

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

RECOGNIZING ALEXANDER KEITH HANSEN FOR ACHIEVING THE RANK OF EAGLE SCOUT

### HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 13, 2007

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Alexander K. Hansen, a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Alexander has been very active with his troop, participating in many Scout activities. Over the many years Alexander has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Alexander K. Hansen for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

HONORING THE ANTI-WAR ACTIVISM AND SOCIAL CONSCIENCE OF THE LATE NORMA BECKER

### HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 13, 2007

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today in memory of anti-war powerhouse Norma Becker, whose energy, spirit, and integrity fueled the opposition to the Vietnam War. A New York City memorial service held in her honor on November 3 drew hundreds, underscoring how her passion for peace won over the hearts and minds of many. She, herself, exemplified equal measures of heart and mind—impressing others with the sharpness of her intellect and her thoroughly analytical and logical approach to problems, but impelling them to act through her vision, her sensitivity, her soul.

She was a public school teacher with a voracious appetite for learning and social indignation. For 10 years, she presided over the Fifth Avenue Vietnam Peace Parade Committee, the most prominent metropolitan antiwar coalition in the country. She was a founding member of Mobilization for Survival and served as chair of the War Resisters League for 6 years. She lent her voice and talents, not only to the cause for peace, but to the Civil Rights Movement, as well.

She has engraved her legacy into the American consciousness, and the country is the better for it. I submit for the RECORD and the interest of my colleagues some of the tributes paid to Norma Becker during her memorial service.

TRIBUTES TO NORMA BECKER  
NORMA BECKER: A TRIBUTE AND CELEBRATION  
(By Sidney Peck)

It was in December 1966, that I first met Norma Becker. I had come to New York City to attend the executive committee meeting of the newly organized Spring Mobilization Committee to End the War in Vietnam. During a break in the meeting, A.J. Muste invited me to join him with a few others the next day to exchange views about a number of political issues.

Being in New York City was new for me, having lived most of my life in St. Paul, Minnesota. I braved the big city subway system and then found 68 Charles Street. I was looking for the name Norma Becker on a doorbell—but no name was listed. So I rang both bells and soon a buzzer sounded.

I heard a loud yell—a question, “WHO’S THERE?!!!!” I was too intimidated to respond. Again the loud question—“WHO’S THERE?,” followed by “THE DOOR’S OPEN. COME ON UP.” I opened the door and went up. She was standing at the top of the stairway—she had a big grin on her face, looked straight into my eyes and said, “Hi, I’m Norma,” and with the same breath—both question and command—asked, “What’s your name?” “Sidney,” I answered rather softly. “SIDNEY,” she exclaimed, and with the same breath asked, “Where are you from?” “The Midwest,” I answered aloud, “And your name is SIDNEY?” “Most people call me Sid,” I replied. “That’s very interesting, how come?” she asked, and added, “Come on in and hang your jacket up in the closet. Have you had lunch yet? Sit down and tell me about yourself, before the others come.”

That is how our friendship began. She told me how she was a teacher at a public school, how she loved to teach but despised the system. She told me about her marriage and divorce—about her children, Gene and Diane. She talked about her involvement with the civil rights movement and the peace movement—and more recently the anti-Vietnam war movement, of her work with the Teacher’s Committee and The Fifth Avenue Vietnam Peace Parade Committee. A total stranger only moments before, she made me feel right at home.

Soon the others arrived and we shared our views about this issue and that question and were encouraged to appreciate and respect the profound differences that occasionally rose to the surface. Norma’s place was a safe house to the Movement. It gave us a sense of community.

Just as we were about to adjourn, Diane appeared, soon followed by Gene who gave everyone a big “Hello, what’s happenin’?” greeting. I liked them immediately because of their great sense of humor. They had never met anyone from the Midwest. “Minnesota?” asked Gene, “Where in the hell is Minnesota?” So, Norma invited me to stay for supper and answer that question. It was over a meal of whatever was left in the refrigerator that we began a family friendship.

Over many years, I learned to understand Norma’s language. Most of all, I learned to understand what Norma was saying when she wasn’t talking at all: when she just looked—or smiled—or laughed—or cried—or grimaced—or shrugged.

Norma was a very careful listener. I think that was because she was such a good teach-

er. Her penwomanship alone was impressive! And, she was always the teacher and student wrapped in one. Probing, questioning: “How come?”; “Why do you say that?”; “What are your reasons?”; “What is your evidence?” and on. She needed to have the facts straight and the facts had to make sense. She has a lot of left brain: very analytical, logical, organized. But even more powerful was her right brain: her vision and sensitivity. Above all, Norma was heart and soul.

How else can you account for her record of leadership in our movement for peace and social justice? For ten years, she presided over the most prominent metropolitan antiwar coalition in the country—The Fifth Avenue Vietnam Peace Parade Committee. The political waters of New York City are treacherous, especially those of the left and progressive movement. No other city has more political splinters, splits, factions, fragments, division and sects—all of whom believe they are the vanguard. Each of which proclaims the correct political line. And none of whom shall ever be denied a representative speaker at the coalition demonstration—or else!

“What do you mean, ‘or else?’” asked Norma, “Or else what?” And then she said nothing—just looked, rubbed her chin and waited as the demand was withdrawn—and then she smiled. “Thank you very much for helping to reach an agreement on our plans for the demonstration.” She was a superb communicator, even to those who resisted her leadership. She was tireless in her efforts to build a true coalition. She was an outstanding leader of the anti-Vietnam war movement.

On April 15, 1967, over 400,000 people marched from Central Park and Harlem and assembled on First Avenue in front of the United Nations to protest U.S. military intervention in Vietnam and demand an end to the war. The success of that powerful demonstration was due in large measure of the work of The Fifth Avenue Vietnam Peace Parade Committee, under Norma’s skillful leadership.

Fifteen years later, Norma threw herself into organizing New York City peace sentiment in support of the mass demonstration in Central Park on June 12, 1982. It was Norma’s tireless and devoted leadership of the New York City peace movement that contributed immensely to the outpouring of over a million people in the largest single demonstration for peace in the history of the country.

In both of these historic demonstrations, Norma carried a considerable burden over the most difficult political obstacles. On both occasions, it was her energy, spirit and integrity that helped to sustain the unity of mass action. For more than 20 years, Norma was in the vigils, the sit-ins, the days of protest, the trains to Washington, the Hiroshima actions. She did the calling and the fundraising and the letter writing. She went to this meeting and that conference and hosted thousands of gatherings at Norma’s place.

In the spring of 1977, she was a founding organizer of the Mobilization for Survival and for several years organized for peace and social justice at the national level. During this

• 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.

same period she gave organizational leadership to the War Resisters League, serving as chair from 1977 to 1983.

She was a unique and successful organizer because she could blend the right proportions of tender loving care, anger and guilt. Above all, she conveyed a powerful sense of social indignation to all of us, and especially the youth. She truly appreciated the young for their energy, creativity and selflessness. In her interview with Nancy Zaroulis and Gerald Sullivan, authors of "Who Spoke Up?: American Protest Against the War in Vietnam, 1963-1975," Norma recalled some of the events around the May 9, 1970 demonstration (in response to the U.S. invasion of Cambodia and the killings of students at Jackson and Kent State universities):

We put out a mailing of 10,000 one day's notice—we didn't have computerized mailings then. We had a staff of young people who worked incredible hours. These are the unsung heroes of that period, and their names don't go down in the history books: Linda Morse, Josh Brown, Alan Barnes, Wendy Fisher, Laurie Sandow, Bob Eberwein, and many others . . . these are the young people who were working for fifty, seventy-five dollars a week, if and when we could pay them—nineteen, twenty, twenty-one years old. . . .

Norma worried about our youth. She worked with youngsters every day in the public schools and she witnessed young people in the movement for peace and social justice. She was critical of herself and her generation for not providing the young with more meaningful role models. She was concerned that we have left them with too little hope.

In her effort to understand the dynamics of war and genocide, Norma was drawn to the study of human culture and the role of irrational forces in human motivation. She researched biology and behavior—was not satisfied with the theoretical orthodoxy and rationalistic models of the political left. She read the literature of Zen and Tao; she took courses in anthropology; she engaged her friends in long talks about the meaning of it all. She always continued to learn, to study, to know, to create, to enjoy, and to love.

A hope, a desire, a wish—or an attitude—whatever it took, it was an expression of Norma's optimism in troubled times. She understood how powerful a people's movement can be, even with the most limited of resources. And, how empowered each of us can become if we act on our inner courage, however small it may seem.

Norma celebrated our potential as persons, if we can accept one another as ally, friend and comrade. In Norma's everyday practice, she sought to heal and overcome the hurts and pains, the divisions and schisms arising from racism, sexism, opportunism and sectarianism within our movement. Time and again, she acted with courage and passion to unify our ranks against divisive assaults. Often she succeeded, and sometimes not, but she never failed to respond, no matter how difficult the task.

This is a time to celebrate Norma and give tribute to this remarkable person who gave so much of her energy, her spirit, her self, so that this might be a better world for the young—so that our children will be alive and well in the 21st Century and beyond—so that all will go well.

We love you, Norma, as our sister, friend and comrade—and we celebrate your life. L'Chayim!

THE NORMA BECKER THAT I KNEW

(By David McReynolds)

My first memory of Norma is from the Civil Defense Drill protests in 1960-61, and her attending the WRL Conferences we used to have every year at Hudson guild. I had lit-

tle knowledge of her courageous work in the South and didn't really get to know her until 1965 and the founding of the Vietnam Peace Parade Committee.

Looking back, that was typical Norma Becker. She felt that since everyone else had parades on Fifth Avenue—The Irish, the Italians, the annual Easter Parade—that the Vietnam Peace movement had a right to such a parade. She approached A.J. Muste—then in his late seventies—chaired the meetings, and had wide respect, the Communists and Trotskyites, who hadn't sat in the same room in decades, came. The Catholic Left came. Liberal Democrats, pacifists, socialists, trade unionists, Protestants, Jews—all came to that founding meeting, and to the following meetings.

The first parade, in 1965, when the Vietnam War was still widely supported by the public, marked the birth of what would, by the 1970s, become mass coalition demonstrations. (And it had one wonderful moment of theater, when Allen Ginsberg, who was in the parade, walked up to a police officer, kissed him, and handed him a flower—only Allen could have done that and left the officer looking bemused instead of angry.)

When the initial parade was over, the Parade Committee didn't dissolve. It set up offices, and drew a staff of supporters who provided the backbone of public protest and resistance in New York City—setting an example, in the process, for people all over the nation to put aside old disagreements and unite to fight the war. (Norma never forgave me for opposing the continuation of the Parade Committee, sectarian anti-Communist that I then was, I wasn't sure about institutionalizing cooperation with the Marxist-Leninists. Norma was right. I was terribly wrong).

Norma functioned in a movement where men played the leading roles as the main speakers and writers. While this was a period when the feminist movement emerged, and Norma considered herself a feminist, she was more concerned with getting work done than with getting credit. She was a constant figure in all the shifting coalitions and mobilizations, often using her apartment on Charles Street as the meeting place from which new ideas and new approaches emerged. It would be an enormous mistake to think that because she was not the "public figure" for the movement, that she was thus "merely" an organizer. (Though God knows, being the kind of organizer Norma was, if that was all she did it would have earned her a place in heaven—if not the history books).

What needs to be said is that while many of us, including myself, had jobs in the movement, Norma's full time job was that of a school teacher—a first class one, active in her union. In addition, she was a divorced mother raising two children. For most human beings that would have been enough. But Norma was a tower of strength in the broader movement, negotiating her way through forests of egos and organizations. She had taken on the role as Chair of War Resisters League, and, like all of her other tasks, she took that seriously. Did Norma somehow operate outside the usual time spectrum? Did she have a 48 hour day, while the rest of us had only 24?

Norma was one of the first in the Jewish community to initiate informal dialogue with Arabs in New York City, bringing together members of two groups who had operated at a great distance from one another.

When the Vietnam War ended, and most people returned to their pre-war routines, Norma, with the help of Sid Lens, founded the Mobilization for Survival in 1977. While "Mobe" eventually folded, during its ten years or so of active life it generated a num-

ber of local "Peace and Justice" centers, and laid the basis for the enormous demonstration in 1982 in Central Park, when the numbers of those who came were so great that estimates of a million remain only a guess. I was there—the crowds were so dense it became frightening. Norma was, for once, a speaker, late in the program, and she alone dared raise the issue of the Israeli military actions taking place at that time.

With the recession that came with the Reagan years, Norma tried hard to push the War Resisters League to embrace economic justice as part of its agenda. Together with Norma we helped set up a coalition—the name now escapes me—which tried to get the peace movement to put unemployment, poverty, and economics on its agenda.

She had a restlessly curious mind. To visit Norma for dinner was to be plunged into intellectual discussions far beyond the agenda of the moment. Toward the end of her life she suffered from mania and depression. She was out of the usual organizational loop. The death of her son, Gene, probably precipitated her agitation. Norma would be furious with me if I skipped over this, as if her life was too perfect for a touch of reality. Norma was very real, to the dinners she prepared, to the love and concern she showed to all, to the incredible ability to forgive slights. Perhaps, most of all, I remember her laughter

I have been lucky in this life to have known closely and well a number of those the world has considered great, among them A.J. Muste, Norman Thomas, Dave Dellinger, Bayard Rustin. Norma was as "great" as any of them. Let the record show that because of her, fewer Vietnamese and Americans died. She showed us that—in the midst of apathy—resistance and mass mobilization is possible. It was my good fortune to have worked with her during many years of struggle. The memory of that struggle shames us if we think, in a period equally dangerous, we can fail now to mount a resistance, one that reaches out to mobilize the many.

HONORING THE MEMORY OF  
FORMER TEXAS SUPREME  
COURT JUSTICE JOHN HILL

HON. RALPH M. HALL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 13, 2007

Mr. HALL of Texas. Madam Speaker, I am honored to pay tribute to the memory of John Hill, the only person in the history of the great State of Texas to serve as Secretary of State, Attorney General and Chief Justice of the Texas Supreme Court. John was a friend of mine. He was a spellbinder and, in my opinion, the greatest and most successful trial lawyer of his day.

John entered politics as an organizer in the 1964 re-election campaign of Governor John B. Connally. Governor Connally appointed him Secretary of State in 1966, a post he would hold for 2 years. In 1972 John was elected Attorney General, where he pressed lawsuits against polluters, created an organized crime task force and persuaded the Legislature to pass consumer legislation. In 1984 he was elected Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Texas. He resigned in January of 1988 to advocate his belief that the partisan election of judges fostered an environment which allowed campaign contributors to have undue influence upon the courts. He continued to campaign for

a system in which judges would be appointed until his death.

He remained engaged in public service, working as Governor George W. Bush's appointee to the Texas Lottery Commission, and supporting the Governor in his bid for the White House. The final years of John's legal career were spent as a senior partner with Locke Liddel and Sapp LLP, and later as a senior partner with the Winstead firm, where he was a shareholder.

John is survived by his wife, the former Elizabeth Ann Graham; a son, John Graham Hill; two daughters, Melinda Elizabeth Hill Perrin and Martha Hill Jamison; ten grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating the life of a great American, outstanding public servant, and respected jurist, the Honorable John Hill.

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## MENTAL HEALTH

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### HON. GRACE F. NAPOLITANO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 13, 2007*

Mrs. NAPOLITANO. Madam Speaker, our country has been witnessing and suffering the pain and anguish when a distressed individual takes to shooting at random or killing in revenge, be it a student or a former employee. More and more we hear of stories relating to our returning war heroes' mental health plight and inability to cope with what they have gone through in Afghanistan and/or Iraq. While most older veterans will quickly tell you they had periods of rest and relaxation between tours, that is no longer the case.

For far too long we have shunned speaking of or dealing with brain functions misfiring, or in stigmatized words, "mental health." We do not see it, hear it, or speak of it, as it connotes "crazy" and "institutions." However we cannot ignore that mental illness does not discriminate. It touches all regardless of race, gender, class, or religion.

Look at rising suicide statistics for jailed or homeless individuals and unattended veterans who attempt such drastic measures. It is a national crisis and our great shame. Enough of words, action should have begun yesterday. Early prevention must be implemented in schools to allow for early identification by teachers of children who exhibit behavioral problems. And the government must pay attention at every level as this is an issue that affects not only quality of life, but also the community's well-being and economic stability.

We have tests and screenings for breast cancer, heart attacks, strokes, and a myriad of other diseases and conditions, but we have not yet woken up to the fact that the brain's functions are vital to our body's health and survival. It is critical that we destigmatize mental illness so that our children, our families, and our wounded warrior veterans receive the necessary help they need to lead productive lives with supportive families and communities.

## IN SUPPORT OF THE FAIR FUNDING FOR SCHOOLS ACT

### HON. MAZIE K. HIRONO

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 13, 2007*

Ms. HIRONO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Fair Funding for Schools Act, which reauthorizes and improves an important education program called Impact Aid. Impact Aid benefits millions of American students attending elementary and secondary schools in every State in the country. Through this program, the Federal Government does the right thing by reimbursing local school districts for lost tax revenue due to its actions.

The majority of public school funding in America comes from local property taxes. Unfortunately, this vital funding stream is drastically reduced for school districts where the Federal Government takes control of part of the land. For instance, the many U.S. military bases located in Hawai'i take up a vast amount of space and house large populations, but these bases do not generate local property taxes. In other States large national parks, Federal prisons, and Indian lands all similarly decrease local property tax revenue. Left uncorrected, this loss of revenue would leave the children living in these areas with a second class education, funded by substantially fewer dollars than their peers living in areas with no federally impacted land.

In 1950, Congress recognized the need to address this inequity and created Impact Aid, a program by which we provide additional Federal dollars to school districts feeling this kind of financial strain.

Impact Aid is one of the most effective programs run by the Department of Education because it sends money directly to local school districts with very few strings attached. Just like the property tax revenue it replaces, Impact Aid dollars can be used to fund the most essential needs identified by the school district—textbooks, computers, utilities, and salaries, for instance. Many districts rely heavily on this money, and without it their students would be shortchanged. Therefore, we must reauthorize the program.

Even great programs need to be tweaked every so often, and this Fair Funding for Schools Act makes necessary changes in Impact Aid. It addresses the military realities of base realignment and troop redeployment by allowing Impact Aid payments to be calculated using current student counts instead of prior year data. This change will allow districts receiving an influx of new military families to receive their Impact Aid dollars in a timely manner.

The Impact Aid law also has become overly complicated during its 57-year history. This bill simplifies the law by eliminating some outdated provisions that were adding unnecessary complications. It also maintains the program's traditional focus on need, whereby payments to school districts are calculated based on the percentage of the budget lost due to Federal actions and on the number of federally connected children.

Madam Speaker, this is a vital important bill for Hawai'i and for many school districts across the country. The students most impacted are often from families serving in our military. Given the sacrifices we ask of military

families, they deserve nothing less than the best education for their children. This bill will take us in that direction, and I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting it.

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## HONORING TIM MADDEN

### HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 13, 2007*

Mr. RADANOVICH. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor the achievements of Tim Madden and to commend him for his service to the Eastern Madera community. On Friday, November 30, 2007, the Oakhurst Area Chamber of Commerce recognized Mr. Madden for his continued dedication to not only its chamber, but to the North Fork Chamber of Commerce and Eastern Madera County.

Tim Madden is a 17 year resident of Eastern Madera County, his continued commitment to his community is evident by his service in a multitude of leadership positions throughout the area. Within the Oakhurst Area Chamber of Commerce, Mr. Madden's positions include past president (2007), president (2006), president-elect (2005), and member of the board of directors (2004). During his service with the Chamber, the efforts of Mr. Madden enabled the Chamber to authorize the inaugural Trade Mission to China, regain fiscal solvency, create a county-wide promotion system, promote local commerce and further downtown development and maintenance for the Oakhurst Business District.

Tim Madden also served as president of the North Fork Chamber of Commerce from 1998–2000, and as a member of the board of directors for 6 years. The list of community positions and appointments held by Mr. Madden continues, as does the esteem and gratitude of Eastern Madera County. Concerning the relationship Mr. Madden shares with his community, he remarked, "Our connection to each other extends far beyond our business relationships. We are much more like a very large extended family."

Madam Speaker, I stand today to honor Tim Madden and the respect his community has shown for his dedicated service. I invite my colleagues to join me in wishing Mr. Madden many years of continued success.

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## HONORING CHANCELLOR JOHN WILEY

### HON. RON KIND

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 13, 2007*

Mr. KIND. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to John Wiley, upon his retirement as chancellor of the University of Wisconsin-Madison. John is a dedicated public servant who has earned the respect and admiration of the professors, staff, and students under his supervision. Passionate, genuine, and sincere are just a few of the words used to describe Chancellor Wiley's commitment to the university and greater Madison community.

As a graduate student, former faculty member, provost, vice chancellor, and current

chancellor of UW-Madison, Dr. Wiley has been an active member of the campus community for over 30 years. In this time, John has significantly improved the academic profile of the university. His list of accomplishments is quite extensive. Especially noteworthy has been his leadership in the areas of science, engineering, business, and medicine, maintaining the university's reputation as a world-renowned research and teaching institution.

In addition to his responsibilities as chancellor, Dr. Wiley also chairs the Council of Higher Education Accreditation Board and is a member of the National Security Higher Education Advisor Committee. John also actively participates in the greater Madison community, serving on several local and community boards, including UW Hospital and Clinics Authority, the Wisconsin Alumni Research Foundation, and the Greater Madison Chamber of Commerce.

Although Chancellor Wiley is retiring from his current position, he will remain a visible and important part of the UW-Madison campus. His advocacy, dedication, and leadership will leave a lasting legacy on the entire community, and the area will continue to benefit from all that he has done. On behalf of UW students, staff, and the entire State of Wisconsin, I would like to thank John for his many years of tireless service and for making students his top priority. I wish John a long and very happy retirement.

