

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

TRIBUTE DR. DANIEL COLLINS

**HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 7, 2007*

Ms. WOOLSEY. Madam Speaker, it is with great sadness that I rise today to recognize the passing of one of our notable pioneers, Dr. Daniel Collins. Dr. Collins died this month at age 91, leaving an enduring legacy to the people of Marin County, where he lived, to those of the San Francisco Bay Area, where he worked and taught, and to generations of black Americans across the country.

A practicing dentist, Dr. Collins was the first black man to teach at the University of California, San Francisco School of Dentistry.

"It opened the doors for others," says his son, Chuck Collins.

After his retirement from dentistry, he served on the board of directors of the San Francisco Dental Society, the trustees of the American Fund for Dental Education and as a member of the house of delegates of the California Dental Association. Moreover, such pioneering efforts extended beyond his professional life. Dr. Collins founded the first black-owned savings and loan in San Francisco, for example, as well as the San Francisco chapter of the Urban League, later known as the Bay Area Urban League.

Elberta Eriksson worked with Dr. Collins in those early days of the Urban League and remembers helping him promote awareness of discrimination in employment.

"I would see something on the college bulletin board announcing a job on Market Street or something," she says. "When I would walk in to apply, they would say I was too qualified. Then I would report back to the Urban League and they would follow up."

She notes that Dr. Collins' intention was to help blacks to fair employment before there were fair employment laws.

As a pioneer, Dr. Collins felt called to mentor young people, and he and his wife, DeReath, were activists in their community as members of various groups, such as the Marin African Coalition. Together they helped to found MARC—Malin Aid to Retarded Children—now known as Lifehouse, a residential and counseling center for people with developmental disabilities located in San Rafael.

In 1960, former Gov. Pat Brown appointed Dr. Collins to the State Board of Education, which 6 years later approved a new history text that recognized the contributions of women and minorities. He was also named a Distinguished Alumnus by UCSF School of Dentistry, and a Local Hero by Bay Area television station KQED. His alma mater, Paine College, even named a library after him.

"But he had absolutely no ego whatsoever," says Regina Carey, a family friend and Dr. Collins' personal assistant for many years. "He would do all kinds of things and get all kinds of accolades and it never went to his head." Among Dr. Collins' pioneering efforts,

she notes, was his selection as the first black to head a national campaign for a presidential election, when he supported Adlai Stevenson. Collins also helped create the Sun-Reporter newspaper in San Francisco and the Church for the Fellowship of All People, one of the first nondenominational, interracial churches in the country.

But perhaps Dr. Collins' greatest contribution will never be marked by an award or a plaque or a resolution. Perhaps it will be the one few people ever know about—which is this: In the early 1950s, when Dr. Collins and his wife tried to buy a home in Mill Valley, long a summer resort area for San Franciscans and an all-white town in an almost all-white county, a deed restriction prevented the homeowner from selling to a black man. Local real estate agents offered to buy the house to keep the black family out. That the doctor and his wife were successful in purchasing their home and moving into the town eventually changed the landscape for future generations of black families in Marin.

But then, Dr. Collins did that in all areas of his life, in his own quiet way. That is why, Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and courage of Dr. Daniel Collins.

CELEBRATING UPPER DUBLIN HIGH SCHOOL'S VETERANS HISTORY PROJECT PARTICIPATION

**HON. ALLYSON Y. SCHWARTZ**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 7, 2007*

Ms. SCHWARTZ. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and congratulate Upper Dublin High School in Upper Dublin Township, PA on their outstanding participation in the Veterans History Project of the Library of Congress. Students and teachers have contributed their time and skills to preserving the remarkable experiences of our war veterans from all service branches, from World War I to the present day Iraq War, as well as the civilians who supported them. I am privileged to represent these students and teachers in Congress.

The Veterans History Project preserves the legacy of those who have served through the establishment of a permanent national collection, housed in the Library of Congress, of videotaped and recorded interviews, written memoirs, and wartime letters, diaries, and photographs. Stories and materials are available to anyone visiting the Library. In addition, a Web page is created for each veteran who contributes an interview.

As our Nation's World War II and Korean Veterans grow older, it is critical that we record their stories. Their experiences offer a priceless window into their dedication and love of country. As the daughter of a Korean War veteran, this effort has special personal meaning for me. We have much to learn from those who have served our Nation, and I wholeheartedly support this important project.

On this Veterans Day, November 12, 2007, I am proud to recognize Upper Dublin High School's Veterans History Project participation at a special event, "Preserving Their Stories: A Salute to Veterans History Project Volunteers," at the Hiway Theatre in Jenkintown. This special celebration will bring together Americans, both young and older, with veterans of all ages, to honor their common service to their fellow citizens and country.

Madam Speaker, once again I congratulate all of the Veterans History Project participants for their contributions to capturing the experiences of war veterans, thus honoring the lives and contributions of these extraordinary Americans.

CELEBRATING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF ST. ADALBERT PARISH IN TOLEDO, OHIO

**HON. MARCY KAPTUR**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 7, 2007*

Ms. KAPTUR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize St. Adalbert Parish. On October 28, 2007, Saint Adalbert Parish in Toledo, Ohio celebrated its naissance into the north Toledo Polish Community. This 100th anniversary commemorates the formative role St. Adalbert's had in helping shape a vibrant Toledo, while centering an ethnic community of largely citizens of Polish descent. The celebration, commenced with Mass, reminded those attendees of their proud Polish heritage that molded north Toledo, but also northwest Ohio. For this celebration marked a day that spoke to the importance of commemorating important ethnic communities in America because these immigrant-based groups have enriched America's heritage.

Approximately 170 years ago, the banks of the Maumee River welcomed the first Polish immigrant with the family name Vistula, a name shared with the central river of Poland. Following this initial arrival, Toledo attracted more Polish pioneers from Kraków, the medieval capital of Poland and from Warsaw, Poland's current capital in the Mazowsze region. However, during the 19th century, the overwhelming majority of Polish settlers came from the western territories. These western territories of Poland were controlled by the Germans. Poles longed to escape the religious and linguistic persecution of the infamous "Kulturkamt" instituted by Otto von Bismarck, subsequently followed by the "Ha-Ka-Ta" program of colonization by buying up Polish lands.

The specific origins of Poles fleeing German maltreatment are known. Most came from Poznań province, the seat of Poland's earliest Roman Catholic cathedral. Other Poles came from the Pałuki region around the county of Znin. This region rests immediately to the northwest of the Kujawy region around Gniezno. Upon finding a sight of white eagles

• 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.

here, Prince Lech established this as the capital and further, the white eagle became the national coat-of-arms.

Additionally, Poles migrated to America at the beginning of the 20th Century through the First World War. They arrived from the Austrian-held southern Poland, Zakopane with Gorale culture, Rzeszów, Lwow, Russian territories of Kujawy, and Wiłno, the modern capital of Lithuania.

Regardless of their ancestral region, Polish immigrants contributed greatly to Toledo's growing labor forces. By 1920, people of Polish origin constituted the largest foreign-born group in Toledo and Lucas County. These settlers accounted for at least one quarter of the population of northwest Ohio, eventually spilling over into southeastern Michigan. Toledo was the largest city in northwest Ohio with a population of over 300,000 people. Residents of Polish ancestry now number over 60,000.

Given Poland's special relationship with the Catholic Church, when Poles came to inhabit Toledo, naturally, the Catholic Church became the bastion of their communities. Indeed its establishment predated the formation of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Toledo itself. By 1879, the Lagrange street district (known as "Lagrinka" by Poles) hosted the first Polish parish under the patronage of Saint Hedwig, Queen of Poland. The Polish Lagrinka district rapidly expanded into the beginning of the 20th century. By 1907, Bishop Ignatius Horstmann of Cleveland established a second Polish parish in the Lagrange Street district as a division of St. Hedwig Parish. The bishop assigned Fr. Jozef Wachowski, a young priest who worked in Cleveland, to begin the new parish by October 18, 1907 with Park Street as the boundary line. The old church building of St. Hedwig housed the first parish meeting on February 23, 1908.

By March 4, 1908, Bishop Horstmann approved the choice of St. Adalbert as the namesake and patron of the new parish. The official announcement of the parish patron saint was made on March 15, 1908. A nine-room cottage on the property was used as the pastor's house. By November of 1908, Fr. Wachowski signed a contract for a combination church/school building, and a pastoral residence. The first spade of ground for the new church was turned on December 1, 1908, at 12 o'clock noon.

Auxiliary Bishop Joseph Kudelka laid the cornerstone on May 2, 1909. Representatives of all the Polish parishes in the Toledo and Rossford areas, and parishes from Ironville in east Toledo attended this ceremony. The church school was finished in October 1909. Work started on the rectory in February of 1909. A demonstration of Catholic Polish people which has never been equaled in Toledo took place Sunday, September 18, 1910 when the Right Reverend Bishop from Chicago dedicated St. Adalbert Church and School on Lagrange and Oakland Streets. The parade to follow showcased all societies, military and religious, of all the Polish churches. Bishop Paul P. Rhode was the first and only Polish bishop in the United States, leading nearly 3,000,000 Catholic Poles and more than 800 churches. By October 1909, Fr. Wachowski moved into the new rectory, followed by a sister's convent in 1915.

St. Adalbert Parish eventually became the largest parish in the diocese; thus, it was necessary to build a new, separate church to sus-

tain the parish members. On April 19, 1927, parish supporters laid the cornerstone to the present magnificent church. This church, built between the church-school and the parish house in the Spanish Mission style, was 145 feet long and 75 feet wide with a 100-foot tower at one side. September 18, 1927 celebrated the first Mass of the new church. The new St. Adalbert Church was dedicated by Bishop Samuel A. Stritch on April 22, 1928, which also marked the 25th anniversary of Fr. Wachowski's ordination to the priesthood.

After the new church was built, the Great Depression came. Father Czarnecki inherited the debt of the church building. However, Fr. Czarnecki introduced and distributed financial booklets to list all the contributions of each member during the year. Due to the priest's business acumen, the building debt was paid.

Parishioners of Saint Adalbert have been involved in numerous organizations. These members of the parish organized a number of societies: St. Adalbert Society, St. Casimir and St. Joseph's Societies, St. Michael Society (men), Altar-Rosary Society (women), and Young Ladies Society (girls), St. Theresa and Holy Rosary Sodalties, the Ladies' Guild, the Young People's Friendly Circle, the Catholic Order of Foresters, Court No. 1865, LCBA Branch No. 1434 and the Altar Boys' League. From these organizations and tight-knit community, Saint Adalbert was an anchor for the neighborhood.

The church buttressed a parish school that became a site of advancement for young people for generations. The selfless contributions of the teachers, more notably, the Felician Sisters ensured the students received a top-notch education, but nurtured students who were dedicated and devoted to serve their fellow man, community and country. Rev. J.P. Wachowski requested the services of the Felician Sisters. The future welfare of the Polish pioneers lay in their education and training by a religious community of their own nationality. Retaining some ethnic identity was essential for those separated from their mother country by a force of circumstances. The Felician Sisters have taught in Toledo since 1883, nine years after five Sisters arrived in Polonia, Wisconsin from Poland to establish the first U.S. Foundation. The religious community was founded in Warsaw, Poland in 1855 by Mother M. Angela, eventually being housed in Livonia, Michigan in 1936. The sisters became an integral part of the community, the elementary schools, high schools, religious education centers, parish religious programs, a college hospital, home for dependent children and a home for the aged. The Congregation of Sisters of Saint Felix has been teaching at the St. Adalbert Parish for 98 years.

The original St. Adalbert Parish attracted about 150 families. Upon completion of the new parish, more than 1,000 families claimed Saint Adalbert as their parish. Presently, approximately 550 household families are registered at St. Adalbert Parish.

In lieu of current trends of former vibrant Polish communities, two parishes were superfluous to meet the needs of the community. Thus, to keep alive the Polish churches of North Toledo, in July of 2005, St. Adalbert Parish and St. Hedwig Parish were twinned, staying separate parishes but one community. What once partitioned the north Toledo Polish neighborhood has now become united. In fact, the parish schools of Saint Hedwig and Saint

Adalbert joined, creating Pope John Paul II School, tangibly representing this union.

Indeed the story of 100 years of activity can never be told in its entirety; but the contributions of the Felicians, priests and laity, who served as lecturers, ushers, Eucharistic ministers, choir members, musicians, youth athletic coaches, and skit, dance and musical choreographers nurtured the joy of community commemorated during its 100th anniversary.

October 2007 marks the 100th anniversary of St. Adalbert Parish. A year-long celebration begins with the blessing of the statue of our late Pope John Paul II. May God bless St. Adalbert Parish—all its founders and inheritors—and our beloved community, and city.

