

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

IN RECOGNITION OF DR.
ELIZABETH BALRAJ

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 22, 2007

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Dr. Elizabeth Balraj as she retires after 35 years of dedicated public service to the people of Northeast Ohio, including 20 years as Cuyahoga County coroner.

Dr. Balraj began her career in the 1960s, immigrating to the United States to become a physician and surgeon after completing her studies in her native India. She practiced medicine at Akron General Hospital and St. Luke's Hospital in Cleveland before coming to the Cuyahoga County Coroner's Office as deputy coroner and pathologist. In 1987, she was appointed Coroner of Cuyahoga County, following the retirement of Coroner Dr. Samuel Gerber, a position she held until her retirement in July of this year.

During her time as Coroner of Cuyahoga County, Dr. Balraj established herself as a very capable and energetic leader. She worked very hard with local law enforcement officials to help solve murder cases and was there to console the many people who lost loved ones. Additionally, she advanced the cause of women in the medical field by blazing the trail for women to become more involved in science and medicine, as well as the law enforcement field.

Madam Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honoring Dr. Elizabeth Balraj or her service to Cuyahoga County, her passion for her work, and her kindness to the many families and individuals of Cuyahoga County over the last 35 years.

AFFIRMATION OF THE UNITED STATES RECORD ON THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE RESOLUTION

HON. JOHN D. DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 22, 2007

Mr. DINGELL. Madam Speaker, I have noted in recent days that some of my colleagues have asked to have their names removed from the list of those cosponsoring House Resolution 106. I have not asked to be removed as a cosponsor because I still strongly support the goals of the Resolution, and believe that it is important to acknowledge the atrocities committed against the Armenian people by the Ottoman Empire do indeed constitute genocide.

While I support the message of the Resolution, I have recently signed a letter asking that it not be brought to the House floor at this time. While the Armenian genocide is a tragic part of history, in the present there are Amer-

ican soldiers fighting and dying in Iraq. Regretably, Turkey has responded to this Resolution with threats that would endanger the safety of those soldiers and make it more difficult for us to quickly and safely bring our troops home.

I know that my friends in the Armenian community have worked very hard over the years on behalf of this Resolution, and I know that they will be disappointed if its passage is delayed. However, they will be no more disappointed than I am about the fact that more than four years after the President launched his misguided war in Iraq, our troops are still in harm's way.

HONORING CIRCUIT RIDER PRODUCTIONS

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 22, 2007

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Circuit Rider Productions, a non-profit corporation that has harmonized the work of providing human services for at-risk youth with a mission to help restore and sustain Sonoma County's ecological resources. The work done by Circuit Rider Productions has been of immense value to the community of northern Sonoma County.

Circuit Rider Productions was founded in 1976 by Fred Beeman and Ed Kissam with the mission to reach out to people and places in need of help. The organization's original project took a Federal grant and taught young people to use video production technology and to film a documentary about a project which employed low-income youth to plant trees. The fusion of job training, youth services, and environmental restoration formed the core of services that Circuit Rider Productions has continued to offer in the 30 years since.

The organization is currently comprised of two divisions: Resources and Programs for Youth Family and Community; and the Center for Ecological Restoration and Stewardship. The first set of programs work with youth in northern Sonoma County on issues such as drug and alcohol abuse and gang activity. Through no-cost community counseling, programs in schools, and court referrals, young people who are at risk for substance abuse or involvement with gang activities receive help from the various Circuit Rider programs focusing on life and communication skills, self-confidence building, and responsible decision making.

The Center for Ecological Restoration and Stewardship focuses on providing landowners and communities with the information they need to make sound decisions about watersheds. Through an analysis program and ecological restoration services, the organization can provide the training necessary to help get these projects off the ground. With a particular emphasis on controlling invasive species and restoring native species, Circuit Rider has

been a leader in responsible environmental restoration.

Madam Speaker, it is appropriate that we congratulate Circuit Ride Productions for the many wonderful contributions this organization has made to our community. By taking a comprehensive approach to working with at-risk youth, and providing more than abstract job training, they have bettered the lives of countless young people while providing important and scientifically sound guidance in ecological restoration.

INTRODUCTION OF THE PROCEDURAL FAIRNESS FOR SEPTEMBER 11TH VICTIMS ACT

HON. TIMOTHY H. BISHOP

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 22, 2007

Mr. BISHOP of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise on behalf of nine of my colleagues to introduce the Procedural Fairness for September 11th Victims Act. This bipartisan legislation is an identical companion to a bill introduced by Senator BIDEN and passed by the Senate earlier this month.

We offer this legislation in response to a shortcoming in the Federal rules of civil procedure that has the unintended consequence of restricting witnesses from appearing in civil lawsuits involving September 11th claims.

Six years ago, Americans came together to support one another in a time of national crisis. The attacks on September 11, 2001 affected all of us, in all walks of life and in every State across the country. However, for those who were injured or lost loved ones on September 11th, geography is playing a major role in their ability to seek compensation.

Shortly after September 11th, Congress mandated that victims and their families who opted out of the 9/11 Victims Compensation Fund and chose to pursue civil suits could only do so in the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of New York. According to the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, parties can only subpoena testimony and documents within 100 miles of that district. As a result, many victims and their families cannot bring the witnesses or documents they need for their cases.

In response, the Procedural Fairness for September 11th Victims Act will amend the Air Transportation Safety and System Stabilization Act to provide for nation-wide subpoena power to all parties involved—victims, their families and the defendants—when litigating 9/11 claims.

Madam Speaker, I hope my colleagues agree that justice requires that the parties to cases arising under the Victims Compensation Fund have access to all the testimony and documents relevant to their claims, regardless of where in the U.S. the witnesses or documents are located. Therefore, I encourage my colleagues to cosponsor the Procedural Fairness for September 11th Victims Act and call

• 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.

upon the leadership to move this legislation as soon as possible.

RECOGNIZING MR. CHAD BLOCK
FOR HIS HEROIC ACTIONS

HON. PATRICK J. MURPHY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 22, 2007

Mr. PATRICK J. MURPHY of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Chad Block, businessman and volunteer firefighter, for his heroic acts on the afternoon of March 24, 2007.

On this date Mr. Block passed by a car accident where a box van was on fire on Route 202 in Bucks County, PA. Acting quickly, Mr. Block positioned his vehicle to prevent other cars from reaching the fire. Suddenly, the fuel tank exploded on the box van sending it down the road toward an outlet store full of customers and workers.

Without hesitation or regard for his own life, Mr. Block pulled a wheel chock from his own truck and placed it under the wheel of the burning van stopping its movement. Moments later, as the heat from the burning van overcame the wheel chock; the burning van began to move again down the road. Without hesitation, Mr. Block placed his own truck in the path of the burning van until fire crews could secure the van and extinguish the fire.

Madam Speaker, Mr. Block's bravery goes above and beyond what we expect from our citizens; but as a dedicated volunteer firefighter with concern for the safety of his community, he acted fast and with great daring. He acted without regard to his own life to ensure the safety of others. I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing Chad Block for his heroism.

CONGRATULATING THE DALAI
LAMA UPON BEING AWARDED
THE CONGRESSIONAL GOLD
MEDAL

HON. JOHN D. DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 22, 2007

Mr. DINGELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Dalai Lama upon being awarded the prestigious Congressional Gold Medal of Honor.

The Congressional Gold Medal is the nation's highest and most distinguished civilian award. The honor must be approved by at least two-thirds of the Members of both the House of Representatives and the Senate in order to be awarded. Over 100 awards have been conferred since its creation in 1776, including recipients General George Washington, Winston Churchill, and Nelson Mandela.

His Holiness, the Fourteenth Dalai Lama, has exemplified the spirit of the award, demonstrating tremendous compassion and tolerance. Through his selfless advocacy of peace and human rights, the Dalai Lama has lived as an example of what one committed individual can accomplish. His efforts to better the lives of the Tibetan people have not gone unno-

ticed, and I am truly honored to play a role in this special day. I would like to thank my colleagues for joining me in honoring His Holiness, the Fourteenth Dalai Lama.

RECOGNIZING THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF MS. HELEN SPENCER AS THE CITY CLERK OF FORT WALTON BEACH, FLORIDA

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 22, 2007

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Madam Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, it is with great honor that I rise today in recognition of Helen Spencer, who for the last 40 years has engaged in committed, dutiful service to the City of Fort Walton Beach, FL, as the City Clerk.

Helen Spencer's dedication to the City began in 1967 when she became a secretary in the Fort Walton Beach Police Department. In 1970, she was promoted to stenographer. In 1974 and for the next 7 years she was a high level secretary, and on April 29, 1981, she was promoted to Executive Secretary for the Fort Walton Beach Police Department. When the position of City Clerk of Fort Walton Beach was vacated she was quickly chosen to fill the spot as interim city clerk. After only a few months of service to the City, the City Council asked her to fill the position permanently.

As the city clerk, Mrs. Spencer manages a multitude of functions. She oversees the official City records, prepares City elections, manages the city's leases and deeds, and prepares countless minutes and agenda packages for the City Council. However, Mrs. Spencer's dedication to the community ranges beyond her occupation. She participates on the Local Issues Committee, the Greater Fort Walton Beach Chamber of Commerce, and serves as vice president of the Sugar Beach Sertoma Club.

Madam Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, I am proud to recognize Helen Spencer on her 40th anniversary with the City of Fort Walton Beach, FL. Mrs. Spencer truly possesses an extraordinary understanding and a unique perspective of the City's history. She is a committed, innovative, and loyal resident of Fort Walton Beach, and we are forever grateful for her service.

INTRODUCTION OF BILL ON PROTECTING CONSUMERS THROUGH THE PROPER FORBEARANCE PROCEDURES ACT OF 2007

HON. JOHN D. DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 22, 2007

Mr. DINGELL. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of the bill entitled the "Protecting Consumers through Proper Forbearance Procedures Act of 2007", which I am introducing today. This legislation is intended to correct persistent problems in procedure created by two words in the Communications Act of 1934, as amended.

Section 10 of the Communications Act permits a telecommunications carrier to file a petition with the Federal Communications Commission, FCC, asking the FCC to forbear from applying certain statutory or regulatory requirements to it. The FCC may grant forbearance if it finds that doing so is in the public interest.

