognition by the Federal Government in Mexico City confirmed this, and General Vallejo remained in charge of California's military.

As the military commander of northern California, General Vallejo witnessed firsthand the incompetence of Mexican Federal rule, and he became convinced of the need to remove California from Mexico. His interest in promoting the settlement and development of northern California made him reluctant to enforce the Mexican laws dealing with foreigners moving into the area, and he often issued passports on the spot to new groups of settlers crossing into California. In 1842 General Vallejo was removed from military command in California and replaced by Manuel Micheltorena, who presided over the decline of order in the State, ultimately leading to revolt against Mexican rule.

On June 14, 1846, the Bear Flag Revolt began outside General Vallejo's casa grande in Sonoma, and he was taken prisoner and removed to Sutter's Fort in the Central Valley. He remained there for more than a month, and upon agreeing not to participate in the war with Mexico, he was allowed to return home. In early 1849 during American military rule, spurred by increasing chaos from the Gold Rush and the sudden massive flow of people into the State, Vallejo joined other residents of the area to form a council for governing northern California. This quickly translated into election to represent the Sonoma area at the State constitutional convention in Monterey.

At the State convention, Vallejo pressed the other delegates on a number of key issues, including banning slavery in the State, which succeeded, and voting rights for Native Americans who owned property, which failed. He also gave generously from his personal wealth to offer support for the establishment of a legal commission. Finally, he was part of the delegation that brought the proposed constitution to the military governor, Bennett Riley, for final approval. After voters in California approved the new constitution and California was admitted to the United States as the 31st State, Vallejo was elected as a State senator.

During his time in the State Senate, Mariano Vallejo led a number of initiatives to continue

the work he had done at the State's constitutional convention. He sponsored an act which would have allowed better government for the Native American population, and he spoke strongly against a measure which would have excluded free Blacks from the State. He also led the effort to establish a tax to fund free schooling in California. Finally, he donated land for the State Capital to be established at the north end of the Bay Area. This area, now the city of Vallejo, was the site of the capitol from 1852–53, but was moved thereafter to Sacramento.

After his departure from public life, Vallejo oversaw his remaining business ventures even as his lands were eaten away by claims from new settlers moving into the State. Later in his life he finally had the opportunity to travel to the eastern United States, where he saw Washington, DC, Philadelphia, and Boston, satisfying a life-long desire to witness the birthplace of American democracy. His final contribution to California was a vast set of collected writings on Native Americans and californios, which is now in the collections of the University of California.

Madam Speaker and colleagues, it is appropriate at this time that we recognize the remarkable life of General Mariano Guadalupe Vallejo, and acknowledge the contributions he made to the establishment of statehood for California.

FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION AMENDMENTS ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 11, 2007

Mrs. McCOLLUM of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the Food and Drug Administration—FDA Amendments Act. This bipartisan legislation is an important step toward ensuring that the FDA has the authority and the resources it needs to protect the health and safety of American families.

Recent highly publicized tragic events linked to prescription drugs, such as Vioxx, have made clear the importance of the mission of the FDA and the improvements necessary to ensure its effectiveness. This bill strengthens the FDA's oversight of drug safety by establishing a new program within the FDA to monitor the safety of drugs. Under this legislation, the FDA will be able to examine drug safety even after a drug has been approved and is on the market. H.R. 2900 also increases penalties for companies that violate safety standards.

To regain the public's trust, the FDA's advisory committees must be medically qualified, independent, and acting on behalf of the health and safety of the American people. This is why it is important that the FDA Amendments Act addresses concerns about the potential for conflict of interest because members of FDA advisory committees are frequently involved in the drug and device industry. This bill requires each member of an advisory committee to disclose financial interests to the Secretary of Health and Human Services prior to a meeting on a particular matter. It also requires the Secretary of Health and Human Services to submit reports to Congress on the membership of FDA advisory committees.

In order to increase transparency and accountability, this legislation requires that all drugs, devices, and biologics be included in a clinical trials registry and in a results database. All registry data on the safety and effectiveness of drugs and devices will be posted on an Internet site accessible to the public.

Additionally, H.R. 2900 reauthorizes through 2012 both the Prescription Drug User Fee Act—PDUFA and the Medical Device User Fee and Modernization Act—MDUFMA. These programs are essential in expediting FDA's review of new drug and medical device application and help avoid backlogs, which negatively impact both patients and manufacturers. This bill also reauthorizes the Pediatric Research Equity Act to encourage drug manufacturers to develop products to meet the specific and unique needs of children.

I am disappointed that this bill was not able to address direct-to-consumer—DTC—advertising of prescription drugs. Studies have shown that spending on DTC advertising from pharmaceutical companies has tripled in recent years and plays a role in the unsustainably increasing cost of health care. DTC advertising has also changed the doctor-patient relationship, with an increased number of patients requesting a specific drug or treatment, even in cases where a less expensive or different medication would be appropriate. H.R. 2900 is a good step forward, but I look forward to continuing to work with my colleagues to address DTC advertising of medications.

The safety of the drugs and devices on which so many Americans rely must be a priority for Congress. I urge my colleagues to join me in voting for H.R. 2900.

CONDEMNING THE DECISION BY THE UNIVERSITY AND COLLEGE UNION OF THE UNITED KINGDOM TO SUPPORT A BOYCOTT OF ISRAELI ACADEMIA

SPEECH OF

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 11, 2007

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Madam Speaker. I rise in support of H. Res. 467, condemning the decision by the University and College Union of the United Kingdom to support a boycott of Israeli academia. It appears that this boycott reflects the views of only a small minority of this esteemed union. This small minority is tarnishing the reputation of a union whose membership includes professors of some of the most historic and enlightened academic institutions in the world. This boycott unfairly targets Israeli academics; it is both biased and destructive and should be opposed.

Academic and cultural exchange is a critical bridge between societies and cultures that have no other means of interacting with each other. Free exchange of ideas has been shown to be a very positive force in bringing people together to overcome their differences. Universities should not be conduits for espousing ethnically, religiously, or racially biased political ideologies. Throughout history universities have been bastions of progressive thinking and cross cultural collaboration and they should remain unfettered by such base and thoughtless ideas as bigotry.

I would like to join with others to support this resolution urging government and educators throughout the world to reaffirm the importance of academic freedom and open dialogue and to condemn measures that would prevent the sharing and exchange of knowledge.

COLLEGE COST REDUCTION ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. VIRGINIA FOXX

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 11, 2007

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, much of the \$18 billion in new spending in the College Cost Reduction Act doesn't reduce the cost of college, but instead consists of new entitlements targeted at people who aren't even students. The bill cuts loan interest rates for those who have graduated from college—to the tune of \$6.2 billion. This is less than the amount the bill allocates towards Pell Grants—a form of aid that actually goes to students.

With so many new entitlements in this bill, I am concerned about the direction we are headed. Most of these new entitlements are given to institutions and to college graduates. The bill creates new TEACH Grants at a cost to taxpayers of \$375 million. This new entitlement gives grants to colleges and universities. It doesn't cut the cost of college for students—instead it moves towards creating a system that discourages personal responsibility and has no congressional accountability.

For instance, this bill expands a government program to repay the education loans of public sector employees. Public sector jobs include those in emergency management, government, public safety, law enforcement, public health, education, public social work, and public interest legal work. The current program repays loans remaining after 25 years of payment, but the expanded program grants loan forgiveness after 10 years of repayment, dramatically decreasing borrowers' incentive to pay off their loans.

Take for example a college graduate working in the public sector and making \$35,000 a year. If he or she has \$20,000 in debt upon graduation, this debt would be paid off within 25 years and the Federal Government would not have to pay off any remaining balance. But under the new terms the federal loan forgiveness comes at 10 years, which in this case means a payoff of more than \$10,000.

This is a new \$10,000 entitlement that creates incentives which directly discourage people in public service jobs from investing their own money in college debt. Why would someone pay off his debt at a rate any faster than the absolute minimum if he or she knows that in 10 years the Federal Government will come along and erase the remaining balance?

I want Americans to have access to education, but I don't want this access to come at the cost of a new entitlement mentality and increased dependence on the Federal Government for meeting the cost of education. At a time when we face massive increases in the cost of entitlement programs, I question the responsibility of constructing a whole new set of entitlements that will saddle future generations with new layers of government spending

and the higher taxes needed to fund these entitlements.

Education is important for the success of this nation, but giving entitlements to institutions and college graduates is not the way to lower the cost of college. In fact, heaping helpings of new entitlements will do much to undermine our national success as we face an impending entitlement crisis in the coming decades.

SCENARIO 1: INCOME-CONTINGENT REPAYMENT FOR PUBLIC SECTOR EMPLOYEES UNDER H.R. 2669, THE COLLEGE COST REDUCTION ACT (10 YEAR PERIOD)

REPAYMENT PLAN FOR PUBLIC SECTOR EMPLOYEES

The Secretary shall forgive the balance due on any loan for a borrower who makes 120 payments (monthly payments over a ten year period) on such loan pursuant to income-contingent repayment. And who is employed, and was employed for the 10-year period in which the borrower made the 120 payments, in a public sector job. This includes full-time jobs in emergency management, government, public safety, law enforcement, public health, education (including early childhood education), social work in a public child or family service agency, or public interest legal services (including prosecution or public defense).

Loan amount	AGI	Borrower payments (over 10 year period)	Forgiveness ¹ (after the 10 years)
\$20,000	\$35,000	\$20,887 (\$174 monthly, 5.9%)	\$10,026 (\$30,913 total)
20,000	50,000	24,426 (\$204 monthly, 4.9%)	5,183 (\$29,609 total)
20,000	65,000	26,140 (\$218 monthly, 4.0%)	2,838 (28,978 total)
50,000	35,000	28,700 (\$239 monthly, 8.2%)	57,138 (85,838 total)
50,000	50,000	58,700 (\$489 monthly, 11.7%)	16,194 (\$74,894 total)
50,000	65,000	\$65,350 (\$545 monthly, 10.0%)	7,093 (72,443 total)

SCENARIO 2: UNDER CURRENT LAW (25 YEAR PERIOD)

Loan amount	AGI	Borrower payments (over 25 year period)	Forgiveness ¹ (after the 25 years)
\$20,000	\$35,000	\$33,433 (\$111 monthly, 3.8%)	\$0 (\$33,433 total)
20,000	50,000	30,230 (\$100 monthly, 2.4%)	0 (\$30,230 total)
20,000	65,000	29,198 (\$97 monthly, 1.8%)	0 (\$29,198 total)
50,000	35,000	71,751 (\$239 monthly, 8.2%)	70,188 (\$141,939 total)
50,000	50,000	77,263 (\$257 monthly, 6.2%)	0 (\$77,263 total)
50,000	65,000	72,996 (\$243 monthly, 4.5%)	0 (\$72,996 total)

¹ Covers interest incurred, no cap on forgiveness (however, there if a threshold where you would be able to pay off your loan during the 10 year period and the forgiveness would not apply)

recognize the month of November as "National Homeless Youth Awareness Month."

Addressing youth homelessness needs to be a priority for Congress. As many as 1.6 million youth in our country experience homelessness each year, and in my home State of Minnesota, each night, 500 to 600 people under the age of 18 are unaccompanied and homeless. Many times these young people have been mistreated or abused, and without a permanent home, they face increased vulnerability to mental illness, drug use, and sexual abuse.

Establishing a National Homeless Youth Awareness Month is an important step toward bringing awareness to this serious problem and highlighting the work that is being done to address it.

