

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

IN MEMORIAL OF ED SMITH

HON. BOB ETHERIDGE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 26, 2007

Mr. ETHERIDGE. Madam Speaker, today I rise to honor the life of Ed Smith of Raleigh, North Carolina, who passed away on Sunday, September 19, 2007. In his passing I lost a good friend, and North Carolina lost one of its most outstanding citizens and a man who was instrumental in his community, county, and State.

One of the area's most beloved men, my friend Ed, passed away peacefully with his family by his side following a brief bout with pneumonia. He was only 56. Ed was a happy political warrior who enjoyed being in the middle of the political arena, from voter registration to fighting for the rights of the disabled. At the age of 5, Ed contracted polio which left him confined to a wheelchair, but Ed didn't let his disability slow him down in life. He was among the first severely disabled students to get a driver's license using hand controls. He was one of the first disabled students to attend Ligon High School. Ed also graduated from St. Andrews Presbyterian College in Laurinburg, NC. As a young child Ed learned about politics from his mother, the late Judy Hubbard, a seamstress, who won awards for registering voters. As a teenager Ed helped elect Clarence Lightner in 1967 who became Raleigh's first black mayor.

Throughout the years, it is estimated that Ed worked on over 65 campaigns and political committees. The politicians Ed help put into office include Vernon Malone, Abe Jones, Bob Hensley, Dan Blue, Henry Frye, Reps. BRAD MILLER, DAVID PRICE, and G.K. BUTTERFIELD, and he also worked on my campaign. The name Ed Smith went beyond the State of North Carolina. President Bill Clinton appointed him to the Home Loan Bank of Atlanta. He was a State co-chairman for the Gore-Lieberman campaign. During the 1992 and 1996 Democratic conventions, Ed was the State delegation whip for the Clinton-Gore campaign, making sure the Tar Heels were working hand-in-glove with the national campaign. Ed is survived by his lovely wife Debra Smith.

Madam Speaker, Ed saw politics as an extension of his activism on behalf of civil rights for African Americans and the handicapped. He was a respected and a successful dedicated public servant, and a great North Carolinian. It is fitting that we honor him and his family today.

HONORING THE 125TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ST. PAUL PUBLIC LIBRARY AND SCHUBERT CLUB

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 26, 2007

Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota. Madam Speaker, today I rise to honor the City of St. Paul Public Library and Schubert Club for their 125 years of service to the community. These two premier cultural institutions share a unique, shared history, and on behalf of residents of Minnesota's Fourth Congressional District, I offer my congratulations on their 125th anniversary and celebration of words and music on September 30, 2007.

Under the leadership of Alexander Ramsey, who had served as mayor, Governor, U.S. Senator, and U.S. Secretary of War, the city's Library Association proposed that St. Paul establish a free public library. The city's first public library was opened in September 1882 with a collection of 8,051 books. Today, the St. Paul Public Library has expanded to 12 branches throughout St. Paul, and a bookmobile. The library now offers more than 1 million items in its collection. The Central Library in downtown St. Paul features magnificent Italian Renaissance architecture, housing approximately 350,000 books and drawing more than 300,000 visitors each year. The St. Paul Public Library continues to provide vital educational and cultural resources and a place for civic engagement for residents of St. Paul.

During the same year the St. Paul libraries were established, Governor Ramsey's daughter, Marion Ramsey Furness, along with her music-loving friends, founded a music club. The club later named in honor of Franz Schubert continues to thrive as one of the oldest musical and arts organizations in the United States. During its 125-year history, the Schubert Club has promoted the art of music and made it accessible to the public through recitals, concerts, a museum and educational programs. The Schubert Club has hosted many of the world's renowned musicians in St. Paul, including Jascha Heifetz, Myra Hess, Artur Schnabel, Elizabeth Schwarzkopf, Cecilia Bartoli, Bryn Terfel, Vladimir Horowitz, Robert Casadesu, Isaac Stern, Yo-Yo Ma, and Beverly Sills, just to name a few.

Located across Rice Park from each other in downtown St. Paul, the Central Library and the Schubert Club continue to serve the public well through education, art and culture.

Madam Speaker, in honor of the 125th anniversary of the St. Paul Public Library and the Schubert Club, I am pleased to submit this statement for the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

TRIBUTE TO THE "AIM HIGHER" AWARD WINNERS

HON. BILL SHUSTER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 26, 2007

Mr. SHUSTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the winners of the "Aim Higher" awards from the HealthSouth Rehabilitation Hospital of Altoona, given to encourage and reward personal achievement within its community. For the past 10 years, HealthSouth has presented rehabilitation awards to members of their community who have overcome a great disability or injury. The "Aim Higher" awards ceremony will take place this year on October 1. I congratulate this year's winners: Karrie Lee, winner of the "LiveLife" Award; and Michael Kiel and William Ricciotti, winners of the "Aim Higher" Personal Achievement awards.

Karrie Lee is the winner of the HealthSouth "LiveLife" Award. Karrie was nominated by her mother for her incredible recovery from a life-threatening car accident. Karrie was hit by a tractor trailer in 2003, halfway through her senior year of high school. She was left in a coma for several days and suffered severe injuries. After undergoing several surgeries Karrie was discharged to the HealthSouth Rehabilitation Hospital, upon which time she began her recovery. While Karrie's life was completely interrupted by her accident, she worked hard and finished her senior year at home while completing her rehabilitation program. She took classes at St. Francis University and is now studying at the University of Pittsburgh, working toward her goal of becoming a nurse practitioner.

Michael Kiel is the recipient of the "Aim Higher" Personal Achievement Award. Michael was nominated for this award by his aunt. During his sophomore year of college, Michael was shot at a convenience store by a man he did not know. As a result, Michael suffered a spinal cord injury which left him paralyzed. While some would be defeated by such a tragic experience, Michael persevered, returning to college 4 months later. He earned a bachelor's degree in psychology and continued on to earn a master's in rehab counseling. He has a love for life and gives back to others who have suffered by working as a rehab counselor in Johnstown, Pennsylvania.

William Ricciotti is also a recipient of the "Aim Higher" Personal Achievement Award. Bill suffered a stroke in 2004 which left him disabled; however he worked through his injuries and gained back much of his mobility. He learned how to walk again and has made tremendous progress in making a nearly complete recovery. Though his left hand was left slightly impaired, he continues to work on improving in therapy. He has continued to enjoy life, participating in activities he has always loved. Bill's visits bring joy to the employees of HealthSouth, as he always exhibits a wonderful attitude.

• 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.

Congratulations to Karrie, Michael and Bill. All of their stories are moving and inspiring, and many others can look up to their examples of personal strength and determination. Their stories will encourage others to never give up, and they may be comforted in knowing that no matter what is thrown their way, they can overcome it and carry on their lives with a positive outlook.

CHILDREN'S HEALTH INSURANCE
PROGRAM REAUTHORIZATION
ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. BOB ETHERIDGE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 25, 2007

Mr. ETHERIDGE. Mr. Speaker, I rise reluctantly in opposition to H.R. 976. There is no doubt that the State Children's Health Insurance Program, or SCHIP, which expires at the end of this fiscal year, needs to be reauthorized. Millions of children across the country, including 120,000 in North Carolina's Health Choice, depend on SCHIP to provide cost-effective and high-quality health services. This health care makes a difference to the development of at-risk children and to their leading healthy adult lives. Unfortunately, in its current form, this legislation will excessively burden the Second Congressional District of North Carolina.

By singling out tobacco for a huge tax increase, the provisions of this bill will cost North Carolina's citizens a great deal in direct cost increases. Researchers at North Carolina State University estimate that North Carolina's economy would lose at least \$540 million a year through the tax's indirect impact as well. North Carolina's tobacco farmers grow a legal crop. These hard-working farm families have suffered greatly from transformations in the global economy. Because my district is the second largest tobacco producing district in the country, this bill disproportionately affects my constituents who work hard to be able to pay their bills and provide a better life for their children. This just doesn't pass the fairness test.

I have been a long-time supporter of SCHIP. As a member of the House Budget Committee, I am proud that we provided for an increase of \$50 billion for SCHIP, not just the \$35 billion reflected in the compromise we are considering today. I support reauthorizing and strengthening SCHIP, but North Carolina's citizens pay more than their share for the benefits they receive in this bill.

Mr. Speaker, I want children to receive the health care they need. However, as the bill stands, I must vote no today, and hope that we can come up with a better, more balanced plan in the future.

RECOGNIZING THE HISTORIC NIKE
MISSILE BASE PH-07, RICHBORO,
BUCKS COUNTY, PA

HON. PATRICK J. MURPHY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 26, 2007

Mr. PATRICK J. MURPHY of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, it is my great privilege to rise

before you today to commemorate the Richboro Bucks County Nike Missile Base PH-07 and the many brave individuals who staffed this base during the cold war. Set in historic Bucks County, Pennsylvania, the now closed base was operational during the cold war in order to protect Philadelphia from Soviet missile attacks. Now, 30 years later, these same individuals are working to ensure this base receives recognition through the Pennsylvania Historical Museum Commission's Historic Site Program.

In a time when fear of missile attacks plagued the entire country, the military built the Nike missile base in our quiet Philadelphia suburb. Currently, the base lies dormant beneath batting cages and other sites from a modern community. Children run over it, unsure of exactly what it is. Though many are unaware of its significant cultural and historical importance, the missile base still retains much of its former integrity. The workers employed there during the cold war underwent extensive military training and carried a strong sense of camaraderie and pride for their country. They worked together to ensure the base was efficiently run and to protect Philadelphia from an imminent Soviet attack.

Madam Speaker, for these reasons, on October 5, 2007, this site will become part of the Bucks County Historical Society. The efforts of the great people who worked here will be forever remembered in a timeless plaque that describes the role of this base and the importance it held for our country during trying times. I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking those who worked tirelessly to make this honor possible and those who fought to protect our community. Madam Speaker, I proudly recognize the Nike missile base for its historical significance.

CHILDREN'S HEALTH INSURANCE
PROGRAM REAUTHORIZATION
ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. JAMES P. MORAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 25, 2007

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of the Children's Health Insurance Program Reauthorization Act of 2007. Truly, we face a health care crisis in this country—in the richest country on Earth, 46 million Americans do not have health insurance, including 9 million children. Today's bipartisan, bicameral compromise is not a perfect solution to that problem, but is a decisive, strong step towards covering uninsured kids and fulfilling our moral obligation to our children.