It is certainly within the prerogative of Congress to create a statutory regime that permits a regulatory agency to forbear from applying a statutory requirement, so long as the agency finds that consumers will continue to be protected and well served. The problem in this circumstance is that the statute states that the carrier's petition will be "deemed granted" if the FCC does not act within a prescribed time frame. In other words, if the clock runs out before the FCC has reached agreement on the merits of a petition, the petition is automatically granted.

This untenable situation must be corrected. It can and has led to undesirable results.

First, the FCC last year permitted one forbearance petition to be "deemed granted" without issuing an accompanying written order, thereby making it impossible for Congress or the courts to ascertain the scope of relief granted or the legal rationale supporting the agency action. In this situation, which could easily occur again, it is difficult for Congress to conduct proper oversight of the implementation of the Communications Act, as well as oversight of the telecommunications industry.

Second, the "deemed granted" language results in unsound decision-making at the FCC. Faced with contentious, complicated issues as set forth in these petitions, the FCC now routinely waits until the last possible minute—in some cases literally the 11th hour—to make a rushed decision. All the while, during the FCC's deliberations, the threat of an automatic grant of forbearance from statutory provisions hovers over the proceedings. Such a disjointed process is not likely to result in public policy that benefits consumers.

This bill simply removes the "deemed granted" language from the statute. Carriers are still free to seek forbearance, and the FCC may still grant forbearance where appropriate. But the "deemed granted" language must be removed to safeguard the ability of Congress and the courts to conduct appropriate oversight, to protect consumers, and to restore transparency to the decision-making process.

IN RECOGNITION OF LAKEWOOD
HOSPITAL

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 22, 2007

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the 100th anniversary of Lakewood Hospital, which has proven to be a leader in northeastern Ohio's health care community.

Founded in 1907, Lakewood Hospital provides high quality and innovative treatment to more than 130,000 patients annually from throughout Cuyahoga County. The hospital's affiliation with the Cleveland Clinic and other regional hospitals offers individuals access to state-of-the-art technology and individualized care.

Lakewood Hospital is not only a vital community resource for treating illnesses and injuries, but it also works to keep individuals healthy through educational wellness programs, public health screenings and other community outreach programs.

Lakewood hospital has introduced "A Century of Touching Lives" as the theme of its year-long centennial anniversary celebration. This theme reflects the tradition of caring and personal patient experiences that have become Lakewood Hospital's legacy.

To recognize the important relationship between the hospital and local schools, Lakewood Hospital plans to sponsor a year-long series of health education programs. It will also celebrate "Nurse's Week" and "Hospital Week" to recognize the contributions of nurses and other employees throughout the hospital's history.

Madam Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honoring Lakewood Hospital for its 100-year commitment to high quality, community-based health care.

HONORING THE ANN ARBOR
HANDS-ON MUSEUM ON THE OC-
CASION OF ITS TWENTY-FIFTH
ANNIVERSARY

HON. JOHN D. DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 22, 2007

Mr. DINGELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of a world-class learning and educational institution: The Ann Arbor Hands-On Museum. On October 20, 2007, the Hands-On Museum will be Celebrating 25 Years of Discovery.

The Ann Arbor Hands-On Museum serves as a focal point for informal science education in the greater Ann Arbor community, occupying 40,000 square feet in an old firehouse. From exhibits that tangibly display the effects of gravity, photography, anatomy, geology, music and many other scientific phenomena, to a live bee colony spread throughout the building; the Hands-On Museum brings learning to life. Special events like the Big Freeze and National Engineering Week are just part of what make the Hands-On Museum such a wonderful place; one which allows children and adults to experience learning first hand, together.

The history of this great institution is filled with instances of well meaning people building it from the ground up. In 1982, a small, but extremely dedicated group of individuals came together to create the Hands-On Museum in the old brick firehouse in downtown Ann Arbor. They did this because they wanted a place for their children and many others to come and learn, while having fun at the same time. These volunteers were able to raise enough money to open the museum and ensure its future funding. These first efforts eventually led to the further expansion of the Hands-On Museum and in 1986 it received a Kresge Foundation Challenge Grant, which allowed it to open up new exhibits on the third and fourth floors of the firehouse. The Hands-On Museum initiated its own \$6.5 million Capital Campaign fund, in 1993, which allowed it to expand by purchasing adjoining buildings and introducing new programs. Ever-evolving,

recent renovations were finished in October 1999 funded with additional gifts and donations. Thanks in large part to the work of many generous donors, the Hands-On Museum has seen over 3.1 million visitors to date.

The Hands-On Museum is a remarkable institution and has been widely recognized, including being named "Best Museum" in 2003 by the Detroit Free Press. It was also named both "Best Museum" and "Best Kids' Activity" by Ann Arbor News readers in 2006. Along with these awards, the Hands-On Museum has also received national recognition by the National Science Foundation, the Institute of Museum and Library Services and the Association of Science and Technology Centers.

The Ann Arbor Hands-On Museum has now served to educate several generations of children. It is truly a treasure for residents of the City of Ann Arbor, Washtenaw County and the State of Michigan. I applaud the Hands-On Museum for all that it has done; all that it means to the children who walk through its doors; and for all that it will do to educate both current and future generations of children.

HONORING TINA MACKENZIE OF
HUMBOLDT COUNTY

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 22, 2007

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Tina Mackenzie, executive director of Six Rivers Planned Parenthood of Eureka, California, who is being honored for her contribution to one of our nation's most precious rights—participation in the political system. Tina Mackenzie is being recognized for her outstanding contribution to the political process by the Humboldt County Democratic Central Committee as the 2007 Democrat of the Year. Her commitment to the preservation of our political liberty is worthy of appreciation and recognition.

Ms. Mackenzie was born in Philadelphia to a family of seven children. She received a Bachelor of Arts in social work from Ohio State University and a teaching credential from Humboldt State University. She first joined Six Rivers Planned Parenthood's Board of Directors in 1976. She joined the staff in 1978, serving as the agency's Public Affairs Director and Coordinator of Surgical Services.

For the past fifteen years, Ms. Mackenzie has served as the executive director at Six Rivers Planned Parenthood. She has been a tireless champion for reproductive rights and women's health issues. Under her guidance, SRPP has won seven affiliate excellence awards from the Planned Parenthood Federation. The agency operates in three rural counties and serves over 17,000 patients annually. Under Tina's excellent leadership, a new health and education center was completed in 2007, preceded by a very successful \$2.6 million capital campaign.

Tina Mackenzie has been an active, productive and dedicated community leader for over 30 years. She received the North Coast Non-Profit Leader of the Year Award in 2007 and has been recognized by the California Assembly with the Community Builder Award. She is a member of the North Coast Co-Op Commu-

nity Funding Committee, an associate of the Planned Parenthood Federation of America Katrina Task Force and a member of the Planned Parenthood Global Partners Advisory Board.

Madam Speaker, it is appropriate at this time that we recognize Tina Mackenzie for her courage and her determination and for her abiding concern for the health of women and children.

HONORING J. ROY GABRIEL

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 22, 2007

Mr. RADANOVICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize J. Roy Gabriel for his years of distinguished service to the California Farm Bureau Federation. Mr. J. Roy Gabriel passed away, unexpectedly, during a Farm Bureau advocacy trip to Washington, DC the week of October 1st.

Roy Gabriel was a native of Fullerton, California. He graduated from California Polytechnic University, San Luis Obispo with a degree in agricultural business management and received a technical certificate in crop production. Mr. Gabriel worked as Assistant Secretary of the California State Senate prior to beginning his career with the California Farm Bureau in 1973.

In Mr. Gabriel's 35 years with the California Farm Bureau he worked closely with many government officials, farmers and farm laborers to promote agriculture and to provide a more conducive environment for every one involved. As the Director of Labor Affairs, Mr. Gabriel represented the Farm Bureau on a number of issue areas; including labor policies, workplace rules and housing issues. He was passionate and knowledgeable in all issues related to agriculture business and was involved with many agriculture groups outside of the California Farm Bureau.

During the 1980's, Mr. Gabriel, served as the general manager of an organization known as ALFA. This organization assisted immigrant farm workers with the Immigration Reform and Control Act of 1986 and successfully assisted over 50,000 people in applying for legal immigration status. Governor Pete Wilson appointed Mr. Gabriel to serve as Chief Deputy Director of the California Department of Industrial Relations in 1998. However, he returned to the California Farm Bureau after Governor Wilson termed out of office in 1999.

Mr. Gabriel was a committed advocate for family farmers and ranchers across the State. He worked both as Director of Labor Affairs for the California Farm Bureau Federation and as Chief Operating Officer of the Farm Employers Labor Service. The Washington, DC trip earlier this month was an advocacy trip in support of Federal immigration reform legislation. He is survived by his wife, Ruth and three adult children; John C. Gabriel, Kristi A. Gabriel and Christopher R. Gabriel.

Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor posthumously J. Roy Gabriel. I invite my colleagues to join me in recognizing Mr. Gabriel for his extraordinary service and dedication to his community.

CHILDREN'S HEALTH INSURANCE
PROGRAM REAUTHORIZATION
ACT OF 2007—VETO MESSAGE
FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE
UNITED STATES

SPEECH OF

HON. SANDER M. LEVIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 18, 2007

Mr. LEVIN. Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of overriding the President's veto on the Children's Health Insurance Program.

The bill would provide health coverage to more than 10 million low-income kids. In my home State of Michigan, this means expanding a program that works to 80,900 kids that are already eligible. The families of these kids make between \$20,535 and \$41,300 a year.

The claims against the bill are false.

This program is not for well-to-do families. Most kids the bill would cover are in families making less than \$41,300 a year.

This is not about socialized medicine. It covers kids under the same private health plans and private doctors that treat the 6 million kids in the original program authorized in 1997 under a Republican Congress.

This is not about providing health insurance to illegal immigrants. Undocumented immigrants have never been eligible for the Children's Health Insurance Program and this bill requires that kids show proof of citizenship to enroll.

Today we have a choice to make. Do we, as Representatives of the 9 million uninsured kids in America, expand an effective program to provide insurance to 10 million low-income kids? Or do we let rigid ideology and false arguments stand in the way?

RECOGNIZING BILL MALARKEY

HON. ZACHARY T. SPACE

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 22, 2007

Mr. SPACE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Bill Malarkey of Greenfield, Ohio. This gentleman, a combat veteran of the Second World War, served on the front lines of battles that shaped the course of American history. I share his story to pay homage to his bravery, and to remind Congress and fellow Americans that true heroes walk among us every day.

