

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

IN HONOR OF TEXAS DISTRICT 22
INTERNS

HON. NICK LAMPSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, August 1, 2007

Mr. LAMPSON. Madam Speaker, interns are often overlooked as we all rush around the Capitol, but I believe that Washington, DC, would come to a halt if there were none. The importance of the interns' role cannot be overstated, for they handle many tasks that, while not particularly glamorous, create a much more efficient workplace and allow legislative staffers to concentrate on policies that benefit our constituents and people across the country.

This summer, my office was fortunate enough to have six great interns: Sue Banerjee, Kelly Boss, Omar Farid, Miles Hilder, Jenna Kubecka, and Kelsey McDowell. Each intern performed exceptionally well and deserves much appreciation for their service to the people of Texas' 22nd Congressional District. Their hard work and determination was noticed by everyone in the office, as well as by constituents, and I am proud to have such a talented and competent group of individuals working in my office. I know that the work ethic they have demonstrated this summer will carry them far in life.

These impressive young men and women are certainly poised to do great things and contribute significantly to our country's future. My staff, constituents, and I thank you all for your service and wish you the best in your future endeavors.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ROBIN HAYES

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, August 1, 2007

Mr. HAYES. Madam Speaker, I was unable to participate in the following votes. If I had been present, I would have voted as follows:

July 30, 2007—Rollcall vote 758, I would have voted "yea;" Rollcall vote 759, I would have voted "nay;" Rollcall vote 760, I would have voted "nay;" Rollcall vote 761, I would have voted "nay;" Rollcall vote 762, I would have voted "nay."

July 31, 2007—Rollcall vote 763, I would have voted "yea;" Rollcall vote 764, I would have voted "yea;" Rollcall vote 765, I would have voted "yea."

CONDEMNING THE ATTACK ON
THE AMIA JEWISH COMMUNITY
CENTER IN BUENOS AIRES, AR-
GENTINA

SPEECH OF

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 30, 2007

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Con: Res. 188, which condemns the attack on the AMIA Jewish Community Center in Buenos Aires, Argentina. This attack reduced the 7-story headquarters of the Argentinean Jewish community to rubble and resulted in 85 deaths and 300 wounded. Everyday, Jews around the world face the injustice of anti-Semitism, and many have lost their lives because of bigotry.

This resolution condemns the attacks but also applauds the government of Argentina for increasing the pace of the continuing investigation of this attack. It is important that we support this resolution to encourage Argentina to continue to provide the resources necessary for its judicial system and intelligence agencies to fully investigate the AMIA case and bring those responsible to justice.

When we as individuals or as a government allow intolerance and hatred to fester and flourish, we are faced with terrible consequences. Put simply, intolerance must not be tolerated.

I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

FARM, NUTRITION, AND
BIOENERGY ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. COLLIN C. PETERSON

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 29, 2007

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2419) to provide for the continuation of agricultural programs through fiscal year 2012, and for other purposes:

Mr. PETERSON of Minnesota. Mr. Chairman, the attached language was inadvertently omitted from H. Rept. 110-256, in regard to Country of Origin Labeling, to H.R. 2419, the Farm, Nutrition and Bioenergy Act of 2007.

COUNTRY OF ORIGIN LABELING FOR MEAT
AGREEMENT

The Committee recognizes that the issue of Country of Origin Labeling for meat has become increasingly contentious. With implementation of the statute enacted in the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 looming, the Committee leadership requested that representatives of the various interested parties discuss opportunities to resolve issues of division. These discussions resulted in general agreement on aspects of

the law which could be modified to achieve the goals of: improving marketability of meat products; providing consumers the information they may seek with regard to the origin of meat products; and, doing so in a manner which minimizes the cost of compliance on livestock producers and the meat trade.

During consideration of H.R. 2419, the Committee was presented with a list of items that were agreed upon by the various interested parties. The list included suggestions to improve the statute with regard to issues including product labels, records, and record-keeping.

With regard to product labeling, the Committee adopted amendments to Section 281 of the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946 that would establish four categories of country of origin labels for meat. The legislative language outlining these categories is self-explanatory.

Another area of concern was labeling of ground meat products. The amendment adopted by the Committee provides that the label will include a narrative list of reasonably possible countries from which the product may have been derived.

While the Committee recognizes the interest in providing consumers with information regarding the origin of their meat products, the Committee also recognizes the potential cost associated with complying with any label mandate. As such, the Committee has adopted a grandfather provision to address concerns about the transition.

With regard to requirements for records and recordkeeping, the Committee has adopted provisions that will enable less burdensome verification requirements. Specifically, the Committee has adopted an amendment that will place limits on the authority of the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) to audit covered entities. To further shield all parties from liability, the amendment limits the records upon which these USDA audits may rely. By limiting these records to those kept as part of a normal business practice, it is the intent of the Committee that retailers and other covered entities will not impose unnecessary or burdensome obligations on their suppliers.

The final item of agreement dealt with the issues of liability and enforcement. The amendment adopted by the Committee will limit the applicability of civil penalties to a covered entity that has not made an effort to comply and continues to willfully violate this section. The Committee specifically intends that violations resulting from a good faith effort to come into compliance shall not be subject to civil penalties.

DR. MOSSMAN NOMINATED AS SUPERINTENDENT OF THE YEAR OF TEXAS

HON. NICK LAMPSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, August 1, 2007

Mr. LAMPSON. Madam Speaker, knowledge is one of the greatest gifts teachers bestow upon students. They play invaluable roles in nurturing and giving young people the

• 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.

encouragement to grow and develop into productive members of society. We see the fruits of their patience and selfless dedication every day in our children and in ourselves. Building a cohesive relationship between teachers and the administration in charge of managing their school district is essential to extracting the most from our talented educators.

This is why I am honored to recognize Dr. Sandra Mossman's contribution to the Clear Creek Independent School District. She has been nominated to receive the 2007 Superintendent of the Year Award given annually since 1984 by the Texas Association of School Boards in Austin. The award is adjudicated based on several criteria relating to the efficient administration of education in the district and is determined by an elected board of members representing over 4.5 million students. She represents one of 17 regional superintendents around the state who have been acknowledged for their outstanding leadership skills and commitment to education. Dr. Mossman has been an innovative superintendent, pursuing initiatives that diversify the educational experiences of her students. She was instrumental in introducing the Early College in High School track that would allow high school students to take classes at a local college and even receive a 2-year college degree after fulfilling all their requirements. This is just one example of Dr. Mossman's important role in raising the standards of education for our children, and I certainly hope she will be recognized for her efforts at the TASB Convention in late August in Dallas. I am sure she will continue to inspire and lead young people and her colleagues alike to strive for the highest goals when examining education in this country.

As noted historian Henry Adams once said, "A teacher affects eternity; they can never tell where their influence stops." It is a thought that should motivate all of us to follow the shining example Dr. Mossman has set of what it means to be a committed leader in education in Texas.

HONORING HOPE FOR VISION

HON. ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, August 1, 2007

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Madam Speaker, I would like to recognize an organization which is leading the fight against vision loss. Hope for Vision was founded to assist individuals dealing with the loss of vision, and to raise much needed funding for scientific research on retinal degenerative and other blinding diseases, so that future generations will not have to cope with this tragic issue.

I have the distinct pleasure and honor of being involved in this wonderful organization, and serve as an honorary member of the Board of Advisors. I also am proud to call several integral members of this organization including the Lidsky family, my friends. I have known Carlos and Betty Lidsky for many years and their son, Isaac, an attorney here in Washington, serves as the Chairman and President of Hope for Vision.

At the age of 12, Isaac was diagnosed with retinitis pigmentosa, a retinal degenerative dis-

order. However, this did not slow Isaac down. He attended New World School of the Arts in Miami before receiving a bachelor's and law degree from Harvard University. While at Harvard, he met his wife, Dorothy, who has become a passionate advocate for the vision-impaired.

This family has been deeply impacted with degenerative retinal diseases and they have fought to ensure this horrible condition receives the proper attention and research needed to find a cure. Their tenacity and courage in the face of such adversity and heartbreak is commendable. Inspired by their dedication and hard work, we are working towards a cure.

The Lidsky family has always been an outspoken advocate to raise awareness for issues surrounding inherited vision diseases. Vision loss is a problem which affects millions of Americans. More than 80 million Americans have a potentially blinding eye disease: 3 million have low vision; 1.1 million are legally blind; and an additional 200,000 are severely visually impaired. However, research efforts into vision loss and blindness have already started to pay dividends. For example, scientists have provided vision to the blind through microchip technologies, and clinical trials have started with pharmaceutical treatments to combat vision loss.

Research grants provided by Hope for Vision are providing our scientists with much needed funding to further progress on these initiatives. An example of this progress is the partnership between Hope for Vision and the Bascom Palmer Eye Institute, located at the University of Miami in my Congressional District. These two organizations have teamed up to provide the best vision care possible for South Floridians by advancing research and treatment capabilities with two new innovative programs. With the help of the Department of Defense, they have developed the Miami Project for Ophthalmic Innovation to use the remarkable military technological advances to bring new therapies to patients. The goal of this project is to bring together ideas and people from diverse backgrounds to implement research projects aimed at enhancing military ocular health capabilities. It will directly benefit our brave men and women serving in uniform, our veterans, as well as the millions of other Americans who suffer from blinding eye trauma and disease.

Another initiative is the newly-created Center for Hereditary Retinal Diseases at Bascom Palmer, which owes its very existence to Hope for Vision. Its goal is to identify every individual in the state of Florida with an inherited eye disease and to provide them with genetic testing, counseling, and innovative treatments.

Bascom Palmer Eye Institute is recognized as one of the world's finest and most progressive centers for eye care, research and education. This year, U.S. News & World Report's survey rated Bascom Palmer the Number 1 eye hospital in the country. Its dedicated staff provides excellent vision care to more than 200,000 patients annually at their facilities across South Florida.

I am also proud to be a founding member and co-chair of the Congressional Vision Caucus. This organization is a bipartisan coalition dedicated to strengthening and stimulating a national dialogue and policy on vision-related

problems and disabilities. Our responsibility is to raise awareness about the increasing number of Americans at risk for age-related diseases, preserve and protect eyesight, and ensure adequate resources are directed towards the research, prevention and treatment of eye disease.

I have worked together with my colleagues in the South Florida Congressional delegation to ensure that Hope for Vision has the funds necessary to continue their work to discover treatments and cures for degenerative retinal diseases. As the baby boom generation reaches retirement age, vision loss will become an increasingly familiar issue for many American families.

Once again, I would to congratulate Hope for Vision on its successes, and look forward to working with this organization as it continues to address an issue of growing importance.

COMMENDING THE FEMALE SOCCER PLAYERS OF THE NORTH JERSEY ALL-STARS

HON. SCOTT GARRETT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, August 1, 2007

Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to New Jersey's 18 newest young ambassadors, the female soccer players of the North Jersey All-Stars. Today, they will set off from JFK Airport in New York for a two-week trip of good will and sportsmanship on the East Coast of Brazil.

While in the coastal cities of Sao Mateus and Jaguare, the team of soccer superstars will play five games with local players, will deliver more than \$15,000 in donated soccer equipment and sportsgear, and will spread a message of friendship to the people of Brazil. While most Americans traveling to Brazil, spend their days and nights in the touristy resorts, like Rio de Janeiro, these girls will be visiting a more remote and isolated, and far less wealthy, region.

These high school-aged soccer players will be accompanied by their manager, David Heitman; trainers, Karen Hartigan and Phil Ross; and a local reporter, Brian Farrell. They will also be traveling with their coach, former professional soccer player, Roberto Ferman. The North Jersey All-Stars are: Zoey Talias of Wyckoff, Anna Rothschild of River Edge, Ashley Walker of Mahwah, Nicolle Sanchez of Lyndhurst, Amanda Soto of Mahwah, Faith Tucker of Rutherford, Lexi Hutton of Basking Ridge, Christy Shedlock of North Haledon, Katy Generelli of Spotswood, Karen Schoepflin of Oakland, Brielle Heitman of Mahwah, Janelle Biagini of Wyckoff, Kelly TenEyck of Mahwah, Brooke Bandazian of Wyckoff, Chelsea Marie Wuesthoff of Ironia, Sarah Royce of Northvale, Catherine Wolff of Wyckoff, Mimi Kocela of Waldwick.

I commend these young women for their dedication to their sport and for their efforts to use that sport to spread a message of good will and sportsmanship overseas.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. YVETTE D. CLARKE

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, August 1, 2007

Ms. CLARKE. Madam Speaker, On rollcall No. 763, I was unavoidably absent. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea." On rollcall No. 764, I would have voted "yea." On rollcall No. 765, I would have voted "yea." On rollcall No. 766, I would have voted "nay." On rollcall No. 767, I would have voted "yea." On rollcall No. 768, I would have voted "yea." On rollcall No. 769, I would have voted "yea." On rollcall No. 770, I would have voted "nay." On rollcall No. 771, I would have voted "yea." On rollcall No. 772, I would have voted "yea." On rollcall No. 773, I would have voted "yea." On rollcall No. 774, I would have voted "yea." On rollcall No. 775, I would have voted "present." On rollcall No. 776, I would have voted "nay." On rollcall No. 777, I would have voted "yea." On rollcall No. 778, I would have voted "yea."

IN HONOR OF UNIVERSITY OF
HOUSTON SCIENCE AND PHYSICS
PROGRAMS

HON. NICK LAMPSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, August 1, 2007

Mr. LAMPSON. Madam Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I introduce a new opportunity for future physicists in Southeast region of Texas. In a collaborative effort, the University of Houston and University of Houston—Clear Lake (UHCL) are implementing a unique program for UHCL students pursuing a Masters of Science in Physics, who wish to continue in the University of Houston's Ph.D. Program.

The program is tailored towards motivated students looking to advance their education in the field of physics. This newly established relationship offers the attainment of a doctoral degree at both campuses, as opposed to the previous arrangement that required students to commute to the University of Houston campus. The faculty will consist of professors from both universities, and the doctoral degree will be presented by the University of Houston.

As a former science teacher, I have always valued education and research, and the potential benefits that arise from such hard work and dedication. This convenient initiative will not only enhance each student's performance, but will also mitigate the strains placed on students, teachers and their families by providing a more localized system in the Clear Lake area.

It is my belief that educational facilities should ensure that the needs of their students are a top priority. University of Houston—Clear Lake and University of Houston have shown that a cohesive approach to education may prove to be both efficient and successful. I hope this recognition will bring awareness to such a distinctive program and facilitate future relationships between universities.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. THOMAS H. ALLEN

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, August 1, 2007

Mr. ALLEN. Madam Speaker, on July 31, 2007, I was unavoidably absent from the Capitol. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes" on rollcall vote No. 778, to sustain the ruling of the Chair of the Committee of the Whole in her ruling against Mr. SHADEGG of Arizona during debate on the McHenry Amendment to the Gingrey Amendment to H.R. 3161, the Agriculture Appropriations Bill. I would have voted "yes" on rollcall vote No. 779, the Motion by the Majority Leader for the Committee of the Whole House to Rise from its consideration of H.R. 3161, the Agriculture Appropriations Bill.

HONORING DR. NELSON ADAMS:
PRESIDENT, NATIONAL MEDICAL
ASSOCIATION

HON. KENDRICK B. MEEK

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, August 1, 2007

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise to offer my congratulations to Dr. Nelson Adams. On August 7, 2007, Dr. Nelson Adams will be installed as the 108th president of the 112-year-old National Medical Association during their annual convention and scientific assembly in Honolulu, Hawaii. The National Medical Association (NMA) promotes the collective interests of physicians and patients of African descent by serving as the collective voice of physicians of African descent and as a leading force for parity in medicine, elimination of health disparities, and promotion of optimal health. Dr. Adams is the recipient of numerous awards and honors, including the Honorary Doctor of Laws, but to me his most important accomplishment is that he was the doctor who delivered my son Kendrick Meek, Jr.

Dr. Adams, a native of Miami, Florida and a product of its public school system, is a medical leader passionately committed to eliminating racial and ethnic inequality in health. He is regarded as an exceptional achiever, earning high recognition both scholastically and among medical peers. An esteemed alumnus of Howard University, Dr. Adams has been recognized in Who's Who in American Colleges and Universities. He earned his medical degree at Meharry Medical College, where he was named Student of the Year in his freshman class and served as President of the Meharry Chapter of the Student NMA. Dr. Adams completed his four-year residency in Obstetrics and Gynecology at Emory University in 1982. Prior to returning home to Miami, Dr. Adams practiced in Mobile, Alabama for three years, where he was a founding member of the Bay Area Medical Association, an affiliate society of the NMA.

A board certified obstetrician-gynecologist, Dr. Adams has a vibrant and challenging practice in North Miami-Dade County. He was the first African-American Chairman of the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology and the first African-American Chief of Staff of North

Shore Medical Center. In 1992, he founded the Maternal Child Health Initiative (MCHI), an award-winning model for providing care to at-risk, low-income, pregnant women.

Today, Dr. Adams is the Chairman of the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology at Jackson North Medical Center and President of N.L. Adams, M.D. and Associates. He is also President and Chairman of Access Health Solutions (AHS), a managed care company providing services in 26 counties in Florida. Under Dr. Adams' leadership and through his keen focus on both access and quality, AHS has grown from humble beginnings to serving more than 94,000 beneficiaries with 525 healthcare providers.

Throughout his fruitful career, Dr. Adams' leadership and community service has reached across academic, religious, fraternal, and charity institutions. He is the past Chairman of the Executive Committee of the Greater Miami Region of the National Conference of Christian and Jews, a member of the prestigious Orange Bowl Committee, a member of the Board of Trustees of the Florida International University Foundation, Meharry Medical College, Barry University, The Children's Trust and until recently, the Miami Art Museum.

I am also proud to report that Dr. Adams and I are Members of the same fraternity, which we both consider the best fraternity in the country—Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. Additionally, he is a beloved and active member of the historic St. John Baptist Church where he serves as a Deacon and Chairman of the Board of the church's Community Development Corporation. Dr. Adams has held many positions of leadership in organized medicine at the local, state and national levels. He is the past President of the local and state NMA societies in Florida and has served as Vice President, Secretary of the House of Delegates, and member of the Board of Trustees of the NMA.

Dr. Adams has served on the board of directors of the DCMA for nearly 10 years, and is the past Treasurer, Secretary, Vice-President, and President-elect of this august body. In June 2007 he was installed as the 97th President of the Dade County Medical Association. Dr. Adams is the son of Naomi A. Adams and the late Nelson L. Adams, both of whom were educators in the Dade County School system. Dr. Adams is married to Effie Jones Adams and they are the proud parents of Victoria and Nelson. Sustained by family ties and guided by spiritual values, Dr. Adams abides by the motto: "To whom much is given, much is required."

NFL, MLB, NBA, NHL, AND NCAA
OPPOSE SPORTS BETTING.

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, August 1, 2007

Mr. TOWNS. Madam Speaker, I would like to call attention to a letter that I and my colleagues received this week from the professional and collegiate sports associations. It alerts us to the fact that, at this time when the reputation and integrity of American athletics are keenly threatened by gambling-related scandals, proposals to legalize and sanction

sports gambling are being advanced here in the House of Representatives.

I have long been concerned about protecting American athletics from the taint of gambling. I cosponsored the Professional and Amateur Sports Protection Act of 1992, when arrested the growth of state-sponsored sports betting. As Congress said then, "Sports gambling threatens to change the nature of sporting events from wholesome entertainment for all ages to devices for gambling. It undermines public confidence in the character of professional and amateur sports."

Now H.R. 2046 threatens to let offshore online gambling operators do through the backdoor what PASPA shut off to states through the front door. And the proponents of sports gambling are making the same arguments that they did in the early 1990s: legal sportsbooks have the technology and incentive to identify suspicious activity and prevent actual corruption of the game; people are going to gamble on sports anyway, so the government might as well capture tax revenue on the activity.

Congress rejected those arguments then, and they should reject them now. The fundamental issue has never been whether the technology existed to prevent abusive sports gambling. The fundamental issue is this: regardless of what happens between friends or on the black market, Congress should not be in the business of encouraging people to gamble on sports. And sports gambling should be off limits from further exploitation as a "revenue enhancer."

This is an essential principle, that gambling and sports do not mix. Even though H.R. 2046 says sports leagues can "opt out" of allowing gambling on their sport, Congress would still be sending the wrong message about sports gambling. Moreover, the sports associations have very serious concerns that the "opt-outs" could be struck down by U.S. courts or international tribunals, leaving their sports completely unprotected.

As their letter says, "the harms caused by government endorsement of sports betting far exceed the alleged benefits." Therefore, I will not support any movement on H.R. 2046 so long as it poses any threat to the integrity of American athletics.

Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to place in the RECORD the letter signed by the General Counsels of the National Football League, Major League Baseball, National Basketball Association, National Hockey League, and National Collegiate Athletic Association.

JULY 30, 2007.

DEAR MEMBER OF CONGRESS: Sports betting is incompatible with preserving the integrity of American athletics. For many decades, we have actively enforced strong policies against sports betting. And the law on this point is consistent. Federal statutes bar sports betting, especially the 1961 Wire Act and the 1992 Professional and Amateur Sports Protection Act. Enforcement of these laws against sports betting was also a significant motive for enacting the Unlawful Internet Gambling Enforcement Act of 2006 (UIGEA).

Accordingly, we urge you to reject current proposals to legalize Internet gambling, such as H.R. 2046 sponsored by Rep. Barney Frank. This legislation reverses federal policy on sports betting and would for the first time give such gambling Congressional consent. The bill sends exactly the wrong message to the public about sports gambling and threatens to undermine the integrity of American sports.

On a related point, we believe the Congress should not consider any liberalization of Internet gambling until the U.S. Trade Representative successfully resolves our trade disputes in this area. A rush to judgment on this subject could result in irreversible damage to U.S. sovereignty in the area of gambling regulation, including the capacity to prohibit sports bets.

Though Internet gambling on sports has never been legal, easy access to offshore Internet gambling websites has created the opposite impression among the general public, particularly before Congress enacted UIGEA last fall. UIGEA emerged from more than a decade of Congressional consideration, in which stand-alone legislation aimed at restricting Internet gambling passed either the Senate or the House in each of five successive Congresses, each time by overwhelming bi-partisan votes. UIGEA also enjoyed a broad array of supporters, including 49 state Attorneys General and other law enforcement associations, several major financial institutions and technology companies, dozens of religious and family organizations, and of course our sports organizations.

Enactment of UIGEA was grounded on concerns about addictive, compulsive, and underage Internet gambling, unlawful sports betting, potential criminal activity, and the wholesale evasion of federal and state laws. When it passed the House a year ago, the vote was 317-93, including majorities of both caucuses and with the affirmative votes of both party leaders.

The final product was a law that did not change the legality of any gambling activity—it simply gave law enforcement new, effective tools for enforcing existing state and federal gambling laws. UIGEA and its predecessor bills could attract such consensus because they adhered to this principle: whether you think gambling liberalization is a bad idea or a good one, the policy judgments of State legislatures and Congress must be respected, not de facto repealed by deliberate evasion of the law by offshore entities via the Internet.