RECOGNIZING KYLE M. TANNER  
FOR ACHIEVING THE RANK OF  
EAGLE SCOUT

**HON. SAM GRAVES**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 13, 2007*

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Kyle M. Tanner, a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Kyle has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Kyle has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Kyle M. Tanner for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

CALLING FOR AN END TO THE UN-  
FAIR DISPARITY IN COCAINE  
SENTENCING

**HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 13, 2007*

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to echo the country's growing insistence that crack cocaine sentencing be reformed and that a sensible, fair policy replace it. I introduce the December 11 Washington Post edi-

torial, "Sense in Sentencing," and the December 12 New York Times Post editorial, "Justice in Sentencing," to highlight how from all branches of government momentum is indisputably picking up in favor of reform. This week, a decisive Supreme Court granted judges greater discretion in sentencing, and the U.S. Sentencing Commission decided to retroactively apply the recent reduction of its sentencing recommendations—both a nod to the prevailing outrage concerning excessively stiff crack cocaine penalties.

The Commission and the Court have done all they can. Now, it's our turn. The impetus falls on Congress to end the sentencing inequity that slaps the same 5-year sentence for possessing 500 grams of powder as it does for 5 grams of crack. That's a 100-to-1 disparity—and an average difference of 40 months in jail time—for two drugs experts say have no significant differences. Well, here's one significant difference: Over 80 percent of sentenced crack offenders are Black. These arbitrarily lopsided mandatory minimums have fueled the disproportionate rate and length of incarceration of Black men and swelled our prisons to a world-leading 2.2 million.

The door to criminal and racial justice has been opened. It's now up to this Congress to step through it. Let's rally around The Crack-Cocaine Equitable Sentencing Act, H.R. 460, and correct the sentencing of uneven punishments for nearly identical offenses.

SENSE IN SENTENCING: THE SUPREME COURT  
GIVES JUDGES SOME LEEWAY IN DRUG CASES

For roughly two decades, federal trial judges have chafed under the constraints of federal sentencing guidelines and mandatory minimums that often forced them to hand down inordinately long sentences. Those injustices have been most pronounced in drug cases, particularly those involving crack cocaine. In two opinions released yesterday, the Supreme Court handed back some flexibility to judges and increased the chances that justice—not just retribution—will be exacted in future cases.

By 7-2 votes, the justices concluded that trial judges have the leeway to impose more lenient sentences in drug cases than those called for by the federal sentencing guidelines. To pass legal muster, the sentences must be "reasonable" and "sufficient, but not greater than necessary" to "promote respect for the law, provide just punishment for the offense" and "protect the public from further crimes of the defendant."

One decision yesterday concerned Derrick Kimbrough, who was arrested in Norfolk in 2004 with 92 grams of powder cocaine, 56 grams of crack and a gun. He faced 19 to 22 years behind bars, in large part because of the high penalties for crack offenses; he would have had to possess 5,000 grams of powder cocaine to get the same sentence. After considering Mr. Kimbrough's record of steady employment and his military service during the Persian Gulf War, the trial judge concluded that Mr. Kimbrough should serve roughly 15 years.

In the second case, Brian Gall, along with seven others, was indicted in Iowa in 2004 for conspiracy to sell ecstasy, cocaine and marijuana. The conspiracy, according to the indictment, ran from 1996 to 2002. Mr. Gall, a former drug addict, sold ecstasy for roughly 7 months in 2000 but stopped using drugs 1 month after he began selling them and pulled out of the drug trade a few months later. He subsequently earned a college degree and worked in construction before starting his own company. When he was indicted, Mr. Gall had been drug-free and law-

abiding for roughly 4 years. The presiding judge determined that the 30- to 37-month sentence called for by the guidelines was unjust and counterproductive. He sentenced Mr. Gall to 36 months probation.

The justices rightly rebuffed the government's challenge to the reduced sentences. They recognized the wisdom of allowing those closest to the ground—the trial judges—to assess how best to exact justice in individual cases, even while endorsing the guidelines as a means to avert wide disparity in sentences nationwide.

The evolution of crack sentencing could continue today when, perhaps coincidentally, the U.S. Sentencing Commission is scheduled to vote on whether to make retroactive the more lenient penalties it instituted earlier this year. The commission should vote yes and take yet another step toward bringing sanity to the crack laws.

JUSTICE IN SENTENCING

With a pair of 7-2 rulings this week, the Supreme Court struck a blow for basic fairness and judicial independence. The court restored a vital measure of discretion to federal trial judges to impose sentences based on their assessment of a particular crime and defendant rather than being forced to adhere to overarching guidelines.

Beyond that, one of the rulings highlighted the longstanding injustice of federal guidelines and statutes imposing much longer sentences for offenses involving crack cocaine, which is most often found in impoverished communities, than for offenses involving the chemically identical powdered cocaine, which is popular among more affluent users.

The rulings provide fresh impetus for Congress to rewrite the grotesquely unfair crack cocaine laws on which the federal sentencing guidelines are partly based. Those laws are a relic of the 1980s, when it was widely but wrongly believed that the crack form of cocaine was more dangerous than the powder form. We are pleased that the United States Sentencing Commission recently called for reducing sentences for some categories of offenders and has now called for applying the change retroactively. The real work still lies with Congress, which needs to rewrite the law.

Building on a 2005 decision that held the sentencing guidelines to be advisory rather than mandatory, the new rulings affirm that the guidelines are but one factor to be considered by a trial judge in arriving at an individual sentence, and that an appeals court must have a strong reason to overturn that sentence.

In one of the cases, the justices supported a district judge in Virginia who gave a military veteran convicted of crack dealing a sentence of 15 years, rather than the 19-22 years that the guidelines recommended. The ruling described the federal crack law as "disproportionate and unjust." Writing for the majority, Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg stated that it would not be an abuse of a discretion for a trial judge to conclude that the crack/powder disparity resulted in a longer-than-necessary sentence for a particular defendant.

In the other case, the court found that a trial judge was within his rights to impose a light sentence on a man briefly involved in selling the drug Ecstasy while in college. In reviewing sentences, wrote Justice John Paul Stevens for the majority, appellate courts must apply a deferential abuse-of-discretion standard to trial judges' decisions.

There is a danger that the new procedures outlined by the court could end up making federal sentences unfairly disparate across the country, undermining one of the important objectives of having sentencing guidelines in the first place. If that happens, Congress will have to address the problem. For

the moment, the Supreme Court's latest adjustment in sentencing strikes us as a positive development, one with much potential for advancing justice.

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YOUTH VIOLENCE

**HON. GRACE F. NAPOLITANO**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 13, 2007*

Mrs. NAPOLITANO. Madam Speaker, we have had an erosion of our family values and have neglected to help families whose children have dysfunctional lives at home and become prey to gangs and drugs. Our lifestyles have changed so dramatically that now when you pick up a newspaper, you only find details of shootings, homicides, murders, scandals and such. What happened to people doing good deeds? We have come to glorify gangsters on television and in music, and crime has become the new religion to be followed as a lifestyle.

Gone are the dreams of becoming a fireman, a doctor, or of finding a decent job to earn sufficient money to take care of oneself and one's family. Instead our cities' poorest areas attract those who recruit youngsters with dreams of quick and easy money. We must work together to reverse this dangerous trend. Our education system is so overloaded, and overcrowded classrooms do not allow teachers to assist needy students. Businesses need to become part of the solution by mentoring or sponsoring youngsters who need to be trained in the world of work and earning honest dollars. Local elected officials must work with school districts to establish after school programs for latchkey kids and solicit volunteers to help tutor those in need of help.

Sometimes the word is "we need more money." If you believe this is the only solution, we have a problem. Millions upon millions have been infused in programs to deal with solving the gang and drug issue. We have not gained much ground. Yes, we do need funding. But what we need more is to awaken to the realization that we are all responsible for finding a solution, and start working on what that solution is.

Drugs have permeated our society for decades. We have a war on drugs where again we have spent great quantities of money. We have also had red ribbon week. While it reminded us of some of the dangers of using illegal drugs, it went by the wayside in many areas. And to this day we find addiction to be a major problem, not only to prescription drugs, but to what are known as recreational drugs. Cost to society is immeasurable, when you quantify all that involves one human being's life: work, family, economy, hospitalization, and law enforcement, just to name a few possibilities.

So we are left asking, "what do we do?" We must all reckon with our own view and again determine that we are all a part of this solution. We must work together to find common-sense solutions to get our youth back on track and help them become productive members of our society.

HONORING A TRUE PATRIOT  
HARRY E. MCKILLOP

**HON. RALPH M. HALL**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 13, 2007*

Mr. HALL of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to join the President and the Department of Defense in honoring Harry E. McKillop of McKinney, Texas, for more than 40 years of unselfish service to Americans in need around the world. For his humanitarianism and patriotic service, Mr. McKillop was awarded the Secretary of Defense Medal for Exceptional Public Service. This is one of the most prestigious awards given to a civilian by the Department of Defense.

In 1969, Mr. McKillop embarked upon his first humanitarian mission to provide supplies and relief to our prisoners of war in Vietnam. This first mission would be the beginning of a life-long crusade to locate, free, and bring home Americans who are held against their will. The most well-known operation was probably the 1979 rescue of 2 Electronic Data Systems employees from Iran in the wake of that country's revolution. Mr. McKillop coordinated flights and logistics for the mission later immortalized by Ken Follet in his best-seller *On Wings of Eagles*. Even today, Mr. McKillop actively pursues searches on a global basis.

Mr. McKillop served his country as a naval officer aboard the USS *Phoenix* in the Pacific during World War II. Professionally, he has worked throughout the world as an airline executive. Currently he works as an aide to Ross Perot, his closest friend and an associate for more than 35 years. I am honored to have Harry, his wife Rebecca, and his 2 beautiful daughters, Mary and Tory, as personal friends. Rebecca is a long-time American Airlines pilot, with international assignments. They are a great American family.

Mr. McKillop is a long-time member of the Knights of Columbus, and is a former Grand Knight of the New World Council 9903 in McKinney, and a member of the 4th Degree Assembly 2266 in Plano, Texas. Soon children in the Fourth Congressional District will be attending Harry McKillop Elementary School in the Liberty development in Melissa, Texas. He has also been honored by the McKinney Fire Department as an Honorary Battalion Chief.

Madam Speaker, I ask you to join me today in honoring a true patriot and great American, Mr. Harry E. McKillop.

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RECOGNIZING LEILEHUA HIGH SCHOOL'S VARSITY FOOTBALL TEAM, HAWAII HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION DIVISION 1 CHAMPIONS

**HON. MAZIE K. HIRONO**

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 13, 2007*

Ms. HIRONO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the players and coaches of Leilehua High School's varsity football team for their hard work and dedication as they rose to victory to become Hawaii High School Athletic Association, HHSAA, Division 1 Champions.

More than 15,000 fans witnessed the Leilehua Mules' upset of the Saint Louis Crusaders, 20-16 in the HHSAA State Football Championship game held at Aloha Stadium on November 30. The Mules were led by sophomore quarterback Andrew Manley, who threw the dramatic game winning touchdown pass with only 36 seconds left in the game.

The Leilehua Mules of today carry on the proud traditions of past Leilehua football teams. Many still remember that in 1984, Leilehua was the last public high school to defeat an Interscholastic League of Honolulu team in the Hawaii Prep Bowl, the predecessor to the HHSAA State Football Championship. More recently, the Mules were runners-up in the 2004 State Championship.

I would like to thank the following players for giving their all this season and for playing each game with heart: Cheves Aberilla-Ramento, Chase Acohido, Haani Aitaoto, Maunaloa Aitaoto, Kamana Akagi, Tavana Alailima, Chris Atualevao, Marcus Breakfield, Noel Cabato, Raymond Cartwright Kon, Christian Collado, Alex Cruz, Josh Cruz, Micah Cruz, Jaydon Cuesta, Allan DeGuzman-Pacheco, Kaumu Delos Santos, Kaipou DeRego, Peter DeSaulniers, Ryan DeSaulniers, Edieson Dumlao, Blaine Edra, Kalua Ellis, Kawika Fuga, Garrison Garma, Nate Hall, Bradley Iaulualo, Jordan Jenks, Rick Jones, Hoku Kama, Kaipou Kea, Sean Kenington, Art Laurel, Ire Macapagal, Zaire Macapagal, Allan Macam.

Brendan Mahuka, Garrett Maki, Elijah Maraca, Andrew Manley, Melchor Moises, Rico Newman, Kyle Ontiveros, Gerald O'Reilly, Keala Pascua, Bronson Pausa, Genesis Ponce, Josh Quinn, Charles Robinson, Joe Ruane, Alex Ruiz, Stanford Salavea, Sione Sami, Ronald Santos, Jermaine Schuster, Nate Schuster, Seth Shannon, Robert Siavii, Bronson Smithe, Jeremy Suguitan, Joedee Taua, Greg Tialavea, Jiniki Timoteo, Charlie Tuauu, and Alii Tuitoelau.

I would also like to recognize Head Coach Nolan Tokuda and Assistant Coaches Jon Acohido, Tui Alailima, Antonio Brown, Ed Kama, Jake Kawamata, Esmond Kilaulani, Mark Kurisu, Darrin Matsumiya, Jon Morikawa, Len Nakasone, Pat San Nicolas, Burt Souza, Richard Townsend, Al Viloría, and Joe Watts.

Aloha and mahalo for making Wahiawa proud this season and throughout the year.

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HONORING ROB PHIPPS

**HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 13, 2007*

Mr. RADANOVICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Councilman Rob Phipps for his dedicated service to the city of Ceres. Mr. Phipps passed away on December 3, 2007; he was 44 years old. A memorial service was held on Saturday, December 8, 2007.

Councilman Phipps was born and raised in Ceres, CA, and graduated from Ceres High School in 1981. He was a lifelong community member and advocate. He was the general manager of River Oaks Golf Course, a family-owned business, since the 1990s. He was also active in the local junior golf program, River Oaks Junior Golf, Incorporated. Outside

of golf, Mr. Phipps was involved in city government. He was appointed to the Ceres city council in 2001 after serving 2 years on the planning commission. He was elected to the City Council in 2003 and re-elected in November of this year. Councilman Phipps served as vice mayor.

While serving on the council, Councilman Phipps' primary focus was on public safety, economic development and recreational opportunities for children. He was instrumental in the development of Neel and Sam Ryno neighborhood parks, the Costa Field renovations and numerous other City improvement projects. He worked tirelessly to improve the quality of life for Ceres' residents and was heavily involved in a plan to develop land within the city to recruit higher-paying jobs. He served on a number of committees including the Planning Commission, Christmas Festival Committee, City-Schools Committee, Daniel Whitmore Home Restoration Committee, General Plan Review Committee, Local Emergency Planning Committee, Volunteer Fire-fighter of Service Qualification Review Committee, Stanislaus-Ceres Redevelopment Commission, Stanislaus Elder Abuse Prevention Alliance and The Alliance Board of Directors. He was a passionate advocate for the City of Ceres.

Madam Speaker, I rise today to posthumously honor Councilman Rob Phipps for his impact on the city of Ceres and those that live there. I invite my colleagues to join me in honoring his life and wishing the best for his family.

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#### HONORING FREDERIC FRICK

#### HON. RON KIND

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 13, 2007*

Mr. KIND. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Frederic Frick, upon his resignation as superintendent of Holmen School District. Fred is a dedicated public servant who has earned the respect and admiration of the teachers, staff, and over 3,000 students under his supervision. His work will be greatly missed.

In his 18 years as superintendent, Fred has made significant improvements in a rapidly expanding community. To accommodate the several new families moving into the area and to ensure each child had access to a quality education, Fred was responsible for the construction of a new elementary school, high school, and district administrative office. In addition, Fred successfully tended to the daily needs of his students, teachers, and parents and in 1998 was named Superintendent of the Year by the Wisconsin Association of School District Administrators.

Although Fred is retiring from his current position, he will remain a visible presence in the lives of students and teachers in the Holmen community. His advocacy, dedication, and leadership will leave a lasting legacy, and the area will continue to benefit from all that he has accomplished. On behalf of the students and staff, I would like to thank Fred for his many years of tireless service and for making students his top priority. I wish Fred a long and very happy retirement.

RECOGNIZING SARA CRUMP FOR THE 2007 MILKEN FAMILY FOUNDATION NATIONAL EDUCATOR AWARD

#### HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 13, 2007*

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Sara Crump, of Blue Springs, Missouri. Sara Crump is the recipient of the 2007 Milken Family Foundation National Educator Award.

This prestigious award demonstrates Sara's commitment to academic excellence. She displays exemplary leadership, and continues to inspire and motivate her colleagues and students beyond the classroom. Sara's excellent work ethic and character show why she was selected for this esteemed award that is often referred to as "the Oscar of Teaching" according to Teacher Magazine.

Sara graduated from the University of Missouri-Columbia with a bachelor of arts in English, and has earned her masters degree from the University of Missouri-Kansas City. She now teaches advanced placement English courses at Blue Springs High School through UMKC. Recently, Sara has also received the Cornerstone of Education Award, which is the most prominent award offered to educators in the Blue Springs School District.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in honoring Sara Crump, whose dedication and service to her students and community have been truly inspirational. It is an honor to represent her in the United States Congress.

RECOGNIZING THE TENTH ANNIVERSARY OF DOW JONES INDEXES

#### HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 13, 2007*

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the tenth anniversary of Dow Jones Indexes, which will be celebrated on December 14, 2007, in New York City.

Our good friend and former colleague, Guy Vander Jagt, who we lost this year, was proudly associated with Dow Jones and Company for much of his professional career, and I know that if he was still with us he would be joining in this anniversary celebration.

For over a century the name of the Dow Jones & Company has been linked with integrity and business investment in America. Much like other words that have entered the America lexicon in everyday use, "Dow Jones" means stocks and their value on Wall Street to virtually every American. It is remarkable that the Dow Jones Industrial Average is the oldest continuing stock market index in the world. However, over the past 10 years of serving the American people, Dow Jones Indexes has grown far beyond just the time-honored Dow Jones Industrial Average to become a leading authority in the global financial markets, researching, launching and supporting a staggering 130,000 indexes, tracking equity markets and other asset classes around the globe.

For example, The Dow Jones Wilshire Indexes are benchmarks for the entire institutional investing community—affecting the retirement plans of Americans across the land. The Dow Jones-AIG Commodity Indexes and the Dow Jones Sustainability Indexes are just two more examples of more specialized Dow Jones indexes that have changed the way the world views these markets. Through expansion and innovation in financial markets, the Dow Jones Indexes have continued to serve as a linchpin of the American financial industry. Indeed, across America and around the world their innovations have changed the very landscape of investing and the financial community. Today, over \$2.1 trillion of assets—from millions of investors worldwide—are linked to indexes published by Dow Jones Indexes and STOXX, its joint venture in Europe that is co-owned with Deutsche Borse and the Swiss Exchange, SWX.

Through its growth, Dow Jones Indexes has helped to build awareness and drive the adoption of index-based products as an important investment category, a trend that is widely viewed to benefit investors by offering them diversified, transparent and low-cost investment alternatives. The indexes additionally offer investors tools with which they can appropriately evaluate their portfolio's performance, no matter what its composition.

It is with this background that I wish to recognize the Tenth Anniversary of Dow Jones Indexes and their service to the American people. I would like to recognize John A. Prestbo, one of the first recipients of the William F. Sharpe Indexing Lifetime Achievement Award, which recognizes the most accomplished innovators and practitioners in the indexing industry. He was awarded this prestigious honor for serving as the long time Editor and now Executive Director of the Indexes group within Dow Jones. Along with the stewardship of Michael Petronella, the group president and over 200 dedicated employees, they continue to innovate and grow and strengthen the vast family of Dow Jones Indexes, and with that growth they have helped to serve, enhance, and protect the dreams of millions upon millions of Americans who are planning their own financial futures.

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HONORING THE LIFE AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF NORINE SCHUHMAN

#### HON. RALPH M. HALL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 13, 2007*

Mr. HALL of Texas. Madam Speaker, it is my great privilege to stand today to celebrate the life of Norine Schuhmann, a lifelong resident of Bloomburg, Texas. Mrs. Schuhmann died recently at the age of 97, having lived all but one year of her life in Bloomburg, a town her family pioneered.

Mrs. Schuhmann, a bona fide example of a servant leader, gave of her talents and time selflessly. For 45 years she taught in public schools, all but one of those years in her home of Bloomburg. She also helped establish and organize the Cullen Baker Fair in Bloomburg, where she served as a board member until her mid-eighties.

Throughout her 97 years, Mrs. Schuhmann was a dedicated member of the community.

Her civic commitment was evidenced by the many community organizations in which she was involved. For 40 years Mrs. Schuhmann taught Sunday school at the First Baptist Church in Bloomburg. She was a member of the Daughters of the American Revolution, Delta Kappa Gamma sorority and the Order of the Eastern Star. In 1997 Mrs. Schuhmann was recognized by the Atlanta Area Chamber of Commerce as Woman of the Year for her extraordinary commitment to her community.

Madam Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to honor the life, accomplishments and memory of Mrs. Norine Schuhmann. With her passing, east Texas loses a pioneer, a profound educator, and a wonderful mother. Her contributions will be greatly missed throughout Cass County, but her kindness and service will not be forgotten.

RECOGNIZING ADAM D. HATHHORN  
FOR ACHIEVING THE RANK OF  
EAGLE SCOUT

**HON. SAM GRAVES**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 13, 2007

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Adam D. Hathhorn, a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Adam has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Adam has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Adam D. Hathhorn for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. LOIS CAPPS**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 13, 2007

Mrs. CAPPS. Madam Speaker, I was not able to be present for the following rollcall vote on December 12, 2007. Had I been present, I would have voted as follows:

Rollcall No. 1155: "yea".

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. TOM COLE**

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 13, 2007

Mr. COLE of Oklahoma. Madam Speaker, on Wednesday December 5, 2007 and Thursday, December 6, 2007, I was unavoidably detained due to a prior obligation. That prior obligation was to join hundreds of Oklahomans for the dedication of the USS *Oklahoma* Memorial at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii. On December 7th,

1941, the Japanese attack led to the death of 429 sailors and Marines stationed on the USS *Oklahoma* on that Sunday morning. I was proud to gather with survivors and the loved ones of the deceased servicemen to dedicate a memorial in their honor. I am proud to have worked towards the authorization of the creation of this memorial in the 2006 National Defense Authorization Act. Because of my presence at the ceremony, I would like to make it clear how I would have voted if I had been present in the House.