Mr. Malarkey was a member of the 147th Engineer Combat Battalion, C Company. His unit was among the very first wave of fighters who stormed the now-infamous shores of Omaha Beach on D-Day in 1944. His efforts helped establish the D1 Exit, a route to capture Vierville-sur-Mer, and a path to advance into Europe. Though he survived, many of Mr. Malarkey's compatriots perished in the fight.

Already a hero, Bill Malarkey went on to fight in the Battle of the Bulge. Though Allied forces suffered heavy losses in this battle as well, it ultimately proved our strength and resolve. The Axis' failure in this attack was a turning point in the war and marked the last major offensive of Nazi forces.

After helping to secure victory for the United States and Allied forces in World War II, Mr. Malarkey returned home to southeast Ohio,

where he built a small home in rural Ross County and served as a truck driver. But his courage and sacrifice were not forgotten, and those who have been touched by him were compelled to contact me with his story, as I am obliged to share it with you now.

Our history books tell us that the Battle of Normandy established the foothold that allowed Allied forces to confront Adolf Hitler's swarming dictatorship of hate. We know that the Battle of the Bulge was his last-ditch attempt to divide the Allied forces. As a Congressman, a member of the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, an Ohioan, and an American, I recognize Mr. Bill Malarkey today to remind others that these historic victories, these bold affirmations of our freedoms, were built on the uncommon courage of men like Bill Malarkey.

TRIBUTE TO THE 786TH
QUARTERMASTER BATTALION

HON. DONNA M. CHRISTENSEN

OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 22, 2007

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Madam Speaker, I submit the following names of the 786th Quartermaster Battalion in celebration of their return to the Virgin Islands after their 14-month deployment to Iraq.

Members of the battalion unit are:

SSG Samuel Abraham, St. Croix (second deployment to Iraq)

CSM Leonard Amey

CPT Camella Andrews (second deployment to Iraq)

SP Tashaia Bedminster (second deployment to Iraq)

MSG Hillis Benjamin

PFC Ronal Brewley

SSG Bernard Burke (second deployment to Iraq)

LTC Patricia Charles, St. Croix

CPT Nina Clarke-Brewley

SGT Dwayne Degraff

SSG Susanatte Grosvenor

1LT Arthur Hector

1LT Josephine Hector-Murphy

SP Hes Matthew

SP Margaret Moore

MSG Omodoso Muhammad

MAJ Brian O'Reilly, St. Croix

MAJ Sally Petty

SFC Enrique Santos, St. Croix (second deployment to Iraq)

SP Crystal Testamark

SP Adasi Thomas

MAJ Gladys Turnbull

SP Mark Williams

SGT Oswald Williams

EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE
HOUSE REGARDING WITH-
HOLDING OF INFORMATION RE-
LATING TO CORRUPTION IN IRAQ

SPEECH OF

HON. JOHN D. DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 16, 2007

Mr. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I voted against the war in Iraq in part because I feared the

challenges that the United States would face installing a government that was both democratic and responsible. I am increasingly concerned about the recent reports concerning the corruption of the Maliki government in Iraq. The Bush Administration has told us that the controversial troop surge has led to political progress in Iraq. The unfortunate reality is that corruption has been prevalent throughout the Iraqi government, hindering political progress in the nation. Even worse, our own government has attempted to shield the American people from the disturbing reality of what is really going on in the Iraqi government. I am pleased that the House of Representatives is considering this resolution, which condemns the deceptive actions of the State Department.

With over 450 billion dollars already appropriated to the Iraq War, as well as the painful death of over 3,800 of America's finest men and women and wounding of more than 28,000 more, this resolution is necessary to ensure that Congress and the American people understand what our sacrifices have accomplished in this war. By retroactively classifying documents that ridicule the Iraqi government, as well as refusing to answer questions before this body regarding the extent of corruption in Iraq, the State Department has set out to deceive not only the United States Congress, but also the American people who are fighting and funding this war. This resolution will ensure that the State Department understands that the truth, regardless of how dismal it may be, is more important than mere politics. I strongly urge my colleagues to join me in support of this resolution.

INTRODUCTION OF OFFSHORE DE-
FERRED COMPENSATION RE-
FORM ACT OF 2007

HON. RAHM EMANUEL

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 22, 2007

Mr. EMANUEL. Madam Speaker, today I am introducing the Offshore Deferred Compensation Reform Act of 2007, which would put an end to the practice of allowing unlimited amounts of income to be deferred offshore. Middle-class taxpayers that are saving for college or their retirement can't avoid paying taxes by deferring millions offshore. Congress needs to reform the tax code to assure all Americans that, regardless of their income, they are on a level playing field. This legislation takes an important step toward achieving that goal.

Either through "qualified" or "non-qualified" deferral arrangements, taxpayers can defer paying taxes on their compensation. Most taxpayers make qualified deferrals, such as contributions to 401(k) plans and Individual Retirement Accounts (IRAs). Non-qualified deferred compensation arrangements are usually used by senior executives or other high-income taxpayers who want to defer amounts in excess of the qualified plan or IRA limits. In contrast to the contribution limitations that apply to 401(k) and IRA accounts, there are no limits on the amount that U.S. taxpayers can contribute to non-qualified deferred compensation arrangements.

U.S. companies that offer non-qualified deferred compensation plans to their employees

are unable to receive a tax deduction equal to the amount deferred until the compensation is received by the employee. This is a major financial drawback to these arrangements and constitutes a significant safeguard against their abuse. By contrast, foreign companies can locate in no-tax jurisdictions, provide deferred compensation to their U.S. employees, and suffer no economic loss, since the tax deduction is not relevant when the employer does not have any tax liability. Accordingly, there is a preference in the Code for U.S. taxpayers to defer compensation in certain offshore jurisdictions since it provides a significant tax benefit to the employee without any tax disincentive to their offshore employer.

There is a fundamental inequity between middle-class Americans who can defer up to \$15,500 of income into qualified plans, like a 401(k), and \$4,000 into their IRAs, and higher-income taxpayers who can defer unlimited amounts offshore. The Offshore Deferred Compensation Reform Act of 2007 seeks to rectify the inequity by eliminating the ability of U.S. taxpayers to defer non-qualified deferred compensation in offshore tax havens. Under this legislation, individuals who currently take advantage of such tax planning and who wish to make offshore deferrals would be limited to making deferrals under qualified arrangements which are subject to annual limitations. In this way, the legislation creates a level playing field for all U.S. taxpayers.

The legislation specifies that offshore non-qualified deferred compensation paid by a foreign corporation will be taxable income when there is no substantial risk of forfeiture to the compensation by the employee. A substantial risk of forfeiture exists where the receipt of compensation is conditioned upon the future performance of substantial services in order to receive that compensation. The Offshore Deferred Compensation Reform Act of 2007 is not intended to prohibit a foreign deferred compensation arrangement if the foreign corporation entering into the arrangement is subject to tax on substantially all of its income and denied an immediate deduction for compensation that is deferred. For purposes of the legislation, a foreign corporation would be any foreign corporation unless substantially all of its income is effectively connected to a trade or business in the United States or is subject to an income tax imposed by a foreign country that has a comprehensive tax treaty with the United States, and a deduction is allowed for compensation under rules that are substantially similar to the way in which the United States provides deductions for compensation. In addition, the Secretary of the Treasury is given authority to determine whether a foreign corporation that operates in a country without a formal tax treaty with the United States can qualify for the exemption.

There are many different ways to structure an offshore deferral arrangement. A prototypical structure would be an executive who elects to defer his or her year-end bonus in an offshore investment fund for a period of time—typically, five to ten years. Assuming it complies with the Code Section 409A requirements, the bonus and any associated earnings would not be taxable until the end of the term of the arrangement. These types of deferral arrangements comply with current law. But while they may be legal, they are not fair, and for this reason my legislation would change current law to make the offshore deferred

compensation taxable immediately when the deferral arrangement is granted. However, because taxpayers should not be penalized for complying with current law, my legislation includes an effective date that only affects compensation earned, vested, and deferred after 2007.

Finally, the New York Times published a story on April 17, 2007, entitled “Managers Use Hedge Funds as Big I.R.A.’s.” The story described the ability of hedge fund managers to defer unlimited amounts offshore, and contrasted this with the ability of middle-class taxpayers to defer up to \$20,000 in a qualified plan, like a 401(k), and an IRA. While the New York Times article focused on the ability of hedge fund managers to use offshore deferral arrangements, other types of industries could use foreign corporations based in no or low-tax countries as vehicles for offshore deferred compensation. For this reason, my legislation does not single out investment firms, and applies broadly to any industry that might use this type of arrangement.

I look forward to working with my colleagues, and specifically Senator KERRY who introduced the Senate version of this legislation, to address this issue.

A TRIBUTE TO GLENDALE PUBLIC LIBRARY

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 22, 2007

Mr. SCHIFF. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay special recognition to the Glendale Public Library upon the celebration of its One Hundredth Anniversary.

Services at the Glendale Public Library were first provided in 1906 when the members of the Tuesday Afternoon Club, a social and philanthropic organization, raised money through a series of lectures to fund a library collection. The library opened in a renovated poolroom with seventy books, and became a municipal library the next year. The Central Library building opened in 1914 with the help of a grant from the Andrew Carnegie Corporation. By 1923, the City's 35,000 residents were borrowing about 150,000 books a year. The Casa Verdugo Branch was established in 1926 as the library system's second neighborhood library and in that same year the Central Library building was enlarged to twice its original size.

Throughout its one hundred year tenure, the growing Glendale Public Library has been committed to serving the community from the Library's collections of almost 700,000 books, over 25,000 music CDs and almost 14,000 movies. The library offers a large collection of non-English materials, particularly in Armenian, in order to better serve Glendale's diverse community. Among its wide array of services, the library comprises a Genocide Memorial Collection, which it hopes will encourage research in this field. The Glendale community has also greatly benefited from the technological advances at the Glendale Public Library. The addition of wireless Internet and the ability to download literally thousands of magazine and newspaper articles make the Library and its Web site—open 24 hours, seven days a week—valuable community resources

I ask all Members to join me today in honoring the Glendale Public Library upon the celebration of its One Hundredth Anniversary. The entire community joins me in thanking the Glendale Public Library for the outstanding services that it has provided for California's 29th Congressional District.

HONORING BOB BALDRIDGE'S 40-YEAR CAREER AT TSSAA

HON. BART GORDON

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 22, 2007

Mr. GORDON of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Bob Baldrige on his retirement from the Tennessee Secondary School Athletic Association.

