

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

BLUE CROSS BLUE SHIELD OF SOUTH CAROLINA CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE ROSA CLARK FREE MEDICAL CLINIC IN OONEE COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA

HON. J. GRESHAM BARRETT

OF SOUTH CAROLINA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 19, 2007

Mr. BARRETT of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, I rise today to thank Blue Cross Blue Shield (BCBS) of South Carolina for their continued support of the Rosa Clark Free Medical Clinic in Oconee County, South Carolina.

For more than 50 years, BCBS of South Carolina has worked to increase access to quality health care for all South Carolina residents with the hope of providing a higher quality of life to individuals and families across the state. The BCBS of South Carolina has shown leadership in attempting to tackle the problem of preventative health care for the uninsured. Their work is a good example of how the private sector, and not the Federal Government, is better equipped to find innovative solutions to the challenges facing our Nation.

In addition to serving nearly 1 million customers and employing 12,000 South Carolinians, BCBS of South Carolina has also awarded millions of dollars in grants to local schools and medical facilities. These philanthropic efforts facilitated the hiring of health care professionals, furthering health care education, and ensuring South Carolinians have access to affordable quality health care.

One example of this giving exists in my home district, the Third District of South Carolina. In 2006, BCBS of South Carolina contributed \$100,000 to the Rosa Clark Free Medical Clinic in Oconee County, which helps provide health care to low-income residents who have no private medical insurance and are ineligible for government insurance programs. In addition, this year they are contributing an additional \$34,040 to the facility as a measure of support for the clinic's ongoing mission of serving those in Oconee County.

I ask my colleagues in the 110th Congress to join me in applauding BCBS of South Carolina for being an active partner with the local community and for their ongoing efforts to help reduce overall health care costs for my constituents and our State. I also want to thank those at the Rosa Clark Free Medical Clinic in my home county for all they do to improve the lives of others on a daily basis.

THE NATIONAL WOMEN'S RIGHTS HISTORY PROJECT ACT

HON. LOUISE McINTOSH SLAUGHTER

OF NEW YORK
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 19, 2007

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Madam Speaker, today, as we mark the anniversary of the first ever

women's rights convention in Seneca Falls, New York, I am proud to celebrate the accomplishments of our foremothers by introducing the National Women's Rights History Project Act.

In contemporary American society, women enjoy rights to education, wages, and property ownership. However, it was only 87 years ago that women were finally granted the right to vote. Yet few Americans have any real knowledge of the long struggle to obtain the rights that we take for granted today. The National Women's Rights History Project Act will provide Americans with the opportunity to learn more about the female heroes that fought tirelessly to secure these rights.

On July 19, 1848, a group of activists including Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Lucretia Mott, and Mary Ann M'Clintock convened the first women's rights convention at Wesleyan Chapel in Seneca Falls, New York. The women's rights convention heralded the beginning of a 72-year struggle for suffrage. During the convention, 68 women and 32 men signed the Declaration of Sentiments, which was drafted to mirror the Declaration of Independence and set out such radical notions like women's freedom to own property, receive an education, and file for divorce.

In 1851, a second women's rights convention was held in Akron, Ohio. It was at this convention that Sojourner Truth delivered the famous "Ain't I a Woman?" speech. The woman's suffrage movement, however, was not solely limited to organized conventions. Under the leadership of Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Susan B. Anthony the National American Women Suffrage Association (NAWSA) was formed.

Susan B. Anthony also established the Equal Rights Association to refute ideas that women were inferior to men and fight for a woman's right to vote. In 1872, Susan B. Anthony and other women voted in the Presidential election, and were arrested and fined for illegal voting. At her trial, which attracted nationwide attention, Susan B. Anthony made a speech that ended with the slogan "Resistance to Tyranny is Obedience to God." She also campaigned for the rights of women to own property, to keep their own earnings, and to have custody of their children. I am especially proud that it was in Rochester, New York, that Susan B. Anthony fought so hard for the rights that women throughout this country rely on today. In fact, in 1900, she persuaded the University of Rochester, in my Congressional District, to admit women.

In the early 1900s, a new generation of leaders joined the women's suffrage movement, including Carrie Chapman Catt, Maud Wood Park, Lucy Burns, Alice Paul, and Harriot E. Blatch. During this era, the women's rights movement increased its momentum by organizing marches, pickets and other protests. Suffragette Alice Paul and other activists began chaining themselves to the White House fence and participating in hunger strikes to gain the attention of Congress.

The struggle for women's suffrage was not easy, and oftentimes it was made more dif-

icult as a consequence of public misinformation and fear. Consider these remarks which, in 1912, appeared in the New York Times under the title, "The Uprising of Women":

The vote will secure to woman no new privilege that she either deserves or requires . . . Women will get the vote and play havoc with it for themselves and society, if men are not wise and firm enough and it may as well be said, masculine enough, to prevent them.

If by playing havoc, the New York Times meant becoming the single most sought after voting block in the country that often determines the outcome of elections, I guess they were right.

Because of the persistent dedication of Susan B. Anthony and other remarkable leaders, women persevered. Although Susan B. Anthony was not alive to see it, the efforts of the women's rights struggle came to fruition when the nineteenth amendment to the U.S. Constitution, giving women the right to vote, was finally passed by Congress on June 4, 1919, and ratified on August 18, 1920.

We have clearly come a long way in 87 years—and we still have a long way to go. We must work to continue the momentum that started in Seneca Falls, by not only ensuring that all women vote, but that they do so with an understanding of the long fight to obtain this right and with a sense of responsibility to do their part in the struggle for women's equality.

To honor these important women, the National Women's Rights History Project Act will establish a trail route linking sites significant to the struggle for women's suffrage and civil rights. It also will expand the current National Register travel itinerary Web site, "Places Where Women Made History," to include additional historic sites. Finally, this bill will require the Department of the Interior to establish a partnership-based network to offer financial and technical assistance for interpretive and educational program development of national women's rights history.

The women of this country have fought tirelessly to achieve equitable rights for our grandmothers, our mothers, ourselves, and our daughters. It is my hope that this bill will provide Americans with the opportunity to learn more about the female leaders who struggled to secure these rights.

Madam Speaker, I encourage all Members to join me in celebrating their accomplishments by cosponsoring the National Women's Rights History Project Act today.

COMMEMORATING THE 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF MCKINNEY-VENTO HOMELESS ASSISTANCE ACT

HON. RAÚL M. GRIJALVA

OF ARIZONA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 19, 2007

Mr. GRIJALVA. Madam Speaker, this is a very auspicious time for affordable housing advocates. For the first time in far too long, we

• 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.

have significant progress on this critical issue with this new majority in this people's House. Chairman FRANK and Chairwoman WATERS have been true leaders on this issue, and I would like to recognize their efforts.

Today, we also gather to recall a past leader, who 20 years ago brought about a major increment of progress. I speak, of course, of Stewart B. McKinney and Bruce Vento, and the law that bears their name.

There are really very few, extremely few, cases of an elected official committing themselves to accompaniment of those in need the way Congressman MCKINNEY did. Indeed, the late Congressman lost his life as a result of his commitment. And while we commemorate his work and recall the circumstances of his passing, we should not lose sight of the many thousands who died in a similar way, and those who are still on the streets today, and at risk.

Many Americans have passed out of this world in lonely alleys, on top of grates, isolated from friends and family, and then been buried in unmarked plots. Indeed, as noted in the resolution commemorating McKinney-Vento, the condition of homelessness on average causes the loss of 30 years in life expectancy.

The McKinney-Vento programs have been critical in addressing this great American tragedy, and it is worth reflecting on this progress and recognizing this achievement of dedicated leadership. Across the board, McKinney-Vento has addressed the core issue of housing and deeply intertwined issues of health care access, education, job training, and reaching out to homeless youth and getting them back in school, this law has made a difference.

This is an important precedent to keep in mind as we move forward with a new agenda. After all, this was an emergency response, and while necessary and just, it was not claimed that this would put an end to homelessness, and certainly the Federal response to homelessness should not be limited to these programs.

So I look forward to working with advocates like you in this session and continually as we strive to address this problem and better this society. What we are doing, really, is increasing the decency of this country, our level of morality, our concern for our fellow man. When we conquer homelessness, which is fundamentally a problem of social isolation and abandonment, we are truly rebuilding the moral foundation of this great Nation.

TRIBUTE TO BRETT BOOT, BROCK
GARDNER AND DANEN CLARKE

HON. LYNN A. WESTMORELAND

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 19, 2007

Mr. WESTMORELAND. Madam Speaker, it is my great honor to inform the House that three of my constituents in Georgia's 3rd Congressional District have won the Honor Medal With Crossed Palms, a distinction given the Boy Scouts of America to herald heroism carried out at extreme personal risk.

These courageous young men put their lives on the line to save a friend, and one of them died in the rescue attempt.

In July of 2005, during the onslaught of Hurricane Cindy, three Eagle Scouts, Brett Boot,

Brock Gardner and Danen Clarke, were at a park in Peachtree City, Ga., with a small group of family and friends. After they helped a man dislodge his golf cart from rising waters, Danen's cousin ventured into what appeared to be still waters near a flooded road and was immediately sucked under by an unseen rip current.

Thinking that the cousin was pinned by a possible grate, the three Scouts waded in the dangerous waters to feel around for him with their feet. The cousin had actually been sucked through a 40-foot-long culvert located 5 feet below the road, which wasn't visible under the high water. The cousin was swept under the road, reappearing on the other side with severe cuts on his feet, but alive.

Danen was then caught under the ferocious current, followed by Brock, whose one leg caught on the entrance of the 4-foot-wide culvert. Brett was behind Brock in the water and was able to secure him with his arms against the pull of the current.

Danen's body was found the next morning in the stream that feeds into Lake Peachtree, caught in branches that prevented him from being swept into the lake. It is believed that Danen hit his head on a large piece of the culvert, knocking him out and causing him to drown.

The awarding of the Honor Medal With Crossed Palms is as prestigious within the scouting community as it is rare. The honor has been awarded nationally only 199 times since it was created in 1922. The Boy Scouts of America have given out only four such medals this year, and I will have the great honor of presenting these awards at a ceremony later this month to Brock and to the siblings of Danen and Brett, the latter of whom is serving his church as a missionary in South America. The medals read: "The Honor Medal With Crossed Palms presented by the Boy Scouts of America upon the Recommendation of the National Court of Honor to Bretton Boot, Danen Clarke and Brock Gardner for unusual heroism and extraordinary skill or resourcefulness in saving or attempting to save life at extreme risk to self."

The courage and selflessness of these young men testifies to their character and to the unwavering values they learned from loving families, their church and, yes, from the Boy Scouts of America. Georgia's 3rd Congressional District proudly claims them as its own. I can think of no more deserving recipients for this award. The July 28th ceremony presents an opportunity to celebrate heroism and to remember and mourn Danen Clarke's sacrifice on that fateful day.

Danen, Brett and Brock set an example for us all. They will serve as an inspiration for present and future generations of Boy Scouts in Troop 208 and throughout the Flint River Council.

SECTION 8 VOUCHER REFORM ACT
OF 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 12, 2007

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

consideration the bill (H.R. 1851) to reform the housing choice voucher program under section 8 of the United States Housing Act of 1937:

Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota. Madam Chairman, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 1851, the Section 8 Voucher Reform Act, and applaud Chairwoman MAXINE WATERS and Chairman BARNEY FRANK for their work on this important issue.

Housing, like food and health care, is a basic need, and it should be accessible to all Americans. Unfortunately, too many families find themselves without a stable and secure place to live because they cannot afford the high cost of housing in our country.