By contrast, H.R. 2046 would put the Treasury Department in charge of issuing licenses to Internet gambling operators, who would then be immunized from prosecution or liability under any Federal or State law that prohibits what the Frank bill permits. The bill would tear apart the fabric of American gambling regulation. By overriding in one stroke dozens of Federal and State gambling laws, this would amount to the greatest expansion of legalized gambling ever enacted.

This legislation contains an "opt-out" that appears to permit individual leagues to prohibit gambling on their sports. But regardless of the "opt-out," the bill breaks terrible new ground, because Congress would for the first time sanction sports betting. That is reason enough to oppose it. In addition, the bill's safeguard opt-out for sports leagues as well as the one for states may well prove illusory and ineffectual. They will be subject to legal challenge before U.S. courts and the World Trade Organization.

In addition, this legislation would dramatically complicate current trade negotiations concerning gambling. In 1994, the United States signed the General Agreement on Trade in Services, which included a commitment to free trade in "other recreational services." In subsequent WTO proceedings, the United States has claimed this commitment never included gambling services. The United States has noted that any such "commitment" would contradict a host of federal and state laws that regulate and restrict gambling. The WTO has not accepted this argument.

Accordingly, the U.S. Trade Representative has initiated negotiations to withdraw

gambling from U.S. GATS commitments. Before withdrawal can be finalized, agreement must be reached on trade concessions with interested trading partners. Few concessions should be required because there was never a legal market in Internet gambling in the U.S. If Congress creates a legal market before withdrawal is complete, the withdrawal will become much more complicated and costly. Therefore, we oppose any legislation that would imperil the withdrawal process.

Finally, we have heard the argument that Internet gambling can actually protect the integrity of sports because of the alleged capacity to monitor gambling patterns more closely in a legalized environment. This argument is generally asserted by those who would profit from legalized gambling and the same point was raised in 1992 when PASPA was enacted. Congress dismissed it then and should dismiss it now. The harms caused by government endorsement of sports betting far exceed the alleged benefits.

H.R. 2046 sets aside decades of federal precedent to legalize sports betting and exposes American gambling laws to continuing jeopardy in the WTO. We strongly urge that you oppose it. Thank you for considering our views on this matter.

Sincerely,

RICK BUCHANAN, Executive,
VP and General Counsel,
National Basketball Association.

ELSA KIRCHER COLE,
General Counsel,
National Collegiate
Athletic Association.

WILLIAM DALY,
Deputy Commissioner,
National Hockey
League.

TOM OSTERTAG,
Senior VP and General
Counsel, Major
League Baseball.

JEFFREY PASH,
Executive VP and
General Counsel,
National Football
League.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, August 1, 2007

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Madam Speaker, on rollcall No. 781, had I been present, I would have voted "aye."

SUPPORT OF THE COMMUNITY BROADBAND ACT OF 2007

HON. RICK BOUCHER

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, August 1, 2007

Mr. BOUCHER. Madam Speaker, I rise to introduce the Community Broadband Act of 2007 in which I am pleased to be joined by the gentleman from Michigan, Mr. UPTON. I appreciate his co-authorship of the measure and the steps we have taken together to construct the bill.

Our legislation will encourage the deployment of high speed networks by ensuring the ability of local governments to offer community broadband services.

Broadband has changed the way that people in our Nation live, work, transact business and obtain information. The ways people work and play today are fundamentally different from a decade ago, due in significant part to the growth and development of the Internet, faster and more efficient ways to access it and the broad new range of Internet based services now in common use.

But for our citizens to be able to reap the benefits of this transformation, they must have access to broadband, and the United States has fallen woefully behind other developed nations in its deployment. According to the most recent statistics released by the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, the United States has dropped from 12th in the world to 15th for broadband penetration. The nation that invented the Internet and today creates its most popular globally utilized applications can and for the sake of our national economy must do better than that.

Most of the areas in the U.S. that lack broadband are lightly populated rural regions. Almost 20 percent of households nationwide are not served by a broadband provider, and others are served by a single provider that may charge higher rates for the service given the absence of competition. In my district, for example, we have a county with a population of 16,000 people where the most populous town has 614 residents. That county has no broadband service. I represent dozens of small communities with populations measuring in the hundreds of people where broadband is absent. That pattern is replicated across rural America, and our current global standing is a reflection of it.

It is no surprise that building out broadband to such areas is a low priority for cable and telephone service providers, but that reality does not make broadband any less essential to the lives of unserved rural residents. If the commercial broadband providers are not willing to deploy in particular areas, local governments should be able to step in and fill the gap.

At the turn of the last century, when the private sector failed to provide electricity services to much of America, thousands of community leaders stepped forward to form their own electric utilities. At that time, opponents to municipally-operated electric utilities argued that local governments were not qualified to meet this task. They also argued that competition from the private sector would be hindered by the entry of municipalities into the market. Those arguments did not prevail because it was deemed to be in the public interest to deploy the then new "essential infrastructure" universally, and today we have thriving municipal electric utilities nationwide that have well served their localities for the past century.

I believe that broadband today is the new essential infrastructure. It is every bit as necessary today as electricity service was 100 years ago, and just as with electricity service 100 years ago, in many instances, the only entity willing to provide the service today is the local government.

The Community Broadband Act of 2007 ensures that local leaders can bring broadband technology to their communities, just as local leaders did with electricity a century ago. More than 14 States have passed laws restricting public communications services. The U.S. Supreme Court has upheld the power of States to enact these barriers. Our legislation re-

moves the barriers. It leaves room for States to enact reasonable terms and conditions under which local governments can deploy broadband, but it overturns absolute bars to localities offering the service.

The bill includes competitive safeguards to ensure that public providers cannot abuse governmental authority by discriminating in favor of a public service to the disadvantage of private competitors.

Community broadband networks have the potential to create jobs and increase economic development, enhance market competition, and accelerate universal, affordable Internet access for all Americans. Let's give localities the freedom to create arrangements that work for them, whether they own the infrastructure and offer the service or whether they deploy the facilities and lease the lines to private service providers. The national interest requires that we harness the willingness of localities to elevate our world standing and to enrich the lives of their constituents and the economic prospects of local businesses that urgently need broadband services.

I encourage our colleagues to join Congressman UPTON and me in enacting the Community Broadband Act of 2007.

FARM, NUTRITION, AND BIOENERGY ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 27, 2007

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2419) to provide for the continuation of agricultural programs through fiscal year 2012, and for other purposes:

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Chairman, while I was very supportive of the great work that was done by House Agriculture Committee Chairman PETERSON on the farm bill, there is one provision that I have significant concerns about and I will work to ensure that the language is removed from the bill before it is enacted into law.

The farm bill contains language that would change the Federal Meat Inspection Act and the Poultry Products Inspection Act that would allow state inspected meat and poultry products to be sold in interstate commerce. Current law limits the sale of state-inspected meat and poultry products to the state in which they were produced. The stated purpose of the provision is to encourage the creation of new small meat and poultry processing businesses and give farmers new markets for their products. Because current law permits state-inspection programs but requires that they be "equal to" the federal program, supporters of this provision insist there would be no health risk in permitting state-inspected products to be sold any where.

However, do not be misled by the argument—the proposed change in the law would create a serious threat to public health and result in the serious weakening of the federal meat and poultry inspection programs. Instead of creating new markets for farmers, the reduced health standard that this provision would establish ultimately would reduce the market for all meat and poultry products.

There are no data to support the belief that federal inspection requirements are too onerous for small companies. In fact, thousands of small and very small meat and poultry plants in every single state operate successfully under the federal inspection process. There are currently 5,603 plants now under federal inspection, and 2,878 of those (51 percent) employ ten or fewer people. In addition, there are approximately 1,654 other plants that have between 10 and 50 employees.

While the federal inspection laws require that state inspection programs be equal to the federal program, based on reports by the USDA Office of Inspector General, plants subjected to state inspection may not be as clean and sanitary as federally inspected plants. In October 2006, the USDA Office of Inspector General published an audit of FSIS's oversight of state meat and poultry inspection programs that outlined how state inspection programs failed to meet sanitation standards. The report also found that FSIS was failing to hold states responsible for protecting public health by allowing meat plants in four states to continue to sell meat even after finding that the state programs were not meeting legal safety standards.

Although meat and poultry inspection laws require that state programs be equal to the federal program, USDA focuses its reviews of equivalence on state plans. So, while it is possible to have adequate inspection plans on paper, the USDA does not certify that each state inspected plant meets federal standards. The agency also does not return to these plants to determine that they are continuing to meet federal standards.

Mr. Chairman, you will be disturbed to learn that the USDA conducts a far more rigorous oversight of foreign plants that want to export meat to the U.S. than it does over state inspected plants. Before a plant in a foreign country can ship meat to the U.S., USDA must first determine that the foreign country's inspection program is "equal to" the U.S. program. Then, USDA must examine and certify as acceptable each individual plant that wants to ship meat or poultry to the U.S. There is no comparable requirement for state-inspected plants to be initially certified.

The U.S. Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit, rejected the state of Ohio's contention that the prohibition on interstate sale of state-inspected meat violated the Fifth and Tenth amendments to the U.S. Constitution. The court explained that the difference between federal, international and state inspection programs justified the limitations on the shipment of state inspected meat. They found that "though the U.S. Department of Agriculture keeps an eye on state inspection programs, it keeps yet a closer eye on its own plants and on meat and poultry entering the country, and it is possible that a state program could deteriorate without the USDA's knowledge. This possibility provides a rational basis for Congress to restrict the interstate transport of state-inspected meat."

Another important component of this issue to consider is that it would be extremely difficult for a state government to manage an effective recall of adulterated meat or poultry that has been shipped outside the state. The USDA and state governments do not possess mandatory recall authority, and recalls must be negotiated between the regulatory agency and the company. While a state meat inspection agency may direct a state-inspected plant

to undertake a recall, a state inspection program does not have the legal authority to travel to other states to assure a recall of meat and poultry products has been executed thoroughly.

The proposed language in the farm bill would have the unintended consequence of opening the door for a major exodus of meat and poultry plants from federal inspection to state inspection programs. The language would allow 80 percent of all federally inspected plants to be eligible to transfer from federal inspection to state inspection if the plant is in one of the 28 states that have an inspection program. This means that a federally inspected plant that is under pressure from a federal inspector to improve its sanitation practices could decide to transfer to the state inspection that might offer less stringent oversight.

Mr. Chairman, as you can see, this is a very critical food safety issue that needs to be addressed. A Democratic Congress cannot be responsible for jeopardizing our food supply and we must work to ensure that this provision is not enacted into law.

Last week, the Safe Food Coalition sent a letter that outlined the concerns on this issue in greater detail. I ask that the letter be included in the RECORD.

JULY 25, 2007.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE: The undersigned members of the Safe Food Coalition and the American Federation of Government Employees strongly oppose the state-inspected meat and poultry provisions in the "Farm Bill," H.R. 2419. These provisions would lower food safety standards and increase the risk of food poisoning in the U.S. They would encourage the least responsible and competent meat and poultry federally inspected processors to escape the rigorous safety enforcement of federal inspectors and search for more "understanding" and "flexible" enforcement by state inspectors.

The provisions amend the Federal Meat Inspection Act and the Poultry Products Inspection Act to permit meat and poultry products inspected by state inspectors to be sold in interstate commerce. The goal, according to supporters, is to "create new markets for state-inspected meat" which they say would encourage the start-up of new, small meat and poultry processing companies that would compete with giant international slaughter and processing companies and offer farmers better prices. We agree that both farmers and consumers might benefit from increased competition in meat and poultry processing, but we reject the assumption that new companies and competition must be encouraged by dismantling the federal inspection system, reducing food safety standards, and raising the risk of foodborne illness.

These provisions do not permit states to establish higher food safety standards. Federal meat and poultry laws pre-empt the states from raising standards. USDA's Inspector General reports that the Department has not closed state programs that fail to provide safety protection "equal to" federal standards.

The provisions affect federal, as well as state, inspected meat and poultry plants. They would make 80 percent of all federally inspected meat and poultry processing plants—4,532 of 5,603 plants—eligible to switch from federal inspection to the more "business-friendly" state inspection. With that change, if a federal inspector pressures a meat packer to improve sanitation, the packer could instead try to negotiate a more understanding regulatory response from his

state inspection program. It is not surprising that both the American Meat Institute and the National Meat Association, whose members are federally inspected plants, have signed off on this language despite the authors' claims that it creates new competition for them.

A major exodus from federal to state inspection programs would not only threaten food safety but would also adversely affect thousands of federal inspection employees, contributing to a loss of federal inspection positions. Their loss would hurt American consumers who have benefited from the work of well-trained federal inspectors, all sworn to protect the public's health, who have, for over 40 years, been an important part of the nation's public health protection structure.

The provisions would also unleash lobbying campaigns to set up state inspection programs in the 22 states that currently do not have them so plants in those states can also seek "more understanding" enforcement of food safety laws under state programs.

Thousands of very small plants thrive under federal inspection. Fifty-one percent of all federally inspected plants (2,878 of 5,603) have 10 or fewer employees and 80 percent have 50 or fewer employees. These federally inspected small operations comply with federal inspection and make a profit. We do not support providing an unfair advantage to small companies who don't or can't make the commitments necessary to comply with federal food safety requirements.

The USDA Office of Inspector General reports that plants subject to state inspection may not be as clean and sanitary as federally inspected plants. In 1994 the IG said, "state programs are weak in policing plant sanitation and the federal government is weak in following up to make sure deficiencies in the state inspection system are fixed."

In October 2006, the OIG released an audit of state inspection that included stomach turning examples of state inspection programs failing to meet basic sanitation requirements and of FSIS failing to hold states responsible for protecting public health.

The OIG reported that FSIS visited 11 meat plants in Mississippi in October 2003. None of the plants met all HACCP requirements. FSIS reported that cutting boards in one plant were heavily contaminated with meat residues from the previous day's work and noted that some plants failed to monitor cooking temperatures, potentially exposing consumers to bacteria that cause foodborne illness.

The Mississippi meat inspection program allowed the plants to continue operating. FSIS allowed the Mississippi program to keep operating though it was not meeting the "equal to" federal inspection legal requirements.

FSIS allowed meat plants in four states—Missouri, Wisconsin, Delaware and Minnesota to continue to operate, selling meat to unsuspecting consumers, even after finding that the state programs were not meeting legal standards for "equal to." Under current law, the risk from lax state meat and poultry inspection programs is limited because the products cannot leave the state in which they were produced. If Congress approves these provisions the problems would become nationwide as the products travel across the country.

The USDA does not certify that each state inspected plant meets federal standards before coming into the program, nor does it go back to check to determine that the plants continue to meet federal standards. FSIS officials determine "equal to" status primarily by looking at paper, not plants. They examine state plans. They almost never actually go into a state-inspected plant to see what is really happening.

The U.S. Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit explains why Congress is justified in limiting the shipment of state-inspected meat to the state in which it is produced: "... though the U.S. Department of Agriculture keeps an eye on state inspection programs, it keeps yet a closer eye on its own plants and on meat and poultry entering the country, and it is possible that a state program could deteriorate without the USDA's knowledge. This possibility provides a rational basis for Congress to restrict the interstate transport of state-inspected meat."

There is no effective way for state governments to assure recall of state inspected adulterated meat or poultry that has been shipped away from the state where it was produced. These provisions, therefore, will increase the risk of serious foodborne illness. Neither USDA nor state governments has mandatory recall authority. Recalls are negotiated between the regulatory agency and the company. The USDA, however, has the staff and capacity both to negotiate with a company about the size and timing of a recall and to go to all the places where the product may have been distributed to be sure the recalled products are being removed. No individual state agriculture department has the authority or the capacity to institute and manage the recall of adulterated meat or poultry from another state.

The provisions were approved by the House Agriculture Committee without the benefit of public hearings to explore the crucial issues or give opponents an opportunity to be heard. The provisions were drafted by the National Association of State Departments of Agriculture whose members want to expand their programs. Meat packing trade associations, whose members may welcome the leverage of threatening to switch to state inspection, signed off on the provisions. Consumer and public health experts, as well as the unions who represent federal inspectors and workers in meatpacking plants, had no opportunity to address the issues.

The provisions assure that the details of implementation would also avoid transparency and exclude public participation. The provisions direct the Secretary of Agriculture to promulgate rules for the major new program within 180 days after the bill becomes law, effectively foreclosing any meaningful opportunity for notice and comment rulemaking, open meetings and public discussion. One of the provisions creates an advisory committee limited to officials of state inspection programs, excluding public health experts and representatives of consumers who might challenge whether public health is being given first consideration.

Neither the House of Representatives nor the American people are well served by the substance of these provisions or the process that produced them. We believe that approval of the Farm Bill language allowing state inspected meat and poultry products to be sold in interstate commerce would mark the beginning of the end of the nation's strong, uniform federal meat and poultry inspection system and would seriously undermine the public health protection federal inspection has built over the past 40 years.

Sincerely,

Carol Tucker Foreman, Founder, Safe Food Coalition; Patricia Buck, Center for Foodborne Illness Research & Prevention; Chris Waldrop, Consumer Federation of America; Wenonah Hauter, Food & Water Watch; Jacqueline Ostfeld, Government Accountability Project; Linda Goldner, National Consumers League; Nancy Donley; Safe Tables-Our Priority; Michael J. Wilson, United Food and Commercial Workers International Union; American Federation of Government Employees.

50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE
SOUTHERN CHRISTIAN LEADER-
SHIP CONFERENCE

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 30, 2007

Mr. CONYERS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, SCLC, as it celebrates 50 years of promoting non-violent action as a means to achieve social, economic, and political justice. The opportunity to serve as the first African-American Chairman of the House Judiciary Committee is a tribute to the efforts of the SCLC to promote equal opportunity and equal justice.

Without the courage and sacrifice of members of the SCLC, namely its first President, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and those Presidents that followed—Ralph Abernathy, Joseph Lowery, and Martin Luther King, III, we simply would not be where we are today. And while we have much work to do, we are living the legacy of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference everyday.

This August will be the 50th anniversary of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference. The SCLC traces its roots to the Montgomery Bus Boycott of 1955, which began with the quiet yet courageous efforts of one woman: Rosa Parks. I had the privilege of working with Rosa Parks for over 20 years when she agreed to join my staff after I was elected to Congress in 1964. The Montgomery Bus Boycott brought together two local ministers, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and Ralph Abernathy, who established the Montgomery Improvement Association to lead the boycott efforts. As the movement to desegregate public transportation spread beyond Montgomery County into surrounding states, it was clear that the organization needed to expand, both in size and in scope.

Following the success of the Montgomery Bus Boycott, a group of 60 organizers from 10 states met in Atlanta, Georgia to plan the next steps. The result was the founding of the Southern Leadership Conference on Transportation and Nonviolent Integration. The organization's title was shortened to its current name, the Southern Christian Leadership Conference during its first convention, held in Montgomery in August 1957. Next week, the SCLC will be hosting its 49th annual convention in Atlanta, GA.

Leading the efforts of the SCLC to end segregation was Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., a man I am honored to have been able to call a friend and confidant. In fact, it was Dr. King that endorsed me for Congress when I first ran and was elected to serve in 1964. Significantly, Dr. King personally awarded me with the Southern Christian Leadership Conference Award in 1967. Having walked alongside Dr. King, a fearless leader who challenged continued racial segregation and believed that "oppressed people cannot remain oppressed forever," I am committed to continuing the legacy of Dr. King and the SCLC.

Under the helm of President Joseph Lowery for much of its existence—from 1977 until 1997, the SCLC advanced Dr. King's dream for an America—a society united behind the banner of equality and freedom. Today, the SCLC remains strong under the leadership of

Dr. Charles Steele, Jr., promoting a number of programs in the areas of economic empowerment, health advocacy, education, and criminal justice. The SCLC has also established the Martin Luther King, Jr., Conflict Resolution Center, an international initiative to promote Dr. King's principle of nonviolence as a means to resolving conflicts throughout the world.

We've come a long ways over the last 50 years, and the work of the SCLC continues to be of critical importance. It is to the credit of Dr. King and other leaders of the SCLC that today the torch of the civil rights movement is carried by many hands. One of those hands is Dr. King's son, Martin III, who headed the SCLC from 1997 until 2003 and remains committed to the organization's vision. So following the lead of Martin III, Joseph Lowery, Ralph Abernathy, and of course Dr. King, let us continue the work and legacy of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference on its 50th anniversary.

TUMACACORI HIGHLANDS
WILDERNESS ACT OF 2007

HON. RAÚL M. GRIJALVA

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, August 1, 2007

Mr. GRIJALVA. Madam Speaker, I am pleased to introduce legislation today to protect a magnificently diverse natural landscape in the mountains southwest of Tucson. When enacted, the Tumacacori Highlands Wilderness Act will make a major contribution to the conservation of the natural wonders of Arizona, to the benefit of all of our citizens—those alive today and all the generations to come.

The Tumacacori Highlands is the collective name for two adjacent wilderness areas on public lands that are part of the Coronado National Forest.

These desert peaks and canyons are key parts of the world-renowned Sky Island bioregion, a biological "hotspot" where the southern margin of habitats for many species from the Rocky Mountain west overlaps the northern extent of habitats for many tropical species better known in Mexico. The area is home to subtropical species like the elegant trogon and Chiricahua leopard frog that are found nowhere else in the United States, and offers secluded habitat vital for jaguars, the rare and elusive spotted cat that is now repopulating this portion of its former range.

THE NEW WILDERNESS AREAS

This legislation will expand the existing 7,553-acre Pajarita Wilderness, which Congress protected in 1984 under the leadership of one of America's greatest conservation leaders, Rep. Morris K. Udall, and his close colleague, Sen. JOHN MCCAIN. As the House committee report explained, this "is one of the most delicate and important ecotypes in all of Arizona," providing "an important corridor for life zones to the north and south." My new legislation will afford statutory wilderness protection to some 5,750 additional acres, enhancing overall protection for this rare biological gem.

Just to the north, separated only by an unpaved Forest Service road that crosses the mountains between Nogales and Arivaca, the legislation will also designate the Tumacacori

Highlands Wilderness. This larger area comprises some 70,000 acres surrounding Atascosa Peak and the ridges and canyons that fall away from it on all sides. This is important intact habitat—a remaining oasis of what southern Arizona used to be—and protects important parts of the watersheds for both the Santa Cruz River and the world-renowned riparian area of Sycamore Canyon in the core of the expanded Pajarita Wilderness. The area offers outstanding opportunities for recreation and renewal. Some folks hike to Atascosa Peak or other high points for sweeping views hundreds of miles in all directions. Others linger along the highly accessible margins of the area enjoying the scenic wonders of this wilderness landscape from the roadside.

USER-FRIENDLY WILDERNESS

Madam Speaker, along the roads that offer extraordinary access to these wilderness areas, one is surrounded by wild scenery. These "user friendly" wilderness areas offer diverse recreational opportunities for people of all ages, whether for an easy stroll and picnic or a more vigorous extended outing.