Bob joined TSSAA 40 years ago and was given the task of developing the classification system used in high school sports in Tennessee. During his four decades with TSSAA, he has watched the landscape of high school sports change through developments such as the introduction of the football playoff system and the implementation of Title IX.

Bob's job has led him across the State countless times, but the journeys have changed over the years. There are probably few people in the State who share Bob's perspective of how the landscape of Tennessee has changed as interstates were built, towns blossomed, and school systems grew.

After 40 years on the road, Bob has been to a lot of games but hasn't had much time to actually watch them. Now, he can enjoy life as a spectator and see games that are played with an honesty and heart unique to high school sports.

Bob, I have enjoyed your friendship over the years, and I wish you all the best in your retirement.

IN HONOR OF MEL MASON

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 22, 2007

Mr. FARR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a great American, Mr. Mel Mason, on the occasion of his recognition by the Monterey Peninsula Branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People with its Stephen E. Ross award for community service. I have known Mr. Mason for many years. He has distinguished himself in so many fields: as a mentor, an athlete, a public servant, and most of all as an advocate for justice.

Mel was born on January 7, 1943 in the Appalachian coal mining town of Providence, KY. As an African American, Mel suffered the full force of that community's Jim Crow era segregation. In 1956, Mel moved with his mother to Seaside, CA. As a young man, Mel made a mark on the basketball court at both Monterey High School and Monterey Peninsula College where he was the stand out basketball star of his day. He still holds the MPC scoring record. While serving in the Air Force, he became the youngest basketball player to

be named All-Air Force team and in 1964 led all branches of the military in scoring in Europe. After returning from the Air Force, Mel then attended Oregon State University for a short time under a basketball scholarship.

In the Air Force and then at OSU, Mel encountered head on deep seated racism in his superior officers and coaches. Mel fought back, for which he paid a price. In 1965, his complaints about his treatment in the Air Force earned him a bad conduct discharge. In 1966, his complaints and actions at OSU over its treatment of him and other black players led to the loss of his scholarship and a ban on Mel from playing basketball at any U.S. college. U.S. Senator Thomas Kuchel later helped Mel change his discharge to honorable but the college ban stayed and Mel returned to California.

These experiences truly fired Mel up and he became a burr under many saddles. He helped organize a Black Workers Unity Organization to fight racism at a San Jose company where he worked. Back in Monterey County he organized a Black United Farmworkers Union support committee during UFW's organizing efforts in the Salinas Valley in the early 1970s. He helped organize the first anti-police brutality campaigns on the Monterey Peninsula and has remained an advocate for fair treatment for people of color and the mentally ill by law enforcement agencies in his community. In the 1990s, Mel co-founded both the Regional Alliance for Progressive Policy and the Pro-Democracy Education Fund. In 2002, Mel began the first of two consecutive terms as President of the Monterey Peninsula Branch of the NAACP.

Throughout the early 1970s Mel was an active member of the Black Panther Party, and later the Socialist Workers Party. He ran successfully for a seat on the Seaside City Council where he championed programs for youth, tenants, organized labor, and minorities. Mel later ran unsuccessfully as the SWP candidate for California Governor and President of the United States.

Much of Mel's work has been called subversive by many. Some of the organizations that he has been associated with over the years are not popular. While Mel may not have always made right argument, he has always argued in the right way. He has taken unpopular ideas into the democratic process and so made our Nation a better democracy. Madam Speaker, I wish to extend the congratulations of this House to Mr. Mel Mason for his achievements so far and our wishes for his success in the future.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOHN SULLIVAN

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 22, 2007

Mr. SULLIVAN. Madam Speaker, I missed rollcall vote 968 to H.R. 3678 taken on October 16, 2007. Had I been present for this vote, I would have voted "aye."

While I support this extension of the Internet tax moratorium, simply extending the ban another four years is not enough. We need to

make this ban permanent so that Oklahoma's families can continue to stay connected to each other and use the Internet for educational, business, and recreational purposes.

RECOGNIZING OCTOBER AS BREAST CANCER AWARENESS MONTH

HON. DAVID SCOTT

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 22, 2007

Mr. SCOTT of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge, celebrate and honor the thousands of women throughout the country who have been diagnosed, currently fighting or have survived breast cancer. As the husband of a courageous wife who survived this disease, I, as many others, have been affected personally. I understand the struggle, pain and sometimes heartache it can inflict on the person diagnosed, in addition to family and friends. I believe we all have been affected by breast cancer in some way, whether it is a spouse, daughter, mother or grandmother. Breast cancer really affects us all.

I wholeheartedly support additional funding for breast cancer research, screening and treatment programs. Too many women go undiagnosed until it is too late. We must further provide additional education and prevention programs to those women who slip through the cracks, especially those in low-income communities, as a lot of these women lack the health insurance coverage necessary for annual mammograms. We could also save millions of tax dollars if we could detect this disease sooner. The best way of surviving this devastating disease is early detection and programs which ensure the mammogram is fairly inexpensive and which will encourage more women to be tested.

I have recently joined with my fellow colleagues in signing a letter to the House Defense Appropriations Conferees urging them to recede to the Senate language that funds the Department of Defense Peer-Reviewed Breast Cancer Research Program at \$150 million for the Fiscal Year 2008. This important program was created 15 years ago and has proven to be highly successful and has become one of the most far-reaching and influential research initiatives in the country. I believe any research program that serves as a model internationally and has actually made critical breakthroughs resulting from its research is a wise taxpayer investment; a small investment which yields big results.

I have long been a passionate advocate for breast cancer awareness and research. As a Georgia State Senator, I authored the Breast Cancer Patient Protection law which gives breast cancer patients and their physicians the right to determine their length of stay in the hospital and their level of medical treatment. Currently, the Breast Cancer patient Protection Act has vast bipartisan support and would require health plans to provide coverage for a minimum hospital stay for mastectomies, lumpectomies and lymph node dissection for the treatment of breast cancer. With my support, I am hopeful this legislation will move forward during the 110th Congress. In cospon-

soring numerous pieces of legislation in my years in Congress, I will continue to fight for additional provisions in the law and funding for programs which will help the thousands of women diagnosed each year.

The statistics can be telling. Every three minutes, a woman is diagnosed with breast cancer and is the leading cause of death among women between the ages of 40 and 55. In fact, 1 out of every 98 women who live to the age of 85 will develop breast cancer in her lifetime. Unfortunately, all women are at risk for breast cancer. About 90 percent of women who develop breast cancer have no family history of breast cancer. Breast cancer is further the most common cancer among African American women. It is true older women are more likely to develop breast cancer than younger women. However, younger women are still at risk for the disease and currently, 250,000 women under the age of 40 have breast cancer. Simply put, the disease can strike from an early to older age and additional research and awareness to this fact is of utmost importance. Mammograms may be necessary earlier than was once thought and only additional research monies will help us determine if this is the case. As a father of two young women, raising awareness and developing more effective screening and diagnostic tools for this age group is vital to affording them the same chances of survival.

We must also pay close attention to research being conducted with regards to the environment and how it may affect the incidence of this disease. As a cosponsor of the Breast Cancer and Environmental Research Act, I believe authorizing grants for the development and operation of research centers regarding environmental factors that may be related to the etiology of breast cancer could yield miraculous results. There may very well be parallels between the environment and this devastating disease and any findings could help derive new treatments and help thousands survive.

Madam Speaker, I urge all Georgians to take measures to protect and keep their health. I encourage my constituents and their friends and family to be aware of measures that can be taken to improve their health and further prevent the incidence of this disease. My goal in representing the 13th District of Georgia has always been to be responsive to my constituents' concerns and to ensure the thoughts and views of all Georgians are heard in Congress. As a member of Congress, it is my duty to help bring attention to issues my constituents deem significant, and breast cancer is one such issue. I join with countless others this month to honor the inspiring strength of breast cancer patients and the dedication of health professionals who care for them. Our inspiration is great: breast cancer survivors who have won their fight, and the friends and families of those women who unfortunately did not. Almost everyone in America has been touched by this disease, and I believe we can work together to ensure in years to come, the incidence is lowered and we indeed find a cure. Again, I applaud the brave individuals fighting this disease and the medical professionals and organizations who so intently dedicate their time to the cause. God bless.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO WILLIAM
LAUB, SR.

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 22, 2007

Mr. PORTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor William Laub, Sr. who passed away on October 14, 2007.

William Laub, Sr. was born on July 20, 1924, and went on to live a legacy of service at Southwest Gas and in his community. William's father Harold, along with three other partners began Southwest Gas during the Depression. In 1964, William succeeded his father as Southwest Gas' chief executive officer. He retired in 1988 after serving as CEO for 24 years, and as an employee for 40 years.

In William's time as CEO, Southwest Gas became a major tri-state utility and financial services operation. Southwest Gas began as a small company with no more than three thousand customers in southeastern California and now provides retail natural gas service to more than one million customers in California, Arizona, and Nevada. William's leadership and love of the company his father began was the formula for continued success at Southwest Gas.

William Laub, Sr. was not only passionate about Southwest Gas, but he also was passionate in his love of the community. In the 1960's he founded the Laub Foundation, and as a tribute to his father he established the Harold G. Laub Scholarship Program for children of Southwest Gas employees. He was also instrumental in getting the board of directors to approve a 10-year grant of \$250,000 to the College of Arts and Letters for the Visual and Performing Arts at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Additionally William served as the President of the Boulder Dam Area Council of Boy Scouts, Chairman of the Clark County Republican Central Committee, Republican National Committeeman, Chairman of the Nevada Equal Rights Commission, and a member of the Board of Trustees at KNPR Public Radio among other things. William was also a Director Emeritus from the Claremont School of Theology from 1977–2004, and a Trustee Emeritus of KNPR from 1996–2003.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to honor William Laub, Sr. Throughout his lifetime he was relentlessly committed to the advancement of Southwest Gas and the community. He was a wonderful asset to Nevada and I send out my deepest sympathies to his family and friends.

RECOGNIZING NATIONAL LEAD
POISONING PREVENTION WEEK
AND CHILDHOOD LEAD POI-
SONING PREVENTION WEEK

HON. C.A. DUTCH RUPPERSBERGER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 22, 2007

Mr. RUPPERSBERGER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize this week, October 21–27, 2007, as National Lead Poisoning Prevention Week and as Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Week in the State of Maryland.