The Section 8 voucher program plays a critical role in preventing homelessness by expanding access to affordable housing. It is our nation's largest federal housing program, serving more than 2 million low-income families around our country. However, currently, the demand for Section 8 vouchers far exceeds the availability of vouchers. In my District in Minnesota, there are more than 5,000 households on the waitlist for Section 8, and the average wait time is anywhere from 5 to 7 years.

The Section 8 Voucher Reform Act expands and improves this important program and will ensure more families have access to safe, affordable housing. H.R. 1851 authorizes an additional 100,000 vouchers over the next 5 years. It also updates the formula used to allocate Section 8 voucher funds to housing agencies and simplifies the rent structure to eliminate current inefficiencies, allowing agencies to serve more families.

This legislation encourages self-sufficiency and rewards work by providing incentives, such as reducing rent disincentives for increases in earned income and offering income exemptions for adult full time student dependents. H.R. 1851 also promotes homeownership by allowing families to use a housing voucher as a down payment toward the purchase of their first home. Homeownership is the greatest source of wealth for many Americans. It strengthens our families and our communities.

Madam Speaker, every family deserves clean, stable, and affordable housing. I am proud to rise today in support of this important legislation.

TRIBUTE TO DANLEY STRAIGHT

HON. MARILYN N. MUSGRAVE

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 19, 2007

Mrs. MUSGRAVE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the patriotism and self sacrifice of Air Force COL Danley Elson Straight of Longmont, CO, for his service to both his community and to his country during World War II, the Korean war, and the Vietnam war.

Straight was born in Greeley, CO, on October 8, 1922, the 11th of 12 children. After graduating from Greeley High School he earned his bachelor of arts and master of arts degrees from Colorado State College of Education. He also served in the Air Force during three wars and retired with more than 30 years of service as a full colonel command pilot. During his career, "the colonel" as he is

affectionately known, flew more than 29 types of aircraft, including *Flack Bait*, which is on display in the Smithsonian Air and Space Museum.

Straight's years of service to our country are complemented by his service to his community. After retiring from the Air Force in 1976, Straight volunteered with various groups including the American Red Cross, the Boy Scouts, the Longmont Rotary Club, Masons and Shriners, the Patient Advocacy Team, St. Vrain Photographic Society, the Salvation Army, Westview Presbyterian Church, and the Rollins Pass Restoration Association, for which he served as president for more than 25 years. Straight's motto was "Never give up."

On February 7, 2007, Danley Elson Straight passed away at the age of 84. He is survived by his wife of 64 years, Juanita Watson Straight, his 5 children, 10 grandchildren, and 8 great-grandchildren.

Madam Speaker, I am honored to represent Mr. Straight and the other men and women who have given so much for our freedom. Like so many other members of the "greatest generation," I urge my colleagues to join me in expressing my heartfelt gratitude and sincere appreciation for the patriotic service of Danley Elson Straight.

HONORING SERGEANT ERIC A.
LILL OF CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

HON. DANIEL LIPINSKI
OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, July 19, 2007

Mr. LIPINSKI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to Sergeant Eric A. Lill, a courageous young soldier and father, who died in Iraq on July 6, 2007. As we all deeply mourn his loss, we use this time to honor his life and express our gratitude for his dedicated service.

Eric Lill grew up in Chicago's Bridgeport neighborhood and graduated in 1997 from St. Lawrence High School in Burbank, IL. He then attended Marshall University where he played hockey and studied criminal justice. From an early age, Eric desired to serve the public and our Nation, and he felt called to enlist in the U.S. Army.

Eric's determination and outstanding performance enabled him to attain the rank of sergeant and become a mentor to other soldiers. Most recently, Sergeant Lill served under the 2nd Infantry Division and was deployed to Iraq in October 2006. During this time, Sergeant Lill utilized his background and interest in criminal justice to help train Iraqi police officers. Although this mission was hazardous, Sergeant Lill always downplayed the danger to his family so that they would not worry. Two days after Independence Day, an improvised explosive device detonated near Sergeant Lill's vehicle during combat operations in Baghdad. The injuries sustained by Sergeant Lill resulted in his death—he was only 28.

Aside from his military service to our Nation, Eric Lill was dedicated to his family as a loving father and son. He is survived by his two children, Cody and Mikayla, affectionately known to him as "Bug" and "Lala;" his parents, Charmaine and Tony; his sister, Kortne; and his maternal grandparents, John and Marlene Alvarado.

Today, I ask my colleagues to join me in mourning the loss of Sergeant Eric A. Lill. We will never forget his sacrifice and are forever indebted to him, as well as all of our soldiers who have died, for making the ultimate sacrifice for our country. My thoughts, prayers, and deepest sympathies are with the Lill family in this difficult time.

FREE THE ISRAELI SOLDIERS

SPEECH OF

HON. DEBBIE WASSERMAN SCHULTZ

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, July 12, 2007

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize the steadfast friendship between the United States and Israel and to express support for Israeli soldiers held captive by terrorist organizations.

July 12, 2007 marks the one year anniversary of Hezbollah's infiltration into northern Israel, and it is a stinging reminder of Hezbollah's attack that sparked the bloody conflict between Israel and Hezbollah in southern Lebanon.

For the past year, three Israeli soldiers have been away from their families, held captive by terrorist organizations. Ehud Goldwasser and Eldad Regev were kidnapped by Hezbollah in the attack on July 12, 2006, and Gilad Shalit was abducted by Hamas on June 25, 2006 near the Gaza Strip.

Gilad Shalit is the youngest of the three men at the age of 20. He began his service in July of 2005, and volunteered to work in a combat unit. Shalit loves math and sports. Ehud Goldwasser, 31, is always willing to lend a helping hand. Passionate about photography, sailing, and the environment, Goldwasser is recently married and looks forward to starting a family. Eldad Regev, 26, is a law student at Bar Ilan University. Regev enjoys soccer, music, and reading. The families and friends of these talented young men look forward to their safe return.

Since its independence in 1948, Israel has continuously struggled to protect its citizens and ensure the safety of its men and women in uniform. As a Member of Congress, I recognize the bond between the United States and Israel and support the Israeli people on this solemn anniversary.

ON THE INTRODUCTION OF LEGISLATION TO PROHIBIT THE USE OF FUNDS FOR MILITARY OPERATIONS IN IRAN WITHOUT CONGRESSIONAL AUTHORIZATION

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, July 19, 2007

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Madam Speaker, today I am introducing a bill to prevent the Bush Administration from launching war in Iran without prior congressional authorization. It is a companion bill to S. 759, authored by Senator JIM WEBB of Virginia.

This is not a unique proposal—several of our colleagues in the House have introduced resolutions expressing the sense of Congress

that the President should not initiate military action against Iran without first obtaining authorization from Congress.

This legislation would establish a binding legal limit on the ability of the President to expend funds to commence military action against Iran in the absence of explicit prior congressional authorization.

I think several factors require Congress to insist that the President meet that requirement before committing this country to another war.

Those factors include this administration's inability or unwillingness to engage with the Iranian regime, the stated interest on the part of many administration officials and political supporters in attacking Iran, and the U.S. deployment of additional aircraft carrier groups to the Persian Gulf.

These have led many—likely including the Iranian regime—to think the U.S. is intent on preparing a military strike against Iran. While that perception could be far from the mark, I think there is no doubt that there are increased risks of confrontation brought on by heightened tensions in the region.

If we've learned nothing else from the war in Iraq, we should have learned that saber rattling doesn't get us far—especially when the tough rhetoric comes from an administration with a history of mismanaging the war in Iraq, a war that is in its fifth year of straining our military and depleting our Nation's blood and treasure.

As I said in 2002—before voting against the resolution authorizing war in Iraq—I am reluctant to vest in the President all discretion about when and where America will go to war. I thought then and I think today that Congress, which has the constitutional responsibility to declare war, must play a more significant role in authorizing the use of our armed forces in what could become a full-scale war.

My purpose in introducing this legislation is to reassert Congress's constitutional responsibility and to remind the Bush Administration of the important role that Congress plays when it comes to matters of war and peace.

I recognize that the President, as commander-in-chief, must have some flexibility in deciding whether to allow U.S. forces to conduct intelligence gathering and to directly respond to attacks or possible attacks from Iran. That's why my legislation makes exceptions for these contingencies.

Madam Speaker, my introduction of this legislation should not be seen as evidence that I deny the reality of the potential danger Iran presents to our country, our allies, and others.

The prospect of an Iran with nuclear weapons is a matter of serious concern for America and the rest of the world. Since the revelation of its nuclear program, Iran has defied the international community by continuing to work to advance it, Iran's president has publicly stated his intention to "wipe Israel off the map," and there is evidence that Iran is arming insurgents in Iraq and Afghanistan.

So it is no surprise that there are also reports—as recently as last month—that the internal debate on Iran among the White House, State Department, and Defense Department is heating up, and that the mood is shifting back toward military action against Iran. My bill responds to those reports by reasserting the basic principle that Congress must consent before the president can take such action.

Sending our troops into harm's way is a decision that affects all Americans, as we've

learned the hard way in Iraq. So before this president makes any more rash decisions about going to war, I believe he must come to Congress for authorization to commence military action.

The bill I am introducing today—like its companion in the Senate—is intended to do one thing: to restore the balance between the executive and legislative branches with regard to authorizing large-scale military activities. It is a balance that needs restoring after the mismanagement of the war in Iraq, and it is a balance we should be watching closely as some in the Administration continue to discuss presidential authority to wage war in contravention of the Constitution.

COMMENDING AMPUTEES ACROSS AMERICA ON THEIR ACHIEVEMENTS AND MISSION TO INCREASE PUBLIC AWARENESS OF AMPUTEES AS PEOPLE WITH ACTIVE LIFESTYLES

HON. RODNEY ALEXANDER

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 19, 2007

Mr. ALEXANDER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend Amputees Across America for their achievements and mission to increase public awareness of amputees as people with active lifestyles.

Amputees Across America is a group of amputees cycling from coast-to-coast. The riders departed on May 28, 2007 from Tustin, California, and arrive in Alexandria, Louisiana on Monday, July 2. The group is riding in 150-mile relays, visiting hospitals and local amputee support groups. The group will complete their 3,500 mile journey when they arrive in Vero Beach, Florida on July 25, 2007.

While in Alexandria, Amputees Across America cyclists Joe Sapere, Abel Cruz, Clifford Clark, and Beasey Hendrix will visit with patients and members of a stroke and amputee support group to share stories of overcoming their amputations to live healthy, fulfilling lives.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in commending the mission and achievements of Amputees Across America. I acknowledge their commendable mission and significant contribution to not only the state of Louisiana, but our nation as well.

RECALLING THE INFAMOUS ANNIVERSARY OF THE INVASION OF CYPRUS

HON. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 19, 2007

Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise to recall the tragic anniversary of the Turkish invasion of Cyprus.

On July 20, 1974, Turkey brutally attacked the Republic of Cyprus. To my deep regret, the shameful legacy of this despicable act remains. To this day, Turkish troops illegally occupy Cyprus, splitting the island into two areas, and continuing the oppression of the people of Cyprus which has remained since that infamous day.

Reminiscent of the infamous Berlin Wall, Cyprus has remained divided by “the green line,” a 113-mile barbed-wire fence that has run across the island for the past 33-years. Despite pressure from the United States, the European Union, and the United Nations, Cyprus remains one of the most militarized areas in the world.