Madam Speaker, had I been present and voting, I would have voted as follows:

(1) Rollcall vote No. 1131: "yea" (On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass, as Amended H.R. 3791, the Securing Adolescents From Exploitation-Online Act.)

(2) Rollcall vote No. 1132: "yea" (On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass, as Amended H.R. 2517, the Protecting Our Children Comes First Act.)

(3) Rollcall vote No. 1133: "yea" (On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Agree, as Amended H. Res. 822, Recognizing the 100th anniversary year of the founding of the Port of Los Angeles.)

(4) Rollcall vote No. 1134: "nay" (Consideration of H. Res. 846, Providing for the consideration of the Senate amendments to the bill (H.R. 6), Creating Long-Term Energy Alternatives for the Nation Act.)

(5) Rollcall vote No. 1135: "yea" (On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass H.R. 3505, the Securities Law Technical Corrections Act.)

(6) Rollcall vote No. 1136: "nay" (On Ordering the Previous Question H. Res. 846, Providing for the consideration of the Senate amendments to the bill (H.R. 6), Creating Long-Term Energy Alternatives for the Nation Act.)

(7) Rollcall vote No. 1137: "nay" (On Agreeing to the Resolution H. Res. 846, Providing for the consideration of the Senate amendments to the bill (H.R. 6), Creating Long-Term Energy Alternatives for the Nation Act.)

(8) Rollcall vote No. 1138: "yea" (On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass H.R. 4253, the Military Reservist and Veteran Small Business Reauthorization and Opportunity Act.)

(9) Rollcall vote No. 1140: "nay" (On Agreeing to the Senate Amendments with Amendments to H.R. 6, the Creating Long-Term Energy Alternatives for the Nation Act.)

(10) Rollcall vote No. 1141: "yea" (On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass H.R. 2085, the McGee Creek Project Pipeline and Associated Facilities Conveyance Act.)

VETERANS FOOD DRIVE TRIBUTE

**HON. BART STUPAK**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 13, 2007

Mr. STUPAK. Madam Speaker, with the holiday season upon us, it is more important than ever that all of us take a moment to honor the service and sacrifice of our brave men and women deployed abroad. With that in mind, I ask that all of my colleagues join me in celebrating the 20th anniversary of the Veterans Food Drive in Delta County, Michigan.

The Veterans Food Drive has provided holiday food baskets to local veterans, their families, and widows over the last two decades.

Gary Bjorkquist first undertook this generous project in 1987 when he served as a Local Veterans Employment Representative. He was joined in this venture by his friend Richard Kryza, then a Disabled Veterans Outreach Worker for the State of Michigan.

As veterans outreach workers, these two distinguished men saw that some local veterans needed additional help during the holiday season to make ends meet. Seeing some veterans struggle, Mr. Bjorkquist and Mr. Kryza organized a Veterans Food Drive.

As Gary Bjorkquist explains it, the Veterans Food Drive is not charity it simply provides veterans with a helping hand "from one friend to another." This program embodies the spirit of the holiday season: giving your time and resources to those who are in need.

My district is home to more veterans than any other Congressional District in Michigan. As such, the annual Veterans Food Drive has been very important to many of my constituents in Delta County.

During the first year of the food drive, Mr. Bjorkquist hoped to distribute 50 holiday food baskets. Not surprisingly, the first Veterans Food Drive reached that goal. As the years have passed, the Veterans Food Drive now distributes more than 100 baskets a year.

The generosity of local community members who provide cash donations for the holiday food baskets make the Veterans Food Drive a reality. Gary Bjorkquist collects donations all year round from employers, organizations, and community members. Some have given every year! Local veterans' organizations, including the Disabled American Veterans of Delta County, the American Legion of Rapid River, and the Vietnam Veterans Chapter 571, have been very supportive of the Veterans Food Drive.

Each year, Elmer's County Market in Escanaba arranges the holiday baskets. These baskets include enough food for a family of four to have two complete meals during the holiday season.

Something that started as a small gesture for our veterans has now turned into a community affair. Every year, more volunteers come out to help their fellow neighbors and join those who have been making deliveries since 1987. I had the pleasure of taking part in the Veterans Food Drive last year. If I have a break in the Congressional schedule, I will join in delivering veteran holiday food baskets again this year!

Gary Bjorkquist works diligently to ensure that as many veterans and families as possible are given a food basket through the Veterans Food Drive. If a veteran is already receiving a holiday basket from a different organization, the food basket is saved for another veteran in need.

Any remaining baskets are given to families in the community who are in need of help, through the local Salvation Army and Society of St. Vincent DePaul. And if there are left-over donations, they too go right back into the community. Last year, Mr. Bjorkquist gave donations to the Society of St. Vincent DePaul councils in Gladstone and Escanaba as well as the Menominee-Delta-Schoolcraft Community Action Agency's Walk for Warmth program.

In honor of the 20th anniversary, many of the volunteers who participated in the first Veteran Food Drive will be back in Escanaba to help Gary Bjorkquist mark this tremendous

achievement. Mr. Kryza, who is now the Michigan State Veterans Director, will also be on hand to celebrate this occasion and spread the holiday cheer.

I would like to recognize Gary Bjorkquist for his vision and his tenacity in keeping the Veterans Food Drive alive and running all these years. As old and new volunteers gather on December 14, 2007 for the 20th anniversary Veteran Food Drive, I salute the great number of individuals who volunteer their time going door to door with holiday baskets in hand as well as those who have graciously donated to the Veterans Food Drive each year.

The duty, honor, and commitment these volunteers show to those who have sacrificed for our country are just a few of the values that make this Veterans Food Drive special.

Madam Speaker, as we honor our brave fighting men and women serving around the world and especially in Iraq and Afghanistan this holiday season, it is important that we care for their families. In that spirit, for 20 years, the Veterans Food Drive has truly provided a helping hand to those who have served our country. Given the unique spirit of volunteerism and community service exhibited by Gary Bjorkquist and the local community, I know we can expect the Veterans Food Drive to be serving today's soldiers, when they are tomorrow's veterans, 20 years from now.

Madam Speaker, I close by asking that you and the U.S. House of Representatives join me in paying tribute to the Veterans Food Drive, Gary Bjorkquist, and all the volunteers and contributors who are truly serving those who have served all of us. In this time of conflict, it is more vital than ever that we retain those values of volunteerism, duty, honor, and commitment—values that the Veterans Food Drive truly exemplifies.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. RANDY NEUGEBAUER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 13, 2007*

Mr. NEUGEBAUER. Madam Speaker, due to official business in my district, I missed rollcall votes 1145 through 1155 on Wednesday, December 12, 2007.

Had I been present, I would have voted "nay" on rollcall vote 1145.

On rollcall vote 1146, I would have voted "nay."

On rollcall vote 1147, I would have voted "nay."

On rollcall vote 1148, I would have voted "nay."

On rollcall vote 1149, I would have voted "aye."

On rollcall vote 1150, I would have voted "nay."

On rollcall vote 1151, I would have voted "aye."

On rollcall vote 1152, I would have voted "nay."

On rollcall vote 1153, I would have voted "nay."

On rollcall vote 1154, I would have voted "nay."

On rollcall vote 1155, I would have voted "aye."

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. LORETTA SANCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 13, 2007*

Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California. Madam Speaker, on Wednesday, December 12, 2007, I inadvertently missed two votes. Had I been present and voting, I would have voted as follows:

(1) Rollcall No. 1154: "yea." On motion to postpone consideration of the veto message.

(2) Rollcall No. 1155: "yea." On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass.

#### ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE ACCESS AND IMPLEMENTATION ACT OF 2007

### HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 13, 2007*

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Environmental Justice Access and Implementation Act of 2007. I am pleased to stand with my friends Representatives Hilda Solis, Keith Ellison and John Conyers for the environmental health of all communities by reintroducing this legislation updated from its previous introduction as H.R. 1648 in the 109th Congress. Once again, this bill will seek to direct federal agencies to establish offices of environmental justice, integrate environmental justice into the core missions of Federal agencies, and establish community technology centers to increase access to information about environmental hazards.

Since the late 1970s and early 1980s, environmental injustices against communities of color and lower-income families have been identified throughout the Nation. Coupled with decades of thorough research acknowledging "environmental racism" and encouraging the pursuit of "environmental justice," a tremendous movement has emerged.

Recently, the United Church of Christ report "Toxic Wastes and Race at Twenty: 1987–2007" was released, synthesizing decades of environmental justice movement developments. This groundbreaking document chronicles the experiences of many communities throughout our Nation disadvantaged by environmental burdens. This report and other research demonstrate that federal agencies need to put their money where their mouth is to meet the expectations of Executive Order 12898, Federal Actions to Address Environmental Justice in Minority Populations and Low Income Populations, which was signed by former President Clinton on February 11, 1994. Our communities deserve access to information about the hazards of their immediate environment and have waited well over a decade for the goals set forth by the Executive Order to be met.

Madam Speaker, I first introduced this legislation with a number of my colleagues in 2005 and eventually garnered the support of 67 co-sponsors. To once again meet these goals and better compliment other legislative initiatives to achieve environmental justice, I have made a few key updates to this legislation in consultation with many stakeholders. Updates

to this legislation include authorization of \$1,000,000 annually for each established office of environmental justice in relevant agencies, as well as reporting requirements to increase the effectiveness of federal agency implementation and ensure proper Congressional oversight. This legislation has also been updated to refine criteria for the development of community technology centers, which will increase the accessibility of information about environmental hazards in many communities.

For over a decade, agencies have been mandated to examine the impact of their policies on the environmental health of minority and low-income communities. Once we give those mandates true legal standing, we will be able to turn those mandates into action that directly serves our communities. We must legislate accountability and conscience in our permitting processes and environmental action to reduce the burden on low-income populations and communities of color. I am confident that the provisions of the Environmental Justice Access and Implementation Act will do just that.

Madam Speaker, in closing, I encourage my colleagues to support this necessary legislation and look forward to its expedient passage.

#### DENIEL BENAC RETIREMENT TRIBUTE

### HON. BART STUPAK

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 13, 2007*

Mr. STUPAK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay special tribute to a man who is a long-time activist in labor, politics, and community service in Northern Michigan. With that in mind, I ask that all of my colleagues join me in celebrating the retirement of Daniel A. Benac of Montmorency County, Michigan. Dan Benac will retire on January 4, 2008 after a distinguished career in the United States Army, at General Motors, and as an advocate for his fellow workers and veterans.

Dan Benac was born in Alpena, Michigan on June 8, 1922, as one of twelve children of George and Rose Benac. Nearly 65 years ago he married Geraldine on February 9, 1943 and the couple raised three children: Charlotte, Carolyn, and David. Dan and Geraldine have eight grandchildren and fourteen great-grandchildren.

Dan Benac served in the U.S. Army's 103rd Infantry Division from 1942 until receiving an honorable medical discharge. After serving his country, he then began his career as a skilled tradesman at Besser Manufacturing in Alpena.

Dan then worked at a small manufacturing plant in Walled Lake, Michigan before taking a position with Pontiac Motors in 1948. He tried his hand as an entrepreneur in 1955, when he started and operated two gas stations. During the time he ran these businesses he began an apprenticeship as an electrician and earned the status of a journeyman electrician in 1962.

In 1969, Dan Benac took his skills to Warren, Michigan, where he worked at General Motors' Chevrolet plant. He began his union career in 1948 when he joined the United Auto Workers. While at the Chevrolet plant, Dan accepted the position as a UAW committeeman.

In 1974 Dan Benac took a medical retirement from General Motors, but as with so

many union brothers and sisters, Dan continued his work with the union. In addition to his membership in the UAW, he also joined the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers in 1956.

In 1983 Dan was named chairman of the UAW Retirees for the Alpena International Council. As chairman, he organized presentations on a monthly basis for his fellow retirees that ranged from elected officials to speeches about prescription drugs and Medicare.

Dan was later named chairman of the UAW Region 1-D retirees, serving members from sixty-two counties. He was also a board member of the UAW statewide coordinating committee for the Democratic Party.

In addition to his union activities, Dan Benac was instrumental in forming the Montmorency County Democratic Party, and served as chairman for many years. While he is no longer chairman, he remains active in the Party.

Dan Benac was a board member of the National Council for Senior Citizens and was nominated Senior of the Year in Region 4 in 1995 and 2003. He is also a member of other organizations including the Shrine Club, Disabled American Veterans, American Legion, and Masons. He was also chairman of the Michigan Veterans Trust Fund for Montmorency County.

Madam Speaker, Dan Benac's activities are amazing for a person of any age but as an eight-five year old his many activities are exceptionally admirable. Dan and Geraldine have been great assets to their family, their fellow workers, and their community, as well as good friends of mine. On January 4, 2008, family and friends will gather for a well deserved and final retirement party for Daniel Benac at the Addison Oaks Conference Center in Leonard, Michigan.

Today, as Dan prepares to enter a well deserved retirement, I offer him, his wife Geraldine, his three children, eight grandchildren and fourteen great-grandchildren all the best for the future. I would ask, Madam Speaker, that you and the entire U.S. House of Representatives join me in thanking Dan Benac for his service to the Montmorency community and commending him for the many years he has spent his life in service to others.

A TRIBUTE TO JOHN EDWARD  
HUTCHINSON

**HON. TIM MURPHY**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 13, 2007*

Mr. TIM MURPHY of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the career of John Edward "Hutch" Hutchinson. Hutch has served as the Greensburg Fire Chief in Greensburg, Pennsylvania, for the past 55 years.

The position of fire chief in Greensburg is an elected office. Since 1952, the residents of the community have resoundingly affirmed they appreciate Hutch's dedication to the job by reelecting him.

Since taking office, Hutch has made countless improvements to the department. His firefighters are all volunteers, highly trained and specialized. Hutch has developed a dive team,

a swift water rescue, large foam and vent operations, a bloodhound team, and an air rescue team.

In 1997, the Greensburg Fire Department First Responders were prepared to handle a large community disaster, including attacks involving weapons of mass destruction. Few in 1997 could have seen the value in this forward-thinking for a volunteer department, yet it is essential knowledge for all firefighters today.

Under Hutch's leadership, the Greensburg Fire Department has assisted with natural disaster response nationwide. From helping rebuild a community playground in Alabama to clearing trees off roads in South Carolina, Hutch has turned the Greensburg Fire Department into a humanitarian outlet.

Hutch takes his job beyond the walls of the firehouse into the community. He established health and fitness centers for the community, firefighters, and City employees.

Hutch has developed burn prevention classes for the local elementary and middle schools. He has served on the local hospital board, the Greensburg YMCA Board, the aerobics center board, and the camp cadet board.

Though he's been in office for 55 years, Hutch has no interest in slowing down. He calls himself "a young kid"—and isn't that a wonderful attitude? Hutch refuses to let his age be a factor. He works out twice a day, 7 days a week, to ensure that he's not asking his firefighters to do anything he can't do himself.

It is my great honor to recognize the long career of John Edward "Hutch" Hutchinson, a man who has given immeasurable amounts to the city of Greensburg, to Pennsylvania, and to our nation during his five and a half decades of service as fire chief.

INTRODUCING THE CANCER AND  
TERMINAL ILLNESS PATIENT  
HEALTH CARE ACT

**HON. RON PAUL**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 13, 2007*

Mr. PAUL. Madam Speaker, I rise to help working Americans stricken with cancer or other terminal illnesses, and their families, by introducing the Cancer and Terminal Illness Patient Health Care Act. This act exempts people with terminal illnesses from the employee portion of payroll taxes while they are suffering from such illnesses or are incurring significant medical costs associated with their conditions. The Cancer and Terminal Illness Patient Health Care Act also provides a payroll deduction to any worker who is the primary caregiver for a spouse, parent, or child with a terminal illness.

When stricken with cancer or another terminal disease, many Americans struggle to pay for the treatment necessary to save, or extend, their lives. Even employees with health insurance incur costs such as for transportation to and from care centers, prescription drugs not covered by their insurance, or for child care while they are receiving treatment. Yet, the Federal Government continues to force these employees to pay for retirement benefits they may never live to see!

Many Americans struggle to pay the costs of treating children, a spouse, or a parent with

a terminal illness. My bill also provides much needed tax relief for those who are providing care to a loved one with a terminal disease.

As a physician who has specialized in women's health issues for decades, I know how critical it is that cancer patients and others suffering from terminal illnesses have the resources they need to combat these illnesses. The Cancer and Terminal Illness Patient Health Care Act provides a realistic way to help people suffering from cancer or other terminal illnesses receive quality health care.

It is hard to think of a more compassionate tax policy this Congress could enact than to stop taking the resources away from working Americans that could help them treat cancer, AIDS, or other terrible health problems. I hope all my colleagues will help people suffering from terminal illnesses, and their caregivers, by cosponsoring the Cancer and Terminal Illness Patient Health Care Act.

HONORING THE LIFE OF PATSY  
SANDERS

**HON. DAVID DAVIS**

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 13, 2007*

Mr. DAVID DAVIS of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory and life of Patsy Marie Fitzgerald Sanders, a resident of the First Congressional District of Tennessee, who passed away December 12, 2007.

Patsy Sanders was a foundation to her family and our thoughts and prayers are with her husband of 52 years, Joe, and their daughters Jolene, Arlene, Darlene, and son Jacky.

As a lifetime member of Hales Chapel Christian Church, Patsy showed the love for her family and community that would shine to all who met her.

She was also a member of the Washington County Commission. As a Commissioner, she had a reputation of fairness and concern for the advancement of her county.

Madam Speaker, I ask that the House join me this evening in offering our sympathies to the family and friends of Patsy Marie Fitzgerald Sanders. She was a dedicated mother and an irreplaceable servant of her community.

Her service is greatly appreciated, and she will be deeply missed throughout Northeast Tennessee.

A TRIBUTE TO THE LIFE OF ALICE  
KATHERINE MATTOS SANDERS

**HON. JIM COSTA**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 13, 2007*

Mr. COSTA. Madam Speaker, I rise along with my colleague from California, Congressman DENNIS CARDOZA to pay tribute to the life of Alice Katherine Mattos Sanders of Merced, CA, who recently passed away at 110 years of age. Mrs. Sanders was an outstanding lady filled with energy, love and high spirits. She leaves behind a loving family including a daughter-in-law, six grandchildren, fourteen great-grandchildren and twelve great-great-grandchildren.

A strong matriarch born in 1897, Alice immigrated to America from San Jorge Island in the Azores in 1903 with her mother and brothers to join her father. Samuel Mattos, Alice's father, was already in America working and saving money for the family's travels. The Mattos family first settled in the San Francisco Bay Area, where Alice and her family experienced the legendary 1906 San Francisco earthquake. Soon after, the Mattos family decided to make their home in California's Central Valley in the lovely communities of Dos Palos and then Gustine in Merced County. It was in Gustine where Mrs. Sanders attended high school and met her future husband Clarence Leonard Sanders. They married in 1913 and moved to the State of Oregon soon after following a job offer made to her husband.

After a few years living in Oregon, the couple and their two children, Isabel and Marvin, returned to the Central Valley and settled in Atwater, California in 1922. The family became entrepreneurs in 1947 when they bought a farm and began operating a dairy and almond orchard. Alice worked as a seamstress for many years for a local company called Passadori's and it was during these times she befriended many people in the community who still remember her today.

A woman described as kindhearted and courageous, Alice took pride in raising her children well and doing what she could to make sure her family's needs were met. In 1963, Alice and her husband Clarence celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary. A year later, Alice would become a widow and still continue on as a strong, independent woman with many years to live ahead of her. As one of the world's oldest Portuguese women, Alice will be remembered for her formidable spirit and splendid character.

Alice Sanders was part of a generation that endured incredible hardships to get to America and build a life for themselves and their families. Mrs. Sanders will be remembered for her commitment to her family and community and the lives she so graciously touched. She saw three centuries and a world full of change; she is a true inspiration to us all. I am honored and humbled to join her family in celebrating the life of an amazing woman.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. NEIL ABERCROMBIE

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 13, 2007*

Mr. ABERCROMBIE. Madam Speaker, I regret that I was unable to record my vote on rollcall No. 1155. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

#### TRIBUTE TO JOHN FISHELL FOR 35 YEARS OF DEDICATED SERVICE TO THE UNITED STATES NAVY

### HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 13, 2007*

Mr. CALVERT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to an individual whose dedication and contributions to his

community, the United States Navy and our country has been exceptional. The Naval Surface Warfare Center located in Corona, California has been fortunate to have dynamic and dedicated leaders and John Fishell is one of these individuals. I am sorry that I will not be able to attend his retirement ceremony which will be held on Tuesday, December 18, 2007.

John began his career at Corona in 1972 as a Missile Flight Analyst, soon after graduating with a Bachelor of Science degree in Electrical Engineering from the University of Texas, El Paso. His early career involved traveling the globe analyzing missile tests for the Navy. John was the on-board missile analyst for the first 22 missile tests on the USS *Norton Sound* (AVM-1), the development test ship for today's state-of-the-art Aegis combat system. Thirty-five years later, this missile system is America's mainstay defense system on the Fleet of Aegis Destroyers and Cruisers. In addition to being a missile flight analyst, various groups that John led early in his career developed several of the foundational databases and analysis software the Navy uses to assess its combat and weapon systems today.

As Associate Head of the Measurement Science Directorate in 1993, John was appointed to coordinate all 1995 Base Re-alignment and Closure (BRAC) efforts at Corona. From 1993–1995, he led the team that made the case for Corona's military value to the Navy. John and his team were successful in articulating Corona's military value and why its function needed to remain in Norco in order to maintain its value to the Navy. The Navy recognized John's leadership during the BRAC process and awarded him the Navy Award of Merit for Group Achievement.

Following several leadership roles at Corona, John was promoted to Head of the Measurement Science Directorate in August 1995. As director of the Navy's top metrology calibration directorate, he worked to significantly increase the metrology research and development program funding. He served as MS director until his promotion to Corona's top technical director position in January 2002.