In recent decades, researchers have discovered the harmful effects for children who are

exposed to lead products. Lead poisoning in children impacts brain function, resulting in reduced intelligence, learning difficulties, behavioral problems, and other health consequences. Fortunately, lead poisoning from paint in homes is 100 percent preventable. The public needs better information about the dangers of lead exposure.

This bill will help parents hire a certified risk assessor to determine if there is lead paint in their homes. With this vital information, parents can determine how to keep their children safe from lead poisoning.

According to the Environmental Protection Agency, EPA, over 300,000 American children ages 1–5 years have blood-lead levels greater than the level recommended by the Centers for Disease Control, CDC, 10 micrograms of lead per deciliter of blood.

In 2006, over 1,200 Baltimore children under the age of 6 had blood-lead levels equal to or higher than the CDC recommended level. That number has dropped significantly in recent years, but more must be done.

The Federal Government aims to eliminate childhood lead poisoning in the United States as a major public health problem by the year 2010. In order to achieve this goal, several Federal agencies including the EPA, the CDC, and the Department of Housing and Urban Development, HUD, are working together through various grant programs to help individual citizens, non-profits, and the States in their clean-up efforts.

Non-profits around the country are actively working with Federal and State Governments to educate the public about the harmful effects of lead exposure. One such organization based in Baltimore, the Coalition to End Childhood Lead Poisoning, has been working tirelessly to reach out, educate, and advocate on behalf of children and their families impacted by lead exposure. Organizations such as the Coalition to End Childhood Lead Poisoning play an important role in efforts to eliminate childhood lead poisoning in the next 3 years.

In addition to the work done by non-profit organizations and federal and state agencies, I am proposing a Federal tax credit for homeowners that would help offset the costs of cleaning up lead paint in their homes. Today, I am introducing the Home Lead Safety Tax Credit Act of 2007, which would encourage homeowners and landlords to remove lead from homes in order to decrease the number of children who suffer from the effects of lead exposure.

I hope that, through these combined efforts, we will eliminate childhood lead poisoning by 2010.

INTRODUCTION OF THE SAFE
BUILDING CODES ACT OF 2007

HON. DORIS O. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 22, 2007

Ms. MATSUI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Safe Building Code Incentive Act of 2007 with my colleague from Florida, Representative MARIO DIAZ-BALART.

The purpose for this legislation is to provide incentives for States to adopt higher building code standards, which will ultimately help preserve property, promote public safety and

make Americans and America's communities safer.

This bill's timeliness can be seen in a recent CBS News Poll that revealed 29 percent of Americans knew someone affected by Hurricane Katrina. As reported by CBS News, the comparable statistic from Hurricane Andrew in 1992 was barely half that—16 percent. This report provides a clear metric of the extent that today's Americans know and understand how disaster can hurt a community.

This report also highlights the clear public merit of the Safe Building Code Incentive Act of 2007 which I introduce today. Building codes strengthen and make safe the homes, businesses and places where our citizens work, play and live. They reflect the collective wisdom of design professionals, builders, and public safety officials who have sought to understand and apply the lessons of past tragedies.

Building codes use a tried and true format to document the reasonable steps that can be taken while new construction is underway to protect our neighbors and their communities from risks that, because they can be foreseen, can and should be minimized. These codes are truly the "ounce of prevention" that is worth far more than any after-the-fact pound of cure which must otherwise be borne by people and communities after they've suffered through a tragic loss of life, stability and treasured belongings and memories.

Where strong building codes are in place and enforced, natural disasters are less likely to be compounded by failures of preparation.

Today's model building codes govern all aspects of construction and help to protect homes and buildings from disasters such as hurricanes, tornadoes, earthquakes, flood, fire, ice storms and other natural catastrophes.

Strong building codes serve as the backbone of a community's preparedness against natural disasters.

As a Member of Congress my top priority has been public safety since taking office in 2005. My district, Sacramento, CA, is the most at risk river city in the country for catastrophic flooding. The city of Sacramento is located at the confluence of two major rivers, the American and Sacramento.

To a state like California, where we are experiencing significant population growth, and especially to a growing region such as Sacramento, the building standards we incorporate now will go a long way in providing a stable and safer future for our communities and property owners.

WHY WE NEED THE SAFE BUILDING CODE INCENTIVE ACT
OF 2007

In the aftermath of the 2004 and 2005 hurricanes, studies illustrate that the damages associated with high winds could have been avoided or minimized by statewide adoption of model building codes in the Gulf States.

What has become increasingly apparent in the wake of Katrina and other natural disasters that have struck our communities in recent years is that the Federal Government and the private sector are paying billions for disaster relief and rebuilding of communities.

Overwhelming evidence demonstrates the adoption and enforcement of strong statewide building codes greatly reduce disaster-related property damage and personal injuries while providing more efficient economic development and sustainable business operations after an event.

For example, in January 2006, a Louisiana State University, LSU, Hurricane Center study concluded that an estimated 65 percent reduction in Katrina wind related damage to homes in Louisiana could have been avoided if structures had been built to current model building code standards.

Despite these benefits, most states have not enacted mandatory statewide building codes and related inspection and enforcement measures for both commercial and residential structures.

Additionally, where Statewide codes exist, it is not uncommon to allow individual jurisdictions, such as cities of a particular class, or counties, to deviate from the State standards, occasionally resulting in a weakening of the model minimum standards or to opt out of the standards altogether, leaving areas within a State more vulnerable than others.

As a result, State standards for construction, code-related inspection and enforcement vary widely across the country.

I am not typically a proponent of a one-size-fits all approach to public policy, but when it comes to public safety I believe it is important to set the standards high and for our communities to meet these standards.

WHAT THE SAFE BUILDING CODE INCENTIVE ACT OF 2007 WOULD DO

Under the current authorities in the Stafford Act, mitigation funds are generally available through two programs—the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program and the Pre-Disaster Mitigation Program. My legislation creates incentives within each of these programs for States to adopt and enforce the highest safety standards before disaster strikes.

After a disaster strikes a community or State and the Federal Government provides disaster relief funding, States with an approved Mitigation Plan are eligible to receive Hazard Mitigation Grant Program funding equal to 15 percent of the total Federal disaster relief spending for that event.

Additionally, a State may elect to prepare a more comprehensive Enhanced Mitigation Plan which would qualify the State for additional mitigation funding up to 20 percent of the amount awarded for grants.

Regardless of what the State mitigation plan is, under the Safe Building Code Incentive Act of 2007 a State would be eligible for an additional 4 percent of Federal disaster relief spending if it has adopted a mandatory Statewide building code and has effective enforcement measures in place.

However, if a State decides not to adopt a mandatory Statewide building code, it will not be penalized and would still be eligible to obtain a minimum 15 percent of the post-disaster mitigation funding under the HMGP.

My legislation merely serves as an incentive for States to seek additional funding of 4 percent by adopting a mandatory Statewide building code and implementing effective enforcement measures.

In addition, the Safe Building Code Incentive Act of 2007 will allow, as well as encourage, State, local and tribal governments to use PDM funds to establish building code enforcement programs prior to the occurrence of a disaster, which helps States to begin standardizing construction in previously unregulated areas.

In my view, this funding is well placed. A little prevention will go a long way and in the case of disaster relief funding it can save the taxpayers billions in recovery funds.

The benefit of stronger more up-to-date building codes is twofold.

The first benefit is by encouraging and providing stronger building codes, our buildings are more likely to withstand higher impacts and therefore remain intact if a storm hits a community.

The second benefit is that if a catastrophe does devastate a community, by enacting these stricter standards recovering communities would be eligible for more Federal funds under my proposed legislation.

The best case scenario is that a community will never be in a position to need these extra funds. But by enacting stronger building codes and encouraging more community plans we are taking a positive and proactive step in that direction.

In closing, as we reflect on the tragedy of Katrina and continue to rebuild the Gulf Coast region, we should also be viewing this as a time and an opportunity to rebuild a public policy that will serve the American taxpayer more efficiently as well as protect our communities more effectively.

I ask my colleagues to support the Safe Building Code Incentive Act of 2007.

TRIBUTE TO TG MISSOURI CORPORATION

HON. JO ANN EMERSON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 22, 2007

Mrs. EMERSON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate TG Missouri Corporation in Perryville, Missouri on its 20th anniversary. This is a true milestone for a company which will continue to have a positive impact for many years to come.

Business operations such as TG Missouri's represent the cornerstone of Southern Missouri's rural economy. In 20 short years, TG Missouri has created significant opportunities by remaining committed to the best interests of the community, its customers and its employees. Perhaps most important, TG Missouri has provided job opportunities to roughly 1200 highly skilled and very dedicated workers, beginning as a company of just 35 people in 1987.

TG Missouri understands that its strengths come from its workforce. They have achieved success by relying on the unique skills of each individual who is associated with the company. I know that their success has been closely observed by others, and TG Missouri will serve as an example of responsible and quality business practices for years to come.

Madam Speaker, it is a great privilege to honor TG Missouri on 20 years of success. I am proud to express my congratulations today in the U.S. House of Representatives on TG Missouri's momentous anniversary and to wish them many more years of success.

TRIBUTE TO THE NEW ULRECHT REFORMED CHURCH

HON. VITO FOSSELLA

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 22, 2007

Mr. FOSSELLA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the New Utrecht Reformed

Church in Brooklyn, New York on its 330th Anniversary.

Dutch settlers formed the town of New Utrecht, one of the original five towns of Brooklyn, in the mid 1600's and eventually, under the authority of the Reformed Church in the Netherlands, established the New Utrecht Cemetery in 1654. These same settlers gathered as a congregation in 1677 under the name of the Reformed Dutch Church of New Utrecht Long Island, which is the fourth oldest congregation in Brooklyn. It was later renamed the New Utrecht Reformed Church, the name it carries to this day.

The history of the church is detailed and storied, including being seized and occupied by the British during the Revolutionary War and used as a hospital. There is even a weathervane that bears the bullet holes sustained during the Battle of Long Island.

The Church also provided care and assistance to the Continental Army and General Woodhull, who eventually died inside the hospital. The Daughters of the American Revolution have since raised a statue of General Woodhull on the grounds of the Church cemetery.

In 1783, when the British evacuated Brooklyn, the New Utrecht Reform Church was privileged to be the first location to have the Betsy Ross flag flown over its grounds. To this day, the same liberty pole flies an American flag nearly 224 years after the British evacuation.