For the visitor who craves wild scenery but chooses not to hike, the Ruby Road and its numerous spurs offer a marvelous motoring experience, with the wilderness literally at the roadside untarnished by intervening roadside development beyond turnouts and trailheads that offer inviting picnic stops. As we too often forget, one of the greatest values of preserving our wilderness areas is for the enjoyment of those who use them by viewing their scenic vistas from the edges. And I hasten to add that other public lands in this region are available for those who choose other forms of outdoor recreation, including motorized recreation.

The boundaries proposed in this legislation have been adjusted to ensure plentiful road access to the wilderness for recreation. We emphasize protection of habitat, which is vital to increasing numbers of sportsmen who seek true wilderness hunting. As a result, this proposal has earned the support of Backcountry Hunters and Anglers and the Arizona Wildlife Federation.

COMMUNITY-FRIENDLY WILDERNESS

Protecting open space and scenic wild places like the Tumacacori Highlands contributes directly to the high quality-of-life sought by our people. The dramatic scenic backdrop of these mountains, uncluttered by development creeping up the slopes, entices people to choose to make their homes in these communities, including Green Valley and Rio Rico. Indeed, seven homeowners' associations in Green Valley, representing some 1,400 households, have formally endorsed this proposal.

The wild landscape of the Pajarita and Tumacacori Highlands are an essential asset for our small business owners, a matter of particular importance to me as a member of the Committee on Small Business. A University of Arizona study found that in Santa Cruz County alone, visitors to natural areas spent between \$10 million and \$16 million annually on travel and accommodations. The natural wonders of this landscape draw artists to artist colonies such as Tubac and Arivaca—and bring art lovers to patronize local galleries and studios. My friends in the local arts community tell me that art that evokes the wild splendors of the southern Arizona landscape is perennially popular with their customers.

Little wonder then that business people have been among the voices urging that we designate these new wilderness areas. More than 100 southern Arizona businesses have endorsed the proposal. In giving their formal support, the board of directors of the Tubac Chamber of Commerce pointed out that protecting open space and wild landscapes such as the Tumacacori Highlands contributes directly to a high quality-of-life and is a key component in drawing local business patrons and tourists dollars to the area.

This is the wildest land in the spectrum of the open spaces and recreational lands we have to offer our increasingly urban population. In this sense, I think of these new wilderness areas as lungs for our city dwellers, and as their preserved public lands where they can go to recreate, to reconnect with family, friends, or personal spirituality. And I think of them, too, as particularly vital classrooms. In these wildest expanses of the natural world, we offer our children the opportunity to experience nature in its most unspoiled state and to learn first-hand how the natural world works. Wilderness inspires awe and offers a living, breathing learning environment that cannot be replicated in a classroom. More than 80 professors and graduate students in fields such as wildlife and fisheries, natural resources management, and environmental science have endorsed designation of these new wilderness areas.

These wildest places in the rapidly growing southern Arizona region offer our people sanctuaries—refuges of quiet offering outstanding opportunities for solitude, high quality recreation, and spiritual reflection. Many of my constituents express the great value they place on protecting these wild sanctuaries, feeling that doing so is part of our responsibility in caring for God's creation and fulfilling the obligation we share to preserve such places for the benefit of future generations. This has led both the Arizona Ecumenical Council and the National Council of Churches to support this proposal.

KEY ISSUES IN THIS LEGISLATION

As we have perfected these wilderness proposals, my staff and I have addressed two major issues that we are sure to discuss carefully when we hold hearings in the Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests and Public Lands, which I have the honor to chair.

First, livestock grazing: my goal is to assure that in protecting these Wilderness areas, we reaffirm the longstanding congressional policy of respecting the use privileges held by local ranchers who have Forest Service permits to graze livestock on these public lands.

This is a common situation in the West, and it is one that Congress understood and accounted for when the Wilderness Act was enacted in 1964. That Act provides that where it was established prior to the designation of an area as wilderness, such existing grazing use shall continue. Over the years, there have been some problems in the practical conformance with this policy by the U.S. Forest Service, prompting complaints from ranchers, some of whom even worked against designation of new wilderness areas for this reason. Our committee has responded to those complaints, and the leader in that response was my revered predecessor, Rep. MORRIS UDALL, the long-time chairman of what is now the Committee on Natural Resources.

Under Chairman UDALL's leadership, Congress adopted very detailed "Congressional

Grazing Guidelines" that apply wherever wilderness designations and existing livestock grazing overlap. Those guidelines bring clarity to the situation, protecting both the legitimate practical needs of the ranchers to carry out their permitted grazing use, with the access and facilities that are necessary, and the public interest in preserving wilderness values. Among other things, those guidelines spell out that livestock numbers cannot be reduced solely due to wilderness designation. In the case of this proposed legislation, I appreciate the fact that local conservation groups have taken the initiative to work with cooperative ranchers holding grazing permits within the proposed area to craft a mutually supportable plan consistent with the congressional guidelines.

The other major concern in shaping this legislation is the international border. These new wilderness areas lie adjacent to the border, so it has been my concern to be sure that the agencies charged with border and customs enforcement have the operational flexibility they need to do their jobs. In carrying out this vital work, let us not accept the false choice between protecting our natural heritage or our national security—we can do both. After all, these will not be the first wilderness areas Congress has designated on or very near the Mexican border, only the most recent.

This is a complex matter, which my staff and I have pursued in detail with both the U.S. Forest Service, which administers these lands, and the Department of Homeland Security and its specialized border and customs agencies. This legislation references the highly detailed 2006 Memorandum of Understanding adopted by Homeland Security, the Forest Service, and other land management agencies regarding operations within wilderness areas and other public lands.

WHY WE PRESERVE WILDERNESS

Finally, Madam Speaker, I would like to comment on one of the more philosophical reasons that preserving areas like those proposed in the Tumacacori Highlands Wilderness Act is so important. Yes, we protect wilderness for our fellow Americans, who today treasure it for the opportunities it provides to hike, ride horseback, hunt, photograph or paint, go birding or enjoy the wild scenery. If we have the foresight to protect wilderness, it will be treasured and enjoyed for years to come by our children, grandchildren and future generations.

But we also preserve wilderness because we recognize the role it has played in shaping our Nation and our national character. The wilderness areas we preserve are patches of the original American landscape, protected to the best of our ability so that future generations of Americans will have the chance to know what wild America was and is still. So that future generations will have the opportunity to explore wilderness, to enjoy wilderness, to test themselves and grow in wilderness as did their ancestors. Wilderness is their rightful inheritance from us and we must be certain that they receive it. The public lands that will be given wilderness protection by the Tumacacori Highlands Wilderness Act represent important additions to southern Arizona's protected landscapes and I am pleased to introduce this legislation to preserve it now and for the future.

50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SOUTHERN CHRISTIAN LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

SPEECH OF

HON. STEVE COHEN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 30, 2007

Mr. COHEN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference.

The Southern Christian Leadership Conference, SCLC, originated through the Montgomery Bus Boycott when a courageous young woman by the name of Rosa Parks refused to give up her seat and move to the back of the bus on December 5, 1955. The Montgomery Bus Boycott brought two dynamic ministers together: Martin Luther King, Jr., and Ralph Abernathy. Through the guidance of Dr. King, Dr. Abernathy and Dr. Joseph Lowery, this boycott led to a new phase of a long struggle to be known as the modern day "Civil Rights Movement."

The Southern Christian Leadership Conference, SCLC, is best known for its commitment to nonviolent civil disobedience as a means for securing equal rights for African Americans and other oppressed people worldwide. The Southern Christian Leadership Conference, SCLC, adopted the motto: "Not one hair of one head should be harmed." This motto not only proved effective for the civil rights movement but should be applied in today's challenges in the world.

After the success of the Montgomery Bus Boycott, the Southern Christian Leadership Conference founded the Student Non-violent Coordinating Committee and cooperated with SNCC and other civil rights organizations seeking social justice for over 45 years.

I myself have witnessed the power and effectiveness of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference in the city of Memphis, when Dr. King and the Memphis Chapter of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, SCLC, and the labor movement organized 1,300 city sanitation workers to go on strike for fair and honest wages and benefits.

I rise today and urge everyone to remember and respect 50 years of good works by the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, SCLC. It has been living, fulfilling and perpetuating the dream of Dr. King. Its legacy, vision, and commitment to nonviolent action is highly regarded by this younger generation. The Southern Christian Leadership Conference has not just served the purpose of assuring rights for African Americans but all Americans.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. GINNY BROWN-WAITE

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, August 1, 2007

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Madam Speaker, on Tuesday, July 31, 2007, I was unable to make a series of votes. If I had been present I would have voted: "Aye," on rollcall vote No. 763, S. 1, the Honest Leadership and Open Government Act; "Aye," on rollcall vote No. 764, H.R. 180, the Darfur

Accountability and Divestment Act; "Aye," on rollcall vote No. 765, H.R. 2346, the Iran Sanctions Enabling Act; "Aye," on rollcall vote No. 776, On a Motion that the Committee Rise.

CELEBRATING THE 109TH BIRTHDAY OF CECELIA M. RUPPERT

HON. JERRY F. COSTELLO

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, August 1, 2007

Mr. COSTELLO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating the 109th birthday of Cecelia M. Ruppert of Pinckneyville, Illinois.

Cecelia Ruppert was born on August 17, 1898 to George and Louisa (Schneider) Ruppert in their home at 602 W. Mulberry Street in Pinckneyville, Illinois. The house, which is still standing, was built by Matthew Schneider for his daughter, Louisa and her husband.

Cecelia was the second oldest of George and Louisa's 8 children. She attended St. Bruno School. While in grammar school, Cecelia took piano lessons and she and her older sister, Magdalen, would entertain neighbors by playing duets on the piano. Cecelia had many chores at home, such as rocking the babies, washing clothes on a washboard, ironing, and peeling potatoes each day.

Cecelia's first job was in Pinckneyville at McCant's General Store, where she sold ladies' dresses and would sometimes go to the basement to fill coal oil cans for sale. At age 21, she moved to St. Louis where she attended Brown's Business College, and took business courses at Washington University. While pursuing her studies in St. Louis, Cecelia also volunteered as a teacher.

After completing school, Cecelia went to work for the Claridge Hotel in St. Louis, starting as a stenographer, and advancing to the bookkeeping department where she learned auditing. She was transferred to the LeClaire Hotel in Moline, Illinois and then was promoted to the Claridge Hotel in Memphis, Tennessee where she served as auditor until her retirement at age 65. After retirement from the Claridge Hotel, Cecelia remained in Memphis, serving as auditor at the Chisca Plaza Hotel until her final retirement at the age of 75.

After retirement, Cecelia returned to the family home in Pinckneyville where she enjoyed the company of her sister, Magdalen Ruppert Mann and the Mann family. Cecelia's sister, Cdr. Margaret Ruppert, NC, USN, Ret., of Pensacola, Florida, would visit frequently.

During her years in business, Cecelia saw many changes and technological advancements. While she used adding machines and calculators in her job, she remarks that now computers have become the primary business tool. Other changes that Cecelia has witnessed involve the expanded opportunities for women in the business world. In 2000, when she was interviewed for The Southern Illinoisian and was asked to name the biggest improvement she had seen in 102 years, Cecelia responded, "That women can go forward in the business world. That's wonderful. Now they can have a job with a man's rank. They can have any occupation."

Cecelia came from a hard working family. Her father was employed at the mill and in the

mines and her mother worked diligently to raise and educate their large family. Even though Cecelia was well ahead of her time by pursuing a successful career in the business world, she always remembered the lessons learned during her childhood, respect all people and go to church on Sunday.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Cecelia M. Ruppert on reaching this milestone birthday and wishing her all the best for the future.

APPOINTMENT OF CHARLIE THOMAS TO NAFCU

HON. ALBERT RUSSELL WYNN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, August 1, 2007

Mr. WYNN. Madam Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise to recognize Charlie Thomas, the President of Mid-Atlantic Federal Credit Union, headquartered in my district in Germantown, MD, on his recent election to the Board of Directors of the National Association of Federal Credit Unions (NAFCU).

For the past 35 years, Mr. Thomas has dedicated his life on behalf of improving financial institutions in America and currently serves as President of the Alliance of Credit Unions and is also a member of the National Association of Federal Credit Union's Region II Advisory Committee. His illustrious experience further includes service as Maryland's committee chairman for the "Campaign for Consumer Choice" as well as the founding Chairman of the CU Auto Loan Network.

As the President of Mid-Atlantic Federal Credit Union, Mr. Templeton has focused on ensuring his members receive helpful, personal service. Through his credit union, he is continuously educating his members on how to prevent identity theft. He also understands that today's youth must be armed with the knowledge to be financially savvy. He is forever trying to improve the direction and leadership that he provides the Mid-Atlantic FCU, even attending the inaugural Credit Union Executive Society's (CUES) Advanced Leadership Institute at Harvard University.

It is because of the good work of Mr. Thomas and others like him that the credit union movement enjoys the success it has today. Such service is the hallmark of the credit union movement and I know that he will bring this dedication to his service on the NAFCU Board of Directors. I wish Mr. Thomas the best of luck in this new role and I look forward to working with him in this new capacity.

THE AMERICAN LIFE SCIENCES COMPETITIVENESS ACT OF 2007

HON. ALLYSON Y. SCHWARTZ

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, August 1, 2007

Ms. SCHWARTZ. Madam Speaker, today I am introducing the American Life Sciences Competitiveness Act of 2007. This legislation aims to modernize the Internal Revenue Code so that the U.S. life sciences industry—both biotech and medical device companies—can effectively raise the capital they need to fund

the next generation of medicines and medical devices that will lead to longer and healthier lives for Americans and people around the world. I am pleased to be joined in this effort by my distinguished colleagues on the Ways and Means Committee, Representatives KEVIN BRADY, RICHARD NEAL and WALLY HERGER.

This legislation remedies obstacles to future growth and development faced by the American biotechnology and medical device industries. I want to thank the Biotechnology Industry Organization (BIO), the Advanced Medical Technology Association (AdvaMed), the Medical Device Manufacturers Association (MDMA), Pennsylvania BIO, the Texas Healthcare and Bioscience Institute and the California Healthcare Institute for their strong support of our efforts to modernize the tax code for the 21st Century.

The life sciences industry promises to be a key growth sector for the American economy. The biotech industry alone comprises nearly 1,500 companies, located in all 50 states, and employs nearly 200,000 workers. The more than 6,000 medical device companies in the U.S. employ over 350,000 Americans at wages 49 percent greater than the average for private industry.

In my own State of Pennsylvania, the biopharmaceutical industry has roughly 30,000 high-wage employees. Additionally, there are more than 120 medical device companies in Pennsylvania, the majority of which are small companies working on clinical trials prior to seeking marketing approval for their products. These companies offer great employment opportunities, providing good wages and benefits to talented, skilled workers. They are important contributors to Pennsylvania's expanding health care sector and often conduct clinical trials in partnership with academic medical facilities such as the University of Pennsylvania, Penn State, and the University of Pittsburgh as well as Drexel, Temple, Thomas Jefferson and the University of the Sciences in Philadelphia.

America's life sciences sector is one of the most research-intensive industries in the world. U.S. biotech companies alone spent roughly \$27 billion on research and development in 2006. There are more than 400 biotech products in clinical trials targeting more than 200 diseases, including various cancers, Alzheimer's disease, heart disease, diabetes, multiple sclerosis, and AIDS.

Small medical device companies are also a leading source of innovation that is providing technologies that address previously unmet medical needs. These companies are transforming health care by providing physicians and their patients with the tools that allow early disease detection, less invasive procedures and more effective treatments.

For all its bright opportunities, America's life sciences industry faces daunting challenges. First is access to capital for development of biotech therapies. Most biotech firms are small businesses with fewer than 50 employees. Because the development of new technologies that can often take 10 years or more and hundreds of millions of dollars to bring a new product to market, these small companies experience years of large cash outlays before they have the opportunity to realize any profit.

In fact, in 2006 the biotech industry generated a total net loss of \$5.6 billion. Despite this, R&D expenditures increased by 30 percent in 2005. For every \$1 of sales in 2006,

there was roughly 60 cents spent on R&D by biotech companies. Without question, capital investment for R&D is essential if these new therapies are to be developed and made available to the market.

Much like the biotech industry, the medical device sector is also overwhelmingly composed of smaller manufacturers, with 90 percent of firms having fewer than 100 employees. Most of these small engines of growth focus on niche products with revenues of less than \$100 million, yet they generate 28 percent of the industry's R&D spending. This commitment to R&D often means that these companies are the source of some of the most cutting-edge innovations, which can radically improve treatment options for patients.

To continue to develop and improve the medical devices available to patients, the medical technology industry invests heavily in R&D. Today, the device industry leads global medical technology R&D, both in terms of innovation as well as investment. In absolute terms, R&D spending has increased 20 percent on a cumulative annual basis since 1990. The industry's level of spending on R&D is more than three times the overall U.S. average.

Encouraging new investment in the life sciences industry will enable this key sector of the American economy to grow and flourish in the years ahead. The American Life Sciences Competitiveness Act of 2007 contains both corporate and investor oriented provisions to ensure access to capital and continued vigorous research and development in biotechnology and medical devices.

This comprehensive legislation includes a number of provisions that would remove barriers to capital formation currently in our tax code. Specifically, the legislation modifies the Net Operating Loss (NOL) rules of Section 382, with the goal of enhancing the capacity of life sciences firms to leverage capital for use in high-tech, high-risk cutting-edge research. The legislation ensures that neither the raising of new research capital by biotech companies nor a business-driven merger of two biotech loss companies will trigger the 382 Net Operating Loss (NOL) limitations.

In addition, the legislation contains two important modifications to the existing R&D tax credit. The legislation increases, from 65 percent to 100 percent, the amount of contract research expenses by life sciences firms eligible for the R&D credit. The legislation also increases the amount of basic research payments to universities from life sciences companies that qualifies for the full R&D credit.

Importantly, the legislation recognizes the grave threat the country faces from bio-terrorist attacks and a potential avian flu epidemic and contains tax incentives designed to spur the industry to develop effective countermeasures. This provision provides a 20 percent credit on qualified pre-clinical and clinical trial expenses associated with the development of a countermeasure to combat pandemic flu or bioterrorist attacks.

The bill also makes an important change to the orphan drug tax credit, allowing clinical trial expenses incurred after an application is made to the FDA, but before the orphan designation is received, to qualify for the credit. This change removes the current incentive to delay research and will help speed new orphan drug therapies to the market.

In addition to the corporate-sector incentives, the American Life Sciences Competitive-

ness Act of 2007 contains two important provisions targeted towards the life sciences investor. One provision allows capital gains on the sale of stock in a life sciences company held for longer than 6 months to be deferred as long as the proceeds are reinvested in another life sciences company within 60 days. The second provision provides a 20 percent credit for investors in biotech firms engaged in incubational research. "Incubational research" refers to early, cutting-edge research that often occurs shortly after university laboratory research and prior to large-scale clinical trials. This stage of research is often termed the "Valley of Death" because the dearth of investment results in promising investigational therapies and products withering on the vine for lack of adequate capital.

America's life sciences industry is strategically and economically vital. We must take every action we can to keep our Nation at the forefront of this emerging technology sector. Countries with significant government investments in their biotech industries, such as India and China, pose a serious long-term challenge to America's biotechnology and medical device industries.

The American Life Sciences Competitiveness Act of 2007 will give American companies important tools to answer this challenge and ensure that our scientists have the opportunities to research, develop and bring to market life-saving treatments.

Biotechnology and medical device products will be in demand from billions of people worldwide, creating a tremendous boon to the economies that create these products. Keeping the United States at the forefront of global life sciences innovation will translate into more and better-paying jobs here at home. The actions we take today will determine the winners and losers in the 21st century global economy. I urge my colleagues to support this important bill and better ensure that our economy continues to compete—and win.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. SUE WILKINS MYRICK

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, August 1, 2007

Mrs. MYRICK. Madam Speaker, I was unable to participate in the following votes. If I had been present, I would have voted as follows:

July 30, 2007—Rollcall vote 758, on motion to suspend the rules and pass—H.R. 2750, NASA 50th Anniversary Commemorative Coin Act—I would have voted "aye"; rollcall vote 759, on ordering the previous question—H. Res. 580, Providing for consideration of the bill H.R. 986, to designate the Eightmile River in the State of Connecticut—I would have voted "nay"; rollcall vote 760, on agreeing to the resolution—H. Res. 580, Providing for consideration of the bill H.R. 986, to designate the Eightmile River in the state of Connecticut—I would have voted "nay"; rollcall vote 761, on ordering the previous question—H. Res. 579, Providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 2831) to amend title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, the Age Discrimination in Employment Act of 1967, the Americans With Disabilities Act of 1990, and the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 to clarify that a discriminatory compensa-

tion decision—I would have voted "nay"; and rollcall vote 762, on agreeing to the previous question—Providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 2831) to amend title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, the Age Discrimination in Employment Act of 1967, the Americans With Disabilities Act of 1990, and the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 to clarify that a discriminatory compensation decision—I would have voted "nay."

FARM, NUTRITION, AND BIOENERGY ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. TODD TIAHRT

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 27, 2007

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2419) to provide for the continuation of agricultural programs through fiscal year 2012, and for other purposes:

Mr. TIAHRT. Mr. Chairman, I rise today with great reluctance that I am not able to support the Farm, Nutrition, and Bioenergy Act of 2007, H.R. 2419. The Agriculture Committee worked for many months in a bipartisan manner to craft an omnibus farm bill that would have achieved broad support in the House. H.R. 2419 was not a perfect bill, but it was a compromise that I would have supported in hopes that an even better package could be produced during conference negotiations with the Senate.

Unfortunately, Democrat leadership decided to insert a last-minute tax increase into the farm bill after the bill had left the House Committee on Agriculture. The tax provision represents a \$7.5 billion increase in taxes on companies that supply high-quality, high-paying jobs for American workers. These are often union jobs held by hard-working men and women trying to earn a living for their families. Instead of producing a farm bill that meets the needs of America's farmers, ranchers, landowners and those who rely on nutrition programs, the Democrats have instead resorted to a tax-and-spend policy instead of an invest-and-create-jobs policy.

The \$7.5 billion tax increase on foreign-owned American businesses inserted in H.R. 2419 could result in more jobs being sent overseas. In a time when the United States should be encouraging investment in our country and in American jobs, this kind of tax policy takes our economy a step backward. The last-minute Democrat tax increase will make it less attractive for foreign companies that employ American workers to initiate or expand operations in the United States. And that means bad news for American workers.

The United States has negotiated 58 tax treaties with 66 different countries. The Democrat tax proposal applies a tax increase on companies located in countries with which we have a tax treaty. This calls into serious question the United States' upholding our end of the treaties, which could invite retaliation.