During John's tenure as technical director, he has overseen significant facilities improvements at Corona. In 2002, the Measurement Science and Technology Laboratory (MSTL)—a 39,000 sq. ft. environmental laboratory—was completed. The MSTL is a top facility that supports Navy and Marine Corps weapons and interface gages, force and dimensional calibration standards, and electro-optics research and development. In 2008, Corona will complete the \$11.5 million extension of the Joint Warfare Assessment Laboratory, one of the Navy's premiere analysis labs. This 39,000 square-foot expansion significantly increases the secure analysis workspace to 87,000 square feet and will aid the base's primary mission: Assessing the warfighting capability of ships, aircraft, missiles, and weapons systems for the Navy and other Armed Forces. John has also overseen planning for three additional labs in the future, as part of a long-term plan to enhance Corona's facilities.

In addition to Corona's facilities, John has led many institutional transformations that have helped Corona meet today's demand for its technical services, while positioning the organization to meet future requirements. In 2004, John guided Corona's growth from four departments to six, resulting in cost savings to the Navy and better alignment of technical capabilities for naval programs.

John has been instrumental in creating long-term professional development programs at Corona that will strengthen the organization for years to come. Under his direction, Corona embedded a systemic Employee Development Program to institutionalize professional development for future generations of Corona employees. These efforts were recognized by the University of the Notre Dame Mendoza College of Business' highest recognition, The Outstanding Leadership in Executive Education Award. The development program has also received international acclaim as a case study for its proactive and innovative approach to managing leadership development, career, and succession planning. During John's time as the senior civilian, Corona has also been recognized as one of the Top Companies to Work For in the Inland Empire.

In addition to strengthening Corona's workforce, John has been a strong proponent of being active in professional organizations. He served as Measurement Science Conference President and in various liaison positions for National Conference of Standards Laboratories International. He was also a founding member of the Inland Empire Chapter of the American Society of Naval Engineers and its Chairman from 1995–96. From 2001–2003, he served on the National Cooperation for Laboratory Accreditation Board of Directors and has served as the Science and Technology Education Partnership (STEP) Conference Co-chairman since 2001 and STEP's Vice President of Operations since 2003.

I've known John for many years and am sincerely grateful for all the work he has done for our Nation, our community, NSWC, Corona and for STEP. His absence will be deeply felt in our community. I also congratulate John for receiving the Navy Meritorious Civilian Service Award for exemplary service to the Naval Surface Warfare Center, Corona Division. I commend John for his many years of excellent service and wish him health and happiness in retirement.

IN HONOR OF FIREFIGHTER DAVID  
M. LOVING OF RICHMOND

### HON. ERIC CANTOR

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 13, 2007*

Mr. CANTOR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Firefighter David M. Loving of the Richmond, Virginia Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services and to congratulate him on receiving the National Public Safety Medal of Valor award. This award is the highest national award for bravery by a public safety officer and it recognizes extraordinary valor above and beyond the call of duty.

On August 6, 2005, Firefighter Loving was off-duty and on his way home after completing a 24-hour shift when he came upon the scene of a horrific traffic accident on Interstate 95. A motor home had rear-ended an 18-wheeler parked on the shoulder of the highway. Firefighter Loving stopped to offer assistance and was advised that there were people trapped inside the motor home. As the motor home filled with smoke, Firefighter Loving, without any safety gear, climbed inside the vehicle and was able to untangle the victim and pull him to safety. Within minutes, the motor home

was engulfed in flames and witnesses stated that the victim would have died prior to the arrival of the first responding emergency unit without Firefighter Loving's heroic actions.

Please join me in congratulating Firefighter David Loving and the four other recipients of the National Public Safety Medal of Valor award this year and in thanking these exceptional public safety officers for their service, dedication, and heroism.

TRIBUTE TO COLONEL H. MICHAEL  
DAVIS

**HON. NANCY E. BOYDA**

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 13, 2007*

Mrs. BOYDA of Kansas. Madam Speaker, I hope the House will join me today to pay tribute to an exceptional patriot and Officer in the United States Army, Colonel H. Michael Davis, upon his retirement from active military service.

Colonel Davis's distinguished career spans over 30 years of service to our great Nation, culminating as Chief of Staff of the Combined Arms Center at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas. A native of South Carolina, he was commissioned Regular Army as an Armor Officer from the University of Tennessee in 1978. He has commanded with distinction at every level from company to regiment including the 2nd Battalion, 69th Armor Regiment, the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment, Blackhorse, and Operations Group, Combat Maneuver Training Center. He has held instrumental staff positions from troop executive officer to the Chief of Staff at the National Training Center and now at the Combined Arms Center.

Colonel Davis has attended several military schools, including the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College, and the Naval War College. He holds a bachelor of science degree in industrial management from the University of Tennessee and a master of arts degree in national security and strategic studies from the Naval War College. He also served as a Professor in the Joint Military Operations Department at the Naval War College from 1997–1999.

In his more than 30 years of service, he has earned the Legion of Merit with one Oak Leaf Cluster, the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, the Meritorious Service Medal with three Oak Leaf Clusters, the Army Commendation Medal with three Oak Leaf Clusters, and the Army Achievement Medal with one Oak Leaf Cluster. He also holds the Parachutist Badge and the Ranger Tab. Upon his retirement, he will be awarded the Distinguished Service Medal.

I ask my colleagues to join me today to thank Colonel Davis, his wife Ann, and his entire family for the commitment, sacrifice and contribution that they have made throughout his honorable military career.

RECOGNIZING WALSH COLLEGE  
AND THE DEDICATION OF THE  
JEFFERY W. BARRY CENTER

**HON. JOE KNOLLENBERG**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 13, 2007*

Mr. KNOLLENBERG. Madam Speaker, I want to recognize Walsh College of Accountancy and Business Administration in Troy, Michigan as they dedicate the newest addition to their campus, the Jeffery W. Barry Center on December 14, 2007.

When Walsh College was founded in 1922, it was a specialized accounting institute that taught 150 students in Detroit. However, it wasn't until 1970, when Walsh's third president, Jeffery W. Barry, took over that the school grew into what we see today. Under Mr. Barry's leadership, Walsh College transformed from a small specialized institute into a business college granting bachelors and masters degrees.

When Mr. Barry stepped down in 1991, Walsh had an enrollment of over 3,300 students. However, since his tenure Walsh's enrollment has continued to grow and today has over 4,500 students with campuses in Troy, Novi, and Clinton Township. In addition, Walsh offers over twenty different bachelors and masters degrees, and certifications.

The culmination of Mr. Barry's vision will be the new Jeffery W. Barry Center which will open for classes in the winter of 2008. The 36,000 square foot, environmentally sustainable Barry Center features an expanded, modern library, an auditorium, and additional classrooms. It is designed to meet the U.S. Green Building Council's Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design ratings for water and energy efficiency, pollution control, recycling, and indoor environmental quality.

Mr. Barry passed away on July 8, 2006, but his spirit lives on. The Barry Center embodies his legacy of educational outreach and excellence, as it doubles the size of Walsh's main campus. In addition, this fall Walsh will be offering its first ever doctoral degree, a Doctor of Management in Executive Leadership.

Madam Speaker, today I commend Walsh College for their continued commitment to Jeffery W. Barry's vision. I wish them luck and prosperity as they dedicate this new edition, and hope for many years of success.

HONORING KENTUCKY'S SPECIAL  
OLYMPICS WOMEN'S BASKET-  
BALL TEAM

**HON. RON LEWIS**

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 13, 2007*

Mr. LEWIS of Kentucky. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Kentucky's Special Olympics Women's Basketball team for capturing the gold medal at the 2007 Special Olympics World Games in Shanghai, China. Members of the team include: Sheila Crowson, Kay Gregory, Crystal Matson, Mary Ann Wilcome, Natalie Williams, Kelly King, Marcie Blandford, Jennifer Hamilton, and Taylor Thompson.

The team qualified to be one of two teams to represent the United States by winning the

2006 Kentucky State Tournament. In preparation for their trip to China, the team joined 400 other athletes in Nashville, Tennessee at a Team USA Training Camp.

In China, the women were joined by almost 7,500 other athletes from around the world competing in 25 different Olympic-type sports. The team started the games with an 0–3 start but their fortunes quickly changed. In the all important medal round, the team went undefeated. Their victories included an upset win over an undefeated Serbian team and their 21–6 victory over Tunisia in the Gold Medal game.

I would like to congratulate the players and their coaches for this impressive achievement, particularly Head Coach Brent Belcher and Assistant Coaches Derek Shadoan and Jennifer Siebold for their hard work and dedication. Also, I would also like to thank the Bowling Green community for their generous support that allowed the team to participate in the Summer Games. The players and coaches raised over \$22,000 from businesses, civic groups, and individuals.

It is my privilege to recognize the Kentucky Special Olympics Women's Basketball team today, before the entire House of Representatives, for winning the Gold Medal at the 2007 Special Olympics World Games. Their hard work and success has made the entire Commonwealth of Kentucky proud.

A RESOLUTION HONORING AND  
SUPPORTING THE HADLEY  
SCHOOL FOR THE BLIND

**HON. MARK STEVEN KIRK**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 13, 2007*

Mr. KIRK. Madam Speaker, today I am pleased to join with Congresswoman SCHAKOWSKY to introduce a resolution honoring and supporting the Hadley School for the Blind.

Dr. William A. Hadley, an Illinois high school teacher, lost his vision at age 55. With the loss of his sight Dr. Hadley believed that he would also lose his greatest joy—teaching. Although he taught himself Braille so he could continue to read, he was frustrated with the lack of educational opportunities for blind individuals.

Dr. Hadley wanted to help others like him gain the skills and knowledge that could lead to independence. In 1920, Dr. Hadley and ophthalmologist Dr. E.V.L. Brown created the Hadley School for the Blind. Today, the Hadley School is the largest single educator of blind persons in the world, reaching 10,000 students annually in all 50 states and in 100 different countries.

The school began with teaching Braille with the innovative use of correspondence courses. While it is still known for its superior Braille curriculum, the school has expanded to offer a high school degree program and adult continuing education classes. In 2008, the School will expand again to include the Hadley School for Professional Studies for professionals who serve those who are blind and visually impaired.

Students from the school have done extraordinary things. Former student Christine Gilson, a blind doctoral candidate and Fulbright scholar from the University of Illinois at

Urbana-Champaign, was the 2007 recipient of the Hadley School for the Blind's President's Service Award for exceptional work in raising awareness of the needs and abilities of blind and visually impaired people. She bridged cultural boundaries by teaching visually impaired Chinese students English language classes online.

I am proud to introduce this resolution that supports an institution that has, for almost 90 years, provided a valuable education for thousands of visually impaired individuals.

**INTRODUCTION OF THE IMPROVING ACCESS TO WORKER'S COMPENSATION FOR INJURED FEDERAL WORKERS ACT**

**HON. PHIL HARE**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 13, 2007*

Mr. HARE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce the "Improving Access to Worker's Compensation for Injured Federal Workers Act." This legislation would ensure that our Federal workers are reimbursed for crucial healthcare and services that they receive.

In many rural areas, Physician Assistants (PAs) and Nurse Practitioners (NPs) are the only full-time healthcare providers. Unfortunately, medical services and supplies provided by PAs and NPs are not covered under the Federal Employees' Compensation Act. As such, claims signed by PAs and NPs are denied by the Department of Labor. In many cases injured workers have to travel long distances to receive care that is reimbursable, or use emergency rooms for non-emergency care.

PAs and NPs are legally regulated in all fifty States, the District of Columbia, and Guam. All fifty States also authorize physicians to delegate prescriptive privileges to the PAs they supervise, and authorize NPs to prescribe medications under their own signature.

The exclusion of PAs and NPs from the category of covered providers under the Federal Employee's Compensation Act limits patients' access to medical care, services, and supplies, as well as disrupts continuity of care, and creates unnecessary costs for the Office of Workers' Compensation Programs.

My bill, the "Improving Access to Worker's Compensation for Injured Federal Workers Act" amends the Federal Employee's Compensation Act to recognize PAs, NPs and several other Advanced Practice Registered Nurses as covered providers. In doing so, Federal law is aligned with the overwhelming majority of State workers' compensation programs, and ensures that injured workers, especially those who live in rural areas, receive the care and treatment they need.

This bill was introduced by former Representative Charles Norwood (R-GA) in the 108th and 109th Congresses and enjoyed broad bipartisan support. It has also been introduced in the Senate by Senators EDWARD KENNEDY (D-MA), SUSAN COLLINS (R-ME) and JOHNNY ISAKSON (R-GA).

I would like to thank the American Academy of Physician Assistants and the American Academy of Nurse Practitioners for their help on this legislation and for their support of the bill. I am also happy that my colleague on the Education and Labor Committee, Congressman MARK SOUDER from Indiana has joined me in supporting this legislation. I look forward to working with him and others to garner addi-

tional bipartisan support so we can quickly move this bill through the House.

I am proud to be involved in this effort to ensure our Federal workers, especially those living in rural America, have access to critical healthcare providers and services. Thank you Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

**COMMEMORATING THE ARMY RESERVE ON ITS 100TH ANNIVERSARY**

**HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 13, 2007*

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today, along with Representatives BUYER, SHIMKUS, TAYLOR, and over 243 original cosponsors, to introduce a resolution to congratulate the United States Army Reserve on its 100th Anniversary, which will be formally celebrated on April 23, 2008.

The resolution also commemorates the contributions of Army Reserve veterans who have helped to ensure that the United States' vital national security interests are protected and defended in times of war and peace.

I am very gratified by the outpouring of bipartisan support that this resolution has received. It is indicative of the high regard and esteem in which the Army Reserve is held among Members of Congress and the American public.

As a former soldier in the Army Reserve, I know the historic and decisive role it played along with the U.S. Army in promoting integration and the cause of individual dignity.

As a current member of the Subcommittee on Defense as well as the Military Construction and Veterans' Affairs Subcommittee of the House Appropriations Committee, I have been extremely impressed by the level of commitment that Army Reserve soldiers bring to their work and to their high degree of professionalism. They truly are "twice the citizen," as Winston Churchill once remarked.

Today, the U.S. Army Reserve is composed of more than 30,000 officers and 150,000 enlisted soldiers. They have an active presence in 1,100 communities across the nation, contributing military values, important job skills, and economic support. They are husbands and wives, fathers and mothers, and sons or daughters. They are our neighbors, our friends and acquaintances, and our colleagues at work. These soldiers can be called up at any time to serve our nation and they must be trained and prepared to respond at a moment's notice.

Here in the U.S. House of Representatives, 24 Members including myself have been privileged to serve as Army Reserve soldiers. In fact, 2 of the lead sponsors of this resolution, Representatives STEVE BUYER of Indiana and JOHN SHIMKUS of Illinois, still serve in the Army Reserve.

As this resolution notes, the role of today's Army Reserve soldier has expanded and changed dramatically since President Theodore Roosevelt first requested that Congress establish a reservoir of trained officers in a reserve status. On April 23, 1908, the Congress responded to the president's request by establishing a permanent reserve corps of trained medical officers. The modest corps represented the humble start of what is today a multi-faceted operational and strategic force.

The duties have since expanded such that they have become an integral component of

any active U.S. Army mission. They have answered the call of duty in World Wars I and II, Korea, Vietnam, the Cold War, Panama, the Gulf War, Somalia, Haiti, Bosnia, and Kosovo. In addition, nearly 25,000 Army Reserve soldiers are currently deployed in Iraq, Afghanistan, and 18 other countries.

Through October 31, 2007, 102 Army Reserve soldiers had borne the ultimate sacrifice while serving in Iraq or Afghanistan. We dedicate this resolution to their memory and to the memory of all the Reserve soldiers who fought and died to defend our nation's freedoms throughout our history.

We dedicate this resolution to our living heroes as well—to those men and women who continue their service to our nation in the U.S. Army Reserve today.

Madam Speaker, I again thank my colleagues who are original cosponsors for their extraordinary support for this resolution. I urge our remaining colleagues to join with us in support of this resolution, which is intended to ensure that the first 100 years of the Army Reserve are appropriately commended and that the second 100 years of the Army Reserve are fittingly commenced.

**CONGRATULATING DR. GEORGE CROZIER ON THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT**

**HON. JO BONNER**

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 13, 2007*

Mr. BONNER. Madam Speaker, it is with great pride and pleasure that I rise to honor the long and distinguished career of Dr. George Crozier on the occasion of his retirement from the Dauphin Island Sea Lab.

For the past 30 years, Dr. Crozier has served as the executive director of the Dauphin Island Sea Lab, Alabama's marine research facility. Serving Alabama's 21 four-year colleges and universities, the Sea Lab has provided Alabama students with the opportunity to study marine creatures and habitats. George has been with the Lab since its inception in the 1970s, helping to build the Sea Lab to national prominence.

In addition to being the director of the Sea Lab, Dr. Crozier is also an associate professor of marine science at the University of South Alabama and an associate professor at the University of Alabama at Birmingham. He serves as a member of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Environmental Advisory Board and administers the Mobile Bay National Estuary Program.

In recognition of his outstanding work in the field of marine science, George Crozier has received numerous awards, including the Walter B. Jones Award for "Coastal Steward of the Year" from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. He was the recipient of the Alabama Academy of Science's Wright A. Gardner Award in 2000. In 2007, George was awarded Mobile United's "Green" Award, or Lifetime Achievement Award. In 1993, he was named "Conservation Educator of the Year" by the Alabama Wildlife Federation, and the Alabama Science Teachers Association named him the 1991 Friend of Science.

Dr. Crozier is an acknowledged expert in the coastal management issues, and as a longtime steward of natural resources, he promoted the creation of Alabama's Forever Wild and currently serves as a board member. He helped to found the Alabama Coastal Area

Management Plan, served as the initial director of Alabama Sea Grant, and served as a member of the board of directors of the Mississippi-Alabama Sea Grant Consortium. In addition, he serves on the board of the Alabama Coastal Foundation, grassroots, inc., Smart Coast, Inc., and Robinson Island Estuary Foundation. George also serves on the board of national advisers for Coastal States Stewardship Foundation, and he is a member of the Urban Land Institute.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing a dedicated community leader and friend to many throughout Alabama. I know his family, his friends, and the many students who have benefited from the Dauphin Island Sea Lab join me in extending thanks for his many years of distinguished service. On behalf of a grateful community and state, I wish him the best in all his future endeavors.

TRIBUTE TO MR. BEN SOLOMON  
FOR HIS OUTSTANDING YEARS  
OF SERVICE

**HON. KENDRICK B. MEEK**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 13, 2007

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Madam Speaker and members of Congress, I rise to ask you to join me in recognizing the excellent service of someone many of the residents of the Longworth Building are familiar with—Mr. Ben Solomon, store manager in the House of Representatives.

For the residents of Longworth, Mr. Solomon was the quiet, unassuming friend who greeted us when we made a pit-stop to the store for an afternoon snack to get us through the rest of the day.

Mr. Solomon and his loyal co-workers, Jason and Veronica, took extra care to stock the store with the favorites of those who frequented the establishment.

I ask you to join me in extending our sincerest gratitude to Mr. Ben Solomon for his first-class service.

We are saying farewell on Friday, December 14, 2007 to a peaceful man, one who has not only dedicated his extraordinary service to us, but to his wife, three children and family members in Ethiopia.

Born on June 16, 1965 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, Mr. Solomon made his journey to the United States of America in 1982 for his quest to study and work to support his family.

Mr. Solomon studied engineering at the District of Columbia and the University of Maryland, College Park.

As one of his regular customers, I am honored to take this time to celebrate Mr. Solomon for his kind spirit and twenty years of dedication to guest services.

One of his employees said it best, when she said that Mr. Solomon will truly be remembered as “A person who gets along with everyone.”

Madam Speaker and members of Congress I congratulate Mr. Ben Solomon for his outstanding service and wish him the best in his future endeavors.

HONORING QUALITY CABINETS/  
MASCO BUILDER CABINET  
GROUP ON OSHA STAR AWARD

**HON. KENNY MARCHANT**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 13, 2007

Mr. MARCHANT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Quality Cabinets/Masco Builder Cabinet Group (MBCG) on earning the prestigious Star Award for the Volunteer Protection Program from the U.S. Department of Labor's Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) for its outstanding safety performance and processes.

Quality Cabinets was founded by Charles Ladd in 1969 with three employees in a 7,500 square foot building in Duncanville, Texas. The company grew to add a location in Kentucky and another Texas facility in Cedar Hill. The Texas locations have a total of 1,259 employees. The company now is based in Adrian, Michigan and is part of the MBCG.

The OSHA Voluntary Protection Program (VPP) encourages employers to participate and improve their safety program to very high levels. Achieving the VPP Star award is the pinnacle in recognition for participants that exceed OSHA standards. Quality Cabinets are the first Kitchen Cabinet Manufacturing Company to achieve this exceptional feat.

Programs implemented in the Texas Quality Cabinets facilities include Management Leadership and Employee Involvement, Worksite Analysis for Safety Hazards, Prevent and Control Hazards, and Safety Knowledge training.

I am proud to represent Quality Cabinets/Masco Builder Cabinet Group for their outstanding efforts of both its management and employees on achieving exemplary occupational safety and health standards. The VPP Star Award is truly representative of Quality Cabinets dedication and commitment to safety.

TERRORISM RISK INSURANCE PRO-  
GRAM REAUTHORIZATION ACT  
OF 2007

SPEECH OF

**HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 12, 2007

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 4299, which revises and extends the Terrorism Risk Insurance Act (TRIA) for 15 years. I commend Chairman FRANK and Congressman CAPUANO for their fine work in shepherding this critical legislation to the House floor. This act reminds us that the true measure of our homeland's preparedness against terrorist attack is our ability to prepare for such an attack comprehensively and that includes the insurance industry which is an essential part of our economic landscape.

Mr. Speaker, the horrendous events of September 11, 2001, tested our nation's ability to defend itself in many ways. Along with the human and emotional toll these events took on all Americans, we noticed that not only our government but also our private industries were not sufficiently prepared to deal with the

implications of a terrorist attack. Terrorist activity since September 1, 2001, has come to prove that our enemies are becoming more agile and technologically sophisticated. There is no doubt in my mind that terrorists are targeting not only our fellow citizens but also our critical infrastructure including our financial services sector, since they are determined to undermine the United States in the most fundamental of ways.