In my home State of Virginia, the CHIP program, known as FAMIS or Family Access to Medical Insurance Security, currently provides coverage to 137,642 low-income children each year. The current population survey estimates that 171,642 children in Virginia remain uninsured, and the CHIP Reauthorization Act will help us cover 74,200 of these children in Fiscal Year 2008. The CHIP Reauthorization Act will ensure that these children have access to high quality health insurance, including the preventative services that children need to be healthy and successful in school and later in

life. This bill will provide dental and mental health benefits on par with medical and surgical services—truly ensuring that the whole child's health is provided for.

The CHIP Reauthorization Act does not increase the deficit, through a 61-cent-per-pack increase in the Federal excise tax on cigarettes. In my view as chairman of the Congressional Prevention Caucus, an increase in the Federal tobacco tax is sound public health policy. On the one hand, it provides a reliable revenue source to offset the costs of expanding coverage to low-income children. On the other, given that 70 percent of health care spending in the U.S. can be attributed to chronic diseases, many of which are linked to smoking, measures which reduce tobacco use, particularly among young people, are responsible ways to improve public health and reduce the overall costs of our healthcare system.

The CHIP Reauthorization Act also addresses a serious problem arising from the implementation of the Deficit Reduction Act of 2005. Opponents of this responsible, commonsense, humane adjustment claim that language in the 2005 Deficit Reduction Act (DRA) that imposed harsher citizenship verification requirements on State Medicaid programs is the only barrier protecting taxpayer dollars from being spent on healthcare for illegal immigrants. Empirical evidence from the first 9 months of the implementation of this rule demonstrates, in fact, that nothing could be further from the truth.

First and foremost, existing Federal law and provisions in the CHIP Reauthorization Act prevent Federal funds from being spent to provide benefits for illegal immigrants. Section 605 specifically states that "nothing in this act allows Federal payment for individuals who are not legal immigrants." Illegal immigrants have never been eligible for Medicaid, and nothing in the CHIP Reauthorization Act would change that fact.

Secondly, the DRA requirements have overwhelmingly failed to meet their objective—producing cost savings for the Medicaid program. Instead, they have imposed substantial additional costs on taxpayers while reducing health care benefits available to poor children. Wait times have skyrocketed, and measures to streamline the application process have been rendered impossible. In the first 9 months of the implementation of this requirement, six States spent a combined \$16.6 million in State and Federal dollars, and found just eight undocumented immigrants out of a pool of 3.6 million Medicaid applicants. The DRA requirements have effectively led States and the Federal Government to spend millions of dollars in additional administrative expenses, funds which have ultimately been put to use denying care to tens of thousands of otherwise eligible American children.

Third, these draconian requirements, which are far stricter than those employed by other government programs, have caused tens of thousands of U.S. citizen children to lose health insurance coverage. In Virginia, there was a net decline of more than 11,000 children enrolled in Medicaid during the first nine months of implementation. Had growth in enrollment continued at the same rate it had during the previous 2 years, the State would have seen an increase of 9,000 poor children in the program during this same time period. Kansas has seen a net decline of 14,000 children. The Virginia State Medicaid Office has

identified a total of two undocumented immigrants during this period; meanwhile, 20,000 poor children have gone without health insurance. Data from the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities suggests that these children are overwhelmingly African American, hardly the demographic results we'd expect if our colleagues were correct in suggesting that tens of thousands of illegal immigrant children were being denied coverage.

The debate about reauthorizing SCHIP should be about the public health and improving the health of our children. In a recent survey, 90 percent of parents applying for Medicaid for their children indicated that they have no other health coverage available. Allowing state flexibility in citizenship verification is sound public health policy that would enable thousands of American children access to vital health services to help them live better, healthier, and more productive lives. Because Medicaid is now the single largest cost to state taxpayers, we ought to make a concerted effort to support state flexibility. Twenty-four Senators signed letters to Chairman BAUCUS asking him to include this measure in the Senate's bipartisan SCHIP bill, and 51 other House Members joined me in requesting that Chairman DINGELL include this provision in the House version. I thank the Committees for including this important provision in this landmark legislation.

Reauthorizing SCHIP is sound public health policy—research shows that children who have access to health insurance are substantially more likely to access key preventative services, miss fewer days of school due to illness, get better grades, and continue to have superior outcomes later in life. Moreover, the financial benefits of covering children vastly outweigh the costs—one need only compare the cost of a visit to a primary care provider to the cost of a night spent in the emergency room. But above all, covering all our children is a moral imperative—it is the only possible humane, responsible course of action. I urge a yes vote on the underlying bill, and furthermore, would urge the President, in the strongest possible terms, not to veto this vitally needed, responsible legislation to cover the most vulnerable members of our society: our children.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE CITY OF CLINTON, NORTH CAROLINA, FOR THEIR 2007 ALL-AMERICA CITY DESIGNATION

HON. MIKE McINTYRE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 26, 2007

Mr. McINTYRE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the community and citizens of Clinton, North Carolina, for being named an All-America City by the National Civic League. Clinton has earned a place among the ranks of more than 500 other communities across the country that have achieved this distinction. In honor of this accomplishment, I am entering into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD this special tribute which details the extraordinary efforts made by the people of Clinton and the strong example they have set for other cities in North Carolina and our Nation to follow.

Fully incorporated in the year 1822, Clinton has become a community dedicated to progress, development, and civic engagement. It has become a community committed to a strong system of values and faith. And it is this powerful combination that has helped earn the City of Clinton its All-America designation.

Three community projects in particular set Clinton apart from the other cities in the competition.

First, through the Technology Project at the Butler Avenue School, both students and adults have been given greater access to computers and the World Wide Web. After-school programs and "how-to" classes can now give underserved segments of the community access to modern-day technologies and the advantages that come with them.

Second, the March to a Million campaign raised over \$2 million in donations in just 3 months from professionals, corporations, churches, civic clubs, teachers, alumni associations, and other citizens to help pay for the construction of a new Clinton High School. Students even sold Valentines to help pay for the auxiliary gym, auditorium, and academic programs that could not have otherwise been built and implemented.

Third, the city of Clinton has tackled the obesity crisis head-on by implementing the Fitness Renaissance program in school physical education classes, as well as building a Center for Health and Wellness. These two efforts have given the citizens of Clinton the proper tools to begin and maintain a healthy way of life.

The city of Clinton will be recognized and congratulated for their designation as an All-America City on October 24, 2007, here in Washington, DC. Its citizens are to be commended for this accomplishment. May God bless the people of this great community for the very positive example they have set for the cities around our great Nation.

CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION OF THE TOWN OF BAILEY, NORTH CAROLINA

HON. BOB ETHERIDGE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 26, 2007

Mr. ETHERIDGE. Madam Speaker, today I rise to honor the centennial celebration of the town of Bailey, NC, in my Congressional District. Bailey was settled in the 18th century and became a charter town in Nash County in 1908. Bailey was named for the first settler in the township, Drewey Bailey.

Bailey is predominately a farming community. A feed mill and lumber mill are located in the town to meet the needs of the agrarian surroundings. There are several established merchants orientated to supplying the farm community with all needed supplies for the agricultural industry. It is estimated that about 80 percent of the town's income can be accounted to farmers in the area. One of the first merchants in Bailey was Malachi Bissette. His store was one of the largest in the area. It was quite typical of the general store carrying "everything needed from birth to death, farm supplies, groceries, clothes, and coffins." Several of the first buildings of the town are still occupied.

Bailey has two garment factories—the Bailey Garment Plant and Quality Textiles—which employ 150 persons combined. The leading non-agricultural industry of the area in Neverson Quarry of the Superior Stone Company. The Quarry came into existence in 1913 by an act of Congress. In that year Congress authorized a harbor of refuge for ships in case of storms at Cape Lookout on the North Carolina coast. This necessitated the erection of two long sea walls behind which ships could seek protection. Furnishing stone for this breakwater lead to the opening of the Quarry.

In 1948, the company changed its name to Bryan Rock and Sand Company. Under this and the Superior Stone Company leadership, the quarry has become one of the largest and most modern granite crushing plant, in the South. There is an average of two train loads of stone shipped from the quarry daily. This large shipment makes Bailey the fourth largest freight origination point on the Norfolk and Southern Railroad. Economically, the Bailey community benefits from this increased stone output. Approximately 100 workers are regularly employed, with local labor being used when possible.

Civic life has always been an important part of the community. For many years there has been a masonic lodge in the town. In the early fifties, the masons constructed a building for their own use and for the recreational use of the town. Other established civic organizations include the American Legion and Ladies Auxiliary, the Lions Club, the Order of Eastern Star and Chamber of Commerce.

Bailey has been host to several leaders on both the national and international level. President Harry S. Truman made a visit to the city when he was in office. In 1954, Bailey was host to President and Madame Bayar, President of the Republic of Turkey, and the staff of approximately 35 aides and press representatives. After Bayar's visit, officials of the high school and the staff of the school paper were entertained at the Turkish Embassy in exchange for the hospitality offered the president when he visited the town.

Madam Speaker, Bailey has a rich history that makes it one of shining stars of Nash County and the State of North Carolina and I am proud to have the honor of representing this great town. It is fitting that we take a moment today to honor the centennial celebration of the town of Bailey.

FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION AMENDMENTS ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 19, 2007

Ms. McCOLLUM of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) Amendments Act.

It is critical that the FDA has the authority and resources it needs to protect the health and safety of American families. Recent highly-publicized tragic events linked to prescription drugs, such as Vioxx, have highlighted the importance of the mission of the FDA and the improvements necessary to ensure its effectiveness.

This bill strengthens the FDA's oversight of drug safety by establishing a new program

within the FDA exclusively for the purpose of monitoring the safety of drugs and allowing the FDA to examine drug safety after a drug has been approved and is on the market. It also significantly increases penalties for companies that violate safety standards. Additionally, H.R. 3580 reauthorizes through 2012 both the Prescription Drug User Fee Act (PDUFA) and the Medical Device User Fee and Modernization Act (MDUFMA), programs essential in expediting FDA's review of new drug and medical device applications and helping to avoid backlogs.

To regain the public's trust in the drug and device approval processes, The FDA Amendments Act imposes strict conflict-of-interest provisions to help ensure that FDA's advisory committees are medically qualified, independent, and acting on behalf of the health and safety of the American people. H.R. 3580 increases transparency and accountability by requiring that all drugs, devices, and biologics be included in a clinical trials registry and in a results database. All registry data on the safety and effectiveness of drugs and devices will be posted on an Internet site accessible to the public.