Although Cyprus remains divided, there is reason for optimism that the nation will one day be made whole. In late April of 2004, the people of Cyprus went to the polls to vote on a plan of reunification. Unfortunately, this reunification proposal was rushed, allegedly to coincide with the ascension of Cyprus into the European Union. Because of many legitimate concerns, including security, and in a demonstration of great courage and independence, approximately 75 percent of Greek Cypriots opposed the plan. However, this rushed and unfortunate effort must not, and will not, be the end of attempts to reunify the island. A lasting and equitable solution for the people of Cyprus, and the goal of a united Cyprus, is too important to abandon.

I firmly support the efforts begun with the bicommunal agreement reached at the meeting of July 8, 2006. The framework of July 8 established guiding principles to accomplish the goal reunifying the two halves of Cyprus within a bizonal, bicommunal federation. I urge both parties to proceed with establishing working groups so that there can be movement forward in implementing these principles. The remarkable achievement of the July 8 agreement gives me great reason to be hopeful that a solution is near. Yet so long as Cyprus remains divided, we have great work ahead of us.

I remain committed to achieving a solution to this problem so that we never have to gather again to commemorate an anniversary of this condemnable invasion. Madam Speaker, I pray that this will be the last year of a divided Cyprus. It is my fervent hope that, 33 years after Cyprus was torn asunder, all Cypriots can be reunited, living in peace and freedom forever.

APPROVAL OF THE “MEN OF MIKE” RESOLUTION

HON. LEE TERRY

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 19, 2007

Mr. TERRY. Madam Speaker, I rise to applaud today's passage of H. Res. 541 by unanimous consent to recognize the Marines of Company “M,” or “Mike Company,” on the occasion of their 25th annual reunion. I am proud that men in my home State of Nebraska served in this distinguished unit.

In fact, former Marine Commandant General Chuck Krulak and General Tom Draude served together in Vietnam in this unit. The U.S. Marine Corps told me that during General Krulak's tenure as CMC, he often took the opportunity in speeches to extol the heroism of fellow Marines from Mike Company—in particular Tom Draude, a former Commander of M/3/7 who was awarded the Silver Star for heroism in a 1966 action.

The Marines of Mike Company served honorably and heroically in the Vietnam war from July 1965 to October 1970. Their service in

defense of freedom, liberty and political self determination for the South Vietnamese people earned the unit numerous citations and commendations for valor, including:

The Presidential Unit Citation Streamer with 2 Bronze Stars;

Navy Unit Commendation Streamer; Meritorious Unit Commendation Streamer with 2 Bronze Stars;

National Defense Service Streamer; Vietnam Service Streamer with 2 Silver Stars and 3 Bronze Stars;

Vietnam Cross of Gallantry with Palm Streamer; and

The Vietnam Meritorious Unit Citation Civil Actions Streamer.

The Men of Mike Company were the subject of a 1968 documentary entitled “A Face of War,” which accurately portrayed the sights and sounds of Marines performing their duties in a combat zone. My constituent, retired Captain James Sackett, appeared in the film as part of the Mike Company “Band of Brothers” who displayed their courage under fire on behalf of all U.S. Marines.

The Marines of Mike Company, along with their loved ones, have held a reunion every year since 1983. They have formed the Mike 3/7 Vietnam Association to honor the memories of their fallen comrades; celebrate the lives of their surviving comrades; express profound appreciation to their families and loved ones; recognize the monumental sacrifices and achievements necessary for freedom; and to hold forth their contribution to the Marine Corps legacy of courage, patriotism and military excellence as an example to future generations.

Americans everywhere owe a debt of gratitude to the Marines of Mike Company for their selfless dedication to duty and their admirable display of courage under fire. The U.S. House of Representatives is proud to honor their sacrifices on the occasion of their 25th annual reunion.

SUPPORT FOR H.R. 2337

HON. NICK J. RAHALL II

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 19, 2007

Mr. RAHALL. Madam Speaker, in recent weeks, I have witnessed the lengths to which the oil and gas industry will go to frighten my colleagues about the contents of H.R. 2337, the energy legislation approved last month by the House Natural Resources Committee. The tales they weave would make good fodder for a Stephen King novel.

I have heard arguments of all kinds—that the bill will cause oil and gas prices to increase, that it will harm energy supplies, and even that it will cost American jobs. Falsehoods such as these, while creative, are simply unfounded.

I have seen no data to substantiate these claims or to show how the mild provisions of Titles I and II in my bill will result in such ill effects. And, I might add, what these detractors always conveniently fail to reveal is that the Energy Policy Act of 2005 provided zip in the way of lower prices.

Let me take this opportunity to give you a little insight into what is really behind this smear campaign.

The bottom line here is production royalties from Federal lands and waters are owed to the American people. For the last 6 years under the Bush administration, the oil and gas industry has been pampered by friends in high places.

Consider this: From 2002 to 2005, collections of oil and gas royalties from drilling rigs on public lands have fallen to an annual average of \$48 million—half the average, \$115 million, collected annually in the 20 years prior, despite increased production.

Consider this: Between 1998 and 2001, the Minerals Management Service, MMS, conducted over 540 audits per year. From 2002 through 2005, the average number of audits dropped to 393. And in 2006, MMS completed only 144 audits. That means that MMS reduced the number of oil and gas audits by 22 percent.

By comparison, The New York Times reported recently that the IRS has more than doubled the number of individual tax returns audited from 2000 to 2006, increasing from nearly 618,000 to nearly 1.3 million of us whom IRS decided to scrutinize.

So here we have oil and gas companies raking in profits and getting a wink and a nod when it comes to paying the royalties they owe, while the IRS knuckles down to squeeze every possible nickel and dime out of regular folks and hardworking families. Thank you very much, Mr. President.

From the earliest days of this administration when energy executives, or their representatives, gathered behind the curtains of executive privilege shrouding the Vice President's office, the energy policy of this Nation has been tilted against the regular folks most of us in this body represent. These huge, multinational firms would seem to be the least in need of coddling by and protection of our government, yet, the policies of this administration have sheltered them from "ponying up" their fair share of what is truly owed to the Federal Treasury. At a time when the oil and gas industry is reaping record profits, consumers at the pump are watching the price figures flip by at increasing speed as the quantity of gas they actually pour hums ever more slowly into the tank.

We have an opportunity here, in H.R. 2337, to make some real and positive changes—to even out the policies so slanted in favor of the oil company executives whose nameplates appear at Mr. CHENEY's energy bargaining table. We have the chance to restore some accountability to the system and improve the way the Federal Government manages its public energy resources.

H.R. 2337 will step up the number of audits performed each year and give the agency the teeth it has long needed to go after those companies that underpay the Treasury at the expense of the rest of us.

Madam Speaker, every year over Memorial Day weekend we have a tall tales contest in my home State of West Virginia. That event draws some of the biggest fibbers and spinners the Lord has seen fit to create. Having listened to the bizarre claims ricocheting around these halls in recent weeks, I look forward to next Memorial Day when I expect to see a string of oil and gas executives taking the stage to share their whoppers.

The winner of this time-honored contest, by the way, is awarded an enviable trophy—a golden shovel. What a nice—and appro-

prate—decoration for the walls of some mighty oil company CEO.

IN REMEMBRANCE OF LIVES LOST
IN CYPRUS DURING THE TURKISH
INVASION

HON. MIKE McINTYRE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 19, 2007

Mr. McINTYRE. Madam Speaker, I rise today in commemoration of the 33rd anniversary of the Turkish invasion of Cyprus, which occurred on July 20, 1974. Many lost their lives and livelihoods as a result of that invasion. It is disappointing that 33 years later the island of Cyprus remains divided and contentious.

A United Nations Security Council resolution states "a Cyprus settlement must be based on a State of Cyprus with a single sovereignty and international personality and a single citizenship, with its independence and territorial integrity safeguarded and comprising two politically equal communities as described in the relevant Security Council resolutions, in a bi-communal and bi-zonal federation and that such a settlement must exclude union in whole or in part with any other country or any form of partition or secession." I look forward to the day when such a settlement is realized.

Cyprus has been a staunch ally of the United States. It has aided our efforts in Afghanistan and Iraq by allowing the United States over-flight and landing rights, as well as port access for our ships. In addition, Cyprus provided valuable assistance for our evacuation and rescue efforts after the 1983 Beirut barracks bombing and the 2006 hostilities in Lebanon.

Also, it is important that we ensure the protection of human rights in Cyprus and work to preserve the Cypriots' religious and cultural heritage. I am troubled by reports that religious sites, including Greek Orthodox churches, have been pillaged, destroyed, or in any way harmed.

I am encouraged that efforts are underway to facilitate the integration of Greek and Turkish Cypriots, specifically the opening of crossing points on this divided island. After 33 years of division and contention, it is time to reach a just and lasting peace that will unify Cyprus and allow it to grow politically, socially, and economically. I encourage my colleagues to support any efforts to reach such a settlement.

PEACE FOR GREEK AND TURKISH
CYPRIOTS

HON. ED WHITFIELD

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 19, 2007

Mr. WHITFIELD. Madam Speaker, I rise today with the hope that the Island of Cyprus will soon be reunified, and with resolve of her citizens and the help from the international community, both the Greek and Turkish Cypriots will know tranquility.

Tragically, thirty-three years ago, violence and bloodshed ripped Cyprus apart, dividing

the island. Although it is peaceful today, the Greek and Turkish Cypriots are still separated to the detriment of many Turkish Cypriots, who have been deprived of economic and social advancements.

Unfortunately, decades of negotiations under the auspices of the United Nations and involving motherlands Greece and Turkey, have produced no lasting agreement. There was hope in April 2004 when the comprehensive, U.N.-sponsored "Annan Plan," was put to referendum. To the dismay of the international community, this plan failed when the Greek Cypriots overwhelmingly voted against it, despite the fact that the Turkish Cypriots overwhelmingly voted in favor of it.

After the unsuccessful adoption of the "Annan Plan," Turkish Cypriots called for action to discuss the situation. It was then that Turkish Cypriot leader Mehmet Ali Talat and Greek Cypriot leader Tassos Papadopoulos met on July 3rd and 8th, 2006, and agreed to hold further meetings based on a "Set of Principles" aimed at the unification of Cyprus. The meeting of the two leaders and the agreement they reached have been welcomed by the international community, including the United States, the European Union and others.

It is important that this new and positive spirit demonstrated by the two Cypriot leaders be supported by the United States in order to help the parties build trust and forge an atmosphere conducive to progress and prosperity. It is our sincere hope that the spirit of reconciliation and goodwill generated in recent times will continue to be promoted by all parties involved.

Madam Speaker, as the process moves forward it is also important to recognize the resolve of the Turkish Cypriot people who have demonstrated time after time an unwavering commitment to reconciliation as well as remarkable flexibility by supporting the "Annan Plan." Despite their continued commitment to reunify Cyprus, Turkish Cypriots are still awaiting the fulfillment of the promises made to them by the international community that their isolation would be lifted. We believe that both the Turkish Cypriots and Turkey, whose support was crucial in securing the "yes" vote of the Turkish Cypriots in the 2004 referendum, should be rewarded, not penalized, in order for the process to move forward toward a lasting settlement.

More than ever before, it is important to support a diplomatic compromise in Cyprus to ensure a bright future for Greek and Turkish Cypriots.

TRIBUTE TO DR. WILSON WEST

HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 19, 2007

Mr. SHIMKUS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the late Dr. Wilson West. Dr. West is a native of Belleville, IL, and was a well-known doctor and professor.