TRIBUTE TO MIKE FLYNT, A MEMBER OF THE SUL ROSS STATE UNIVERSITY FOOTBALL TEAM

**HON. CIRO D. RODRIGUEZ**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 7, 2007*

Mr. RODRIGUEZ. Madam Speaker, I stand today to recognize an outstanding individual in my district. Recently, Mike Flynt, at age 59, became the second oldest athlete to participate in NCAA collegiate football. Mr. Flynt is a linebacker for the Sul Ross State University Lobos and has exemplified himself as a team leader and an inspiration to the younger players on the team. This weekend marks the final game of the season for the Sul Ross Lobos and I would like to congratulate the team on a great season and to Mike for providing leadership and inspiration that certainly contributed to the team's success.

Mike Flynt is not only an inspiration on the football field; he is also an expert in physical fitness. He is a certified Master of Fitness Sciences and a youth fitness trainer. He has worked as a fitness and conditioning specialist at the Universities of Nebraska, Oregon and Texas A&M. Mr. Flynt is also the inventor of a portable gym system that received a government patent and also a founding member of the international Strength and Conditioning Association.

Across the Nation, people have heard the story of Mike Flynt. He has received countless e-mails and letters congratulating him on his accomplishments. His popularity has also drawn donations to the University in order to fund scholarships and to purchase needed athletic equipment.

Because of this impact, I have asked President Bush to appoint Mr. Flynt to the Council of Physical Fitness and Sports. He would be a perfect candidate to serve on the council due to his lifelong commitment to health and fitness. He would serve as an inspiration to people of all ages and would be a wonderful addition to the Council.

I would like to reiterate my amazement at the accomplishments of Mike Flynt. I recognize him today for being an inspiration to his community and to the Nation. We should keep the story of Mike Flynt in mind and remember that age should not be a barrier to our dreams.

INTRODUCTION OF THE LOST  
RETIREMENT SAVINGS ACT OF 2007**HON. JOHN LEWIS**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 7, 2007*

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Madam Speaker, last week I introduced legislation that will help people who worked long hours, went to work everyday to support their families, and thought they were earning a retirement package that would be there at the end of their careers. Unfortunately, many in this body know the crisis some workers have endured regarding their defined benefit pension plans. Many people have felt the sting of lost jobs, reduced benefits, and bankrupt employers. Their retirement savings were lost.

The Lost Retirement Savings Act will allow airline workers to recover some of their benefits that were erased when their employers went bankrupt. By creating a retirement savings option for airline workers whose defined benefit plans were terminated or frozen in bankruptcy proceedings we can offer help to workers. This legislation creates an opportunity for airline workers to rollover specified bankruptcy payments into a traditional or Roth individual retirement account.

Airline workers have lost more than \$5 billion in wages alone. They have lost an additional \$5 billion in defined benefit pension benefits. Some have lost more than their paycheck. Too many people lost their jobs. In my district, which covers metro Atlanta, Delta Air Lines has been particularly hard hit over the past few years. On September 11, there were 10,500 active Delta pilots. Today, there are 6,700.

We need to keep our pension system strong in America. We need to keep it strong for American workers and their families. If the system breaks, we need to stand up for all workers and find a solution. This legislation will restore some lost earnings and some lost opportunities. I look forward to seeing this passed.

INTRODUCTION OF THE  
"TELEWORK IMPROVEMENT ACT  
OF 2007"**HON. DANNY K. DAVIS**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 7, 2007*

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, telework continues to be under utilized by Federal agencies. Improvements are needed to allow more Federal employees to participate in telework programs. Today, Representative SARBANES will join me in introducing legislation that will ensure that agencies make those much needed improvements. Telework provides numerous benefits including increased flexibilities for both employers and employees, continuity of operations during emergency events, and decreased energy use and air pollution.

The Office of Personnel Management, OPM, defines telework as "work arrangements in which an employee regularly performs officially assigned duties at home or other worksites geographically convenient to the residence of

the employee." Many of the current Federal programs were developed in response to a provision included in an appropriations bill enacted in October 2000. This law requires each executive branch agency to establish a telework policy under which eligible employees "may participate in telecommuting to the maximum extent possible without diminishing employee performance." Under the current legislative framework, the General Services Administration, GSA, and OPM have leading roles in implementing government-wide telework initiatives.

Unfortunately, telework is not being used to the extent it should be. According to OPM's most recent report, only about 119,000 of the approximately 1.8 million Federal employees participated in telework in 2005. That figure represents only 6.6 percent of Federal agency employees. Some of the barriers to telework include office coverage, organizational culture, management resistance, and technology security and funding. Today we want to examine ways to address these barriers and encourage teleworking.

On May 7, 2007, I, along with my colleagues, Representative KENNY MARCHANT, full committee Chairman HENRY WAXMAN, and Ranking Member TOM DAVIS sent a letter to 25 Federal departments and agencies requesting information on the telework programs of those agencies. The letter was intended to help us better understand how well agency telework programs are working. What we found is that not only is telework inconsistently defined across agencies, many agencies, do not effectively measure and track teleworkers. Some agencies do not even know how many of their employees actually telework.

In recent years, telework has increasingly been viewed as an important tool for ensuring continuity of essential government services in a time of crisis, such as in the event of a natural disaster or a terrorist attack. To help improve the preparedness of the Federal Government's operation in emergency situations, last session, I introduced H.R. 5366, the "Continuity of Operations Demonstration Project Act." This legislation provided for a demonstration project under which at least two Federal agencies would perform services and operations under a simulated emergency in which Federal employees would have to work at locations away from their usual workplace, including home, for at least 10 consecutive days. A number of agencies have taken the initiative to perform demonstration exercises in the last several years but there are still many agencies that have not done so. I would like to see more agencies test their ability to continue operations in an emergency and incorporate telework into their continuity of operations plans.

Representative JOHN SARBANES, House Oversight and Government Reform Chairman HENRY WAXMAN, and Representative FRANK WOLF have joined me in introducing the "Telework Improvement Act of 2007." This legislation breaks new ground by ensuring that eligible Federal employees have the opportunity to telework and that agencies are incorporating telework into their continuity of operations planning. The Act spurs Federal agencies to improve their telework policies by requiring every Federal agency to develop a telework program that allows employees to telework at least 20 percent of every 2-week work period, designate a senior level em-

ployee as a telework managing officer, and incorporate telework into their continuity of operations planning.

Our expectation is that this legislation will increase the number of Federal employees that are allowed to telework and thereby better prepare the Government for emergency events, reduce congestion and pollution, and create a more family-friendly workplace.

TRIBUTE TO MRS. MARGARET  
DREWNIAK**HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 7, 2007*

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Madam Speaker, it is with great respect and admiration that I stand before you today to recognize the many accomplishments of Mrs. Margaret (Marge) Drewniak. I can truly say that Marge is one of Northwest Indiana's most dedicated, distinguished, and honorable citizens. She is one of the most involved citizens that I have ever known, especially when it comes to her service to the people of Whiting, Indiana. For the past 37 years, Marge has been a constant fixture in Whiting, fully committed in her various capacities as a public servant. Most notably, Marge has served as the Clerk-Treasurer for the City of Whiting for the past 26 years. Though Marge has decided not to run for reelection, her efforts over the course of her tenure, and the impact she has had on the city and the people of Whiting will forever be remembered. To honor Marge, a reception will be held at the Knights of Columbus Hall in Whiting, Indiana, on Saturday, November 10, 2007.

One of 3 children, Margaret Kotyuk was born to Frank and Emma (Mitro) Kotyuk in Whiting, Indiana. A lifelong resident of Whiting, Marge attended the Whiting public schools. Upon her graduation, prior to beginning her career as a public servant, Marge was employed as a bookkeeper. Undoubtedly, it was during that time that Marge developed the skills that would be critical in her role as clerk-treasurer.

Marge began her career in the public sector in Whiting in 1970, where she served in various capacities within several departments under former Mayor Frank Harangody. In 1974, she was named deputy clerk-treasurer, a position she held until 1981, when she was appointed to complete the term of the late clerk-treasurer, Mary Jancek. This began Marge's 26-year tenure as Whiting's clerk-treasurer. During that time, she worked with four mayors: Frank Harangody, Joseph Grenchik, Robert Bercik, and current Mayor Joseph Stahura. Marge also served as a precinct vice-committeeperson and volunteered countless hours for the Whiting Democratic Precinct Organization during her tenure.

In her capacity as clerk-treasurer, Marge has been a member of many organizations throughout the years, including: the Indiana League of Municipal Clerks and Treasurers, the International Institute of Municipal Clerks and Treasurers, the Municipal Treasurers' Association of the United States and Canada, the Government Finance Officers Association, and the Indiana Association of Cities and Towns. Outside her elected position, Marge is

well-known to be an active member in several organizations within the Whiting community, including: the Whiting-Robertsdale Chamber of Commerce, the Knights of Columbus Wives Club, the Daughters of Isabella, the Whiting-Robertsdale Historical Society, the Sacred Heart Rosary Society, and the Friends of the Library.

While Marge's everyday presence will be missed at Whiting City Hall, she will now have a chance to spend more time to those closest to her—her family. A loving wife, mother, and grandmother, Marge's commitment to her community is surpassed only by her love for her family. Marge and her loving husband, Henry, have been married for an astonishing 55 years. With Marge's retirement, they plan to spend as much time as possible with their 3 children: Nancy (Michael) Pappas, James (Martha) Drewniak, and Ron (Lisa) Drewniak, and their adoring grandchildren: Brian and Kelly Pappas and Eric and Scott Drewniak.

Madam Speaker, Marge Drewniak has selflessly given her time and efforts to the people of Whiting, Indiana, throughout her years of service. At this time, I ask that you and all of my distinguished colleagues join me in commending her for her lifetime of service and dedication, and I ask that you join me in wishing her the best of health and happiness in the years to come.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 3043, DEPARTMENTS OF LABOR, HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, AND EDUCATION, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2008

SPEECH OF

**HON. JAMES R. LANGEVIN**

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, November 6, 2007*

Mr. LANGEVIN. Madam Speaker, I wish to express my support of H.R. 3043, the Fiscal Year 2008 Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and Military Construction-Veterans Affairs Appropriations Act.

I have increasingly heard grave concerns from Rhode Islanders about the cuts and limitations in critical domestic programs over the past 6 years. Currently, one in six Americans is without health insurance, our schools are in desperate need of resources to meet the standards set in No Child Left Behind, and the recent housing slump and credit crunch have left our economy in trouble. Our safety net programs are more important than ever, as Americans work hard to keep their families healthy and their finances in order.

This legislation takes important steps to address the problems faced by so many Americans and prioritizes funding for those programs that have suffered the most under cuts by the Republican leadership in recent years. I am proud that Democrats have crafted a bill that will increase funding for Community Health Centers and Title VII programs, designed to increase access to health services for the medically underserved. This measure will also improve education by targeting resources toward special education and Title I grants to help low-income students and by increasing the maximum Pell Grant from \$4,310

to \$4,925, making college more affordable for many students. And it rejects the President's proposed cuts for medical research at the National Institutes of Health by supplying a level of funding that will sustain existing, cutting-edge research into diseases like cancer, Alzheimer's, Parkinson's and heart disease. Finally, it provides \$2.4 billion for the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program—\$250 million more than the current level—offering much-needed relief to the residents of Rhode Island, who are now facing the highest prices for home heating oil on record.

The Democratic leadership has also addressed the challenges facing our veterans by restoring accountability and oversight to ensure they receive the care they deserve. H.R. 3043 provides the biggest increase in veterans benefits in over 75 years, and the need could not be more urgent. This legislation includes an increase of \$18 billion above the current level for military construction and veterans affairs, and is also \$3.8 billion above the President's request. I am also pleased that this bill recognizes the concerns and reflects the advice of our veterans, by not only meeting, but exceeding the independent budget request, a needs estimate published by four veterans' service groups. This increase is critical to meet the needs of the many returning veterans who are suffering from Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder or Traumatic Brain Injury and require better care to successfully rebuild their lives. Additional funding will help alleviate the backlogged claim process and provide much-needed maintenance for VA health care facilities. The support shown by this Congress is a testament to the priority all of us place on our veterans.

In closing, I want to express my thanks to Chairman OBEY for reconciling so many diverse needs to craft a fair and fiscally responsible package, and reiterate my support for H.R. 3043.

CELEBRATING ABINGTON SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL'S VETERANS HISTORY PROJECT PARTICIPATION

**HON. ALLYSON Y. SCHWARTZ**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 7, 2007*

Ms. SCHWARTZ. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and congratulate Abington Senior High School in Abington Township, PA, on their outstanding participation in the Veteran History Project of the Library of Congress. Students and teachers have contributed their time and skills to preserving the remarkable experiences of our war veterans from all service branches, from World War I to the present day Iraq War, as well as the civilians who supported them. I am privileged to represent these students and teachers in Congress.