I commend and will continue working with the organizations in the St. Paul/Minneapolis area that are dedicated to reducing and eliminating youth homelessness. For example, the Lutheran Social Service Rezek House is a Transitional Living Program, TLP, providing youth with a safe place to live for up to 2 years while they stabilize and learn the critical life skills they need to support themselves. Additionally, SafeZone is an organization helping low-income, runaway, and homeless youth to meet their basic needs by providing them with food, clothing, HIV testing, and referrals to safe housing. It also offers tutoring, independent living skills training, and a support group for Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgender, GLBT, youth, who are disproportionately represented among homeless youth.

Also, because our communities and our youth are diverse and have culturally specific needs, Ain Dah Yung, which means "our home" in the Ojibwe language, supplies a safe, culturally-relevant space for American Indian youth in the Twin Cities. Providing services for approximately 500 youth and families, services available through Ain Dah Yung include emergency shelter, crisis intervention, counseling, case management, and medical care.

Ensuring that all young people have access to safe, supportive housing is essential. I urge my colleagues to join me in support of establishing November as "National Homeless Youth Awareness Month."

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LOUISE McINTOSH SLAUGHTER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 17, 2007

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Madam Speaker, I was unable to be present for rollcall votes 625, 626, 627, 628, and 629. Had I been present, I would have voted "no" on rollcall vote 625, "no" on rollcall vote 626, "no" on rollcall vote 627, "no" on rollcall vote 628, and "yea" on rollcall vote 629.

NATIONAL HOMELESS YOUTH AWARENESS MONTH

SPEECH OF

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 11, 2007

Ms. McCOLLUM of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 527 to

A TRIBUTE TO GILDA BOJORQUEZ-GJURICH

HON. LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 17, 2007

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to an outstanding

member of the Los Angeles-area business and civic community and a woman of true distinction, Gilda Bojorquez-Gjurich.

Raised in east Los Angeles, Gilda graduated from Garfield High School and Woodbury University in Burbank, where she majored in accounting. Following graduation, she put her education to work, pursuing a career as a general contractor and becoming a partner in an Alhambra-based construction firm. It was a successful and top-rated venture, reflecting her keen business sense and her ability to break through the glass ceiling as a woman in the construction industry.

Complementing her success in the business community, Gilda has spent decades making extensive civic contributions, serving on the board of directors for various nonprofit organizations and working to improve the lives of those less fortunate in the greater Los Angeles community.

For many years, Gilda has been a key member of Las Madrinas, an informal group of dedicated advocates mentoring the young women at Ramona Continuation High School in east Los Angeles. She has provided financial resources, and recruited volunteers and role models to help inspire and guide these young women working to turn their lives around in the school's alternative learning environment.

In 1989 Gilda became a founding member of Hispanas Organized for Political Equality, HOPE, and she continues to play a dynamic and influential role in the organization. Over the past two decades, HOPE has become a vibrant nonprofit, nonpartisan organization committed to ensuring political and economic parity for Latinas through leadership, advocacy, and education.

In 1991 Gilda cofounded HOPE's annual symposium entitled, *A Proud Past . . . A Powerful Tomorrow*. To date, the symposium has welcomed more than 3,000 Latinas who have come together to learn about issues important to our community. Gilda was also instrumental in getting local, county, and State officials to declare the annual symposium date as Latina History Day, celebrated on the second Friday in March to commemorate the historic achievements of Latinas.

Gilda was also pivotal in the growth and success of the Mexican American Opportunity Foundation, established in 1963 to serve disadvantaged individuals and families in the Los Angeles area. She was chair of the foundation's National Hispanic Women's Conference, and is credited with helping the group become a multi-million dollar organization that serves more than 100,000 low-to-moderate income Latinos throughout seven counties in California providing high quality social services and programs to those communities where need is the greatest. Gilda continues to serve on the board of directors for the organization.

While her advocacy on behalf of Hispanics has made her a loved and well known figure throughout Los Angeles, Gilda has also served with distinction and earned recognition at the State and national level. Over the years, she has served three Presidents in appointed positions, including her appointments to the Commission on International Women's Year, the National Advisory Council on Women's Educational Programs, and as an emissary to evaluate the revolution in Nicaragua. California Governor Gray Davis presented her with a commendation for exemplary community serv-

ice in recognition of her years of service on behalf of her fellow Angelenos.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to Gilda as she celebrates her 80th year and a lifetime of commitment to the economic empowerment of Los Angeles communities and Latinas across the Nation. Gilda exemplifies what it is to be a role model—not just for Latinas, but for all Americans. Latino families in Los Angeles, the State and the Nation are truly fortunate to have such a devoted advocate, and I am equally blessed by her friendship that I look forward to cherishing for many years to come.

COLLEGE COST REDUCTION ACT
OF 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 11, 2007

Ms. McCOLLUM of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of the College Cost Reduction Act and congratulate Speaker PELOSI and Chairman MILLER for keeping our promise to students and their families by bringing this legislation to the floor.

H.R. 2669 is the largest investment in higher education since the G.I. Bill. Currently, 200,000 potential students do not attend college because of the cost. Many more are unable to attend a four-year college and millions more graduate with an unsustainable level of debt. Democrats have made access to higher education a priority because it is a critical investment in the future of students and families, and because we recognize that our economy and our global competitiveness depend on this country maintaining a highly skilled workforce.

In Minnesota, tuition at public universities has increased 57 percent since 2000. However, incomes for middle class families have not kept up with this growth. H.R. 2669 makes several important changes to make sure that students are not priced out of higher education. Every qualified student who wants to attend college should have that opportunity. And importantly, with this legislation we are able to do so without increasing the national debt burden for the students we are helping today.

The College Cost Reduction Act will raise the maximum Pell Grant scholarship by \$500. Along with the work of the Appropriations Committee this year, the maximum grant award will reach \$5,100 by 2011. This is a critical increase for students after several years of this grant level remaining frozen at \$4,050 while tuition costs soared.

H.R. 2669 cuts interest rates on student loans in half which will reduce debt for millions of student borrowers. The average student savings will be \$4,400 over the life of the loan. The bill also increases Federal loan limits, reducing the need for the more-expensive private loans, and requires that student loan payments are manageable for borrowers by ensuring that no one pays more than 15 percent of their discretionary income in loan repayments.

H.R. 2669 recognizes that the salaries for some of the most important jobs in our communities—teachers, first responders, early

childhood educators, law enforcement officers and others—do not always match the value of their work. This bill provides loan forgiveness and some upfront tuition assistance for students interested in a career in public service.

By reducing very generous lender subsidies, this bill gives priority to students over profits without creating an undue burden for lenders. I urge my colleagues to join me in support of this critical legislation.

FOREIGN INVESTMENT AND
NATIONAL SECURITY ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. JOE BARTON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 10, 2007

Mr. BARTON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 556. As I have previously stated on this subject, more foreign investment in America, rather than less, is good for the country. But I share the belief we must have a robust review process to screen the few investments that threaten our security. The Committee on Foreign Investment in the United States—CFIUS—was established to ensure such transactions that require greater scrutiny are evaluated in light of these concerns. I believe it is our responsibility to make sure the review process is working as intended and make changes where appropriate to enhance this process.

There is no denying the benefits of foreign investment. Our culture of innovation and risk taking has positioned many of our industries at the forefront of global innovation. Foreign investors recognize potential in U.S. companies and risk their capital on companies because our country welcomes foreign investment. When domestic investment bypasses U.S.-based companies, we should be grateful the gap is often filled by foreign investment. The money provided by foreign investors creates jobs, growth and opportunity here at home, and we will only benefit by encouraging more investment. Shutting off foreign investment will hurt us more than it helps us.

But we must be sure that the need to attract investments is balanced with our obligation to ensure they will not pose a danger or national security threat to our Nation. The foreign investment review process is not new, but the highly publicized proposed transactions involving CNOOC and Dubai Ports last year highlighted to Congress, and the public, a process in dire need of review. Many observed this process by which our government sorts out good investment from bad can be rather opaque. Congress and the relevant Committees—including the Energy and Commerce Committee, which has original jurisdiction dating back to the Exon-Florio Amendment—need to be aware of the criteria used to evaluate the transactions and which transactions should be subject to more rigorous review.

Last Congress we acted on the need to clarify the review process and improve transparency. Through the Congressional process, the House passed legislation, but the Senate did not act. I am pleased the Senate has acted this Congress and we will pass this legislation to become law, but I am disappointed in several changes made to the original House-passed version.

Regardless of the imperfections, this will be an improvement over current law. The legislation will provide consistent criteria with appropriate discretion for foreign investment reviews. The triggers for mandatory reviews will also improve the process without impairing our ability to attract significant and needed foreign investment. The legislation also expands the membership of the review board and will now include additional expertise, including the Secretary of Energy, which can only benefit the review process.

Finally, I am pleased the reporting requirements will provide meaningful information to Congress. More robust information will provide a better understanding of the transactions and the criteria CFIUS evaluated to reach their decisions.

I support the legislation because these changes collectively improve the process for foreign investment reviews and increase the transparency of the process.

STATEMENT BY DR. NORMAN E.
BORLAUG

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

HON. LEONARD L. BOSWELL

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 17, 2007

Mr. LATHAM. Madam Speaker, Mr. BOSWELL and I would like to submit the following statement from Dr. Norman E. Borlaug for the Congressional Record.

NORMAN E. BORLAUG: STATEMENT ON THE OCCASION OF THE CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL CEREMONY, UNITED STATES CAPITOL, JULY 17, 2007

It is a great honor to be awarded the Congressional Gold Medal, in recognition of my work to feed a hungry world. I thank members of Congress for giving me an opportunity to comment on the challenges and complexities of feeding a world of 10 billion people who I expect will be living on the planet Earth sometime this century.

When I was born—in 1914—there were only 1.6 billion people on Earth. Today, we are 6.5 billion and growing by 80 million per year. The task of feeding this growing population has been made more complex, since agriculture is now being asked not only to produce food, feed and fiber, but also raw materials for bio-fuels. Thus, there is no room for complacency for those of us working on the food front.

I am now in my 63rd year of continuous involvement in agricultural research and production in low-income, food-deficit developing countries. I have worked with many scientists, political leaders, and farmers to transform food production systems. Any achievements I have made have been possible through my participation in this army of hunger fighters. There are too many to name, but you know who you are. I thank you for your dedication and assistance all of these years. I also thank my family, and my late wife Margaret, for the understanding and unselfish support you have given me.

The Green Revolution was a great historic success. In 1960, perhaps 60 percent of the world's people felt hunger during some portion of the year. By the year 2000, the proportion of hungry in the world had dropped to 14 percent of the total population. Still, this figure translated to 850 million men, women and children who lacked sufficient calories

and protein to grow strong and healthy bodies. Thus, despite the successes of the Green Revolution, the battle to ensure food security for hundreds of millions of miserably poor people is far from won.

THE GREEN REVOLUTION

The breakthroughs in wheat and rice production in Asia in the mid-1960s, which came to be known as the Green Revolution, symbolized the beginning of a process of using agricultural science to develop modern techniques for the Third World. It began in Mexico with the "quiet" wheat revolution in the late 1950s. During the 1960s and 1970s, India, Pakistan, and the Philippines received world attention for their agricultural progress. In the 1980s and 1990s, China, home to one fifth of the world's people, has been the greatest success story. China today is the world's biggest food producer and its crop yields are approaching those of the United States with every successive year. However, it is almost certain, that China and India—home to one third of the world's people—will become the largest agricultural importers in the coming decades, as their economies shift from being agrarian to industrial.

Critics of modern agricultural technology invariably turn a blind eye on what the world would have been like without the technological advances that have occurred, largely during the past 50 years. For those whose main concern is protecting the "environment," let's look at the positive impact that the application of science-based technology has had on land use. If the global cereal yields of 1950 still prevailed in 2000 we would have needed nearly 1.2 billion ha of additional land of the same quality—instead of the 660 million ha that was used—to achieve the global harvest of that year. Obviously, such a surplus of land was not available, and certainly not in populous Asia, where the population had increased from 1.2 to 3.8 billion over this period. Moreover, if more environmentally fragile land had been brought into agricultural production, the impact on soil erosion, loss of forests and grasslands, biodiversity and extinction of wildlife species would have been enormous and disastrous.