Dr. West was born near Centralia on September 13, 1913 and graduated from Salem High School. He went on to earn a bachelor's degree from Southern Illinois University Carbondale. In 1937 he graduated from St. Louis University Medical School. Dr. West was a member of the St. Clair County Medical Society and served as its president in 1971. He

also served on the Board of Directors of the Union Bank of St. Clair County for 25 years.

Dr. West was an active member and leader in the Republican Party and was viewed by many as the foremost authority on the Republican Party in southwestern Illinois. He served as chairman of the St. Clair County Republican Century Club for more than 25 years, elected as a delegate at seven Republican National Conventions, and was an Elector in the Electoral College for three presidential elections. He was very active in local, State, and national politics and hosted prominent politicians at St. Clair County events. He was proud to have attended the inaugurations of many presidents and governors and was a frequent guest at the Governor's Mansion and the White House.

Dr. West wrote for medical research journals and was a professor at Southern Illinois University School of Medicine, Washington University School of Medicine, and Barnes Hospital. Dr. West is the namesake and past recipient of the St. Clair County Medical Society's Wilson H. West Award for service in the health care profession. He was honored as an "outstanding alumnus" by the St. Louis University School of Medicine. In 1966, he received the Everett Dirksen Award and subsequently established a Nursing Scholarship with the same organization. In 2002, Dr. West was awarded the prestigious Eisenhower Commission. He was awarded lifetime membership on the Republican National Committee, the honorary organizations, Republican Speaker's Circle, and the Presidents Club.

Dr. West leaves a legacy to his patients of 60 years of service with dedicated professionalism and compassionate care. He touched many lives with his understanding, care, and concern. He provided outstanding treatment and service to three generations of southwestern Illinoisans.

My thoughts and prayers will be with the family and friends of Dr. Wilson West.

TRIBUTE TO BEECHIE BROOKS

HON. GWEN MOORE

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 19, 2007

Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize a community leader and real estate and economic development visionary of the 4th Congressional District, Beechie Brooks.

Beechie Brooks' vision was instrumental in revitalizing and changing the character of neighborhoods in Milwaukee's central city by developing the Halyard Park subdivision. The United Realty Group, a firm that was formed from the merger of several African American real estate companies in 1976, gained approval from the City of Milwaukee's Redevelopment Authority to develop a subdivision of single-family suburban style homes. Mr. Brooks' leadership was integral to creating this "model" of privately financed housing in the central city that continues to draw the attention of people in urban areas around the country. It serves as a testament to the fact that central cities can provide the same quality of life as suburbs.

Beechie Brooks did not rest on his laurels but continued to spearhead development in

the community including: assisted in the development of the Northtown Shopping Center on Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Drive and North Avenue which has been renamed Brooks Plaza in his honor; designed and built Brook's X-Press Car Washing Plant on 7th Street and W. North Avenue; oversaw the development of the Masterpiece Supper Club and Motor Lodge on 6th and W. Walnut Streets; and was a founder and treasurer of the state's second oldest African American-owned financial institution, the North Milwaukee State Bank. Mr. Brooks also served on the City of Milwaukee's Board of Assessment, the Wisconsin Real Estate License Examining Board and the NAACP Milwaukee Chapter's Executive Board and chaired their Housing Committee.

Mr. Brooks was devoted to his wife of 58 years, Vernadine who passed away in 2004. They were both active members of St. Mark AME Church. He was instrumental in planning and constructing the building the church currently occupies and continues to serve on St. Mark's Trustee Board that manages the church's real estate holdings. Mr. Brooks is also a member of the Anvil Housing Board which manages the church's two senior citizen housing complexes.

I am honored to have this opportunity to pay tribute to Beechie Brooks for his unwavering commitment to making Milwaukee a great place to live and work.

PUBLIC SAFETY EMPLOYER-EMPLOYEE COOPERATION ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 17, 2007

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 980, the Public Safety Employer-Employee Cooperation Act of 2007. This vital legislation will provide police officers, firefighters, and other public safety officers with basic collective bargaining rights, without undermining state authority or existing state laws—providing modest minimum standards to be included in state laws.

Sadly, some members of this body object to H.R. 980 on the grounds that it supposedly "tramples on state's rights." This could not be further from the truth. The Public Safety Employer-Employee Cooperation Act only requires that states and localities have a bargaining process, it does not mandate binding arbitration, it does not allow strikes, and local employers still retain the final say in all budgetary decisions. Furthermore, most states and localities already meet or exceed the bill's minimum requirement of having a process in place that allows police, firefighters and others sit down and talk about their jobs with their employers. For these reasons, it seems to me that the state's rights objections raised by the bill's opponents do not stand up under scrutiny.

Congress has long recognized the benefits of a cooperative working relationship between labor and management. Over the years we have extended collective bargaining rights to letter carriers, postal clerks, public transit employees, and even Congressional employees. It is long past time that we allow public safety

employees the basic right to bargain collectively and raise workplace and public safety issues with their employers and in passing H.R. 980 today we will correct this wrong.

TRIBUTE TO THE SOUTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY OF EDWARDSVILLE COUGARS SOFTBALL TEAM

HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 19, 2007

Mr. SHIMKUS. Madam Speaker, today I rise to honor my alma mater Southern Illinois University of Edwardsville, where I graduated with my MBA in 1997, on winning its first national NCAA Division II softball championship.

The fifth ranked Cougars (49–8) closed out the season with a 16-game winning streak. The 3-hour and 15 minute game was the longest in Division II championship history.

Ashley Price hit an RBI single in the 12th inning to give SIUE a 3–2 championship victory over defending national champion Lock Haven at Firestone Stadium in Akron, OH. The national championship is the 17th in the school's history and first in softball.

Members of the team include Ashley Price, Chaleen Rumpf, Carly Wildenradt, Emily Lenart, Courtney Mall, Lindsey Laas, Haylee Eubanks, Abbie Bates, Katy Biggs, Nicole Beecher, Lauren Zembruski, Sabra McCune, Amanda Puce, Jodie Ohlau, Kaeleigh Rousey, Libby Lenart, Mallory Ruggles and Kaitlin Colosimo. The Head Coach is Sandy Montgomery; Valerie McCoy is the Assistant Coach, and the Student Assistant is Shannon Evans.

I am very pleased to congratulate the softball team of Southern Illinois University of Edwardsville on their national championship and wish them the best of luck for next season.

RECOGNIZING THE IMPORTANT TESTIMONY OF MR. CHARLES DAHAN BEFORE THE CONGRESSIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS CAUCUS

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 19, 2007

Mr. LANTOS. Madam Speaker, on Wednesday, June 20, 2007, the Congressional Human Rights Caucus held an extraordinary briefing on Morocco's progress toward gender equality.

The briefing addressed the very important issue of women's rights in Morocco that has been the number one priority of King Mohammed VI. The Moudawana (the Family Law), adopted in 2003, has sought to raise women's status as full partners with men, in order to uphold equality between the two spouses and to protect children's rights. Women are now able to initiate divorce and to gain custody of their children. Polygamy has become practically impossible.

Madam Speaker, Mr. Charles Dahan, the World Vice President of the Federation of the Moroccan Jewry, shared his exceptional

knowledge of women's rights in Morocco. Mr. Dahan's speech was not only eloquent but tremendously important in educating the Members and their staff on this issue.

I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking Mr. Dahan for sharing with so many prominent leaders his expertise. With that I would like to place Mr. Dahan's testimony in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

MOROCCO, PROGRESS TOWARD EQUALITY

(By Charles Dahan)

Thank you for inviting me to visit with you about Jews in Morocco today. Let me start with a brief overview of how the Jews came to settle in Morocco.

Two major groups of migration:

1. 3-400 BC Destruction of the Temple. Jews crossed Egypt and settled in the Berber region of what is now Libya and Morocco. These Jews are referred to in Hebrew as "Tochavim". At this time, the Berbers had no organized religion and the Jews lived their Jewish life coexisting with the tribes and, on occasion, conversions would occur. In the 1300s, Islam was introduced in Morocco and most Berbers converted to Islam.

2. 1490s Spanish Inquisition. Both Muslims and Jews were forced out of Spain and settled in Northern Africa. This was a shared historical experience. These Jews are called "Mekorachim" in Hebrew and they numbered between 25-30,000.

There were several important moments where the Jewish contribution to Moroccan life was recognized and, therefore, protected by the Sultans. Two examples are:

We see the creation of "Mellahs" during the 1600s. Jews were considered "dhimmis" (literally, protected persons) at this time by the Sultan. Original purpose of mellahs was to protect Jewish communities. Mellahs developed center of services for royal authority like duties, minting coins, diplomacy, and royal merchants.

In the 1800s, Sir Moses Montefiore met with Sultan Ridi Muhammad b. 'Abd al-Rahman who issued royal decree proclaiming Jews in Morocco were protected by justice under Moroccan law.

A very important development in 1862 is the creation of first school of the Alliance Israelite in Tetouan. The result of this school significantly increased the education level of Jews as the network spread across Morocco. This focus on education of the existing 200-250,000 Moroccan Jews is a major force in their historical value as a community. For example, in 1991 King Hassan II said to Moroccan Jews in a speech "You preceded the Arabs in Morocco, and you still stand out by a quality which distinguishes you in the cultural and religious fields. The Moroccan Talmudic School was universally recognized as the best in the world."

Feast of the throne, 1943: "I consider the Jews as Moroccan citizens with the same full and equal rights, as their Moslem brothers. Their property and their persons are inviolable. I am completely opposed to the new anti-semitic laws, and refuse to be associated with measures which I disapprove. I wish to inform you that, as in the past, the Jews remain under my protection, and I will not tolerate any discrimination between my subjects."

Moroccan independence from France greatly altered the Moroccan Jewish life. Anxiety over the future mounted among Jews. In 1955, a year before Moroccan independence, North African Jews represented 87% of new immigrants in Israel.

Even though the newly independent King Mohammad V declared in 1956 "The Jews

will enjoy every right, in complete equality, and be associated in every form of our national life, including responsibilities within the government", life dramatically changed for the Jews in Morocco. Several social, political and economic factors were conditions for a perfect storm:

Decolonization led to an economic vacuum by the French. A whole level of life had been economically dependent on the French and the balance of this life shifted dramatically adding anxiety to the Jewish population.

Arabization was one of the main objectives of the Nationalists. Remember that French had been the language of education, much culture, daily life and commerce for this generation. The Jewish elite, living outside of the Mellah, did not speak Arabic and this lack of communication led to more confusion and anxiety.

Hardening of the National Political Party was new to the Jews. Encouragement from Nasser and the Arab League led to many demonstrations against the French colonists. In addition, the Party was leaning to the Left with communist ideas and forging relations with Moscow. It was too dangerous to attack French Christian citizens so the Moroccan Jews became the invented symbol of colonization. Any kind of demonstration or riot ended up targeting Moroccan Jews.

After the Independence, King Mohammad V restricted emigration. The Jews were torn between the consequences and uncertainty of their future in Morocco and the illegal departure for a totally unknown life. Some chose to escape and one historical consequence was 1961 ship called the Pisces that sank killing all 43 Jews who had been smuggled aboard. This was an important event that politicized the Moroccan Jews. In 1962, upon the ascension of King Hassan II, Jews were allowed to emigrate. King Hassan told the community: ". . . I have recognized your rights as full-fledged Moroccan citizens. I request that you will be the ambassadors of Morocco wherever you may choose to emigrate and that you defend the reputation of your country whenever it is maligned by the media through bad faith or ignorance".

That was the first major Jewish exodus from Morocco. Two-thirds of that population left Morocco for Israel and Canada. The second exodus was in 1967 during the Six-Day War and the third was in 1973 during the Yom Kippur War.