History has shown that Al Qaeda and other extremist organizations will explicitly direct their efforts against American citizens and property in an effort to inflict economic harm. According to a RAND policy brief, “there is reason to believe that al Qaeda is interested in continuing its efforts to disrupt the fiscal base of the United States by attacking its borders.” If al Qaeda and others are determined to strike our financial targets, public policymakers need to examine possible financial mechanisms to mitigate these effects.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 4299 is a critical and timely legislative response to the fact that after the terrorist attacks of September 11, many insurance companies excluded terrorism events from their policies. After the 9/11 terrorist attacks, many insurance companies excluded terrorism events from their insurance policies. As a result, Congress passed the Terrorism Risk Insurance Act as a three year temporary program in 2002. The act created a federal backstop to protect against terrorism related losses. In 2005, the measure was extended until 2007. TRIA is now set to expire at the end of this year, unless we today extend the law.

Since its enactment, TRIA has ensured the availability of affordable terrorism risk insurance in the marketplace and thereby fostered continued urban development and real estate development in the United States. While the TRIA program has successfully kept terrorism insurance affordable, the President's Working Group on Financial Markets' most recent report concluded that a private market for terrorism reinsurance is virtually nonexistent—especially with regard to nuclear biological chemical and radiological (NBCR) acts of terrorism.

Mr. Speaker, I support H.R. 4299 because it provides federal backstop for private terrorism insurance. One of the strongest features of the bill is that it comes at no cost to the American taxpayer unless there is a terrorist attack.

The security of our country can not be ensured unless we make certain that the U.S. government works hand-in-hand with the private sector to confront terrorist threats. H.R. 4299 exemplifies this idea.

The bill before us is based on the idea that it is in the best interest of our country that the federal government coordinate with insurers to provide financial compensation to insured parties for losses from acts of terrorism. It will contribute to the stabilization of the United States economy at a time of national crisis.

Mr. Speaker, I also support this bill because I believe that extending TRIA for 15 years will contribute to the long-term stability of two critical American industries, the construction and real estate industries. The long-term stability it provides will allow both industries to engage in large-scale building projects in areas considered high-risk for terrorism.

Mr. Speaker, terrorist attacks target our country as a whole and not individual cities or

states. I support the bill because it also exempts the critical idea that the risk from such attacks should be dealt at national level. H.R. 4299 should be seen as part of our broader efforts to confront and defeat the terrorist enemy.

No legislative initiative, especially in such a critical field related to the security of our country, can become really effective unless it enjoys the support of the private industry it affects.

Mr. Speaker, I understand that H.R. 4299 is broadly supported by insurance companies, insurance agents and brokers, policyholders, commercial developers, and construction companies.

Another important provision in the bill is that it extends TRIA to cover both foreign and domestic terrorism. Currently it covers only foreign terrorism. It also adds group life insurance to the types of insurance for which terrorism insurance coverage must be made available by insurers. It also sets the "trigger" level—the size of an attack at which the federal government would provide aid to insurers—at \$50 million. Current law (P.L. 109-44), enacted in 2005, sets the level at \$50 million in 2006 and \$100 million in 2007. Yet another strong feature of the bill is it requires continuation of studies of the development of a private market for terrorism and risk insurance.

Mr. Speaker, I support the passage of H.R. 4299 and call on my colleagues to do like wise because I strongly believe that it will strengthen our nation's efforts to confront the terrorist threat in a more comprehensive way and will provide long-term stability for critical American industries.

#### TRIBUTE TO DEBRA HUNT

### HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 13, 2007*

Mr. HIGGINS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Ms. Debra Hunt for her victory in this past election. Ms. Hunt was victorious and was able to make her claim as a member of the Ripley Town Council.

The campaign trail is a difficult path to take. Any person with a dream may enter but only a few are able to reach the end. Ms. Hunt traveled that path with her head held high and a smile on her face the entire way. I have no doubt that her kind demeanor left a lasting impression on the voters of Chautauqua County.

Chautauqua County is blessed to have such strong candidates with a desire to make this county the wonderful place that we all know it can be. Ms. Hunt is one of those people and that is why Madam Speaker I rise to honor her today.

#### INDIVIDUAL RECOGNITION OF THE 1980 SUMMER OLYMPIC TEAM

### HON. TODD TIAHRT

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 13, 2007*

Mr. TIAHRT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to give recognition to a group of Americans who made a significant sacrifice for this coun-

try. In 1979, as a result of the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan, President Jimmy Carter boycotted the summer Olympic Games in Moscow. The American led boycott was supported by Japan, West Germany, China and Canada.

As we all know, these games occur only once every 4 years. The investment of time and effort required of an Olympic caliber athlete is extraordinary. Because of this investment, many of these athletes sacrificed a once in a lifetime dream of competing on this world stage.

To recognize their sacrifice, the 96th Congress awarded the Olympic athletes the Congressional Gold Medal. Unfortunately, due to a clerical interpretation, these Americans were not listed as recipients by the Clerk's office. This year I was pleased to assist the U.S. Olympic Committee in correcting this error. The 1980 Summer U.S. Olympic Team is now officially recognized as a recipient of the Congressional Gold Medal.

I pass along special thanks to Mr. Ron Neugent of Wichita, Kansas for his dedicated efforts to ensure we properly honor these 1980 Summer Olympians. As a proud member of the 1980 Olympic Swimming Team, Ron identified this oversight and brought it to my attention. This group has waited a long time for this recognition, and I believe that the individual athletes that made up this team deserve to be recognized. To honor their individual sacrifice, these outstanding Americans are listed below so that Congress and the American people can give them the thanks they deserve.

Ableman, Randolph Phillip Wm., Adams, Judi C., Aguirre, Mark Anthony, Alexander, Gwen Cheeseman, Allen, Francis E., Allen, Lee, Allsopp, Christopher Reid, Altekruise, Charles, Anders, Elizabeth R. (Beth), Anderson, Colin C., Anderson, Jodi, Anderson, M. Lynne, Anderson, Ron, Anderson, Terence M., Andrews, Ann Turbyne, Andrews, Mary Osborne.

French, Diane McCormick, Fuller, Mark Albert, Gable, Danny Mack, Gaines IV, Ambrose Rowdy, Galimore, Ron, Gambрил, Donald Lee, Gansler, Robert, Gardner, Gwen, Gardner, Peter Van Wyck, Gault, Willie, Gee, Darryl Lester, Geer, Charlotte Mosher, Geer, Julia Hand, Gerard, Larry D., Gilder, Virginia Anne, Giordano, Robert J.

Neel, Earnest W., Nehemiah, Renaldo, Neugent, Ronald Kingsley, Newland, Robert Warren, Neyer, Megan, Nieman, Robert Lee, Nitz, Leonard Harvey, Nitzkowski (Monty) Kenneth, Nonna, John Michael, Norelius, Kristine Lee, Nyquist, Dwight A., O'Brien, Mark Edwin, O'Brien, Ronald Shay, O'Connor, Daniel Martin, O'Connor, Mary Irene, O'Leary, Elizabeth Hills.

Angelakis, Jana Marie, Arnautoff, Peter, Arnold, Homer Stuart, Atwood, Duncan Fuller M., Auriol, Yves Leon, Azevedo, John, Bailey, Peggy Mccarthy, Banks, W. Augustus (Willie), Barber, Valerie Ann, Barczewski, Leslie, Barnes, Hope, Barnicoat, Stephen Douglas, Barrett, William Melvin, Baston, Lynette Rae, Baughman, Richard Wayne, Baxter, Terri Lynn, Beardsley, Craig Russell, Becker, Carolyn Marie, Beglin, Elizabeth Anne (Beth), Belden, William Thomas, Bell, Richard, Belle, Roberta J., Bellinger, Tony, Benjamin, Stephen Delancey, Bennett, Robin Campbell, Bergen, Paul David, Bertrand, John (Joseph), Bessette, Andrew, Bishop II, Washington D., Blackman, Rolando, Blatnick, Jeffrey Carl, Blazejowski, Carol, Bolden, Jeanette, Borchelt, E. Frederick, Borchelt, Mark Raymond, Borysewicz, Edward, Bossett, Henry Peter, Bottom, Michael Leo, Bower, Carol Ann, Bowie, Sam, Brandel,

Terry Ann Place, Brooks, Michael Anthony, Brown, Carol Page, Brown, Debra Landreth, Brown, Doug Charles, Brown, Julie Ann, Brown-Harris, Alice, Bruner, Michael Lee, Buchan, William, Buck, Marrita N. Crockett.

Glance, Harvey Edward, Glass, Timothy Carrigan, Glenesk, Dean William, Goldsby, Boyd D., Goldstein, Jesse H., Goodell, Brian Stuart, Gorski, Mark, Grant, Jill Evans, Graves, Carrie Brand, Gray, Landon Fentress, Green, Debbie B., Green, William Earnest, Greene, Pamela D., Gregorek, John Stanley, Gribble, Matthew O., Griffin, Lorna Joann, Gros, Vonnice, Grylls, David Miles, Gust, Brian B., Haines Jr., Robert Bentley, Haines, George F., Hamann, Stephen Walter, Hamilton, Donald Leslie, Hannan, Jerry B., Hartung, James N., Harville, Janet Christine, Hatton, Hollis S., Hauserman, Cindy Noble, Hayes, John Patrick, Hazeltine, Thomas, Heffner, Kyle Daniels, Heiring, James Anthony, Hellickson, Russell Owen, Hencken, John Frederick, Hightower, Stephanie, Hill, Denean E., Hingley, Susan Tuttle, Hintnaus, Tomas, Hogshead-Makar, Nancy, Homfeld, Conrad E., Howard, James A., Howard, Sherri Francis, Howard, Terry M., Howes, Janet Baier, Howes, Thomas Andrew, Hull, Thomas W., Huntsman, Anita Miller, Huntsman, Stanley Houser, Hyman, Flora Jean, Ibbetson, Bruce Bernard.

Orban, Alex, Pace, Darrell Owen, Page, Nathaniel, Paige, Donald James, Palchikoff, Jan Louise, Palles, Lee Nicholas, Paulus, William George, Pennington, Mary (Joan), Pesa, Njego, Pestyh, Paul Karoly, Peterson, Ben L., Plant, Mary Meagher, Plucknett, Ben (Walter), Plumb, John Michael, Potter, Cynthia Ann, Powell, John Gates, Prioleau, Paul Edouard, Prudent, Katherine Monahan, Puleo, Joseph Robert, Purdy, William David, Parsley, Dennis C, Rademaker, Sperry Jones, Reese, Randolph Howard, Reilly, Philip Vincent, Reiter, Steve Frank, Rheingans, Brad Bert, Ripley, Dan, Ritter, Louise Dorothy, Robertson, Kevin George, Robinson Jr, James, Rocca, Peter D., Rodda, David Lee, Roney, Brian Kelly, Rudd, Teresa Lee (Terry), Salazar, Alberto Bauduy, Salvemini, Daniel Michael, Sandoval, Anthony, Santa Maria, Mitch James, Santos, Jim, Sayner, Daniel Kevin, Schake, Callen N., Schmidt, Kathryn Joan, Schmitz, James William, Schnugg, Peter Hayden, Schroeder, Terry Alan, Schubert, Mark Edward, Schueler, Carl Francis, Schuler, Thomas Jay, Scott, Steven Michael, Scully Jr., Clark Todd.

Buerkle, Richard Thomas, Buese, Elisabeth Anne (Lisa), Bungum, Brian, Burgering, David Earl, Burley, Michael E., Butler, James, Cahoy, Philip Michael, Caldwell, Gregory Donnell, Cameron, Mark, Campbell, Anthony E. (Tonie), Campbell, Chris L., Cara, John P., Carey, Richard John (Rick), Carlisle, Kimberly J., Carlton, Guy Albert, Carnes, James Jerome, Case, Nathaniel Hathaway, Cashin Jr., Richard Marshall, Cavanaugh, Chris, Centrowitz, Matthew, Chandler, Dan C., Chatzky Jr., John, Cheeseborough, Chandra D., Cheris, Elaine Gayle, Christensen, Steven Erik, Chyzowych, Walter S., Clark, Dean Owen, Clark, Timothy, Clarke, Kathy Johnson, Coffee, Paul, Coffman, Robert Edward, Cohen, Michael M., Colgan, Sean Padraic, Collins, Steven Keith, Collins-Cumming, Luci A., Conner, Bart, Cook, Robert, Cooper, Dedy, Corbelli, Laurie Flachmeier, Cruz, Christina Ann, Curry Jr. James (Butch), Curry, Denise Marie, Dabney, Sharon Ann, Darling, Thomas Ward, Davis, Roderick Hopkins, De Frantz, Anita L., De Nemethy, Bertalan, Dello Joio, Norman, Derwin, Brian P., Desautels, Denise.

Iversen, Laurel B., Jackson, Robert Scott, Jaugstetter, Robert C., Jezek, Linda Louise, Johnson, Mark Anthony, Johnson, Sheryl, Johnson, Stacey Rita, Johnson, Wayne, Jordan, Paul, Karchut, Michael, Keeler, Kathryn Elliott, Kehoe, David Michael, Kelly,

Timothy James, Kemp Jr. Leroy Percy, (Lee), Kennedy, Bruce Graham, Kent, Elizabeth Cryer, Kent, Jeff, Keough, William Tyrone, Kertson, Scott Michael, Kiesling, Stephen Howard, Kimball, Richard John, Kimes, David W., King, Paula Girven, Kinkhead, Elizabeth, Kirchner, Kris, Klaja, Luke David, Kline, Beth, Koopman, Amy Richelle, Korzeniowski, Krzysztof (Kris), Laberge, Karin Anne, Lacy, Steven M., Lane, Kim Thomas, Larriue Smith, Francie Ann, Larson, David Erwin, Larson-Mason, Christine, Lattany, Melvin, Lawson, Adolphus (Doc), Le Goff, Jack Louis, Le Mond, Greg, Lee, David Kenneth, Lekach, Stanley V., Leusenkamp, Carl Adrian, Lewis, Bradley Alan, Lewis, Carol L., Lewis, Frederick C., Lewis, Randall Scott, Lindgren, Kenneth Edward, Lindroth, Eric Emil, Linehan, Kimberly Ann, Lippe, Nancy White.

Seek, Steven E., Seidler, Maren Elizabeth, Selinger, Arie, Setterberg, Kurt Nils, Shapiro, Douglas Craig, Shelton, Karen C., Shmock, Peter Carlton, Sholtis, Christina Seufert, Siman, John O'Connell, Simons Jr., John N., Sims, David Edward, Slaney, Mary Decker, Smith III, Willie J., Smith, Karin Kiefer, Smith, Mark Jeffrey, Sokolitz, Karen, Somerville, Kurt, Stayer, Julia Ann, Stekl, Phil W., Sterkel, Jill Ann, Stetina, Dale Emery, Stetina, Wayne Douglas, Stewart, Randy W., Stives, Karen Elizabeth, Stock, Thomas David, Stockebrand, Gwen Elaine, Stockwell, Tracy Anne, Storrs, Nancy Hitchcock, Strong, Judith Ann, Svendsen, Jon Howard, Swain, Michael Lee, Talavera, Tracee A., Taylor, Frederick G., Taylor, Melanie Smith, Tellez, Tom, Temple, Edward S., Terwilliger, John Richard, Thayer, Susan Stuart, Thompson Bruce Jerome, Thornton, Richard Walker, Tippett, Cathleen Thaxton, Trevelyan, Edward Norman, Tudela, Miguel Angel, Tully, Michael Scott, Van Beaumont, Will, Van Blom, Joan Lind, Van Blom, John, Van Breggen, Melle Roelof Fra, Van Der Beck, Perry J., Van Haute, Daniel Frank.

Di Bernardo, Angelo, Dicken, Amy McGrath, Dietz, James W., Dixon, Fred, Djerassi, Boris Dov, Donaghy, Bruce M., Donovan, Anne Theresa, Dorst, Christopher Taylor, Dorst, Marybeth Linzmeier, Dougherty, Thomas Neil, Dowdell, Patricia T., Drewsen, Karla Hull, Dryke, Matthew Alexander, Duane III, John Marshall, Durden, Benji Ray, Durkin, Michael Kevin, Dziedzic, Stanley Joseph, Ebert, Donald, Edmondson, Martin Dewayne, Elkins, Stephanie Wynn, Elthes, Csaba, Emery, Brent Robert, Epke, Bruce Edward, Ernst, Robert Gardner II, Espeseth Jr., Robert Douglas, Etem, Patricia Spratlan, Everett, John G., Evoniuk, Marco Ray, Ewaliko, Rod J., Feuerbach, Allan Dean, Fields III, Benjamin F. (Benn), Figueroa, Gary Lee, Fitzgerald, John David, Fitz-Randolph Jr., Roderick M., Flanagan, Jeanne Ann, Float, Jeffrey James, Floyd, Stanley, Foreman, Kenneth Everett, Forrester Jr., William Ronald, Fowler, Neal Lawrence, Franke, Nikki Valeria, Frazier, Herman Ronald, Frederick, Marcia Jean, Fredericks, Gregory Lynn.

Loeb, Michael Leshine, Losonczy, Thomas John, Louganis, Gregory Efthimios, Lubsen, Jr., Walter Harry (Chip), Lundquist, Stephen K., Machemer, Kevin Scott, Maclellan, Gay K., Marcellus, Susan, Marden, Anne R., Marquez, Pamela Spencer, Marsh, Henry D., Martin, Tommy Gerard, Maruyama, Paul Kuniaki, Marx, Michael Anthony, Massialas, Gregory David D., Matthews, John Kelly, McArdle, John E., McChesney, William Edward, Mccoy, Walter Lee, McDonald, Andrew John (Drew), McGrath, Barbara Weinstein, McKeon, William (Bill), McKibbin, Thomas Douglas, McMillan, Kathy Laverne, McNamara, Julianne Lyn, Meade, William Thurbon, Meislahn, Findley, Mello, Daniel

Alan, Mills, Gene, Mills, Glenn D., Milne, Leslie W., Mims, Madeline Manning, Minkel, Thomas Austin, Mitchell, Kelly Rickon, Moffet, John C., Morehead, Brenda Louise, Morett, Charlene F., Morrone, Joseph (Joe), Moses, Edwin Corley, Mosley, Benita Fitzgerald, Moyer, Diane M., Myricks, Larry Ellwyne, Nakasone, Keith, Nanchoff, Louis.

Vargas, Joseph Michael, Vassallo, Jesus D. (Jesse), Ventura, Vincent James, Vespoli, Michael Louis, Vespoli, Nancy Parssinen, Vidmar, Peter Glen, Villa, Greg, Virgin, Craig Steven, Walker, James Andre, Walker, Larry A., Walsh, Susan, Waltman, Linda C., Ward, Valerie McClain, Warner, Anne Elizabeth, Watkins, Torrance, Weaver, Andrew Telsler, Weaver, Ernestine Jean, Weaver, Robert Brooks, Wells, Christopher, Westbrook, Peter Jonathan, Wigger Jr., Lones Wesley, Wilcox, Marlene R., Wiley, Clifford A., Wilkins, Mac Maurice, Williams, Barton, Williams, Diane, Williams, Randy Lavelle, Williams, Willie, Wilson, Michael Gower, Wilson, Randy Byron, Winnett Jr., John, Winfield, Wofford, James Cunningham, Wojciechowski, Gregory Martin, Wood, Christopher R., Woodard, Lynette, Woodhead, Cynthia Lee (Sippy), Woodman, Thomas H., Woodstra, Susan Jean, Yagla, Charles E., Yonezuka, Nicholas K. (Nicky), Yoshida, Toshi, Young-Sanders, Candy, Zang, Linda Louise, Ziert, Paul Frank.

REGINA ROGERS, LADY OF  
SOUTHEAST TEXAS

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 13, 2007

Mr. POE. Madam Speaker, today I am proud to recognize attorney and philanthropist Regina Rogers. She graduated magna cum laude, and Phi Beta Kappa with a Bachelor of Arts in psychology, and a magna cum laude with a Doctor of Jurisprudence.

Ms. Rogers has earned many honors, including distinguished woman of Northwood University; Distinguished Alumna of the University of Houston; Child Advocate of the Year by CASA of Southeast Texas; Pacesetter of the Year by the Cancer League; Woman of Distinction by KTRK/Channel 13 in Houston; recipient of the Cherish Our Children Award from the Child Abuse Prevention Network in Houston; the Press Club's 2002 Southeast Texas Newsmaker of the Year; and recipient of the 2003 Humanitarian Award from Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Beaumont.

She was the first female regent of Lamar University and served as member of the Texas College and University System Coordinating Board as Chair of the Educational Opportunity Planning Committee for Minority Education in Texas, which implemented programs to increase admissions and retention of minority students, and hiring of minority faculty in colleges and universities throughout Texas.

Ms. Rogers is the co-founder and Executive Director of the Ben Rogers "I Have A Dream" program, which provided mentors and \$2000.00 scholarships to several hundred economically disadvantaged 8th through 11th grade students. She is President of Joe Louis International Sports Foundation; and Member of the Board of Visitors of the University of Texas M.D. Anderson Cancer Center. She is on the Children's Defense Fund Texas Advisory Board, Babe Didrikson Zaharias Foundation, Holocaust Museum of Houston, and the Pauline Sterne Wolff Memorial Foundation.

Ms. Rogers established the Julie Rogers "Gift of Life" program, which has provided over 13,000 free mammograms and more than 4,500 free prostate cancer screenings for the medically underserved in southeast Texas, and over 400 educational outreach programs for thousands more.

While chair of the Southwest Regional Board of the Anti-Defamation League in 1994, Rogers helped found the Coalition for Mutual Respect, a group of religious and lay leaders whose purpose is to promote positive intergroup relations by encouraging understanding and respect among Houston's diverse population.