At least in the foreseeable future, plants—and especially the cereals—will continue to supply much of our increased food demand, both for direct human consumption and as livestock feed to satisfy the rapidly growing demand for meat in the newly industrializing countries. It is likely that an additional 1 billion metric tons of grain will be needed annually by 2025, just to feed the world, let alone fuel its vehicles. Most of this increase must come from lands already in production through yield improvements. Fortunately, such productivity improvements in crop management can be made all along the line—in plant breeding, crop management, tillage, water use, fertilization, weed and pest control, and harvesting.

AFRICA'S FOOD PRODUCTION CHALLENGES

More than any other region of the world, African food production is in crisis. High rates of population growth and little application of improved production technology during the last two decades resulted in declining per capita food production, escalating food deficits, deteriorating nutritional levels, especially among the rural poor, and devastating environmental degradation. While there are more signs since 2000 that smallholder food production is beginning to turn around, this recovery is still very fragile.

Sub-Saharan Africa's extreme poverty, poor soils, uncertain rainfall, increasing population pressures, changing ownership patterns for land and cattle, political and social turmoil, shortages of trained

agriculturalists, and weaknesses in research and technology delivery systems all make the task of agricultural development more difficult. But we should also realize that to a considerable extent, the present food crisis is the result of the long-time neglect of agriculture by political leaders. Even though agriculture provides livelihoods to 70–85 percent of the people in most countries, agricultural and rural development has been given low priority. Investments in food distribution and marketing systems and in agricultural research and education are woefully inadequate. Furthermore, many governments pursued and continue to pursue a policy of providing cheap food for the politically volatile urban dwellers at the expense of production incentives for farmers.

In 1986 I became involved in food crop technology transfer projects in sub-Saharan Africa, sponsored by the Nippon Foundation and its Chairman, the late Ryoichi Sasakawa, and enthusiastically supported by former U.S. President Jimmy Carter. Our joint program is known as Sasakawa-Global 2000, and has operated in 14 sub-Saharan African countries the past 20 years. We have assisted several million small-scale farmers to grow extension demonstration plots for basic food crops: maize, rice, sorghum, millet, wheat, cassava, and grain legumes.

The recommended production technologies come from national and international agricultural research organizations, and include: (1) the use of the best available commercial varieties or hybrids (2) proper land preparation and seeding to achieve good stand establishment, (3) proper application of the appropriate fertilizers and, when needed, crop protection chemicals, (4) timely weed control, and (5) moisture conservation and/or better water use if under irrigation. We also work with participating farm families to improve on-farm storage of agricultural production, both to reduce grain losses due to spoilage and infestation and to allow farmers to hold stocks longer to exploit periods when prices in the marketplace are more favorable. Virtually without exception, farmers obtain grain yields that are two to three times higher on their demonstration plots than has been traditionally the case. Farmers' enthusiasm is high and political leaders are taking much interest in the program.

Despite the formidable challenges in Africa, the elements that worked in Latin America and Asia will also work there. With more effective seed, fertilizer supply and marketing systems, hundreds of millions of smallholder farmers in Africa can make great strides in improving the nutritional and economic well being of their populations. The biggest bottleneck that must be overcome is lack of infrastructure, especially roads and transport, but also potable water and electricity. In particular, improved transport systems would greatly accelerate agricultural production, break down tribal animosities, and help establish rural schools and clinics in areas where teachers and health practitioners are heretofore unwilling to venture.

CROP RESEARCH CHALLENGES

Crop productivity depends both on the yield potential of the varieties and the crop management employed to enhance input and output efficiency. Agricultural researchers and farmers worldwide face the challenge during the next 25 years of developing and applying technology that can increase the global cereal yields by 50–75 percent, and to do so in ways that are economically and environmentally sustainable. Much of the yield

gains will come from applying technology “already on the shelf” but yet to be fully utilized. But there will also be new research breakthroughs, especially in plant breeding to improve yield stability and, hopefully, maximum genetic yield potential.

While we must continue to push the frontiers of science forward, we also must be mindful of the need to protect the gains already made. Agriculture is a continuing struggle against mutating pathogens and insects. A clear example is the new race of stem rust that has emerged in East Africa, which is capable of devastating most of the world’s commercial bread wheat varieties. Ironically, I began my career in agricultural science combating stem rust some 60 years ago and I am now in the twilight of my life, once again facing my old nemesis. There hasn’t been a major stem rust epidemic for more than 50 years, since the virulent race called 15B devastated much of the North America wheat crop during 1950–54. Out of that crisis came new forms of international cooperation in plant breeding, which led to accelerated development around the world of high-yielding, disease-resistant, broadly adapted wheat varieties. However, in the ensuing years, complacency, increasing barriers to international exchange of plant breeding materials, declining budgets, staff retirements and discontinuity in training programs, has resulted in a much weakened system. This has been evident in the slow international response to a very serious new stem rust race, called Ug99, first spotted in Uganda and Kenya in the late 1990s. Ug99 has now escaped from Africa and begun its migration to North Africa and the Middle East. It won’t be long before it reaches South Asia and later China, North America and the rest of the wheat-growing world. Wheat scientists are now scrambling to control this disease before it gains a foothold and causes catastrophic losses to the livelihoods of several hundred million wheat farmers and widespread global wheat shortages that will affect prices and the welfare of several billion consumers. Since 2005, excellent collaboration has been forthcoming from the USDA, key land grant universities, and USAID. A far-reaching research program is being considered by a major U.S. foundation located in Seattle that if approved could solidify and accelerate the progress to date. As part of this research effort we also hope to identify why rice, alone among the cereals, is immune to the rust fungi, and then use biotechnology to transfer this genetic immunity from rice to wheat and other cereals. If we are successful in this quest, the scourge of rust, mentioned in the bible, could finally be banished from the Earth.

WHAT CAN WE EXPECT FROM BIOTECHNOLOGY?

During the 20th Century, conventional plant breeding has produced—and continues to produce—modern crop varieties and hybrids that have contributed immensely to grain yield potential, disease and insect resistance, stability of harvests and farm incomes, while sparing vast tracts of land for other uses, such as wildlife habitats, forests, and outdoor recreation.

The majority of agricultural scientists including myself anticipate great benefits from biotechnology in the coming decades to help meet our future needs for food, feed, fiber, and bio-fuels. Promising work, now utilizing the powerful new tools of biotechnology, is also under way to develop greater tolerance of climatic extremes, such as drought, heat, and cold. Such research is likely to become more important in the future as the world experiences the effects of climate change. We must also persist in scientific efforts to raise maximum genetic yield potential to increase food production

on lands currently in use while protecting against serious negative environmental impacts.

Seventy percent of global water withdrawals are used for irrigating agricultural lands, which account for 17 percent of total cultivated land yet contribute 40 percent of our global food harvest. Expanding the area under irrigation is critical to meeting future food demand. However, competing urban demands for water will require much greater efficiencies in agricultural water use. Through biotechnology we will be able to achieve “more crop per drop” by designing plants with reduced water requirements and adoption of improved crop/water management systems.

Developing country governments need to be prepared to work with—and benefit from—the new breakthroughs in biotechnology. Regulatory frameworks are needed to guide the testing and use of genetically modified crops, which protect public welfare and the environment against undue risk. They must be cost effective to implement yet not be so restrictive that science cannot advance.

Since the private sector patents its life science inventions, agricultural policy makers must be vigilant in guarding against too much concentration of ownership and also be concerned about equity of access issues, especially for poor farmers. These are legitimate matters for debate by national, regional and global governmental organizations.

Even with private sector leadership in biotechnology research I believe that governments should also fund significant public research programs. This is not only important as a complement and balance to private sector proprietary research, but is also needed to ensure the proper training of new generations of scientists, both for private and public sector research institutions.

U.S. agriculture is being asked to produce more food, feed, fiber and now biofuels, while protecting the environment and not greatly increasing land use. Science is ready for the task, but science will not succeed without wise and adequate support from the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) and its congressional committees. Traditional programs of research and education at USDA and in the land grant universities must continue. Congress must also invest more generously in fundamental research to learn more about the cellular and molecular events that determine how plants and animals reproduce, grow and fight off stresses such as drought, cold and disease. Most of these major innovations will start first with acquiring deeper fundamental understanding.

Getting the most from fundamental research will require changes in the culture of decision making in public agricultural institutions. Leading scientists must be involved in deciding which programs have scientific merit and in setting realistic scientific priorities. There should be a council, like those of the National Institutes of Health, where scientists and stakeholders can pool their wisdom in recommending research priorities. Building such changes into the current farm bill is a high priority.

EDUCATING URBANITES ABOUT AGRICULTURE

The current backlash against agricultural science and technology evident in some industrialized countries is hard for me to comprehend. How quickly humankind becomes detached from the soil and agricultural production! Less than 4 percent of the population in the industrialized countries (less than 2 percent in the USA) is directly engaged in agriculture. With low-cost food supplies and urban bias, is it any wonder that consumers don’t understand the complexities

of re-producing the world food supply each year in its entirety, and expanding it further for the nearly 80 million new mouths that are born into this world annually? I believe we can help address this “educational gap” by making it compulsory in secondary schools and universities for students to take courses on agriculture, biology, and science and technology policy.

One exciting high school program, in which I am personally involved, is the World Food Prize Youth Institute program originated by Des Moines philanthropist Juan Ruan and led by the World Food Prize Foundation. Each year, more than a 100 high school students, mainly from Iowa but now expanding to other states and countries, convene at the George Washington Carver auditorium at Pioneer Hybrid Company headquarters in Johnston, Iowa, with teachers and parents, to present their well-researched essays on about how to increase the quantity, quality, and availability of food around the world. They make these presentations in front of past and present World Food Prize laureates and other experts, and lively discussions ensue. Each year, a select few graduating seniors win travel fellowships to go to a developing country where they live and work at an agricultural research institute, and learn first hand about hunger and poverty, and the role that science and technology can play to alleviate these calamities. It is especially gratifying to see the growth and development of these young, mostly female, summer interns. It literally is a life-changing experience for them, and it shows in their performance at university and in career selections. More programs like this are needed, so that future generations of Americans have a better sense about the complexities and challenges of feeding a growing world.

AGRICULTURE AND THE ENVIRONMENT

As the pace of technological change has accelerated the past 50 years, the fear of science has grown. Certainly, the breaking of the atom and the prospects of a nuclear holocaust added to people’s fear, and drove a bigger wedge between the scientist and the layman. Rachel Carson’s book *Silent Spring*, published in 1962, which reported that poisons were everywhere, also struck a very sensitive nerve. Of course, this perception was not totally unfounded. By the mid 20th century air and water quality had been seriously damaged through wasteful industrial production systems that pushed effluents often literally into “our own backyards.”

We all owe a debt of gratitude to environmental movement in the industrialized nations, which has led to legislation over the past 40 years to improve air and water quality, protect wildlife, control the disposal of toxic wastes, protect the soils, and reduce the loss of biodiversity. However, these positive environmental trends are not found in the developing countries, where environmental degradation, especially in Africa, threatens ecological stability if not reversed.

There is often a deadlock between agriculturalists and environmentalists over what constitutes “sustainable agriculture” in the Third World. This debate has confused—if not paralyzed—many in the international donor community who, afraid of antagonizing powerful environmental lobbying groups, have turned away from supporting sciencebased agricultural modernization projects still needed in much of smallholder Asia, subSaharan Africa, and Latin America. This deadlock must be broken.