This brings us to life today as a Moroccan Jew, both inside and outside the country. King Mohammad VI is a young and modern monarch who faces worldwide pressure. His legacy to follow is that of a peacemaker, often behind the scenes. His vision is to bring Morocco to a western level of development.

Although the population of Jews within Morocco has dwindled to approximately 3,000, there remains a vibrant community involved in many levels of society.

Although many of the Moroccan Jews have left, we still retain our unique blending of Judaism and Moroccan culture. This infusion is apparent in:

Religion: only Moroccan Jews pay homage to sainted Rabbis buried on Moroccan soil. These pilgrimages, "hiloulahs," involve a return to Morocco and a visit to the buried site which is tended and respected as well by Moroccan Muslims.

Weddings in Israel and Moroccan Jews worldwide are preceded by Hennas—typical of the Berber/Muslim religion. Also carrying of brides on "litters".

In conclusion, there is more to bring Moroccans together than to separate them. The single biggest threat to unity is extremism.

The United States needs to support Morocco in the strongest way to encourage their development as through the recent Trade Agreement and to help them fight the threat of terrorism. Through investment and development, there are promises to be a bright future.

As for Moroccan Jews who have emigrated, I think the words of Yitzhak Shamir sum it up: "Moroccan Jews were the only Jews that never renounced their country, nor were they rejected by their country".

THE WAR

HON. WM. LACY CLAY

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 19, 2007

Mr. CLAY. Madam Speaker, in the fall of 2002, I was among the majority of Democrats in the House of Representatives who voted against the Iraq war resolution. Claims about weapons of mass destruction had not been substantiated and there was no evidence that Saddam Hussein was linked to al Qaeda and the 9-11 attacks. I did not accept—as administration officials asserted—that the costs of the war and rebuilding of Iraq could be financed by Iraqi oil revenues. At that time, I told my colleagues that Iraq did not pose a direct threat to our national security and that we should concentrate our power on capturing Osama Bin Laden and destroying al Qaeda.

The invasion and occupation of Iraq has not achieved what its proponents promised. The war has degraded our military, undermined our nation's influence in the world, vitalized terrorists, and left the American people more vulnerable to attack than we were before the war.

Now, the National Intelligence Estimate confirms that while the administration vainly wrestles to salvage some semblance of victory in Iraq, Osama Bin Laden and his followers are poised for a resurgence. Al Qaeda's terrorist network, which was weakened but not destroyed after we invaded Afghanistan, never lost sight of its enemy. Today, al Qaeda poses as grave a threat to the United States as it did before 9-11.

As long as we remain in Iraq, al Qaeda will profit and the American people will pay the price. The security of our Nation demands that we withdraw from Iraq and use all of our military, intelligence and diplomatic resources to tear down the terrorist networks that want to destroy our way of life.

This Administration must stop blindly pandering to elitist dreams of rebuilding other nations in our image. Protecting the American people is a fundamental purpose of our government. The Iraq war is not advancing our national security; it is time to bring our troops home.

The Bush policy in Iraq has already cost the lives of over 3,600 brave Americans, with over 26,000 wounded. It has squandered and scattered resources that we should have devoted to our homeland security. And it has cost the U.S. citizens over half a trillion dollars in hard earned wages and lost Government services.

When history is written, it might say that we lost the first battle in the war against terrorism, but I pray it will not say that we lost the war.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 90TH
BIRTHDAY OF THELMA NEWMAN
FRAZIER

HON. STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 19, 2007

Mrs. JONES of Ohio. Madam Speaker, today I ask you and my colleagues to join me in celebrating the life Thelma Newman Frazier on the occasion of her 90th birthday. The daughter of farm workers Eugene Newman and Kate Robinson, Thelma was born on July 26, 1917 in Richland County, AR.

Thelma is truly a child of God having accepted Christ as her Lord and savior at an early age. She is a past member of Morning Star Missionary Baptist Church and currently attends Shalom Church City of Peace.

Thelma was united in holy matrimony to Nathaniel Frazier, Sr. on April 17, 1941. To this union were born two children, Katie M. McKinney and Nathaniel Jr. Sadly, Nathaniel Jr. preceded her in death. In 1952, Thelma and her family migrated to St. Louis, MO. There she became active in the community. A devout member of the Order of the Eastern Star, Thelma worked tirelessly to carry out their mission.

Mrs. Frazier has been rewarded in life by her hard work and dedication to family. She has a devoted daughter, Katie M. McKinney, son-in-law, Lewis L. McKinney Sr., 13 grandchildren, 22 great-grandchildren, and 7 great-great-grandchildren. Her hard work has influenced her family tremendously. She is proud of all their accomplishments.

The matriarch of her family, Mrs. Frazier continues to live independently in St. Louis and is a constant support to her family through her unconditional love and encouragement. If only every child was blessed to have had a mother, grandmother or aunt like Thelma Newman Frazier, the world would be a better place. Happy birthday Mrs. Frazier, and may you be blessed with many, many more.

**RESPONSIBLE REDEPLOYMENT
FROM IRAQ ACT**

SPEECH OF

HON. TODD TIAHRT

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 12, 2007

Mr. TIAHRT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in opposition to H.R. 2956, the so-called "Responsible Redeployment from Iraq Act." This legislation is short-sighted, dangerous, and will not bring our Nation closer to success or Iraq closer to security. The only likely result would be to appease the anti-war activists and damage the national security of the United States.

Throughout this country, Americans are growing weary with this war. No one likes war, and every loss pains us. Unfortunately the arguments from the anti-war activists are becoming persuasive. These activists have been able to shape the debate on the war by focusing on the number of U.S. military casualties and the level of violence in Iraq. I do not trivialize these issues. Every soldier's death is a horrendous tragedy for our Nation and a family. In the 4th District of Kansas we have

lost 11 young men in the Global War on Terror, and we must never forget their sacrifice.

However, focusing solely on these grave issues does not address the most basic question facing our Nation in Iraq. The fundamental question of Iraq is, "what are the consequences of success and failure?" Unfortunately, the consequences of losing this war are rarely discussed, and I fear this legislation will likely be passed by this House. The Democrats are fond of saying that we have "lost" in Iraq. While I do not agree with this assessment, I think they need to answer who we lost to. If we lost, who won? Can the Democrats answer this question, and if they do, can the American people live with the answer? The reality is that this ill-advised approach will have dire consequences on Iraq and the United States.

With the premature withdrawal of American Forces from Iraq this legislation accomplishes the first step in al Qaeda's four-prong plan in Iraq. Starting with forcing the U.S. military out of Iraq and ending with the use of Iraq and the wider Middle East to launch additional attacks on Western governments and the U.S. homeland, al Qaeda has a clear plan for global terrorism. Unfortunately, the Democrats only provide the American people with a clear plan for defeat.

Throughout the Iraq War, the President and his military commanders have continually altered both strategy and tactics to meet the changing threats posed by our enemy. The latest strategy, called a "New Way Forward," was outlined by the President at the beginning of this year. This strategy included an additional 21,500 American troops in order to achieve a six-part strategy, which involves letting the Iraqis lead, isolating extremists, and create space for political progress.

This new strategy acknowledges that the Iraqis must ultimately take responsibility for the security and stability of Iraq while understanding that the Coalition Forces have an integral role in helping to provide security for the country in order to allow the Iraqi government and military to succeed. Since January, steps have been taken to fully implement the New Way Forward plan, and only in the last month have all additional forces finally been put into place.

There is still much work to do, but coalition forces are seeing some early signs of progress from this approach. Sectarian murders in Baghdad are now down from January, and because U.S. and Iraqi forces are living among the people they secure, many Iraqis are now coming forward with information on where the terrorists are hiding. Progress is being made at the local level, including more tribal sheiks joining the fight against al Qaeda, citizens forming neighborhood watch groups, young Sunnis signing up for the army and police, and more Shia rejecting militias.

Although progress is being made, it is certainly not moving at the speed I, nor the American people, want. However, the reality is that the "New Way Forward" strategy has only recently entered full implementation. It has not had a chance for success or failure. To change course at this time will only resolve us to defeat, while not providing us an opportunity to succeed. We must give the "New Way Forward" a chance, and not just resign America and its military to failure and Iraq to civil war and a potential genocide.

The Democrats may not understand the dangers of a withdrawal approach, but the

Iraqis do. Hoshiyar Zebari, the Iraqi foreign minister, recently said of the dangers of a premature U.S. military withdrawal, "The dangers vary from civil war to dividing the country or maybe to regional wars. In our estimation the danger is huge. Until the Iraqi forces and institutions complete their readiness, there is a responsibility on the U.S. and other countries to stand by the Iraqi government and the Iraqi people to help build up their capabilities."

Madam Speaker, this is a delicate and dangerous issue. It is essential that we have all the available facts before making decisions on how to move forward towards success. This is why I am looking forward to the September report from General David Petraeus, the U.S. Commander in Iraq, and U.S. Ambassador to Iraq, Ryan Crocker. The progress report will provide essential information on the current situation so Congress and the President can make an informed decision on the next steps in Iraq.

The Democrat plan has real consequences: the likely collapse of the Iraqi state and the creation of terrorist havens. It will embolden the terrorists and endanger the security of our homeland. Now is not the time for knee-jerk reactions. Now is the time for thoughtful consideration, examination of the options and consequences, and creating solutions that will make America more secure, not less. Although patience is not the word Americans want to hear, the consequences are too high to make uninformed decisions prior to reviewing the September progress report. For if we bring the troops home prematurely, we also risk bringing the war home.

Therefore, I ask my colleagues to join with me in opposition to this legislation.

REV. DR. LARRY WAYNE ELLIS
AND FIRST LADY VANDERLER
ELLIS HONORING THEIR 20
YEARS OF LEADERSHIP AT PIL-
GRIM BAPTIST CHURCH

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 19, 2007

Mr. LANTOS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Reverend Doctor Larry Wayne Ellis and his wife, First Lady Vanderler Ellis, on their two decades of leadership at Pilgrim Baptist Church, located in San Mateo, California, within my Congressional District.

Pastor Larry Wayne Ellis, a native of Clarksville, Tennessee, graduated in 1975 from Austin Peay State University located in Tennessee. In 1981, Dr. Ellis earned a Master of Divinity from Golden Gate Theological Seminary. In 1988, he was awarded a master's degree in counseling psychology with an emphasis in marriage and family counseling from the College of Notre Dame in Belmont. He earned a Doctor of Ministry degree in 1995 from the Northern Baptist Theological Seminary in Lombard, Illinois. Currently, he is vice president and professor at Southern Marin Bible Institute and teaches at Golden Gate Seminary.

In August 1986, the Bay Area Baptist Congress of Christian Education named Dr. Ellis president of their organization. He was selected as Pastor of the Year in 1988, president of the Ministers' Council and moderator for the Bay Area Baptist District Association.

Dr. Ellis served at Mt. Zion Baptist Church of Redwood City for nearly 10 years, serving as full-time minister during the last 4 years of his tenure there. Dr. Ellis' leadership has been instrumental in the revitalization of this Church. Dr. Ellis was called as the pastor of Pilgrim Baptist Church on September 4, 1987.

In addition to his teaching and preaching at Pilgrim, he consistently remains involved in the community. In 1988, he founded C.H.O.I.C.E.S., a drug information and referral non-profit agency. He also serves on several civic and corporate boards. In 1996, Dr. Ellis achieved one of his most recent accomplishments when he became an Adjunct Professor at Golden Gate Seminary in Mill Valley, California. Among his many other accomplishments is the fact that, in 1998, he taught in Russia. Additionally, in 1999, he was selected as President of Congress Christian Education. He currently serves as Vice President of the State Congress of Christian Education. In 1999 Pastor Ellis also founded "Teach The Word" radio ministry. In 2002, he became President and Chief Executive Officer of the Pilgrim Organization, Inc., a youth through senior non-profit organization.