Aside from the damage H.R. 2419 would do to American jobs, the Democrat's farm bill would cut a total of \$3 billion from the crop insurance program compared to the 2002 farm bill. Most troubling, is that \$1 billion of these

cuts were made without consideration by the full Agriculture Committee to determine how this will effect risk-management services farmers in Kansas rely upon. With nearly every county in Kansas being declared as a federal disaster area in 2007, we should think long and hard about cuts to the federal crop insurance program. It is disappointing that Democrat leadership chose to make this cut without first considering what it will mean for America's farmers.

Another harmful provision included last-minute in the farm bill would apply Davis-Bacon act wages to new ethanol plants being built if those plants utilize loans or grants from the USDA. This provision negates any positive benefit that would have been provided by the USDA's loan guarantee program. By artificially dictating what wages have to be paid to workers constructing a new ethanol plant, the farm bill will result in increased ethanol costs. This translates to higher costs at the pump for consumers of ethanol-blended gasoline. Instead of allowing price competition for newly constructed ethanol plants that access USDA loans or grants, this artificial wage provision is another example of unnecessary federal manipulation in a private-market matter.

I am also disappointed the bill included a prohibition on States being able to use private contractors to perform administrative functions for the food stamp program. States that choose to enact reforms within their systems to provide better food-stamp services at a savings to taxpayers are denied that ability under H.R. 2419. Rather than defer to States and allow some common-sense savings for taxpayers, the Democrats have drafted a farm bill that restricts certain reforms at the State level.

The commodity title of H.R. 2419 proposes a commodity spending cut of 42 percent compared with the 2002 farm bill. The 2007 farm bill proposes \$42 billion in baseline spending on commodities, representing just 14 percent of the entire farm bill. I think Kansas farmers deserve better.

As a State that is renowned for being the breadbasket of the world, Kansas and its farmers deserve a farm bill that provides a solid safety net while remaining fiscally responsible to taxpayers. I do not believe this \$297 billion farm bill meets this standard. And as my colleague from Kansas, Mr. MORAN, has pointed out, this farm bill fails to fully implement a revenue counter-cyclical program that would better respond to Kansas farmers in times when they need support the most.

I urge my colleagues to join me today in voting against H.R. 2419. The American farmer, the American taxpayer and the American worker deserve a better farm bill. I can only hope negotiations with the Senate will address this bill's shortcomings and that the House will have another opportunity to vote on comprehensive farm policy that is good for all Americans.

HONORING THE CITY OF MIDDLETON, WISCONSIN AS THE
"BEST PLACE TO LIVE 2007"

HON. TAMMY BALDWIN

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, August 1, 2007

Ms. BALDWIN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the City of Middleton as the

"Best Place to Live 2007," a title presented by Money Magazine that mirrors the thriving civic, commercial, residential, and natural centers of the community.

Middleton, Wisconsin, the "Good Neighbor City," is deserving of this honor as a reflection of the vibrant community it has become since its founding in 1856. The furtrading post that was opened in 1832 by the area's first carpenter, Michael St. Cyr, along with the arrival of the railroad in 1856 and the train depot, Middleton Station, that followed, served as town hubs that encouraged neighborhood growth and subsequent business prosperity.

Today, as a testament of this award, Middleton is flourishing. While Middleton residents still treasure the historic structures of the past, such as the Old Stamm House, a former station on The Underground Railroad, they also are looking forward. At present Middleton is the corporate headquarters for American Girl, Capital Brewery, Electronic Theatre Controls, ETC, and Springs Window Fashions, LLC.

There exist numerous elements that are keys to the community's success, including the Middleton-Cross Plains area school district and its high level of academic and cocurricular achievements; an outstanding performing arts center; 25 percent of land mass designated as "green space;" the home of Middleton Hills, the first "new urbanism" subdivision of the Midwest; a regional employment center; and superb public amenities, including a nationally recognized library, a nationally-accredited senior center, a historical museum, and abundant parks, to name a few.

As the "Best Place to Live 2007," the City of Middleton has much for which it should be proud. I look forward to watching the community as it continues to grow and builds upon the strong foundation that its residents, businesses, and employees have created for themselves.

A TRIBUTE TO THE LIFE OF JOSEPH NICHOLAS ESPINOZA

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, August 1, 2007

Ms. ESHOO. Madam Speaker, we rise today with great sorrow to honor the life of Joseph Nicholas Espinoza of Sacramento, California, who died in a tragic accident on July 23, 2007.

Joseph Espinoza was known to his family and friends as Joey. At a family dinner on May 25th, he celebrated his 21st birthday. He was 'best friend' to his brother John, his sister Marina, his cousins Sean, Connor and Michael, and his girlfriend Gina. He admired his father, confided in his mother and always sought their loving advice. He was a musician and an athlete, and was gifted in math and science, and his goal was to become an architect.

Joey was loved and always will be by his childhood friends and their families. His family knew that he was honest and earnest, that he had great energy and a tender and generous heart. He was open and trusting and was the keeper of the secrets of many who counted on his encouragement and courage.

Joey is survived by his parents Kate and John Espinoza of Sacramento, his brother John, and his sisters Marina, Kelly Rose,

Jeannie and Mendi. He leaves his loving grandmothers Rose King and Rose Espinoza and he is mourned by his many aunts, uncles and cousins of his parents' families.

Madam Speaker, we hope this tribute to Joey will be a source of comfort to his family. We have known and treasured his grandmother, Rose King, for almost 40 years and we share her immeasurable grief. She has been the great anchor of her family and she has contributed mightily to the well being of Californians through her dedicated public service spanning many decades.

Our Nation has lost a precious citizen and we ask today that the entire House of Representatives join us in honoring the life of Joseph Nicholas Espinoza and extend to his grieving family our deepest sympathy.

IN SUPPORT OF AMENDMENT TO H.R. 3093 REQUIRING USE OF "ENERGY STAR" LIGHT BULBS

HON. JAY INSLEE

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, August 1, 2007

Mr. INSLEE. Madam Speaker, I would like to commend Representative JANE HARMAN (D-CA) and Representative FRED UPTON (R-MI) for their unflinching hard work and dedication to the issue of light bulb efficiency in the United States Congress. Their leadership in this area has greatly contributed to our national effort to prevent global climate change and reduce our dependence on foreign energy sources. Recently Ms. HARMAN and Mr. UPTON offered an amendment to H.R. 3093, the Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act of 2008. This amendment prohibited funds to be used to purchase light bulbs unless the light bulb has the "ENERGY STAR" or "Federal Energy Management Program" designation. During this vote, Rollcall 738, I erroneously voted against the measure which I wholeheartedly support.

Since indoor and outdoor lighting accounts for up to fifteen percent of energy use in the average residence, inefficient light bulbs can consume large amounts of excess energy.

With the advent of compact fluorescent light bulbs, Americans have been given an alternative to inefficient incandescent bulbs which waste up to ninety-five percent of consumed energy as heat. These long-lasting high-efficiency fluorescent light bulbs provide equivalent illumination as incandescent light bulbs, so neither comfort nor convenience is sacrificed in this energy-saving endeavor. However, they consume up to sixty-six percent less energy, leading to major decreases in energy bills. By simply replacing the light bulbs in their homes, our constituents will be saving money in addition to energy.

Ms. HARMAN and Mr. UPTON have empowered Americans with an uncomplicated, affordable plan that offers only benefits to both individuals and our nation as a whole. As we look to renewable energy sources to minimize our foreign oil dependence and increase national security, each citizen can do his or her part both at home and at work with the nearly effortless action of changing a light bulb.

INTRODUCTORY STATEMENT FOR
THE TREATY ON CONVENTIONAL
ARMED FORCES IN EUROPE RES-
OLUTION

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, August 1, 2007

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Madam Speaker, as Chairman of the Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe, otherwise known as the Helsinki Commission, I rise to introduce a resolution which expresses the concern of this body regarding the Russian Federation's suspension of implementation of the Conventional Armed Forces in Europe Treaty (CFE).

Russia's declared suspension of the CFE on last July 14 is troubling to the countries that are parties to the treaty because it may lead to instability in the security situation in Europe.

NATO and the former Warsaw Pact countries ratified the CFE in 1990, under the auspices of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe, predecessor of the current Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE). The CFE has played a major role in European security in the post-Cold War era. The treaty set broad limits on key categories of conventional military equipment in Europe and mandated the destruction of excess weaponry. Under its provisions, over 60,000 pieces of combat material have been destroyed or removed from the arsenals of signatory states, under a rigorous, but mutually acceptable, transparency regime. In sum, it established parity, transparency, and stability among the conventional military forces and equipment in Europe.

The CFE was amended in 1999 to account for the dissolution of the former Soviet Union and the reality that several Warsaw Pact countries had become NATO members. However, NATO members have not yet ratified the amended treaty because Russia has failed to fulfill related commitments to withdraw its troops and weaponry from the territories of Moldova and Georgia, where they are stationed against the wishes of those governments.

Among other reasons, Russia justified its suspension of the CFE on the basis that the U.S. plans to construct missile defence facilities in Eastern Europe, NATO member states refuse to ratify the 1999 CFE "Adaptation Agreement," and what Moscow sees as further encroachment by NATO toward Russia's border.

Madam Speaker, this resolution is not intended to discount Russia's concerns in the area of national security. However, Russia's actions over the past few months, combined with this latest on the CFE, prompts the question: How much of Russia's decision to suspend the CFE was based on genuine security concerns, and how much of the decision was designed to project President Putin and his United Party as "tough on the West" in the face of upcoming parliamentary and presidential elections?

We believe that Russia's proposed "moratorium" on CFE compliance is a regrettable step that may needlessly increase tensions in Europe.

I am introducing this "sense of the House" resolution urging the Government of the Russian Federation to reconsider its intention to

suspend CFE implementation and to engage in dialogue with the other CFE signatory states to resolve outstanding problems and establish a foundation for the eventual implementation of the above-mentioned Adaptation Agreement to the CFE Treaty of 1999. In other words, we urge Russia to reconsider its decision and behave more responsibly.

I urge my colleagues to support this timely resolution as a demonstration of this body's concern for European security.

TRIBUTE TO KATHY CADO

HON. JIM McDERMOTT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, August 1, 2007

Mr. McDERMOTT. Madam Speaker, I rise to note, with great sadness, the passing of Kathy Cado, a Seattle activist of great compassion and uncompromising integrity. Kathy was a remarkable woman who lent her considerable organizing and fundraising skills to educational projects, environmental efforts, health care initiatives, community programs, and women's issues. She loved progressive politics, and brought to it verve uniquely hers.

Kathy was that rarest of activists—a person of strong views who nonetheless could establish rapport with almost anyone. She brought humor and kindness to all of her endeavors, and she strove always to better her community. She was creative and witty, energizing countless campaigns and ballot efforts. Kathy was a mentor, and an inspiration, to so many; she leaves a legacy of public engagement matched by few others.

Kathy was a kidney transplant patient who struggled for many years with the consequences of renal disease. Yet, she refused to allow her illness to diminish her activism or her commitment to others. Instead, she embraced a new arena of involvement, learning as much as she could about this challenging field of medicine, and working tirelessly to support more kidney disease research and patient service. And, perhaps most significantly, she was resolute that the excellent treatment she received must be available to all who need it, regardless of resources or circumstances.

Kathy Cado was a very special human being who enriched the lives of everyone fortunate enough to know her. She was, in the very best sense, a public citizen.

TRIBUTE TO MR. AND MRS. DON-
ALD AND ROSEMARY RAHABY
UPON THEIR 50TH WEDDING AN-
NIVERSARY

SPEECH OF

HON. THADDEUS G. McCOTTER

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 31, 2007

Mr. McCOTTER. Madam Speaker, today I rise to honor, acknowledge, and congratulate Mr. and Mrs. Donald and Rosemary Rahaby upon their 50th wedding anniversary.

As beloved area leaders, both Donald and Rosemary have dedicated their lives to serving our community. During his distinguished

career in the United States Army, Donald met Rosemary while stationed in the Detroit area. Soon after, they were engaged and later married at the Shrine of the Little Flower in Royal Oak, Michigan, on July 6, 1957. After leaving the military, Donald served as the executive vice-president of Masco Corporation before ascending to president of Flint & Walling, Incorporated, which are both Michigan-based manufacturing businesses. Today, Donald is the president of American Dryer, Incorporated, another manufacturing company based in Livonia, Michigan.

Throughout their marriage, Rosemary has been a devoted wife and homemaker. She serves as parishioner in Our Lady of Victory Church in Northville and graciously volunteers her time at Providence Hospital in Southfield, Michigan. Together, Donald and Rosemary are the loving parents of four children, David, Susan, Linda, and Daniel, and of 12 grandchildren, Danielle, Ashley, Paul, Patrick, Alexander, Michael, Brian, Emily, Meghan, Kaitlyn, Matthew, and Jennifer.

Madam Speaker, through their service, guidance, and generosity, Donald and Rosemary have played an important role in their family and community. They have led their children into successful marriages and careers, and helped them become well-respected members of their communities. Today, as we recognize their 50th wedding anniversary, I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating Mr. and Mrs. Donald and Rosemary Rahaby's eternal dedication to each other and selfless service to our community and our country.

TRIBUTE TO OFFICER JAMES
HOWES

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, August 1, 2007

Mr. FARR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a man who has committed his life to public service. Officer James Howes of the Santa Cruz Police Department in Santa Cruz, California will retire on September 6, 2007, after more than 26 years of personal sacrifice for his community and his country.

Officer Howes was born in Monterey, California and has since spent most of his life in the Monterey Bay area. A graduate of Watsonville High School, he later went on to study at Cabrillo Community College and the University of Phoenix, where he earned a degree in Business Management.

As a young man, Jim enlisted in the United States Marine Corps to defend our homeland. Stationed in Camp Pendleton, California and Okinawa, Japan, he attained the rank of Sergeant while proudly serving our nation.

Throughout his 26-year career at the Santa Cruz Police Department, Officer Howes has protected the public as a Patrol Officer, Field Training Officer, and as a DUI Enforcement Officer, where he helped keep dangerous drunk drivers off of our roads. For 8 years, Officer Howes has served as the Santa Cruz Police Department's Community Service Specialist. He has helped to empower his community and has coordinated the National Night Out, the Citizen's Police Academy, and Business and Neighborhood Watch Programs.

Serving as a member of law enforcement is never easy. Each time a police officer such as

Officer Howes reports to the scene, they can rarely know what to expect. The sacrifices they make are shared with their families, who have the same uncertainty every time these brave men and women leave for work. I would therefore like to recognize the sacrifice that Officer Howes' family has also made during his years of service. Officer Howes and his family have certainly made a significant contribution to the city of Santa Cruz, and I truly appreciate their efforts.

In addition to the outstanding work he has done as a member of law enforcement, Officer Howes regularly serves his community while off duty. He teaches vocational programs to local high school and college students, placing an emphasis on law enforcement and career guidance. Through his great efforts to create a better Santa Cruz, Officer Howes has garnered the admiration of his community, and in 2006, was chosen as a Community Hero by the Santa Cruz County Community Assessment Project through the United Way. The service and dedication that Officer Howes has shown throughout the course of his career further proves that he is a hero.

Madam Speaker, I take this opportunity to thank and congratulate Officer James Howes for his many years of commitment and service to the city of Santa Cruz and to the people who live there. Although he will retire soon, I am sure that his commitment to the city of Santa Cruz will last throughout his life.

IN HONOR OF MORGAN GRIER
MURPHY

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, August 1, 2007

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Morgan Grier Murphy, who from 1943 until his death last week at the age of 78, was a faithful servant, leader, and business innovator in Albany, GA.

I am proud to have been able to call Morgan a constituent during my 15 years in Congress. Through his leadership in the banking industry, he strengthened the economy of Dougherty County and Southwest Georgia. With his active involvement in the state and local Chambers of Commerce, his work with various environmental and conservation groups, as well as his commitment to One Albany, which addresses diversity issues within the community, Morgan managed to positively influence every major issue in the public sector. He opened up dialogue between formerly segregated parts of Albany, took difficult stances, and inspired others to make a difference.

Aside from his professional achievements, Morgan was widely known as a devoted husband, father, and grandfather. He was an avid sportsman who was passionate about hunting, fishing, and golfing.

A graduate of Albany High School and Brevard College in North Carolina, Morgan served his country in the United States Air Force during the Korean War. Following his time in the military, he returned to Albany where he began his career as a banker and lifelong public servant.

Morgan's death leaves a void among the Albany community. He had many passions, and

managed to make an impact on many organizations. I find it improbable that just one person will fill his shoes in the community.

So, on this the 31st day of July, 2007, I commend Morgan Grier Murphy for his commitment to helping Albany, GA, helping it live up to its name of the "Good Life" city. Morgan truly tried to make life better for everyone.

HONORING THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF DR. W. RON DEHAVEN

HON. COLLIN C. PETERSON

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, August 1, 2007

Mr. PETERSON of Minnesota. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the accomplishments and the retirement of Dr. W. Ron DeHaven of Crofton, MD. Dr. DeHaven has secured his legacy within the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) and with the public he served during his 28 years with Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS).

Dr. DeHaven will continue to shape the course of APHIS' work for some time to come due to the integrity and professionalism he brought to his role as APHIS administrator, and the initiatives begun under his leadership. In all of his activities, he repeatedly demonstrated a deep compassion for both animals and humans alike, including the thousands of employees who have served under his leadership.

His recent initiatives include, among others: the ongoing efforts to streamline the regulatory review for the imports of fruits and vegetables; creating electronic permitting systems for APHIS stakeholders; developing supervisory programs to keep the agency well-managed; and building international coordination and capacity for handling animal disease outbreaks.

In combination, Dr. DeHaven's many initiatives and his personal conviction for "doing the right thing" have set a high bar for those who follow him as Administrator. I want to thank Dr. DeHaven for his service to American agriculture and wish him well.

RECOVERING THE LEGACY OF THE UNDERGROUND RAILROAD

SPEECH OF

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 30, 2007

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 2707, Mr. KUCINICH's resolution to reauthorize the Underground Railroad Educational and Cultural Program. I praise the initiative contained in this resolution to point out the historical, cultural, and educational legacy behind the Underground Railroad. It is through that network of tunnels and secret hiding places that many African Americans escaped slavery. As a symbol of freedom, the Underground Railroad deserves greater recognition and appreciation; regrettably many of its artifacts and secrets remain hidden and lost.

I have long believed in and fought for more and better education of African American history. Well, an important part of that history is

contained in the struggle for freedom that characterized the slave experience. Some would have us believe that slaves passively accepted their captivity in the plantations in the South. The truth is there was an active resistance to slavery; which included periodic uprisings and constant efforts to escape. The full role and extent of the Underground Railroad has yet to be discovered and remains unknown. The legislation authorizes the Secretary of Education to sponsor studies and make grants for programs that promote knowledge of the Underground Railroad.

With the resources and technology available today, we owe it to the history of African Americans and the history of the United States to study, preserve, and make available to all the hidden secrets of the Underground Railroad. Secret routes and safehouses still remain unknown—secrets that may remain buried in our backyards.

The establishment of this facility would allow significant missing pieces in African American history to be properly studied and commemorated.

Through the passage of this legislation, the work of the National Park Service and its study of the phenomenon known as the Underground Railroad will be continued. Established by Congress in 1990, the National Park Service has made major progress in learning more about the secret routes and the processes used in escorting these fugitive slaves to freedom.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 1, IMPLEMENTING RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE 9/11 COMMISSION ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. JOE BARTON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 27, 2007

Mr. BARTON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise to speak about the emergency communications provisions in the H.R. 1 Conference Report.

September 11th and Hurricane Katrina were high-profile reminders that our first responders across the Nation cannot communicate with each other during an emergency.

Ensuring interoperable communications among 50,000 different public safety systems is no easy task. While the Department of Homeland Security has attempted to address this problem over the years, the agency spent \$3 billion without achieving any measurable improvements. Meanwhile, the Energy and Commerce Committee, recognizing that this issue requires strong federal leadership, ushered through the passage of the Digital Television Transition and Public Safety Act of 2005 last Congress. That legislation not only cleared 24 MHz of spectrum for nationwide, interoperable public safety communications, it also provided \$1 billion in grants for interoperable solutions, \$156 million for a national alert and tsunami warning system, and \$43.5 million for advanced 911 services.

The Energy and Commerce Committee also secured last Congress the creation of the Office of Emergency Communications so that there would be an entity of expertise within the Department of Homeland Security whose sole

focus and responsibility is solving the interoperability problem.

The legislation before us now has many shortcomings, including in the interoperability provisions, as I indicated in my conference statement. It is not a complete failure; however, as Title III at least establishes a targeted grant program specifically designed to achieve interoperability. It also places the experts in the Office of Emergency Communications in charge to try to ensure that the money will be spent wisely.

However, it is not surprising that this legislation is lacking. H.R. 1 was written behind closed doors. It skipped Committee and went straight to the Floor, where no amendments were allowed. I am deeply disappointed by this process, and the legislation itself.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 1,
IMPLEMENTING RECOMMENDATIONS
OF THE 9/11 COMMISSION
ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. DENNIS MOORE

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 31, 2007

Mr. MOORE of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend the House of Representatives for its approval of S. 1, legislation providing for the codification of important new lobbying and ethics rules. I also would like to take this opportunity to urge the Senate and President to promptly approve this important legislation.

I have been a longstanding supporter of efforts to make government more transparent, and to hold public officials and those who influence the legislative process accountable for their actions. Unfortunately, in recent years the influence of money in politics and a number of ethics scandals have tarnished the integrity of the Congress and led to increased public cynicism. There is a national crisis of confidence in our political system because of the influence of money in the legislative process, and the American people share a widely held belief that special interests, lobbyists, and the very wealthiest campaign contributors wield too much influence in government.

S. 1 is the logical continuation of the efforts that have already been undertaken in this Congress to provide greater transparency and to restore a sense of accountability to the Congress, and I am pleased that Congress is moving to establish new lobbying disclosure requirements and ethics enforcement mechanisms that will provide further additional deterrents to engaging in unethical behavior. I am also pleased that it would establish a new rule in the Senate regarding earmark transparency, specifically requiring that lists of earmarks, limited tax benefits, and limited tariff benefits included in bills, joint resolutions, or conference reports be made available on the Internet to the general public for at least 48 hours before consideration.

For several months I have advocated adding a similar requirement to the House rules so I am disappointed, however, that this requirement was not extended to the House of Representatives. In fact, on February 15, 2007, I introduced H. Res. 169, a House resolution that would bring the earmark disclosure

requirements of the House in line with those of S. 1, which would ensure that lists of earmarks, limited tax benefits, and limited tariff benefits included in House bills, joint resolutions, or conference reports be made available on a publicly accessible website at least 48 hours before consideration. I believe that this is a commonsense reform to the House rules that would provide American taxpayers with easily accessible information on congressional earmarks and bring an additional level of transparency and accountability to the process. I encourage my colleagues in the House to join me in this to make the earmarking process in the House as open and transparent as possible.