We cannot lose sight of the enormous job before us to feed 10 billion people, 90 percent of whom will begin life in a developing country, and many in poverty. Only through dynamic agricultural development will there be any hope to alleviate poverty and improve human health and productivity, and reducing political instability.

CLOSING COMMENTS

Thirty seven years ago, in my acceptance speech for the Nobel Peace Prize, I said that the Green Revolution had won a temporary success in man's war against hunger, which if fully implemented, could provide sufficient food for humankind through the end of the 20th century. But I warned that unless the frightening power of human reproduction was curbed, the success of the Green Revolution would only be ephemeral.

It took some 10,000 years to expand food production to the current level of about 5 billion tons per year. By 2050, we will likely need to nearly double current production again. This cannot be done unless farmers across the world have access to high-yielding crop production methods as well as new biotechnological breakthroughs that can increase the crop yields, dependability, and nutritional quality. Indeed, it is higher farm incomes that will permit small-scale farmers in the Third World to make desperately needed investments to protect their natural resources. As Kenyan archeologist Richard Leakey likes to remind us, "you have to be well-fed to be a conservationist." We have to bring common sense into the debate on agricultural science and technology and the sooner the better!

The United States is the greatest agricultural success story of the 20th Century. Through science and technology and farmer ingenuity, American agriculture has achieved levels of productivity second to none. We also have a great tradition, especially in earlier decades, of helping low-income; food-deficit nations to get their own agricultural systems moving. Our private agri-businesses have invested heavily in the development of productivity-enhancing technology, not only to the benefit of this country but also around the world. American public institutions—the land-grant universities and colleges, the USDA, and the U.S. Department of State—have played key roles in the transformation of subsistence agriculture, especially in Asia and Latin America. This has been good for the American people and the world. Lest we forget, world peace will not be built on empty stomachs or human misery.

I would be remiss if I did not thank the Administration for establishing the USDA Borlaug Fellows program in 2004, in my honor, at the time of my 90th birthday. This is an international program that actively engages universities like my own Texas A&M University, my alma mater, the University of Minnesota, and many other of our fine land grant universities and colleges. The Borlaug fellows program also has links to the international agricultural research centers located abroad and to private agro-industry.

The aim is to provide relatively young scientists from developing countries with opportunities to travel to the USA to gain practical experience and upgrade their technical skills at advanced agricultural laboratories. So far, USDA has been able, with the assistance of USAID, to piece together funding for about 150 Borlaug fellows to come to the United States each year. With more permanent funding, along the lines of the Fulbright program, USDA and the partner universities could implement a more substantial range of learning and personal development opportunities for young scientists and agricultural leaders from developing countries. This would be good for the individual recipients, their sponsoring institutions and

countries, and also, I believe, for America. Texas A&M University and Ohio State University have been working through the National Association of State Universities and Land Grant Colleges (NASULGC) to prepare a more substantial proposal for consideration by Congress.

My plea today to the members of Congress and to the Administration is to re-commit the United States to more dynamic and generous programs of official development assistance in agriculture for Third World nations, as was done in the 1960s and 1970s. Evershrinking foreign aid budgets in support of smallholder agriculture, and especially to multilateral research and development organizations such as the International Maize and Wheat Improvement Center (CIMMYT) where I have worked for 40 years, as well as its sister research institutes under the Consultative Group for International Agricultural Research (CGIAR), are not in our nation's best interest, nor do they represent our finest traditions.

As you chart the course of this great nation for the future benefit of our children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren, I ask you to think more boldly and humanely about the Third World and develop a new version of the Marshall plan, this time not to rescue a war-torn Europe, but now to help the nearly one billion, mostly rural poor people still trapped in hunger and misery. It is within America's technical and financial power to help end this human tragedy and injustice, if we set our hearts and minds to the task.

UPPER MISSISSIPPI RIVER BASIN PROTECTION ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 10, 2007

Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 2381, the Upper Mississippi River Basin Protection Act, which improves the management of sediment and nutrient loss in the Upper Mississippi River Basin by establishing a coordinated public-private strategy.

Water quality in the Upper Mississippi River is critical to the ecological health of the system and is intricately linked to the basin's vast drainage. The Mississippi River is a multi-use resource where commercial navigation, water supply, and recreational demands co-exist with natural resources. Millions of tons of commodities are transported on the river annually. More than 30 million residents rely on the river water to supply their communities with water. And the river hosts about 12 million recreational visitors annually. At the same time, the Mississippi River is home to a wide variety of wildlife.

Unfortunately, the health of the Upper Mississippi River Basin has deteriorated over the years as a result of nonpoint source runoff from land. While agriculture is the lifeblood of many economies along the river, it has contributed to sediment and nutrient buildup that has been detrimental to the health of the river. These sediments and nutrients are transported downstream creating a zone of low dissolved oxygen in the Gulf of Mexico called the "Dead Zone."

We must find ways to harmonize our economy with our environment in order to preserve the Upper Mississippi River Basin. H.R. 2381 take steps in that direction by supporting a sediment and nutrient monitoring and data col-

lection system for the Upper Mississippi River Basin. This Act will provide much-needed objective data to help manage the increasing sediment and nutrient crisis this river faces.

TRIBUTE TO DAVID B. WHITMORE

HON. JOHN M. McHUGH

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 17, 2007

Mr. MCHUGH. Madam Speaker, I rise today with great sadness to note the recent passing of David B. Whitmore, who not only was an invaluable member of my staff but also an irreplaceable friend, and to extend my deepest sympathies to his wife, Rosan, and the rest of their family.

Dave was born and raised in Watertown, New York, which is also my hometown. After we graduated from Watertown High School together in 1966, Dave went to Grahm Junior College in Boston, Massachusetts, where he earned his bachelors degree in broadcasting.

Thereafter, Dave worked in film production and sales before returning to the North Country. At that time he and Rosan were wed in 1969 and began to raise three beautiful children, Scott, Kristin, and Kerry. Dave then began working for the New York State Farm Bureau and eventually became the organization director before he took up his duties to serve the people of northern New York as a regional representative of my congressional office.

It is hard to overstate the excellence of Dave's public service. In addition to his deep knowledge of agriculture, which is vitally important to northern New York's economy, Dave understood and loved people as he worked hard to use his experience and talents to help them on a daily basis.

Likewise, words are inadequate to express how much his family and I will miss him nor how much we appreciated his integrity, work ethic, ability, generosity, and the contributions he made during his life. All of us in central and northern New York have lost a tireless advocate and a dear friend. He will be deeply missed by many.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ELTON GALLEGLY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 17, 2007

Mr. GALLEGLY. Madam Speaker, I was unable to make the following rollcall votes on July 16, 2007:

H.R. 1980, to authorize appropriations for the Housing Assistance Council. On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass, I would have voted "aye."

H.R. 1982, the Rural Housing and Economic Development Improvement Act of 2007. On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass, as Amended, I would have voted "aye."

H.R. 799, Appalachian Regional Development Act Amendments. On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass, as Amended, I would have voted "nay."

TRIBUTE TO NEW VETERANS AND
PURPLE HEART RECIPIENTS ME-
MORIAL

HON. SHELLEY MOORE CAPITO

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 17, 2007

Mrs. CAPITO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a new memorial in my district that honors our veterans and Purple Heart recipients.

The new memorial was unveiled July 9, 2007 at the Veterans Affairs Hospital in Martinsburg, WV. The ceremony was officiated by the Martinsburg Chapter 646 of the Military Order of the Purple Heart.

The Purple Heart and Veterans Memorial is 1 of 2 in West Virginia and 1 of 110 throughout the whole Nation to honor our military men and women. Former Martinsburg VA Director Fernando Rivera came up with the idea after he visited a similar memorial in the neighboring State of Maryland. The Martinsburg Chapter 646 of the Military Order of the Purple Heart worked with the VA center to build the memorial at the main entrance of the facility.

Cy Kammeier, commander of the Martinsburg Chapter 646 of the Military Order of the Purple Heart, dedicated the memorial to "those who gave some, and for the next of kin, those who gave all."

As this year brings the 75th anniversary of the revival of the Purple Heart, it gives me a great privilege to recognize those who helped make this memorial a success. I am honored to serve the citizens of the Second District of West Virginia, many of whom continue to proudly represent our State in the Armed Forces. Memorials like the one in Martinsburg are a reminder of the sacrifices that so many men and women have made in order to protect our freedoms and liberties throughout our Nation's history.

HONORING DAVID CLARENBACH

HON. TAMMY BALDWIN

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 17, 2007

Ms. BALDWIN. Madam Speaker, as the State of Wisconsin celebrates the 25th anniversary of the Nation's first Gay and Lesbian Civil Rights Act, I rise today to honor the courageous individual who authored this historic legislation, David Clarenbach.

David Clarenbach is a seasoned veteran of local, state, and national politics. He won his first term as a Dane County Supervisor at the age of 18, and was elected to the Madison Common Council in 1974. He served in the Wisconsin State Assembly from 1975 to 1993, and was Speaker pro tem from 1983 to 1993. In 1992 David was a Democratic Congressional candidate from Wisconsin's Second District.

Throughout his career, David Clarenbach has been intimately involved in the growth and development of the LGBT civil rights movement. During his tenure in the Wisconsin Legislature he wrote the Gay and Lesbian Civil Rights Act of 1982, the first in the Nation to include gay and lesbian people in statewide anti-discrimination laws. He authored Wiscon-

sin's Hate Crimes Act, which was upheld unanimously by the U.S. Supreme Court. He sponsored a Bill of Rights for people with AIDS and HIV infection. And, in 1983, he authored the Consenting Adults Act, legalizing all sexual activity between consenting adults in private, thus repealing the state's sodomy prohibitions. He has served as a consultant and mentor to openly gay and lesbian candidates throughout the country.

Bringing together his vast experience in policy development, legislative relations, and grassroots organizing, on February 3, 1981, then Wisconsin State Representative David Clarenbach introduced Assembly Bill 70 to include discrimination based on sexual orientation in the state's prohibition on discrimination in employment, housing, and public accommodations. At the time only 41 municipalities and 8 counties in the United States offered limited protections against discrimination based on sexual orientation. In explaining the bill, Representative Clarenbach stated that "the right of private sexual preference among adults should be considered inherent . . . he or she should be guaranteed the basic human right to live without harassment or discrimination." The bill was endorsed by a broad coalition of clergy, religious denominations, and medical and professional groups.

In October 1981, Assembly Bill 70 was approved by the Wisconsin State Assembly by a vote of 50 to 46, and in February 1982, the Wisconsin State Senate approved the proposal by a vote of 19 to 13. Later that month, Republican Governor Lee Sherman Dreyfus signed Assembly Bill 70 into law, making Wisconsin the first in the Nation to enact a civil rights statute covering sexual orientation.

For his tenacity, his skills, and most of all, his courage, I join with all of Wisconsin in saluting David Clarenbach.

FREEDOM FOR CARLOS MANUEL
HERNÁNDEZ REYES

HON. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 17, 2007

Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to speak about Carlos Manuel Hernández Reyes, a political prisoner in totalitarian Cuba.

Mr. Carlos Manuel Hernández Reyes is a member of the John Paul II Peace and Justice Movement and a member of the Pedro Luis Boitel Civic Resistance Movement, an organization named for a legendary, heroic Cuban political figure who died in a hunger strike in 1972. The primary objective of the movement is to urge the Cuban tyranny to grant amnesty to all prisoners of conscience and to abolish "political" crimes in totalitarian Cuba. Because of Mr. Hernández Reyes' steadfast belief in human liberty and his dream of freedom for the people of Cuba, who have for too long been enslaved by the nightmare that is the totalitarian regime, he has been a constant target of the tyranny's repressive machinery.