H.R. 3580 also improves health care and begins to address the high cost of prescription drugs by imposing penalties on pharmaceutical companies for false or misleading direct-to-consumer advertising (DTC) of prescription drugs. Studies have shown that spending on DTC advertising from pharmaceutical companies has tripled in recent years and plays a role in the unsustainably increasing cost of health care. DTC advertising has also changed the doctor-patient relationship with an increased number of patients requesting a specific drug or treatment, even in cases where a less expensive or different medication would be appropriate. I look forward to continuing to work with my colleagues to further address DTC advertising of medications.

The safety of the drugs and devices on which so many Americans rely must be a priority for Congress. I urge my colleagues to join me in voting for H.R. 3580.

TRIBUTE TO THE HONORABLE
ROBERT JUBELIRER

HON. BILL SHUSTER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 26, 2007

Mr. SHUSTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the winner of the distinguished Rehabilitation Advocate award from the HealthSouth Rehabilitation Hospital of Altoona, given annually to recognize those who have been a source of encouragement and advocacy for the center and its patients. This year's winner is the Honorable Robert Jubelirer.

Senator Jubelirer has made a life out of serving others as a leader, humanitarian, and advocate. He served over thirty years in the State Senate, working tirelessly on behalf of the citizens of Pennsylvania. The Senator served nearly 21 years as President Pro Tempore of the State Senate and served briefly as Lieutenant Governor of Pennsylvania. He has been instrumental in securing funding for key initiatives for Central Pennsylvania and has truly helped the area and community thrive.

Numerous organizations have recognized the Senator over the years, for both his official duties and his work for numerous community causes.

For the past 13 years, Senator Jubelirer has taken time out of his hectic schedule to host and present HealthSouth's "Aim Higher" awards to members of the HealthSouth community who have overcome great obstacles. He personally recognized each recipient of the "Aim Higher" awards with a Commonwealth proclamation and touching personal message. He left the attendees of each ceremony encouraged and inspired.

Senator Jubelirer has brought joy and hope to the HealthSouth community. I, along with the staff and patients of HealthSouth would like to thank Senator Jubelirer for his efforts in bringing recognition to those who have overcome great challenges. He joins today's winners as sources of inspiration, bringing encouragement to all who cross their paths. I congratulate Senator Jubelirer and thank him for all he has done in reaching out to others and bettering the community.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BOB ETHERIDGE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 26, 2007

Mr. ETHERIDGE. Madam Speaker, due to an unpreventable transportation problem while on official Congressional business, I was unable to vote on one measure on the House floor on September 24, 2007.

Had I been present, I would have voted yes on House Concurrent Resolution 193—Recognizing all hunters across the United States for their continued commitment to safety.

RECOGNIZING THE SECOND BAPTIST CHURCH OF DOYLESTOWN

HON. PATRICK J. MURPHY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 26, 2007

Mr. PATRICK J. MURPHY of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Second Baptist Church, in Doylestown, Pennsylvania on its one-hundredth anniversary. For 100 years, the Second Baptist Church has served, with dedication, the Bucks County community.

Initially chartered on April 29, 1874, the Second Baptist Church also has its roots in the St. Mark C.M.E. Church of Doylestown, Pennsylvania. A church that originally consisted of a small congregation first expanded and purchased its own building from Abraham Geil on October 1, 1887. Then, on September 26, 1907, the St. Mark C.M.E. Church changed denominational affiliations and was incorporated under the present name of Second Baptist Church of Doylestown. Since that day, the Second Baptist Church and its congregation have been committed to improving the community.

Madam Speaker, a strong community can shape the lives of children and young adults—something I saw firsthand growing up in a working class family in Northeast Philadelphia.

The Second Baptist Church provides a place for our community to come together and work together, especially with the ongoing growth of the congregation.

Over the last century, the Second Baptist Church has grown in numbers and in spirit. They have formed deep connections to our community that are significant to so many. The Second Baptist Church has many friends and neighbors across our area. When the Second Baptist Church was constructing a new building and was in need of a place to worship, the Christ Community Church of Plumstead, Pennsylvania opened its doors. Their impact on our community is hard to measure but it is all of our hope that it will only grow over the next 100 years.

Madam Speaker, the Second Baptist Church is a model for our community and our Nation. Those who worship there today are continuing the legacy of their founders a century ago. I join many in Doylestown and across the 8th District of Pennsylvania in offering congratulations to the Second Baptist Church of Doylestown on its 100-year anniversary.

RECOGNIZING COLONEL RICHARDSON AS THE FIRST FEMALE GARRISON COMMANDER OF THE FORT MYER MILITARY COMMUNITY

HON. JAMES P. MORAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 26, 2007

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize a distinguished individual who will take command as the 100th Garrison Commander of the Fort Meyer Military Community. Colonel Laura Richardson assumed command of Fort Myer in Arlington, Virginia and Fort Lesley J. McNair in Washington, DC on July 24, 2007. Colonel Richardson is the first female Garrison Commander in the history of the two installations.

Colonel Richardson grew up in Colorado and was commissioned a Second Lieutenant Aviation Officer upon graduation from Metropolitan State College in Denver, Colorado. Colonel Richardson's military education includes the Aviation Officer Basic and Advanced Courses, Army Rotary Wing Course, UH-60 Blackhawk Course, Air Assault School, Airborne School, United States Army Command and General Staff College, and the Industrial College of the Armed Forces.

Among her many accomplishments, Colonel Richardson served in Washington, DC as Military Aide to Vice President Al Gore. Later, she served as Commander of the 5th Battalion, 101st Aviation Regiment, and deployed to Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. Following battalion command, Colonel Richardson was assigned to the Army Staff and served as deputy director and director of the Army's Transformation Office. Following the Pentagon tour, she was assigned to the Industrial College of Armed Forces at Fort Lesley J. McNair in Washington, DC.

Colonel Richardson's awards and decorations include the Defense Superior Service Medal, Legion of Merit Medal, Bronze Star Medal, Army Meritorious Service Medal with three Oak Leaf Clusters, Air Medal (seven),

Joint Service Commendation Medal, Army Commendation Medal with Oak Leaf Cluster, Humanitarian Service Medal, Meritorious Unit Citation, Air Assault Badge, Parachutist Badge and the Senior Army Aviator Badge.

Madam Speaker, I commend Colonel Richardson for her well-deserved, historic achievement. I am truly honored to have her as a constituent and wish her all the best as she commands the Fort Meyer military community.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE CAMPBELL SOUP COMPANY ON THE OCCASION OF THE TWENTY-FIFTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE MAXTON, NORTH CAROLINA MANUFACTURING FACILITY

HON. MIKE MCINTYRE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 26, 2007

Mr. MCINTYRE. Madam Speaker, it is my great pleasure to pay tribute to a special company in Robeson County, North Carolina. Next week, the Campbell Soup Company celebrates the 25th anniversary of its soup manufacturing facility located in the town of Maxton.

Maxton is a small community of about 2,500 residents. But the combination of abundant resources, a strong transportation network and a terrific work force all helped bring Campbell to Robeson County.

The economic future of Maxton and Robeson County is tied to the progress of Campbell's facility. Only 25 years ago, the first cans of soup came off one of two manufacturing lines. Today, nearly 10 manufacturing lines fill more than 5 million cans or microwavable bowls of soup, canned pasta, beans and Swanson broth every day—more than 1,000 cans every minute.

But the economic impact of Campbell's facility here is much more than its 800 full time and hourly employees, and the 220 different products that they make. Campbell also uses some 300 different ingredients, including more than 40 million pounds of potatoes, 28 million pounds of carrots, and 25 million pounds of beef, chicken and seafood, much of it from our fertile region.

With almost 25 acres under roof, including nearly 1 million square feet to manufacture, warehouse and distribute Campbell's trademark soups, the Maxton facility remains among Campbell's and the food processing industry's most modern and sophisticated facilities. In almost every year since 1982, Campbell's has invested in new technology at Maxton that has helped to reach the heights of efficient, quality production that it is legendary for today. Most recently, microwavable soup bowls began being processed in Maxton that are designed to meet the needs of busy, time-pressed consumers.

Furthermore, the real success of Maxton's Campbell Soup Facility comes not only from its products, but also from its people. I have walked this plant, greeted employees working the lines and sampled a day's production. I can tell you that what makes the Campbell Soup plant in Maxton special is the dedication of its employees.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in paying special tribute to the employees and the legacy of Campbell's Maxton facility.

Campbell's Maxton facility has a wonderful history of contributions made by thousands of North Carolinians who have made their careers there. We're proud to have such a terrific company like Campbell's in North Carolina and look forward to many more years of success.

THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES'S VOTE ON THE MOVEON.ORG ADVERTISEMENT ON GENERAL PETRAEUS

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 26, 2007

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Madam Speaker, like many of my colleagues, I believe the MoveOn.org advertisement in the New York Times about GEN David Petraeus was both wrong and counterproductive. I also agree with all of the findings in H.J. Res. 52 that praise General Petraeus's exemplary military career, for which he has received numerous awards for his service to our country. However, I decided to vote against this resolution as a matter of principle and because it is a diversionary tactic by the Bush administration and the congressional Republicans. As a legislative body determining important issues affecting our citizens, the Congress should not be in the business of passing resolutions supporting or opposing political ads. Adopting such a practice would consume all our time and divert our attention from important issues like the war in Iraq.

The MoveOn.org advertisement was wrong to question the integrity of General Petraeus. It was also counterproductive in that it took the focus off of President Bush's failed Iraq policies and made General Petraeus the political face of the war. That is exactly what the Bush administration wanted. Moreover, by shifting the focus from President Bush to a political attack on General Petraeus, the Republicans have cleverly attempted to divert attention from the President's responsibility and the real security issues we are facing in the world, like the re-emergence of al-Qaeda along the Pakistan-Afghanistan border. I would have supported the resolution that was put forward by Senate Democrats which reaffirms our strong support for the men and women of our Armed Forces, and which condemns all attacks on those who are serving or who have served in the Armed Forces.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 26, 2007

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I regret that I was unavoidably absent yesterday afternoon, September 25, on very urgent business. Had I been present for the 11 votes which occurred yesterday evening, I would have voted "aye" on H.R. 1400, rollcall vote No. 895; "aye" on H. Res. 584, rollcall vote No. 896; "aye" on H. Can. Res. 210, rollcall vote No. 897; "aye" on H. Res. 663, rollcall vote No. 898; "aye" on H. Res. 548, rollcall

vote No. 899; "aye" on H. Res. 642, rollcall vote No. 900; "aye" on H. Res. 557, rollcall vote No. 901; "aye" on H. Res. 675, rollcall vote No. 902; "aye" on H. Res. 675, rollcall vote No. 903; "aye" on H. Res. 675, rollcall vote No. 904; and "aye" on H. Res. 95, rollcall vote No. 905.

