

INTRODUCTION OF THE "MORTGAGE AND RENTAL ASSISTANCE RESTORATION ACT OF 2008"

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 2, 2008

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Madam Speaker, today, along with Representative MELANCON, I am re-introducing "The Mortgage and Rental Assistance Restoration Act of 2008."

My bill would reauthorize the Mortgage and Rental Assistance Act, MRA, which was discontinued by the Disaster Mitigation Act, effective May 2002. The MRA provides mortgage or rental payments to people who suffer a loss of income due to a federally declared disaster such as a hurricane or terrorist attack. Without a job, most people would be unable to keep their homes due to the financial burdens of mortgages or rents. The MRA provides cover for both homeowners and renters.

After the terrorist attack on September 11, 2001, individuals who required temporary housing assistance relied upon the MRA, included in the Stafford Act, for aid. Under the MRA program, many were eligible for grants to repair homes to a habitable condition, or to obtain mortgage or rental payment assistance to prevent foreclosures or evictions.

The MRA program was a crucial component to help victims of the September 11 attack in my home State of New York. However, in 2005, in the wake of Hurricane Katrina, the MRA was not available for mortgage or rental assistance. As a result many people who would have been eligible for mortgage or rental assistance were unable to receive it. This was unfair and detrimental to the recovery process.

The United States Government has a responsibility to help communities recover from unpredictable disasters and help citizens keep from losing their homes. The MRA program helps provide stability during unstable times, and that is why it must be reauthorized.

THE OCCASION OF THE 30TH ANNIVERSARY OF RID (REMOVE INTOXICATED DRIVERS)

HON. MICHAEL R. McNULTY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 2, 2008

Mr. McNULTY. Madam Speaker, I wish to express my congratulations to RID (Remove Intoxicated Drivers) on its 30th anniversary. RID was the first organization to be effective in lowering DWI deaths in New York State.

RID is the oldest anti-DWI national organization in the U.S. It was formed in 1978 in Schenectady, New York, by Doris Aiken, the current president. RID began its battle against drunk driving after the deaths of Karen and Timothy Morris, 17 and 19, the only Morris children, caused by an intoxicated 22 year old on December 4, 1977.

RID's mission, then and now, is to deter impaired driving and teen binge drinking. RID educates the public about the impact of abusive alcohol use on life and health with materials, public awareness campaigns, and intense media interactions.

RID has chapters and/or coordinators in 41 States. RID relies heavily on volunteers. RID has never accepted funding from the alcohol industry or other special interests that do not support its goals. They have no paid workers in the field and do not hire professional fundraisers; 90 percent of all funds are spent on programs and 10 percent on administration and fundraising.

Madam Speaker, I ask all Members of the House to recognize and applaud the work of Doris Aiken and volunteers of RID. Their dedication and determination to end drunken driving and alcohol abuse is an excellent example of the power in each and every one of us to effect change in our communities and the Nation. May they continue to provide service and compassion for many years to come.

REMEMBERING THE TRAGEDY OF HALABJA 20 YEARS LATER

HON. BOB FILNER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 2, 2008

Mr. FILNER. Madam Speaker and colleagues, 20 years ago, on March 16, 1988, Saddam Hussein launched the largest chemical weapons attack ever used against civilians in the Kurdish town of Halabja. The deadly cocktail killed an estimated 5,000 residents. Saddam's regime held the gruesome distinction of being the first in history to attack its own population with poison gas.

The brutal attack on Halabja was part of a larger campaign, Anfal, which means "the Spoils," to annihilate the Kurds of Iraq. It has been estimated that between 50,000 and 200,000 Kurds were killed during Anfal. Many died in mass executions; thousands more were simply "disappeared" by the regime.

Halabja symbolizes the suffering of the Kurdish people. The plight of Halabja's survivors continues today because of a lack of remediation. Little or no decontamination has been done and the health consequences of exposure to chemicals including mustard gas, sarin, tabun and VX continue to bring death and destruction to Halabja and surrounding villages. Children are born with deformities and cancers, and other diseases caused by genetic mutations are occurring at much higher rates than in other areas.