Because of his belief in inalienable rights and his dream that the people of Cuba deserve freedom and democracy, Mr. Hernández Reyes was arrested by state security thugs on March 15, 2007 on grotesque charges of "disrespect," which amounted to nothing more

than refusing to live out the regime's mandated propaganda. For his supposed "crime" Mr. Hernández Reyes was maliciously "sentenced" to one year in the totalitarian gulag.

I remind my colleagues that, under the Cuban totalitarian regime, any freedom of expression or effort to display truth or opinion that is not in step with the regime's mandated lies, is met with swift and violent repression. Upon his "sentencing" Mr. Hernández Reyes was moved by mule to the Tres Veredas concentration camp in Guantanamo, Cuba. Madam Speaker, Tres Veredas is an infernal dungeon where men are herded and treated as animals, with little if any contact with the outside world, the camp being a three to four hour walk from the nearest town and almost only reachable by mule.

Madam Speaker, Mr. Hernández Reyes languishes in an unventilated, dank, and rancid smelling room without water, electricity, or sunlight. Recently, Mr. Hernández Reyes was able to communicate to human rights activist Francisco Hernández Gomez that there was a rampant outbreak of diarrhea among the prisoners. No one bothered to investigate the source of their illness or make the minimal effort of transporting prisoners to a hospital or clinic for diagnosis. Instead they were "treated" by a nurse at the facility itself without access even to electricity.

Madam Speaker, this is only one episode of the criminally abhorrent injustices continually carried out on countless innocent Cubans just 90 miles from our shores. And yet, though the tyranny has attempted to destroy Mr. Hernández Reyes, he will never cease in his commitment to freedom for Cuba. My colleagues, we must demand the immediate release of Carlos Manuel Hernández Reyes and all prisoners of conscience in totalitarian Cuba.

HONORING SERGEANT NICHOLAS
WALSH

HON. MARILYN N. MUSGRAVE

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 17, 2007

Mrs. MUSGRAVE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of SGT Nicholas Walsh and pay tribute to his patriotic service to our Nation.

As a team leader with Charlie Company, 1st Reconnaissance Battalion, 1st Marine Division, Sergeant Walsh bravely led fellow Marines on special operations missions in Iraq's Al Anbar Province. On May 26, while on a mission in Fallujah, Sergeant Walsh tragically lost his life.

After graduating from John Carroll High School in Birmingham, Alabama, Nicholas Walsh followed in the footsteps of a number of his family members and joined the Marines. Sergeant Walsh served four years before leaving the Marines. He married his wife Julie and started a family. Two years after leaving the Marines, Sergeant Walsh re-enlisted in the Corps he loved so much.

Like so many of our brave men and women in uniform, Sergeant Walsh often demurred at being identified as a hero. When asked if he would like to be buried at Arlington he responded: "No way; that place is for people better than me. That place is for heroes." Madam Speaker, Sergeant Walsh is a hero.

He is a hero for his selfless service to our Nation. He is a hero for paying the ultimate price for freedom and liberty.

Today, I echo the words written by neighbors of Sergeant Walsh's parents, Maggie and Jerry: "We know that no words we could say can comfort you, but our thoughts are with you and our hearts ache for you." Our hearts ache for Sergeant Walsh's wife Julie, his sons Triston and Tanner, and the many loved ones and friends Sergeant Walsh leaves behind.

Madam Speaker, Sergeant Walsh is a true hero. Today, with a heavy heart, I extend to Sergeant Walsh's family my deepest sympathies. I urge my colleagues to join me in honoring the patriotism and selfless sacrifice of SGT Nicholas Walsh.

TRIBUTE TO MR. JACK KESSLER

HON. SHELLEY MOORE CAPITO

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 17, 2007

Mrs. CAPITO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the accomplishments of a constituent of mine, Mr. Jack Kessler; specifically his forty-two years of service as President of the Putnam County Library Board.

As the board's founding President, Jack oversaw the birth of the county's library which in 1961 consisted of little more than a bookmobile and storage house. From those humble beginnings, however, the library blossomed. By the time Jack retired, after four decades of leadership, the Putnam County Library had grown to comprise five buildings, including four branches servicing communities across the county.

Jack left another, more direct, legacy when he retired. His daughter Jackie now serves as the library's director. Noting the family connection, Jack jokes he always has more than enough books to read.

Madam Speaker, for much of American history local libraries have provided communities with opportunities for advancement through education. Putnam County Library's branches, summer programs and volume after volume of books has benefited generations of West Virginia residents. The most enduring aspect of Jack Kessler's legacy is the benefit for generations yet to come.

I thank Jack for his years of service and Putnam County is fortunate to call Jack one of its own.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TIMOTHY V. JOHNSON

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 17, 2007

Mr. JOHNSON of Illinois. Madam Speaker, unfortunately yesterday, July 16, 2007, I was unable to cast my votes on H.R. 1980, H.R. 1982, and H.R. 799.

Had I been present for rollcall No. 630 on suspending the rules and passing H.R. 1980, to authorize appropriations for the Housing Assistance Council, I would have voted, "aye."

Had I been present for rollcall No. 631 on suspending the rules and passing H.R. 1982, the Rural Housing and Economic Develop-

ment Improvement Act of 2007, I would have voted, "aye."

Had I been present for rollcall No. 632 on suspending the rules and passing H.R. 799, the Appalachian Regional Development Act Amendments, I would have voted, "aye."

INTRODUCTION OF LEGISLATION TO REFORM FEDERAL PROTECTIVE SERVICE GUARD CONTRACTING OPERATIONS

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 17, 2007

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, today I introduce a bill that I believe Congress must pass forthwith to assure that Federal Protective Service, FPS, guard contractors are capable, responsible, and ethical as required by the Federal Acquisition Regulations. It was clear to me that this bill was necessary when a vital security contractor issue emerged from our Subcommittee on Economic Development, Public Buildings and Emergency Management hearing on June 21, 2007. A security guard contractor had failed to pay its guards from FPS funds. At the hearing we learned that Weldon Waites, who had served five years in prison for money laundering and fraud, was the de facto owner, with his wife, of STARTECH, despite federal law barring felons from owning companies that do business with the federal government. In fact, it was Waites, not his wife, who came forward to defend the company after it failed to pay its 600 D.C.-based guards despite receipt of funds from FPS for payment. Mr. Waites' testimony concerning his operational control of the company was nothing short of a case study in evasion of existing law by merely taking advantage of obvious loopholes. Today I am filing the Federal Protective Service Guard Contracting Reform Act to prohibit FPS from contracting with any security guard service that is "owned, controlled or operated by an individual who has been convicted of a felony." My bill would eliminate proxy ownership of vital FPS contracting operations by relatives or spouses. The bill would be effective immediately upon passage and therefore would mean that FPS would be required to dismiss any felon exercising control over any FPS contracting operation now, not merely future contractors.

My bill reminds us that we must not lose sight of the mission of private contract guards who serve the federal government—to guard federal employees and sites as vital as nuclear plants and military posts against terrorism and crime, and in the case of Jenkins Security, two secure federal power plants here. The STARTECH example of unpaid contract guards and apparent misuse of federal funds directed to pay guards demonstrated why federal law requires these businesses have a "satisfactory record of integrity and business ethics."

Contract security officers are a critical component of federal strategies to protect the safety and security of federal employees and vital federal facilities. In the federal sector, security guards, many of whom carry guns, are as essential to protecting federal employees and sites as members of FPS. Although not a replacement for public law enforcement offi-

cers, whether local police officers, or FPS law enforcement officers, private security guards, like peace officers, are engaged in counter-terrorism activities in the post 9/11 environment. It was 9/11 and the creation of the Department of Homeland Security that led to the transfer of the FPS from the General Services Administration to the new Department of Homeland Security. Since the transfer, however, FPS has become even more dependant on contract guards, who have grown rapidly to 15,000, while the number FPS guards is down from an authorized 1,450 to about 1,000. In passing appropriations for FPS this year, the Appropriations Committee indicated that the administration is seeking to totally eliminate FPS, the official police force for federal government work sites and facilities. The Appropriation Committee took action that assures that FPS officer levels as of 2006 will remain in place unless certain strong conditions are met. Today's legislation concerning the vitality and integrity of contracting operations assume even greater importance in light of FPS downsizing.

I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

A TRIBUTE TO JOAN CACCAMO

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 17, 2007

Mr. TOWNS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Brooklyn resident Ms. Joan Caccamo. Joan received her bachelor of science degree in Management from St. Francis College in Brooklyn in 1983; she later earned a master's degree with a specialty in Administration and Supervision from Fordham University.

Joan taught Business Education and Computer Science for 12 years and worked as a high school director of development and is currently employed as the assistant director of recreation, intramurals and athletics as well as a senior woman administrator at Brooklyn College.

Joan continues to give back to her community. She is currently the department president of the American Legion Auxiliary who has chosen for her special project the Special Olympics of New York. Under her leadership, members of the American Legion have donated more than \$40,000 to the project. Joan has traveled throughout New York State visiting 62 counties promoting Special Olympics, veterans', children's, and community issues.

Joan's accomplishments are many and include; the Empire Girl's Program service as housemother, vice-chair and chair of the Veterans' Affairs and Rehabilitation, certified leadership instructor, and the winner of the Public Relations Chair National Award.

Madam Speaker, I would like to recognize Ms. Joan Caccamo who has given more than 40 years of volunteer service. I'd also like to honor her for her accomplishments as a teacher and caring member of the American Legion Auxiliary.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to Ms. Joan Caccamo.

INTRODUCTION OF COLORADO
FOREST MANAGEMENT IM-
PROVEMENT ACT

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 17, 2007

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Madam Speaker, today I am introducing the Colorado Forest Management Improvement Act of 2007, legislation intended to facilitate a coordinated response to beetle infestation in Colorado's forest lands. In shaping it, we have also attempted to develop a model that could be useful as a response to similar problems in other States.

This bill is cosponsored all my Colorado colleagues here in the House, and Senator SALAZAR is introducing an identical bill that is cosponsored by Senator ALLARD. So this is legislation supported by our entire delegation in Congress.

As we are daily reminded, in Colorado and other Rocky Mountain States the risk of severe wildfires is very real. Partly, this is because of drought. But there are other contributing factors.

One is that for many years, the Federal Government's policy emphasized fire suppression, even though fire is an inescapable part of the ecology of western forests like those in Colorado. Today, in many parts of the forests there is an accumulation of underbrush and thick stand of small diameter trees that is greater than would be the case if there had been more, smaller fires over the years. They provide the extra fuel that can turn a small fire into an intense inferno. The problem has been made worse by our growing population and increasing development in the places where communities meet the forests—the so-called "wildland-urban interface." And when you add the effects of widespread infestations of insects, you have a recipe for even worse to come.

I have put a priority on reducing the wildfire risks to our communities since I was elected to Congress. In 2000, with our then colleague, Representative Hefley, I introduced legislation to facilitate reducing the buildup of fuel in the parts of Colorado that the Forest Service, working with State and local partners, identified at greatest risk of fire—the so-called "red zones." Concepts from that legislation were included in the National Fire Plan developed by the Clinton administration and were also incorporated into the Healthy Forests Restoration Act of 2003. As a member of the Resources Committee, I had worked to develop the version of that legislation that the committee approved in 2002, and while I could not support the different version initially passed by the House in 2003, I voted for the revised version developed in conference with the Senate later that year—the version that President Bush signed into law.

Since then, in Colorado there has been very welcome progress in developing community wildfire protection plans and focusing fuel-reduction projects in the priority "red zone" areas, two important aspects of the new law. But at the same time nature has continued to add to the build up of fuel in the form of both new growth and dead and dying mature trees. And now there is an additional factor—increasingly widespread infestations of bark beetles.