CHILDREN'S HEALTH INSURANCE PROGRAM REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. KEITH ELLISON

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 25, 2007

Mr. ELLISON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of the SCHIP bill that will provide millions of children in America with health coverage. The bill passed Tuesday, 265–159.

The bi-partisan compromise will include \$35 billion more for the SCHIP program allowing Congress to cover 4 million more additional children, bringing the total number of children covered to 10 million. Next year alone, this new SCHIP bill will provide Minnesota with \$50 million in additional dollars to help insure Minnesota's children.

This compromise reauthorizing SCHIP is supported by 43 Governors, 16 of them Republican, including Republican Governors Arnold Schwarzenegger and my home state Governor Tim Pawlenty.

But unfortunately, Madam Speaker, it has been widely reported that the President has promised to veto this bill to provide children with health care.

Last February, I spoke on the floor of the House to criticize the budget cuts contained in the President's budget. Like the budget, we could easily look at the SCHIP bill and say, this is all about numbers, it is just a plan and it is an impersonal thing. But, in fact, Madam Speaker, this bill is a moral statement about who matters in our society.

This bill is a reflection of our own humanity. It talks about who counts, who doesn't, who matters, who doesn't, and what are our priorities.

As the late Senator and former Vice President Hubert Humphrey from my State of Minnesota stated so eloquently:

"The moral test of any government is how it treats those in the dawn of life, the children; those in the dusk of life, the elderly; and those in the shadow of life, the disadvantaged."

The SCHIP bill brought to the House floor today clearly shows the priorities of this Congress.

We are for children having access to health insurance.

We are for providing health care for 4 million additional children.

We are for families not having to worry about the health care for their children.

This SCHIP bill is a clear measure that Congress values the hardworking energy, the blood, sweat and tears of Minnesotans or Americans.

Mr. President, let's not play politics with the health care of our nation's children. Step up to plate and truly leave no children behind by signing this SCHIP bill into law.

ABSENCE FROM THE HOUSE OF
REPRESENTATIVES

HON. ANDER CRENSHAW

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 26, 2007

Mr. CRENSHAW. Madam Speaker, I was unavoidably detained in my congressional district on Monday, September 24, 2007. I respectfully request the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD to reflect that, had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall vote No. 891 on motion to suspend the rules and pass House Concurrent Resolution 193; "yea" on rollcall vote No. 892 on motion to suspend the rules and pass House Resolution No. 668; "yea" on rollcall vote No. 893 on motion to suspend the rules and pass H.R. 1199 and "yea" on rollcall vote No. 894 on motion to suspend the rules and pass House Resolution 340.

COOPER-WOLF: THE SAFE
COMMISSION ACT

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 26, 2007

Mr. WOLF. Madam Speaker, I am deeply concerned about the financial future of our Nation. Yesterday, Representative JIM COOPER and I introduced the SAFE Commission Act, H.R. 3654, legislation that would establish a bipartisan commission to review Federal spending. Everything would be on the table—entitlements and tax policies—mandating Congress to vote up or down based on the commission's findings. Democrats and Republicans must work together to ensure that our country regains sound financial footing. I insert for the RECORD my statement from the press conference introducing the SAFE Commission Act.

Thank you for being here today. I am hopeful that by joining efforts with Jim Cooper, our colleagues in the House and Senate will embrace this bipartisan commission that can put our country on sound financial footing.

I also want to thank you, David Walker, for your vision and your courage in laying the groundwork for the legislation we offer today.

David and the others participating in the Fiscal Wake-up Tour—the Heritage Foundation, Brookings Institution, Concord Coalition, Committee for a Responsible Federal Budget—have been crisscrossing America from San Francisco to Cincinnati, from Tampa to Buffalo—laying out the facts about the future financial condition of our country, discussing possible options and preparing the way for tough choices that those of us in Congress are going to have to make.

When you look at this tour ensemble, you see groups who usually disagree more than they agree on policy issues. That makes it even more extraordinary that they all agree that we need to sit down and work together to make sure our country doesn't fall into a financial canyon that we can never climb out of. That's the message that is resonating with folks who hear them—the need to come together and work to find bipartisan answers to ensure a secure financial future for America.

What the tour has told us, too, is that we shouldn't underestimate the willingness and

ability of the American people to hear the truth and support the decisions necessary to change our financial course.

We owe it to our children and grandchildren to start the process today. We cannot continue to avoid our responsibility to future generations of Americans by passing on a broken system in the form of unfunded Social Security and Medicare and obligations and unsustainable spending. We cannot continue to keep borrowing and mortgaging our future to countries like China and Saudi Arabia that carry obscene amounts of our debt.

But the question is asked, why the SAFE Commission? If this is such a critical issue, shouldn't Congress deal with it?

Yes, it is a critical issue—maybe the most important one facing our country. And yes, it is the responsibility of elected officials to act.

Our financial issues are real. Our economic growth will come to a grinding halt, our standard of living and even our national security will be at risk if we don't start actively working to change our current course.

But I'm going to be candid—Congress on its own can't get it done in the politically charged atmosphere in Washington today. I describe Congress today as dysfunctional. The latest public opinion polls perhaps validate my assessment.

The American people expect us to put our partisan differences aside and work together to get things done. We must move beyond the politics and come to grips with the fact that the financial future of our country is an American issue. It's not red or blue or Republican or Democrat.

Under the SAFE Commission process, Congress is the ultimate decision-maker.

But it will be the SAFE Commission, after holding hearings across the country, listening to the American people, and putting everything on the table for discussion—entitlements and tax policies—which will send its recommendations to Congress for a mandatory up-or-down vote like the BRAC (The Base Closing Commission) process to decide what military bases to keep open or close.

Congress will be part of the SAFE process—has a place at the table. We even hold out hope that Congress could find its way and act on its own. First, at least four of the 14 congressionally appointed commission members must be sitting Members of Congress. Second, if Congress enacts significant legislation aimed at addressing this looming crisis, the SAFE Commission would terminate and cease to exist. We hope this happens, but, I doubt it will.

Abraham Lincoln once said, "You cannot escape the responsibility of tomorrow by evading it today." I believe there is a moral component to this issue that goes to the heart of who we are as Americans. By that I mean, I wonder if we have lost the national will to make tough decisions that may require sacrifice?

The SAFE Commission offers us the opportunity to find our way forward to protect the future of our country.

My youngest grandchild is just over a year old. By the time he is 15 years old, 29 cents out of every dollar paid in income taxes will be required to cover the needs of Social Security and Medicare to pay for my retirement.

By the time he completes his undergraduate degree, more than 45 cents out of every dollar of income taxes then will be needed to cover the shortfall of Social Security and Medicare. That will rise to 62 cents out of every dollar if he decides to get his doctorate 10 years later.

Sadly, before he retires—and looks into the eyes of his own grandchildren—retired baby boomers will be consuming 88 percent of

every income tax dollar. With the baby boomers consuming so much, there will be little money left to meet the needs and challenges of future generations—for instance ensuring that our highways and bridges are safe, that there is money for cancer research and to solve the riddles of Parkinson's and Alzheimer's, that we can take care of our veterans, that we have the resources to ensure our schools are the best in the world so our children and grandchildren get the necessary tools, particularly in math and science, to compete in the world marketplace.

Is it right for one generation to live very well knowing that its debts will be left to be paid for by their children and grandchildren?

I'm challenging our colleagues today to come together—to know that while you served in Congress you did everything in your power to provide the kind of security and way of life for your children and grandchildren that your parents and grandparents worked so hard to provide for you.

The challenge, too, goes out to the leadership in Congress and the administration to make this a truly bipartisan effort and put the SAFE Commission on the fast track to enactment.

LEGALIZING INTERNET GAMBLING
WOULD HARM U.S. TRADE

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 26, 2007

Mr. TOWNS. Madam Speaker, as I stated here a couple of months ago, I believe very strongly that whatever our policy is on other types of gambling, we need to maintain a firm line against any form of sports gambling. Gambling on sports events undermines the integrity of American athletics. It can create corruption or the appearance of corruption, and it taints the image of sports as wholesome, family-friendly entertainment.

I also stated that I opposed legalization of online sports gambling in H.R. 2046. It is not enough to allow sports associations to say "not on my game" if Congress is sending the message to the public that sports gambling is fine. If we are going to consider any loosening of laws against online gambling, we need to say "not on sports, period."

But yesterday I received a letter from Stuart Eizenstat, a very well-respected trade expert who was formerly U.S. Ambassador to the European Union and Under Secretary of Commerce for International Trade, writing on behalf of the National Football League. Ambassador Eizenstat's letter informs me that, under the present circumstances, even "not on sports, period" could leave the NFL and other great American athletic institutions vulnerable to assault by the offshore gambling interests who want to make money off the popularity of these games.

According to Ambassador Eizenstat's letter, a law that legalizes most online gambling but includes limited exceptions, such as a sports gambling exception, will be vulnerable to attack in the World Trade Organization. If the WTO rules against the U.S. law, the U.S. would have to choose between eliminating the exception—feeding our treasured sports to the gambling wolves—or paying billions in compensation to our trading partners. I, for one, think we should avoid having to decide which of these is the lesser of two evils if we can.

It appears that the U.S. does have a way out, by withdrawing any commitments to free trade in gambling. The U.S. Trade Representative is currently in the middle of negotiating this withdrawal. But this requires compensation too, for taking away market access from our trading partners. How much compensation? Not much at all, given that almost all Internet gambling is illegal. But if we make it legal, even if sports gambling is excluded, then there is a big legal market for which we will owe compensation.

As Ambassador Eizenstat says, "withdrawal negotiations should be brought to a conclusion before Congress passes any new gambling legislation." In the interest of protecting American athletics, I plan to take this advice to heart.

Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to enter Ambassador Eizenstat's letter into the record.

FLOOD INSURANCE REFORM AND
MODERNIZATION ACT (HR 3121)

HON. CAROLYN MCCARTHY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 26, 2007

Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 3121, the Flood Insurance Reform and Modernization Act. This reauthorization and update of the National Flood Insurance Program is needed to ensure all home and business owners in flood zones have the ability to plan for the worst and purchase an appropriate level of coverage.

In 2005, we witnessed the extreme case of storm damage. Hurricanes Katrina and Rita showed that insurance companies try to blame wind damage on water. Too many lawsuits have been filed to try to resolve the dispute. This bill creates an option: homeowners can purchase a multiperil policy that will pay them for hurricane damage, whether caused by the wind or storm surge.