HONORING JONATHAN ADAM HILD

HON. C. A. DUTCH RUPPERSBERGER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, August 1, 2007

Mr. RUPPERSBERGER. Madam Speaker, I rise before you today to honor the memory of Jonathan Adam Hild, who was born on April 27, 1979 and passed away on May 29, 2007. Jonathan attended White Oak Elementary School in Parkville, Maryland and Timonium Elementary School in Timonium, Maryland. He attended Ridgely Middle School in Lutherville, Maryland before graduating from Dulaney High School in Timonium, Maryland. Jonathan graduated with an Associate Degree from Community College of Baltimore County in Catonsville, Maryland.

Jonathan was raised Catholic and received all of the sacraments from being baptized at birth to his confirmation in later years at the Church of the Immaculate Conception in Towson, Maryland. He attended Confraternity of Christian Doctrine at the Church of the Immaculate Conception for his First Communion, Penance and Confirmation classes and services.

Jonathan enjoyed building and fixing things from an early age. He was very mechanically savvy. As a boy he frequently rode his bike and enjoyed the outdoors. Jonathan liked sledding in the winter, and going to the beach in the summer. During his teen years and through his twenties he always wanted the best and loudest music system. In his bedroom he had a sound system that would be suitable for a night club and he had big speakers in the trunks of his cars. It often caused some brotherly confrontations with his brother Damon. He played softball during his elementary school years with Lutherville-Timonium Recreation Council. Jonathan also attended a summer day camp at Towson University during elementary school summer recess.

Jonathan's career included working at a printing and copy company, Cockeysville High School, Pierce's Plantation Restaurant, and as a self-employed licensed automobile wholesaler. Jonathan always loved cars and as an adult his favorite was BMW. He had several of them, but one red BMW 325i convertible was his favorite and for years he worked diligently to insure the car kept its brand new appearance inside and out. He enjoyed the BMW so much he drove it on a trip all the way down to southern Florida.

Jonathan loved spending time during the summer enjoying his jet skiing hobby. He

owned his own jet ski and would take it out often near his home with friends. Always thinking of others, Jonathan would bring the jet ski down to Ocean City on vacation to share with all of his family. Jonathan is survived by his father, John Hild, his mother, Linda Hild, and his brother, Damon Hild.

Madam Speaker, I ask that you join with me today to honor the memory of Mr. Jonathan Adam Hild. Jonathan was an exceptional young man from Maryland who will be sorely missed by his family and friends.

HONORING CALVIN COPELAND

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, August 1, 2007

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, today I rise to pay tribute to Calvin Copeland, the legendary owner of Harlem's Copeland's Restaurant and Reliable Catering. I rise because while the kitchen of this Harlem staple may have served its last meal this past Sunday, it will always be open in the hearts of many a beacon of hope and great cuisine that you could call home.

Calvin Copeland, was born in Smithfield, Virginia, one of eight children and grew up in Newport News, VA with relatives when both his parents died. If you ask him, Copeland still remembers the names and addresses of all the restaurants and establishments where he worked since his first job in Virginia kitchens at the age of 13. He moved to New York in the late 1940s, where he married Rita Copeland, an Irish immigrant, who was a waitress at a New Jersey restaurant where he worked.

When Copeland arrived in New York, he thought, like many recent arrivals and immigrants that dream in our fine city today, that the streets in New York were paved with gold. He took any job he could, from dishwasher to bus boy to cook. Yet no matter where Calvin he was employed, he studied and watched the chefs and tried to pick up techniques. He worked from 3 p.m. to 12 a.m., seven days a week, for six years, and very often, never saw the sun set; and

The first Copeland's restaurant opened in 1967 in a cubbyhole on Broadway, between 148th and 149th Streets, around the corner from his present location. It was a dream that only came about after his Aunt Alma told him to take the money he had saved from working in restaurant kitchens all across Manhattan and open up his own place. By 1980, Copeland's Restaurant and Reliable Catering was established at its current location at 547 West 145th Street, its southern style foods a testament to both to Calvin's proud Virginia roots and his adopted family uptown.

I submit into the record the following two articles from the Associated Press and the New York Times that captures a piece of the important role Copeland played in the city and the neighborhood. For over five decades, Calvin Copeland been committed to his roots and his community, enduring through the riots of the 1960's, the crack epidemic of 1980's, personal financial ruin and even fire. He always found away through his cooking to keep people like me, Muhammad Ali, Richard Pryor, Stevie Wonder, David Dinkin, Harry Belafonte, Dakota Staton, Natalie Cole, Bishop Tutu,

Sammy Davis, Jr. and Michael Jackson as frequent and enthusiastic customers.

How? As any great chef will tell you—its not just about the food. It's not just about the presentation. It's about the entire package.

HARLEM RESTAURANT SERVES ITS LAST FRIED CHICKEN BRUNCH

(By Karen Matthews)

NEW YORK.—A soul food restaurant that survived rioting and looting could not survive gentrification.

Copeland's held its last brunch Sunday, closing for good after 50 years and bringing an end to one of the greatest restaurant runs in Harlem history.

"It's a sad occasion," diner Gloria Jackson said. "You feel like a celebrity when you come here. They always cater to your every need."

Owner Calvin Copeland, who opened the place on 145th Street with \$850 in savings and saw it overcome hard times such as the riots of 1964, said the neighborhood's changing demographics no longer made it viable.

In recent years, middle-class black and white families have bought Harlem's handsome brownstones and fixed them up. They just didn't crave his savory fried chicken anymore.

"The transformation snuck up on me like a tornado," he said.

Copeland's denouncement brought out many elected officials including the dean of Harlem politicians, House Ways and Means Committee Chairman Charles Rangel. They all paid tribute to Copeland.

Rangel and others heaped praise on Copeland as high as their plates were piled with chicken, cornbread, potato salad and collard greens.

"You are more to us than a restaurateur," Rangel said. "You're a legend. You're hope. And you're inspiration."

The Rev. Calvin Butts, the influential pastor of the Abyssinian Baptist Church, thanked Copeland, 82, for his dedication and hard work and prayed "that this will be a new day for him, a day of relaxation and enjoyment for the rest of his years."

Proclamations were presented from Congress, from Gov. Eliot Spitzer, from the City Council and from the state Senate and Assembly.

"It's an institution," said Deputy Mayor Dennis Walcott, a 30-year patron of Copeland's. "It's important to come out and say thank you and let Mr. Copeland know that we appreciate all he's done for the community."

As Copeland thanked his customers Sunday, he left the door open for a Copeland's rebirth or for starting another restaurant somewhere else.

"With what you've showed me and how you feel about me, I think there's another chapter," he said. "Going home with no place to go and no purpose, I don't think that could work for me."

[From the New York Times, July 23, 2007]

HARLEM MAINSTAY SURVIVED RIOTS, BUT FALLS TO RENEWAL

(By Fernanda Santos)

Calvin Copeland was there when rioters burned and looted stores in 1964, when crack cocaine and AIDS tore families apart, when brownstones were for sale for \$50,000 and few outsiders dared move in. He endured fire and financial ruin, yet each time he picked up the pieces and prospered, as bold and resilient as the neighborhood around him.

If he could be the master of his fate, he would live out his days in Harlem. Mr. Copeland, 82, said yesterday, serving soul food from the restaurant he has owned for almost five decades, Copeland's, a relic of the past anchored in a place fast in transition.

Gentrification has pushed away many of the black families who used to patronize his business. "The white people who took their place don't like or don't care for the food I cook," he said. "The transformation snuck up on me like a tornado."

After falling behind on rent and bills a year ago, Mr. Copeland tried to hold on to his business, investing more than \$250,000 of his savings, he said. Finally, in May, he acquiesced to defeat.

Copeland's, at 547 West 145th Street, between Broadway and Amsterdam Avenue, where Harlem is known as Hamilton Heights, will hold its last gospel brunch at 1 p.m. on Sunday and then close its doors for good.

"I just can't do it anymore," Mr. Copeland said.

With its smoke-mirrored walls, L-shaped marble bar and carpet the color of honey, Copeland's is at once cozy and de mode, a place where men in polyester suits and women in hats dine alongside European tourists who come to Harlem to experience American black culture.

Yesterday, Fred Staton, 92, a saxophonist with the Harlem Blues and Jazz Band, which plays on Sundays at the restaurant, stopped by to wish Mr. Copeland well. A tour group from the Netherlands had brunch there. Others, however, walked out after learning that the restaurant was not offering its usual Sunday gospel choir. (Mr. Copeland said he was too busy preparing for the final brunch to schedule entertainment.)

"The food here is delicious, and it's so sad to hear they'll be gone," said Martha Marsh, who has lived in Harlem for 40 years and said she regularly eats at Copeland's.

"She's picky," added her husband, John Henry. "If she says she enjoys it, it's because the food is really good."

Mr. Copeland started the business in 1958 as a catering service, one of Harlem's first, in a modest storefront on Broadway north of 148th Street. He had but one worker, Gertrude Clark, who still works for him. Mr. Copeland, who is black, baked and decorated cakes; Ms. Clark, who is white and grew up on a farm in upstate New York, did whatever else was needed, which often included preparing Southern fare.

"I had never eaten collard greens in my life, and there I was making fried chicken and souse meat," said Ms. Clark, 73. She is now Copeland's banquet manager.

Mr. Copeland eventually rented the store next door, opened up a hole in the wall, expanded the kitchen and started serving breakfast and lunch, cafeteria style. It was similar to the one in operation today next to the restaurant on 145th Street, which opened for business in 1980.

In 1981, the restaurant burned to the ground and the insurance company went bankrupt before it reimbursed Mr. Copeland for the losses.

"I lost everything, except for the liquor," he said with a chuckle. "We had it in a separate room with concrete walls, and I guess the fire couldn't get through."

At the time, banks were not prone to lending money to restaurant owners, especially if the restaurant was in a place as volatile as Harlem, which had had two riots prior to the one in 1964, incited by the fatal shooting of a black teenage boy by a white police officer. But Mr. Copeland had many friends, and one of them helped get him approved for a small loan. The rest of the money came from Ms. Clark, who mortgaged an upstate property to help her boss.

"If that thing didn't go, she would have lost her property, she would have lost her job, she would have lost everything of value she had," Mr. Copeland said. "She had a lot of faith in me, and I delivered."

Copeland's became a destination for black families from as far as Philadelphia. Black

entertainers and other notables would stop by when in town. Desmond Tutu, the retired Anglican archbishop, ate there once, and so did Muhammad Ali and the comedian Richard Pryor, who threw money in the air when he left the restaurant so as to distract the crowd that had surrounded him, Mr. Copeland said. Natalie Cole is a regular. Michael Jackson came by once, but did not come in; one of the waiters took a plate of food to his vehicle, which was parked outside.

"I never paid attention to this stuff," Mr. Copeland said. "I was too busy cooking."

TRIBUTE TO COLONEL HOWARD CLARK

HON. PAUL W. HODES

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, August 1, 2007

Mr. HODES. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the dedicated military service of retired Colonel Howard Clark, of Enfield, New Hampshire. Colonel Clark served his country honorably in the U.S. Army for thirty years, including two courageous tours of duty in Vietnam. He was awarded the Purple Heart for his bravery overseas, and continued his distinguished career in the military, including assignments at the Pentagon and as a Brigade Commander at Fort Benning, Georgia. His career was recognized with the award of the Legion of Merit for sustained superior performance.

Colonel and Mrs. Howard Clark are also celebrating their 50th Wedding Anniversary this summer. Together, Colonel and Mrs. Clark have served as a model of commitment, sacrifice, and selfless service to our country. It is a privilege to represent these two distinguished individuals in the United States Congress.

HONORING THE LIFE OF LOS ANGELES POLICE OFFICER DAVID RODRIGUEZ

HON. BRAD SHERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, August 1, 2007

Mr. SHERMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and public service of Los Angeles City Police Officer David Rodriguez of the San Fernando Valley, whose achievements merit our recognition.

After graduating with honors from Van Nuys High School, he entered California State University Northridge, where he received a bachelor of arts in political science. During college he held several jobs, including an internship in my district office.

I was honored when I had the opportunity to recommend David for the Los Angeles Police Department Academy. I was proud when in 2003 he entered and graduated. David earned a reputation as an aggressive but by-the-book patrol officer and was recently promoted to the anti-gang unit. At 6 feet 2 and weighing 270 lbs he was a gentle and dedicated family man who took care of his ailing mother.

On July 29th, while on duty, Police Officer Rodriguez died during an automobile accident

when his patrol car skidded off the Ventura Freeway.

Words cannot express the sense of sadness we have for his family. David Rodriguez was a model first responder, whose bravery in death merits our admiration and respect.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. WAYNE T. GILCHREST

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, August 1, 2007

Mr. GILCHREST. Madam Speaker, please let the record show that had I been present for rollcall vote No. 763, I would have voted "aye."

CELEBRATING THE NEW YORK LATINO FILM FESTIVAL

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, August 1, 2007

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, today I rise to congratulate one of my constituents, Calixto Chinchilla, on the completion of what has quickly become a New York film tradition: the New York International Latino Film Festival.

This past Sunday, Chinchilla and a group of dedicated volunteers and sponsors closed out another fantastic 5 days of film screenings and panels for the eighth straight year. Chinchilla, then a young marketing executive, founded the festival in 1999 to showcase the talent of the growing Hispanic community, at home and abroad.

Its crazy to think that despite's New York's immense Latino talent, there has never been a consistent side-by-side display of Spanish-language and English language films from all of Latin America and the U.S. But there wasn't. So he pulled together an event that looked to shatter stereotypes that society had about Latinos with films that came from all over the Hispanic Diaspora and that challenged notions that both mainstream society and the Latino community had when it came to race, ethnicity and class. He sought to do this in an environment where Hollywood could meet independent cinema, so that fresh faces could be brought to the stage and longtime community voices could be heard.

The journey has not been perfect, yet Chinchilla, current co-Executive Director Elizabeth Gardner and enthusiastic mix of veterans and newbie volunteers always seem to pull it off bigger and better each time around. Although many of the films are shown downtown, Chinchilla has made a habit of bringing the festival to other parts of the city during and after the summer festival. The only local festival to feature a night exclusively dedicated to Dominicans, NYILFF this year will also treat my constituents in Washington Heights with a family day filled with games, activities and movies for children.

I submit into the record two articles from the New York Daily News that provide a little more information about this year's showcase. It's just another example of the great body of artistic talent that has called and will continue to call Northern Manhattan home.

[From the New York Daily News, July 25, 2007]

PICTURES OF LATINO LIFE (By Roberto Dominguez)

It took a few years for aspiring director Bruno Irizarry to get around to making a movie about the trouble many Latino actors have finding quality, nonstereotypical roles.

But Irizarry didn't hesitate when it came to submitting his feature-length film, "Shut Up and Do It!," to the one festival he knew would appreciate it.

The comedy is among the 80 or so features, shorts and documentaries at the New York International Latino Film Festival, now in its eighth year of showcasing new movies by or about Hispanics.

The festival was founded in 1999 by Calixto Chinchilla, at the time a Warner Bros. marketing employee, who felt the need to counteract the dearth of Latino themes and characters in mainstream movies.

"Shut Up and Do It!" is about a down-on-his-luck Latino actor compelled to make his own movie—and cast himself in it—because of a lack of good parts.

"To have my first film accepted into the festival has been a totally amazing experience," says Irizarry, 40, who directed the film together with Veronica Caicedo and also cast himself in a leading role—as a struggling actor.

"Most of the stuff in the movie has really happened to me as an actor trying to make it in New York," adds Irizarry.

"Like the characters, I was fed up and tired of casting directors seeing me for roles like 'Garbage Man No. 1.' But being in this festival has allowed me to start off my directing career with a bang, because it's so well-established."

That wasn't always the case. The first year's festival screened just a handful of movies at a community center in midtown that Chinchilla rented for a couple of nights.

It has since expanded into the largest event of its kind, with movies from both established and emerging filmmakers from across the U.S., Latin America and Spain. They're presented in several Manhattan locations, along with panel discussions, free outdoor screenings of classic movies (like "West Side Story") and themed evenings like Dominican Night—with the backing of corporate sponsors eager to tap into the buying power of the U.S. Latino market.

As the number of submissions from around the world has grown into the hundreds, so has the festival's reputation and prestige.

Director Alfredo De Villa, whose first feature, the low-budget drama "Washington Heights," was a festival darling five years ago, has seen his career grow as a result.

All three of his films have been screened at the fest over the years, and De Villa has gone on to work with several name actors, including Dominic Chianese of "The Sopranos" and Heather Graham, who star in De Villa's drama "Adrift in Manhattan."

"It's definitely like coming home," says De Villa of the festival. "As long as they'll have me, I'll keep bringing them movies."

In recent years, the festival has also become a springboard for bigger-budget projects—"El Cantante," produced by Jennifer Lopez and starring Marc Anthony as troubled salsa singer Hector Lavoe, is premiering at this year's fest before it hits theaters in August.

But according to Chinchilla, the true measure of the festival has been giving locals like Sonia Gonzalez the chance to display their work.

"They've always been very supportive of Latinos, but now it's become a really visible showcase for first-time filmmakers," says Gonzalez, whose documentary on New York

stickball, "Bragging Rights," premieres today.

"To have a feature [at the festival]," she adds, "makes you feel like a celebrity."

[From the New York Daily News, July 11, 2007]

CITY'S LATINO FILM FEST IS BACK: BETTER, STRONGER, FEISTIER (By Lewis Beale)

Talent-driven. That's the word on the eighth annual New York International Latino Film Festival, running for six days from July 24 to July 29 at venues around the city.

"This year is all about growth," says festival Executive Director Calixto Chinchilla. "Filmmakers are doing stronger stories. It's really about new talent; we have a lot of first-time filmmakers, and the stories are amazing."

Chinchilla points, for example, to "The Startup," in which some friends from Queens decide to move to Manhattan and eventually turn their Harlem brownstone into a youth hostel.

Describing the film as "like 'Swingers,'" Chinchilla notes how it shows that local Latino filmmakers "are raising the money, doing it by any means, and doing it well."

And it's not just New Yorkers who are an emerging film force. This year, the festival (nylatinooffilm.com) is showcasing movies from Puerto Rico, which is experiencing a cinematic rebirth.

"Puerto Rico has recently begun to offer tax incentives to anyone who shoots on the island," Chinchilla says, "so you are getting stronger filmmakers who are getting the kind of support they've never had before. Puerto Rico is really committed to its cinema now."

But wait. There's more. Much, much more among the 80 films, including full-length features, shorts and documentaries.

Premieres include "El Cantante," the highly anticipated Jennifer López-Marc Anthony bio of salsa singer Héctor Lavoe; "El Muerto," a film Chinchilla describes as "like 'The Crow,'" a comic book adaptation done well, and "Trade," a film about international sex traffickers and featuring Kevin Kline.

"Trade," says Chinchilla, is "real, raw, sad and was written by [José Rivera], the guy who wrote 'The Motorcycle Diaries.' It's not for everybody, but it's a powerful piece and doesn't pull any punches."

Chinchilla, who also co-founded the festival, is particularly proud of this year's edition because of the way it has expanded to include more than just theatrical presentations.

"This year is more event-driven," he says. "There are more activities. There are outdoor screenings. It's become more than just a sit-down-in-a-theater thing. This was not in the original plan, but we've grown with the community."

So those who want to watch the Sharks and the Jets go at it again can see "West Side Story" at a free outdoor screening at Riverbank State Park on Saturday the 28th.

Panel discussions range from subjects dealing with women in film to how to pitch a film project to top producers and directors.

A free family day sponsored by the Cartoon Network features games and outdoor 'toon screenings. Dominican night will highlight the premiere of "Yuniol," a film from the island nation about two young men from wildly different social classes who interact in interesting ways.

And there are numerous documentaries, shorts, a "Rewind" section with screenings of "Carlito's Way" and "Crossover Dreams," plus feature films from Mexico, Chile, Cuba

("El Benny," about orchestra leader Beny Moré), Spain and Brazil.

Add it all up and it comes to this, Chin-chilla says: "This is the most exciting roster we've ever had. It's diverse, focused, a solid slate of films."

COMMENDING CORPORAL JACOB L. KAREUS, UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS

HON. JOHN BOOZMAN

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, August 1, 2007

Mr. BOOZMAN. Madam Speaker, I wish to recognize and commend the courageous effort of Marine Corporal Jacob L. Kareus by entering into the RECORD the following letter:

MAY 29, 2007.

DEAR CONGRESSMAN BOOZMAN: I am writing to inform you of the performance of one of your constituents, Corporal Jacob L. Kareus, United States Marine Corps, son of John L. and Katherine D. Kareus of 7001 Ellsworth, Fort Smith, AR 72903.

Cpl Kareus recently returned from a seven-month deployment to Haditha, Iraq, with Company E of the Second Battalion, Third Marine Regiment. Upon our arrival, Haditha, a city of approximately 40,000 people on the Euphrates River in the restive Al Anbar Province, had a reputation as one of the most dangerous places in Iraq. Sunni insurgents frequently attacked Cpl Kareus' patrol with small arms fire, sniper fire, grenades and rocket and rifle vehicles. The insurgency maintained a close handle on the populace by an effective murder and intimidation campaign. Through their threatening and pressure of public officials and government workers, insurgents even controlled public works such as water and electricity. Only 15 Iraqi Police remained brave enough to work from the Marine forward operating base, while the recruitment of new policemen was nonexistent. Cpl Kareus and the rest of the Marines in Haditha were the tip of the spear in the Iraq counterinsurgency.

Through the heroic actions of your constituent, Cpl Kareus, the city of Haditha saw unprecedented progress. By his deployment's end, Haditha's police force numbered over 200 policemen and officers—many recruited from the people of Haditha—and they conducted operations independent of the Marines. Attacks on Iraqi Police and Marine patrols decreased from an average of 5–10 per day to a handful per month. Intelligence reports on insurgent activity flowed in regularly from the people. The populace, previously terrified to be associated with the Coalition, eagerly welcomed Marines and policemen into their homes for tea and conversation. The marketplace, or souk, bustled again, children played in the streets, and even teenage girls—previously prohibited by the insurgents from going to school—walked the streets five days per week in their school uniforms.

As his commander, I wanted to ensure you were aware of the hero from your great state of Arkansas. Cpl Kareus's selfless actions in Haditha honored his nation, his state, and his family. In an age where our ideals of courage and commitment and our resolve have waned, your constituent Cpl Kareus exemplifies the principles of self-sacrifice and dedication to a cause greater than himself.

Sincerely,

CAPTAIN M.W. TRACY,
Company Commander, Company E.

I wish to thank Captain Tracy for taking the time to write to me of the heroic service of

Corporal Jacob Kareus and the Marines of Echo Company. I applaud Corporal Kareus's service to America, as well as to the people of Haditha.

The motto for the 3rd Marines is Fortes Fortuna Juvat, which translates to Fortune Favors the Strong. It is our good fortune that we have the strength of character of men and women like Corporal Jacob Kareus serving to protect the freedom of all Americans.

IN HONOR OF THE INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION FOR DISABLED SAILING: DISABLED SAILING WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP, 2007

HON. JAMES T. WALSH

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, August 1, 2007

Mr. WALSH of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the International Association For Disabled Sailing World Championship scheduled to be hosted by the Rochester Yacht Club in Irondequoit, New York. The IFDS World Championship will consist of 170 competitors, including paralympic medalists and past world champions from twenty-eight different countries. These world class athletes will participate in a regatta on the waters of Lake Ontario.