Many species of bark beetles, such as the mountain pine beetle, are native to our forests. They place stress on trees by burrowing through the bark. If a tree is healthy, it can defend itself by producing sap to repel and expel the invaders. But if the defense fails, the insects lay their eggs in the woody material below the bark. Once the eggs hatch, they feed on the tree's fiber and disrupt the flow of water and nutrients from the tree's roots to its needles and branches. In addition, the invading insects bring in fungi and other invaders that further damage the tree. If enough insects are able to penetrate the tree and lay eggs, the tree dies. The offspring then mature and fly to another tree and the cycle begins anew.

These insects are a natural component of forest ecosystems. They help to balance tree densities and set the stage for fires and thereby the generation of new tree growth. And when forests are healthy and there are adequate supplies of water, the insects' effects are relatively low-scale and isolated. But under the right conditions—such as during drought conditions or when there are dense stands of even aged trees—the insects can cause large-scale tree mortality, turning whole mountainsides and valleys rust red.

That is what has been happening in many mountainous areas in Colorado. And more and more our mountain communities find themselves in uncomfortable proximity to acres of dead trees, turned rust red by the insects and adding to their concerns about the danger of catastrophic wildfires.

Last year, I worked to develop a response, starting with a meeting in Winter Park that was attended by local elected officials, homeowners, timber industry representatives, Forest Service officials, ski area employees, and other Coloradans. They offered observations on the extent of this problem and proffered suggestions on ways to better respond to it. Based on information gathered at that meeting, consultations with experts, and other conversations, draft legislation was developed that Representative SALAZAR and I circulated widely so we could obtain further comments and suggestions. And in March 2006, we introduced the Rocky Mountain Forest Insects Response Enhancement and Support Act, also called the Rocky Mountain FIRES Act.

After that, other Members of Colorado's delegation in Congress, in both chambers, also proposed legislation. Senator SALAZAR introduced a measure similar to the Rocky Mountain FIRES Act, and other legislation was proposed by other delegation members.

Then, recognizing that this is an issue affecting the entire State and best addressed by a unified approach, we all agreed to work together to attempt to develop a single bill that all of us could support.

After very lengthy discussions, that consensus has now been achieved and the result is the bill being introduced today.

Its goal is not to eradicate insects in our forests—nor should it be, because insects are a natural part of forest ecosystems. Instead, it is intended, first, to facilitate more rapid responses to the insect epidemic where that is needed to reduce the wildfire threats to our communities; and second, to promote research on ways to improve the health of our forest lands.

The bill includes a variety of provisions intended to further facilitate both the development and implementation of community wild-

fire protection plans and to enable the Forest Service and Interior Department, in cooperation with State and local authorities and other partners, to do more to reduce the threat of very severe wildfires. It also includes provisions to support research aimed at improving the long-term health of our forests as well as provisions to make it easier for Coloradans—including both small businesses and individual property owners—to assist the Federal, State, and local agencies in working toward the reduction of fire risks and improvement of forest health.

Madam Speaker, I want to express my personal appreciation for the cooperative and collaborative approach of my Colorado colleagues—in the Senate as well as here in the House of Representatives—as we have worked together to develop this legislation.

The result is not perfect. Not every provision is equally desirable to each of us, and the bill does not include all that it might if anyone of us had been the sole author. For example, I strongly supported requiring that in Colorado the federal agencies must continue to give at least the same priority to funding fuel-reduction projects in the wildland-urban interface as they are doing now. However, that was not acceptable to all, so I reluctantly agreed to its omission in order to reach a delegation consensus.

But this is a good, strong bill that I think deserves enactment, and I will do all I can to achieve that result.

Madam Speaker, for the information of our colleagues, here is a more detailed description of the bill:

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

TITLE I—AMENDMENTS TO THE HEALTHY
FORESTS RESTORATION ACT

The Healthy Forests Restoration Act, enacted in 2003, includes provisions to expedite fuel-reduction—that is, removal of vegetation (including trees) that provide fuel for severe wildfires—from Federal lands, Title I of the new Colorado bill includes these changes to that law:

Sec 101. Community Wildfire Protection Plan Assistance—This section, based on a provision of the Udall-Salazar "Rocky Mountain FIRES" bill of 2006, would authorize grants to at-risk communities in Colorado for preparing, revising, or implementing community wildfire protection plans. Grant funding is provided through part of the Federal share of the receipts from leases of federal minerals. Funding under this section is set at \$5,000,000 per year for fiscal year 2008 through fiscal year 2012.

Section 102. Central Collection Points—This section, based on a provision of the Udall-Salazar Rocky Mountain FIRES bill of 2006, would amend the establishment of collection points for vegetative material from hazardous fuels treatment projects. Material placed at one of these points can be sold, donated, or otherwise made available to anyone who will remove it. If any of the material is sold, the money will go to help pay for thinning work to reduce fire risks.

Section 103. Biomass Commercial Utilization Grant Program—This section, based on a provision of the Udall-Salazar Rocky Mountain FIRES bill of 2006, would reauthorize and broaden a program of grants for owners and operators of facilities that use biomass for energy production, or other commercial purposes. The authorization level is \$5,000,000 per year for fiscal years 2008 through 2012.

Section 104. Healthy Forest Partnerships—This section is based on a recent Administration legislative proposal. It would authorize

the Forest Service or the Department of the Interior to designate Healthy Partnership Zones in Colorado at the request of the State or local governments. These zones would include both Federal land and adjacent non-federal land at risk of uncharacteristically severe damage from wildfire or an outbreak of insects or diseases that requires multiple activities to reduce the threat. Designation of a partnership would be done with public participation and would last for no more than 5 years.

Within Partnership Zones the relevant Federal agency could partner with the State, a local government, or an Indian Tribe to prepare and implement eligible projects. Projects covered include hazardous fuel reduction projects; treatment of insect-infested trees; and the restoration of forest lands, rangelands, or watersheds.

Contracts under this section could be implemented under streamlined procedures. Priority would be given to projects that have been developed with collaborative community input and that are consistent with community wildfire protection plan. A Federal agency could not act on private land without the owner's consent.

TITLE II—COLORADO FOREST HEALTH MEASURES

Section 201. Research and other Activities—This section is based on provisions of Senator Allard's and Rep. Musgrave's "Headwaters Protection and Restoration Act" of 2006. It provides for grants to support research regarding—(1) marketing of forest products; (2) treatments for high elevation forests, and (3) steps to increase utilization of science and consideration of community needs in development of treatment strategies. The section also provides incentives for building infrastructure capacity such as; length of stewardship contracts, identifying markets for non-traditional forest products, grants and low-cost loans for small business that utilize wood from forests in Colorado. Directs the Secretary to examine the possible utilization of biomass as a renewable fuel source and how this could affect the Clean Air Act.

Section 202. Colorado Forest Health Fund—This section is also based on the Allard-Musgrave 2006 "Headwaters Protection and Restoration Act." It would establish a Colorado Forest Health Fund to which would be credited part of federal receipts from federal timber sales in Colorado—\$2 million or half of all such receipts, whichever is greater—as well as any funds specifically appropriated for the fund. The funds would be deposited in an interest bearing account and up to \$2 million per year would be available to pay for measures to improve forest health and to reduce hazardous fuels in Colorado. The section authorizes appropriation of up to \$2,000,000 per year.

Section 203. Grants for Colorado Fuels for Schools Program—This is also based on the Allard-Musgrave bill. It would authorize grants to the State of Colorado for feasibility studies regarding the use of biomass boilers to heat schools and other public buildings in Colorado and to assist with the installation and operation of these boilers. This section authorizes appropriations of up to \$5 million per year for fiscal years 2008 through 2012.

Section 204. Stewardship Contracts in Colorado—This is a new section. It would authorize longer-term Stewardship Contracts—up to 20 years in duration—for fuel-reduction projects in Colorado. It also includes technical provisions requested by the Forest Service regarding the implementation of requirements related to potential cancellation liability.

Section 205. Good Neighbor Agreements in Colorado—This is also based on the Allard-

Musgrave bill. It would make permanent existing authority for "good neighbor" agreements between Federal agencies and private land owners in Colorado and Utah.

Section 206. Preparation of Fire-Danger Maps—This is a new section. It would direct the Forest Service to work with the State Forest Service to map fire threatened areas in Colorado using geospatial technologies.

Section 207. Truck Weights—This is a new section. It would allow the State of Colorado to permit vehicles with a gross weight in excess of 80,000 pounds (but not more than the state's overall maximum gross weight limit) to haul dead or diseased timber and other forest materials removed from Colorado forests in order to reduce fire hazards.

TITLE III—TAX PROVISIONS

Section 301. Extension of Tax Credit for Electricity Produced From Biomass—This section is based on legislation introduced by Rep. Beauprez and is also similar but not identical to a provision of the 2006 Udall-Salazar "Rocky Mountain FIRES Act." It would extend an existing biomass electricity production tax credit (now scheduled to expire on January 1, 2009) until January 1, 2030.

Section 302. Partial Exclusion from Gross Income Payments Received for Certain Hazardous Fuel Reduction Projects—This section is similar to a provision of the 2006 Udall-Salazar "Rocky Mountain FIRES Act." It would allow a taxpayer to exclude from taxable income money received from the Federal Government as compensation for hazardous fuel reduction work. The exclusion would be for up to \$10,000 for a single return, \$20,000 for a joint return.

Section 303. Deduction of Certain Expenditures in Connection with Implementation of Community Wildfire Protection Plans—This is a new section. It would allow individuals to deduct funds they expend for hazardous fuel reductions that are done as part of a wildfire protection plan from their income taxes. It allows for the exclusion of up to \$10,000 for a single return or \$20,000 for a joint return.

TRIBUTE TO U.S. ARMY PRIVATE FIRST CLASS JOSHUA S. MODGLING

HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 17, 2007

Mr. CALVERT. Madam Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to a hero from my congressional district, U.S. Army Private First Class Joshua Stephen Modgling. Today I ask that the House of Representatives honor and remember this incredible young man who died in service to his country.

Joshua, born January 3, 1985 in Rapid City, South Dakota, was the son of Air Force parents. Joshua grew up all around the country, including my congressional district. His mother, Julie Montano, resides in Mira Lorna, California where Joshua attended high school. Joshua was assigned to the 1st Battalion, 30th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team of the 3rd Infantry Division at Fort Stewart, Georgia. His unit conducts missions out of Forward Operating Base Falcon to find improvised explosive devices. Joshua was driving an armored Buffalo mine sweeper on June 19, 2007, when he was killed by a bomb. On July 6, 2007, he was laid to rest next to his brother, Ryan, at Riverside National Cemetery.

In reading about Joshua's life, I was impressed by his devotion to family and love of

sports. Joshua's father, Keith, describes a young man who developed an early interest in explosives; an interest that found a home as a combat engineer in the Army. He is survived by his parents; his sisters Kellilynn, Courtney and Michelle; brothers, Christopher and Kenneth; stepfather, Serefino; and grandmother, Virginia.

As we look at the incredibly rich military history of our country we realize that this history is comprised of men, just like Joshua, who bravely fought for the ideals of freedom and democracy. Each story is unique and humbling for those of us who, far from the dangers they have faced, live our lives in relative comfort and ease. The day the Modgling family had to lay Joshua to rest was probably the hardest moment the family has ever faced and my thoughts, prayers and deepest gratitude for their sacrifice goes out to them. There are no words that can relieve their pain and what words I offer only begin to convey my deep respect and highest appreciation.

Private First Class Modgling's mother, father, sisters, brothers and all his relatives have given a part of themselves in the loss of their loved one and I hope they know that their son, brother, and grandson, the goodness he brought to this world and the sacrifice he has made, will be remembered.