H.R. 3121 also includes language to further encourage to my constituents on Long Island to purchase flood insurance. A recent study has shown the southern shore of Long Island would be flooded if a Category 1 storm were to strike the area. That flood zone pushes further north on with each intensifying category. The affected areas on Long Island are home to middle-class and businesses. Under H.R. 3121, the maximum coverage for a home increases from \$250,000 to \$335,000; for residential contents from \$100,000 to \$135,000; and for non-residential properties from \$500,000 to \$670,000. These provisions will ensure that flood insurance participants on Long Island will be able to pick up the pieces and start over following a hurricane.

The bill includes another little discussed provision that I strongly support. Most people don't realize that today their finished basement family or media room and its contents are not protected by flood insurance because that room is located below ground level. As more families add on to their homes rather than move to larger homes, basements are becoming another room, often more important than the traditional living room. H.R. 3121 allows optional coverage for improvements and personal property located in basements.

Too many people who should be purchasing flood insurance have no protection. Some people they live too far from the coast. Others don't realize that their homes are in a flood plain and learn this fact, to their dismay, only after a flash flood destroys their residences. I am pleased that H.R. 3121 funds a program to help communities reach out to residents and encourage them to purchase flood insurance. I commend the gentlewoman from California (Ms. MATSUI) who introduced this legislation in the 109th Congress.

It is only a matter of time before a severe hurricane like the Long Island Express of 1938 impacts Long Island. This bill improves current insurance and should encourage more home owners to purchase and retain flood insurance. I encourage the House to pass H.R. 3121 and hope that the Senate also will act quickly to send this important legislation to the President for his signature.

RECOGNIZING NATIONAL OVARIAN
CANCER AWARENESS MONTH

HON. JOHN B. LARSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 26, 2007

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize September as National Ovarian Cancer Awareness Month. This is a very important designation because it helps to raise awareness about ovarian cancer and its symptoms.

In the State of Connecticut alone, over 300 women are diagnosed with ovarian cancer each year. It is predicted that 190 women in Connecticut will die from ovarian cancer in 2007. Ovarian cancer is the eighth most common female cancer in Connecticut and the fourth most common cause of female cancer death in the State.

Although in the United States approximately 20,000 women are diagnosed with ovarian cancer each year and an estimated 15,000 women die of the disease, there is currently no screening test for ovarian cancer. Until there is a cure for this disease it is important to support and recognize the hard work that organizations are doing to raise awareness for this disease and its symptoms. I want to commend organizations like the Ovarian Cancer National Alliance, OCNA, for its commitment to ensuring that women are aware of the symptoms of ovarian cancer and for its advocacy on behalf of the women and families who have been touched by this devastating disease.

Early detection of ovarian cancer must be our focus and education and awareness are imperative. Studies have shown that if ovarian cancer is treated before it has spread outside the ovary, the 5-year survival rate is 93 percent. However, only 19 percent of ovarian cancers are found at such an early stage.

I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing September as National Ovarian Cancer Awareness Month and to work to increase awareness about this deadly disease.

INTRODUCING THE IRAQI REFUGEE AND INTERNALLY DISPLACED PERSONS HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE, RESETTLEMENT AND SECURITY ACT OF 2007

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 26, 2007

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce a vital piece of legislation to raise awareness of the impending humanitarian crisis and security breakdown as a result of the mass influx of Iraqi refugees into neighboring countries, and the growing internally displaced population in Iraq.

Our legislation addresses this issue by increasing directed accountable assistance to these populations and their host countries, increasing border security, facilitating the resettlement of Iraqis at risk and broadening domestic relocation assistance.

Madam Speaker, whether you agree or disagree with U.S. policy in Iraq, one thing is crystal clear, we have a humanitarian crisis manifesting in the region that cannot be ignored.

Let's examine the facts. Iraqis are now the third-largest displaced population in the world and the fastest-growing refugee population globally. The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, UNHCR, estimates that there are some 2.2 million Iraqis displaced internally and at least another 2 million Iraqis have sought refuge in neighboring countries.

Many of these Iraqi refugees and internally displaced persons lack adequate food, shelter and other basic services. Further, the massive flow of refugees into neighboring countries is straining the social, economic, and security fabric of the host nations and threatens to destabilize the entire Middle East region.

My own efforts to address this looming calamity began in August when I wrote to Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice highlighting the need for the United States to address this devastating situation with strong financial support, either through bilateral assistance or funding for international organizations that are working directly with the refugee and internally displaced populations.

In response to my letter, on September 7, 2007, I, along with Helsinki Commission Co-chairman Senator BENJAMIN L. CARDIN (D-MD) and Helsinki Commissioner Congressman JOSEPH R. PITTS (R-PA), received a briefing by Assistant Secretary of State for Population, Refugees, and Migration, PRM, Ellen Sauerbrey, who had recently returned from the region.

It was clear from our discussion that while the United States has been working to address this grave situation, not nearly enough is being done. The United States has a moral obligation to make a serious commitment to help Iraqi refugees and internally displaced populations while meeting our commitment to resettle Iraqi refugees referred by the UNHCR.

It is precisely for these reasons that I decided to take swift action and address this worsening crisis with comprehensive legislation.

Among the legislation's highlights are an authorization of \$700 million for each fiscal year

beginning in 2008 through 2010 for the relief of Iraqi refugees and internally displaced persons, an increase of direct accountable bilateral assistance and/or funding for international aid organizations and nongovernmental organizations working in the host countries and an authorization of \$500 million to increase border security in Jordan.

Additionally, this legislation facilitates the resettlement of Iraqis employed by our government, American companies, and nongovernmental organizations into the United States, broadens domestic relocation assistance to include housing credits, cultural counseling, meetings with social workers, advice on how to work with the schools and employment systems, and requires the Department of State to create a program in the U.S. for English as a second language, vocational, computer training, employment services and some counseling for all Iraqi nationals immigrating to the United States under a Special Immigrant Visa.

Finally this legislation urges increased cooperation between the United States Government and the international community to address this crisis.

In passing this legislation, Congress can reaffirm its commitment to Iraqi refugees and internally displaced persons. Our attention to this crisis could not be more important at this time for the sake of the new Iraq and Middle East regional stability. I urge my colleagues to support this resolution and ask for its expeditious consideration.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE TASK FORCE ON MENTORING OF MONTGOMERY COUNTY ON THE OCCASION OF ITS 16TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 26, 2007

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate and express my gratitude to the Task Force on Mentoring of Montgomery County, MD.

The Task Force on Mentoring is a community-based, nonprofit organization whose mission is to expand access to mentoring programs to youth and to enhance the community's understanding of mentoring as a valuable tool to ensure that our students can achieve their full potential. Among its many important efforts, the TFM provides training to mentors; sponsors seminars, conferences and workshops; assists parents seeking mentors; works to expand the pool of volunteer mentors; and establishes school-based mentoring programs.

The Task Force on Mentoring has supported at-risk youth for over 16 years. Its upcoming Annual Breakfast Conference focuses on "Making the Right Life Choices—How Mentoring Empowers Our Youth." The conference will take place at the Rockville campus of John Hopkins University on October 4, 2007.

Thanks to the dedication and effective efforts of the Task Force on Mentoring, many of Montgomery County's adolescents have been given the opportunity to become active and productive citizens.

Madam Speaker, on the occasion of its 16th annual conference, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the Task Force on Mentoring of Montgomery County.

GLOBAL POVERTY ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 25, 2007

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank my colleague and good friend from Washington, Congressman ADAM SMITH, for this legislation and his commitment to ending poverty worldwide.

The statistics are hard to believe: More than one billion people worldwide still struggle to survive on less than \$1 per day, and another 1.6 billion eke out a living on less than \$2 per day.

So, close to three billion men, women, and children—or a population 11 times the size of our own nation—awake each morning to little or no food, dirty water, inadequate shelter, and a lack of rudimentary health care. The entire international community should be ashamed at this massive failure.

Alleviating crushing poverty around the globe is our most profound moral imperative. Our unending compassion as an American people and our position as the world's sole remaining superpower demand it.

But more than just an appeal to our generosity should move us to pass this bill through the House of Representatives today: Reducing poverty around the world is in our national interest.

Persistent poverty gnaws at the bodies of men and women, making them vulnerable to global infectious diseases, such as HIV/AIDS, that demand our resources and threaten health around the globe.

And the despair that inevitably accompanies stifling poverty also chews at the souls of the afflicted, making them vulnerable to ideologies of hate that foment violence around the world.

For all these reasons, we must support this bill. This legislation makes it a central U.S. foreign policy goal to eliminate extreme poverty and to achieve the U.N. Millennium Development Goals, which this Administration has committed to time and again.

Many observers have noted that the Millennium goals are ambitious. But the only way to even come close to achieving them is to remain committed—as a Congress and as a nation—to addressing poverty head-on.

This legislation requires the Administration to develop a comprehensive strategy to eliminate extreme global poverty. And it calls on the Administration—and future Administrations—to present to Congress the specific steps it has taken to develop and implement its strategy.

The bill enumerates several methods that serve as a blueprint for the overall strategy: development policies, continued investment in key programs, debt relief, and coordination with international organizations.

We could all glance at the statistics I mentioned earlier, shrug our shoulders, and shake

our heads. But this Congress will not settle for apathy and indifference. We will use our generosity and our foreign policy to lift up the people in extreme poverty who deserve our immediate attention.

I strongly urge all of my colleagues to join me in supporting this legislation.

SUPPORTING THE GOALS AND IDEALS OF NATIONAL DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH

SPEECH OF

HON. AL GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 25, 2007

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I would like to express my strong support for H. Res. 590, a resolution supporting the goal and ideals of National Domestic Violence Awareness month.

Within the United States, we know that one out of every four American women will experience violence by an intimate partner sometime during her lifetime.

Great strides have been made in breaking the vicious cycle of domestic violence in this country. With the impact of legislation such as the Violence Against Women Act, VAWA, the rate of domestic violence against females over the age of 12 in the U.S. declined between 1993 and 2001.

Despite this progress, however, we must continue to raise awareness and actively work to combat this epidemic. We must speak out on behalf of victims who, for too long, were forced to suffer in silence.

Domestic violence can, and often does, turn deadly. A study released by the U.S. Department of Justice in 2005 reported that roughly 22 percent of murders were committed against family members. This study also shows that women are much more likely than men to be victims of domestic violence. In fact, over three-quarters of domestic violence victims are female, while over three-quarters of domestic violence perpetrators are male. It was also found that family members were responsible for an astounding 43 percent of murders of females.

According to a survey conducted in 2007 by the Family Violence Prevention Fund, 56 percent of men have had reason to believe that a member of their immediate or extended family, a close friend, or an acquaintance has been in a domestic violence or sexual assault situation. However, this survey also shows that 57 percent of men believe that they personally can make at least some difference in preventing domestic violence and sexual assault.