Ms. Rogers established Inspire, Encourage, and Achieve, a program designed to perpetuate her father's legacy of helping young people achieve dignity and respect through knowledge, compassion, understanding, and love. The organization provides workshops on positive life skills, anger management, conflict resolution, literacy instruction, and substance abuse counseling for young people who are incarcerated in the Minnie Rogers Juvenile Justice Center in Jefferson County.

Following Hurricanes Katrina and Rita in 2005, Ms. Rogers co-founded the Southeast Texas Emergency Relief Fund (SETERF) that provided several million dollars in funds and gift cards to social service agencies, grants to faith-based organizations to assist with home repairs, and loans to small businesses affected by the storms.

Regina Rogers is a lady with a heart as big as Texas. She learned the importance of public service from her parents. She spends much of her life in service of others, and has carried on her parents' legacy by being a tireless advocate for those in need. Through her personal involvement in, and financial contributions to, countless organizations, she has left an indelible mark on southeast Texas, and our community is better because of her compassion and generosity. I am honored to call her my friend.

And that's just the way it is.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. HILDA L. SOLIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 13, 2007

Ms. SOLIS. Madam Speaker, during rollcall vote No. 1155 on Over-the-Road Bus Transportation Accessibility Act I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

HONORING THE MEMORY OF THE  
HONORABLE HENRY HYDE

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 13, 2007

Mr. BONNER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of a great leader, a great man, and a truly great American, the Honorable Henry Hyde.

Known throughout Congress as a man of strong character and humility, Chairman Hyde served the people of the 6th District of Illinois

with decency and grace. From his service in the Navy during World War II and throughout his career in the U.S. House of Representatives, Henry Hyde devoted his life to public service.

In the House, he rose to the chairmanship of two committees, Judiciary and International Relations. To say that Chairman Hyde was an eloquent orator would be an understatement. He spoke with dignity, conviction, principle, and eloquence; he was a true statesman by any measure. As President George W. Bush said last month, "the background noise would stop when Henry Hyde had the floor."

In service to the people of Illinois for over 40 years, Chairman Hyde was a champion of the rights of the unborn. He will probably be most remembered for his amendment that prohibited the use of federal funds for abortions—a measure that became known as the "Hyde amendment."

Just last month, President Bush bestowed upon Representative Hyde the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the nation's highest civilian honor. The medal is designed to recognize great contributions to national security, the cause of peace and freedom, science, the arts, literature, and many other fields; I can think of few individuals more deserving of this high honor.

Madam Speaker, our country and this great institution have been blessed to share in the life of Chairman Henry Hyde. May we never forget the leadership he displayed or the lessons he taught us. May we continue to keep the entire Hyde family in our thoughts and prayers.

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INTRODUCING THE FREE  
COMPETITION IN CURRENCY ACT

**HON. RON PAUL**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 13, 2007*

Mr. PAUL. Madam Speaker, I rise to introduce the Free Competition in Currency Act. This act would eliminate two sections of U.S. Code that, although ostensibly intended to punish counterfeiters, have instead been used by the Government to shut down private mints. As anticounterfeiting measures, these sections are superfluous, as 18 U.S.C. 485, 490, and 491 already grant sufficient authority to punish counterfeiters.

The two sections this bill repeals, 18 U.S.C. 486 and 489, are so broadly written as to effectively restrict any form of private coinage from competing with the products of the United States Mint. Allowing such statutes to remain in force as a catch-all provision merely encourages prosecutorial abuse. One particular egregious recent example is that of the Liberty Dollar, in which Federal agents seized millions of dollars worth of private currency held by a private mint on behalf of thousands of people across the country.

Due to nearly a century of inflationary monetary policy on the part of the Federal Reserve, the U.S. dollar stands at historically low levels. Investors around the world are shunning the dollar, and millions of Americans see their salaries, savings accounts, and pensions eroded away by rising inflation. We stand on the precipice of an unprecedented monetary collapse, and as a result many people have begun to look for alternatives to the dollar.

As a proponent of competition in currencies, I believe that the American people should be free to choose the type of currency they prefer to use. The ability of consumers to adopt alternative currencies can help to keep the Government and the Federal Reserve honest, as the threat that further inflation will cause more and more people to opt out of using the dollar may restrain the government from debasing the currency. As monopolists, however, the Federal Reserve and the Mint fear competition, and would rather force competitors out using the federal court system and the threat of asset forfeiture than compete in the market.

A free society should shun this type of strong-arm action, and the Free Competition in Currency Act would take the necessary first steps to freeing the market for competing currencies. I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

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INTRODUCTION OF END RACIAL  
PROFILING ACT OF 2007

**HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 13, 2007*

Mr. CONYERS. Madam Speaker, I am pleased to introduce the End Racial Profiling Act of 2007, along with additional bipartisan cosponsors. As a product of years of extensive consultation with both the law enforcement and civil rights communities, this legislation represents the most comprehensive Federal commitment to healing the rift caused by racial profiling and restoring public confidence in the criminal justice system at large. The introduction of this legislation is a critical step in what should be a nationwide, bipartisan effort to end this divisive practice.

Before September 11, 2001, there was wide agreement among Americans, including President Bush and Attorney General Ashcroft, that racial profiling is wrong and should end. Many in the law enforcement community also acknowledged that singling out people for heightened scrutiny based on their race, ethnicity or national origin has eroded the trust in law enforcement necessary to appropriately serve and protect our communities. What was true before September 11, is even more true today: racial profiling is inappropriate and ineffective as a law enforcement tactic.

While the Department of Justice promulgated a series of guidelines in 2003 which were designed to end the practice of racial profiling by Federal law enforcement agencies, these measures do not reach the vast majority of racial profiling complaints arising from the routine activities of State and local law enforcement agencies. The guidelines provide no enforcement mechanism or methods for identifying law enforcement agencies not in compliance and, therefore, fail to resolve the racial profiling problem nationwide. In this instance, there is no substitute for comprehensive Federal anti-profiling legislation.

Our legislation is designed to eliminate racial, ethnic, religious, and national origin profiling that is well documented. While the majority of law enforcement officers perform their duties professionally and without bias, and we value their service highly, we believe that enough evidence has been presented to warrant federal action. For example, an April

2005 Bureau of Justice Statistics report showed that African Americans and Hispanics experience physical searches and vehicle searches by police significantly more than whites. This is especially disturbing given the fact that in only 3.3 percent of cases for blacks, and 13 percent of cases for Latinos, did they possess criminal evidence, compared to 14.5 percent of cases for whites.

The report also revealed a new troubling trend: While the rate of encounters between police and civilians did not change between the 1999 and 2002 survey, the police dramatically increased their use of force and threat of force overall, from less than 1 percent in 1999 to 1.5 percent in 2002. In addition, law enforcement officials disproportionately used force or threatened to use force against blacks and Latinos, at rates roughly three times more than against whites.

The End Racial Profiling Act is designed to track and eradicate racial profiling by changing the policies and procedures underlying the practice. First, the bill provides a prohibition on racial profiling, enforceable by injunctive relief. Second, the receipt of Federal law enforcement funding that goes to State and local governments is conditioned on their adoption of effective policies that prohibit racial profiling.

Third, the Justice Department is authorized to provide grants for the development and implementation of best policing practices, such as early warning systems, technology integration, and other management protocols that discourage profiling. Finally, the Attorney General is required to provide periodic reports to assess the nature of any ongoing discriminatory profiling practices.

Racial profiling is a divisive practice that strikes at the very foundation of our democracy. When law-abiding citizens are treated differently by those who enforce the law simply because of their race, ethnicity, religion, or national origin, they are denied the basic respect and equal treatment that is the right of every American. Decades ago, with the passage of sweeping civil rights legislation, this country made clear that race should not affect the treatment of individual Americans under the law. The practice of using race as a criterion in law enforcement undermines the progress we have made toward racial equality.

With the cooperation of the administration, we have the opportunity to move bipartisan legislation and end the practice of racial profiling. I hope that we do not miss a historic opportunity to heal the rift caused by racial profiling and restore community confidence in law enforcement.

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HONORING RETIRING WEST SEN-  
ECA TOWN SUPERVISOR PAUL T.  
CLARK

**HON. BRIAN HIGGINS**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 13, 2007*

Mr. HIGGINS. Madam Speaker, today I pay tribute to the Supervisor of the Town of West Seneca, New York, a friend and governmental colleague of the highest caliber—my friend, West Seneca Town Supervisor Paul Clark.

For sixteen years, Paul Clark served as the highest elective officer for the Town of West Seneca, and under his stewardship the town

has grown from a small first ring town into a burgeoning suburb that is a destination for many folks looking for a safe community to raise a family. Professionally, Paul is a CPA, and he brought those budgeting skills to his work as Town Supervisor, after initially serving a short period of time as Town Comptroller. Paul's work to stabilize town finances, combined with a vision for his town that resulted in developing industrial parks, cultural attractions and recreational areas for residents, means that a lasting legacy of accomplishments will follow the conclusion of his service as Supervisor on December 31.

Since my days representing West Seneca as a member of the New York State Assembly, I have been proud to work with Paul on many projects. I have taken particular pride in working with Paul on one of his own favorite issues—the AmeriCorps program, which for Western New York is headquartered in West Seneca. More than 3,000 young Western New Yorkers have graduated through West Seneca's AmeriCorps, all the while tutoring nearly 25,000 local schoolchildren, clearing 3,500 vacant lots and planting thousands of new trees throughout Western New York. All as a result of Paul Clark's vision.

Paul has a great many accomplishments about which to be proud, but Paul counts as his proudest accomplishments his family—his wife Kathy, and his children Andrew and Kelly.

Madam Speaker, Paul Clark leaves a lasting mark upon the government of the town of West Seneca, and his constituents are better for the service he provided to them. I am pleased to honor his contributions to our community, and I ask that you join me in extending to Paul and his family the House's most heartfelt wishes of good luck and Godspeed.

IN APPRECIATION OF SACRAMENTO AREA FIREFIGHTERS

**HON. DORIS O. MATSUI**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 13, 2007*

Ms. MATSUI. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the men and women of the Sacramento Metropolitan Fire District and the Sacramento City Fire Department that responded to the southern California fires. The devastating fires burned tens of thousands of acres over the course of the last 2 months. More than 20 local firefighters from Sacramento courageously worked to end these wild fires. I ask all my colleagues to join me in honoring and thanking some of our Nation's finest firefighters.

On October 20, 2007 the first of 15 fires began as a ranch fire in Los Angeles County's Angeles National Forest. The Santa Ana air stream caused wind speeds up to 100 miles per hour, combined with 95-degree temperatures. The combined wind, hot temperature, and severe drought conditions in southern California spread the fire across hundreds of thousands of acres. Over a 7 day period, nine people were killed, and at least 1 million people were evacuated. Thousands of businesses, homes, and structures were destroyed. To date the fire has caused more than \$1 billion dollars in damage across San Diego, Orange, San Bernardino, Los Angeles, Ventura, Riverside and Santa Barbara Counties.

The tireless work of these men and women was invaluable as they saved lives and property throughout the southern California region. The crews are a reflection of the positive contributions and selfless actions of our local firefighters. They responded to fires such as the ferocious Witch Creek Fire in Ramona, where crews grappled with flames more than 70 feet high and were exposed to conditions that included 70 mile per hour wind speeds. The horrific conditions were so dangerous that doors flew off hinges from burning structures. At times, pieces of burning roofs were carried by the winds, which forced firefighters to take cover. Crews worked around the clock for many days with as little as 30 minutes of rest. Their invaluable efforts helped save countless structures and homes that were in the line of fire.

In response to the crisis, Sacramento City Fire Department deployed Battalion Chief Craig Wiedenhoeft, Battalion Chief Niko King, Battalion Chief Jay Glass, Captain James Doucette, Captain Scott Visser, Engineer Sean Dail, Engineer Tom Malim, Firefighter Greg Murdock, Firefighter Dave Stork, and Firefighter Kyle Anderson.

Sacramento Metro Fire Department also deployed more than 40 firefighters. They included Deputy Chief Geoff Miller, Captain Darren Taylor, Captain Scott D. Cockrum, Captain Scott McKenney, Captain Michael Hazlett, Battalion Chief Richard Andersen, Captain James Vell, Engineer Jack Costello, Captain David B. Durham, Captain George E. Kruger, Jr., Engineer Phillip Allen, Engineer Tracey Valentine, Firefighter Ty J. Bailey, Firefighter Erik R. Rubalcava, Firefighter John Schanzenbach, Firefighter Kyle D. Thomas, Captain Steven C. Campbell, Captain Kiley Keeley, Engineer Jeffrey Harris, Engineer Brian M. Swindler, Firefighter Brad Reynolds, Firefighter Aaron S. Wham, Firefighter Tim J. Eisert, Firefighter Kenneth J. Harrington, Battalion Chief John Wagner, Battalion Chief Barry A. Flores, Captain Michael D. Veilleux, Captain William V. Lobsitz, Captain Christian Pebbles, Captain John P. Murakami, Captain Randolph E. Gross, Engineer Russell Powell, Engineer Charles E. Lynch, Engineer Ryan L. Maerklen, Engineer Maurice D. Johnson, Engineer Mark T. Stewart, Firefighter Phillip J. Hart, Firefighter Kevin R. Henson, Firefighter Chris A. Manos, Firefighter Carl F. Jewell, and Firefighter Mark T. Dunne.

Each of these brave men and women left their families and loved ones in Sacramento to place their own life on the line to save their fellow citizens from the horrific southern California wildfires. For their efforts, we all owe them our deepest appreciation. I am truly honored to represent such fine individuals and fire departments in Congress. Once again, I urge my colleagues to join me in thanking them for their unwavering dedication to our country during this difficult time.

COCA-COLA 100TH ANNIVERSARY

**HON. TED POE**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 13, 2007*

Mr. POE. Madam Speaker, today I am proud to recognize the Beaumont Coca-Cola Bottling Company founded in 1907 in Jeffer-

son County, Texas. C.T. Heisig established and managed the first store located on Park Street. Off to a great start, the company purchased over 470 gallons of Coca-Cola syrup during its first year of operation. Today Coca-Cola is the best selling soft drink in the world and this year over six million cases of Coca-Cola products will be sold.

In 1911 Charles Rainwater purchased the Beaumont franchise, and in 1931 a new plant was completed and the company moved to Mariposa Street, where it remained for 54 years. In 1985 operations were moved to its current location at 11450 Eastex Freeway. The current plant employs 207 individuals and contributes nearly nine million dollars to the local economy. The Beaumont Bottling Company alone delivers to over 5,000 customers in eight counties.

The Beaumont Bottling Company has been a great partner in Jefferson County. Its commitment to giving back to our community and helping local charities is greatly appreciated. As the U.S. Representative of the 2nd Congressional District it is an honor to congratulate the Beaumont Coca-Cola Bottling Company and all the members of the Coca-Cola family on their 100th anniversary. I wish Beaumont Coca-Cola Bottling Company another 100 years of continued success.

And that's just the way it is.

IN RECOGNITION OF EDINBURG NORTH HIGH SCHOOL FOR ACHIEVING SILVER MEDAL STATUS IN U.S. NEWS AND WORLD REPORT HIGH SCHOOL RANKINGS

**HON. RUBÉN HINOJOSA**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 13, 2007*

Mr. HINOJOSA. Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in congratulating Edinburg North High School for achieving silver medal status in the 2007 U.S. News and World Report ranking of the best high schools in the Nation. Of the over 18,000 high schools in the country, only 505 were recognized as gold or silver medal winners based upon their performance on state tests and success in providing college level work for all of their students.

Edinburg North High School demonstrates that academic excellence is not restricted to the economically advantaged. More than half of its students participate in the free and reduced price lunch program. Over 95 percent of the students at Edinburg North are Hispanic, and many students are the children of migrant and seasonal farm workers. The Edinburg North students and community may not be economically advantaged, but they are rich in family values, tradition, and potential. It is these characteristics that have served as the foundation for their success.

In 2004, Edinburg North High School was recognized with the College Board Inspiration award for its success in expanding Advanced Placement opportunities for students. Edinburg North High School made access to challenging courses a number one priority. It instituted an "open-door" policy for advanced placement courses, more than doubling the number of students taking at least one advanced placement exam.

This focus on rigorous courses has opened the doors to higher education for students of Edinburg North, many of whom are the first in their families to attend college. As a result, Edinburg North graduates have been courted by some of the most selective institutions in the nation, such as the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Dartmouth College, Columbia University, and Rice University.

The silver medal awarded by U.S. News and World report shows that Edinburg North High School's tradition of excellence is continuing. I would like to congratulate the entire community for this achievement and would like to specially acknowledge the leadership of Principal Ramiro Guerra, Superintendent Gilberto Garza, Jr., and President of the Board of Trustees Carmen Gonzalez. Excellent schools are only possible when there is excellent leadership.

Please join me in applauding the achievements of Edinburg North High School. I urge them to keep up the good work.

MENTAL HEALTH CHALLENGES AT  
THE DEPARTMENT OF VET-  
ERANS AFFAIRS

HON. DONALD A. MANZULLO

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 13, 2007

Mr. MANZULLO. Madam Speaker, I rise to raise awareness about a mental health concern that is afflicting our brave veterans. Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) is an illness that can have devastating consequences if not treated. For too long, those suffering from PTSD have been unfairly stigmatized. On December 12, 2007, Mike and Kim Bowman traveled from their home in northern Illinois to testify about the immeasurable tragedy their family has suffered as a result of the suicide of their son Specialist Tim Bowman.

Specialist Tim Bowman was 23 years old when he lost his battle with PTSD only eight months after returning from active duty in Iraq. The Department of Veterans Affairs needs to do more to ensure that all members of the armed services receive the care and attention they deserve. Mike and Kim's story is one that is all too often repeated around the country. As Mike Bowman said in his testimony, "we must all remove the stigma that goes with a soldier admitting that he or she has [PTSD]."

I enclose for the RECORD the testimonies of Mike Bowman and author Ilona Meagher. I encourage all Members to read their statements and judge for themselves the level of the mental health challenges that exists. It is time that this country recognizes what is going with PTSD and takes appropriate action now. No one should suffer a day longer.

TESTIMONY OF MIKE BOWMAN

Mr. Chairman, members of the committee, my wife and I are honored to be speaking before you today representing just one of the families that lost a veteran to suicide in 2005.

As my family was preparing for our 2005 Thanksgiving meal, our son Timothy was lying on the floor of my shop office, slowly bleeding to death from a self-inflicted gunshot wound. His war was now over, his demons were gone. Tim was laid to rest in a combination military, firefighter funeral that was a tribute to the man he was.

Tim was the life of a party, happy go lucky young man that joined the National Guard in 2003 to earn money for college and get a little structure in his life. On March 19th of 2005 when Specialist Bowman got off the bus with the other National Guard soldiers of Foxtrot 202 that were returning from Iraq he was a different man. He had a glaze in his eyes and a 1000 yard stare, always looking for an insurgent.

Family members of F202 were given a 10 minute briefing on PTSD (Post Traumatic Stress Disorder) 2 months before the soldiers returned and the soldiers were given even less. The commander of F202 had asked the Illinois Guard command to change their demobilization practices to be more like the regular army, only to have his questions rebuffed. He knew that our boys had been shot up, blown up by IED's (Improvised Explosive Device), extinguished fires on soldiers so their parents would have something to bury, and extinguished a fire on their own to save lives. They were hardened combat veterans now, but were being treated like they had been at an extended training mission.

You see our National Guardsman from F202 were not out filling sand bags. They departed in October of 2003 for 6 months of training at Ft's Hood and Polk. On Tim's 22nd birthday, March 4, 2004, Foxtrot left for Iraq where they were stationed at Camp Victory. Their tour took them directly into combat including 4 months on "the most dangerous road in the world", the highway from the airport to the green zone in Baghdad. Tim was a top gunner in a humvee. Tim as well as many other soldiers in F202 earned their Purple Hearts on that stretch of road known as Route Irish. We are STILL waiting for Tim's Purple Heart from various military paperwork shuffles.

When CBS News broke the story about Veterans suicides, the VA took the approach of criticizing the way that the numbers were created instead of embracing it and using it to help increase mental health care within their system. Regardless of how perfectly accurate the numbers are, they obviously show a trend that desperately needs attention. CBS did what NO government agency would do; they tabulated the veteran suicide numbers to shed light on this hidden epidemic and make the American people aware of this situation. The VA should have taken those numbers to Capitol Hill asking for more people, funding, and anything else they need to combat this epidemic. They should embrace this study as it reveals the scope of a huge problem, rather than complaining about its accuracy. If all that is going to be done with the study is argue about how the numbers were compiled, then an average of 120 soldiers will die every week by their own hand until the VA recognizes this fact, and does something about it.

The VA mental health system is broken in function, and understaffed in operation. There are many cases of soldiers coming to the VA for help and being turned away or misdiagnosed for PTSD and then losing their battle with their demons. Those soldiers, as well as our son Timothy, can never be brought back. No one can change that fact. But you can change the system so this trend can be slowed down dramatically or even stopped.

Our son was just one of thousands of veterans that this country has lost to suicide. I see every day the pain and grief that our family and extended family goes through in trying to deal with this loss. Every one of those at risk veterans also has a family that will suffer if that soldier finds the only way to take the battlefield pain away is by taking his or her own life. Their ravished and broken spirits are then passed on to their

families as they try to justify what has happened. I now suffer from the same mental illnesses that claimed my son's life, PTSD, from the images and sounds of finding him and hearing his life fade away, and depression from a loss that I would not wish on anyone.

If the veteran suicide rate is not classified as an epidemic that needs immediate and drastic attention, then the American fighting soldier needs someone in Washington who thinks it is. I challenge you to do for the American soldier, what that soldier did for each of you and for his country. Take care of them and help preserve their American dream as they did yours. To quote President Calvin Coolidge, "The nation which forgets its defenders will be itself forgotten."

I challenge you to make the VA an organization to be proud of instead of the last place that a veteran wants to go. It is the obligation of each and every one of you and all Americans, to channel the energies, resources, and the intelligence and wisdom of this nation's Best and Brightest to create the most effective, efficient and meaningful healthcare system for our men and women who have served. You must find a way to remove the stigma that goes with a soldier admitting that he or she has a mental problem. We have the technology to create the most highly advanced military system, but when these Veterans come home, they find an understaffed, underfunded, and under-equipped VA mental health system that has so many challenges to get through it, that many just give up trying. The result is the current suicide epidemic among our nation's defenders, one of which was Specialist Timothy Noble Bowman, our 23 year old son, soldier, and hero.