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As our Nation's World War II and Korean veterans grow older, it is critical that we record their stories. Their experiences offer a priceless window into their dedication and love of country. As the daughter of a Korean War veteran, this effort has special personal meaning for me. We have much to learn from those who have served our Nation, and I wholeheartedly support this important project.

On this Veterans Day, November 12, 2007, I am proud to recognize Abington Senior High School's Veterans History Project participation at a special event, Preserving Their Stories: A Salute to Veterans History Project Volunteers, at the Hiway Theatre in Jenkintown. This special celebration will bring together Americans, both young and older, with veterans of all ages, to honor their common service to their fellow citizens and country.

Madam Speaker, once again I congratulate all of the Veterans History Project participants for their contributions to capturing the experiences of war veterans, thus honoring the lives and contributions of these extraordinary Americans.

IN HONOR OF NAVY VETERAN AND PEARL HARBOR SURVIVOR ERNAL UNDERWOOD

**HON. CHRIS CANNON**

OF UTAH

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 7, 2007*

Mr. CANNON. Madam Speaker, as Veteran's Day approaches, I rise in strong support of all who have ever worn the uniform. From the fields of Bunker Hill to the streets of Baghdad, and everywhere in between, American service members represent the very best of our Nation and deserve more than we can ever repay. But today I want to pay particular tribute to a resident of my district who is part of an elite club—Ernal Underwood is one of twelve Pearl Harbor survivors currently living in the State of Utah.

Mr. Underwood joined the Navy on January 7, 1941. Less than 1 year later Mr. Underwood found himself docked at Pearl Harbor on the USS *Helena*. On December 7, 1941 an aerial torpedo struck the USS *Helena* while Mr. Underwood was climbing down a ladder below the deck, on his way to write his wife a letter.

After his ship was hit, Mr. Underwood immediately ran to his battle station, picked up his weapon, and engaged the enemy. Mr. Underwood fired until his gun became too hot. After he ran to fetch a bucket of water in order to cool it down, on the way back to his station, he said he had an impression to "stop." A few seconds later fire from an enemy aircraft pelted the cement on both sides of him. Fortunately, Mr. Underwood came away unscathed. Mr. Underwood's best friend was not so lucky. Later, Ernal Underwood was asked to identify the charred body of his best friend, Benjamin Vasser. Mr. Underwood found his buddy badly burned, but alive enough to blink a response to him. That was the last time Mr. Underwood would see his friend alive.

Less than 2 years later on July 6, 1943, Ernal Underwood found himself in the middle of the Kula Gulf battle in the South Pacific. That day the USS *Helena* suffered three direct hits from enemy torpedoes. The ship broke

into three pieces and the order to abandon ship was given. Despite three broken vertebrae, a broken ankle, and a large gash in his head, Mr. Underwood treaded water through the night and into the next day before being rescued by a Navy destroyer.

Madam Speaker, it is because of heroes like Ernal Underwood that we enjoy the freedom we have today. Men who asked nothing from their country, but gave everything. We owe them more than words, medals, or honors. What we as a Nation can do to say thank you to these heroes is leave our country and our world better than we found it. I ask that my colleagues join with me in honoring Ernal Underwood and thousands of veterans like him whose sacrifice left a world freer, stronger, and more prosperous.

#### TRIBUTE TO BRANDI HINDS

### HON. GEOFF DAVIS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 7, 2007*

Mr. DAVIS of Kentucky. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a young combat veteran whose efforts in an Afghani hospital embody the characteristics of a true humanitarian.

From May 5, 2007 to September 11, 2007, Brandi Hinds served as an Emergency Medical Technician with the 455th M.D.O.S. at Bagram Air Base in Afghanistan. While providing medical care in the local Afghani hospitals, Brandi noticed the day to day struggles that the Afghani people face, particularly the children. Brandi made it her mission to restore some normalcy to their lives in the midst of the chaos. Instead of writing home and asking for items that she needed, Brandi selflessly requested that friends and family members send items for the young children at the hospital. Shortly thereafter, packages began to arrive from home filled with toys and other small novelty and recreation items. Brandi's efforts brought joy to the many children she encountered. After her departure, Air Force Chaplain CPT Terri Gast continues to distribute the gifts to the Afghani children. What began as the desire of one individual to make a small difference has grown into a program fittingly named "Brandi's Kids."

Brandi's service and sacrifice has inspired the many whose lives she has touched. Today, Madam Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to recognize Brandi's tireless dedication to the children of Afghanistan and thank her for her service to our great Nation.

#### TRIBUTE TO CLAYTON ANDERSON

### HON. ADRIAN SMITH

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 7, 2007*

Mr. SMITH of Nebraska. Madam Speaker, today, Wednesday, November 7, 2007, astronaut Clayton Anderson will touch down at Kennedy Space Center aboard the Space Shuttle *Discovery*. Clayton, a native of Ashland, NE, returns home after spending 5 months in space aboard the International Space Station.

I had the distinct honor of having a brief telephone conversation with Clay during his

time aboard the International Space Station. It was truly an experience I will remember for the rest of my life.

Born in Omaha, Clayton received his bachelor of science degree in physics from Hastings College, Nebraska in 1981 and a master of science degree in aerospace engineering from Iowa State University in 1983. He joined the Johnson Space Center in 1983 and was selected as a mission specialist by NASA in June 1998. He launched to the Space Station on June 8, 2007 aboard Space Shuttle *Atlantis* with the crew of STS-117 and was assigned as Expedition 15 flight engineer.

Nebraskans from Omaha to Scottsbluff are proud of Clayton and all he has accomplished. He is an inspiration to all who wish to pursue their own goals—whether of one day traveling to and exploring space, teaching the next generation of students, or simply being the best person they can be.

#### PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 3043, DEPARTMENTS OF LABOR, HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, AND EDUCATION, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2008

SPEECH OF

### HON. JOHN D. DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, November 6, 2007*

Mr. DINGELL. Madam Speaker, today the House will vote on a conference report which includes the 2008 Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education Appropriations bill and the 2008 Military Construction and Veterans Affairs Appropriations bill. I rise in support of this legislation because I believe that this legislation will fund programs families in the 15th District need and rely on—quality education, strong health care, jobs that are safe for its workers and secure retirement plans.

I am disappointed that the President has threatened to veto this legislation. I find it extremely irresponsible that he finds it acceptable to fund another \$200 billion for the war in Iraq, but has issue with an increase of \$9.8 billion for education, health and workforce programs and an increase of \$4 billion for veterans' health care.

Specifically this legislation will:

Provide \$37.2 billion to VA hospitals and clinics, and traumatic brain injury and post traumatic stress disorder research, over \$2.6 billion more than the President requested.

Invest \$124.2 million into VA claims processors to address the backlog of 400,000 benefit claims.

Increase education funding to \$60.7 billion, funding that will be dedicated to Title I grants to help low-income children, teacher quality and after school programs, IDEA grants and Pell grants.

Dedicate \$12 billion to dislocated worker training, Job Corps, and worker protection efforts at the Mine Safety and Health Administration and the National Institutes for Occupational Safety and Health.

Through this legislation we will fund all these programs, while only spending enough money equal to the cost of 2 months in Iraq. Let me be clear that it is not the goal of this

Congress to withhold funding for our troops; however, it is important that Congress give this administration the message that our domestic programs should not be forgotten at the expense of a poorly handled and mismanaged war in Iraq.

Madam Speaker, the annual appropriations process is never easy, but this Congress we have an opportunity to pass a good piece of legislation that is also fiscally responsible. As Members of Congress, it is our duty to our constituents to fund programs that will improve their quality of life, which is why I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this legislation.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. DORIS O. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 7, 2007*

Ms. MATSUI. Madam Speaker, I was unavoidably absent from the House chamber for rollcall vote 1044. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye."

#### HONORING GEVORK ARZOUMANIAN A SURVIVOR OF THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

### HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 7, 2007*

Mr. SCHIFF. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Gevork Arzoumanian, a resident of Glendale, California and a survivor of the Armenian Genocide. Mr. Arzoumanian was born in 1907 in the village of Sulduz, modern day Naghadeh, northwest Iran, bordering the Republic of Turkey.

The children's cries and the groans of the elderly still haunt Gevork today, 92 years after the atrocities. His lips quiver and his hands shake when he retells those bitter memories to his grandchildren.

Once the Ottoman forces had begun their massacres and deportation of the area's Christian Armenians and Assyrians, Gevork's family marched toward the village of Rezaie (Orumieh province) leaving behind their home and cotton farm. Along the way, Gevork witnessed the murders of his father (Arzouman), mother (Arplik), sisters (Asdghik and Satenik) and brother (Ashod). As a young boy, Gevork also witnessed the pillage of people's houses, the stealing of young girls and the horrible game of Ottoman Turkish soldiers throwing infants in the air and catching them with their swords. Those who survived the brutality ended up in the city of Hamadan, Iran and were divided into two groups; one would be headed to Beirut and the other to Tehran. Gevork was in the latter. He was taken to the St. George Church, temporarily cared for by an Armenian couple, who later sent him to the city of Babol by the Caspian Sea, where he was cared for by Mr. Garegin and Verjin Harootonian. He later became a truck driver.

Mr. Arzoumanian has lived through an incredibly difficult period in history. Nevertheless, he worked hard and persevered. In 1940, Gevork married Laura and had two children, a

daughter, Marda and a son, Norik. Gevork is thankful that after all that happened to the Armenians at the turn of the 20th century, Armenia is now an independent country.

I am proud to honor Gevork Arzoumanian of California's 29th Congressional District and I ask all Members of Congress to join me in paying tribute to this inspiring individual and honor all victims of the Armenian Genocide.

TRIBUTE TO PEPE DELAPPE

**HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 7, 2007*

Ms. WOOLSEY. Madam Speaker, it is with great sadness that I rise today to recognize the passing of one of our notable activists and a conscience for social justice, the artist Pepe deLappe. Pepe died of a stroke last month, at the age of 91, leaving an enduring legacy to the people of the San Francisco Bay Area, across North America, and throughout the world.

Admired by artists, art students, collectors and museums; loved by her family and colleagues; and appreciated by the disenfranchised, the underdog, and political progressives, Pepe devoted her life to social justice. She used her considerable talents to champion the causes of the working class and the needs of society's cast-offs.

"She was always on the side of the down-trodden," said her daughter, Nina Sheldon. "She spent her whole life dedicated to civil rights and to social movements."

That her social activism melded with her artistic conscience into an exotic bohemian life had its genesis around 1931, when she was 14. She became friends with the artist Frida Kahlo and her husband, Diego Rivera, when he was commissioned to paint murals in San Francisco. Pepe became part of Kahlo's drawing circle, where, she once said, she was treated as a total equal, despite her young age.

This experience, along with her father's permission to discontinue regular school, encouraged Pepe to travel to New York a year or so later to attend art school. She returned to San Francisco at age 18, a legal adult, and joined in the city's maritime strike, an event which had life-changing consequences to her, as well as to those involved.

If the history of a war is written by the victor, then the history of a people is written—and portrayed—by its artists. Pepe did a series of paintings of the longshoremen who participated in the strike—paintings which still hang in the San Francisco headquarters of the International Longshore and Warehouse Union. From that time until only weeks before her death, she captured poignant, comic and disparate emotions and the conditions that gave rise to them. Depicting the lives of the ordinary and extraordinary people of the working class or on the fringes of society, Pepe expressed not only the history of the time, but the social mores of a culture.

But paintings, cartoons and lithographs were not Pepe's only media of expression. She also worked with words and spent many years of her life as an editor and writer for local "alternative" newspapers, including *People's World*, published by the Communist party.

Although she eventually parted ways with that dogmatic organization—by mutual agreement, she once quipped—she never lost interest in current affairs and politics, mostly recently holding up a sign as she sat in a wheelchair at a rally to protest the U.S. occupation of Iraq.

At age 74, Pepe fell in love with long-time friend and fellow painter Byron Randall. The two spent the rest of their lives in Petaluma, where Pepe remained involved in politics and the artistic life. In fact, when she died last month, some of Pepe's works—many of which are owned by major museums and institutions, including the Library of Congress and San Francisco's Palace of the Legion of Honor—were being showcased in an exhibition at the Huntington Museum in San Marino. Titled *Pressed in Time*, the exhibit features a taped interview with Pepe.

Madam Speaker, it is impossible to contain the life of such a woman in two short pages.

But for those of us who knew Pepe deLappe, these words are only shorthand to the memories of her long, successful and influential life as an artist, activist, and idealist who, in her own words, "refused to take life lying down." The world needs more people like Pepe deLappe. She will be greatly missed.