I believe that we can all make a difference in the battle against domestic violence. I do not only believe that we can make a difference, but that we must make a difference. I would like to thank my colleague, fellow Texas Congressman TED POE for introducing this important resolution.

I would also like to recognize the numerous organizations and individuals who work tirelessly to eradicate domestic violence and its devastating impact on individuals, families, and our communities.

IRAN COUNTER-PROLIFERATION
ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF
HON. GWEN MOORE

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 25, 2007

Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, I join my colleagues in expressing grave concerns about Iran's irresponsible violations both of its commitments under the Nuclear Non-proliferation Treaty, NPT, and its agreements which it signed with the International Atomic Energy Agency, IAEA.

In the last year, I have joined my colleagues on a number of occasions to express the concerns of this body about these activities. Last February, I supported passage of a resolution that would condemn Iran for violating its international nuclear nonproliferation obligations while commending diplomatic efforts being taken by France, Germany, and the U.K. (EU-3) to suspend Iran's activities.

I have also voted to condemn Iranian President Ahmadinejad's persistent denials of the Holocaust and his assertions that Israel should be "wiped off the map." I have also supported legislation just this year authorizing State and local government pension plans to divest themselves of all non-U.S. companies investing more than \$20 million in Iran's energy sector.

It is clear that the threat posed by Iran acquiring nuclear weapons is real. Therefore, it is all the more important that this Congress support efforts that will help provide, and not restrict, the diplomatic, economic, and political tools available to address it. Just 10 months ago, Congress recognized that when it reauthorized the Iran Freedom Support Act to enhance U.S. tools for using financial means to address Iran's activities.

As the House considers H.R. 1400, there are provisions of this bill that are commendable and which are worthwhile and which I support. In fact, in July, I voted for some of these provisions such as those expanding the law's scope to add financial institutions, insurers, underwriters, guarantors, and any other business organizations, including foreign subsidiaries, to the list of entities already barred from investing in Iran which were included in H.R. 957 which passed the House by a vote of 415-11.

However, I could not support H.R. 1400 as currently written because I am concerned that its provision striking the ability of the President—this President or any future one—to waive sanctions in situations where it serves the U.S. national interest. I am concerned that removing this ability will hinder, not help, our diplomatic or national security interests.

Some have warned that the approach taken by this legislation would not only limit diplomatic options with Iran, but also create a rift with our allies in Europe and possibly strengthen support for President Ahmadinejad's regime in Iran. I think we ought to take those concerns seriously. At a time when the U.S. and the world should be in lock step in trying to deal with the Iranian threat, Congress should not put one more obstacle in the way.

The reason Congress has been careful to add waiver authority to a number of sanctions provisions over the years—and I must confess

to my own frustration with the use of the waiver authority at times—is that there are situations when it is in the United States' best national security interest to do so. If there are concerns about the President's use of the waiver, there are other options that Congress can pursue. In fact, on some sanctions that are currently on the books, Congress has given itself the power to negate a presidential waiver by enacting a joint resolution stating its disapproval.

If this legislation were enacted, companies headquartered in a nation that have committed to work with us at the U.N. or within the E.U. to pressure Iran would be treated no differently from one headquartered in a nation that was actively supporting investment in Iran's energy sector. It makes no sense to argue that we are "enhancing diplomacy" by taking away the ability, on a case-by-case basis, to waive sanctions as an incentive for those countries taking responsible actions to address U.S. concerns and Iran's activities.

Everyone agrees that working cooperatively and diplomatically with the U.N., E.U., and others to curb Iran's nuclear program and limit its nuclear activities is the best way to proceed. It is clear that a coherent strategy that has the support of our allies and the international community stands a far better chance of ending Iran's nuclear activities.

However, if this diplomacy is to succeed, those who we charge with carrying out those efforts should be able to go to the bargaining table without one hand being tied behind their backs. While H.R. 1400 declares that the U.S. should use diplomatic and economic means to resolve the Iranian nuclear problem, I am concerned that the bill itself would undermine the very thing it is trying to promote at a time when that unity of effort is the most crucial.

Just 10 months ago, Congress rejected the waiver provision contained in this bill when it last considered how to best enhance the tools available to the administration to deal with Iran's activities. I hope that as this legislation moves forward in the legislative process, further changes will be made to strengthen this bill in a way that will truly enhance, and not hobble, strong diplomatic efforts.

TRIBUTE TO THE NATIONAL FOUNDATION FOR WOMEN LEGISLATORS

HON. DIANE E. WATSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 26, 2007

Ms. WATSON. I would like to congratulate the National Foundation for Women Legislators for working to distribute thousands of backpacks filled with school supplies in every U.S. State and Puerto Rico.

These backpacks have been donated by Office Depot and are being distributed to at-risk and disadvantaged youth. As lawmakers we introduce and pass legislation every year that affects our Nation's youth. We talk about statistics and reading performance and free lunch programs, but we do not talk enough about ensuring that all students have the school supplies they need to perform both inside and out of the classroom.

Office Depot's National Backpack Program, now in its seventh year, is designed to make

a difference in communities across the country and put backpacks in the hands of underprivileged and "at-risk" children so they have the tools they need to start the school year. Beginning in 2001 with 80,000 backpacks donated nationwide, the program has expanded to deliver 100,000 backpacks in 2002 and in 2003 and 2004, the program was increased to 200,000 backpacks containing school supplies. In 2005, the program grew to 300,000 backpacks with school supplies and finally, in 2006, 300,000 backpacks were again donated by Office Depot across North America and in Puerto Rico, totaling more than 1 million backpacks in the hands of children since the inception of the program.

Sadly, there are hundreds of thousands of children who can not afford the basic supplies they need for school. This backpack initiative not only alleviates some of the financial burden from the many single-family households that are stretching their budget and have enough to worry about paying for food and bills, but it also allows their children to have the pride of being able to start the school year the right way.

I am proud to say that 1,000 backpacks will be delivered to the Bradley Elementary School in my home district. I ask all of my colleagues in this United States Congress to join me in recognizing the National Foundation for Women Legislators and their partnership with Office Depot, whose efforts to empower our children and provide them the tools they need to be successful in school and in life are to be commended.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. GINNY BROWN-WAITE

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 26, 2007

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Madam Speaker, on Monday, September 24, 2007, while returning from a Homeland Security field hearing in New York City my train was delayed, and I missed the following votes. Had I been present, I would have voted in favor of:

Rollcall 891, H. Con. Res. 193, recognizing all hunters throughout the United States for their commitment to safety.

Rollcall 892, H. Res. 668, recognizing the 50th anniversary of the September 25, 1957 desegregation of Little Rock Central High School by the Little Rock Nine.

Rollcall 893, H.R. 1199, to extend the grant program for drug-endangered children.

Rollcall 894, H. Res. 340, expressing the sense of the House of Representatives of the importance of providing a voice for the many victims (and families of victims) involved in missing persons cases and unidentified human remains cases.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 26, 2007

Mr. POE. Madam Speaker, due to the fact that I have been appointed by the President of

the United States to be a Congressional Representative to the United Nations, I was in New York City and missed recorded votes on the House Floor on Monday, September 24, 2007 and Tuesday, September 25, 2007.

I ask that the RECORD reflect that had I been able to vote that day, I would have voted "yes" on Rollcall vote Nos. 894, 895, 896, 897, 898, 899, 900, 901, 905, and 907. I would have voted "no" on Rollcall vote Nos. 902, 903, 904, and 906.

ENSURING WELFARE DOLLARS
ARE SPENT WISELY

HON. JERRY WELLER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 26, 2007

Mr. WELLER of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 3656, a bill to better ensure that taxpayer funds for welfare go to help low-income parents go to work, not to support drug habits. I want to thank my friend and colleague, Congressman PHIL ENGLISH of Pennsylvania, for sponsoring this legislation and I am glad to join as his chief co-sponsor.

In 1996, the Republican-led Congress passed welfare reforms that emphasized the necessity of work to achieving economic self-sufficiency. As a result of that historic reform, millions of families have moved from welfare dependence to greater self-sufficiency, supported by pro-work benefits including child care funds, health coverage, and the Earned Income Tax Credit. Poverty has fallen dramatically, for some groups to record lows.

But there is still more work to do. We all know that too many American parents remain trapped by drug addiction. H.R. 3656 is designed to ensure that our country sends a clearer message about the support available for low-income parents, and what obligations those parents have to stay clean and off of drugs. So this legislation builds upon the success of the 1996 reforms by attempting to better ensure federal tax dollars are spent efficiently and appropriately. Simply put, taxpayer money intended to provide temporary assistance to needy families should not be spent to subsidize drug abuse.

H.R. 3656 expects States to test welfare recipients and applicants for benefits when caseworkers have reason to believe the parent is taking illegal drugs. Not every recipient or applicant, but those for who there is real cause to think that taxpayer funds might wind up furthering a drug habit instead of helping parents find, take and stay in jobs. This common-sense reform will help States identify those in need of substance abuse treatment, and ensure that federal funds are not spent buying illegal drugs.

Madam Speaker, recently in my home state of Illinois, I had an opportunity to meet with members of the Marseilles Concerned Citizens Against Drugs, a group of citizens committed to seeing drug abuse removed from my community. They expressed their dismay that federal dollars are being spent to support an addiction which destroys lives, families, and communities. I couldn't agree more.

I urge my colleagues to support this legislation to better ensure that welfare assistance is spent appropriately, and that those addicted to

drugs be identified so they can receive the treatment needed to lead more productive lives. I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 3656.

CHILDREN'S HEALTH INSURANCE
PROGRAM REAUTHORIZATION
ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. JOHN M. MCHUGH

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 25, 2007

Mr. MCHUGH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 976, the Children's Health Insurance Program Reauthorization Act of 2007. As a strong supporter of the State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP), I am pleased that the House is working to extend SCHIP beyond its upcoming September 30, 2007 expiration.

Importantly, the bill before the House today (H.R. 976) does not include many of the Medicare provisions that were included in H.R. 3162. Those provisions would have markedly reduced funding for my constituent seniors, hospitals, skilled nursing facilities, and home health agencies. Accordingly, I was compelled to vote against H.R. 3162, even though I have long supported the SCHIP program and its expansion.

H.R. 976 takes the approach set forth in legislation (H.R. 3269) introduced by the gentlewoman from New Mexico, Mrs. WILSON, which I cosponsored. Significantly, under this approach, approximately four million additional children will have access to health insurance through SCHIP and their coverage will not come at the expense of my constituent seniors and health care providers.