RECOGNIZING THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF JOHN H. CHRISTENSEN

HON. JAMES P. MORAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 17, 2007

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the accomplishments of Mr. John H. Christensen of Reston, VA, for his service to the Defense Logistics Agency, DLA, as Chief of Logistics Research and Development at DLA Headquarters. He has served one of this Nation's most important agencies admirably, administering virtually all of the DLA's Research and Development initiatives and Industrial Base programs that have supported our soldiers in combat.

A graduate of the University of Florida, Mr. Christensen received his bachelor's degree in environmental engineering in 1979. Additionally, he has obtained two master's degrees, one from Virginia Tech in systems engineering and the other from the Industrial College of the Armed Forces in national resource strategy.

Prior to his current assignment, Mr. Christensen served as the first Program Manager of the Department of Defense, DOD, Electronic Mall, a single point acquisition center for off-the-shelf goods found in the commercial marketplace. His leadership helped bring a set of competing prototypes into a single operating system to provide for easy access, multiple searches, and cross-store shopping and ordering among millions of items from over hundreds of sources, all of which can accept credit card orders. The DOD Electronic Mall now generates millions of dollars each month in support of agency missions.

As chief of the Logistics Research and Development at Headquarters, Mr. Christensen is responsible for two major program elements; Manufacturing Technology Research and Development, and also Logistics Research and Development. The Manufacturing Technology

element consists of programs in Castings, Forgings, Industrial Plant Equipment, Operational Rations, and Military apparel. Logistics Research and Development includes a drive in Medical Readiness, Aging Aircraft, Supply Chain Management, and Competitive Sustainment. Additionally, the Industrial Base responsibilities include Waterstoppers, Surge and Sustainment, the Rapid Manufacturing Initiative, and all statutory programs related to the Industrial Base.

Having been in federal service for nearly 30 years, Mr. Christensen's career has been marked by sustained progression. Having served a 3-year tour as the Assistant Officer in charge of the Naval Fuel Depot in Yokosuka, Japan, with the United States Navy, he then went on to serve 2 years as the first Program Manager of the Department of Defense E-Commerce Program, and lastly served 7 years as the Chief of the Logistics Research and Development Division with DLA. Mr. Christensen has remained a committed member of the Naval Reserves, and he holds the rank of Commander with over 26 years of combined service.

Madam Speaker, I wish to commend Mr. Christensen for his many years of service to our Nation and I am proud to have him live in Virginia's 8th Congressional District. The Nation will lose a proud servant when he leaves office on August 31, 2007. I wish him and his wife, Mary, Godspeed in his retirement.

CONGRATULATING FETZER
VINEYARDS

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 17, 2007

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay special tribute to a proud corporate citizen from California's First Congressional District. I am pleased to announce that Fetzer Vineyards, an environmentally conscious grower, producer and marketer of wines, has been named a 2007 Brand With a Conscience in recognition of its sustainable practices and social responsibility in winemaking.

Candidates for this award, given annually by the Medinge Group, an international think-tank on branding and business, are evaluated on the basis of reputation, accountability and an assessment of expressed values of sustainability. Fetzer has long been known as an environmentally responsible brand and joins companies such as Whole Foods and the Virgin Group in receiving this honor.

Initiatives to improve the winery's energy efficiency and sustainability practices began in the 1980's with the Fetzer family and have continued to thrive with the support of Brown-Forman Corporation, its parent company since 1992. Among its many accomplishments, the vineyard has reduced its waste by 93 percent since 1991, is annually recognized as one of the top ten recycling companies in California and has been using 100 percent renewable power since 1999. Fetzer is also known for its extensive use of solar power, bio-fuel and its adoption of company-wide recycling programs. Fetzer has the largest solar array in the wine industry, consisting of 4,300 solar panels covering 75,000 sq ft.

This most recent accolade compliments a collection of awards recognizing Fetzer's commitment to environmentally conscious practices. In 1999 Fetzer received the Business Ethics Magazine Award for Environmental Excellence and the United States Environmental Protection Agency Climate Wise Partnership Award. In 2003, California's Environmental Protection Agency selected Fetzer to receive the Governor's Award for Environmental and Economic Leadership. Fetzer Vineyards has been acknowledged as Salmon Safe and touted for Fish Friendly Farming practices. In 2007, Fetzer received its 13th WRAP (Waste Reduction Awards Program) award.

Fetzer is renowned for its triple-bottom line business approach, evaluating the impact of business decisions upon the employees and the environment along with economic considerations. As the largest grower of organic wine grapes in northern California, Fetzer carries on its tradition of using healthier vines and a more natural wine making process to produce wines that are recognized as being good for the planet and good for the palate.

With this award, Fetzer will serve as a model for companies striving to establish environmentally conscious business practices both locally and on a wider national and international scale.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Fetzer on its recognition as a 2007 Brand With a Conscience and to applaud its tireless efforts as a world-class organization and champion of sustainable business practices. I am proud to represent them.

TRIBUTE TO NORMAN BORLAUG

HON. KEITH ELLISON

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 17, 2007

Mr. ELLISON. Madam Speaker, it is with great humility that I rise today to honor Norman Borlaug, the noted agricultural scientist and plant pathologist. Mr. Borlaug's contribution to humanity cannot be overstated. No one can be entirely certain how many lives he is responsible for saving, but the number often noted is well over 1 billion people—an unprecedented feat in world history. The honorary titles and acclamations Mr. Borlaug has received throughout his illustrious career are too many to enumerate, and such a list would be too prestigious to truncate. Instead, I simply request that the record state how pleased and honored I am to be able to stand here today and recognize the occasion of Mr. Borlaug's receiving the highest honor this body can bestow, the Congressional Gold Medal. It's doubtful that this institution could find a more deserving recipient.

Mr. Borlaug came from humble roots, working on his family farm until the age of 19. After some prodding from his grandfather, Nels Olson Borlaug, he enrolled at the University of Minnesota. One cannot help but wonder whether his grandfather knew when he advised his grandson, "you're wiser to fill your head now if you want to fill your belly later on," how literally Mr. Borlaug would take it.

Affording a college education can be difficult, and was especially so for Mr. Borlaug, who obtained his undergraduate degree during the Great Depression. Despite the best efforts

of the federal government towards relief and recovery, times were still rough, and many of the men he worked with were literally starving. Mr. Borlaug would later recall how much food meant to the young men he worked with—17- and 18-year-olds who had for months and months been unsure where their next meal would come from. Mr. Borlaug later noted how he "saw how food changed them . . ." and how ". . . all of this left scars on me."

There is no doubt that Mr. Borlaug understood the importance of something as simple as food in peoples lives, how it brought hope as well as nourishment to the impoverished and less fortunate. Toward the end of World War II, he rejected offers that would double his salary so he could research wheat in Mexico. Devastating crop yields in the early 1940s had led the country to resort to importing up to 60 percent of its wheat. Various plant diseases decimated entire crops, bringing discouragement and fear to the lives of Mexico's farmers. Mr. Borlaug was determined to make sure that Mexico could feed itself through a new kind of strong, high yield wheat.

Wheat is naturally long-stemmed, and if the wheat is too heavy, the stem cannot bear the load and the crop collapses and spoils. This spoilage was common, especially if a farmer attempted to use modern fertilizers. After numerous attempts and years of trial and error, Mr. Borlaug was able to cross a strain of dwarf wheat—which is shorter and has a thicker, stronger stalk—with regular wheat. Due to the prevention of losses from disease and top-heavy spoilage, yields tripled. By 1956, Mexico was able to be totally self-sufficient in wheat production.

In the sixties and seventies, demographers and environmentalists were predicting that India and Pakistan would inevitably face widespread hunger, resulting in millions upon millions of deaths due to famine and starvation. As India and Pakistan raced towards deadly conflict over the Kashmir region, both countries were headed toward an even more deadly famine. Rather than dodge the war zone, Mr. Borlaug headed toward the conflict, his team working fields in sight of falling artillery shells. As Borlaug's "Green Revolution" swept across Asia, tensions of famine and instability eased. Due to Mr. Borlaug's ingenuity and perseverance, both countries are now self-sufficient producers of cereals.

The environmental benefits of Mr. Borlaug's techniques have saved 100 million acres of untouched land from being plowed to grow crops, preserving the natural habitat of an area equivalent to that of the entire State of California. Since 1961, worldwide land devoted to growing wheat has increased by only 4 percent, while output has increased 2.3 times over, saving countless acres of natural habitat worldwide for future generations.

As Mr. Borlaug receives the Congressional Gold Medal, we are recognizing both his previous accomplishments as well as those yet to come. Mr. Borlaug is continuing his efforts to end famine and hunger in the developing world by spreading his efforts to African nations long plagued by food insecurity. There are further mountains to move, further horizons to reach, further fear to extinguish and further hope to bring. Madam Speaker, it is a pleasure to be able to honor Mr. Borlaug not just as a product of the University of Minnesota, or as a great scientist or instructor, or as a great American, though he is all of these

things. It's a bigger honor to recognize him as a man who saw people starving when they didn't have to—who in the process of an act of human compassion, single-handedly changed the world. Mr. Borlaug, on behalf of the State of Minnesota, the United States of America, and a grateful world, I thank you.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 17, 2007

Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California. Madam Speaker, on Thursday, July 12, 2007, the House of Representatives voted on H.R. 1851, the Section 8 Voucher Reform Act of 2007. I was present for the series of Roll Call Votes 625 through 629. However my "AYE" vote on final passage of H.R. 1851 (Roll Call Vote No. 629) was not recorded.

Had the electronic voting tabulator recorded my vote, the record would have demonstrated an aye vote on final passage of H.R. 1851 (Roll Call Vote No. 629).

IN RECOGNITION OF THE APPLING COUNTY BULLDAWG BB GUN TEAM

HON. JACK KINGSTON

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 17, 2007

Mr. KINGSTON. Madam Speaker, the Appling County Bulldawg BB Gun Team won 1st Place in the International BB Gun Championship Match in Bowling Green, KY this past weekend. Jordan Vaughn won First Place in the Jaycee international BB Gun Championship. Trevor Causey won second and the NRA World Record in the sitting position shooting a perfect 100 with 8 center shots.

The team won National Champion with the most points averaged together. The team won the special BB Gun trophy that is being held at the 4H office, and will be passed to each Donor Business for recognition. There were a total of 33 teams representing 22 different states. They won by a huge margin of 53 points with an overall total of 2382. (As I understand it, you have to sit, stand, kneel, or lay down to shoot for points.) The team members were Jordan Vaughn, Trevor Causey, Dustin Stipe, Brittany Hardwick, Jordan Roberson with two alternates: Wade Edwards and Hallie Hardwick. The team coaches were Tim Toler, Bob McDonald and Daniel Edwards.

The senior members have worked very hard to accomplish this goal. This is the first time a Georgia team has ever won the International Match and we are very proud of these kids!

FREE THE ISRAELI SOLDIERS

SPEECH OF

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 12, 2007

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to call for the immediate and uncondi-

tional release of Eldad Regev and Ehud Goldwasser, Israeli soldiers held captive by Hezbollah for the past year. On July 12, 2006, Hezbollah terrorists crossed into Israel and attacked two Israel Defense Forces (IDF) armored jeeps as they were patrolling Israel's northern border. One year ago today, those terrorists killed three Israeli soldiers and kidnapped Eldad and Ehud, as mentioned above.

We mourn the passing of the three Israeli soldiers who were killed a year ago, and to honor their legacies, we must continue in our work to secure the release of Eldad Regev and Ehud Goldwasser. As their families pray for their swift return, the United States must continue to forge ahead in our efforts to bring about their release.