A U.S.A. hosted, sanctioned World Championship, the IFDS World Championship will serve as a country qualifier for the 2008 Beijing Paralympic Games. It will also contribute locally by providing the net proceeds of the event to the Rochester Rehabilitation Center's Sportsnet Program, a collaboration of different clubs and organizations supporting the participation and inclusion of disabled individuals in a variety of sports.

The IFDS World Championship is an inspirational demonstration of strength and perseverance. Participation in this regatta will bring about further inclusion of the disabled in sports and encourage new generations of athletes to work hard in order to achieve what was once deemed impossible.

On behalf of the citizens of the 25th Congressional District of New York, I congratulate the organizers of the IFDS Disabled Sailing World Championship and the world class athletes involved. Best wishes for a successful competition.

IN HONOR OF JACKSON COUNTY'S 175TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. TIMOTHY WALBERG

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, August 1, 2007

Mr. WALBERG. Madam Speaker, let it be known, it is my special privilege to congratulate Jackson County on its 175th anniversary.

Jackson County was named after President Andrew Jackson and was formed on August 1, 1832. Growth in Jackson County took off, and the world's largest walled prison was built in 1838, followed by the Michigan Central Railroad in 1841 that sparked growth and led to the discovery and production of coal mining.

The diverse economy of Jackson County has grown the last 175 years to include: man-

ufacturing, industry, medical and educational institutions, small business, and agriculture.

Some of the most beautiful scenery in the Midwest is in Jackson County. Residents and visitors recognize it for its many golf courses, hundreds of lakes, festivals, Michigan International Speedway, and acres of city and county parks.

Jackson County families are at the core of the community, supporting strong schools, family values and superior educational opportunities for everyone. Hundreds of churches and synagogues attest to the moral fabric that makes up Jackson County.

The citizens of Jackson County are its greatest resource. They continue to work together to provide a pleasant place to work, live, play and raise a family.

In special tribute, therefore, this document is signed and dedicated to honor Jackson County on its 175th anniversary. May the members of the Jackson County Community continue to benefit from the many wonderful attributes the county offers and seek to individually contribute to its growth and prosperity.

RECOGNIZING THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF JOSE LOZANO

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, August 1, 2007

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Madam Speaker, on behalf of the U.S. Congress, it is an honor for me to rise today to recognize Jose Lozano for being honored with the American Public Gas Association Personal Achievement Award.

Mr. Lozano started working for Okaloosa Gas District in May of 1972 as a system engineer. He was later promoted to operations manager, then vice president of corporate services and subsequently senior vice president. Then in 2003, after dedicating over 30 years of service, he advanced to the top management position, chief executive officer for Okaloosa Gas District.

Over the years Lozano has seen remarkable growth of Okaloosa Gas District. When he first came to work, the District had around 10,000 customers. Today the District has well over 37,000 customers.

He has served on numerous committees and boards in regional, State and national associations such as American Gas Association, Southern Gas Association, Florida Natural Gas Association, and American Public Gas Association, APGA.

From the start, Jose was an active participant in the APGA serving on committees such as Government Relations, Operations and Safety, Regulatory, and the Transmission Integrity Task Force. He has been a valuable partner in enhancing the prestige of the APGA in both the region and the Nation, and has made substantial contributions towards the attainment of APGA goals. As the APGA has grown so has Jose's involvement with the organization. He currently serves on the board of directors for APGA and as the second vice-chairman of the APGA Research Foundation board of directors.

Madam Speaker, on behalf of the U.S. Congress, I am proud to recognize Jose Lozano for his exemplary career with the Okaloosa Gas District and wish him continued success.

ON THE INTRODUCTION OF VOLUNTARY STATE DISCOUNT PRESCRIPTION DRUG PLAN ACT OF 2007

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, August 1, 2007

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Madam Speaker, I am pleased to introduce the Voluntary State Discount Prescription Drug Plan Act of 2007—a completely voluntary, commonsense way to offer prescription drugs at affordable prices to millions of Americans currently struggling without prescription drug coverage.

This legislation would enable States, at their option, to create State discount prescription drug plans that extend Medicaid-negotiated rebates to citizens up to 300 percent of the poverty line and thereby provide discounts of roughly 40 percent to 50 million uninsured Americans—all at their local pharmacies, all at no cost to the Federal or State Government. Just like HMOs and insurance plans in the private sector, participating States would simply leverage their purchasing power to secure better prices on behalf of their citizens. In that regard, our bill would explicitly authorize recent prescription drug affordability initiatives in States like Maryland, Maine, and Vermont by removing barriers that have needlessly blocked these efforts in the past.

In 2005, my home State of Maryland passed a State discount prescription drug plan law with the near unanimous support of our General Assembly and our then Republican Governor Robert Ehrlich. Unfortunately, that plan was subsequently blocked by the Bush administration's Center for Medicare & Medicaid Services, CMS, for reasons that have never been credibly explained. As a result, the broad bipartisan will of our State has been thwarted and hundreds of thousands of Marylanders have been deprived needed access to affordable prescription drugs. In fact, according to an analysis of U.S. Census data conducted by Families USA and the Center for Policy Alternatives, an estimated half million Marylanders would become eligible for immediate prescription drug price relief under this legislation.

Since these plans are created at the State level and don't impose any cost on the Federal Government, we don't believe States should have to ask the Federal Government's permission in order to establish them. For that reason, our legislation makes clear that Maryland—and any other State that chooses—can set up a State discount prescription drug plan without petitioning CMS for a section 1115 waiver. Additionally, since these plans rely on government purchasing power rather than government outlays to produce price discounts, we remove CMS's somewhat contrived requirement that states expend some undefined amount of their own money as part of these plans. Beyond modest administrative costs, it simply isn't necessary.

Madam Speaker, this legislation represents a significant opportunity to empower States to deliver prescription drug affordability to millions of our citizens who don't currently have it—at no cost to the Federal Government. I hope Congress seizes this opportunity, and I invite my colleagues' support.

150TH ANNIVERSARY OF JACKSON, COUNTY, MINNESOTA

HON. TIMOTHY J. WALZ

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, August 1, 2007

Mr. WALZ of Minnesota. Madam Speaker, today I rise to commemorate the 150th anniversary of Jackson County, Minnesota.

The first settlers in what would become Jackson County were three brothers, William, George and Charles Wood. They established a trading post in the town of Springfield, which would later be renamed Jackson.

Jackson County was established on May 23rd, 1857, and named for Hon. Henry Jackson, the first merchant in St. Paul. The earliest years were not easy; Jackson, the county seat, was entirely deserted twice. But in 1865, settlers returned following the Civil War and put down their roots. Homes were built from native timber and prairie sod and a school house was constructed to serve the community.

From those early days, Jackson County has continued to grow. Today it is a leader in agriculture production and home to a beautiful courthouse and an historic state theatre.

I would like to congratulate the residents of Jackson County as they celebrate their 150th anniversary and wish them a bright future.

GOVERNMENT OF JAPAN TO APOLOGIZE

SPEECH OF

HON. DAVID WU

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 30, 2007

Mr. WU. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 121 to call on the Japanese government to formally and unequivocally acknowledge, apologize, and accept historical responsibility for its Imperial Army's coercion of young women, known as "comfort women," into sexual slavery during the World War II era.

I would first like to commend my distinguished colleague, Mr. HONDA, for introducing this important resolution and for his leadership and hard work on this critical matter. I further want to recognize the extraordinary friendship between Japan and the United States, a friendship which has spanned at least half a century.

This resolution is being considered today so that the truth about comfort women will remain in the history books.

An estimated 200,000 women were sexually exploited by the Japanese armed forces during Japan's military expansion and wartime occupation of Asia and the Pacific Islands from the 1930s through World War II. Although Koreans made up the majority of these euphemistically termed "comfort women," Chinese, Taiwanese, Filipino, Dutch, and Indonesian women also were victimized.

Comfort women were used for recreational sex by Japanese soldiers as a military strategy to increase the soldiers' efficiency. These women were mentally and physically dehumanized and subject to extreme sexual violence. Only a few hundred of these coura-

geous survivors of the World War II horror are still alive today.

Undoubtedly, today's Japan is a world leader and a valued ally to the United States. It is not the intent of Congress to punish Japan, but to help Japan acknowledge comfort women as part of its wartime history. An official, unambiguous apology from the Japanese government for its wartime atrocities is vital for historical record, emotional healing, and the education of future generations.

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

LEGALIZING INTERNET SPORTS GAMBLING IS DANGEROUS

HON. DONALD M. PAYNE

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, August 1, 2007

Mr. PAYNE. Madam Speaker, I would like to address the troubling issue of gambling on sports. In the past couple of weeks, basketball fans throughout the Nation have been shocked and saddened by revelations that a referee was gambling on games he officiated, and may have affected the outcomes of those games. A player or referee gambling on his own game is probably the single greatest betrayal that can be committed against fans of the sport.

The temptation to sports corruption does not come out of nowhere. It comes out of a culture where many people turn a blind eye to the fact that sports gambling is illegal in 49 States. And, as USA Today reported, athletes and officials become vulnerable when they develop a gambling problem on other sports, or even on other types of gambling.

I received a letter this week from the professional and collegiate sports associations—which I believe my colleague, the gentleman from New York (Mr. TOWNS), already placed in the RECORD—that reveals efforts in this Congress to legitimize sports gambling online. This is the last thing we need. We should help raise awareness of the threat that gambling poses to cherished American athletics. We should never put a stamp of approval on sports gambling.

Last year, I voted for the Unlawful Internet Gambling Enforcement Act of 2006, in part because our laws against sports gambling were being evaded and eroded by offshore gambling operators. Now the same companies we shooed out of the illegal marketplace in the U.S. last fall are back supporting H.R. 2046, which would license them to take bets, including sports bets, from Americans.

They have their slick arguments. They say the individual sports leagues can opt out—as if gambling on basketball could possibly be any more or less harmful than gambling on football or hockey or soccer. They say the bill will raise tax revenue. Well, the ways we can raise tax revenue are nearly infinite—that's no excuse for bad policy. They say legal gambling can be better monitored—but it was legal gambling that got Tom Donaghy deep in debt and drove him to turn to criminal gambling.

I agree with the sports associations and my colleague from New York (Mr. Towns) that the harms of sports gambling far outweigh any alleged benefits. I urge my colleagues to reject any efforts to legitimize sports gambling in this Nation.

TSA PROCUREMENT REFORM ACT
OF 2007**HON. CHRISTOPHER P. CARNEY**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, August 1, 2007

Mr. CARNEY. Madam Speaker, today I am introducing the "TSA Procurement Reform Act of 2007." This Act will increase contracting transparency at the Transportation Security Administration (TSA), open opportunities for small businesses, and eliminate wasteful and duplicative bureaucracy. This Act is necessary because TSA was exempted from the near-universal federal contracting system, the Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR), after the September 11th terrorist attacks.

It makes no sense that every other organization in the Department of Homeland Security—and the vast majority of the federal government—is governed by the Federal Acquisition Regulation, yet TSA plays by its own rules. Even while we are at war, the Department of Defense uses the FAR. This exemption for TSA creates an unnecessary layer of bureaucracy, decreases competition, and shuts out small businesses from too many contracting opportunities.

The legislation will repeal the TSA's exemption from federal contracting laws 180 days after enactment. The legislation is supported by a broad coalition from the oversight and business communities. Citizens Against Government Waste and the Professional Services Council—a trade association representing more than 220 federal contractors—both support the intent of this bill.

Years of contract mismanagement prove that there is no longer justification for the exemption. Over the last several years, the TSA has awarded contracts filled with wasteful spending, including a contract to Boeing that jumped from \$508 million to \$1.2 billion and a contract to Pearson Government Solutions that first cost \$104 million and skyrocketed to \$741 million in less than one year.

I look forward to working with my colleagues on both sides of the Capitol and both sides of the aisle to ensure that we strengthen our homeland security as much as possible and eliminate the many deficiencies at DHS and throughout the federal government impeding our Nation from being as safe as we would like.

CONGRATULATING MR. NED NORRIS, JR. ON HIS CHAIRMANSHIP OF THE TOHONO O'ODHAM NATION.

HON. RAÚL M. GRIJALVA

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, August 1, 2007

Mr. GRIJALVA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to take the opportunity to honor the new Chairman of the Tohono O'odham Nation.

An exceptional citizen of my community and the Tohono O'odham Nation, Chairman Ned Norris, Jr., is from the remote village of Fresnal Canyon, in the Baboquivari District. He was elected to a 4-year term as the Chairman of the Tohono O'odham Nation earlier this spring.

Chairman Norris is in his 32nd year of serving the Tohono O'odham Nation. In May of 2003, he was elected to serve as Vice Chairman of the Tohono O'odham Nation. Both before and after holding the position of Vice Chairman, he worked with the Tohono O'odham Gaming Enterprise. Chairman Norris served as Assistant Director of Marketing and Public Relations, Director of Marketing & Public Relations, Casino Manager and Director of Community Relations. The Enterprise operates both Desert Diamond Casino locations in Tucson and Golden Hagan Casino near Why, Arizona.

His service to his Tribe has been ongoing. In addition to holding the position of Chairman and Vice Chairman, he has also served as the Assistant Director of the Tribe's Children's Home; Court Advocate; Children's Court Judge; Court of Appeals Judge; Indian Child Welfare Specialist; Assistant Director of Tribal Social Services and Director of Tribal Government Operations. On February 1, 1993 Chairman Norris completed a 6 year Tohono O'odham Legislative Council appointment as (non-attorney) tribal Judge, the last 3 of those years as Chief Judge for the Judicial Branch.

Chairman Norris is also very involved in the surrounding community of Tucson, AZ. He is currently a board member of the Chicanos Por La Causa, Tucson Urban League, American Indian Association, Inc., and the University of Arizona—Arthritis Center Advisory Board; Tucson Metropolitan Education Commission; KUAT Communications Group-Advisory Board; and the Tucson Airport Authority-Advisory Board. Additionally he is a former board member of the Sunnyside Unified School District Governing Board; and a former Commissioner for the Tohono O'odham Nation's Tribal Employment Rights Office.

I would also like to acknowledge Isidro B. Lopez, as the new vice-chair of the Tohono O'odham Nation. His leadership and experience will serve Chairman Norris and the Nation well.

I would like to offer my congratulations to Ned Norris for his over three decades of service to his Nation and the people of Pima County and southern Arizona.

THE U.S.-CHINA COMPETITIVENESS
AGENDA OF 2007**HON. MARK STEVEN KIRK**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, August 1, 2007

Mr. KIRK. Madam Speaker, today I am proud to join my good friend, the gentleman from Washington (Mr. LARSEN), in unveiling the bipartisan U.S.-China Competitiveness Agenda of 2007. This agenda includes four legislative priorities to expand America's influence in China and increase American competitiveness in the global marketplace.

As co-chairs of the bipartisan House U.S.-China Working Group, we are working in Congress to elevate the sophistication of our debate on U.S.-China issues. The U.S.-China Competitiveness Agenda provides Congress with a constructive legislative package to expand U.S. engagement with China while supporting key domestic and foreign policy objectives.

Along with two other Working Group members, Congresswoman SUSAN DAVIS (D-Calif.)

and Congressman STEVE ISRAEL (D-N.Y.), we are introducing bipartisan legislation to expand America's diplomatic infrastructure in China, boost support to small- and medium-sized businesses exporting to the China market, increase funds for domestic Chinese language instruction and build new cooperative energy ties between the U.S. and China.

The U.S. has one embassy and four consulates in China, leaving more than 200 cities with a population greater than one million people with little to no American representation. Additionally, while 60 percent of U.S. exports go to the Asia-Pacific market, the U.S. contributes 100 times more dollars to Europe's Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development than to the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation Forum.

My legislation, the U.S.-China Diplomatic Expansion Act of 2007, authorizes the construction of a new consulate in Wuhan (population eight million) and 10 smaller diplomatic posts in cities with more than a million people. The bill triples funding for public diplomacy, boosts funding for a range of language, student and teacher exchange programs, increases funding for rule of law initiatives and more than triples the U.S. contribution to Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation.

If we are serious about intellectual property rights, consumer product safety and economic competitiveness, we need a diplomatic infrastructure in China that reflects those priorities. We can't send more food inspectors to China to ensure the safety of imports if we don't have a place to put them. We can't work on issues like the theft of American patents, environmental protection, human rights and labor standards if we don't fund rule-of-law initiatives. My legislation would expand the diplomatic infrastructure to accomplish these objectives.

I am proud to co-sponsor three other bipartisan bills in the U.S.-China Competitiveness Agenda, including Mr. LARSEN's U.S.-China Market Engagement and Export Promotion Act of 2007, Ms. DAVIS' U.S.-Chinese Language Engagement Act of 2007 and Mr. ISRAEL's U.S.-China Energy Cooperation Act of 2007.

Mr. LARSEN's bill would help states establish export promotion offices in China and create a new China Market Advocate program at U.S. Export Assistance Centers around the nation. The bill provides assistance to small businesses for China trade missions and authorizes grants for Chinese business education programs.

I strongly support the U.S.-China Market Engagement and Export Promotion Act because we need innovative programs that support our small business exports and arm them with the tools they need to succeed in China.

Roughly 200 million students are learning English in China today. By contrast, only about 50,000 primary and secondary school students study Chinese in America. Ms. DAVIS' bill increases Chinese cultural studies and language acquisition for elementary, high school and college-age students. Grants would be available to fund university joint venture programs, virtual cultural exchanges with Chinese schools and intensive summer language instruction programs.

We have more than just a trade deficit with China—we also have a knowledge deficit. That is why I strongly support the U.S.-Chinese Language Engagement Act. We need additional funding for domestic Chinese language programs, educational exchanges and

Chinese teacher exchanges to fix this knowledge imbalance.

Recently declared the world's top polluter, China's power consumption increased more than 15 percent in the first half of 2007 alone. Mr. ISRAEL's bill authorizes new grants to fund U.S.-China energy and climate change education programs, along with joint research and development of carbon capture, sequestration technology, improved energy efficiency, and renewable energy sources.

In my view, China's connections to unstable energy markets like Iran, Sudan and Venezuela could set a foreign policy collision course with the United States. I strongly support the U.S.-China Energy Cooperation Act. To protect our environment and avoid future conflict, we need creative programs to boost U.S.-China energy cooperation.

I want to thank my colleagues for their hard work on this bipartisan agenda. I urge my colleagues to cosponsor all four bills and move quickly to enact this legislation into law.

PUBLIC SAFETY TAX CUT ACT

HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, August 1, 2007

Mr. PAUL. Madam Speaker, I am pleased to introduce the Public Safety Tax Cut Act. This legislation will achieve two important public policy goals. First, it will effectively overturn a ruling of the Internal Revenue Service which has declared as taxable income the waiving of fees by local governments who provide service for public safety volunteers.

Many local governments use volunteer firefighters and auxiliary police either in place of, or as a supplement to, their public safety professionals. Often as an incentive to would-be volunteers, the local entities might waive all or a portion of the fees typically charged for city services such as the provision of drinking water, sewerage charges, or debris pick up. Local entities make these decisions for the purpose of encouraging folks to volunteer, and seldom do these benefits come anywhere near the level of a true compensation for the many hours of training and service required of the volunteers. This, of course, not even to mention the fact that these volunteers could very possibly be called into a situation where they may have to put their lives on the line.

Rather than encouraging this type of volunteerism, which is so crucial, particularly to America's rural communities, the IRS has decided that the provision of the benefits described above amount to taxable income. Not only does this adversely affect the financial position of the volunteer by foisting new taxes about him or her, it has in fact led local entities to stop providing these benefits, thus taking away a key tool they have used to recruit volunteers. That is why the IRS ruling in this instance has a substantial deleterious impact on the spirit of American volunteerism. How far could this go? For example, would consistent application mean that a local Salvation Army volunteer be taxed for the value of a complimentary ticket to that organization's annual county dinner? This is obviously bad policy.

This legislation would rectify this situation by specifically exempting these types of benefits from Federal taxation.

Next, this legislation would also provide paid professional police and fire officers with a \$1,000 per year tax credit. These professional public safety officers put their lives on the line each and every day, and I think we all agree that there is no way to properly compensate them for the fabulous services they provide. In America we have a tradition of local law enforcement and public safety provision. So, while it is not the role of our Federal Government to increase the salaries of these, it certainly is within our authority to increase their take-home pay by reducing the amount of money that we take from their pockets via Federal taxation, and that is something this bill specifically does as well.

President George Bush has called on Americans to volunteer their time and energy to enhancing public safety. Shouldn't Congress do its part by reducing taxes that discourage public safety volunteerism? Shouldn't Congress also show its appreciation to police officers and fire fighters by reducing their taxes? I believe the answer to both of these questions is a resounding "Yes" and therefore I am proud to introduce the Public Safety Tax Cut Act. I request that my fellow Members join in support of this key legislation.

IN MEMORY OF JANE GRAVES

HON. MIKE ROSS

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, August 1, 2007

Mr. ROSS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of my dear friend Jane Graves of Nashville, Arkansas, who passed away July 30, 2007, at the age of 58.

Jane Graves was a beacon of light and hope to all of those who knew her and were blessed to call her friend. As someone who was determined in her fight against cancer, Jane completed a victory lap less than two months ago at the American Cancer Society's Relay for Life, marking her fourth year as a cancer survivor. As encouragement for countless others fighting cancer, Jane used her talents through her writing to tell of her experiences. Through a series of inspirational articles, she literally changed and impacted the lives of numerous cancer survivors she never even had the opportunity to meet.

The victory lap during the Relay for Life was symbolic of more than Jane's bout with cancer, it was also representative of her selfless nature in life. She took great joy in helping others and worked tirelessly to create a strong sense of community in Nashville. As a co-founder and co-publisher of the Nashville Leader, she was a highly acclaimed and respected journalist who consistently kept the residents of Nashville informed with the latest news and community events. Her coverage earned her awards from the Arkansas Press Association, the National Newspaper Association and the National Federation of Press Women, among others.

During her 35 years in Nashville, Jane was determined to leave her mark not just as a journalist, but also as an activist. She helped found the annual Howard County Children's benefit golf tournament, she was a recipient of the Chamber of Commerce Woman of the Year Award, she was a board member of the Howard County Children's Center and she

served as a past President of the Nashville Rotary Club.

I send my deepest condolences to her husband, Louie Graves of Nashville; her daughter Julie Murphy of Little Rock; her mother Glenna Siddon and stepfather Rupert Mobbs of Greenbrier; her brother and sister-in-law Bill and Pam Siddon of Great Falls, Virginia; and several nieces and nephews. Jane Graves will be greatly missed in Nashville, Southwest Arkansas and throughout the state of Arkansas, and I will continue to keep her family in my thoughts and prayers.