TRIBUTE TO RICHARD E. "DICK"
COOPER

HON. HAROLD ROGERS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 26, 2007

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Madam Speaker, I regret that I must inform the House of the passing of a great American in my home community.

Richard E. "Dick" Cooper was a friend to me and many others in the State of Kentucky, but especially in my hometown of Somerset. Even more than a friend, he was a father figure, a confidant, friend and advisor. And he was humble, giving and modest.

Dick left us August 7, 2007 at 92. He was the Chairman of the Board at Citizens National Bank, and knew practically everyone. In fact, he also likely knew their parents and even grandparents. His devotion to duty was tireless. He came to work every day right up until the day he died. He cared deeply for people.

After completing high school in 1932, he graduated with honors at the University of Kentucky. In 1942, he entered the U.S. Army and served in the Pacific. Back home, in the business community, he very successfully led the Somerset Stone Company before becoming chairman at the bank. As a civic leader in our community, he served on numerous orga-

nizations including on the advisory board at Somerset Community College. For many years he served on the Board of Trustees of the University of Kentucky.

Dick was more than a local leader. He was well-known throughout the Commonwealth, as a great civic and business leader. He was awarded "man of the year" in 1965 by a Louisville radio station. But he was our man of the year for many more years to come and will continue to be.

Mr. Cooper married Cornelia Dozier in 1961, and she is a leader in her own right in community and cultural affairs. He also leaves behind two children and five grand children. Dick was a brother to the late U.S. Senator John Sherman Cooper, who served with great distinction in Congress from just after World War II until the early 70's.

He came from a good family and leaves a good one behind. Family, friends, and associates from across the Commonwealth of Kentucky will remember him. He touched many lives and hearts with his genuine concern for them, and his example of leadership with purpose and dedication. I am just one of them.

The world is a better place because of the life of Dick Cooper.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. AL GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 26, 2007

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Madam Speaker, I was unavoidably detained on September 18th and missed Rollcall Vote 876 on passage of H.R. 1852, the Expanding American Homeownership Act of 2007. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye."

This legislation makes great strides in allowing the Federal Housing Administration to reach a greater number of borrowers seeking homeownership by increasing loan limits to keep pace with the rising cost of homes, and it offers new, important protections to borrowers who are vulnerable to exploitation in the subprime and predatory loan markets.

The bill also includes numerous other strong measures to help address our Nation's affordable housing crisis, and I would like to express my gratitude for this bill's passage in the House.

CONGRATULATING JOSEPH AND
JOAN PRZYWARA ON THE OCCA-
SION OF THEIR 50TH WEDDING
ANNIVERSARY

HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 26, 2007

Mr. KANJORSKI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to ask you and my esteemed colleagues in the House of Representatives to pay tribute to Joseph and Joan Przywara, of West Nanticoke, Pennsylvania, as they celebrate 50 years of marriage.

On September 14, 1957, Mr. and Mrs. Przywara were joined in marriage at St. Mary's of the Immaculate Conception Church in Wilkes-Barre.

Mr. Przywara began his working career at first in the anthracite coal mines in the Wyoming Valley and then worked for General Motors in New Jersey, McGregor Sportswear in Nanticoke, Woodlawn Farm Dairy in Wilkes-Barre and Dairylea in Scranton. In 1974, he established the West Side Dairy and the couple's two sons, Joseph and Robert, soon joined him in business. In 1982, he acquired the Dream Whip ice cream business in Nanticoke.

Mr. Przywara has served his community in several capacities over the years, not the least of which was his many contributions of time and energy to promote Democratic Party principles and candidates.

He was also highly instrumental in establishing the Plymouth Township Recreation Association on land he helped acquire from the Glen Alden Coal Company. He coached little league baseball for many years and also served as a PIAA baseball and softball official and as an ASA softball umpire.

Mrs. Przywara worked at Pennsylvania Wholesale Drug Company, Heavenly Shoe Company, the United States Social Security Administration and the United States Department of Labor Mine Safety and Health Administration for many years. She currently manages Dream Whip Ice Cream which employs nine people. She is a past member of the Plymouth Township Recreation Association Auxiliary.

Mr. and Mrs. Przywara had three children, Joseph, who is deceased; Robert and Lisa Bonar. They also have four grandchildren.

Mr. and Mrs. Przywara are shining examples of hard working, family and community minded Americans who enrich the quality of life not only for themselves but for all whose lives they have touched. Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating Mr. and Mrs. Przywara on this special occasion.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. WALLY HERGER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 26, 2007

Mr. HERGER. Madam Speaker, I was unable to vote on several measures that came before the House on Tuesday, September 25, 2007 because of illness.

Had I been present I would have voted "aye" on H.R. 1400, Iran Counter-Proliferation Act of 2007; "aye" on H. Res. 584, Supporting the goals and ideals of National Life Insurance Awareness Month; "aye" on H. Con. Res. 210, Supporting the goals and ideals of Sickle Cell Disease Awareness Month; "aye" on H. Res. 663, Supporting the goals and ideals of Veterans of Foreign Wars Day; "aye" on H. Res. 548, Expressing the ongoing concern of the House of Representatives for Lebanon's democratic institutions and unwavering support for the administration of justice upon those responsible for the assassination of Lebanese public figures opposing Syrian control of Lebanon; "aye" on H. Res. 642, Expressing sympathy and support for the people and governments of the countries of Central America, the Caribbean, and Mexico which have suffered from Hurricanes Felix, Dean, and Henriette and whose complete economic and fatality toll are still unknown; "aye" on H. Res.

557, Strongly condemning the United Nations Human Rights Council for ignoring severe human rights abuses in various countries, while choosing to unfairly target Israel by including it as the only country permanently placed on the Council's agenda; and no on H. Res. 675, On the question of tabling the motion to appeal the ruling of the chair.

Further, I would have voted no on the previous question and no on adopting H. Res. 675, providing for the consideration of the Senate amendments to H.R. 976; "aye" on H. Res. 95, Supporting the goals and ideals of Campus Fire Safety Month; no on H.R. 976, the Children's Health Insurance Program Reauthorization Act of 2007; and "aye" on H. Res. 590, Supporting the goals and ideals of National Domestic Violence Awareness Month.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TIMOTHY V. JOHNSON

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 26, 2007

Mr. JOHNSON of Illinois. Madam Speaker, unfortunately yesterday morning, September 25, 2007, I was unable to cast my votes on H.R. 1400, H. Res. 584, H. Con. Res. 210, and H. Res. 663.

Had I been present for rollcall No. 895 on suspending the rules and passing H.R. 1400, the Iran Counter-Proliferation Act, I would have voted "aye."

Had I been present for rollcall No. 896 on suspending the rules and passing H. Res. 584, Supporting the goals and ideals of National Life Insurance Awareness Month, I would have voted "aye."

Had I been present for rollcall No. 897 on suspending the rules and passing H. Con. Res. 210, Supporting the goals and ideals of Sickle Cell Disease Awareness Month, I would have voted "aye."

Had I been present for rollcall No. 898 on suspending the rules and passing H. Res. 663, Supporting the goals and ideals of Veterans of Foreign Wars Day, I would have voted "aye."

HONORING MARTY DICKENS

HON. MARSHA BLACKBURN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 26, 2007

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Marty Dickens as he retires from his position as president of AT&T Tennessee after a distinguished 39-year career in the telecommunications industry.

Beginning his career with the company in 1969, Marty worked in the public affairs and regulatory departments and comptroller's office before joining BellSouth International in 1992. He has served on the boards of directors of BellSouth operations in Brazil, Venezuela, Panama, Nicaragua, Israel, China and Denmark.

Since moving to Nashville to become president of the company in 1999, Marty has become a force not just in the Nashville business community, but in its charitable and civic life

as well. Not content with the challenges of running a major regional employer, Marty sought out other ways to contribute such as serving on the Board of Trustees at Belmont University, on the community boards of the YMCA, Boy Scouts, Vanderbilt University's Blair School of Music, as well as the Adventure Science Center, among others.

Marty has also served on the corporate boards of Genesco and First American Financial Holdings and has served as chairman of both the Nashville Convention and Visitors Bureau and the Nashville Area Chamber of Commerce. Most recently, he was honored as the 2007 Outstanding Nashvillian of the Year by the Kiwanis Club of Nashville.

Madam Speaker, please join me in congratulating Marty Dickens on an exemplary record of service in business, in charity and in our community. He has set an example that we would all do well to emulate, and we wish him well in his retirement.

TRIBUTE TO DR. JOHN J. COLLINS

HON. ZOE LOFGREN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 26, 2007

Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California. Madam Speaker, books and movies about these days about the "Greatest Generation," those men and women who fought and won World War II to save us from fascism. But it is not just the winning of World War II that leads us to admire and be grateful to members of our parents' generation. To know the individual is to understand the generational achievement of greatness.

My father-in-law, Dr. John J. Collins, is a person whose life can so instruct us. Like so many of his generation, John J. Collins was not born to wealth or privilege. Born in Oklahoma in 1917, his family soon moved to California, where his father worked in the oil fields in Coalinga. He was the oldest boy in a big Irish-American family, with several older sisters. And when his father died at an early age, as a boy he was the "oldest man" in his household during the Great Depression. Like so many of his generation, he learned habits of frugality and hard work in those early years. These habits have served him and his family well. They are with him to this day.

In the best American spirit, he struggled to go farther than his parents. He was educated at Coalinga Junior College and then worked his way through the University of California at Berkeley, where he received a Bachelor of Arts degree. Like so many others, he enlisted to fight in World War II, joining the U.S. Army before Pearl Harbor, in 1941. In the Army, he became an infantry and artillery officer. He served for years in the Pacific, including taking part in the fighting in Saipan and Okinawa. This was rough combat and many died. Like most of those who I've met who served under such conditions, he prefers not to discuss the details of combat but remembers still those of his colleagues who did not return. He merely served bravely, honorably and saved our country, emerging as a Captain. He is humble about his service. We are honored by it.

After the war, he returned to the San Francisco Bay Area and then moved to Bakersfield where he went to work at Bakersfield High

School. The soldiers came home from the war to make a life for themselves with marriage and children. He was no exception, and he and his wife Patricia were blessed with three children, three grandchildren and one great-grandchild. From Bakersfield High School, he moved on to Bakersfield College. In his early years at the college, he taught sociology and also served as a very successful track and cross-country coach. Always striving to improve himself, he took classes nights and summers while pursuing an education career, and obtained a Master's degree. A counseling credential allowed him to begin serving as a counselor for students. Subsequently, he became first the Director of Student Activities and then the Dean of Students. During this period, he engaged in more evening, weekend, and summer study at UCLA in the Education Department. Ultimately, a doctor's thesis was written and published, and he was awarded a doctorate in education.