Not only did the New Utrecht Reform Church play a vital role in the Revolutionary War but also played an important role in the Civil War by sponsoring Company H of the 14th New York Regiment of the Union Army. To this day, the lives of these brave Union soldiers are memorialized in the church's sponsorship of the New York State Military Company H Brooklyn 14th Regiment re-enactment troop.

In 1910, the New Utrecht Reformed Church founded the oldest continuous Boy Scout Troop in the nation; Troop 20 and its counterpart, Cub Scout Pack 20. The congregation continues its commitment to provide safe harbor for our community's youth through support of the scouting program and many other community events centered on the enrichment of children's lives.

Throughout its long history, New Utrecht has opened its doors to new immigrants arriving on our shore: the Italian congregation in 1947; the Chinese congregation in the 1980's; the Korean congregation in the early 1990's and the Russian congregation in the 1980s.

Madam Speaker, New Utrecht Reformed Church has been a mainstay in the Brooklyn community for 330 years and has impacted the lives of countless individuals. On this 330th anniversary, I would like to honor the church for its contributions to the people of Brooklyn and to the United States with the hope of another 330 years to come.

INTRODUCTION OF THE "BROADBAND CENSUS OF AMERICA ACT OF 2007"

HON. EDWARD J. MARKEY

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 22, 2007

Mr. MARKEY. Madam Speaker, I rise to introduce the "Broadband Census of America

Act of 2007." The legislation introduced today reflects the version of the bill as approved by the House Subcommittee on Telecommunications and the Internet less than two weeks ago. The bill will continue to undergo refinement in the Energy and Commerce Committee and my ongoing goal is to work toward a bipartisan, consensus bill.

The objectives of this bill are two-fold. First, to gain a better assessment of how America is doing in broadband service deployment and adoption, the bill will obtain information on the types and speed of broadband service subscribers utilize and the extent of such adoption for the residential and business market in areas at the 5-digit zip code level. Second, the bill will seek to develop a national, interactive map of broadband service availability for use by consumers. This map will help to identify areas of the country where service does not exist and also assist consumers in ascertaining which broadband service providers are available in their neighborhood.

I believe at this point there is growing consensus—if not unanimity—around the fact that current data collection methods used by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) are inadequate and highly flawed. Currently, the FCC counts a single broadband subscriber in a 5-digit zip code as indicating the entire zip code has broadband availability, even if the sole subscriber is a business and not a residential consumer. This can lead to highly inaccurate and overly generous notions of actual broadband availability and use, particularly in rural areas where zip codes are quite large.

In addition, under almost any set of measurements, the United States lags other nations not only in availability and speed but also in the value. The 50 Megabit per second service in Japan, for instance, is available to Japanese consumers for roughly \$30. Here in the U.S., consumers typically pay \$20 for about 1 Megabit of service and \$30 to 40 for roughly 4 Megabits of service. This legislation will task the FCC with identifying tiers of increasing data transmission speeds, for both upstream and downstream attributes. These tiers will describe existing broadband service capability deployed in the Nation and are designed to the extent possible to correspond to a service's ability to support qualitatively different applications and services. Identifying such tiers and the services which apply to them will enable policymakers to gauge the broadband service speeds that are being subscribed to by residential consumers and by small and large businesses and will also allow for trends to be seen in such adoption over a period of time.

The lack of such information today leaves policymakers largely in the dark about the nature and extent of broadband service deployment and adoption in urban, suburban, and rural areas of the country. The state of knowledge around the status of broadband services in the United States directly affects the ability of policymakers to make sound decisions. For instance, the Federal government can do a much better job in reforming multi-billion dollar grant and subsidy programs—whether at the Rural Utilities Service or at the FCC—if we have better data on where we truly need to target government assistance. Similarly, States can focus limited State resources for economic assistance, computer adoption, and broadband promotion if ample and accurate data is available indicating where such resources should be deployed.

This is precisely what has happened in Kentucky. ConnectKentucky has been a wildly successful effort and has demonstrated the palpable benefits to mapping broadband for various public policy benefits.

The risks of not developing national data will undermine our goal of achieving a national plan for universal, affordable broadband. This, in turn, adversely affects consumers and communities across the Nation. The benefits of higher speeds, lower prices, and more choices for broadband services include greater economic opportunity, job creation, worker productivity, access to health care and educational resources, promotion of innovation, and global competitiveness.

Madam Speaker, I look forward to working with Energy and Commerce Committee Chairman JOHN DINGELL, Ranking Member JOE BARTON, Telecommunications and the Internet Subcommittee Ranking Member FRED UPTON, as well as my other House colleagues on this bill as the process continues.

U.S. SENATE CONFIRMATION OF
LESLIE SOUTHWICK

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 22, 2007

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Madam Speaker, I rise today to express my strong opposition to the nomination of Leslie Southwick, now being considered by the U.S. Senate.

In an attempt, yet again, to place someone for a lifetime seat on the Federal bench, which has traditionally been racially ignorant and insensitive towards civil rights, the President has risen to the occasion and nominated Leslie Southwick.

This will be his third nomination, of a Mississippian, to the Fifth Circuit since 2001. However, none of his nominations aid in rectifying the egregious problem with the lack of diversity on Mississippi's Federal bench.

Mississippi has the highest African-American population, 37 percent, of any state in the country. In spite of the hundreds of African-American lawyers and judges in Mississippi, there has never been an African-American, nor any other minority from Mississippi, appointed to represent Mississippi on the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals in the history of this country.

This is a fight worth having. The Fifth Circuit has the highest percentage of minority residents of any circuit. At the same time, its civil rights jurisprudence is far to the right. The recent events in Jena, LA, show the racism in the criminal justice system within the jurisdiction of the Fifth Circuit. We cannot afford a nominee hostile to civil rights on this or any other Court.

There is a history with this seat. The President is intent on placing someone hostile to civil rights in the Mississippi seat on this Court. Charles Pickering and Michael Wallace were nominated but couldn't get confirmed because of their civil rights records. This is the third try by the Administration, and the pattern is very clear.

Instead of stepping up to the plate and nominating someone capable of delivering fair and impartial decisions on civil rights, the President has slapped Mississippians in the

face with the recent nomination of Southwick. Just look to Southwick's controversial opinions.

In *Richmond v. MS Dep't of Human Services*, a white employee was fired for using the phrase "good ole nigger" toward an African-American co-worker. When the white employee was fired, a hearing officer reinstated the employee. In upholding the reinstatement, the majority (which Southwick joined) concluded that using the phrase "good ole nigger" was equivalent to calling the other employee her "teacher's pet." This opinion was unanimously reversed by the Mississippi Supreme Court. And this is Bush's No. 1 draft pick?

Southwick's rulings on race discrimination in jury selections are equally disturbing. In such cases there is a noticeable pattern of prejudice. Southwick upheld claims that the defense struck white jurors on the basis of their race while rejecting claims that the prosecution was racially motivated in striking African-American jurors. On one hand, Southwick allows prosecutors to strike African-American jurors when the motivation is clearly racial, *McWilliams v. Mississippi*, or when the prosecution cites non-racial reasons for the strikes, *Davis v. Mississippi*. Yet, Southwick denies the defenses warranted attempts to strike white jurors even when the defense uses the same non-racial reasons for the strikes, *Webb v. Mississippi*. And this is the President's No. 1 draft pick?

The aforementioned cases exemplify several opportunities Southwick has had to make a judicious decision befitting such a high court but failed to do so.

Such views must not be tolerated or encouraged through a nomination to a lifelong post representing the judicial integrity of our nation. By this nomination, the Administration is attempting to reward judicious incompetence and great shortsightedness toward civil rights issues.

It's almost as if the President believes that Mississippi does not have any competent African-American lawyers. To think that a state overflowing with highly capable African-American attorneys cannot fill this Mississippi seat is simply preposterous.

Again, I express my sincere opposition to the nomination of Leslie Southwick to Mississippi's Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals. Mississippi needs a nominee who will not look to discourage or impede its growth, but instead, support and empower Mississippi's legacy.

TRIBUTE TO HERBERT
HENDERSON

HON. NICK J. RAHALL, II

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 22, 2007

Mr. RAHALL. Madam Speaker, West Virginia recently lost an outstanding son, Herbert Henderson. Herb passed away last week, but today I rise to celebrate a life well lived and to remember with fondness the accomplishments of a remarkable man who, over his many years, was a torchbearer in the dual causes of spreading equality and ensuring justice.

The unfortunate news of his passing has brought sadness to so many throughout West Virginia, including those who did not have the

opportunity to meet Mr. Henderson but who have come to benefit from his passionate support of civil liberties.

Herb was preceded in death by his wife of 49 years, Maxine Henderson. He graduated from Elkhorn High School in McDowell County, and from there he went on to attend West Virginia State College until his graduation in 1953. After college, Herb served two tours in the United States Army before becoming the first African-American to attend George Washington University School of Law. Upon graduation from law school, he returned with his family to Huntington, WV, where he eventually became senior partner in the law firm of Henderson, Henderson, and Staples.

From 1966 to 1986, Herb Henderson was the West Virginia State President of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP). He went on to serve as General Counsel for the NAACP in 1984 and again from 1989 through 1990. The mission of the NAACP is to ensure political, educational, social, and economic equality of rights of all persons and to eliminate racial hatred and racial discrimination. This was a mission that Herb not only shared, but one that he also championed throughout his lifetime.

For 49 years, Herb was an active member of the Ebenezer United Methodist Church, as well as a member of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the U.S.A. and Church World Service. He was a solid supporter of West Virginia State University (WVSU) and served as President of the Huntington Chapter of the WVSU Alumni Association.

He will be greatly missed by his family, in particular his four daughters and 10 grandchildren, as well as, the community he served so faithfully over these many years. My thoughts and prayers are with the family of Herbert Henderson. I join with West Virginians in honoring his remarkable life and the legacy he left behind.

TRIBUTE TO TIM LOSTY, DIRECTOR OF THE NORTHERN IRELAND BUREAU

HON. DONALD M. PAYNE

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 22, 2007

Mr. PAYNE. Madam Speaker, I would like to ask my colleagues here in the United States House of Representatives to join me in honoring an outstanding friend of our Nation who has served with distinction for the past few years as director of the Northern Ireland Bureau, Mr. Tim Losty, as he heads back to his homeland.

During his tenure, Tim worked closely with members of Congress and others to strengthen the bond between our two nations at an exciting but challenging time. He helped ensure that the U.S. continued to play a supportive role as the changes brought about by the historic Good Friday Agreement were implemented. Americans have always felt a special affinity with the people of Ireland and Northern Ireland because so many have roots there. In seeking our input and keeping us advised of the economic, social, and political developments in Northern Ireland, Tim gained our respect and admiration. He will be greatly missed.