He is married to the former Vanderler Hines and proud father of three children, Tawana, Justin, and Austin.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues in the House to join me in offering sincere congratulations and respect for the 20 years of dedication and service that Pastor Larry Wayne Ellis and his wife, Vanderler Ellis, have given to the Pilgrim Baptist Church community.

TRIBUTE TO MR. ERNEST R.
SUTTON

HON. G.K. BUTTERFIELD

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 19, 2007

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Madam Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to an outstanding citizen, Mr. Ernest R. Sutton. Mr. Sutton, a native of Elizabeth City, NC, is retiring after 36 years of loyal, dedicated service to the North Carolina Department of Correction. He has served this department in many capacities and now completes his career as the Superintendent for the Pasquotank Correctional Institution. Mr. Sutton is a graduate of Elizabeth City State University in 1977 with a bachelor's of science degree in political science.

I have had the privilege of knowing Mr. Sutton for many years as a friend, supporter, and community leader in the Albemarle Region of our state. I first met Mr. Sutton when he was intricately involved in the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, an organization founded by Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Mr. Sutton currently serves as the Chairman of the Leadership Development and Governance Committees for the American Hospital Association. He is also a member of the Elizabeth City-Pasquotank County Community Relations Committee.

Madam Speaker, Mr. Sutton is an activist for change. In 1997, he introduced the first Hospital/Prison "Health Fair" in North Carolina, and played a key role in the transition of Albemarle Hospital from county owned to a free standing Regional Hospital Authority. In

2000, Mr. Sutton led the development of a unique process to search for and secure a new hospital president and CEO for Albemarle Hospital, Elizabeth City, NC.

Mr. Sutton served as past Vice-Chair of the International Association of the Friends of Africa; past Chairman of the Albemarle Hospital Authority Board of Commissioners; past Chairman of the Albemarle Hospital Executive Committee; past Chairman of the Personnel and Grievance Committee of the Albemarle Hospital Board of Trustees; and past Co-Chair of the Community Relations Committee of Elizabeth City, NC. He also served as Treasurer of the North Carolina 12th District NAACP, past member of the North Carolina Cultural Alliance, and past member of the North Carolina Council on Alcoholism.

Mr. Sutton's work reaches far beyond Elizabeth City. His article "Ernest R. Sutton: Growing Potential," which emphasizes his passion for leadership and human resources development, was featured in the September 2002 issue of Trustee Magazine. He was also interviewed on diversity in health care in the Bridges Magazine—Institute for Diversity in Health Management in the Fall of 2002. As President of Faith Consultants, LLC, Mr. Sutton has conducted several health care lectures and seminars at local universities and for many religious organizations.

Mr. Sutton has received many awards for his work. In 1984, he was the recipient of NAACP Outstanding Humanitarian Award, and went on to receive the silver, gold, and platinum Gavel Awards from the Governance Institute of Physicians, Trustees and Healthcare Executives in La Jolla, CA. In 2002, he received the North Carolina Hospital Association Trustee Service Award: Trustee of the Year, and received the Harvard School of Conflict Resolution and Healthcare Negotiations: Graduate with Distinction Award.

Over this extensive career, Mr. Sutton has made a tremendous impact on his community. Through his commitment and devotion to service, he has helped to lay the ground work for continued change in both Elizabeth City and beyond. I ask that all of my colleagues join me in paying tribute to an exemplary citizen, Mr. Ernest Sutton.

PASSPORT BACKLOG REDUCTION
ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. MICHAEL E. CAPUANO

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 16, 2007

Mr. CAPUANO. Madam Speaker, I rise today in strong support of the passage of S. 966, a bill that will help ease the lengthy delays that citizens are experiencing obtaining a passport.

The House will have the opportunity to pass amendments to S. 966, the Passport Backlog Reduction Act. The Senate passed the bill, originally introduced by Senator SCHUMER, by unanimous consent on June 29.

After hearing from many constituents about problems they were having, I introduced my I own bill, H.R. 2960, the Department of State Crisis Response Act of 2007. Along with my colleagues Representatives LOUISE SLAUGHTER, RUBEN HINOJOSA, TED POE, AL GREEN,

MAC THORNBERRY, CHARLES GONZALEZ, EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON, SHELLEY BERKLEY, HENRY CUELLAR, CAROL SHEA-PORTER, JERRY MCNERNEY, PETER WELCH and JASON ALTMIRE, I introduced this legislation to enable the Department of State to respond to a critical shortage of passport processing personnel by re-employing vital former employees. I am pleased that the House Foreign Affairs Committee decided to send the Senate bill, similar in purpose to my bill, to the floor in an effort expedite the process. With passage of S. 966, the State Department can begin working to reduce the passport backlog.

I am hopeful that this legislative action will go far to ease the difficulty and delay many of our constituents have experienced in getting or renewing their passports.

RECOGNIZING ANTONIO
MANIBUSAN PALOMO

HON. MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 19, 2007

Ms. BORDALLO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Antonio Manibusan Palomo for a lifetime of service to our community, and for his efforts to preserve Guam's history and culture. Mr. Palomo, a prolific writer and long-time reporter for Guam media, and a former Guam lawmaker, recently retired as the administrator of the Guam Museum on June 13, 2007.

Tony was born in 1931 in Hagatna, the eldest of the nine children of the late Vicente Gogo Palomo and Dolores Lydia Mendiola Manibusan. He attended Guam's prewar Padre Palomo and Agana Elementary Schools and graduated from George Washington High School. He also attended Belmont Abby Preparatory School in Belmont, North Carolina, and Marquette University in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, graduating from Marquette's College of Journalism in 1954. He worked full-time as a copy boy for the Milwaukee Sentinel while in school. Upon his return to Guam, Tony applied his skills as a proofreader, a general assignment reporter, a sports editor, and an assistant managing editor for the Guam Daily News, forerunner of the Pacific Daily News. He also served as a correspondent for the Associated Press and as a stringer for the Pacific Stars and Stripes.

During his long career as a journalist, Tony served as editor of the Pacific Journal, a daily newspaper; as publisher-editor of Pacific Profile, a monthly magazine; and editor of the Pacifican, a weekly newspaper.

He then served as a special assistant to Guam's first elected Governor, Carlos G. Camacho, and as administrative director and records manager for the Eighth Guam Legislature before being elected to the legislature himself. Tony served in the 12th, 14th, and 15th Guam Legislatures. As a lawmaker, Tony chaired the legislature's Committee on Rules and the Committee on Territorial and Federal Affairs, which spearheaded the movement for a change in Guam's political status. He served as president of Guam's first Constitutional Convention in 1969 and was a member of Guam's first Commission on Self-Determination. He served briefly as general manager of the Guam Tourist Commission, predecessor of

the Guam Visitors Bureau, and as Guam's delegate to the South Pacific Conference in Noumea, New Caledonia, in 1969, and as adviser to the U.S. delegation to the South Pacific Commission.

In 1982, Tony served as special assistant to the assistant secretary of the U.S. Department of Interior. He later served as desk officer for American Samoa and the U.S. Virgin Islands and as DOI's field representative in Guam from 1986 until 1994. He also served as acting assistant secretary of the Interior for Territorial and International Affairs.

He served as chairman of Guam's Political Status Education Coordinating Commission, which produced and published the "Haleta" ("roots") series of history textbooks for Guam's public schools. He is a member of the Chamorro Historic Society, the Guam Humanities Council, the Chamorro Heritage Institute Planning Group, the Manenggon Memorial Foundation, the Fena Memorial Committee, the Guam Preservation Trust, the Council on Cultural Tourism, and GVB's subcommittee on Community Development, and is the corporate secretary of the Latte of Freedom Foundation.

Tony still makes time to teach History of Guam courses at the University of Guam and the Guam Community College today. He continues his long membership in the Knights of Columbus, having served as grand knight, deputy grand knight, recorder, and trustee; as well as in the Young Men's League of Guam, for which he has held the positions of director, historian, and chairman of the Council of Elders. He is a past member of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks and the Rotary Club of Tumon, and served on the governor's Vision 2001 and Vision 2005 committees on Family Values and Education and Culture.

Mr. Antonio Manibusan Palomo's many contributions to the history, language and culture of Guam are significant, and today we commend him for his lifetime of service to our community.

ENERGY AND WATER DEVELOPMENT AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2008

SPEECH OF

HON. TOM UDALL

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 17, 2007

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2641) making appropriations for energy and water development and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2008, and for other purposes:

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Mr. Chairman, we as leaders must face and prepare for the reality that America's nuclear footprint is shrinking and that in the coming years our national priorities will shift to address the looming energy crisis. With that in mind, it is abundantly clear that the mission and purpose of Los Alamos National Laboratory, located in my district, must be diversified to ensure its future permanence and to utilize its full potential for scientific research. I stand resolutely behind LANL, and will continue to fully support the men and women who work there, but they must recognize that the bill before us marks

only the first step of the coming reallocation of resources in the nuclear complex. Only in recognizing, accepting, and ultimately embracing this shift, will the lab ensure that they continue to serve in their leading role in combating existing national security threats as well as others that are sure to emerge.

That is why today, Mr. Chairman, I will be voting in favor of the Energy and Water Appropriations bill. In so doing, I am voting for the future of the lab. I am voting for what I believe will be a future as bright as past in helping this country meet its national security challenges. But as I do, I vow to help the leadership at the lab make this diversification a reality. I vow to help the lab remain the pre-eminent lab in the country, home to the best scientists in the world.

Before we vote, however, I would like to briefly recap the steps in the Appropriations process that have brought us to this point today. In May, the Appropriations Subcommittee on Energy and Water marked up its Fiscal Year 2008 bill and reported it to the full Appropriations Committee. This bill included funding cuts that would affect the core mission of the Lab, which gave me great concern. The bill also postponed funding for the RRW and CMRR, projects I have been skeptical of since first being proposed. I am not the only one skeptical of these programs, which is why this bill also wisely included a provision requiring the Administration to thoroughly evaluate and prepare a plan outlining the specific need for not only these projects, but for our entire nuclear stockpile before authorizing millions more taxpayer dollars.

On the other hand, the bill we considered in committee included an unprecedented and long overdue investment in energy efficiency, renewable energy, and climate change research. I applauded the Chairman's vision for these investments, both because it is needed to enhance our nation's security for the future, but also because I firmly believe that the top-notch scientists at LANL have valuable contributions to make in these areas. During this discussion, I received assurances from the Chairman that LANL will have access to these new funds, but they must actively compete for them.

The bill was voice-voted in Committee a few weeks ago and was brought to the floor. During that debate, I led the fight to protect the core mission of the Lab, offering an amendment to restore \$192 million in funding for the Road Runner Supercomputer, the Science campaign, and the Lab's facilities. Not only are these areas needed for the lab to effectively conduct its core mission, but they will also be needed for diversification. However, my amendment was not an endorsement of the status quo regarding our nuclear weapons policy. Unfortunately, my amendment was defeated.

However, during all of this, what became clear was that part of these funding issues for LANL had to do with preparing for conference with the Senate. As the gentleman from Tennessee, Mr. WAMP, stated on the House Floor, ". . . this is the beginning of the process. I know Senator Domenici is going to weigh in. I love it, because these House leaders have given the House a better position to negotiate this bill from than we have ever had in my tenure here, because we need that leverage. Frankly, the Senate has rolled us on this bill for many years. Not any more. We get fair

treatment. We can go in there and negotiate our priorities and come away with a good product." No one who follows the Appropriations process should be shocked by this negotiating tactic.