In 1965, he was selected as the first President of Moorpark College, a community college in Ventura County. There, he supervised the building of the College's physical plant, planned the curriculum and opening, hired the faculty and administration, and took Moorpark from a plan on paper to a thriving junior college with a variety of innovative educational programs. Later he got the chance to return to Bakersfield College as President and the family moved back to that California community. As President of Bakersfield College for many years, he kept the school in the top rank of community colleges, established an endowment and the B.C. Foundation, and won the respect of the community, his colleagues, and the students. He retired as President of Bakersfield College in 1982. But, with his work ethic, he never has been fully "retired." He served as interim President of Mission Community College in Santa Clara County and then as interim Chancellor for West Valley-Mission Community College District. Throughout this time, he retained the title President Emeritus at Bakersfield College, and has worked as an administrator there most of time since his "retirement." Never one to forget the remembrance and honor due to the past, Dr. Collins has been instrumental in setting up the Bakersfield College Archives. Recognizing his many years of service, several years ago Bakersfield College renamed its student center building as the John J. Collins Student Center.

Along the way, he acquired the skill to make beautiful furniture, and has blessed his family members with many graceful and attractive pieces. At age 90, he continues to work for the Kern Community College District and to be a joy to his friends, family, and community. Dr. John J. Collins, "Doc" to his grandchildren, is to me the model of all we admire in his generation. When times were tough, he just worked harder. When his country called in time of war, he bravely answered. When his country needed him, he spent a career giving back to his community as an educator—making sure that young people had a chance to learn and succeed.

As family man, he devoted himself to his wife, his children, his siblings and extended family. He has shown real courage—whether on the battlefields of the South Pacific or when facing and coping with the serious illness of his wife of more than 60 years. He has shown a steadiness of purpose which allowed him to leap to a level of erudition, education and eco-

omic stability not dreamed of by his parents or grandparents. Widely admired in his hometown, he is recognized as someone who made a difference.

We Americans owe much to the Greatest Generation. But we also owe to them as individuals our love and gratitude. I feel that greatly today on the occasion of the 90th birthday of Dr. John J. Collins, who it has been my privilege to know as my father-in-law.

TRIBUTE TO MARCEL MARCEAU

HON. MIKE FERGUSON

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 26, 2007

Mr. FERGUSON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor Marcel Marceau, who died September 22, 2007, at the age of 84.

Marcel Marceau revived the art of pantomime, performing across the world beginning after World War II. Through his on-stage persona, "Bip," Marceau was known for his ability to capture the full range of human emotions without using words.

Although he became famous as a performer, Marceau's most admirable accomplishment was not on the stage. As a French Jew born Marcel Mangel, during World War II he changed his name and joined the French Resistance to save Jewish children from the Holocaust. He and his brother forged documents to trick the Nazis into thinking that children were too young to be deported, and also helped kids escape into Switzerland.

Speaking years later about his actions and about those who were lost in the Holocaust, which included his father, Marceau said: "Among those kids was maybe an Einstein, a Mozart, somebody who (would have) found a cancer drug. That is why we have a great responsibility. Let us love one another."

Just as the Holocaust demonstrated the worst evil that humans are capable of, the response by individuals like Marcel Marceau represented the best in human compassion.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 26, 2007

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained and unable to make the vote on rollcall No. 907. Had I been voting, I would have voted "yes" on H. Res. 590 on National Domestic Violence Awareness Month.

SUPPORTING THE GOALS AND IDEALS OF GOLD STAR MOTHERS DAY

SPEECH OF

HON. JOHN KLINE

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 24, 2007

Mr. KLINE of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in solemn observance of "Gold Star Mother's Day", on Sunday, September 30th.

More than 75 years ago, one mother's determination to transform her personal loss into good works led to the creation of the American Gold Star Mothers. After receiving notice of her son's death in aerial combat during World War I, Grace Darling Seibold devoted her energy to volunteering in a local hospital. She began reaching out to other mothers whose sons had died in military service to our Nation, and these women organized into a local group.

Their organization was named after the gold star service flag that families hung in their windows for family members who had died in military service. After years of planning, it became a national organization in 1928. In 1936, Congress designated the last Sunday of September as "Gold Star Mother's Day."

Since then, brave women have continued to come together as Gold Star Mothers to ease the burden of their loss and to serve others.

The cost of America's freedom is often personal. Few pay more dearly than our Gold Star Mothers, who have endured the death of a son or daughter in service to our country.

CHILDREN'S HEALTH INSURANCE PROGRAM REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. CORRINE BROWN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 25, 2007

Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise in strong support of the State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP) reauthorization bill. This is a landmark piece of bipartisan legislation that will progress further than any other program to cover uninsured children.

Currently, I am ashamed to say that there are 10 million children without health insurance. But, this bill would provide continued health insurance to six million children already covered and add an additional four million children who currently lack health insurance nationwide. It will improve health benefits for children by providing dental coverage, mental health services and surgical benefits. The bill will also improve access by providing states with incentives to lower the rate of uninsured low income children and distributing grants for new outreach activities to states, local governments and schools.

Unfortunately President Bush has threatened to veto this bipartisan bill and deny 10 million low-income kids the health care they need and deserve. The President has instead expressed support for his own CHIP proposal—which would result in 840,000 low-income kids losing their health care coverage, according to the Congressional Budget Office.

The President has no idea what it might be like to go without health insurance. I saw a quote from him in July when he said "I mean, people have access to health care in America. After all, just go to an emergency room . . ."

An emergency room, Mr. President? That is the best kind of health care you want to provide to our children? Shame, shame, shame.

Mr. President, this bill is going to get the children out the emergency room and make sure they don't delay health care needs until the last minute, give them regular checkups

and preventative care. That is what health care is really about.

Poor children cannot contribute to campaigns, but their right to medical care is no less than that of the children of members of Congress. This bill is the right thing to do and it pays for itself. I urge all my colleagues to have some compassionate conservatism and support this bill.

CELEBRATING 25 YEARS AT
LIBERTY CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS—

OF TEXAS—

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 26, 2007

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Liberty Christian School in Argyle, Texas for celebrating its 25th anniversary. This is a great accomplishment, and I am proud to have an establishment such as this in the 26th Congressional District of Texas.

I would like to give special congratulations to Rodney and Judy Haire, Mark Bowles, Karen Watts, and Dee Quick for serving 25 years at Liberty Christian School. Thanks to teachers and staff such as these, I am confident that Liberty Christian School will continue to inspire and educate the young adults that walk its halls today.

Liberty Christian School is celebrating its 25th anniversary with a jubilee celebration. It is an event where both current and former families, students, staff, faculty, and friends can get together and celebrate the heritage of Liberty Christian School.

Congratulations to the Liberty Christian School on their anniversary. Twenty-five years of service is a milestone to be celebrated. It is with honor that I stand here today to honor Liberty Christian School for their continuing commitment to education in my congressional district.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO CHIEF DEAN
MOLBURG

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 26, 2007

Mr. PORTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Boulder City Fire Chief Dean Molburg and congratulate him upon his retirement. Chief Molburg dutifully served the city of Boulder City as a dedicated member and leader of the department for almost 17 years.

Chief Molburg and his wife of 31 years, Elizabeth have been residents of Boulder City for 25 years since moving to Nevada in 1982 from Illinois. Chief Molburg has been a mem-

ber of the Boulder City Fire Department since 1985. Prior to his appointment as Fire Chief, he served as Deputy Fire Chief and Emergency Management Coordinator for the City of Boulder City. He earned a degree in Fire Service Management and is a graduate of the National Fire Academy's Executive Fire Officer Program.

During his tenure as Fire Chief, the department achieved numerous accomplishments and accolades under his direction and leadership. The increase in the level of emergency medical care with the implementation of a Paramedic Program is one of his most significant accomplishments. Chief Molburg also oversaw two building additions to the existing fire station, the purchase of two new fire engines, new ambulances and rescue units. Under the leadership of Chief Molburg, the Boulder City Fire Department achieved an ISO 2 rating, one of the few ISO 2 rated departments in the country.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to honor Chief Molburg for his dedication and service to the City of Boulder City. He has served the citizens of Boulder City for so many years with dedication, vision, and valor. I am proud of his accomplishments with the Boulder City Fire Department and thank him for his service to his community. I wish him all the best in his future endeavors.

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate on February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules Committee—of the time, place, and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled, and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Thursday, September 27, 2007 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

SEPTEMBER 28

10 a.m.
Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs
Oversight of Government Management, the Federal Workforce, and the District of Columbia Subcommittee
To hold hearings to examine the role of Federal Executive Boards in pandemic preparedness.

SD-342

OCTOBER 2

10 a.m.
Environment and Public Works
To hold hearings to examine pending nominations. SD-406
Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions
To hold hearings to examine issues and challenges facing current mine safety disasters. SD-430
Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs
Oversight of Government Management, the Federal Workforce, and the District of Columbia Subcommittee
To hold hearings to examine the National Capitol for pandemic preparedness. SD-342

10:30 a.m.
Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs
To hold hearings to examine the National Flood Insurance Program. SD-538

OCTOBER 3

10 a.m.
Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs
To hold hearings to examine combating genocide in Darfur, focusing on the role of divestment and other policy tools. SD-538

Environment and Public Works
Clean Air and Nuclear Safety Subcommittee
To hold hearings to examine the Nuclear Regulatory Commission's reactor oversight process. SD-406

Aging
To hold hearings to examine veterans health, focusing on ensuring the care of aging heroes. SR-325

SR-325

10:30 a.m.

Judiciary
Antitrust, Competition Policy and Consumer Rights Subcommittee
To hold hearings to examine S. 772, to amend the Federal antitrust laws to provide expanded coverage and to eliminate exemptions from such laws that are contrary to the public interest with respect to railroads. SD-226

SD-226

2:30 p.m.

Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs
State, Local, and Private Sector Preparedness and Integration Subcommittee
To hold hearings to examine pandemic influenza, focusing on state and local government efforts to prepare. SD-342

SD-342

OCTOBER 4

10 a.m.
Commerce, Science, and Transportation
To hold hearings to examine the security of our nation's seaports. SR-253

SR-253

2:30 p.m.

Judiciary
To hold hearings to examine the implementation of the Hometown Heroes Survivors Benefits Act. SD-226

SD-226

OCTOBER 17

10 a.m.
Commerce, Science, and Transportation
To hold hearings to examine the digital television transition, focusing on government and industry perspectives. SR-253

SR-253