CELEBRATING GEORGE WASHINGTON HIGH SCHOOL'S VETERANS HISTORY PROJECT PARTICIPATION

**HON. ALLYSON Y. SCHWARTZ**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 7, 2007*

Ms. SCHWARTZ. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and congratulate George Washington High School in the city of Philadelphia, PA, on their outstanding participation in the Veterans History Project of the Library of Congress. Students and teachers have contributed their time and skills to preserving the remarkable experiences of our war veterans from all service branches, from World War I to the present day Iraq War, as well as the civilians who supported them. I am privileged to represent these students and teachers in Congress.

The Veterans History Project preserves the legacy of those who have served through the establishment of a permanent national collection, housed in the Library of Congress, of videotaped and recorded interviews, written memoirs, and wartime letters, diaries, and photographs. Stories and materials are available to anyone visiting the library. In addition, a web page is created for each veteran who contributes an interview.

As our Nation's World War II and Korean veterans grow older, it is critical that we record their stories. Their experiences offer a priceless window into their dedication and love of country. As the daughter of a Korean War veteran, this effort has special personal meaning for me. We have much to learn from those who have served our Nation, and I wholeheartedly support this important project.

On this Veterans Day, November 12, 2007, I am proud to recognize George Washington High School's Veterans History Project participation at a special event, Preserving Their

Stories: A Salute to Veterans History Project Volunteers, at the Hiway Theatre in Jenkintown. This special celebration will bring together Americans, both young and older, with veterans of all ages, to honor their common service to their fellow citizens and country.

Madam Speaker, once again I congratulate all of the Veterans History Project participants for their contributions to capturing the experiences of war veterans, thus honoring the lives and contributions of these extraordinary Americans.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 3043, DEPARTMENTS OF LABOR, HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, AND EDUCATION, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2008

SPEECH OF

**HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN**

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, November 6, 2007*

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of the FY 2008 Labor-HHS Conference Report which—together with this year's Military Construction-Veterans Affairs spending bill—announces an important new direction regarding the Nation's priorities.

We start with our most basic investment: education. Today's conference report increases education funding by \$4.5 billion over the President's request—including an additional \$254 million for Head Start so more children can access a high quality early childhood education; \$600 million more for No Child Left Behind to improve teacher quality, enhance after school programming and deploy 21st century classroom technology; and an \$800 million boost for special education; and a new \$2 billion investment for higher education which will enable us to significantly increase the current value of the maximum Pell Grant from \$4,310 to \$4,925. Additionally, I am very pleased that the final conference report contains \$12 million for Teach for America, one of our Nation's premiere teacher training programs.

Because we are competing in a rapidly changing global economy, and because education is in truth a lifelong process, this conference report also makes responsible investments in job training and vocational education—\$609 million over the President's request for workforce development; another \$606 million for vocational education; and \$98 million on top of the President's request for Job Corps and the vital training, placement and support services it provides.

On health, today's legislation wisely rejects the President's proposed \$480 million cut at the National Institutes of Health, NIH, in favor of a \$1.4 billion increase over the President's budget so that the NIH can continue its cutting edge research into deadly scourges like cancer, Alzheimer's and heart disease. This additional funding—representing the cost of just 3 days in Iraq—will fund over 1,400 more research grants into these and other life-threatening illnesses. Furthermore, in an effort to address the plight of the Nation's 47 million uninsured, this legislation enhances health care access by investing \$1.5 billion into community health centers, state health care access initiatives and high risk insurance pools.

Together, these investments will serve over 1.5 million citizens without health care coverage in the coming year.

Finally, Madam Speaker, Sunday is Veterans Day. With our Nation at war, this conference report honors our brave men and women in uniform by proposing the largest single increase for the Department of Veterans Affairs in the institution's 77-year history. The \$43.1 billion this legislation appropriates will enable us to provide quality care to 5.8 million patients, add 1,800 processors to tackle the outstanding backlog of 400,000 claims, and invest in needed treatment for increasingly prevalent conditions like traumatic brain injury, TBI, and post-traumatic stress disorder, PTSD. It is the least we can do—and now is the time for us to do it.

Madam Speaker, these two bills both passed the House with strong, bipartisan majorities. Together, they set the right priorities for America. They comply with our five-year balanced budget plan. And they deserve our support today.

WATER RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT ACT OF 2007—VETO MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

SPEECH OF

**HON. JOE BACA**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, November 6, 2007*

Mr. BACA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to voice my strong support for overriding the President's misguided veto of the Water Resources Development Act.

This bill is long overdue. The projects funded in this bill are critical to the health, safety and quality of life in our communities around the country. This bill is necessary to better protect Americans against severe weather and flooding—and also ensure all Americans have access to clean, safe drinking water.

The President's veto of WRDA is another example of misplaced priorities. We continue to spend \$10 billion in Iraq, but won't spend the money necessary to make sure we never have another Katrina. This bill is about saving lives. In my district we have perchlorate contamination in much of the drinking water. H.R. 1495 invests money in researching and solving this problem—because no parent should ever have to worry that their child is going to get sick from drinking tap water.

I urge my colleagues to cast a vote to keep America safe and healthy—and override this mistaken veto.

TRIBUTE TO DR. RICHARD SHEEHAN

**HON. BRIAN HIGGINS**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 7, 2007*

Mr. HIGGINS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Dr. Richard Sheehan on the completion of his 50th marathon by the age of 70. Dr. Sheehan reached this goal at the Marine Corps Marathon in Washington, DC. An impressive achievement for anyone but even

more so for this 70-year-old dentist from Orchard Park, NY, who didn't start competing in marathons until 1986.

A self-proclaimed "accidental runner," Dr. Sheehan began running at the age of 48 when a grieving family member needed his support. With only 8 weeks of training before reaching the starting line for his first Marine Corps marathon, Dr. Sheehan helped his brother-in-law through a difficult time while discovering his love for long-distance running. After completing more marathons, Dr. Sheehan set a long range goal of completing 50 races before turning 70.

This determined dentist has now run 12 Marine Corps races, completed marathons in Buffalo and Niagara Falls, as well as Cleveland and Chicago, and once, in Boston.

Running is a family event for the Sheehans, and 16 family members and friends joined Dr. Sheehan in DC for the occasion. This is the 10th year in a row that Dr. Sheehan has participated in the Marine Corps Marathon but none, I'm sure, as memorable as this one in which four of his children ran portions of the race with him as he completed number 50.

Congratulations and best wishes for continued success to Dr. Dick Sheehan for setting and reaching his goal. What began as a run to help a family member has become a remarkable accomplishment that should inspire us all to pursue our goals with devoted persistence.

QUESTION OF THE PRIVILEGES OF THE HOUSE

SPEECH OF

**HON. TOM UDALL**

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, November 6, 2007*

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, the framers of our Constitution empowered the U.S. House of Representatives to impeach the President in cases of "treason, bribery, or other high crimes and misdemeanors." They gave Congress a sacred responsibility to check the power of the President in order to preserve the liberty of the American people. With this responsibility came an equally important obligation to use congressional power only to advance the interests of the Nation. I am not convinced that an impeachment proceeding is in America's best interests at this time. That is why I recently voted to give the House Judiciary Committee time to substantively consider the articles of impeachment before bringing them before the full House for debate and a vote. At a time when Congress has so much work to do to repair the damage caused by this administration, Congress will best serve the American people by focusing our efforts on ending the war in Iraq, protecting civil liberties from executive overreaching and passing needed legislation to move America in a new direction.

With a little over a year left in office, attempting to bring impeachment charges against President Bush, or Vice-President CHENEY, at this point, would prove counterproductive to the aggressive agenda our new majority in Congress has put forth. With many issues needing attention, Congress should focus on implementing the agenda the American people elected us to pursue.

As part of the new agenda, the 110th Congress has begun to do what the previous Congressional leadership would not do, and what many in this Congress still refuse to do: Stand up to this President. Under Representative HENRY WAXMAN, CA, the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee has launched more than two dozen investigations of Bush administration actions. The committee's 75 investigators have probed everything from the behavior of contractors in Iraq to the politicization of the Federal Government here at home. Congress's efforts have already led to needed reforms in a variety of executive branch programs.

You may recall that in late July, it became apparent to me that Attorney General Alberto Gonzales's contradictory statements and actions raised serious concerns about his integrity and his respect for civil liberties. At the same time, Bush administration stonewalling was making it impossible for Congress to fully investigate Gonzales and restore America's respect for the Justice Department. On July 31, 2007, I joined with other former prosecutors serving in the U.S. House in calling for an investigation to determine whether Gonzales should be impeached. At the time, I believed investigation and, potentially, impeachment by the Congress provided the only way to hold Gonzales accountable.

In August, Alberto Gonzales did something he should have done long before: He resigned. His resignation provided needed change at the Justice Department, but it did not provide the answers that the American people demand and deserve. Congress still has an obligation to determine the legality of Gonzales's confusing, conflicting and misleading actions and statements. Just this week, Representative JOHN CONYERS, MI, took another step towards getting the truth about the Justice Department's actions under Gonzales. CONYERS demanded the White House release key information regarding the Justice Department's firing of Federal prosecutors or face a congressional contempt citation. I and my colleagues will do everything in our power to compel the White House to cooperate with our investigation. I will continue to work with my colleagues to uncover the truth about the Gonzales Justice Department and its treatment of Americans' civil liberties, and I will fight to hold this administration accountable.

While Congress exercises its oversight role, we must also support a framework of laws that protects Americans from violations of our liberties and our right to privacy. I have always defended civil liberties. In 2001, I joined just 65 of my colleagues in standing up to post-9/11 fearmongering and voting against the USA PATRIOT ACT. I have cosponsored legislation to restore the right of habeas corpus and undo the Military Commissions Act. And, most recently, I opposed changes to the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act, FISA, that would have given this administration more power to spy on Americans.

The Bush administration has done real damage to the United States through its policies and its executive actions. Congress must respond in the manner that will most effectively protect the American people and promote the interests of our country. We have begun to rein in the president and restore integrity to the Federal Government. We will continue to do so.

CONGRATULATING ST. GERMAINE  
CATHOLIC SCHOOL FOR THEIR  
SELECTION AS A NATIONAL  
BLUE RIBBON SCHOOL

**HON. DANIEL LIPINSKI**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 7, 2007*

Mr. LIPINSKI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor St. Germaine Catholic School of Oak Lawn, Illinois as they are recognized by the U.S. Department of Education as a prime example of excellence in education.

Since the establishment of St. Germaine Parish by Fr. Walter Sheridan in 1962, education has been a priority for this community. With the diligent support of the Sisters of the Presentation, the parish school opened in 1964 and began a tradition of exceptional education in not only academics but also the teachings of faith.

In the years since its founding, St. Germaine has consistently been noted for its achievement in bringing quality education to its students. On October 2, 2007, St. Germaine was designated a national Blue Ribbon School by the U.S. Secretary of Education, Margaret Spellings.

This distinguished award, given to those schools that are either academically superior or have demonstrated dramatic gains in student achievement, was presented to only 287 schools throughout the country. This award places St. Germaine in the top 10 percent of our Nation's schools.

Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend St. Germaine Catholic School on this extraordinary achievement. I am proud to have in my district a school that does so much to produce the educated and moral citizens who will lead our Nation in the future.

EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR H.R.  
760, THE "FILIPINO VETERANS  
EQUITY ACT OF 2007"

**HON. NEIL ABERCROMBIE**

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 7, 2007*

Mr. ABERCROMBIE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to express my deep support for H.R. 760, the "Filipino Veterans Equity Act of 2007."

The treatment of Filipinos who fought with the United States Armed Forces in World War II is a dark chapter in American history. The Philippines became a United States possession after Spain ceded it as part of the treaty ending the Spanish-American War in 1898. In 1934, Congress created a 10-year time frame for independence through the "Philippine Independence Act." However, since the Philippines remained a colonial possession until 1946 the United States retained the right to call upon military forces organized by the Philippine Government into the United States Armed Forces.

On July 26, 1941, President Franklin D. Roosevelt issued a military order that brought the Philippine Commonwealth Forces under the control of the United States Armed Forces during World War II. These men bravely fought with our own troops during the war, and

many perished or suffered severe wounds from the battles in the Western Pacific Theater. After the surrender of Japan, Congress required the Philippine Forces to continue their service. Many helped occupy lands, many oversaw military operations, and many made the ultimate sacrifice to secure our victory in World War II. Yet, when wartime service ended formally in 1946 they did not receive the same benefits and the same treatment as other American soldiers.

Yet, for all their heroic and courageous actions, Congress passed the "Recession Act" in February 1946, to the objection of many, including General MacArthur. This essentially denied Filipino Veterans any of the benefits that their American comrades in arms received; including full access to veterans' health care, service-connected disability compensation, non-service connected disability compensation, dependent indemnity compensation, death pension, and full burial benefits. No other group of veterans has been systematically denied these benefits.