STUDENT AND TEACHER SAFETY ACT

HON. MARK STEVEN KIRK

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, August 1, 2007

Mr. KIRK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Student and Teacher Safety Act. As a former teacher, I understand that when you enter the classroom you develop a sense of feeling safe and protected from the violence of the outside world. The classroom is meant to be a place where our children's minds can be developed and nurtured. Students should be focused on pursuing their dreams, not worrying about drugs and violence in the classroom.

Columbine High School, Colorado; in my own district at Hubbard Wood School in Winnetka; and most recently on the campus of Virginia Tech. Each of these schools and many others had their sense of safety shattered when they were subject to attack by an individual with a gun.

The Student and Teacher Safety Act will help promote a safer school environment by allowing full-time teachers the right to search a student or their property should they have reasonable suspicion that a weapon or illegal drugs have entered their classroom. The legislation simply codifies guidelines established by the U.S. Supreme Court in *New Jersey v. T.L.O.* (1985), which states that reasonable searches by school officials do not require a warrant signed by a judge if the search would reveal that the student violated the law or school rules and asks school districts to develop and implement a policy on school safety.

Teachers know their students. They know when a student is acting suspicious or that there is a problem. We must trust their instincts when they believe that their classroom is at risk. We also must protect these teachers from the risk of being punished or sued for following their instinct. Students have the right to a safe learning environment and teachers have the right to a safe workplace.

The Student and Teacher Safety Act passed the 109th Congress unopposed. The nation's largest teacher union, the National Education Association, supports the bill and believes "that a safe and effective learning climate is necessary for promoting educational excellence in public schools." As I have said before, if this bill helps one teacher stop one Columbine massacre, then Congress will have served the Nation well and protected its children.

POLICE SECURITY PROTECTION
ACT**HON. RON PAUL**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, August 1, 2007

Mr. PAUL. Madam Speaker, I am pleased to help America's law enforcement officers by introducing the Police Security Protection Act. This legislation provides police officers a tax credit for the purchase of armored vests.

Professional law enforcement officers put their lives on the line each and every day. Reducing the tax liability of law enforcement officers so they can afford armored vests is one of the best ways Congress can help and encourage these brave men and women. After all, an armored vest could literally make the difference between life or death for a police officer. I hope my colleagues will join me in helping our Nation's law enforcement officers by cosponsoring the Police Security Protection Act.

RECOGNIZING MR. TOM PRICE

HON. PATRICK J. TIBERI

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, August 1, 2007

Mr. TIBERI. Madam Speaker, It is my pleasure to recognize Tom Price for his induction to the Ohio Agricultural Hall of Fame.

Agriculture has always been a cornerstone of our State's way of life. As leaders in the community and the economy, farmers have provided invaluable service to Ohio since its inception. Therefore, those who contribute to the furtherance of agriculture in our State deserve to be placed among the ranks of our finest citizens. The Ohio Agriculture Hall of Fame is an institution that honors individuals who have made outstanding contributions through lifetimes of service and dedication to our State's agriculture industry.

Tom Price has dedicated his life to central Ohio's farming community. Throughout his career he has shared his experiences by teaching classes at The Ohio State University. He has served on numerous councils, continually being recognized by state leaders, county farm bureaus and local agriculture councils for his efforts. Finally, he has made a lasting impression on his community by improving relationships between Delaware County's rural and urban neighbors. In all areas of his career, Tom Price has worked hard to improve Ohio, sharing his expertise and developing partners in our community.

For his life of perseverant service to Ohio and consistent hard work toward the betterment of our fair State, I commend Tom Price upon his induction into the Ohio Agricultural Hall of Fame. He is truly deserving of this honor, one of the greatest our State's agricultural community can bestow.

I am pleased to commend him on this accomplishment.

EASTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY
HIDES THE TRUTH**HON. TED POE**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, August 1, 2007

Mr. POE. Madam Speaker, when they send their son or daughter off to college this fall, millions of parents will be counting on these educational institutions to take the reasonable steps to keep them safe. After reading an editorial, "Campus security is a crime", in USA Today, I'm afraid that trust may be misplaced.

Last December, Eastern Michigan University, EMU, student Laura Dickinson was raped and murdered in her own residence hall room. The campus police immediately opened a homicide investigation and called in the State police for help. Campus officials, however, issued a press release saying there was no reason to suspect foul play. In an especially unconscionable act, they even led the young woman's parents to believe she had died from a preexisting heart condition.

This cover-up was not exposed until more than 2 months later when police arrested another student, apparently unknown to the victim, and charged him in connection with the crimes. For more than 2 months, students were not told that a rapist and murderer was free amongst them lulling them into a false sense of security. When they found out they were outraged and I share their outrage. We owe America's college students and their families better.

As horrific as this is it isn't a new problem. After the chillingly similar rape and murder of Jeanne Clery at Lehigh University in 1986, Congress examined the scope of campus crime and found that cover-ups and violations of victims' rights were rampant. In response, the Crime Awareness and Campus Security Act of 1990 was adopted to require colleges to be up-front about their crime and respect victims' rights. In 1998 it was renamed the Jeanne Clery Act in memory of the student who had inspired it.

The problem, however, as USA Today points out, is that this law isn't being properly enforced. Even though there are more than 6,000 institutions of postsecondary education between 1994 and 2006 only 17 Clery Act specific reviews were conducted by the U.S. Department of Education, the agency charged with enforcing the Act. An even smaller number, three, were fined for violations.

This has led to widespread violations of the Act. Only about a third of all institutions properly comply with the Act according to a report issued by the U.S. Department of Justice in December of 2005. Simply put, their chances of getting caught are very small and the chances of being punished are virtually nonexistent. As a former judge, let me tell you, when there are no consequences for wrongdoing it won't stop.

In an investigation called for by Security On Campus, Inc., a national non-profit victims' rights group co-founded by Jeanne Clery's parents Connie and Howard, the Education Department found that EMU had not only violated the Clery Act by failing to warn their students about the murder, but also had an extensive history of violations. They should face significant fines for these violations and other schools need to know that they too will face a

penalty if they lie about campus violence. Once the U.S. Department of Education finally begins taking the Clery Act seriously colleges and universities will too.

That's just the way it is.

THE EDUCATION ASSESSMENT
TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS ACT**HON. MARK STEVEN KIRK**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, August 1, 2007

Mr. KIRK. Madam Speaker, today I am introducing a bill that will improve No Child Left Behind, NCLB, implementation while maintaining its important accountability provisions.

NCLB provides a crucial level of accountability for the results of study in the classroom. While this change was welcome on both sides of the aisle, this law did present some technical problems in its ground-breaking measurement and assessment of education achievement. I have worked closely with education specialists at the North Central Education Lab as well as local education professionals as part of my Education Advisory Board to gather data on current NCLB implementation. This work resulted in a White paper detailing areas of concern to my local schools, coupled with practical solutions to these problems.

Specifically, this Education Assessment Technical Corrections Act focuses on highly-qualified teacher requirements, determinations of Annual Yearly Progress, AYP, and NCLB sanctions. My legislation maintains NCLB's important accountability provisions while improving implementation of the law in these key areas.

Every child deserves an excellent teacher. Unfortunately, several schools are experiencing difficulty meeting the highly-qualified teacher requirements in certain hard-to-staff areas. Much like rural teachers were given relief through rules, teachers in "hard to staff" areas should be granted relief for the highly qualified teacher provision in the form of a two year extension. However, schools must demonstrate that they are working towards full compliance in order to qualify for the extension.

Secondly, I strongly support measuring AYP for students. However, current law does not measure individual student improvement, counts students under multiple sub-groups, and creates discrepancies between NCLB and the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act. My legislation ensures that students are compared for consecutive years rather than two different classes for the same school year, places equal weight on each student, and clarifies Individualized Education Program status under NCLB. All these changes still maintain accountability measures under NCLB but provide more accurate assessments.

Now that this landmark legislation has been in effect for a few years, it is important we revisit its effects. My bill takes into consideration important practical concerns of my local school boards while staying true to the goals of NCLB. I am proud that this bill reflects the advice and counsel of the North Central Education Lab, my Education Advisory Board and the National Education Association. I want to pay special thanks to Dr. Paul Kimmelman,

the chairman of our 10th Congressional district Education Advisory Board, who led much of this work.

Madam Speaker, the Education Assessment Technical Corrections Act represents a strong bipartisan consensus, backed by school management and unions, to make the job of defining success and education achievement more accurate and useful.

INTRODUCTION OF THE CONGRESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY AND ACCOUNTABILITY ACT

HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, August 1, 2007

Mr. PAUL. Madam Speaker, I rise to introduce the Congressional Responsibility and Accountability Act. This bill requires Congress to specifically authorize via legislation any proposed federal regulation that will impose costs on any individual of at least \$5,000, impose costs on a business or other private organization of at least \$25,000, or impose aggregate costs on the American people of at least \$250,000, or cause any American to lose his or her job.

According to some legal experts, at least three-quarters of all federal laws consist of regulations promulgated by federal agencies without the consent, or even the review of, Congress. Allowing unelected, and thus unaccountable, executive agencies to make law undermines democracy. Law-making by executive agencies also violates the intent of the drafters of the Constitution to separate legislative and executive powers. The drafters of the Constitution correctly viewed separation of powers as a cornerstone of republican government and a key to protecting individual liberty from excessive and arbitrary government power.

Congress's delegation of lawmaking authority to unelected bureaucrats has created a system that seems to owe more to the writings of Franz Kafka than to the writings of James Madison. The volume of regulations promulgated by federal agencies and the constant introduction of new rules makes it impossible for most Americans to know with any certainty the federal laws, regulations, and rules they are required to obey. Thus, almost all Americans live with the danger that they may be hauled before a federal agency for an infraction they have no reasonable way of knowing is against the law.

While it is easy for Members of Congress to complain about out of control federal bureaucrats, it was Congress that gave these agencies the ability to create laws. Since Congress created the problem of lawmaking by regulatory agencies, it is up to Congress to fix the problem and make certain that all federal laws are passed by the people's elected representatives. Therefore, Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to cosponsor the Congressional Responsibility and Accountability Act.

GOVERNMENT OF JAPAN SHOULD APOLOGIZE

SPEECH OF

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 30, 2007

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H. Res. 121, of which I am a cosponsor, which expresses the sense of the House of Representatives that the Government of Japan should formally acknowledge, apologize, and accept historical responsibility in a clear and unequivocal manner for its Imperial Armed Force's coercion of young women into sexual slavery, known to the world as "comfort women," during its colonial and wartime occupation of Asia and the Pacific Islands from the 1930s through the duration of World War II.

As a co-chair of the Human Trafficking Caucus, I am all too familiar with the terrible problem of sexual slavery. H. Res. 121 reminds us that women throughout history have faced this type of inhumane treatment. According to the resolution, some textbooks used in Japanese schools downplay this tragedy, and public and private officials wish to rescind a 1993 statement by Chief Cabinet Secretary Yohei Kono, which expressed the Government of Japan's sincere apologies and remorse for the ordeal faced by the "comfort women." I believe that if we are going to successfully combat this problem worldwide, nations must come to terms with their pasts so that such practices do not happen again in the future.

Human trafficking is a \$10 billion worldwide industry and one of the largest organized crime rings in history. According to the State Department, approximately 800,000 people are trafficked across international borders for labor and commercial sex purposes each year; the number is in the millions when trafficking within borders is counted. While we have a lot of work ahead of us to end human trafficking, I believe that through our collective efforts, we can make a difference.

I want to commend Representative HONDA for sponsoring this legislation and for his tireless efforts to get this bill to the floor today. I am committed to ending modern-day slavery, and I urge all of my colleagues to support this legislation.

THE U.S.-CHINA LANGUAGE ENGAGEMENT ACT OF 2007

HON. SUSAN A. DAVIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, August 1, 2007

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce the U.S.-China Language Engagement Act of 2007—a bill to close the knowledge deficit when it comes to our relationship with China.

It is little news to anyone that China is on the rise. With a population of over 1.3 billion people and the second largest economy in the world when measured by domestic purchasing power parity, China is poised to become a world power, economically, diplomatically, and militarily.

Yet at a time when China's influence on the world stage is increasing, our national under-

standing of the "Middle Kingdom" has not kept pace.

While an estimated 200 million Chinese school children are studying our language and culture, less than 50,000 American elementary and secondary students are studying Chinese.

The goal of the U.S.-China Language Engagement Act is to provide our schools with the resources they need to offer Chinese language instruction and cultural studies classes.

This important legislation would instruct the Department of Education to offer competitive grants to Local Education Agencies (LEAs) to develop and implement innovative Chinese language and cultural studies programs.

LEAs, in collaboration with institutions of higher education, may use grant funds to carry out intensive summer Chinese language instruction, link bilingual Chinese and English speakers with students and conduct virtual cultural exchanges with educational institutions in China. This bill is part of a broader legislative package seeking to improve our competitive edge and relationship with China.

Some may view China's resurgence as a threat. But today, Madam Speaker, I ask you to turn China's rise into an opportunity for United States citizens.

Through careful diplomacy, I believe China can become not only a competitor but also a partner. But we cannot have this dialogue if we cannot understand the Chinese people.

This is why I come before you today: to ask for your help in ensuring that the lines of communication between the United States and China stay open. Please support the U.S.-China Language Engagement Act and help bridge the language barrier and cross the cultural gap between future generations of Americans and the Chinese.

TRIBUTE TO WILLIAM ERNEST "BILL" WALSH

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, August 1, 2007

Mr. LANTOS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of William Ernest "Bill" Walsh. Nicknamed "The Genius", Walsh revolutionized professional football and became a legend in the San Francisco Bay Area.

Recognized as one of the greatest football coaches of all time, he earned a host of awards throughout his career, culminating in his enshrinement in the Pro Football Hall of Fame.

After moving to the Bay Area as a teen, Walsh started his coaching career at Washington High School in Fremont. He quickly moved up the ranks, doing stints as an assistant coach at both the University of California at Berkeley and Stanford University before beginning his professional career with the Oakland Raiders in 1966. The next ten years saw him move on to the Cincinnati Bengals and the San Diego Chargers, until 1977 when Walsh returned to the Bay Area, this time as head coach at Stanford.

Two years later, Walsh received the appointment that was to place him in the top ranks of American professional football coaches—moving up the Peninsula to become head coach of the San Francisco 49ers.

Madam Speaker, when Bill Walsh joined the 49ers, their prospects seemed grim. Their

record from the previous season was 2–14; a record that was repeated in Walsh's first season. It was only through his calm determination and intelligence for which he became famous that the 49ers returned to greatness.

Two years later, in 1981, the 49ers won their first Super Bowl, and "The Genius" earned his nickname as an innovative strategist, expert motivator and brilliant coach. His revolutionary tactics were soon known throughout the football world as the "West Coast Offense." Walsh's next seven years with the 49ers saw two more Super Bowl victories, and two legendary Hall of Fame quarterbacks—Joe Montana and Steve Young—who thrived under their brilliant coach's tutelage.

Resigning from his position with the 49ers following his Super Bowl win in early 1989, Walsh moved on to become a broadcaster at NBC. Later he assumed various roles with Stanford's football team and the 49ers. Even after being diagnosed with leukemia in 2004, he worked through 2005 as interim athletic director at Stanford. He wrote two bestselling books, was a motivational speaker, and taught classes at Stanford's business school. No matter what he did, Bill Walsh was always known for his exceptional intelligence and professionalism.

Madam Speaker, Bill Walsh earned respect where ever he went through his intelligent approach to the game and his demeanor, both on and off the field. I am honored to pay tribute to this great professional football icon and a proud son of the Bay Area. With his passing earlier this week, he leaves behind a lasting legacy of successful protégés and reverent fans. I invite my colleagues today, to join me in honoring the life and the legacy of Bill Walsh—coach, leader, teacher and an outstanding American.

AGRICULTURE, RURAL DEVELOPMENT, FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2008

SPEECH OF

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 31, 2007

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 3161) making appropriations for Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies programs for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2008, and for other purposes:

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Chairman, I rise in support of the passage of H.R. 3161, The 2008 Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration Appropriations bill. Chairwoman ROSA DELAURO has done excellent work to create fiscally and morally responsible legislation that reinvests in rural America, protects public health, improves nutritional standards for all Americans, all while transforming our future energy and conservation goals.

This legislation represents a new direction in the way we invest in our families and our farmers. It is a direction towards improving the health and well-being of all communities and

to implement policies which put middle and working-class families center-stage. In rural America, H.R. 3161 provides significant increases to grants and loans for critical community facilities, affordable loans for low and moderate-income families in rural areas, with no increase in fees, and substantially increases affordable loans and grants for farm worker housing. There is also a large increase in funding for affordable home loans in rural areas that will ultimately double the number of homeowners from the 2002 level, by 2010.

In the areas of public health and nutrition, H.R. 3161 offers more than a billion dollars that will provide Americans with jobs in the food safety and inspection industry, improves food and drug safety regulations, and protects programs that feed women, infants, children, and the elderly. This bill increases funds for such programs as the Expanded Food and Nutrition Education, Fresh Fruit and Vegetable, and Simplified Summer Food programs that provide nutritious foods to children in low-income families, as well as specialty crop grants to encourage more fruit and vegetable consumption. Most importantly, in the Food Stamp Program, this bill not only increases funding to accommodate growing participation, but it excludes special pay for military personnel in eligibility determination, and rejects the administration's proposal to restrict eligibility for food stamps that will exclude needy families who are receiving certain other services.

The Agriculture Committee has also taken into consideration our need for renewable energy and conservation by allocating over \$2 billion in funding for renewable energy loans and grants to businesses to grow our economy, create new jobs, lower energy prices, and reduce global warming. Furthermore, H.R. 3161 provides resources for research, aid to farmers and ranchers, and loans to businesses. The bill also restores many programs the President would have cut or eliminated, including the Grazing Lands Conservation Initiative, Resource Conservation and Development, and the watershed programs.

Mr. Chairman, I am extremely proud of my colleagues for their efforts in maintaining the lifeline of all Americans—our farms, nutrition, and energy policies.

AGRICULTURE, RURAL DEVELOPMENT, FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2008

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 31, 2007

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 3161) making appropriations for Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies programs for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2008, and for other purposes:

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Chairman, I rise today in support of H.R. 3161, which strengthens our rural communities, while making sure that the American people

have adequate, safe and nutritious food to eat. Let me commend the Chairwoman of the Subcommittee, Ms. DELAURO, for her exceptional leadership in crafting such extraordinary legislation to combat hunger, obesity and malnutrition in our nation and around the world. That is why I strongly support this bill.

Mr. Chairman, H.R. 3161 allows us to reinvest in the often forgotten but most vitally important rural areas of America. H.R. 3161 is designed to sustain the vitality of rural America, as well as protecting public health and food safety, improving nutrition and healthy eating, and promoting renewable energy and conservation in America.

Mr. Chairman, more than 3 million households in the rural America continue to have inadequate or no water or sewer service at all. H.R. 3161 is the solution to this disparity in that it provides \$500 million for rural water and waste disposal grants, a 14 percent increase over 2007, and \$1 billion for water and waste direct loans for the fiscal year.

Mr. Chairman, recent food scares—about peanut butter and lettuce—have made Americans nervous about where their food originates. H.R. 3161 tackles these concerns and addresses the importance of food safety. This bill fully funds the Food Safety and Inspection Service at USDA, shifts funds to fill vacancies in federal meat inspector positions, invests in research, and funds a transformation of FDA food safety regulations. It also prohibits imported poultry products from China, and sets a timeline for USDA to implement critical country of origin labeling for our meat supply after 6 years of Republican delays.

In addition, H.R. 3161 provides a special supplemental nutritional program for women, infants, and children other known as (WIC). This provision is so essential because it affords many women, especially women of color in lower income brackets, the opportunity to care for themselves and their newborns after birth. Without programs such as WIC, many mothers would not be able to maintain a healthy lifestyle during pregnancies and after childbirth. Because of WIC, mothers can afford their nutritional foods they need to sustain their pregnancies and avoid miscarriages, stillbirths and defects caused by malnourishment during pregnancy. H.R. 3161 invests \$233.4 million (4 percent) more than the President to feed more than 8 million pregnant women, mothers and children next year.

Mr. Chairman, hunger is not a problem facing not only the international community faces, but it is also a problem in our own country. Many women, children, and the elderly should not wake and go to bed hungry in our great Nation, but tragically this happens all too often in the cities and villages and small towns of our great country.

The commodity supplemental food program provides \$500,000 monthly in the year 2007. H.R. 3161 increases funding in this area to allow people in five additional states to participate in the program and expand those getting food in states already in the program. In addition, under the Food Stamp Benefit provision, H.R. 3161 protects the most vulnerable and helpless; families of soldiers in combat. Like the recently passed Farm bill, the measure ensures that the families of soldiers in combat are not penalized under the Food Stamp program. It also rejects the Administration's proposal to restrict eligibility for food stamps by excluding needy families who are receiving certain other services.

Mr. Chairman, let us remember that 1 in 3 American adults is overweight or obese and more than 9 million children are struggling with obesity. H.R. 3161 aims to improve the eating habits of Americans, particularly our children through programs that teach children about healthy eating. H.R. 3161 increases funding for nutrition programs, including the Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program, which broadens Fresh Fruit and Vegetable and Simplified Summer Food programs to all states to provide nutritious foods to children in low-income families, and specialty crop grants to encourage more fruit and vegetable consumption.

Obesity is associated with 35 major diseases including chronic and life-threatening conditions such as cancer, diabetes and heart disease. It is important to keep our Nation healthy by providing access to high consumption of vegetables and fruits to the future of our great country, our children. By supporting H.R. 3161 we assure a healthy consumption of nutritional foods for children whose only crime is that their families are poor.

Mr. Chairman, H.R. 3161 is essential because it addresses one of the most staggering causes of death in children: malnutrition. Malnutrition remains a significant problem worldwide, particularly among children. According to the United Nations World Food Programme, severe acute malnutrition affects an estimated 20 million children under the age of five worldwide and is responsible in whole or in part for more than half of all deaths of children. Malnutrition kills approximately one million children each year, or an average of one every thirty seconds.

These statistics are absolutely frightening and simply intolerable. They are also avoidable. The World Food Programme estimates that, when implemented on a large scale and combined with hospital treatment for children who suffer complications, a community-based approach to combating malnutrition could save the lives of hundreds of thousands of children each year.

Mr. Chairman, H.R. 3161 recognizes the importance of helping our neighbors in combating the hunger. H.R. 3161 provides funding for the Foreign Agricultural Service in the amount of \$159,136,000 and transfers of \$4,985,000, for a total salaries and expenses level of \$164,121,000, an increase of \$2,817,000 above the amount available for fiscal year 2007 and a decrease of \$9,073,000 below the budget request.

In addition, H.R. 3161 permits the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) to use up to 25 percent of the funds appropriated for local or regional purchase of food to assist people threatened by a food security crisis.

Mr. Chairman, if it were not for grants such as the McGovern-Dole International Food for Education and Child Nutrition Program many foreigners would have no other choice than to leave their native country in pursuit of a better life. In my very own office, I have a future international human rights lawyer by the name of Onyinyechi Abigail Nwaohuocha, who recently traveled to Cambodia and witnessed firsthand the devastation caused by food shortage and underdeveloped agricultural programs.