Madam Speaker, Hezbollah has tried to make Eldad and Ehud into bargaining chips. But they are not political chess pieces, things that can be swapped for political gain. They are human beings with names, lives, and families who miss them. They have families who wait every day for news of their circumstances, who have waited every day for a year now without receiving word that Eldad and Ehud are safe.

Unfortunately, Eldad and Ehud are not alone among Israel's missing soldiers. Three weeks before their capture, Hamas kidnapped IDF soldier, Gilad Shalit. The Shalit family has met with many communities across the United States, urging people to remember their son and speak out on his behalf.

To honor those who died a year ago, and the soldiers held captive, we must let the perpetrators of these terrible acts know that we have not forgotten what they have done. In March we passed H. Res. 107, calling for the immediate and unconditional release of Israeli soldiers held captive by Hamas and Hezbollah, and now we continue to express our deepest sympathies to the families of the missing soldiers, and we must pledge to continue the fight to bring them home.

I join with those across Israel and the United States to call for the immediate and unconditional release of Eldad, Ehud and Gilad. As the leader of the democratic world, America stands with Israel in its refusal to let these soldiers be forgotten.

AMERICA NEEDS MORE ENERGY

HON. RALPH M. HALL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 17, 2007

Mr. HALL of Texas. Mr. Speaker, America needs more energy.

Today we import around 60 percent of our oil from OPEC countries, many of which shield our enemies and disagree with our way of life. But we find ourselves dependent on these countries to supply the energy we need. We continue to import a lion's share of our energy from these countries, while refusing to increase our domestic energy supply.

Much of the energy legislation being proposed by my Democratic colleagues turns a blind eye to the reality that our economy depends on fossil fuels. Opponents of oil and gas continue to sponsor legislation to raise taxes on our domestic energy producers and refiners. Making American energy more expensive than foreign sources defies logic.

Comprehensive energy solutions must include provisions to promote all sources of energy. We must invest in research and development for technologies to promote the use of renewable and alternative sources of energy for the future, but at the same time we must also support the domestic oil and gas industry in order to reduce our dependence on foreign oil.

The oil industry works just like other sectors of the economy, through the laws of supply and demand. Demand is increasing and has been for years, yet we are not increasing our domestic output. Refineries are operating at near-capacity and we haven't built any new ones since 1976. Congress needs to start realizing that fossil fuels are going to continue to be our major source of energy for decades to come, and make policy to reflect this reality.

As Ranking Member of the Science and Technology Committee, I strongly support a diverse portfolio of investments in both short-term and long-term energy R&D. I believe that one day, renewable and alternative sources of energy will provide America with energy on a widespread scale.

However, it will be years, if not decades, before these investments can help America achieve energy independence. In the meantime, we must be realistic about what makes our cars run and our light bulbs glow. We must not legislate to make headlines. We need to build on comprehensive energy policies that recognize the importance of all energy sources, including fossil fuels, to ensure national energy security.

IT'S TIME TO SET A DATE TO BRING OUR TROOPS HOME

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 17, 2007

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Madam speaker, I would like to submit this insightful editorial from the Chicago Sun-Times for the record. The Sun-Times has accurately and incisively captured the frustrations of the residents of the Chicagoland area, and of Americans around the country. They are tired of this ill-planned and ill-executed war, and they believe that it is time to "set a date to bring our troops home."

[From the Chicago Sun-Times, July 16, 2007]

DEADLINE IN IRAQ: IT'S TIME TO SET A DATE TO BRING OUR TROOPS HOME

Americans of all political leanings want to understand when our involvement in Iraq will end. We have waited patiently for the positive results the president has repeatedly promised. We have looked for improvements following shifts in military strategy, the approval of benchmarks, the last-ditch surge.

No matter how much wishful thinking President Bush indulged in last week in finding "a cause for optimism" in the White House report on progress in Iraq, Americans heard little to give them confidence that things are improving. The president should face reality and put before the American people a plan to conclude our direct involvement in Iraq. We need to understand the end game.

Are Iraq's political leaders any closer to resolving their deep, divisive differences? Are they any closer to providing security and basic services for the people? No, on both

counts. There has been no real progress toward meeting eight of 18 crucial benchmarks.

There is, however, progress in Congress toward forcing Bush's hand. The Democratic controlled House voted to require the United States to withdraw most combat troops from Iraq by April 1. Then two leading Republican senators, John Warner of Virginia and Richard Lugar of Indiana, called for Bush to present a contingency plan for Iraq to Congress by Oct. 16.

Threatened with opposition from more Republicans, the president is pulling out all political stops to keep ahead of that trend. At his worst, he has resorted to recycling cheap scare tactics—warning that the terrorist threat to Americans, on American soil, will increase dramatically the minute we pull soldiers from Iraq.

In lashing Congress for trying to “run the war,” Bush might have been lashing Americans who expressed their ardent opposition to the war at the polls last November. He wants us to wait until Gen. David Petraeus and Ambassador Ryan Crocker release their progress report on Iraq in September before reaching any conclusions. Our concern is if their findings don't jibe with his policy, the president will come up with more reasons for Americans to withhold judgment. To wait some more.

Some have argued that setting a deadline will give the enemy a target date, allowing the enemy to lie in wait. But not having a plan risks further inciting Americans against the war. It could lead an exasperated Congress to make rash ultimatums that would put soldiers more at risk than if the president initiated a rational plan now.

The president has had more than enough time to develop and articulate an exit strategy in Iraq. Everyone wants to minimize the mess we'll leave behind. If April 1 doesn't work for the president, what date will? How long does he envision that we'll have to stay? The answer can no longer be “indefinitely.” The American people need a plan, and they need it now.

NORMAN BORLAUG AND THE CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL

HON. DAVID LOEBSACK

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 17, 2007

Mr. LOEBSACK. Madam Speaker, today Norman Borlaug received the Congressional Gold medal, the highest civilian award that Congress may bestow. I'm extremely proud to be able to celebrate this great honor with Dr. Borlaug, a native Iowan and a true humanitarian.

Dr. Borlaug was born on his grandparent's farm in Saude near Cresco, Iowa. The lessons he learned there stayed with him throughout his life.

His desire for knowledge and his dedication to helping those in need led him to Mexico after his studies. There he worked tirelessly and created high yield wheat varieties which enabled the country to become self-sufficient and improved the lives of countless poor farmers.

Dr. Borlaug became the “Father of the Green Revolution,” and in 1970 he was recognized for his extraordinary advancements in agriculture and received the Nobel Peace Prize.

He continues to work to alleviate hunger across the world and has saved countless

lives. He is truly deserving of the Congressional Gold medal. Dr. Borlaug is an inspiration to us all.

PATSY T. MINK FELLOWSHIPS ACT

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 17, 2007

Ms. WOOLSEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Patsy T. Mink Fellowships Act. This bill continues the legacy of our dear colleague from Hawaii and is in honor of her work on behalf of equal opportunities in education.

Patsy Mink faced many challenges as a woman in higher education and she was a leader promoting equal opportunities for all women. The situation is better today, but there is still a long way to go.

Thirty-two percent of doctoral-age Americans are African-American or Hispanic, but only 11 percent of doctoral degrees awarded to Americans are awarded to African-Americans or Hispanics.

In such critical fields as engineering and science, that number is nine percent.

Women earn only about one-quarter of doctoral degrees in math and physical sciences and only one-sixth in engineering.

Only 38 percent of full time faculty are women, and that percent decreases as women seek advancement.

For example, only 30 percent of tenured faculty and 21 percent of full professors are women. In engineering, math, and physics, only about five percent of full professors are women.

Similarly, African-Americans represent only four percent of full or associate professors and Hispanics represent only two percent.

The Woodrow Wilson Fellowship Foundation recently cited fewer institutional fellowships for minority students as a primary reason for the decline in the number of minority students pursuing doctorates.

The lack of minority and women professors, especially in math, science, and engineering, is the result of fewer of these individuals studying those subjects in high school, college, and graduate school.

The Patsy T. Mink Fellowships will increase diversity among college professors by authorizing fellowships for minorities and women doctoral students who agree to teach in higher education for one year for each year of their fellowship.

I ask my colleagues to support the Patsy T. Mink Fellowships Act, both to keep America's promise of equal educational opportunity and to protect our economic and national security.

COMMENDING THE WATERS FAMILY

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 17, 2007

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Madam Speaker, I rise today on behalf of the 1.5 million families who are living with autism in this country today. The Waters family, from my district is one of

those families. They know firsthand about the difficulties of raising a child with autism. They have risen to the challenge, however, raising a beautiful, 6-year-old daughter, Candace. They have also dedicated their work to raising awareness about their daughter's condition and building a support network for other families around the country living with autism.

Robert and Sandy Waters have created a radio show on Autism One Radio, a nonprofit, charity organization that was created by a small group of parents of children with autism. The Waters' radio show, “The Candy Store,” provides music, art, inspiration, and information to inspire, educate, and help parents guide their children. They have written a song titled “Faith, Love, and Hope” for their daughter. The song has inspired and influenced parents, organizations, and politicians around the world.

People like Robert and Sandy Waters play an increasingly important role, as autism is one of the fastest-growing developmental disabilities in the world, and affects 1 in every 150 children born today. With proper education, training, and community living options, however, individuals with autism can lead productive lives, contribute to their communities, and reach their fullest potential. Unfortunately, however, understanding, services, and research lag behind the needs of our Nation's families.

With further research, scientists hope to establish biomedical markers and environmental links that will allow for earlier diagnosis and treatment. Additionally, researchers intend to look into the possibility of a vaccine and attempt to find the treatment programs that are most successful. As research opens up new treatment possibilities, we must also provide education in order to change public perception of autism and those individuals living with the disease.

Again, I would like to commend the work of the Waters family. I urge all citizens to become educated about autism and join in the effort to increase awareness and support for those living with this condition.

HONORING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF LOWELL AND CAROLYN DAUGHTRY

HON. JEB HENSARLING

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 17, 2007

Mr. HENSARLING. Madam Speaker, today I would like to honor the 50th wedding anniversary of Lowell and Carolyn Daughtry.

Lowell was born in Titus County, Texas. He attended Mt. Pleasant High School and graduated from University of Texas at Tyler. After college, Lowell worked in the accounting office at the Continental Can Plant for fourteen years. He then worked in sales at Tyler Pipe for three years. Lowell rounded out his career working at the United States Post Office in Azalea Station, finally retiring in 2002.

Carolyn is a native of Tyler, Texas. She graduated from Tyler High School in 1957 and went on to the University of Texas at Tyler. Carolyn worked for Coca Cola in the marketing department, where she advanced from head bookkeeper to Manager of Automatic Buffet/Coca Cola, becoming the first female

manager. She then went to work for Buford Television/Friendship Cable as Vice President and General Manager, responsible for building over 40 television systems for Buford. While there, she bought, sold, and managed over 60 franchised areas. In 1991, Carolyn left Buford to work for Harron Cablevision as their Texas manager, overseeing 60 systems. Through

Harron, she negotiated and bought the rights to Direct Television in 13 counties.

Lowell and Carolyn had two daughters; Rhita and Mikki. Rhita lives with her family in Canton, Texas. Sadly, Mikki passed in March, 1993 leaving behind her husband Kyle and their two sons Ross and Luke. Her memory is cherished by all those she left behind.

Lowell and Carolyn can be found working on their farm, happily tending their garden and

traveling. I might note that Lowell now serves as Elder at the Chandler Church of Christ and Chaplain for the VanZandt AARP, for whom Carolyn is President.

As the Congressional representative of Ben Wheeler, Texas, it is my distinct pleasure to honor the 50th wedding anniversary of Lowell and Carolyn Daughtry today in the United States House of Representatives.