In the meantime, the Senate Appropriations Committee reported a bill to the full Senate that provides hundreds of millions of dollars in funding increases for LANL. The Senate has yet to pass their legislation, but when they do, as we know, a conference committee will convene to negotiate the differences between the two versions of the legislation. I am confident that the final conference report will result in the restoration of funding for the core mission of the Lab, just as my amendment would have done.

And I will certainly be working for restoration of these funds through conference. Nevertheless, the process to this point must serve as a signal that change is needed if the funding—and the permanence—of the lab is to be certain. It would be folly to assume that the status quo and a static mission will be enough in the years to come. Instead, I hope the idea of diversification is strongly embraced and pursued by LANS, not only to strengthen the lab and its work force, although that is also important, but because the capacity of the lab to produce scientific greatness in pursuit of solving the gravest threats to our nation and to the world is too important.

I have received assurances from the NNSA that diversifying the mission of the lab is possible, but the leadership of the lab must take the initiative to start the process. In fact, there are ongoing discussions at this time about a possible diversified mission for LANL. As we continue the funding process, it is now up to LANL to decide whether it wants to diversify and thrive, or remain focused only on its current mission, which, as we have seen this year, means an uphill battle. I have strongly advised and urged the leadership at the lab to see that diversification is the only way to ensure the future of the lab. I hope that those at the lab believe the same and that in the very near future we will begin to see a true, substantive move toward this important goal.

INTRODUCTION OF THE DENTAL HEALTH PROMOTION ACT OF 2007

HON. RON LEWIS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 19, 2007

Mr. LEWIS of Kentucky. Madam Speaker, I rise to inform my colleagues of legislation I have introduced today to broaden applications for personal health accounts.

The legislation that I have proposed will amend existing Internal Revenue Service Code to permit the purchase of dental care items, including fluoride toothpaste, powered and manual toothbrushes, dental floss, dental cleaners, oral irrigators, and preventive and therapeutic mouth rinses and toothpastes.

Specifically, my proposal adds a definition to the IRS Code for medical care tax treatment to include "products used to diagnose, cure, mitigate, treat, or prevent the onset of tooth decay, periodontal diseases, and conditions ailing the teeth, gums, and mouth or affecting the proper function thereof."

Personal health care accounts are funding arrangements where health care expenses are

paid or reimbursed with funds set aside in pre-tax accounts. These pre-tax contributions can be made by the employer, the employee, or both, depending on the type of account. In recent years, Congress has worked to make these accounts more accessible and easier to manage.

Expanding access to tax free savings accounts is a sensible way to help individuals manage health care costs and have greater control over their own care options. I believe this addition will create better opportunities for dentists and patients to provide and receive better quality dental care, which is especially important in rural and lower-income communities across the country.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

DEPARTMENTS OF LABOR,
HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES,
AND EDUCATION, AND RELATED
AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS
ACT, 2008

SPEECH OF

HON. CAROL SHEA-PORTER

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 18, 2007

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 3043) making appropriations for the Department of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2008, and for other purposes:

Ms. SHEA-PORTER. Madam Chairman, I rise today in strong support of this amendment which will put a stop to the unacceptable evaluation component of the Upward Bound Program that turns our Nation's students into guinea pigs for the Department of Education.

This evaluation requires that institutions receiving Upward Bound funds, such as the University of New Hampshire, recruit TWICE as many students than can be served, with the intent to deny half of these applicants and use them as a control group—receiving no Upward Bound assistance at all. I find this bait and switch, which comes at the expense of our students, to be offensive, downright cruel, and—at best—unethical.

I recently introduced H.R. 2700 to suspend this study and prevent the other harmful changes the Administration has made to the Upward Bound program. This amendment to prohibit funding for this study is another means by which we can right this wrong.

The goal of Upward Bound is to support our students in their efforts to obtain a college degree. We must not undermine these efforts with this unethical study.

I urge my colleagues to protect the integrity of this program by standing with us, and our students, by supporting the Gwen Moore-Tom Cole-Bobby Scott-Carol Shea-Porter amendment.

UNITED STATES NEEDS TO
INVEST IN FINANCIAL LITERACY

HON. DONALD M. PAYNE

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 19, 2007

Mr. PAYNE. Madam Speaker, there is an urgent need for the United States to invest in financial literacy. On June 15, 2007, the Washington Post reported that, according to the Mortgage Bankers Association, “the percentage of U.S. mortgages entering foreclosures in the first three months of the year was the highest in more than 50 years.” With aggressive subprime lenders preying upon unknowledgeable yet eager homeowners, foreclosure rates around the country have reached unprecedented heights.

On June 10, 2007, the New York Times reported that “private loans have become the fast-growing sector of the student finance market, more than tripling over five years to \$17.3 billion in the 2005–2006 school year, according to the College Board.” Yet, in that same article, it was reported that many students fail to understand the risks associated with private loans as opposed to federally subsidized loans. Along those same lines, easy access to credit cards without the understanding of its potential pitfalls has led to the indebtedness of many college students.

According to the Bureau of Economic Analysis, personal savings for Americans in May 2007 was negative \$139.8 billion, which was an \$18 billion increase from the previous month. The Federal Reserve Board stated that consumer debt has exceeded \$2.4 trillion as of May 2007. According to the 2007 Retirement Confidence Survey conducted by the Employee Benefit Research Institute, it is not registering with American workers that the U.S. retirement system is no longer one of defined benefits but that of defined contributions. In fact, fewer than 50 percent of workers have retirement savings and investments over \$25,000.

These facts are unfortunately not surprising. The results from the JumpStart Coalition for Personal Financial Literacy's 2006 survey showed that of the approximately 5,700 high school seniors nationwide tested, participants scored slightly above 52 percent on a test of very basic financial literacy skills.

The United States must address this growing problem of financial illiteracy. The consequences, as shown by these statistics, could be dire if more is not done. I would encourage the Federal Government to take proactive measures to stem this tide. The Department of Education, in particular, can play a key role in reversing this negative trend by instilling the principles of fiscal discipline while our children are still in their formative years and in fact, can work to incorporate these values into already existing subjects such as mathematics, social studies and business classes.

As a matter of fact, I will soon be introducing the Youth Financial Education Act which would authorize monies for financial literacy through State block grants and through the Fund for the Improvement of Education. I hope to work with other Members of Congress and appropriators to see this important initiative realized.

THE BIPARTISAN IMPORT SAFETY
ACT OF 2007

HON. MARK STEVEN KIRK

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 19, 2007

Mr. KIRK. Madam Speaker, last month, the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission and toy company RC2 announced a recall of 1.5 million various Thomas & Friends wooden railway toys because they might contain dangerous amounts of lead.

Lead poisoning causes vomiting, diarrhea, convulsions, anemia, loss of appetite, abdominal pain, irritability, fatigue, constipation, difficulty sleeping, headaches and coma. It can even be fatal.

The toys on recall are made in China and are retailed throughout the United States.

In March, a wave of pet deaths revealed toxic chemicals in Chinese-manufactured pet food. The U.S. Food and Drug Administration investigated and nearly 100 brands of pet food made with the ingredient were ordered recalled.

A few weeks ago, consumers were advised to discard all toothpaste made in China after federal health officials found toothpaste containing a poison used in antifreeze.

Then it was Thomas the Tank Engine. Just about every family with young kids in America knows Thomas the Tank Engine well.

On Tuesday, about 40 tubes of potentially toxic toothpaste fraudulently labeled Colgate “Triple Action” were pulled from the shelf of a discount store in Arlington Heights, Illinois.

Congress needs to send a clear notice to importers that goods which threaten the safety of kids will be left to rot on America's docks.

That is why I am introducing H.R. 3100, the bipartisan Import Safety Act of 2007, to increase penalties for willful violators of federal regulations on imported goods and increase our commitment to overseas inspections by the FDA and the Commission. This will increase the ability of the U.S. Government to halt the importation of pet food, toothpaste or children's goods that could present a danger to Americans.

33RD ANNIVERSARY OF THE
TURKISH INVASION OF CYPRUS

HON. ZACHARY T. SPACE

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 19, 2007

Mr. SPACE. Madam Speaker, tomorrow marks the 33rd anniversary of Turkey's illegal invasion and occupation of Cyprus, which occurred on July 20, 1974. This black anniversary commemorates 33 years too long of suffering and injustice for the people of the Republic of Cyprus.

Thirty-three years ago, Turkish troops invaded Cyprus in flagrant disregard for international law. As a result, an estimated 160,000 true Cypriots were displaced and another 5,000 Cypriots were killed. The current occupied area is notably one of the most highly militarized areas in the world with 43,000 Turkish troops stationed there illegally. In an act of further defiance, in 1983, Turkish Cypriots declared themselves a sovereign nation.

To date, they are the only ones who recognize themselves as such.

Together with both the E.U. and the U.N., the U.S. has been a strong ally of the Republic of Cyprus, and we owe it to her to continue our steadfast support. As a Congress, we must uphold our Nation's pledge to advance the July 8th agreement that President Papadopoulos and Turkish Cypriot leader Mehmet Ali Talat reached a year ago. This agreement would begin the process of setting up bi-communal committees and working groups to address day-to-day issues facing those caught up in this conflict.

Unfortunately, Talat is not only yet to move forward with his earlier promise, but has also now gone back on his word. We must work to convince Talat that it is in his best interest, and in the best interest of Turkish Cypriots, to cooperate. They will be left behind and without a seat at the table if they choose to disregard plans for progress toward a solution.

Meanwhile, Greek Cypriots continue working toward their national commitment. The Republic of Cyprus took the initiative to demolish a portion of the fortification at Ledra Street in the capital of Nicosia. Opening up this crossing point was a confidence building step, as was demolishing a Cypriot National Guard post in Kato Pyrgos in an effort to open up another crossing point.

There are steps members of this House can take to show support for the people of the Republic of Cyprus. We can cosponsor legislation to resolve the Cyprus problem—H.R. 1456, H. Res. 405, and H. Res. 407.

H.R. 1456 enables U.S. citizens who own property in Turkish-occupied Cyprus to seek financial remedies with either current inhabitants of their land or the government of Turkey. The intent here is to ensure that property not only benefits the lawful owner, but also that it stays out of the hands of illegal squatters.

H. Res. 405 expresses the sense of Congress for the support and implementation of the July 8th agreement as a way forward for the reunification of Cyprus. And H. Res. 407 expresses the support of the House of Representatives for the positive actions of the Republic of Cyprus to open more crossing points and to reach a cease-fire.

These are all bills that I'm a cosponsor of, and I urge other members to join me in my support for these worthwhile measures.

As a Greek American and as a member of the Hellenic Caucus, I could not feel more strongly about the reunification of Cyprus. The issue is straightforward and clear: we must aid our ally, the Republic of Cyprus, in righting the wrongs of the past 33 years. I cannot think of a better day than today, on the eve of the 33rd anniversary of the Turkish invasion, to express my conviction on the matter.

Tomorrow, we must both remember the past and look to the future. In recognizing the significance of July 20th for the citizens of the Republic of Cyprus, we must recommit ourselves to the cause of restoring the island nation to its rightful inhabitants. I ask for the support of my colleagues in this worthy undertaking.