Congress has the opportunity to right this wrong. H.R. 760 restores the benefits these brave warriors were denied. This legislation has been introduced since 1992. However, time is running out. In September 2000, the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) estimated that the number of surviving Filipino Veterans is 59,889. However, by 2010, VA estimates that their population will dwindle to just 20,000, because of their advanced age.

Many argue that paying for Filipino veterans is not something Congress should undertake, because they are not U.S. citizens, and that the PAYGO offsets takes money away from Americans. However, such a statement fails to recognize that Filipino veterans served not merely as allies, but as U.S. forces. It fails to recognize that the United States made the same promise to provide for these veterans' needs as it does to any other person who serves in uniform; a promise that we have, up to now, failed to uphold.

Congress must act now for the sake of justice and to show that we Americans truly appreciate the sacrifice these men made. Let us remember the heroism of these veterans by honoring their service and fulfilling our commitments to them. I urge the House to consider and pass this important measure.

WATER RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT  
ACT OF 2007—VETO MES-  
SAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF  
THE UNITED STATES

SPEECH OF

**HON. TODD TIAHRT**

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, November 6, 2007*

Mr. TIAHRT. Mr. Speaker, we must help ensure our communities are protected during times of severe flooding that can lead to loss of life and destroyed homes and businesses. This summer we have witnessed devastating floods all across America, including in central and eastern Kansas. Thousands of my constituents lost their homes and their businesses, many of which have not yet fully recovered.

The Water Resources Development Act of 2007 (H.R. 1495) authorizes many new

projects that will afford our communities protection from catastrophic flooding for generations to come. It will also help ensure that existing flood control structures are properly cared for so our economy can continue thriving in areas currently protected from floods. We must prepare for the future rather than merely respond to disasters after they occur. Prevention is much better than responding to a natural disaster, especially when loss of life occurs.

A WRDA bill has not been enacted for the past 7 years, which helps explain why the price tag is so significant. While I would have preferred to see a less expensive authorization bill, I believe it is time we move forward with many of the needed flood control projects included in H.R. 1495.

Having witnessed the severe flooding in my district this year, I am reminded of the critical need for flood prevention that saves lives and protects communities. I have seen first-hand what a flooded community looks like when adequate flood control is not provided. And I have seen how well Corps of Engineers levees have worked to keep high floodwaters out of homes and businesses.

This is why I support overriding the President's veto. I would have preferred for a compromise to be reached with the Administration; but in this instance, we need to move forward without further delay in the process. Protecting our homes and businesses from flood waters is a bi-partisan priority that trumps Washington politics.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. JOHN R. CARTER**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 7, 2007*

Mr. CARTER. Madam Speaker, on November 6, 2007, I was unable to be present for two rollcall votes due to technological complications with my vote notification system.

If present, I would have voted accordingly on the following rollcall votes: roll No. 1044—"nay," and roll No. 1045—"aye."

CELEBRATING PHILADELPHIA-  
MONTGOMERY CHRISTIAN ACAD-  
EMY'S VETERANS HISTORY  
PROJECT PARTICIPATION

**HON. ALLYSON Y. SCHWARTZ**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 7, 2007*

Ms. SCHWARTZ. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and congratulate Philadelphia-Montgomery Christian Academy in Springfield Township, PA on their outstanding participation in the Veterans History Project of the Library of Congress. Students and teachers have contributed their time and skills to preserving the remarkable experiences of our war veterans from all service branches, from World War I to the present day Iraq War, as well as the civilians who supported them. I am privileged to represent these students and teachers in Congress.

The Veterans History Project preserves the legacy of those who have served through the

establishment of a permanent national collection, housed in the Library of Congress, of videotaped and recorded interviews, written memoirs, and wartime letters, diaries, and photographs. Stories and materials are available to anyone visiting the Library. In addition, a Web page is created for each veteran who contributes an interview.

As our Nation's World War II and Korean Veterans grow older, it is critical that we record their stories. Their experiences offer a priceless window into their dedication and love of country. As the daughter of a Korean War veteran, this effort has special personal meaning for me. We have much to learn from those who have served our Nation, and I wholeheartedly support this important project.

On this Veterans Day, November 12, 2007, I am proud to recognize Philadelphia-Montgomery Christian Academy's Veterans History Project participation at a special event, Preserving Their Stories: A Salute to Veterans History Project Volunteers, at the Hiway Theatre in Jenkintown. This special celebration will bring together Americans, both young and old, with veterans of all ages, to honor their common service to their fellow citizens and country.

Madam Speaker, once again I congratulate all of the Veterans History Project participants for their contributions to capturing the experiences of war veterans, thus honoring the lives and contributions of these extraordinary Americans.

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ANSWERING THE CALL IN THE  
WAKE OF TROPICAL STORM NOEL

**HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 7, 2007*

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise to seek my colleagues' help with the humanitarian crisis in the Dominican Republic, Haiti, Mexico, and the Bahamas, whose devastation many have compared to Hurricane Katrina.

Last week, Tropical Storm Noel became the deadliest storm of the 2007 hurricane season, responsible for at least 140 deaths throughout the Caribbean. Flooding and mudslides caused by the heavy rainfall led to the displacement of more than 80,000 people and isolated small towns and villages in the Dominican Republic, Haiti, Mexico, and the Bahamas.

The track of this deadly storm brought back those poignant reflections of how helpless we felt when Katrina hit, how frustrated we were at not being able to help, and the lessons we learned from that storm. Yet now a new storm has come with the same intensity and devastation and we have a chance to do something about it.

Our Government is beginning to respond. This past weekend, three U.S. Coast Guard helicopters began conducting search and rescue operations and assisted with aerial assessments of affected areas to determine needs. The Defense Department has sent helicopters and personnel to the Dominican Republic and Peace Corps volunteers in the country have been dispatched to affected areas to help.

In all, the United States Government has contributed over \$350,000 directly to the Do-

minican Government, \$200,000 to the Pan American Health Organization and \$100,000 to Catholic Relief Services, CRS, and World Vision for the local water, shelter materials, and other emergency relief supplies. Our Government has also provided, through U.S. Agency for International Development and the Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance, an additional \$500,000 for emergency relief supplies, water, sanitation, and hygiene support, and other emergency relief activities.

Yet more help is needed. The U.N. reports that 40 percent of the water distribution system and 60 percent of the country's 122 aqueducts have been damaged. Public shelters and medical facilities are reaching their maximum capacity, while sanitation conditions are deteriorating and relief supplies are quickly running out.

It's true that we can't fly the helicopters and we can't distribute the water. But there are a lot of other ways in which we can help. We here in Congress can make sure that our Government does not stray from these initial commitments and that bureaucratic red tape does not impede the transportation of supplies to the areas hardest hit. We can also appeal to constituents in our own home districts to give to the local charities that are involved in this effort, like the Red Cross or Catholic Charities.

We must not forget that our country's strength lies not just in size of our military, but also in the depth of our compassion. Whatever people can give—from hard cash to canned goods to clothes—will help lift and restore the lives of the victims of this terrible tragedy. Any effort will go a long way to relieving the suffering that continues to be felt by our friends and neighbors.

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CELEBRATING THE PEAK CENTER'S  
VETERANS HISTORY  
PROJECT PARTICIPATION

**HON. ALLYSON Y. SCHWARTZ**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 7, 2007*

Ms. SCHWARTZ. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and congratulate the Peak Center in Lansdale, PA on their outstanding participation in the Veterans History Project of the Library of Congress. Community volunteers have contributed their time and skills to preserving the remarkable experiences of our war veterans from all service branches, from World War I to the present day Iraq War, as well as the civilians who supported them. I am privileged to represent these volunteers and staff in Congress.

The Veterans History Project preserves the legacy of those who have served through the establishment of a permanent national collection, housed in the Library of Congress, of videotaped and recorded interviews, written memoirs, and wartime letters, diaries, and photographs. Stories and materials are available to anyone visiting the Library. In addition, a Web page is created for each veteran who contributes an interview.

As our Nation's World War II and Korean veterans grow older, it is critical that we record their stories. Their experiences offer a priceless window into their dedication and love of country. As the daughter of a Korean War veteran, this effort has special personal meaning

for me. We have much to learn from those who have served our Nation, and I wholeheartedly support this important project.

On this Veterans Day, November 12, 2007, I am proud to recognize the Peak Center's Veterans History Project participation at a special event, Preserving Their Stories: A Salute to Veterans History Project Volunteers, at the Hiway Theatre in Jenkintown. This special celebration will bring together Americans, both young and older, with veterans of all ages, to honor their common service to their fellow citizens and country.

Madam Speaker, once again I congratulate all of the Veterans History Project participants for their contributions to capturing the experiences of war veterans, thus honoring the lives and contributions of these extraordinary Americans.

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CONGRATULATING JAMES HILL ON  
RECEIVING THE FRENCH LEGION  
OF HONOR

**HON. LINCOLN DAVIS**

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 7, 2007*

Mr. LINCOLN DAVIS of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate James Hill, an 83-year-old service veteran from Elora, Tennessee. When Napoleon Bonaparte created the French Legion of Honor in 1802 to recognize service to the Nation of France, he could not have imagined that the newly formed United States of America would come to the rescue of his then empire nearly one and a half centuries after its creation.

Yesterday, President Nicolas Sarkozy of France came to Washington to present the distinguished French Legion of Honor to six American veterans from the Second World War to honor and thank them for their sacrifice in the liberation of France from Nazi Germany. I am pleased to know that James Hill was among them.

It was June 6th, 1944 that the battle of Normandy began, bringing James and other members of the Army's 116th Infantry unit to Omaha Beach for one of the defining moments of the War, and our Nation's history. James was wounded in the battle and spent three months in a British hospital, only to return from his injuries to fight in the Battle of the Bulge.

While the loss of life on all sides was immense, our Country will forever remember the Second World War as a defining point in our history. Before the War, the American military machine was not what it is today, but we stood together as a Nation nonetheless, with the Allied powers around the world, to fight for the freedom of our neighbors and ourselves. I could not be prouder of what men and women of courage like James Hill have done for our Country, or more pleased to see that James was awarded this prestigious honor.

I would like to ask my colleagues today to join me in recognizing James Hill for what he did to defend the people of France, the United States and freedom across the globe.

DONALD AND ELEANOR REGAN  
BARRETT, UNITED STATES VET-  
ERANS

**HON. TED POE**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 7, 2007*

Mr. POE. Madam Speaker, several months after his 18th birthday, Donald Barrett joined the United States Marine Corps at a time when his country needed him most. When he enlisted, it was just weeks after the attack on Pearl Harbor, the beginning of World War II.

During his military career, Donald served the United States of America at Guadalcanal, New Guinea, Cape Gloucester and Peleliu.

For his exemplary performance during his more than 4 years of military service, Donald was awarded the Bronze Star Medal with Combat V, the Purple Heart, the Marine Corps Good Conduct Medal, two Presidential Unit Citations and four combat ribbons.

Donald married his wife Eleanor Regan in 1947. She too bravely served her country in WWII as a member of the United States Marine Corps Women's Reserve.

Later, Donald graduated from the University of Baltimore in 1952 with a Bachelor of Science Degree. He later received his Master of Business Administration from the University of Dayton.

During his professional career, Donald retired from the Frigidaire Division of GM, from White Consolidated and from Don Barrett Associates, Consultants.

Today, Donald and Eleanor have six children, eight grand children and three great grandchildren.

The Houston West Chamber of Commerce has chosen to recognize both Donald and Eleanor for their dedication to the United States of America. Corporal Don Barrett and Sergeant Eleanor Reagan Barrett have been awarded the Chamber's "Heart of Service Award" for their distinguished military service.

I would like to recognize Donald and Eleanor for being members of the Greatest Generation, who selflessly served to protect our country in a time of war.

The upcoming Veterans Day is a time to honor all of the brave men and women who have so proudly worn the military uniform, especially those who served in the Great World War II. Donald and Eleanor deserve the thanks of all Americans because these individuals chose to protect freedom for the rest of us and made the United States of America the best country in the world.

And that's just the way it is.

HONORING TRIETSCH MEMORIAL  
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
VETERANS MEMORIAL PLAZA

**HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 7, 2007*

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor one of the churches in my district, Trietsch Memorial United Methodist Church in Flower Mound, Texas, which will hold a Veterans Memorial Plaza Dedication on Sunday, November 11, 2007.

A group of members from the church once envisioned a place to honor friends and family members that have served their country in the armed services as well as veterans from their community. Now, thanks to their hard work and commitment, that vision will soon become a reality.

The design of the Memorial is a lasting tribute to veterans' achievements and sacrifices on behalf of their grateful communities. The beautiful centerpiece is an obelisk surrounded by flags representing the United States, the State of Texas, and the Armed Forces. The Memorial serves as a place of prayer for peace, and as a symbol of eternal hope for all of the men and women who continue to serve and sacrifice. It recognizes the innumerable accomplishments of our military and forever commemorates their endeavors as servants of our great nation and also the State of Texas.

