

through her tireless efforts. Cindy was a public face for the library during a period of growth when more than \$2 million was raised solely from private donations. Under Cindy's leadership, more than 75 percent of Bainbridge Islanders have library cards, with the Island's 8,000 households, borrowing more than one-half millions books and materials last year.

Cindy has made the library a better place in every way. Her stewardship and leadership has ensured that the building and programs have adapted to the changing needs of Bainbridge Islanders. Her imagination and dedication to learning have made the Library a magnet for all the citizens of Bainbridge Island and have endeared her to the community.

I offer my praise to Cindy Harrison, for her devotion to the Bainbridge Island library and community.

INTRODUCTION OF BILL TO
PROTECT THE POLAR BEAR

HON. EDWARD J. MARKEY

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 17, 2008

Mr. MARKEY. Madam Speaker, I am introducing this bill today because the polar bear is in the crosshairs of global warming and the ill-advised decisions of the Bush administration to proceed with an oil lease sale in a major polar bear habitat while delaying a decision to list the polar bear as threatened under the Endangered Species Act. This legislation would require that the Interior Department delay the oil drilling rights sale in Alaska's Chukchi Sea until it had made a decision on the listing of the polar bear under the Endangered Species Act, and had performed its responsibility of establishing "critical habitat" for the polar bear.

The Bush administration's own scientists project that the prospects for the polar bear's survival are bleak. Last year, Dr. Steven Amstrup, the Government's leading polar bear scientist, headed up a team of scientists charged with examining the impact of sea ice loss on polar bear populations. In a series of reports released last fall, Dr. Amstrup's team concluded that by mid-century, two-thirds of all the world's polar bears could disappear and that polar bears could be gone entirely from Alaska. Dr. Amstrup's team also noted that based on recent observations, this dire assessment could actually be conservative.

The actions of the Bush administration in the coming months could very well determine the fate of this iconic animal. The Interior Department is currently considering whether to list the polar bear under the Endangered Species Act as a result of the impact of global warming. While this decision has been nearly three years in the making, last week the Fish and Wildlife Service announced that it was going to delay any decisions beyond its statutorily required deadline—that legal protection for the polar bear would be put on ice while its critical habitat continues to melt.

Meanwhile, the Interior Department is revving up its regulatory machine to allow new oil drilling in sensitive polar bear habitat. Earlier this month, the Minerals Management Service finalized its plan to move forward early next month with an oil and gas lease sale of nearly 30 million acres in the Chukchi Sea, an area that is essential habitat for polar bears in the United States.

The timing of these two decisions leaves the door open for the administration to give Big Oil the rights to this polar bear habitat the moment before the protections for the polar bear under the Endangered Species Act go into effect. Rushing to allow drilling in polar bear habitat before protecting the bear would be the epitome of this administration's backwards energy policy—a policy of drill first and ask questions later.

The decision to list the polar bear must be made on the best science. The Bush administration is still working out how it can solve global warming—with great delay—but has not yet made any declaration that we, or the polar bear, are in any danger. The Endangered Species Act does not call for a solution before a declaration, but rather a clear decision to be made on the biological status of a species at a specific time. The Bush administration are not going to solve global warming without first declaring it a problem, and they are not going to save the bear without first declaring it endangered or threatened under the Endangered Species Act.

Robert Frost wrote about two roads diverging in the wood, and here we have the Bush administration looking down two roads with regard to the polar bear. Down one road lies the survival of the polar bear and the orderly consideration of oil drilling and global warming and common sense. Down the other road, too often traveled by this administration, lies regulatory lunacy and a blatant disregard for moral responsibility. I urge Secretary Kempthorne and his agency to choose the Bush administration's road less traveled and protect the polar bear, and the rest of us, from global warming.

A TRIBUTE TO THE MONITORS
CELEBRATING 50 YEARS OF
MAKING MUSIC

HON. G. K. BUTTERFIELD

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 17, 2008

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Madam Speaker, I rise and ask my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to the Monitors, one of eastern North Carolina's most noted bands. On January 25, 2008, members of this band will come together at the Boykin Center in Wilson, NC, to celebrate 50 years of making music.

Madam Speaker, Bill Myers and Cleveland Flowe came together and organized the band in 1957 setting the Monitors in motion over the next 50 years. And they are still grooving today. I want to say that Bill Myers is married to my very special cousin, Diana Davis Myers, and Cleveland Flowe was my band teacher when I was in high school many years ago.

Bill Myers is the only original member of the band who performs once or twice per month. Cleveland Flowe and his wife, Cathy, now live in Charlotte, NC. The Monitors' music varies according to the crowd. The band is very versatile and can take an audience back on a journey to the World War II era, or can have them doing the twist, jerk, or mashed potatoes into the 1940s, 50s, 60s, 70s or even break dancing to the 80s or "leaning back" to those songs that you may hear on the radio today. Although the band has kept up with the time, the members have been able to savor its origi-

nal flavor and can kick it into gear on command.

Madam Speaker, all one has to do is just name the occasion—a concert, Mardi Gras, Hawaiian luau, wedding reception, prom, cabaret, or a street festival, and the Monitors will have you springing to your feet and dancing to the beat.

The Monitors' claim to fame is their noted performances as back-up band with such greats as Otis Redding, Millie Jackson, Major Lance, Faye Adams and Joyce Thorne, and as the opening act with Ray Charles and Roberta Flack. Further, a little known history fact is that in the early stages of her career, Roberta Flack was lead singer for the Monitors.

Madam Speaker, this celebration is not only a time of reminiscence for the members of the Monitors which include Bill Myers, Cleveland Flowe, Jerome Morgan, Willie Dupree, Dick Knight, Fred Moye, Donald Tuckson, Sam Lathan, Clark Mills, Jr., Mollie Hunter and Gerald Hunter, but it is a charitable occasion where proceeds of the concert will be divided between the Arts Council of Wilson and the Charles H. Darden High School Alumni Association.

Madam Speaker, I applaud the Monitors for the joy that they have brought into the lives of people across the Nation through their musical talents. I ask my colleagues to join me in extending to this renowned band our heartfelt wishes and God's continued blessings.

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZA-
TION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2008

SPEECH OF

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 16, 2008

Mr. CONYERS. Madam Speaker, the provision that caused the President to veto the entire Defense bill simply reaffirms the original intent of Congress to allow victims of terrorism to hold countries that commit or provide material support for terrorist acts accountable. As a principal author of the provision, I am pleased that we were able to salvage much of it. But I am disappointed in the change that the President has insisted on.

The President has decided that it is of utmost importance to shield the Iraqi Government from suits by American soldiers who were brutally tortured by the Iraqi Government under Saddam Hussein, as prisoners of war during the gulf war. The soldiers were not only starved, denied sleep, and exposed to extreme temperatures. They were severely beaten, threatened with castration and dismemberment, and put through mock executions. As a result, they have sustained lasting physical and mental injuries.

These brave soldiers and their families have been waiting many years for justice in our courts. The President, through the actions of his lawyers in the courts, has endeavored to block their progress at every turn. He has even gone so far as to twist a provision Congress included in the Emergency Wartime Supplemental Appropriations Act of 2003, designed to remove restrictions on providing assistance to the new Iraqi Government, into an