Our veterans should and must not be left behind in the ravished, horrific battlefields of their broken spirits and minds. Our veterans deserve better!! Mr. Chairman, this concludes my testimony. Thank you.

TESTIMONY OF ILONA MEAGHER

Chairman Filner, Ranking Member Buyer, and other distinguished members of the Committee, I thank you for the opportunity to appear before you today.

To open, I'd like to briefly share my thoughts on why it is that I believe I'm here. I am not only someone who's spent the past two years researching and writing about post-traumatic stress in our returning troops, I'm also a veteran's daughter. My father was born in Hungary, served two years in antitank artillery as a Hungarian Army conscript, fought against the Soviet Union on the streets of Budapest during the 1956 Hungarian Revolution, and later fled to America where, in 1958, he again became a soldier, this time wearing a United States Army uniform, and serving as a combat engineer stationed in Germany.

My father's unique experience of having served on both sides—East and West—in such differing armies during the Cold War, gave him a unique perspective on military life.

And so, growing up, my sisters and I often heard my father say, "You can always tell how a government feels about its people by looking at how it treats its soldiers."

Looking at our returning soldiers and their widely-reported struggles with the military and VA health care systems they rely on, of being stigmatized from seeking care or of being placed on lengthy VA waiting lists when they need immediate help—some even committing suicide before their appointment dates arrive—have raised this citizen's alarm bells.

We have had a "see no evil, hear no evil" approach to examining post-deployment psychological reintegration issues such as suicide. After all we have learned from the

struggles of the Vietnam War generation—and the ensuing controversy over how many of its veterans did or did not commit suicide in its wake—why is there today no known national registry where Afghanistan and Iraq veteran suicide data is being collected? How can we ascertain reintegration problems—if any exist—if we are not proactive in seeking them out?

As late as May 2007, Department of Veterans Affairs spokeswoman Karen Fedele told the Washington Post that there was no attempt to gather Afghanistan and Iraq veteran suicide incidents. “We don’t keep that data,” she said. “I’m told that somebody here is going to do an analysis, but there just is nothing right now.”

Meanwhile, the Army reported its suicide rate in 2006 rose to 17.3 per 100,000 troops, the highest in 26 years of keeping such records. At long last, the Associated Press revealed that the VA is finally conducting preliminary research. They’ve tracked at least 283 OEF/OIF veteran suicides through the end of 2005, nearly double the rate of the additional 147 suicides reported by the DoD’s Defense Manpower Data Center.

Looking only at the these suicide figures from the VA (283) and the DoD (147), there have been at least 430 Afghanistan and Iraq veteran suicides that have occurred either in the combat zone or stateside following combat deployment. Lost in the VA and DoD counts are those veterans who have returned from their deployments, are still in the military and not yet in the VA system. The DoD says they do not track those incidents, and I assume neither does the VA because these veterans are not yet on their radar.

Yet even with this omission, many of these 430 confirmed suicides are a result of our wars in Afghanistan and Iraq and should—but won’t—be listed with the DoD’s official OEF/OIF death toll of 4,351. It bears mentioning: Currently 10 percent of the overall fatal casualty count of these wars is due to suicide.

Dismissing the issue of veteran suicide in the face of this data is negligent and does nothing to honor the service and sacrifice of our veterans and the families and communities that literally are tasked with supporting them once they return.

Yet, prior to last month’s CBS News investigation, which revealed that 120 veterans of all wars committed suicide every week in 2005 and that 20–24 year old Afghanistan and Iraq veterans are two to four times more likely to commit suicide than their civilian counterparts, the scope of the problem has been largely unknown because no one with proper resources and access to do the compiling of data came forward to do so.

In my written testimony, I’ve included 75 suicides that I and other citizen journalist colleagues have been tracking since September 2005 and which today reside in the ePluribus Media PTSD Timeline.

Offering only a small and incomplete sliver of insight into how some of our returning troops are faring on the home front—especially in light of the fact that at least another 355 incidents could be added among them according to the VA and DoD—I believe that they collectively tell an even greater tale about the failure of us as individuals and as a society to ensure that our returning warriors are cleansed completely from the psychological wounds of war.

They also reflect the failure of our government institutions to protect those who protect us.

While I realize that these distressing stories are the exception and not the rule, to our exceptional military families having to deal with the deterioration of a loved one they thought had safely returned from combat, they are the rule. In 1956, the same year

that my parents fled to this incredible country, the 84th Congress—in the very House that we sit in today—had this to say in a presidential commission report on veterans’ benefits:

“The Government’s obligation is to help veterans overcome special, significant handicaps incurred as a consequence of their military service. The objective should be to return veterans as nearly as possible to the status they would have achieved had they not been in military service . . . and maintaining them and their survivors in circumstances as favorable as those of the rest of the people. . . . War sacrifices should be distributed as equally as possible within our society. This is the basic function of our veterans programs.”

I am not a pedigreed expert or a government official seasoned in testifying before you, but those who are from the GAO and the Congressional Research Department and even the Veterans Administration itself, have sat in this very seat over the years and told you we are falling far short in providing the resources and programs our returning troops and military families need to successfully return to their personal lives following their service to the nation.

To those who resist hearing the cold hard truth of where we are today, I’d like to say: The time is here to stop fighting the data, and to start fighting for our troops.

This is America. We can do better. We must do better.

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HONORING RETIRING TOWN OF  
BOSTON COUNCILMAN BRIEN  
HOPKINS

**HON. BRIAN HIGGINS**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 13, 2007

Mr. HIGGINS. Madam Speaker, I am pleased today to honor the accomplishments of Boston Town Councilman Brien Hopkins.

Throughout Brien’s service on the Town Board, he exemplified the term “public servant.” Brien’s commitment to Boston was manifest, and his desire to see his town reach the very highest level possible served his constituents admirably.

Our community owes Brien a debt of gratitude for his tireless dedication to make Boston a better place to live, work and raise a family. While his work on the town board will conclude on January 1 of next year, the legacy he leaves behind will endure for a long time to come.

Madam Speaker, I want to thank you for this opportunity to honor Brien’s service, and please join me in wishing Brien and his family the very best in the months and years to come.

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THE INTRODUCTION OF A HOUSE  
JOINT RESOLUTION TO RECOGNIZE  
THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY  
OF THE U.S. ARMY RESERVE

**HON. STEVE BUYER**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 13, 2007

Mr. BUYER. Madam Speaker, I am honored today to join with over 230 of my colleagues from both sides of the aisle to introduce this

joint resolution that recognizes the sizable impact and contribution that the members of the Army Reserve have had on this great Nation throughout its 100-year history.

This organization has a rich history of dedicated service and sacrifice. From its inception as a corps of medical officers on April 23, 1908, to its initial call-up, charged with running down the bandit “Pancho” Villa, to the challenges that the doughboys faced in World War I, to the bloody battles fought during World War II on the beaches of the Pacific to those of Normandy, to the hills of the war in Korea, and to the sands of the Persian Gulf, the Army Reserve has always rode to the sound of the guns and answered the Nation’s call in its times of need, around the world, without hesitation, living their creed: Duty, Honor, Country.

Today, these soldiers and their loved ones shoulder a greater share of the burden than at anytime in our Nation’s history. Since September 11, 2001, more than 177,000 Army Reserve Soldiers have been mobilized or deployed in support of the Global War on Terrorism. At any given time, more than 20,000 Army Reserve Soldiers are deployed to no fewer than 18 countries around the world. Their efforts will ensure that America’s vital national security interests will continue to be fulfilled and that our homeland remains protected. I am proud to be counted among their ranks.

This resolution represents an opportunity for Congress to recognize the incredible history of service, sacrifice, and accomplishment of those soldiers who have served in the Army Reserve since its inception. Through war and peace citizen soldiers have contributed so much to answer the Nation’s call to ensure that liberty endures. Please join me in celebrating that heritage and recognizing their proud history by supporting this resolution.

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RECOGNIZING PHILIPPE CRAS OF  
KINGWOOD, TEXAS

**HON. TED POE**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 13, 2007

Mr. POE. Madam Speaker, few people symbolize the American Dream more than Philippe Cras of Kingwood, Texas. From foreign exchange student to proud American citizen, his life is an inspirational tale of making the most of the vast opportunities available in the United States and giving back to local communities after achieving great success.

Philippe is originally from Belgium and arrived in the United States in 1977 as an exchange student sponsored by a Rotary Club. After attending community college in Oregon, he returned to his home country and later accepted a position with a company in the United States. He and his wife, Mieke, eventually settled in Kingwood, Texas. Philippe and Mieke love the United States and wanted nothing more than to become citizens of our great country. They did achieve this goal.

Later, Philippe purchased property in Kingwood and began building his hotel, Homewood Suites. In June of 2000, the hotel opened its doors combining European style with Southern hospitality for a unique lodging experience.

Philippe is known in the community for many things such as his breakfast which features Belgian waffles that are made in the

shape of Texas. He has also become popular as a cornerstone for community service.

After living in the U.S. for a while, he became frustrated with the fact that voter turnout in American elections was so low. Because of this, he hosted a voter registration drive at his hotel. To encourage residents to participate, he offered a free breakfast for registering.

Philippe is extremely active as this year's president of the Humble Intercontinental Rotary and has been named Rotarian of the Year on occasion. He is especially fond of the Rotary's student exchange program which inspired him as a high school student to move to the United States. His life was forever changed by the impact of Rotary International and he takes great pride in giving back to the organization.

With a heart as big as Texas, Philippe has been a Good Samaritan for many years to many people. After Hurricane Rita hit East Texas, Philippe opened his conference room for storm evacuees, fed them and provided mattresses for them to sleep on.

Philippe is one of the first people to volunteer his assistance and resources if a local nonprofit organization needs help. He has collected thousands of toys for Toys for Tots. He is a major sponsor of the annual tradition known as Fill the Bus which encourages residents to donate school supplies for children. He gave out free breakfast and one-night stays at this hotel for those that donated supplies. The event literally fills a school bus with supplies for children at Humble ISD.

His largest contribution to Humble ISD was a \$100,000 grant in hotel services. The grant saves the district money on lodging, catering and other services which allows more school resources to be spent on education instead of expenses. There are far too many examples of Philippe's humble generosity and philanthropy to list. His personal impact in the community has touched thousands of lives and residents in Kingwood, Humble and the surrounding areas. We are forever grateful for his efforts.

Today, I salute Philippe Cras for his contributions to the community, warm hospitality and for making the eternal flame of the American Dream burn brighter each day. His life is an inspiration to us all to challenge ourselves to be better citizens for the sake of our communities.

And that's just the way it is.

#### YOUTH VIOLENCE

### HON. STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 13, 2007*

Mrs. JONES of Ohio. Madam Speaker, we are at a critical juncture in our nation as we attempt to find solutions to the growing scourge of youth violence. In October of this year a student shot four others and eventually himself at SuccessTech Academy in my congressional district in Cleveland. Earlier this year Seung-Hui Cho, a Virginia Tech student who in April killed 32 students and faculty before shooting himself to death. And most recently, a teenager with an assault rifle opens fire on holiday shoppers in a department store in middle America.

Over the past ten years more than 60 shooting incidents have occurred in our na-

tion's schools. These incidents have occurred all over the country. While some thought Columbine was an aberration, it has become clear that this is a serious and growing problem in our country that must be addressed.

It is important to point out that in the late 80's and early 90's when overall crime was going down, youth and young adult arrest rates were increasing.

We must ask ourselves why. What makes a 14-year old feel so disengaged from society that he wants to shoot others and himself? When do we stop allowing the broad distribution of firearms under cover of the 2nd Amendment right to bear arms? When do we start to recognize that youth with mental illnesses must be treated as at-risk? Where is the breakdown in the moral fabric that used to hold our society together?

America is looking to Congress to come up with comprehensive solutions. We must begin to deal with this problem on three levels: in the community, within our families and on an individual level.

As adults, we must take a greater interest in the lives of our children. When I was a child, not only were my parents looking out for me, but the entire neighborhood served as my surrogate mothers and fathers. If I was out in the street doing something I wasn't supposed to, not only would I get chastised by my parents, but everyone in the community would get on my case. At the time it may have seemed harsh, but I now realize it was done out of love.

We must take the same approach with our children today. Many of the children who committed these heinous acts showed signs of emotional disturbance prior to the incident. I have to wonder if we as adults and even their peers in school were paying closer attention, could these tragedies have been prevented.

It is time for us as members of Congress to take a serious look at this issue and determine how we can provide support to parents, teachers and our communities as a whole in ending the rampant youth violence that has become so prevalent in our society.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. BILL SHUSTER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 13, 2007*

Mr. SHUSTER. Madam Speaker, on rollcall No. 1155, on the motion to suspend the rules and pass H.R. 3985, the Over-the-Road Bus Transportation Accessibility Act, I was not present. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes."

#### CELEBRATING THE RETIREMENT OF MICHAEL K. WHEELER FROM THE JOHN DINGELL VA MEDICAL CENTER, DETROIT, MICHIGAN

### HON. JOHN D. DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 13, 2007*

Mr. DINGELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of Michael K. Wheeler, who is retiring on January 3, 2008, as Director of the John

Dingell VA Medical Center in Detroit. Mr. Wheeler's career is marked by numerous hospital administration roles and a dedication to our men and women who have served in the Armed Forces.

Mr. Wheeler was born in Detroit and moved to Canton, Ohio, when he was a teenager. He received a BS in business administration from the University of Dayton and an MA in hospital administration from Xavier University in Cincinnati. Mr. Wheeler began his career as a Hospital Administration Specialist in the U.S. Air Force and has served in an impressive number of VA Medical Centers, including Durham, North Carolina; Portland, Oregon; Prescott, Arizona; Coatesville, Pennsylvania; Cleveland, Ohio; and Dayton, Ohio. Prior to assuming the position of Director of the John Dingell VAMC, Mr. Wheeler was the Medical Center Director of the VAMC Battle Creek, Michigan. Additionally, Mr. Wheeler has conducted seminars in postgraduate education in management principles, strategic planning, and quality assurance for the VA, Duke University, and the American College of Health Care Executives.

Undoubtedly, Mr. Wheeler was more than prepared when he began his tenure at the John Dingell VAMC in 2001. There, he oversees all operations of the 108 bed primary, secondary, and tertiary care medical center which provides acute medical, surgical, psychiatric, and other inpatient care as well as both primary and specialized outpatient services, including substance abuse, among others. His job necessitates flexibility and strong decisionmaking abilities.

Mr. Wheeler is a patriot and a role model for us all. His colleagues and associates know him as an approachable, humorous, and very hard-working Director. I am proud to call him a friend. The John Dingell VAMC has been lucky to have him for these past 6 years. Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Mr. Wheeler for his dedication to the VA and to the men and women who have served our country. I wish him well as he moves on to new adventures.

#### RECOGNIZING LCPL JOSHUA BLEILL

### HON. MIKE PENCE

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 13, 2007*

Mr. PENCE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Lance Corporal Joshua Bleill, a veteran of the Iraq War, a fine Marine and a bright light to many of us. I have had the privilege of meeting this impressive young man and I am honored to enter the following poem written by Burt Caswell of the Capitol Guide Service into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

#### A BRIGHT LIGHT

A . . .  
A Bright Light!  
Shining, ever into that night!  
Day and Night . . .  
A . . .  
A Shining Star!  
A hero, who will go far!  
Who with his fine heart, stands way above  
par!  
Who to our world . . .  
So shows what is right!

About life, and sacrifice . . . in courage's light!  
 Touching all hearts, and souls . . . as left, this night . . . his heart burning bright, burning bold!  
 A Marine's, Marine!  
 A hero, who once upon battlefields of honor was seen . . .  
 Leading Marines, leading men and women of honor . . . upon the scene . . .  
 As wherever he convened . . .  
 Strength in Honor . . .  
 As what his fine life has meant!  
 As to all others, and this our world he has so Heaven sent . . .  
 Such inspiration, to this his our great nation . . . to this his United States Marines!  
 As into the face of death, he went . . .  
 Then, to lose his two fine legs, as then . . .  
 To fall down into such deep dark pain, and not wain!  
 To get up, To rebuild where no lies left . . . as is this his this heroes quest!  
 As he teaches us, all about America's Best!  
 There! In his darkest of all days, a smile upon his face so conveys!  
 Courage's Quest! America's Best . . . as Joshua Bleill amazes us all no less!  
 A man who brings such tears to eyes . . . who our world will bless!  
 As we watch and learn . . .  
 As our hearts for him so burn . . .  
 As we watch him stand taller each and every day!  
 Running, with his heart all the way . . . needing not his two fine legs!  
 As his heart . . .  
 Can not be stopped, nor can so be swayed!  
 As we watch, as we learn . . . from our Lord's fine son, as our hearts so discern this day!  
 The Path To Heaven's Way!  
 In our lives, and in our lights . . .  
 We but have the shortest of times, to so burn bright!  
 But, some . . . high above all others do so shine . . . upon this our world tonight . . .  
 Are all of those who are, but the brightest of all our Lord's lights!  
 A Joshua Tree!  
 The True Fine Measure, of all a heart can be!  
 A presence, who upon battlefields of honor . . . was so struck down indeed . . .  
 Yet, but would not so concede . . . to rise was he!  
 Growing ever taller, ever stronger . . .  
 As the days got longer, this champion touching all hearts so indeed . . .  
 Could we? Would we? Ever have such courage, to so shine as much light as he in our time?  
 As this bright light grows ever stronger, and this Joshua Tree of life . . . grows taller everyday indeed!  
 A Bright Light!  
 While, there in The Darkest of All Possible fights!  
 Can so over come all so indeed!  
 This our Lord's Joshua Tree!

PAKISTANI GOVERNMENT RECOGNIZES ANAND MARRIAGE ACT

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 13, 2007

Mr. TOWNS. Madam Speaker, the government of Pakistan has recognized the Anand Marriage Act of 1909. This act covers Sikh marriages. I commend the Pakistani govern-

ment for this show of tolerance and religious freedom.

There are only about 15,000 Sikhs in Pakistan. When is India, with its 22 million Sikhs, going to recognize the same act? It has been on the books for almost a century.

India refuses to enforce or even recognize the Anand Marriage Act. Instead, it records all Sikh marriages as Hindu marriages under the Hindu Marriage Act. This constitutes a refusal of "secular", "democratic" India to recognize Sikhism as a separate religion. Instead, they seek to subsume it under Hinduism.

The fact that Guru Nanak, who began the Sikh religion, was born Hindu no more makes Sikhism a part of Hinduism than the fact that Jesus was Jewish makes Christianity part of Judaism. The Indian government is simply trying to eliminate the Sikh religion by subverting it and forcing Sikhs into Hinduism. Where is the freedom of religion in India?

Madam Speaker, this is unacceptable! America can and must do something to protect the rights and freedoms of all people in South Asia. We can start by stopping our aid to India and our trade until such time as it learns to respect the rights of all people regardless of ethnicity, religion, or social status. And we should put this Congress on record in support of self-determination for the Sikhs of Punjab, Khalistan, the Muslims of Kashmir, the Christians of Nagaland, and all the others who seek freedom. India will not allow such free and fair votes, belying its self-proclaimed democratic principles. The essence of democracy is the right to self-determination.

Madam Speaker, I would like to insert the Council of Khalistan's press release on the Anand Marriage Act into the RECORD.

PAKISTAN RECOGNIZES ANAND MARRIAGE ACT

WASHINGTON, D.C., December 6, 2007.—The government of Pakistan has formally recognized the Anand Marriage Act, which governs Sikh marriages. The act was adopted in 1909.

Even though there are only about 15,000 Sikhs in Pakistan and there are millions of Sikhs in India, India still refuses to recognize the act. While Sikhs conduct marriages in accord with the Anand Marriage Act, the Indian government will not certify them under the act. Instead, they are recorded under the Hindu Marriage Act. The Indian government is trying to destroy the Sikh religion. Its failure to recognize the Anand Marriage Act is one more way that it is carrying out this effort. Sikh marriages are different from Hindu marriages. Hindu couples circle around a fire. Sikh couples circle around the Guru Granth Sahib, the Sikh holy scripture, four times.

"I would like to thank the Pakistani government for its recognition of the Anand Marriage Act, which is almost a hundred years old," said Dr. Gurmit Singh Aulakh, President of the Council of Khalistan, which leads the Sikh struggle for freedom. "Pakistan's action has shown a level of tolerance that supposedly secular, supposedly democratic India has never shown," he said. "That is very telling. It shows the true face of India," he said. "There is no place for Sikhs, Muslims, Christians, or other minorities there."

The Indian government has murdered over 250,000 Sikhs since 1984, more than 300,000 Christians since 1948, over 90,000 Muslims in Kashmir since 1988, and tens of thousands of Tamils, Assamese, Manipuris, Dalits, and others. The Indian Supreme Court called the Indian government's murders of Sikhs "worse than a genocide."

Indian police arrested human-rights activist Jaswant Singh Khalra after he exposed their policy of mass cremation of Sikhs, in which over 50,000 Sikhs have been arrested, tortured, and murdered, and then their bodies were declared unidentified and secretly cremated. He was murdered in police custody. His body was not given to his family.

The police never released the body of former Jathedar of the Akal Takht Sardar Gurdev Singh Kaunke after SSP Swaran Singh Ghotna murdered him. Ghotna has never been brought to trial for the Jathedar Kaunke murder. No one has been brought to justice for the kidnapping and murder of Jaswant Singh Khalra.

According to a report by the Movement Against State Repression (MASR), 52,268 Sikhs are being held as political prisoners in India without charge or trial. Some have been in illegal custody since 1984! Tens of thousands of other minorities are also being held as political prisoners, according to Amnesty International. We demand the immediate release of all these political prisoners.