The Veterans Memorial Plaza is an accomplishment that I and everyone in the 26th District of Texas can look upon with pride. I offer my congratulations to Reverends Jim Ozier, John Allen and the members of Trietsch Memorial United Methodist Church. It is my honor to represent them in Congress.

TRIBUTE TO THE LIFE OF NORMA  
ANDERSON LOFTEN

**HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 7, 2007*

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Norma Anderson Loften, who passed away on November 1, 2007, in her hometown, Beaumont, Texas, at the age of 76.

Ms. Loften was a dear friend who personified all the values that we cherish as Americans: a deep and abiding religious faith, devotion to her family, compassion for those in need, and a commitment to education and hard work.

I first met Norma and her late twin sister Erma when I was a teenager growing up on Lenox Avenue in Harlem, New York City. They had moved there from Texas to attend the St. Aloysius Catholic boarding school for girls. The religious nuns who ran the "school considered me a ne'er do well, but the twin sisters accepted me and I became a "lifelong friend of theirs and their family.

Norma studied hard and went on to a long career as a dental hygienist in New York, retiring from Mt. Sinai Hospital in 1995. Her avocation was music, which she studied for many years, to become a talented pianist. With her husband Maurice Loften, she had three accomplished sons, the late Dwight, who had been an accountant in Washington, DC; Rodney, a school superintendent in New Jersey; and Kevin, chairman of the American Hospital Association.

She is also survived by her beloved mother, Cora Anderson, wife of the late Rodney Anderson, who remains in Beaumont, Texas at the wonderful age of 98.

Her loving brother, Charles Anderson, retired from the U.S. Air Force, also resides in Beaumont. His children, the late Vanessa; Francesca; Charles, Jr.; Gina; and Robert were all devoted to their loving aunt, Norma.

God has given the Anderson family an extraordinary faith and unchallenged belief in his

wisdom. Therefore I pray that at this painful time when their beloved Norma has been called home, they will take comfort in the belief that this is God's will. I hope that in the midst of their sadness and helplessness, they will be encouraged by the beautiful memories of her great love and caring spirit.

Madam Speaker, I call on my colleagues to join me in recognizing this wonderful American family and bidding farewell to Norma Anderson Loften.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 7, 2007*

Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California. Madam Speaker, unfortunately, I was unavoidably detained and missed rollcall vote No. 1044 on Monday, October 15, 2007.

However, had I been present, I would have voted "aye" on H. Res. 794, Providing for consideration of the conference report to accompany the bill, H.R. 3043, making appropriations for the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education and related agencies.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION  
OF H.R. 3043, DEPARTMENT OF  
LABOR, HEALTH AND HUMAN  
SERVICES, AND EDUCATION, AND  
RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIA-  
TION ACT, 2008

SPEECH OF

**HON. BETTY McCOLLUM**

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, November 6, 2007*

Ms. McCOLLUM of Minnesota. Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of this conference report, including the Labor, Health and Human Services, Education appropriations bill and the Military Construction/Veterans appropriations bill.

I am here to represent the 4th district of Minnesota—that's my job. And my district has made it very clear to me that investing in our communities is a priority.

In fact, most members of the House of Representatives have said they support both of these bills. But there has been a lot of complaining about the process.

I'm a former civics teacher. Part of my work was to teach my students about the separation of powers between the legislative and executive branches of our government.

For those watching today, I want to be very clear about the issues in this debate and the procedure that got us here.

We are in this position because the Administration has adopted a "my way or the highway" approach to governing. The President has steadfastly refused to recognize the constitutional role of Congress in setting our Nation's budget priorities.

And he has ignored the clear message sent by the American people in the last election.

Democrats disagree with the President's priorities. The President proposed to cut education funding. His budget cut special education, teacher training, and Head Start. It also

eliminated several programs targeted for at-risk students.

Democrats have rejected those cuts and proposed a modest increase in order to keep our students competitive in a global economy.

The President's budget cut funding for health care. We do not agree with reducing opportunities to find life saving cures through research or reducing access to quality care for American families.

The President proposed cuts to job training and vocational education. Democrats understand that our economy is changing, and that investing in our greatest resources—working families (including veterans)—is important today and tomorrow.

Madam Speaker, the amount of money that separates the President's budget and the Democrats' proposal is approximately what we spend in 1 month in Iraq—and all of that is on a credit card.

In addition, this bill includes the largest increase in veterans' health care since the beginning of the Veterans Administration.

If we say we value families and communities—and veterans—in America, then surely we can agree that a modest investment in our future is reasonable.

Let's put politics aside, let's listen to the American people, and let's pass this bill. Let's do our jobs.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. ELIJAH E. CUMMINGS

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 7, 2007*

Mr. CUMMINGS. Madam Speaker, on November 5, 2007, due to personal obligations, I missed the following recorded votes:

Roll No. 1034, on the Motion to Close Portions of the Conference Making Appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2008, and for other purposes; had I been present, I would have voted "aye."

Roll No. 1035, on H.R. 513—The National Heroes Credit Protection Act; had I been present, I would have voted "aye."

Roll No. 1036, on H. Res. 744—Recognizing the contributions of Native American veterans and calling upon the President to issue a proclamation urging the people of the United States to observe a day in honor of Native American veterans; had I been present, I would have voted "aye."

#### HONORING THE LIFE OF SERGEANT BRYAN TARSITANO

### HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 7, 2007*

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the extraordinary life and accomplishments of Pinellas County Sheriff's Sergeant Bryan E. Tarsitano. Bryan Tarsitano was born to proud parents, Bonnie and Bob Tarsitano, on February 21, 1972, in Park Ridge, Illinois, and grew up along with his sister, Janelle, in the Chicago area. The Tarsitano family moved to Clearwater, Florida

in 1983, and Bryan graduated from Country-side High School in 1990.

He went on to graduate with a bachelor of science degree in criminology from Florida State University where he was an avid Seminoles fan. This degree served as a stepping stone for Bryan's illustrious career in law enforcement. In 1996, Bryan Tarsitano was hired by the Pinellas County Sheriff's Office as a deputy sheriff. His star quality was obvious to his superiors and he was soon appointed as a Field Training Officer—a leadership role that had him mentoring new recruits.

As Bryan Tarsitano continued to excel in his career, the most important part of his life was also blossoming. Mr. Tarsitano met and fell in love with Carolyn Milanese. The two were married on October 28, 2000, and were blessed with the arrival of their beautiful daughter, Angelina Marie, on August 9, 2002.

Angelina was the apple of Bryan's eye. Father and daughter were inseparable. When Bryan Tarsitano wasn't serving and protecting the citizens of Pinellas County, he could be found in the park playing with Angelina or watching their favorite movies together.

While a devoted husband and father, Bryan Tarsitano was also the best law enforcement officer in every sense of the word. In 2001, Bryan became a detective. As a detective for 6 years, Tarsitano was able to help hundreds, if not thousands, of victims with his keen intellect and crime-solving ability.

Bryan Tarsitano had the honor of being promoted to Sergeant on January 14, 2007 and served with distinction until his untimely death on May 24, 2007. During his 11 years with the Pinellas County Sheriff's Office, Sgt. Tarsitano was a shining star who earned numerous medals, awards, and commendations. His loss has been, and will continue to be felt, both at the Sheriff's Office and in the community at large.

Madam Speaker, while we mourn the sudden and unexpected passing of Sgt. Bryan Tarsitano, I rise today to celebrate his life. For what Bryan accomplished during his short time on earth, is what most fail to do in a full lifetime. While Sgt. Tarsitano has left an impressive legacy with the Pinellas County Sheriff's Office, his enduring legacy is the beautiful wife and daughter he has left behind.

Madam Speaker, I pray for his family and salute Sgt. Tarsitano for a job well done.

#### RECOGNIZING LIEUTENANT COLONEL BRIAN E. ALBERT

### HON. CORRINE BROWN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 7, 2007*

Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the contributions and achievements of Lieutenant Colonel (LTC) Brian E. Albert, and his 21 years of service to this country as a decorated officer in the United States Army.

LTC Albert began his noteworthy military career in the Ohio National Guard in June 1983. In 1986, he enrolled in the Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC) program at Ohio University. He was commissioned a Second Lieutenant on January 15, 1987, then was assigned to the Army Chemical Corps and began training at the Chemical Officer Basic

Course (COBC). Always striving for advancement, he completed the COBC training and applied for, competed and won an active duty appointment with the Commandant's program.

Upon graduation from COBC, LTC Albert was assigned to the 1st Battalion, 32nd Field Artillery, in Hanau, Germany. During this assignment, he served as the Battalion Chemical Officer, HHB Executive Officer, and the Battalion S-1.

Within 2 short years, LTC Albert had already completed three rigorous training programs and won a prestigious appointment setting the tone for numerous awards and accolades including the Bronze Star Medal, Meritorious Service Achievement Medal (w/two OLCs), Army Commendation Medal (ARCOM), Army Achievement Medal (w/two OLCs), National Defense Service Medal (NDSM), Global War on Terrorism Service Medal (GWOTSM), Army Reserve Commendation Medal (ARCOM), and the Parachutist Badge. He is a distinguished member of the Order of Saint Barber (Field Artillery) and the Order of the Dragon (Chemical) military societies.

LTC Albert continued to enhance his portfolio completing the Chemical Advanced Course in March 1992. Over the next several years LTC Albert would continue his education completing a masters degree in human resource management from Central Michigan University in June 1999. LTC Albert's distinctive service also extends beyond the classroom. After completing the Army's Command and General Staff College (CGSC) in June 2000, he was assigned to the 3rd Infantry Division at Fort Stewart, GA. While serving as a Brigade Operations officer, his Division was deployed in December 2002 to Kuwait in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. He would go on to serve in subsequent combat operations in the gulf as his Division fought with distinction during Operation Iraqi Freedom.

After returning from Iraq, LTC Albert was assigned to the Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense (OSD), Counter Proliferation Policy office. He continued to excel coordinating key changes to research and development legislation for critical chemical and biological defense programs. He also made invaluable contributions in the establishment of NATO's first multinational nuclear, biological, and chemical defense battalion.

Throughout his illustrious career, LTC Albert served in several integral command and leadership roles such as Company Commander for the 91st Chemical Company, Field Grade Assignments Officer, Assistant Division Chemical Officer, Battalion Training Officer (S-3) for the 703rd Main Support Battalion, Brigade S-3 for the Division Support Command (DISCOM), and Assistant to the Secretary of Defense for counter proliferation policy.

LTC Albert concludes his distinguished military career with his final assignment to the U.S. Army Special Activity Management Unit located in Dunn Loring, VA. He contributes the success of his career to a merciful God and the loving support of his wife of 20 years, Tonya, and two children, 17-year-old Brandon and 11-year-old Kristen.

LTC Brian Albert, I stand in solidarity with your comrades, family, and friends as we salute you for your service and your excellence in the United States Army. May the Lord guide your steps as you transition into civilian life and continue to inspire new achievements.

HONORING THE BRAVERY OF  
WORLD WAR II VETERAN BER-  
NARD RADER

**HON. JOHN B. LARSON**

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 7, 2007*

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor Mr. Bernard Rader, a true American hero who valiantly served this country in World War II. Today and everyday, we owe members of our military—soldiers like Bernard Rader and so many of his generation who faced grave danger in order to restore freedom and preserve the dignity of mankind, our sincerest debt of gratitude.

I had the privilege to first meet Mr. Rader in Normandy, France in 2004, on the 60th anniversary of the D-Day invasion. It was then that I first learned of this man's extraordinary story of survival and heroism. A Private First Class with the 301st Regiment of the 94th Infantry Division, his unit was ambushed and forced to surrender to the Nazis in October 1944. As a Jewish soldier, he feared his fate as a prisoner of war. Surviving his imprisonment, Bernard was returned to the Allied forces in one of the few prisoner exchanges to take place between the Germans and Americans during World War II.

For service to his country and in recognition of his combat wounds, Bernard received the Bronze Star and the Purple Heart. On November 6, 2007, Bernard was personally thanked by French President Nicolas Sarkozy and awarded the Legion of Honor, in recognition of his sacrifice for the Liberation of France. I join the many in honoring Bernard Rader—this Nation remains indebted to his service.

Madame Speaker, I would like to offer Bernard Rader's powerful and personal story for the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD. I am submitting "The Ambush", an article published in the Hartford Courant, which chronicles Bernard's war experience and faithful return to France with his family 60 years later, as described by his son Robert Rader—who I'm proud to note is from Connecticut's First Congressional District. I urge my colleagues to join me in thanking Mr. Bernard Rader for his service to this nation and for sharing his heroic story with all of America.