Having visited Northern Ireland many times myself, both before and after the Good Friday Agreement, I am very gratified that the peace process continues to move forward.

Prior to joining the Northern Ireland Bureau, Tim was a manager with LEDU/Invest Northern Ireland's Eastern Local Office; founding member of the Belfast Peace and Reconciliation Partnership Board in 1994; a director of the Belfast Local Strategy Board; the East Belfast Partnership; and the First Stop Business Shop. Tim also worked on the West Belfast and Greater Shankill Taskforces set up by Ministers and local politicians to address specific issues of disadvantage in the community.

Madam Speaker, I know that all of my colleagues join me in wishing all the best to Tim, his wonderful wife Lisa, and their sons Conor and Rory as they return.

INTRODUCTION OF THE COMMERCIAL MOTOR VEHICLE ADVANCED SAFETY TECHNOLOGY TAX ACT

HON. RON LEWIS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 22, 2007

Mr. LEWIS of Kentucky. Madam Speaker, I rise to inform my colleagues of legislation I have co-authored with my colleague MIKE THOMPSON (D-CA) to promote the installation of proven advanced safety technology on heavy-duty vehicles.

The Commercial Motor Vehicle Advanced Safety Technology Tax Act (H.R. 3820) will create a tax incentive for owners of heavy-duty vehicles and the manufacturers of public and school buses to purchase and install safety systems proven to reduce accident rates. These include:

Brake Stroke Monitoring System—A system that monitors vehicle brakes to ensure they are functioning properly;

Lane Departure Monitoring System—A system that warns the driver when the vehicle drifts into the wrong lane;

Collision Warning System—A system that warns the driver if the vehicle is getting close enough to another vehicle or object to cause accident;

Vehicle Stability System—A system that autocorrects the vehicle when there is a threat of the vehicle rolling over.

These technologies directly address the most common causes of heavy-duty vehicle accidents as identified in a March 2006 report by the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration.

Specifically, large truck and bus owners who purchase one or more of these systems would be eligible for a tax credit of up to \$3,500 annually, with a maximum of \$1,500 per system. Owners of vehicle fleets would be eligible for a maximum credit of \$350,000 per year. Manufacturers who sell large trucks or buses to nonprofit entities, like schools or city transit authorities, would be eligible for the tax credit if they install the systems prior to vehicle delivery.

The Commercial Motor Vehicle Advanced Safety Technology Tax Act will reduce cost barriers for these safety systems, improving road safety and improving overall road safety.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

HONORING THE LIFE OF SERGEANT JASON M. LANTIERI

HON. JOE COURTNEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 22, 2007

Mr. COURTNEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the life and service of Army Sergeant Jason M. Lantieri, a twenty-five year old young man from my district who died on October 10, 2007 while serving in Iraq. Family, friends and the Killingworth community gathered last Thursday to honor, and say goodbye, to this special young man.

Jason was a bright, talented, and outgoing student-athlete at Haddam-Killingworth High School in Higganum, Connecticut. There, Jason's athletic abilities were undeniable as he played on the school's soccer, basketball, and baseball teams. In addition to his athletic prowess, Jason's commitment to his school and fellow classmates was solidified through his active role in student council.

Following graduation in 2000, Jason enrolled in Western New England College in Springfield, Massachusetts. In subsequent years after earning his business degree, Jason joined the Army and was assigned to the 725th Brigade Support Battalion of the 25th Infantry Division based in Fort Richardson, Alaska. During the next two years, he proudly, and bravely, served our Nation in Iraq.

On October 9, 2007, Jason was injured in a vehicle accident outside of Baghdad in Iskandaryah, Iraq. He passed away from his injuries the next day.

Earlier this year, Jason was able to fulfill his passion for travel and adventure on a break from Iraq in Europe. He wrote about his travels, stating, "Europe is a great place to just live for the day and for the moment." Although I did not know Jason, it is clear to me that he lived his life to the fullest, and made the world a better place for his family, friends and all those who knew him.

Jason's passing brings a profound sadness to the southeastern Connecticut community. His memory and contributions, however, will live on in our hearts and minds. I ask my colleagues to join with me in honoring Jason's life, his service and ultimate sacrifice to our Nation, and offer condolences to his friends and family at this difficult time.

TRIBUTE TO STATE REPRESENTATIVE CHARLIE BROWN

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 22, 2007

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Madam Speaker, it is with great admiration and respect that I take this time to recognize a dear friend and one of Indiana's most distinguished citizens, State Representative Charlie Brown of Gary, IN. Since 1982, Charlie has served as a member of the Indiana General Assembly. For his dedication and countless efforts toward improving the lives of Indiana residents, Charlie will be honored at a reception hosted by the Lake County Medical Society on Wednesday, October 24, 2007, at the Avalon Manor in Merrillville, IN.

Charlie Brown grew up in Philadelphia, PA. Following the completion of his undergraduate studies at Cheyney State Teachers' College in Cheyney, PA, Charlie relocated to Gary, IN, where he began his lifelong career in public service. After serving as an educator in the Gary Community School Corporation from 1961 to 1968, Charlie took on several new roles within his community. From 1968 to 1988, Charlie served in many capacities in the City of Gary, including: Youth Coordinator, Mayor's Assistant on Youth Activities, Director of the Youth Services Bureau, Affirmative Action Officer and Risk Manager.

In 1988, following many years of service as a public official, Charlie went on to utilize his vast experience and knowledge of health care-related issues by accepting the position of Chief Executive Officer of the Gary Community Mental Health Center. Charlie served in this capacity until 1993. Currently, Charlie serves as a consultant, where he provides guidance to organizations seeking to foster positive interaction between the government and the community.

Though Charlie has always put people first in every position he has held, it is through his efforts as an elected official that he has made an indelible mark on the progress and future in Indiana. First elected to the Indiana General Assembly as a member of the Indiana House of Representatives in 1982, Charlie has always been a true champion of improving health care in Indiana for all residents. As a member of the Indiana State House, Charlie has served on several committees, most notably, the Standing Committee on Public Health. As both a member and Chairman of this crucial committee, Charlie has fought tirelessly to improve health care in Indiana. When it comes to health care, Charlie has always had one goal in mind: To provide affordable, accessible, and high-quality health care for all Indiana citizens.

Throughout his illustrious career, Charlie has been recognized with many distinguished awards by numerous organizations. To name a few, Charlie has received accolades from: the National Association for Equal Opportunity in Higher Education, Indiana University Northwest, the Alzheimer's Association of Indiana, the Indiana Council of Community Mental Health Centers, the Mental Health Association of Indiana, the American Federation of Labor and Congress of Industrial Organizations (AFL-CIO), the Indiana Optometric Association, the Indiana Black Expo, the Calumet Council of the Boy Scouts of America, and the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP).

Though Charlie has received many esteemed honors for his commitment to the residents of Indiana, Charlie's greatest source of pride is his family. Charlie and his wife, Angela Baker Brown, are the proud parents of one daughter, Charlisa L. Scott, and two adoring grandsons, Landon Charles Douglas Scott and Cole Nathaniel Scott.

Madam Speaker, I respectfully ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in honoring State Representative Charlie Brown for his outstanding devotion to his community and to the people of Indiana. His unselfish and lifelong dedication to improving health care for Indiana residents is worthy of the highest commendation. Charlie's selfless-

ness and his commitment to improving lives throughout Indiana serves as an inspiration to us all, and I am proud to call him my friend.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO "LINKAGE HOUSE" ON THEIR 10TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 22, 2007

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, today I rise to ask my colleagues to take a moment to honor one of my local institutions, Linkage House Home for the Elderly, for 10 years of outstanding service.

Linkage House is the result of a shared vision of four local East Harlem organizations: the Greater Emmanuel Baptist Church, Union Settlement Association, the Community Association of East Harlem Triangle, and Mount Sinai Medical Center. That vision recognized that the ability to stay in one's home—or "aging in place"—is the overwhelming choice of many older Americans. However, to do so, these venerable residents need assistance from informal support systems, access to formal health services & social services, and meaningful, productive roles integrated within an affordable living environment.

Opening in May 1997 at 309 East 118th Street, the institution was the result of nine years of planning and organizing by a number of people. Under the leadership of Dr. Robert Butler and Dr. Gary Rosenberg, funds and technical assistance were found to design and implement the project. Union Settlement, under the leadership at that time of Eugene Sklar, provided invaluable experience in designing and implementing services for older people living in the community. Community activist Petra Allende, Union Settlement Association's Sally Yarmolinsky and Mount Sinai's Glenn Williams—all of them members of the original Linkage House Board and who have unfortunately since passed away—were also vital to making this project a reality.

Today, Linkage House stands as a testament to hard work and commitment of all these men and women. It encourages socialization and shared activities, providing a cross section of comprehensive and integrated services that include an on-site full time social work services coordinator, resident-developed shared living spaces and an on-site physical exercise room that offers aerobics, Tai Chi, and walking programs.

Linkage House is also a laboratory for learning. It is the site for Union Settlement's GED classes, a social work student internship site, and a community based education site for federally funded Geriatric Education Center (GEC) that trains community providers of service to older adults. The "Meet the Doctor" program provides interaction between physicians who are Geriatric Fellows, Internal Medicine residents, and older adults. Medical student studies and surveys of the use of complementary and alternative medicine by older adults are also conducted here.

That is why I am more than happy to congratulate Linkage House Home for the Elderly

on their 10th Anniversary. Their tireless commitment and resilient efforts on behalf of our senior citizens is a model that we can all follow not just in East Harlem, but around the nation.

HONORING ARTHUR (ART) B. MODELL

HON. C.A. DUTCH RUPPERSBERGER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 22, 2007

Mr. RUPPERSBERGER. Madam Speaker, I rise before you today to honor Arthur (Art) B. Modell, longtime franchise owner in the National Football League (NFL) and humanitarian. Art Modell was born on June 23, 1925, in Brooklyn, New York. His father died when he was 15, and Art dropped out of high school to work and help support his family. He completed high school by attending night classes and later joined the Air Force and fought in World War II. After the war, Art built a successful career in advertising and television production in New York City.

In 1961, he purchased the Cleveland Browns, a National Football League team. Modell was not a traditional owner in the National Football League. He believed that the owner should play an active role in the everyday affairs of the team. Modell succeeded in creating a strong team. The team won the NFL championship in 1964 and four division titles between 1965 and 1969.