The world has historically failed to recognize what happened at Halabja. As we reflect on the tragedy of Halabja, it is important to look to the future, and we must honor Halabja's victims and stand in solidarity with those who survive.

INTRODUCTION OF A BILL EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES THAT PUBLIC SERVANTS SHOULD BE COMMENDED FOR THEIR DEDICATION AND CONTINUED SERVICE TO THE NATION DURING PUBLIC SERVICE RECOGNITION WEEK, MAY 5 THROUGH 11, 2008

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 2, 2008

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, the week of May 5 through May 11, 2008, marks the 24th anniversary of Public Service Recognition Week, PSRW. PSRW is a week set aside to commemorate the hard work, dedication, and sacrifice made by our Nation's Federal, State and local government employees. I am proud to once again introduce this resolution honoring public service and public servants.

Public Service Recognition Week offers an opportunity for all Americans to both recognize and learn about the significant contributions public sector employees make on a daily basis to our local communities, States, and country. Whether fighting crime, educating future generations, or serving on the front line to protect our Nation, public servants touch every aspect of our lives.

While Public Service Week lasts only 7 days, I believe that the contributions and sacrifices of public servants ought to be recognized and appreciated throughout the entire year. By honoring public servants we show younger generations the importance of public service and inspire them to consider entering the field, whether on the Federal, State, or local level of government.

We, as a nation, have a responsibility to honor the commitment of government employees and to recognize that our country runs on their diligence and hard work. The commemoration of Public Service Recognition Week stands as a reminder to every citizen that the sacrifices and contributions made by American public employees is what makes our country a more perfect union and our Government one that is truly of the people, for the people and by the people.

CESAR CHAVEZ'S BIRTHDAY

HON. AL GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 2, 2008

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Madam Speaker, this Monday, March 31, 2008, marked the 81st birthday of the late Cesar Chavez, a national hero who devoted his life to fighting for civil rights for all Americans. Today, I join the millions of Americans who will honor this migrant farmworker, labor organizer, and champion of social justice for his many contributions.

Cesar Chavez was a civil rights and human rights leader who learned about the importance of justice early in his life. After graduating from the eighth grade, a young Cesar Chavez went to work in the fields as a migrant farmworker to support his family. In 1962,

Chavez and Dolores Huerta founded the National Farm Workers Association, later to become the United Farm Workers, UFW. Chavez had the foresight to train his union workers and then to send many of them into the cities where they were to use the boycott and picket as their weapon. The UFW would soon become a significant political force, demonstrating that Mexican Americans could and would participate in electoral politics.

Chavez was able to successfully organize farmworkers because of his tireless leadership and nonviolent tactics that helped pass laws which would permit farmworkers to organize into unions and allow collective bargaining agreements. He also helped make people aware of the struggles of farmworkers for fair wages and safer working conditions. His movement was the beginning of La Causa, "The Cause," a cause that was supported by organized labor, religious groups, minorities, and students.

Cesar Chavez, the founder and president of the United Farm Workers of America, AFL—CIO, died peacefully in his sleep on April 23, 1993. On August 8, 1994, Cesar Chavez was posthumously awarded the Medal of Freedom, our country's highest civilian honor, by President Clinton. Since his passing, ten States across the country have paid tribute to his memory by celebrating a statewide holiday name in his honor, including my home State of Texas.

Cesar Chavez left our world better than he found it. He taught us to face and overcome adversity with the rallying cry of "Si Se Puede!", or "Yes We Can!". His legacy inspires not just the more than 45 million Latinos in this country but every person who believes in nonviolence as a means to achieve social change. He truly was, in the words of Senator Robert Kennedy, "one of the heroic figures of our time."