[From the Hartford Courant, July 25, 2004]

THE AMBUSH

(By Robert J. Rader)

Dad and the two other veterans strained to pick out their comrades from the pictures of basic training at Fort McCain. "Remember this one? What was his name?" Their eyes, now 60 years older, strained at the fuzzy prints. "Have you heard from Higgins or Schulman or Boyd recently?" We were on a ferry from Lorient, on the western coast of France, to Ile de Groix. During World War II, the port of Lorient remained in Nazi hands till the day after Germany had surrendered. All three men had been imprisoned by the Nazis after being captured in an ambush in October 1944: two of them were held on the Ile de Groix, the third—Dad—on the mainland. The boat glided swiftly across the water. The day was overcast, with mist rising from the sea, but the sun would soon burn the mist off and, as we reached the island, break through. The three veterans—my father, Bernard I. Rader; Kermit Harden; and Bob Moore—sat on benches in the cabin and talked about the men who died. They re-

membered the food the French people sneaked to them at a time when few had much to feed their own families. And they talked about the young American Red Cross officer, Andrew Gerow Hodges, who had braved getting shot by mistake, either by the Germans or the Americans, to arrange one of the few prisoner exchanges on the Western Front in World War II. They dubbed their trip "The Andrew Gerow Hodges Tour."

The ferry nosed past a massive cement building that still contained submarine pens. The low-slung building, several football fields in size, had been built with walls 20 feet thick to withstand heavy Allied bombing. The weather-beaten structure was a monument to the slave labor that had struggled to build it with wartime speed.

This would probably be the last time the three veterans, all over 80, would make this trip to visit the countryside where their young lives had taken such a crucial turn. Many of their buddies who had wanted to come could not. Hodges was not in good enough health to make the trip. They would see the site of the ambush, where their patrol had come under fire and their comrades had been slain, and the places where they had been held prisoner. They would thank the French people for the help they gave them. They would converse again with the people of Ile de Groix, and leave a plaque expressing their thanks on the wall to the entrance of Fort Surville on the island, where Harden and Moore had been imprisoned for 47 days in 1944. They wanted to pay tribute to their five friends killed in the ambush by visiting the cemetery at St. James, where they rest forever. And they wanted to honor Hodges—without whom, they believe, they would not be alive today. They wanted to tell the story of what happened so many years ago and how he came to get them out. With those goals in mind, the three veterans and their wives and children had come back to Brittany. We family members listened as the men recounted their war experiences, as soldiers have done since long before World War II. Many veterans of that war, who are now dying off at the rate of over 1,000 a day, never talked to their families about what they had gone through. But Dad did not shy from discussing his war experiences. He watched World War II movies with interest (we knew if there was a swastika on the cover of a videotape we'd rented, he'd be interested), and, despite the stroke he suffered in 1999, has spoken at libraries, schools and other sites, telling his story and encouraging other veterans to tell theirs. Mom has been his main support, helping him in every way with these "gigs" and explaining what had happened when Dad could not find the words.

Dad was trained as an infantryman and made private first class by the time he shipped out to England on Aug. 6, 1944. After further training, his unit sailed on a Liberty ship for France, came ashore at Utah Beach on Sept. 3 and marched to Brittany. He served as a sentry there, helping to keep the Germans contained while the Allies pushed through France to Germany following the D-Day invasion. On the October day he and his unit set out on patrol, only to be ambushed and captured, he tasted combat for the first time. Dad began reacquainting himself with old buddies over the past few years, as he became more proficient than we ever thought he would be at email. He got in touch with a number of those who had been in his company and was contacted by others after I wrote up his story and posted it on the 94th Infantry Division's web site. I thought it was important for me to share this one last, great adventure with my parents. Curious about the war, and an amateur historian, I knew I had to tag along.

I expected that this would be an emotional trip. It did not disappoint. The ferry landed

in the harbor at Ile de Groix, about five miles from Lorient. On this beautiful, green island the Germans had set up artillery to protect their position in the port. They had also set up a prison for captured soldiers. It is hard to believe that such a picturesque place would be ideal for a prison. But its remoteness from Allied troops, together with its closeness to the fortified mainland city, made it a perfect location for a prison, with virtually no opportunity for escape. The island had a far different mood on May 26 of this year, when our little tourist group boarded a bus to travel to a lane out in the country. The unpaved road, bordered by fields where flowers grew wild, had been renamed in honor of the 94th Infantry Division when Dad and some other veterans came here four years ago.

Our group of veterans and their families were joined by about 30 town officials, journalists, former members of the French Resistance and others. We walked about 100 yards down the lane and came to an area with ancient, weather-beaten walls on both sides. Ahead was the entrance to Fort Surville: a narrow archway the prisoners had been marched through 60 years ago. On one wall we noticed an American flag covering something on the wall. Strangely, it had 36 stars. The mayor explained that the flag had been sewn in 1944 by a Frenchwoman, whose daughter now joined us. It was to show support for what she hoped would be the eventual liberation of the island by the Americans. It was kept in the chimney of the house where the woman lived. She had no access to a real American flag, so had guessed at the number of stars. When a German was in her house and asked her what the colorful cloth was doing in the chimney, she said that it was used, like paper, to wrap meats that were being cured. Had the Germans known the truth about what she had done, she would certainly have been punished. The mayor made a speech, the first of many we would hear, extolling the amity between the French and American people. He gave thanks for what these soldiers had done in helping to liberate France. He then reached up and gently pulled the flag down, exposing the plaque the veterans had donated, and warmly presented the flag to the three veterans. They accepted it with some reservation. Their first thought was that it was such a wonderful work by an Ile de Groix citizen that it should stay on the island. But rather than taking a chance of insulting their hosts, they decided to bring it home and exhibit it in the Museum of the 94th Infantry at Fort Devens, Mass.

It was then the turn of the three veterans. They, too, talked about the friendship and love of Americans and the French. And they dedicated the plaque, which they had paid for and which my family designed and had made in France. It was black with gold letters, written in English, French and Breton, the language of the region. It was for those who had helped them by giving them apples, eggs and potatoes surreptitiously while they were held on this island. It read: "To the people of Ile de Groix, who gave us so much, when they themselves had so little. Company K, 301st Regiment, 94th Infantry Division."

The outpouring of love on both sides struck me as being in sharp contrast to what I had been hearing about the French and Americans since the U.S. decided to invade Iraq. We were feted no fewer than six times by representatives of local French governments. While I heard criticism of President Bush, there was no doubt in my mind that there still existed a love for the people who had returned freedom to them in 1944 and 1945. It seemed to me that we in the United States seemed to be quick to answer French policy on Iraq with mockery (remember

“Liberty fries?”), while the French people I met were gentle in counseling us about Iraq. As citizens of a country that has had its own problems fighting guerrilla wars in Vietnam and Algeria, they made their opinions known with a sense of *deja vu*. While Americans remember that we helped save France in World War II, maybe we forget that it was France that saved George Washington and the American rebels during our Revolution.

The many receptions we attended all featured champagne, some food (from a few crackers and cookies to a three-hour marathon lunch) and many local government officials. I found it great fun, especially trying to use my high school French to converse with the inevitably non-English-speaking people who would sit with us. I joked with my parents about how the French seemed to have such trouble understanding their own native language. We began to joke that certainly there would not be a day without a local reception and a picture in the local French newspaper of the three ancient combatants the next day. And believe me, we kidded the vets about being “ancient combatants” many times.

Dad had been held in the hospital in Lorient because of his wounds. We rose early one morning to visit it. Lorient held a key submarine facility for the Germans and was considered, along with two other ports, so hard to capture that the Allies contained it, instead of attacking it, from 1944 until 1945. The submarine pens were bombed without effect, so the Allies decided to make the city as uninhabitable as possible for the Germans. Their planes dropped 250,000 incendiary bombs on the city, destroying 90 percent of it. A young, pony-tailed French hospital worker gave us a tour of the bunker the Nazis built on the grounds of the facility to protect injured German soldiers and sailors. He then brought us up to the second floor of the hospital, where Dad, who had been hit by a concussion shell, had been nursed back to health. Because the hospital was being modernized, the wing where he had been held was empty of patients. The rooms were bare, but clean and painted in dull, institutional colors. It took awhile for Dad to recognize the room he had been held in so many years ago, but at last he did, and when he looked out the window, his memories flooded back. He remembered, he said, that the Germans were all around and that he couldn't leave the second floor. Outside there were more German soldiers, but there was also a Frenchwoman who saw him looking out the window. She must have known he was a prisoner, because she cupped her left hand and on it, with the fingers of her right, drew the Cross of Lorraine, the symbol of the Free French. It was a sign to my father that he and the handful of prisoners in the hospital were not alone. As he said, when he thanked the Lorient officials for their reception, that woman had given him something as important as food: She had given him hope.

I get chills when I hear that story. I imagine Dad, a wounded 20-year-old, unsure of what the future would bring, lying in a hospital, surrounded by Nazi soldiers. During the ambush, he had taken off his dog tags and his friend, George Boyd, had buried them, since they identified Dad as a Jew. In the hospital, he kept a picture of Jesus above his bed and was careful never to reveal his religion. That afternoon, we drove out to the town of Etel, which sits at the mouth of the Etel River, which back in 1944 was on the front line between the Allies and Germans. It was here that the exchanges of prisoners took place. The veterans again told the story of what had happened. Allied prisoners held by the Germans had gotten word through to U.S. forces that they had nothing to eat. According to a Red Cross account, the 94th In-

fantry's commanding general asked Hodges to see about getting supplies to the POWs. Hodges began making regular trips across German lines. Though he was under the Red Cross flag, he was often at risk of being shot by one side or another. He finally realized a prisoner exchange would make more sense. To his surprise, the Germans agreed. Allied commanders agreed, and on the morning of Nov. 17, the first exchange began. Eventually 147 soldiers were swapped in four exchanges, on a one-to-one basis, with men of equal rank. The Germans refused to turn over one British officer who had escaped several times. They wanted five German soldiers with Iron Cross decorations in return. Hodges then asked the Germans, “If you are such good military men, how could one British officer be worth five of yours?” After banging on the table, the German officer relented. We have photographs of Dad being exchanged and old, yellowed newspaper clippings announcing the event. I had always imagined the exchange in black and white, as in the photos, with the “jollyboat” carrying 10 men at a time going back and forth across the river. But, now, in Etel, where the water was blue and the dock cement-yellow, I imagined my Dad moving from black and white into color. Though his wounds were mostly healed, he was on a stretcher because he had gotten the flu a few days before; he was coming back to the American side, no longer a prisoner. He was overjoyed and his future was again before him, in all the colors you can imagine.

There is no way to repay the debt Dad feels to Hodges. What can you give to a man who has saved you from the very depths of misery and the verge of starvation and found a way to bring you back to the full color of life? Dad believes that the way to repay him in part is to tell the story of Hodges' courage. And he does: to newspaper reporters, to kids at schools, to people interested in what happened during the war and even to some people who made the mistake of sitting next to us at an Indian restaurant that night. The next day we headed out, on a rented bus, to where the ambush happened. We were led by Frank Perammant, a Frenchman who was 14 years old at the time of the ambush and befriended a number of the American soldiers because he wanted to learn English. He remembers them going out on patrol on the cool, crisp morning of Oct. 2, 1944, because they walked right by his home. Our bus first stopped on the side of the road, and Perammant led us over to a plaque mounted on a stone wall marking where an American lookout had been killed a few days before the ambush. As he explained what had happened there, we walked along the side of a house and along a fence, where he said the American soldiers had come from. And then we drove perhaps a quarter-mile down the road to the ambush site, in the tiny hamlet of Kerdudal. As we got off the bus and the veterans looked around, the questions started: “Where were the Germans? Where were their lines? What direction were you coming from?” Back in October 1944, the Americans, who were containing the Germans in the Lorient “pocket,” heard there were a number of Germans interested in giving themselves up. They set out, about 50 of them, walking through country crisscrossed by hedgerows—ridges 6 feet high topped by thick, virtually impassable hedges. As they walk forward, disaster strikes: A scout is shot at the beginning of the line and the patrol comes under heavy attack. As the Americans are driven back, Dad bandages the leg of a wounded Free French lieutenant and drags him 500 yards to a road bounded by two high hedgerows, where the Germans cut off their retreat and pin them down with automatic weapons fire. The men fight for six

hours as the Nazis pound them with 88s, mortars, machine guns, grenades and rifle fire. The Americans call in artillery, but the fighting is so close that they are hit by the friendly fire. They find out later they are outnumbered 12 to 1.