Mr. Chairman, H.R. 3161 reminds us that it is important for the United States to foster a relationship with other parts of the world, so

that citizens of developing countries can also have basic rights such as sufficient amounts of food. The McGovern-Dole International Food program is funded in this bill in the amount of \$100,000,000, an increase of \$1,000,000 above the amount available for fiscal year 2007, and the same as the budget request.

The George McGovern-Robert Dole International Food for Education and Child Nutrition Program fights child hunger and poverty by supporting school feeding operations, which provide nutritious meals to children in schools. This simple formula has been proven to be a success. Because of such programs, students are better able to concentrate and learn more quickly on a full stomach. Enrollment and attendance rates have skyrocketed as a result of school feeding programs, particularly among girls who are too often denied an education.

Mr. Chairman, there are 110 million school-aged children suffering from hunger every day, and they are counting on America's leadership and generosity to provide them with an opportunity to break the cycle of poverty. This bill provides that leadership and generosity and it is for this reason that I urge my colleagues to join me in voting for its passage by an overwhelming margin.

ADDRESSES OF SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES NANCY PELOSI AND SPEAKER OF KNESSET AND ACTING PRESIDENT OF ISRAEL DALIA ITZIK AT U.S.-ISRAEL FRIENDSHIP EVENT IN JERUSALEM

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, August 1, 2007

Mr. LANTOS. Madam Speaker, earlier this year in Jerusalem in the Israeli Knesset, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, was honored at one of the most moving and significant ceremonies that I have witnessed as a Member of the United States Congress.

The distinguished Speaker of the House, our colleague NANCY PELOSI of California, and the congressional delegation with her as well as other Members of Congress were guests at a state dinner held in the Chagall State Hall of the Knesset in Jerusalem, the capital of Israel. I was honored to join five of our colleagues in the bipartisan delegation that accompanied our Speaker on this very special occasion.

The hall, as you know, Madam Speaker, is dominated by the magnificent tapestry designed by Jewish artist Marc Chagall. It is hard not to be touched emotionally to see in Chagall's tapestry the symbols of Jewish identity and Israeli statehood—Moses holding the tablets of the Ten Commandments, David wearing his crown and dancing as he plays the harp, the seven-branched candelabrum which was the symbol of the Temple of Solomon and today is the symbol of the modern State of Israel.

On this very special occasion Speaker PELOSI was welcomed to Israel by the Speaker of the Knesset Dalia Itzik, who at the time was also the Acting President of Israel. Following her warm and friendly welcoming remarks, Speaker PELOSI gave a moving state-

ment on the strong and enduring ties that have linked the United States of America and the State of Israel since the day Israel was founded in 1948.

Madam Speaker, I ask that the welcoming address of Speaker Itzik and the outstanding address in response of Speaker PELOSI be placed in the RECORD, and I strongly urge my colleagues in the Congress to give these statements the thoughtful attention they deserve as important documents on the warm friendship between our two nations.

ADDRESS OF SPEAKER OF KNESSET AND ACTING PRESIDENT OF ISRAEL DALIA ITZIK

Madam Speaker of the House of Representatives of the United States, Ms. Nancy Pelosi; Members of the Delegation from the House of Representatives, Welcome to our House.

Madam Speaker, More than two hundred years have passed, and the impossible has now become possible. The United States House of Representatives elected a woman Speaker. It is true that there have been precedents in American democracy where women have held very high positions, but this is the first time that the House of Representatives has elected a woman to serve as Speaker. And it was you who achieved this high honor. (It took you over 230 years; it took us 58 years.)

Ms. Pelosi and members of the distinguished delegation, in less than 24 hours, tomorrow evening, the Jewish People will be enveloped in the sanctity of the Passover Festival. Millions of Jews—in Washington and in Jerusalem, in Tashkent and in Buenos Aires, in Sydney and in Budapest—will sit down together at their family Seder table. The Passover Festival is for us Jews our first and most ancient festival in our history, we have been remembering and celebrating this festival for some three thousand two hundred years. It was then that we became a nation. We went out from slavery to freedom. This was a formative event in our lives.

Another name for the Festival of Passover is the Festival of Freedom. Freedom and liberty form the chain that links us, the invisible chain that crosses continents and oceans from Jerusalem to Washington and back.

Madam Speaker, after two hundred and thirty years of independence, liberty is for you a dream that has already been realized. For us, after thousands of years, the dream is still being realized. We are an ancient People, whose roots are in the Bible and whose values are those of the Biblical prophets, while you are, so to speak, a relatively young nation and country. But we share the dream of liberty that ties us together with bonds of love.

We Israelis love the United States of America, not only because of your economic, military and political support and help. We love you because of that shared dream of liberty and the desire for peace. The Bible tells us "Seek peace and pursue it" (Psalms 34, 15), and you are our loyal partners in that unceasing search that has not yet ended.

Madam Speaker, the Members of the Knesset have just begun their Spring Recess. Nevertheless, many of them are here with us. Because of the Recess, we shall not be able to present to you, during your current visit, a day of normal parliamentary routine.

The Knesset is the location where decisions concerning the nation are taken. The Knesset reflects the unique nature of Israeli society in all its diversity. This is a society where Jews, Arabs, Druze and Circassians, veteran Israelis and new immigrants all live together. There are serious disputes between us.

There are disputes, and—although it may be difficult to believe—also points of agreement! And all this happens with complete

freedom of expression for all. The one thing that unites all the members of this multi-party and divided House is the hope for peace. In the State of Israel lives a nation that yearns for peace, wants peace and is ready to pay a heavy price for peace. At the same time, we remain aware of every danger. Israel does not have the luxury of allowing itself weakness, even for one moment.

Madam Speaker, you have come to a tiny country. We have only seven million citizens. A tiny country that has not known a single day of quiet since its establishment. A tiny country that appreciates, perhaps more than any other country in the world, the efforts of your country to put an end to terrorism.

You have come to a country that observes with both pain and great hope, the efforts of the great United States of America to eradicate the terrorist bases in Iraq, in Afghanistan and in other places.

We, who wake up each morning fearing for our children, we know how difficult it is for you in this just war, and from here, from Jerusalem, we send you our heartfelt blessing for your success and for the success of the free world.

When I met you in Washington a month ago, I invited you to come to visit Israel, and I am glad that you accepted my invitation. During that visit I invited Karnit Goldwasser to join me at our meeting. I saw how moved you were listening to Karnit. I saw how moved you were by the story of our kidnapped soldiers, Gilad Shalit, Eldad Regev, and Ehud Goldwasser.

I am proud to be the daughter of a nation whose ethical code sanctifies the principle that every soldier is everyone's soldier. Every missing soldier is greatly missed by us all and every prisoner of war is a prisoner who it is our duty to bring back home.

The commitment of the Bush administration to the Peace Process in our region is very important and precious for us. As also is the President's deep friendship for Israel. The intensive activity by the Secretary of State, in the spirit of President Bush's policy, is most important, and is part of an ongoing effort by generations of American Administrations.

This is an opportunity to say a big thank you, through you, to Israel's friends in Congress, and to express our appreciation to you and to them for all their many efforts on behalf of Israel and on behalf of regional stability. We are pleased to discover anew each time, that the support for Israel rises above any inter-party dispute in the United States.

Madam Speaker, distinguished Representatives, during your visit here in Israel you will have the opportunity to see personally the exceptional achievements of Israel during its fifty-eight years. Despite no less than ten wars, between which we experienced many horrifying acts of terrorism, we have set up a model country, with a flourishing modern economy, with ground-breaking research centers, dynamic culture and advanced education, welfare and health systems.

Madam Speaker, You bring here to our region a refreshing breeze of hope. Your upcoming visit to Damascus arouses, naturally, a political debate in your country and of course here too.

I believe in your worthy intentions. Perhaps this step—that may at this stage seem unpopular—that you intend to take when you leave here, will make it clear to the Syrian people and to the Syrian leadership, that they must abandon the axis of evil, that they must stop supporting terrorism and giving shelter to the terrorist's command posts, that they must make a real strategic choice that will bring hope to the citizens of Syria and to the citizens of the whole region.

Israel seeks peace; anyone who speaks of peace and displays an honest intention to seek peace will find an ear in Israel.

Sitting with us here this evening is Mrs. Nadia Cohen, whose husband, Eli Cohen, was executed by hanging in Damascus 42 years ago (in 1965). Nadia, and all of Israel, has been asking the Syrian Government for many long years, to allow the removal of Eli Cohen's bones for burial here in Israel. This would be an elementary human gesture. I hope that your visit will enable the President of Syria to finally take the decision that seems so necessary. By this act the Syrian President could indicate to the world and to us that something can nevertheless change.

Madam Speaker, and our distinguished guests, the members of your delegation, you have come here to a small country. We number only seven million citizens, but fourteen million arms are stretched wide open to receive you with a blessing of Shalom [peace] and with the traditional greeting of welcome—"B'ruchim HaBa'im" [Blessed be those who arrive]. Please look upon this House, the Knesset, the principal and primary institution of Israeli democracy, as though it were your House too.

You are our brothers in the legislature and we see you and your fellow Americans as true friends of Israel. We appreciate your contribution to the strengthening of the security and strength of the State of Israel, and feel gratitude to all the American governments over the years.

B'ruchim atem bevo'achem' [May you be blessed on your arrival]. And to all our other guests, who have come here to the Knesset today, I would like to take this opportunity to wish you a Happy Passover—Festival of Freedom—in the embrace of your families.

ADDRESS OF THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE
NANCY PELOSI

Madame Speaker, Members of Knesset, Cabinet Ministers, Supreme Court Justices and Honored Guests. Thank you.

Speaker Itzik, I am deeply honored to accept your invitation to address this great democratic body. I salute you for your achievements as the Knesset's first woman Speaker.

I stand with you tonight, conscious of all that you and I owe to the hopes and dreams of generations of Israeli and American women. I think especially of Golda Meir, the stateswoman, leader, mother, and grandmother whose legacy we both share.

Thank you for the opportunity to bring a message from the House of Representatives—which we call the people's house—to this distinguished body and to the Israeli people.

There is an unshakable bond between America and Israel that grows out of our past and the fundamental values we share. That bond forms the foundation of our efforts for peace, for democracy, for human freedom. The bond between our nations points the way to the future—a democratic Israel at peace with her neighbors. That is essential for the stability that this region desires. And the pioneering, entrepreneurial spirit of both our nations is essential for the future all our citizens deserve.

We remember the oldest roots of our friendship today. We stand here in the City of Jerusalem, a home to the world's three major religions. We stand at the threshold of one of the holiest weeks in the Judeo-Christian calendar. Palm Sunday is ending and Passover is about to begin. In this moment, Jews and Christians alike celebrate the possibility of human redemption from slavery into freedom.

"Open for me the gates of righteousness," we sing in one of the season's best-loved

Psalms, "I will enter and give thanks to God."

The journey toward freedom and peace is a journey of faith, a journey of hope, a journey of a lifetime or more. It is a journey our deepest values command us to undertake.

When Americans look at Israel, we see the hope and promise of that journey. The creation of Israel stands out as one of the greatest achievements of the 20th century, and as a beacon of hope to the world. President Truman's role in recognizing the new state just 11 minutes after its proclamation is a source of pride for Americans.

Forty years ago another American President, John F. Kennedy, summed up what binds Americans to Israel today when he said that Israel "is the child of hope and the home of the brave. It carries the shield of democracy and it honors the sword of freedom."

Americans have many political differences, but we stand united with Israel now and always. One example of that is the bipartisan Congressional delegation here with me tonight. We speak with one voice, in support of a secure Jewish state of Israel living in peace with her neighbors.

Let me take a moment to recognize them: Delegation Co-Chairman David Hobson; Chairman Tom Lantos, with whom I share representation of the great city of San Francisco; Chairman Henry Waxman; Chairman Nick Rahall; Chairwomen Louise Slaughter; Chairman Robert Wexler; and I am especially proud that our delegation includes Congressman Keith Ellison of Minnesota, the first American Muslim elected to Congress.

We are all honored to be here, and we are honored to be with Karnit Goldwasser, who has given the world the priceless gift of her courage. When I met her in Washington last month with Speaker Itzik, I was struck by the fact that she should be enjoying a young marriage but instead is traveling the world for her husband's sake, Ehud Goldwasser.

We are honored to be here with the families of Israel's kidnapped and missing soldiers. We must not forget any of them.

In the last year three more were kidnapped: Ehud Goldwasser, Eldad Regev and Gilad Shalit. I display their identification tags in the Speaker's office, and I carry them with me today. We must not rest until they are home. We will mention this to the president of Syria.

Americans know what it is to be brave in battle, and what it takes to be strong at home. Respect for Israel's courage and strength has bound our nations together since Israel's earliest days—something I remember from my own childhood and the tradition in which I was raised.

In 1947, a ship bound for Tel Aviv set sail from Baltimore, my native city, with a crew of young American volunteers. History remembers this ship as the Exodus 47. Its mission was to bring war survivors from the camps of Europe to live in Israel. It was one of the first times that Americans made Israel's cause our own.

At that time, my father was a Congressman and later Mayor of Baltimore. His support for a Jewish state began when he was one of a small number of Congressmen who lobbied Presidents Roosevelt and Truman first to do more to rescue Jews in Europe and later to support the creation of Israel.

I was fascinated to learn of Israel as a child through the Bible, where God spoke from a burning bush about a magical "land flowing with milk and honey."

I remember vividly learning about the state of Israel when my parents' friends Simon and Irene Sobeloff came home from a visit to Israel shortly after Israel's birth as a nation.

The Sobeloffs visited our home and regaled us with magnificent tales about this glorious

new country in the desert where courageous trailblazers were founding a democratic nation in their historic homeland. As a little girl, I was drawn to the stories of turning sand dunes to orange groves, draining swamps to create farmland, and creating cities where before there had been none.

And, with their stories, the Sobeloffs brought me a ring, which I just adored. It helped create an everlasting bond for me with Israel.

Our shared history and ideals unite us in the challenging present. For this reason, America's commitment to Israel's security is unshakable.

Israel faces existential threats that are also threats to America. We must track down terrorists at their sources; to protect our citizens, homes and businesses. We must counter the terrorists' vision of apocalypse and despair with our own clear pathway toward hope and dignity. We must do this with strength but also with wisdom.

Together, we must make sure that no more rockets rain down on Israel from Lebanon in the north. We must ensure a future in which parents can send their children to school and families can venture to markets without fear.

It has been almost nine months since Hezbollah's unprovoked attack on Israel. Yet, Hezbollah continues to violate the U.N. resolution that set conditions to end the violence. The 10,000 U.N. troops must be successful in preventing the shipments of weapons and supplies allowing Hezbollah to rearm. International forces in Lebanon must implement the U.N. resolution effectively.

Hezbollah must be disarmed. And together, we must have a simple message for Tehran, whose support of Hezbollah is well known. Iran must not be allowed to have a nuclear weapon. The time to leverage all our power is now, and the way to do it is through diplomacy—with stronger sanctions and smarter policy choices.

Under Chairman Tom Lantos' leadership, the U.S. Congress is moving to put additional pressure on Iran by expanding and tightening our sanctions regime. I am certain that our Administration will use all of its influence with Security Council members and states in the region to see that they do the same.

Iran is not just an Israeli problem or a regional problem. Iran is a problem for the world.

In Iraq, we must move the war beyond the unstable status quo because instability in Iraq serves only the interests of our enemies.

We in Congress have a particular responsibility to make it clear that peace in Iraq must come first and foremost from the political choices of Iraqis. Even a military with the capabilities of the United States cannot create political consensus where none exists.

We in Congress will do everything in our power to seek a policy that makes the United States and our friends safer and the region more stable by sharing the responsibility for Iraq's stability with Iraqis and their neighbors.

Together, we must look to the future. Israeli democracy is one of the cornerstones of a more stable and democratic Middle East. But that hopeful vision begins with a hard recognition: we all know that we cannot have peace without security, but we also cannot have security without peace.

I am concerned that some of those in the new Palestinian government remain committed to the destruction of Israel.

But I believe that the majority of Israelis, Palestinians, and Americans share our commitment to a future for Israel and the Palestinian people living side by side in peace and security.

Talking with responsible Palestinian partners is a wise investment in Israel's future.

I know all of my Congressional colleagues join me in welcoming the agreement announced by Secretary Rice that Prime Minister Olmert and Palestinian Authority President Abbas will meet regularly.

The United States, as Israel's trusted friend and ally, has an irreplaceable role to play in achieving a lasting peace. The United States must have sustained high level engagement in the region to bring us closer to the day we all long for—when the entire Palestinian government is ready for peace.

Our efforts toward peace are part of a rich web of ties between our nations, ties that make not just the desert but a generation bloom.

Americans and Israelis are pioneers and visionaries—our nations were built by people for whom obstacles like oceans, mountains, and deserts were the journey's beginning, not its end.

Israeli expertise and technology are helping protect cities and airports across America. Israeli medical technology saves the lives of American soldiers on the battlefield. Americans with reflux disease are diagnosed by a camera-in-a-pill developed here.

And American leaders in technology and biotechnology are exchanging their expertise in the global market with Israeli entrepreneurs with stunning results.

But I believe we can and will do more to build even stronger Israeli-American partnership for innovation in areas like alternative energy that are crucial to the future of both our countries.

From the negotiating table to the operating table, from the joy of a little girl's ring to the sadness of a missing soldier's dog tags, we find proofs of our deep friendship in the most unexpected places.

Another one of these places is outside Haifa, where there is a soccer stadium that many of you know as Kiryat Haim. I understand that it has seen better days, but it is used by children everyday and has a special place in the hearts of many Israelis. Older Israelis remember its glory days hosting top Haifa teams. Thousands of younger Israelis themselves learned to play there or follow the careers of star players, Jews and Arabs alike, who got their start there.

That stadium has a place in my heart as well. In 1968, it was named for my brother Thomas D'Alessandro, who, as mayor of Baltimore, carried on my father's support of Israel.

It is a great source of pride to our family that our name is shared with such a beloved Israeli institution. It is one of the reasons it is easy for me to represent America's love for the people of Israel.

Tonight I thank you for the warmth of your hospitality and I applaud you for the example of your courage.

Madam Speaker, please accept my deepest appreciation for this opportunity to express America's commitment to Israel. This occasion is one of the great joys of my life.

America and Israel share a common history—nations founded to be beacons of democracy, forged by pioneers, fulfilled by immigrants. We share a common future—as entrepreneurs and innovators, building the kind of world that we dream of for our children's children. And we share a common cause—a safe and secure Israel living in peace with her neighbors. Let us join together to recommit ourselves to the best of our heritage, and together look to the future.

CONGRATULATING THE PARTICIPANTS OF THE HOUSE FELLOWS PROGRAM

HON. JOHN B. LARSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, August 1, 2007

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

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

During the school year following their participation in the House Fellows Program, each Fellow will have the responsibility to present their experiences and lesson plans to at least one in-service institute for teachers of history and government.

Over the next 5 years, in selecting a teacher from every congressional district, the House Fellows Program will be able to impact over 10,000 high school teachers, providing an inside account of how the House of Representatives functions, energizing thousands of students to become informed and active citizens.

I had the honor of meeting the Fellows last night and know that all Members will join me in congratulating the following teachers who have successfully participated in this week's program:

Mr. Frank Coburn, Red Bird Mission School, Beverly, Kentucky (KY05, Rogers); Ms. Jennifer Collier, Mt. Diablo High School, Concord, California (CA07, Miller); Ms. Deborah Hejl, Fishers High School, Fishers, Indiana (IN05, Burton); Mr. Paul Hodges, PikeView High School, Mercer County, West Virginia (WV03, Rahall); Mr. Rick Kelm, Ripon High School, Ripon, Wisconsin (WI06, Petri); Ms. Tisha Menchhofer, Lakota East High School, Liberty Township, Ohio (OH08, Boehner); Mr. Christopher Lazarski, Wauwatosa West High School, Wauwatosa, Wisconsin (WI05, Sensenbrenner); Mr. Christopher Swanson, Cloquet Senior High School, Cloquet, Minnesota (MN08, Oberstar); Ms. Robin Wanosky, Weston High School, Weston, Massachusetts (MA07, Markey); Ms. Erin Wigginton, Pulaski County High School, Dublin, Virginia (VA09, Boucher).

As many of my colleagues already know, the first bill I sponsored upon becoming a Member of Congress in 1999 was the History of the House Awareness and Preservation Act, which directed the Librarian of Congress to oversee the writing of a history of the House of Representatives. Once this bill was signed into law (P.L. 106-99), the Librarian of Congress very wisely chose the eminent historian and author, Dr. Robert V. Remini, to write the history, which was published in 2006 under the title of *The House*. The project was

so well received that the Speaker of the House re-established the Office of the Historian in 2005 and appointed Dr. Remini as the House Historian.

Madam Speaker, I would like to urge all of my colleagues to join me in thanking the Office of the Historian for sponsoring this program. Under the leadership of Dr. Remini and Dr. Fred Beuttler, along with their staff; Michael Cronin, Anthony Wallis, interns Michael Weiss and Laura Neff; the Office of the Historian is dedicated to fulfilling the goals of the History of the House Awareness and Preservation Act by conserving and presenting the history of the House of Representatives, the "People's House."

BAD POLLUTERS ACT (H.R. 3276)

HON. MARK STEVEN KIRK

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, August 1, 2007

Mr. KIRK. Madam Speaker, I am pleased to stand here today with (originals) and introduce

legislation that will help protect the Great Lakes from harmful pollution that poisons our water and closes our beaches. The Great Lakes are the world's largest freshwater system and serve as a source of drinking water, food, jobs and recreation for more than forty million Americans. It is critical that we enhance our restoration efforts for this critical resource, not degrade the condition of the lakes even further.

British Petroleum (BP) will soon begin a \$3.8 billion expansion of its refinery facility in Whiting, Indiana. Based on a provision in the Energy Policy Act of 2005, BP is eligible for a tax credit that will allow them half of the capital expense costs in the first year of the expansion. This expansion currently includes a large increase of pollution into the Great Lakes. The facility was recently issued a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit which will allow it to discharge an increase of 54 percent more ammonia and 35 percent more sludge into Lake Michigan per day. This will total a combined increase of more than 1,800 pounds per day of these pollutants which strangle aquatic life

and contribute to the increasing number of beach closures each year.

While providing incentives to energy production and refinery expansion helps to lower gas prices and reduce our dependence on foreign oil, we must not do so at the expense of one of America's most treasured natural resources.

That is why I am introducing the Bad Polluters Act which will deny the capital expensing tax credit to any refiner whose facility's NPDES permit allows for an increase in any pollutant above its 2006 levels into the Great Lakes. This will prevent companies, such as BP, from seeking to increase pollution into our drinking water. In order to claim this important tax credit, companies will be forced to search a bit harder for a new solution to water treatment. I urge my colleagues to support this legislation and join in the fight to protect our national treasure.