History shows that multinational states such as India are doomed to failure. Countries like Austria-Hungary, India's longtime friend the Soviet Union, Yugoslavia, Czechoslovakia, and others prove this point. India is not one country; it is a polyglot like those countries, thrown together for the convenience of the British colonialists. It is doomed to break up as they did.

"Only a sovereign, independent Khalistan will allow the Sikhs of Punjab and the other people of the subcontinent to live in freedom, dignity, and prosperity," said Dr. Aulakh. "As Professor Darshan Singh, a former Jathedar of the Akal Takht, said, 'If a Sikh is not for Khalistan, he is not a Sikh.'" Dr. Aulakh noted. "We must continue to press for our God-given birthright of freedom," he said. "Without political power, religions cannot flourish and nations perish. Let us join together and free Khalistan."

IN MEMORY OF ADMIRAL WILLIAM H. STEWART

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 13, 2007

Mr. BONNER. Madam Speaker, I rise today with a heavy heart to pay tribute to the memory of Admiral William H. Stewart, a devoted family man, model officer and dedicated community leader.

A native of Gulf, Texas, Admiral Stewart graduated from Austin High School in 1943. He attended the University of Texas at Austin for two years before leaving to attend the Coast Guard Academy. He graduated from the Academy in 1949 with a Bachelor of Science degree in marine engineering and was commissioned as an ensign in the U.S. Coast Guard.

The Admiral's distinguished Coast Guard career spanned almost four decades. His first assignment was as a deck watch officer aboard the Coast Guard cutter *Tampa* based in Mobile. He then went on to serve as operations officer aboard the cutter *Newell* in Honolulu. In 1954, he was assigned to the Fifth Coast Guard District in Norfolk, Virginia, as chief of the Military Personnel Branch of the Personnel Division.

Admiral Stewart returned to Mobile in 1957 as executive officer of the cutter *Blackthorn*. He was sent to Washington, D.C. in 1959 to

attend George Washington University, where he received his master's degree in public administration. Following graduation, he was assigned as chief of the Material Management Branch of the Office of the Comptroller at Coast Guard Headquarters.

In 1964, Admiral Stewart returned to the Gulf Coast as executive officer of the cutter *Sebago* based out of Pensacola, Florida. He was then assigned as chief of Personnel Division K of the Seventh Coast Guard District in Miami. In 1967, he was named commanding officer of the cutter, *Androscoggin*, a cutter he took to Vietnam in December of 1967 to participate in Operation Market Time. The *Androscoggin* remained on station in Southeast Asia until August 1968.

Following this tour of duty, then-Commander Stewart returned to Washington, D.C. and served as special assistant to the commandant of the Coast Guard before serving as administrative aide to the commandant. Then-Captain Stewart was transferred back to Honolulu to the Fourteenth Coast Guard District, where he served as chief of the operations division and then chief of staff. He once again returned to Washington, D.C. in 1976 as deputy chief of staff at Coast Guard Headquarters. He was appointed by President Jimmy Carter to the rank of rear admiral and was named chief of the office of personnel, a position he held until 1981, when he was assigned commander of the Eighth Coast Guard District in New Orleans, Louisiana.

As commander of the Eighth Coast Guard District, Admiral Stewart worked tirelessly to prevent illegal drug smuggling. In 1983, he testified before the House Select Committee on Narcotics Abuse and Control. During this time, he also served as an advisor to then-Vice President George H.W. Bush before his retirement on June 28, 1985.

Admiral Stewart earned an impressive list of medals and awards over the course of his distinguished career, including: the Coast Guard Achievement Medal; the Combat Action Ribbon; the Bronze Star Medal (with Combat "V") and the Gold Star; the Meritorious Service Medal (with two Gold Stars); the Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross with Gold Star; and the Legion of Merit.

Admiral Stewart's retirement certainly was not the end of his service to his community, state or nation. Following his retirement from the Coast Guard, he served as a Kiwanian, a founding member of the board of trustees of the National Maritime Museum of the Gulf of Mexico, a member of the board of governors of the Bienville Club, a past president and member of the Mobile Council for the Navy League of the United States, a member of the board of directors of the Veterans Day Commission, a past chairman and member of the Military Affairs Committee of the Mobile Chamber of Commerce, a past division chairman of the United Way, a past chairman of the Disaster Service Committee of the local Red Cross Chapter, and a member of the board of directors of the Alabama Military Hall of Honor at Marion Military Institute.

As a homeowner on Alabama's Dauphin Island since the 1950s, the island was of great importance to him. Admiral Stewart served as a member of the board of directors of the Property Owners Association for eight years and president for five years. He was a mem-

ber of a Task Force which brought together Islanders and the Auburn University Economic Development Institute in the late 1980s. He was also founding director as well as second and current chairman of the Dauphin Island Foundation.

Admiral Stewart was married to Laura Hamilton Stewart for more than 40 years before her untimely death from cancer. Together they raised two children, Edward Wilson, who preceded his father in death, and Karla Stewart Bohn.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join with me in remembering a dedicated community leader and friend to many throughout south Alabama. Admiral William H. Stewart loved life and lived it to the fullest, and his passing marks a tremendous loss for all of south Alabama. He will be deeply missed by many, most especially his wife, Paulette Gerhardt Stewart; his daughter and step-daughters; his grandchildren; his extended family; as well as countless friends he leaves behind.

Our thoughts and prayers are with them all at this difficult time.

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ENERGY INDEPENDENCE AND  
SECURITY ACT OF 2007

HON. TODD TIAHRT

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 13, 2007

Mr. TIAHRT. Mr. Speaker, I rise with disappointment in the lack of pro-energy and pro-consumer provisions contained in the Democrat energy bill being considered on the House floor today. I strongly oppose passage of the House Amendment to H.R. 6 and urge my colleagues to join me in defeating this bill. We should work in a bipartisan manner to pass real solutions for America's growing energy needs.

The American economy has ups and downs. But overall it continues to grow, producing jobs for American workers. To keep pace with our economy, more reliable and sustainable sources of energy are needed. Conservation, innovative and efficient energy technologies, renewable forms of energy and of course traditional sources of energy all must play a role in our energy future.

I am pleased the bill included an increase in fuel efficiency standards from 25 miles per gallon to 35 miles per gallon by 2020. As a cosponsor of H.R. 2927 that would increase the corporate average fuel economy, CAFE, standards for automobiles, I believe we must not waste any more time in making our vehicles more fuel efficient. I support increasing the CAFE standards and hope we can work together with the private sector to achieve this worthy goal.

Unfortunately, the Democrat's closed-door energy bill containing more than 1,000 pages is not the kind of solution the American people deserve. Rather than work together to pass a more complete and comprehensive plan to address our energy needs, Democrat leadership has chosen to forego their pledge to work with Republicans on important policy matters. The result is an energy bill that will lead to higher

electric utility bills, drive up gasoline prices at the pump, discriminately raise taxes on manufacturers of domestic energy and depress exploration efforts to find additional sources of domestic energy.

The bill fails to include proven, reliable energy production methods such as nuclear energy for lowering emissions into our atmosphere. Instead, the House Amendment to H.R. 6 mandates a one-size-fits-all Renewable Portfolio Standard for some electric utility companies while exempting other electric utilities. I support utility companies investing in and offering renewable energy to customers, and I support incentives for increased production of renewable energy. Many Kansas farmers and landowners are already participants in wind and bio fuel production, and Kansas has potential to do even more.

But Congress must exercise great caution when attempting to mandate levels of renewable fuels that must be used by electric power companies. Many of our Nation's electric companies are presently investing billions of dollars in renewable energy projects—not because they are mandated by the Federal Government, but because market forces have led them to do so. By mandating higher levels of renewable energy for power generation than the market naturally supports, ratepayers are going to be stuck with higher electric bills.

I cannot think of a single constituent who has asked me to support higher electric bills. This Democrat bill is not an energy solution that is good for Kansas, and it is not a good solution for America.

Great harm will particularly fall upon America's poor and middle class customers as a result of increased electric rates. Senior citizens who are living on fixed incomes and families on tight budgets should not be forced to suffer because of ill-thought Federal mandates on select electric utilities and their customers.

Another section of the House Amendment to H.R. 6 mandates a Federal Renewable Energy Standard that will require unrealistic quantities of biofuel. For example, the Democrat energy bill mandates that 100 million gallons of cellulosic biofuel be included in our fuel supply by 2010. However, commercially viable production of cellulosic fuel is only projected to be 27 million gallons by 2010. As a strong supporter of cellulosic biofuel, I hope American ingenuity will help us surpass current projections. The Federal Government should encourage private-sector innovation that has long been a hallmark of America's history.

But the Federal Government should not be mandating on the private sector requirements that are not commercially tested and far exceed industry projections. Reckless mandates will result in increased fuel costs for consumers.

I am also disappointed that the House Amendment to H.R. 6 contains more than \$21 billion in tax increases that will negatively impact American jobs. By raising taxes on the oil and gas industry, we are driving up manufacturing costs making domestic companies less competitive. Raising taxes on oil and gas companies will not reduce prices at the pump, and it certainly will not help ease our dependence on foreign oil. If anything, it will make

us more dependent on foreign oil and will cause energy prices to increase.

Raising taxes on the energy sector will inevitably be passed to consumers at the pump. If the Democrat energy tax increase is passed, motorists will consider today's \$3 gasoline to be a cheap deal. Families and small businesses in Kansas do not want higher fuel costs, which is why I refuse to accept a plan that raises the price of gasoline.

By raising billions of dollars through tax increases imposed on the oil and gas manufacturing industry, but not raising taxes on other manufacturing sectors, Congress picks winners and losers and American manufacturing jobs suffer.

Instead of encouraging more domestic energy exploration, production and investment, the Democrat energy bill instead makes these activities more expensive for American companies trying to supply America with energy.

This bill is woefully inadequate when it comes to American energy independence. It harms consumers by raising energy costs. And it wreaks havoc on American manufacturing jobs.

I urge my colleagues to reject this proposal.

#### AMT RELIEF ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

#### HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 12, 2007

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of the AMT Relief Act of 2007, which will provide middle class tax relief to over 23 million hard-working families who would otherwise be hit by the Alternative Minimum Tax next year.

For six years, the White House and the Republican congressional leadership failed to dismantle the Alternative Minimum Tax. As a result of their inaction, a huge middle class tax increase is now hanging over the heads of millions of unsuspecting Americans. This Republican tax tsunami will come crashing down on middle America next year if we fail to take action today.

On the Republicans' watch, the wealthiest 1 percent of Americans got over half the benefit of the Bush tax cuts—while the Nation's debt soared past \$9 trillion. Make no mistake: There are consequences to this kind of borrow and spend mentality. Every year, each taxpayer must pay a \$3,300 "debt tax" just to cover the cost of financing the debt. This legislation takes a different approach. Rather than digging ourselves deeper into debt, this bill pays for our actions today by closing a loophole in current law that permits a minuscule number of hedge fund managers to defer billions of dollars in compensation in offshore accounts.

To those who say Congress should not pass its bills, this legislation says "there is another choice." We can provide fiscally responsible tax relief without running up the national debt. We can take responsibility for our expenses today, without placing the burden of our choices on future generations.

I urge my colleagues to make the right choice. Let's pass fiscally responsible AMT re-

lief and give our citizens the government they deserve.

DR. AULAKH, PRESIDENT OF  
COUNCIL OF KHALISTAN, HAS  
SUCCESSFUL TRIP TO EUROPE

#### HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 13, 2007

Mr. TOWNS. Madam Speaker, recently, Dr. Gurmit Singh Aulakh, President of the Council of Khalistan, made a very successful trip to Great Britain and Belgium. Belgium is the European headquarters of the Research and Analysis Wing (RAW), India's shadowy "intelligence service."

Dr. Aulakh spoke at three Gurdwaras and the crowds responded enthusiastically. They chanted pro-Khalistan slogans and they overwhelmingly supported the message of freedom for Khalistan, the Sikh homeland. This was a blow to the Indian occupation and oppression in Punjab, Khalistan.

Their support should be rewarded, Madam Speaker. We should go on record supporting a free and fair vote on the matter. And we should stop our aid to India until such time as they recognize basic human rights.

Madam Speaker, I would like to add the Council of Khalistan's recent release on Dr. Aulakh's European visit to the RECORD at this time.

#### DR. AULAKH'S VISIT TO EUROPE VERY SUCCESSFUL

WASHINGTON, DC, Dec. 6.—Dr. Gurmit Singh Aulakh, President of the Council of Khalistan, has recently returned from a very successful trip to Europe. He traveled to Gurdwaras in Belgium and Great Britain. He spoke at the Gurdwaras in Sint-Truiden in Belgium and in Slough and Birmingham in the United Kingdom. Belgium is the European headquarters of India's Research and Analysis Wing (RAW).

At every stop, slogans of "Khalistan Zindabad" filled the air. Enthusiastic crowds greeted Dr. Aulakh's message of freedom for Khalistan, the Sikh homeland that declared its independence from India on October 7, 1987.

"I would like to thank my hosts in Europe for helping to make the trip so successful," Dr. Aulakh said. The show of support for liberating the Sikh Nation, Khalistan, from Indian occupation shows that the flame of freedom burns brightly in the hearts of the Sikh Nation despite India's many years of oppression."

India has refused to allow so much as a vote on the matter of independence for Khalistan. It has refused to grant the people of Kashmir the plebiscite on their status that they were promised in 1948. It continues to kill and harass Sikhs and other minorities.

The Indian government has murdered over 250,000 Sikhs since 1984, more than 300,000 Christians since 1948, over 90,000 Muslims in Kashmir since 1988, and tens of thousands of Tamils, Assamese, Manipuris, Dalits, and others. The Indian Supreme Court called the Indian government's murders of Sikhs "worse than a genocide."

Indian police arrested human-rights activist Jaswant Singh Khalra after he exposed their policy of mass cremation of Sikhs, in which over 50,000 Sikhs have been arrested,

tortured, and murdered, and then their bodies were declared unidentified and secretly cremated. He was murdered in police custody. His body was not given to his family.

The police never released the body of former Jathedar of the Akal Takht Sardar Gurdev Singh Kaunke after SSP Swaran Singh Ghotna murdered him. Ghotna has never been brought to trial for Jathedar Kaunke's murder. No one has been brought to justice for the kidnapping and murder of Jaswant Singh Khalra.

According to a report by the Movement Against State Repression (MASR), 52,268 Sikhs are being held as political prisoners in India without charge or trial. Some have been in illegal custody since 1984! Tens of thousands of other minorities are also being held as political prisoners, according to Amnesty International. We demand the immediate release of all these political prisoners.

History shows that multinational states such as India are doomed to failure. Countries like Austria-Hungary, India's longtime friend the Soviet Union, Yugoslavia, Czechoslovakia, and others prove this point. India is not one country; it is a polyglot like those countries, thrown together for the convenience of the British colonialists. It is doomed to break up as they did.

"The desire to reclaim the sovereignty that Guru Gobind Singh declared for us still resides in every Sikh heart," said Dr. Aulakh. "As Professor Darshan Singh, a former Jathedar of the Akal Takht, said, 'If a Sikh is not for Khalistan, he is not a Sikh.'" Dr. Aulakh noted. "We must continue to press for our God-given birthright of freedom," he said. "Khalistan must and will be free soon."

CONGRATULATING DR. HAROLD  
DODGE ON THE OCCASION OF HIS  
RETIREMENT AS SUPER-  
INTENDENT OF THE MOBILE  
COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOL SYS-  
TEM

#### HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 13, 2007

Mr. BONNER. Madam Speaker, it is with great pride and pleasure that I rise to honor the long and distinguished career of Dr. Harold Dodge, on the occasion of his retirement as superintendent of the Mobile County Public School System.

With a career spanning over four decades, Dr. Dodge has dedicated his life to education, serving as a teacher, principal, and superintendent. Beginning his career as a teacher and a coach at Deep Creek High School in Chesapeake, Virginia, he went on to serve as principal at Oscar Smith High School, Indian River Junior High School, and E.W. Chittum Elementary School in Chesapeake, Virginia.

Prior to coming to Mobile, Dr. Dodge served as superintendent of Cumberland County Schools in Cumberland, Virginia; Montgomery County Schools in Christianburg, Virginia; and University City School District in University City, Missouri.

In August of 1998, Dr. Dodge took the reigns of the Mobile County Public School System, the State's largest school system with over 65,000 students and 8,000 employees. Under his leadership, the school system has implemented a nationally recognized strategic

plan that encourages sustained parental and community involvement while focusing on making children proficient in learning.

After 10 years of extraordinary work as superintendent of the Mobile County Public Schools, Dr. Dodge will turn his attention to college students as a professor at the University of South Alabama. He will be an associate professor in the Department of Leadership and Teacher Education, training principals and superintendents in the university's master degree program.

There are few individuals more dedicated or more committed to students than Harold Dodge, and this commitment has not gone unnoticed. In 2006, Dr. Dodge was named Alabama's Superintendent of the Year. Earlier this month, he was named an Outstanding Civilian Service Member, the second highest public service honorary award given to civilians by the United States Army, and the Mobile Area Education Foundation named its Fund-a-S.T.A.R. grant program for classroom teachers after him. The city of Mobile named Thursday, December 6, 2007, both the Mobile Area Education Foundation Day and Harold Dodge Day.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing a dedicated community leader and friend to many throughout Alabama. Dr. Harold Dodge is an outstanding example of the quality of individuals who have devoted their lives to education. I know his colleagues; his wife, Jean; his family; and many friends join me in extending thanks for his many efforts over the years on behalf of the city of Mobile and the State of Alabama. I wish him the best in all his future endeavors.

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#### AMT RELIEF ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

**HON. TODD TIAHRT**

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 12, 2007*

Mr. TIAHRT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of extending Alternative Minimum Tax relief to millions of American taxpayers. Congress never intended for the AMT to hit so many people. The Senate has already passed a clean bill to provide a one-year AMT patch for the 2007 tax year. I urge my colleagues in the House to do the same and pass AMT relief for the nearly 20 million new taxpayers who will otherwise be subjected to this tax increase if Congress fails to act.

While I rise in strong support of extending AMT relief, I rise in opposition to the AMT bill being considered on the House floor today. H.R. 4351 would not just provide a one-year AMT patch; it would also permanently raise billions of dollars in new taxes on other citizens. Rather than provide a stand-alone patch

or offset the costs by reducing federal spending, the Democrat leadership solution is to pay for the AMT fix by raising taxes on other taxpayers.

Instead of debating a bill that will never be signed into law, we should be working together in a bipartisan way to take actions similar to what the Senate has done. Because of the ineffectiveness of Democrat leadership decisions, millions of American taxpayers will either be forced to pay an average of \$2,000 more or have their tax refunds delayed next year. A delay in tax refunds could have been avoided by earlier congressional action, and we must act swiftly to ensure the tax increase does not become a reality for millions of American families.

The AMT tax was created nearly 40 years ago to ensure a small number of very wealthy taxpayers would pay a fair portion of taxes. Because the AMT was not indexed for inflation, millions of Americans are now being threatened by the higher AMT tax, which effectively takes back tax cuts enacted in 2001, 2003 and 2004 for those taxpayers.

The Federal Government should be finding ways to lower the burden on American taxpayers. Instead, H.R. 4351 would permanently raise taxes. This proposal to address the government's shortsightedness to index the AMT for inflation should be soundly rejected in favor of a permanent AMT fix or a patch that does not raise taxes on others.

I urge my colleagues to join me in voting against H.R. 4351 so we can begin consideration of a real solution that we can send to the President for his signature. Providing a one-year AMT fix is the least we can do as an alternative to a permanent solution. The time for partisan tax-shifting games has concluded. Let's put the American people first and defeat this massive tax increase bill.

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#### CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 1585, NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2008

SPEECH OF

**HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN**

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 12, 2007*

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this final, bipartisan Defense Authorization agreement for the critical investments it makes in our military readiness, troop protection and wounded warrior care. I am also proud that this conference report cracks down on contractor fraud, provides a 3.5 percent pay increase and improves health care benefits for our military families and restores workplace fairness for the Defense Department's hardworking civilian employees. Finally, consistent with this Congress' commitment to

chart a new direction on the war in Iraq, this legislation requires the DOD to regularly brief Congress on its planning to responsibly redeploy our forces out of that misguided conflict.

To help restore our nation's military readiness, this bill creates a \$1 billion Strategic Readiness Fund to address equipment shortfalls and provides an additional \$980 million to properly equip our National Guard and Reserve.

We authorize \$17.6 billion—an increase of \$865 million—for the Mine Resistant Ambush Protected (MRAP) vehicles that have been so successful protecting our men and women serving in Iraq and Afghanistan. We commit \$4.8 billion for anti-IED efforts. And we allocate a total of \$6 billion to up-armor our Humvees, add armor to other combat vehicles and provide body armor for our troops.

Because we must never force those who have been wounded abroad to battle bureaucratic red tape in order to get the care they need when they come home, this legislation includes the Wounded Warrior Act, designed to correct the disgraceful conditions uncovered at the Walter Reed Army Medical Center and ensure seamless, high-quality care that our returning veterans have earned and deserve.

Improving accountability through more regular and vigorous oversight is a consistent and recurring theme of the new Congress. Consistent with that commitment, this bill requires the DoD and Department of State to issue detailed regulations governing the conduct of private security contractors employed by the federal government. Additionally, to enhance our accountability efforts, we strengthen whistleblower protections for those willing to bring waste, fraud and abuse to the public's attention.

I am particularly pleased that this legislation prohibits fee increases in the TRICARE program, and the 3.5 percent pay increase provided to our military families—while larger than the President's request—is really the least we can do. Moreover, I am gratified that the NDAA conferees saw fit to include important contracting out and workplace protections for DoD's civilian employees in this final report. They go to work every day to serve their country, and it is only appropriate that the nation treat them with the dignity and respect they deserve.

Finally, having worked for several years to reconstitute the core functions of the Armed Forces Institute of Pathology, AFIP, in the aftermath of the 2005 Base Realignment and Closure, BRAC, Commission, I am delighted by the establishment of a Joint Pathology Center mandated by this report. Furthermore, I believe the expanded nursing program housed at the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences, USUHS, will be a valuable resource to military medicine, and I welcome the program to my district.