At the end of the 1995 season, Modell surprised the city of Cleveland and excited fans in Maryland when he moved his team to Baltimore, Maryland. The city of Cleveland retained the rights to the Browns' name, and Modell renamed his organization the Baltimore Ravens. The move brought an NFL team back to Baltimore for the first time in 12 years since the Colts left for Indianapolis in the middle of the night, and in 2000, a Super Bowl victory for the Ravens. During his 46 years in the NFL, Art was the leader of the NFL's television negotiations and was an early advocate of the league's revenue sharing policy.

Art Modell is almost as famous for his humanitarian contributions off the football field as he is for his role on the field. Art and his family have made donations to Kennedy Krieger Institute, Baltimore Symphony Orchestra, Walters Art Gallery, Baltimore Museum of Art, House of Ruth, Hospice of Baltimore, Ed Block Courage House at St. Vincent's and the recent restoration of the Basilica of the Assumption, all in Baltimore and surrounding areas. He currently chairs a \$100 million fund drive that will help build a new cardiovascular tower for the Heart Institute at Johns Hopkins Hospital, and with his wife Pat contributed \$10 million to the project themselves.

Madam Speaker, I ask that you join with me today to honor Arthur (Art) B. Modell. His legacy as a pioneer in the National Football League and his lifetime devotion to the sport of professional football are matched only by his support of humanitarian and community foundations. It is with great pride that I congratulate Art Modell on his stellar and exemplary career in professional sports in the United States of America.

HONORABLE BILL ANOATUBBY
GOVERNOR OF THE CHICKASAW
NATION

HON. TOM COLE

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 22, 2007

Mr. COLE of Oklahoma. Madam Speaker, it is my privilege today to rise in recognition of a good friend of mine, the Governor of the Chickasaw Nation, Governor Bill Anoatubby. On October 26, 2007, East Central University will induct Governor Anoatubby into its Hall of Governors; he is only the fourth individual to receive such a prestigious recognition. He joins former U.S. Senator and former Governor Robert S. Kerr; former Oklahoma Supreme Court Justice, former U.S. Senator, and former Governor Ernest McFarland; and former Governor George Nigh. Reflecting upon the caliber of these individuals who have contributed so much to the State of Oklahoma, I know Governor Anoatubby truly appreciates the honor he is being given and that he so richly deserves.

Madam Speaker, graduating from East Central University in 1972 was merely the beginning, because from that day forward Governor Anoatubby has worked tirelessly to make Oklahoma a better State and the Chickasaws of Oklahoma a more prosperous people. His passion to this end is reflected in the litany of civic and community activities, affiliations, leadership roles, awards and honors contained in his biography.

But Madam Speaker, the Governor's impressive resume aside, I am honored today to recognize this award on the floor of the United States House of Representatives because I am a member of the Chickasaw Nation and I have witnessed the Governor achieve amazing things for our tribe, for the State of Oklahoma, and for tribes across the country. The Governor has presided over the Renaissance of the Chickasaw Nation by focusing on increasing economic development, expanding health coverage, improving education, and preserving and reviving the tribe's cultural and historical heritage so important for our future vitality and self-identity.

But Governor Anoatubby's accomplishments do not stop there, Madam Speaker. He not only fulfills his duties as the leader of the Chickasaw Nation, but has become one of the most respected Native American leaders in the country. He understands the unique status of tribes, and as such, he recognizes the unique opportunities available not only at a state level, but nationally and internationally for tribal development and prosperity. He has an unequalled willingness to reach out and make partnerships between tribes and businesses, institutions, organizations, and other governments.

Madam Speaker, Governor Anoatubby profoundly understands that neither the Chickasaw Nation nor the State of Oklahoma can thrive independently of one another. He has demonstrated time and time again that working together, the two can bring remarkable benefits to all Oklahomans, native and non-native alike. Simply put, Madam Speaker, Governor Anoatubby has changed the way people live in the State of Oklahoma for the better,

and I congratulate him on being inducted into East Central University's Hall of Governors.

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 Tuesday, October 23, 2007 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

OCTOBER 24

9:30 a.m.

Foreign Relations
African Affairs Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine the United States role in consolidating peace and democracy in the Great Lakes region.

SD-419

Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry
Business meeting to markup the 2007 Farm Bill.

SR-328A

Veterans' Affairs
To hold hearings to examine pending legislation.

SD-562

10 a.m.

Commerce, Science, and Transportation
To hold hearings to examine the future of radio.

SR-253

Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

To hold hearings to examine ways to build an effective terrorist screening system.

SD-342

Judiciary

To hold hearings to examine the nominations of Ronald Jay Tenpas, of Maryland, to be an Assistant Attorney General, Joseph N. Laplante, to be United States District Judge for the District of New Hampshire, Reed Charles O'Connor, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Texas, Thomas D. Schroeder, to be United States District Judge for the Middle District of North Carolina, and Amul R. Thapar, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Kentucky.

SD-226

10:30 a.m.

Aging
To hold hearings to examine hidden 401K fees, focusing on ways that disclosure can increase retirement security.

SD-628

1:30 p.m.

Judiciary

To hold hearings to examine the role of federally-funded university research in the patent system.

SD-226

1:45 p.m.

Foreign Relations

Business meeting to consider the nominations of Henrietta Holsman Fore, of Nevada, to be Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development, Robin Renee Sanders, of New York, to be Ambassador to the Federal Republic of Nigeria, Barry Leon Wells, of Ohio, to be Ambassador to the Republic of The Gambia, Mark M. Boulware, of Texas, to be Ambassador to the Islamic Republic of Mauritania, James D. McGee, of Florida, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Zimbabwe, Ronald K. McMullen, of Iowa, to be Ambassador to the State of Eritrea, P. Robert Fannin, of Arizona, to be Ambassador to the Dominican Republic, Christopher Egan, of Massachusetts, to be Representative of the United States of America to the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, with the rank of Ambassador, Louis John Nigro, Jr., of Florida, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Chad, David T. Johnson, of Georgia, to be an Assistant Secretary of State (International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs), Paul E. Simons, of Virginia, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Chile, Gail Dennise Mathieu, of New Jersey, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Namibia, Dan Mozena, of Iowa, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Angola, Eunice S. Reddick, of New York, to be Ambassador to the Gabonese Republic, and to serve concurrently and without additional compensation as Ambassador to the Democratic Republic of Sao Tome and Principe, Daniel V. Speckhard, of Wisconsin, to be Ambassador to Greece, Thomas F. Stephenson, of California, to be Ambassador to the Portuguese Republic, Vincent Obsitnik, of Virginia, to be Ambassador to the Slovak Republic, William H. Frist, of Tennessee, to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the Millennium Challenge Corporation, George E. Pataki, of New York, to be a Representative of the United States of America to the Sixty-second Session of the General Assembly of the United Nations; to be immediately followed by an open hearing to examine issues relative to the global fight against HIV/AIDS.

SD-419

2 p.m.

Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs
Securities, Insurance and Investment Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine international accounting standards, focusing on opportunities, challenges, and global convergence issues.

SD-538

2:30 p.m.

Environment and Public Works
Private Sector and Consumer Solutions to Global Warming and Wildlife Protection Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine S. 2191, to direct the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency to establish a program to decrease emissions of greenhouse gases.

SD-406

OCTOBER 25

9:30 a.m.
 Commerce, Science, and Transportation
 Interstate Commerce, Trade, and Tourism
 Subcommittee
 To hold hearings to examine sweatshop
 conditions in the toy industry in
 China.
 SR-253

10 a.m.
 Finance
 To hold hearings to examine small busi-
 ness health insurance, focusing on
 building a gateway to coverage.
 SD-215

Judiciary
 Business meeting to consider S. 1946, to
 help Federal prosecutors and investiga-
 tors combat public corruption by
 strengthening and clarifying the law,
 S. Res. 347, designating May 2008 as
 "National Be Bear Aware and Wildlife
 Stewardship Month", S. Res. 346, ex-
 pressing heartfelt sympathy for the
 victims of the devastating thunder-
 storms that caused severe flooding dur-
 ing August 2007 in the States of Illi-
 nois, Iowa, Minnesota, Ohio, and Wis-
 consin, and the nominations of John
 Daniel Tinder, of Indiana, to be United
 States Circuit Judge for the Seventh
 Circuit, and Julie L. Myers, of Kansas,
 to be Assistant Secretary of Homeland
 Security.
 SD-226

Environment and Public Works
 Transportation Safety, Infrastructure Se-
 curity, and Water Quality Sub-
 committee
 To hold an oversight hearing to examine
 the effectiveness of federal drunk driv-
 ing programs.
 SD-406

2:30 p.m.
 Homeland Security and Governmental Af-
 fairs
 Federal Financial Management, Govern-
 ment Information, Federal Services,
 and International Security Sub-
 committee
 To hold hearings to examine single au-
 dits, focusing on a recent study on the
 potential impacts that implementing
 certain recommendations could have to
 help ensure that federal funds are safe-
 guarded.
 SD-342

Intelligence
 To hold closed hearings to examine cer-
 tain intelligence matters.
 SH-219

OCTOBER 31

9:30 a.m.
 Veterans' Affairs
 To hold an oversight hearing to examine
 the Uniformed services Employment
 and Reemployment Rights Act
 (USERRA).
 SD-562

10 a.m.
 Commerce, Science, and Transportation
 To hold hearings to examine universal
 telephone service.
 SR-253

NOVEMBER 1

10 a.m.
 Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions
 To hold hearings to examine the nomina-
 tions of Gregory F. Jacob, of New Jer-
 sey, to be Solicitor, and Howard
 Radzely, of Maryland, to be Deputy
 Secretary, both of the Department of
 Labor.
 SD-430

NOVEMBER 7

9:30 a.m.
 Veterans' Affairs
 To hold an oversight hearing to examine
 the performance and structure of the
 United States Court of Appeals for Vet-
 erans.
 SR-562

10 a.m.
 Rules and Administration
 To hold hearings to examine the Govern-
 ment Accountability Office report fo-
 cusing on funding challenges and facili-
 ties maintenance at the Smithsonian
 Institution.
 SR-301

POSTPONEMENTS

OCTOBER 24

5 p.m.
 Intelligence
 To hold a closed conference to examine
 the fiscal year 2008 Intelligence Au-
 thorization bill.
 S-407, Capitol