COSPONSORSHIP OF H.R. 1400, THE IRAN COUNTER-PROLIFERATION ACT OF 2007

HON. EDWARD J. MARKEY

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 19, 2007

Mr. MARKEY. Madam Speaker, I am proud to cosponsor H.R. 1400, the Iran Counter-Proliferation Act of 2007. This bill will give the United States far superior economic and political leverage against Iran's ongoing and dangerous nuclear program by significantly strengthening our sanctions package against Tehran.

The necessity for the United States and the world to negotiate a final termination to Iran's nuclear program cannot be overstated. The signals that Iran's nuclear program may not be peaceful are legion: Iran is in violation of its International Atomic Energy Agency safeguards agreement, it has yet to explain decades of deception surrounding their nuclear research and construction programs, it is pursuing a uranium enrichment program which could eventually produce weapons-grade uranium, and it is building a heavy-water nuclear reactor which will produce plutonium which could be used for weapons.

An Iranian nuclear weapon could threaten the United States, the security of the Persian Gulf, and it would certainly threaten one of our greatest allies, Israel. Iran's position in the region has unfortunately been greatly strengthened by our misadventure in Iraq, and the regime in Tehran may believe that with a nuclear bomb they could become the regional hegemon, the local strong-man. Such an outcome would be disastrous for the stability of the region, and would be deeply threatening to the United States and our allies. We must do everything we can to avoid this scenario. The Iran Counter-Proliferation Act will put stronger arrows in the diplomatic quiver of the United States through its expanded sanctions package, and it hopefully will help us find a resolution to this important issue.

Iran's development of a nuclear weapon would also be a deeply damaging blow to the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty, and could signal the death-knell for international efforts to halt the spread of the bomb. An Iranian nuclear weapon would so dramatically alter the balance of power in the Middle East and Central Asia that other nearby countries could decide that they must pursue a weapons program as well to protect themselves from the sway of Iranian regional hegemony. In such a scenario, an Iranian bomb could spur the development of a Saudi bomb, an Egyptian bomb, or a Turkish bomb. If the cascading security implications for the region from an Iranian nuclear weapon did lead to neighboring countries also pursuing nuclear programs, the NPT may truly be shattered beyond repair.

While I support H.R. 1400 and am proud to cosponsor it, I am concerned that one provision of the bill may have the unintended consequence of undermining our international efforts to unify all governments around the world against Iran's dangerous and destabilizing nuclear program. This bill would remove the President's ability to waive sanctions against foreign countries and corporations if the sanctions could harm the national security interests of the United States. I share the view of the

bill's authors that such Presidential waiver authority has been utilized far too frequently—in fact, the international sanctions contained in the Iran Sanctions Act have never been utilized because they have been waived every year! However, I am concerned that by removing the waiver altogether, we will go too far in the other direction.

A number of American allies would be targeted by a universal application of the sanctions contained in H.R. 1400, and while it may be desirable in many cases to do so, leveraging such costly sanctions against our international partners could in certain circumstances make it more difficult to convince these countries to support our efforts to obtain further multilateral sanctions against Iran. No country and no corporation should get a free pass to conduct business in Iran, but at the same time we must retain the flexibility necessary to assure success at the multilateral level. For this reason, I intend to work with my colleagues to make sure that a tightly-crafted waiver authority is included in the final legislation—not to encourage its use, but to ensure that the United States retains the flexibility that we must have to be successful.

It is also very important that H.R. 1400 includes a provision clarifying that nothing in the act authorizes the use of force or the use of the United States Armed Forces against Iran. I believe that our best strategy for success against the Iranian nuclear program will be a strong combination of economic sanctions, political engagement, and multilateral pressure with a clear and persuasive package of benefits to Iran in exchange for the renunciation of their nuclear program. A successful strategy does not involve the use of force, and in fact the use of force against Tehran would most likely backfire by solidifying the domestic political support for the hard-line regime which is continually loosing the support of its people.

I believe that we can solve the Iranian nuclear issue with smart diplomacy, forceful engagement, unilateral and multilateral sanctions, and a sophisticated understanding what combination of sticks and carrots will be persuasive to the decision-makers in Tehran. While it is my opinion that most of the Bush Administration's efforts in this regard have been heavy-handed, ideologically rigid, uncreative, and ultimately counter-productive, I believe that some of their recent actions point to the slow adoption of a more sophisticated approach towards this extremely important problem. The Iran CounterProliferation Act will help strengthen this approach, and will help us ratchet up the pressure on Iran. It is yet to be seen whether the Bush Administration will be wise enough to couple this bigger stick with a bigger carrot, and I hope that they do so. Far too much hangs in the balance, and the United States strategy must be smart, adaptive, and tough.

I urge adoption of the bill.

“LANDMARKS”

HON. JACK KINGSTON

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 19, 2007

Mr. KINGSTON. Madam Speaker, during the July 4th holidays with my family, I heard the following inspirational sermon in Denver,

Colorado. I would like to share it with my fellow colleagues:

LANDMARKS
(By Bill Huth)

I am deeply grateful to be a citizen of the USA and I know that it is a privilege to be an American.

I love this week and the 4th of July:

Watermelons are juicy

Flags are waving from businesses and homes

Fireworks light up the night sky

Families are cooking hot dogs and dousing them with mustard and relish

Churches gather to sing patriotic hymns

Apple pies bake in the ovens

There is a sharp crack to the sound of baseball bats

We see old John Wayne movies

There are Parades and we sing "The Star Spangled Banner"

We pray for the nation and for peace

Everywhere we discover Red, White, and Blue

People and families intentionally come to the YMCA of the Rockies

These are Landmarks to mark the birthday celebration of the USA!

In ancient times, boundary stones or landmarks identified personal property. Boundaries in Israel were sacred because God owned the land. To extend ones property by moving the landmarks was a violation of the covenant and sacred oath. To move a landmark was to renege on the commitment to God's promise.

Unfortunately, moving a boundary stone was and still is a major problem—not so much in the realm of property—but those founding principles, the landmarks, the ancient boundaries on which America was founded. Those landmarks have either been forgotten or diluted in this relativistic, postmodern age when everything seems to be up for grabs, with no absolutes, and everyone interprets things the way they personally see them.

Lets talk today about some of these permanent landmarks that we should recall and revere.

A poet wrote: "We eat from orchards we did not plant. We drink from wells we did not dig. We reap from fields we did not sow. Fires we did not kindle warm us. Roofs we did not build shelter us. We are blessed by monies we did not give."

A landmark will always be that of Sacrifice and Liberty, and we cannot fudge on our own commitment to tend the tree of Liberty by our own acts of self sacrifice and service. If we do, then we stand to lose one of our great American traditions—July 4th!

Someone has said, "The temptation is to enjoy the fruits of citizenship without tending the tree of liberty." Many of us have not personally earned the freedoms we enjoy. We did not go to Germany, North Africa, France, Iwo Jima, Hawaii, Italy—we did not find ourselves on beaches named Omaha, Salerno, or Sword. We, you and me, have not shed our blood or not given an arm or leg or not sacrificed our lives for our Freedom.

John Adams, as he said as he signed the Declaration of Independence, "Whether we

live or die, sink or swim, succeed or fail, I stand behind this document. And if God wills it, I am ready to die in order that this country might experience freedom!" That is patriotism which led men, armed with little more than hunting rifles, to engage in battle with, what was then the most powerful nation on earth. Many of our forefathers paid a terrible price in the Revolutionary war, but finally they won the victory so that you and I might be citizens of this "land of the free and the home of the brave."

Because of them a landmark has been established and my responsibility is to tend the Tree of Liberty.

Another landmark is our commitment to Religious Freedom. In the early days of the country, it was made clear that Congress would not establish a state religion, that Americans would be free to worship God according to the dictates of their own conscience. That is our freedom, to worship, or not.

Peter Marshall prayed before the U.S. Senate, "Lord Jesus, thou who art the way, the truth and the life, hear us as we pray for the truth that shall make all free. Teach us that liberty is not only to be loved but also to be lived. Liberty, Lord, is too precious to be buried in books, costs too much to be hoarded."

French writer Alexis de Toqueville, after visiting America in 1831 wrote, "I sought for the greatness of the U.S. in her commodious harbors, her ample rivers, her fertile field, and boundless forests . . . and it was not there. I sought for it in her rich mines, her vast world commerce, her public school system, and in the institutions of higher learning . . . but it was not there. I went into the churches of America and heard her pulpits flames with righteousness and I understood the secret of her genius and power: America is great because America is good, and if America ever ceases to be good, America will cease to be great!"

The final landmark is very sacred and special to each one of us. Our Constitution ends with "In the year of our Lord." Our National Motto is "In God we trust." The Pledge of Allegiance states "One nation, under God." The landmark is our faith in God, the Divine Creator.

Patrick Henry, first governor of Virginia and member of the Continental Congress stated, "It cannot be emphasized too strongly or too often that this great nation was founded, not by religionists, but by Christians . . . not on religious, but on the Gospel of Jesus Christ."

We all received the news that a Federal Appeals court in San Francisco decided that the Pledge of Allegiance, when recited in schools, represents an unconstitutional endorsement of religion. The ruling overturned a 1954 act of Congress that inserted the phrase, under God, in the pledge.

On every coin, on every dollar we find "In God We Trust" which reminds everyone of us and this nation, that the business and economy of the nation is based on our faith and trust in the Almighty.

The pledge and the motto remind us of the founding principle that this is a nation under the care of God.

A warning from Deuteronomy 8:7-14: "The Lord your God is bringing you into a good land . . . brook of water, fountains and springs, a land of plenty, vines and trees, a land in which you will plenty to eat and lack nothing. A land that will provide you the tools. Take heed lest you forget the Lord your God by not keeping his commandments and his statutes. You shall remember the Lord God for it is He who gives you power . . . Lest you forget the Lord your God and go after other gods and serve them . . . on that day you will perish because you would not obey the voice of the Lord."

When, as a nation, our courts and leaders want to remove the sacred Scriptures, the Ten Commandments, the prayers, no Bibles, the Motto . . . what is next? Will there be censorship of the pulpits of the land? Out of this pulpit to achieve political correctness?

It is fascinating and inspirational to know that:

Twelve of the original thirteen colonies incorporated the entire 10 commandments into their civil and criminal codes.

George Washington said, "It is impossible to govern the world without God and the Bible."

That we have heard so much talk of the "separation of church and state" when we find that the phrase does not appear in the constitution. It was coined from a letter that was penned by Thomas Jefferson to the Danbury Baptist Association assuring them that he would keep the Government out of the Church, and not the church out of government.

When our Presidents take the oath of office, they place their hand on the Bible and concludes the oath of office by affirming "so help me God."

The constitutions of all states mention God.

Abraham Lincoln, the besieged 16th President, said this over a nation on the brink of the Civil War, "We have been the recipients of the choicest bounties of heaven, but we have forgotten God and his gracious hand which preserved us in peace and multiplied and enriched and strengthened us, intoxicated with unbroken success, we have become too self-sufficient to feel the necessity of redeeming and preserving grace, too proud to pray to the God who made us."

Presidents Roosevelt, Wilson, and Coolidge all spoke about our dependence on God.

Franklin Roosevelt prayed this prayer on national radio on D-Day, June 6, 1944: Almighty God, with Thy blessing we shall prevail over the unholy forces of our enemy. Help us to conquer the apostles of greed and racial arrogance. Lead us to the saving of our country. They will be done, Almighty God."

President Ronald Reagan, "If we ever forget that we are 'one nation under God,' then we will be one nation gone under."

Landmarks are there for you and me, from the past, for the future . . . and with your help and the strength of the Lord our God they shall not be moved.