About 3 p.m., Dad sees a concussion mortar shell land 50 yards away, right in the center of the road they are in. The next falls 25 yards away, and he knows he will be hit by the third. It throws him like a rag doll to the ground. He's helpless and bleeding from shrapnel wounds in his legs, hands and right arm. He is in shock, not knowing if he'll live or die, and, the fight blasted out of him, spends the next two hours of the battle lying on the side of the road. As I stand by the side of the road, I imagine I am in the scene. I hear myself call out to this 20-year-old kid, numb and wounded and lying on the ground, “Hey, you'll be OK, this will work out, hang in there—you'll make it!” I tell him that he'll live many more years and have a wonderful family and grandchildren. As though I am the father, I shout expressions of love and hope to this helpless boy lying there motionless. By 5 p.m. it's clear reinforcements can't break through, and those who can still fight are out of ammunition. One soldier puts a white bandage over his rifle to signify surrender. He stands up and raises the rifle. A German machine-gunner apparently does not realize that he is trying to give up and he fires. The American is cut in two. Finally, the Germans understand and the Americans surrender. The Germans take the Americans into captivity, with Dad in a wheelbarrow pushed by his friend, George Boyd.

Two months later, Dad would write a detailed account of the battle in a letter to his parents and sister Gloria. He described the aftermath this way: “It doesn't matter much but we caused the enemy nearly four times our number casualties . . . The Germans themselves respected us to the extent of not searching us for weapons (taking our words for it) and not forcing us to hold our hands up, telling us we were too good a bunch of fighters to be shamed in such a way. I don't know for sure if I killed and I don't want to. It's hard to write because I hate to remember but I know you want to know just what happened. . . .” As I return to real life in 2004, the three veterans can't tell exactly where they were during the ambush. Perammant pointed out it was here the first shots were fired. The vets were not so sure. The land has changed. There are no more hedgerows; they were flattened out over 60 years ago by farmers who decided that flat land was easier to farm. Trees had grown where before there were none. A few old houses were still there, maybe the only surviving objects that could bear witness. A French couple, working in their ever-so-peaceful garden, were kind as they listened to the story, and said they thought the dirt road they pointed out was the one on which the men were led away. We walked down this cart path, retracing, the veterans trying to remember. There are no battle markers here; the only other thread to the past is the recollection of the three men. The story they tell about the ambush is what makes it real. A half an hour later, we're sipping hot chocolates and Cokes at a little cafe as if what happened on this land 60 years ago was ancient history. But something in me has been deeply touched by seeing where this pivotal event in Dad's life had happened.

As I sit in my hotel room and think about why I am so touched by this ordinary piece of French countryside, I realize that seeing the ambush site somehow connected me to my father on a new emotional level. I feel I have come face to face with Dad as he was 60 years ago, when he went through the worst experience of his life. In some almost mystical way, seeing him at the ambush site, at

the hospital and at the scene of the exchange made my view of him and my connection to him more complete than anything I had ever experienced. And it gave me a view of my family history more alive than it had been in the stories I have heard since I was a child. Returning with him to Brittany wasn't about glorifying war; it was more about sharing a part of the most frightening moments in his life in a way that was so real, so close. It was like reliving a part of his life through his eyes. They were now not just heroic tales of days long ago; they were as recent and real as the reports we see on the 6 o'clock news. I've often heard that men fight battles not for their countries or for apple pie. When they are in a foxhole or pinned down in a hedgerow, they fight for themselves and their buddies. When they are gone, buried in a foreign land, who remembers them? Their parents have long since passed away. Their wives or sweethearts have moved on to others. And life has continued.

So the veterans thought it important to say goodbye to their buddies who died in the ambush in Kerdudal. We drove to the Brittany American Cemetery and Memorial in St. James, a beautiful burial ground, smaller than the more famous one overlooking Omaha Beach, but just as well-kept. On a beautiful spring day, we walked among the too-many crosses and stars of David until the veterans found the graves of the five men

to whom they had come to pay their respects. They stopped next to the cross over the grave of the soldier killed when attempting to surrender during the ambush. In the quiet, as we watched, they each stood on one side of the cross and Kermit read a prayer written by the soldier's brother-in-law. The haunting, final sound of Taps was heard across the cemetery as the veterans stood with their hands over their hearts. And tears ran down Dad's face. The veterans remembered this man, as they remembered all the men who had died that day in October. Each buried comrade was a real person with dreams and emotions and, they thought, their whole lives to look forward to. Each was more than just one of the thousands of crosses and stars of David planted in straight rows in the American cemeteries in Europe.

Dad has wondered aloud to me why he lived when his friends did not. Why could he come home and they lie in the cemeteries of France? There's no answer to these questions. Maybe it was luck; maybe fate or God intervened. But surely it was important for him to say goodbye one last time and to remember. I watched him as he stood with his eyes closed and wiping the tears from his face. Maybe it is just an automatic human reaction, but I felt my own chest tightening and the tears welling up in my eyes, too. But it was not only for the men we were honoring that I found myself choking up.

It was also for Dad and what he had done. He had survived the intervening decades and now, at an age when so many of his colleagues won't attempt much more than a trip to the supermarket, he had accomplished the four goals he had when he had set out: he had seen the land again; he had thanked the French people; he had said goodbye to his friends; and he had honored Hodges.

While the trip was not over, for Dad, the journey was complete. Mom and I were so very proud of him. For me, it was a trip of a lifetime. I had relived the worst day of Dad's life, in Kerdudal, and the best, in Etel. I had seen what he had gone through in a way that no book and no movie could ever recreate. I also had learned again from Dad how to thank those who had served at a time of need, to honor those who have fallen for our country and for those who showed tremendous bravery in helping their fellow men.

This journey to the past was a gift from my father. For an instant, he gave me the ability to touch the past and see him and these places as they once were. I could relive with my Dad that time of his life when he was young and strong and thought he was invincible. That is a gift few sons ever get to share with their fathers. I will always be grateful that I had that chance.

## SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

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

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

Meetings scheduled for Thursday, November 8, 2007 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

## MEETINGS SCHEDULED

## NOVEMBER 9

9 a.m.

Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

To hold hearings to examine the nominations of Robert D. Jamison, of Virginia, to be Under Secretary for National Protection and Programs, and W. Ross Ashley, III, of Virginia, to be an Assistant Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency, both of the Department of Homeland Security.

SD-342

## NOVEMBER 13

9:30 a.m.

Judiciary

To hold hearings to examine the scope of public performance rights.

SD-226

10 a.m.

Environment and Public Works

To continue 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

Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

Oversight of Government Management, the Federal Workforce, and the District of Columbia Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine the human capital needs of a United States Customs and Border Protection initiative, focusing on border security, and progress and weaknesses in traveler inspections at our nation's ports of entry.

SD-342

Small Business and Entrepreneurship

To hold an oversight hearing to examine the Small Business Administration, focusing on preventing loan fraud and improving regulation of lenders.

SR-428A

2:30 p.m.

Energy and Natural Resources

To hold an oversight hearing to examine the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act (Public Law 95-87), focusing on policy issues thirty years later.

SD-366

Foreign Relations

To hold hearings to examine international climate change negotiations, focusing on restoring United States leadership.

SD-419

Intelligence

To hold hearings to examine congressional oversight.

SH-216

## NOVEMBER 14

9:30 a.m.

Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

Business meeting to consider S. 1551, to amend the Public Health Service Act with respect to making progress toward the goal of eliminating tuberculosis, S. 1858, to amend the Public Health Service Act to establish grant programs to provide for education and outreach on newborn screening and coordinated followup care once newborn screening has been conducted, to reauthorize programs under part A of title XI of such Act, S. 911, to amend the Public Health Service Act to advance medical research and treatments into pediatric cancers, ensure patients and families have access to the current treatments and information regarding pediatric cancers, establish a population-based national childhood cancer database, and promote public awareness of pediatric cancers, S. 1916, to amend the Public Health Service Act to modify the program for the sanctuary system for surplus chimpanzees by terminating the authority for the removal of chimpanzees from the system for research purposes, S. 1382, to amend the Public Health Service Act to provide the establishment of an Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis Registry, S. 1970, to establish a National Commission on Children and Disasters, a National Resource Center on Children and Disasters, and an original bill entitled, "Health Centers Renewal Act of 2007", and any pending nominations.

SD-430

Veterans' Affairs

Business meeting to markup pending legislation; to be immediately followed by a hearing to examine the nomination of Michael W. Hager, of Virginia, to be an Assistant Secretary of Veterans Affairs (Human Resources and Management).

SD-562

10 a.m.

Commerce, Science, and Transportation

To hold hearings to examine ways to improve the Federal Climate Change Research and Information Program.

SR-253

Energy and Natural Resources

To hold hearings to examine the Global Nuclear Energy Partnership relating to the United States policy on nuclear fuel management.

SD-366

Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

Business meeting to consider S. 1667, to establish a pilot program for the expedited disposal of Federal real property, S. 1000, to enhance the Federal Telework Program, H.R. 390, to require the establishment of a national database in the National Archives to preserve records of servitude, emancipation, and post-Civil War reconstruction and to provide grants to State and localities to establish similar local

databases, H.R. 3571, to amend the Congressional Accountability Act of 1995 to permit individuals who have served as employees of the Office of Compliance to serve as Executive Director, Deputy Executive Director, or General Counsel of the Office, and to permit individuals appointed to such positions to serve one additional term, S. 2174, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 175 South Monroe Street in Tiffin, Ohio, as the "Paul E. Gillmor Post Office Building", H.R. 2089, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 701 Loyola Avenue in New Orleans, Louisiana, as the "Louisiana Armed Services Veterans Post Office", S. 2292, to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002, to establish the Office for Bombing Prevention, to address terrorist explosive threats, H.R. 3297, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 950 West Trenton Avenue in Morrisville, Pennsylvania, as the "Nate DeTemple Post Office Building", H.R. 3308, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 216 East Main Street in Atwood, Indiana, as the "Lance Corporal David K. Fribley Post Office", H.R. 3530, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1400 Highway 41 North in Inverness, Florida, as the "Chief Warrant Officer Aaron Weaver Post Office Building", H.R. 2276, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 203 North Main Street in Vassar, Michigan, as the "Corporal Christopher E. Esckelson Post Office Building", H.R. 3325, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 235 Mountain Road in Suffield, Connecticut, as the "Corporal Stephen R. Bixler Post Office", S. 2110, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 427 North Street in Taft, California, as the "Larry S. Pierce Post Office", H.R. 3382, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 200 North William Street in Goldsboro, North Carolina, as the "Philip A. Baddour, Sr. Post Office", S. 2290, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 16731 Santa Ana Avenue in Fontana, California, as the "Beatrice E. Watson Post Office Building", S. 2272, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service known as the Southpark Station in Alexandria, Louisiana, as the John "Marty" Thiels Southpark Station, in honor and memory of Thiels, a Louisiana postal worker who was killed in the line of duty on October 4, 2007, H.R. 3446, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 202 East Michigan Avenue in Marshall, Michigan, as the "Michael W. Schragg Post Office Building", S. 2150 and H.R. 3572, bills to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 4320 Blue Parkway in Kansas City, Missouri, as the "Wallace S. Hartsfield Post Office Building", S. 2107 and H.R. 3307, bills to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 570 Broadway in Bayonne, New Jersey, as the "Dennis P. Collins Post Office Building", H.R. 3518, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1430 South Highway 29 in Cantonment, Florida, as the

- “Charles H. Hendrix Post Office Building”, and other pending calendar business. SD-342
- Judiciary  
Human Rights and the Law Subcommittee  
To hold hearings to examine accountability for human rights violators in the United States. SD-226
- 10:30 a.m.  
Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs  
To hold hearings to examine shareholder rights and proxy access. SD-538
- 2 p.m.  
Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs  
To hold hearings to examine sovereign wealth fund acquisitions and other foreign government investments in the United States, focusing on economic and national security implications. SD-538
- 2:30 p.m.  
Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs  
Investigations Subcommittee  
To hold hearings to examine Medicaid providers, focusing on a recent study conducted by the Government Accountability Office on unpaid taxes, the extent of the problem, and possible solutions. SD-342
- 4:30 p.m.  
Intelligence  
Meeting of conferees on proposed legislation authorizing funds for fiscal year 2008 for the intelligence community. S-407, Capitol
- NOVEMBER 15
- 9:30 a.m.  
Armed Services  
To hold hearings to examine the state of the United States Army. SH-216
- 10 a.m.  
Commerce, Science, and Transportation  
Space, Aeronautics, and Related Agencies Subcommittee  
To hold hearings to examine issues facing the United States space program after retirement of the space shuttles. SR-253
- 2:30 p.m.  
Intelligence  
To hold closed hearings to examine certain intelligence matters. SH-219
- DECEMBER 12
- 10 a.m.  
Rules and Administration  
To hold hearings to examine a recently released Government Accountability Office report, focusing on funding challenges and facilities maintenance at the Smithsonian Institution. SR-301