ON THE BIRTH OF SARAH ELIZABETH BURT

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 2, 2008

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, I am happy to congratulate my cousin Elizabeth Hatchell Burt and her husband Travis Ryan Burt of Columbia, South Carolina, on the birth of their new baby girl. Sarah Elizabeth Burt was born on March 31, 2008, weighing 8 pounds and 3 ounces. She has been born into a loving home where she will be raised by parents who are devoted to her well-being and bright future.

I am so excited for this new addition to our family. I want to congratulate Sarah's grandparents James Clarence Hatchell, Jr., and Dale Wilson Hatchell of Lexington, SC, and George W. Burt and Ramona L. Burt of Williston, SC. Additionally, I wish to send our best wishes to Sarah's great grandparents Richard Bryan Wilson and Mary Dale Lott Wilson of West Columbia and James C. Hatchell, Sr., of Columbia, as well as Frances Burt of Alabama. On behalf of my wife Roxanne, and our entire family, we want to wish Elizabeth, Travis, and Sarah all the best.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. PHIL HARE

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 2, 2008

Mr. HARE. Madam Speaker, on March 31, 2008, I was unavoidably detained. I would like the record to reflect that had I been present, I would have voted as follows: on rollcall No. 147, To reauthorize and amend the Hydrographic Services Improvement Act, I would have voted "yea"; on rollcall No. 148, To provide for the conveyance of approximately 140 acres of land in the Ouachita National Forest in Oklahoma to the Indian Nations Council, Inc., of the Boy Scouts of America, I would have voted "yea"; and on rollcall No. 149, Supporting the observance of Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month, I would have voted "yea."

AMBER WESTERFIELD

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 2, 2008

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Amber Westerfield who has received the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Amber Westerfield is a student at North Arvada Middle School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Amber Westerfield is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential that students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic that will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations once again to Amber Westerfield for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character to all her future accomplishments.

A PROCLAMATION HONORING GABRIELLE FOWLER FOR WINNING THE GIRLS' DIVISION IV STATE BASKETBALL CHAMPIONSHIP

HON. ZACHARY T. SPACE

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 2, 2008

Mr. SPACE. Madam Speaker: Whereas, Gabrielle Fowler showed hard work and dedication to the sport of basketball; and

Whereas, Gabrielle Fowler was a supportive team player; and

Whereas, Gabrielle Fowler always displayed sportsmanship on and off of the court; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That along with her friends, family, and the residents of the 18th Congressional District, I congratulate Gabrielle Fowler

on winning the Girls' Division IV State Basketball Championship. We recognize the tremendous hard work and sportsmanship she has demonstrated during the 2007–2008 basketball season.

HONORING MS. HALLEY PAGE UPON RECEIVING THE 2008 GEORGIA ELEMENTARY SCIENCE TEACHER OF THE YEAR AWARD BY THE GEORGIA SCIENCE TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

HON. PAUL C. BROUN

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 2, 2008

Mr. BROUN of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today with great enthusiasm to congratulate Ms. Halley Page for receiving the 2008 Georgia Elementary Science Teacher of the Year Award from the Georgia Science Teachers Association. Ms. Page is a science teacher at Fowler Drive Elementary School in the Clarke County School District, which is located in the heart of the congressional district, which I am proud to serve.

Throughout her 23 years as an elementary school teacher, 20 of which have been at Fowler Drive Elementary, Halley Page has been a role model and inspiration to the literally thousands of children whose lives she has touched and influenced. A graduate of Georgia Southern University, Ms. Page holds advanced degrees from the University of Georgia. Her dedication to teaching and her love for science are clear and obvious not only to the students who have had the privilege of having her as a teacher but also to the teachers whom she has befriended and mentored.

Today, Ms. Page spends many hours outside her regular schoolday working with her fellow science and Spectrum teachers throughout the district in developing and implementing a science curriculum that flows and maximizes the potential of every one of her students. Ms. Page has been instrumental in strengthening a partnership between Fowler Drive Elementary and the Richard Russell Agricultural Research Center, United States Department of Agriculture, often hosting USDA scientists who have come into the classrooms to provide our children with real hands-on experience. She also brings in multiple guests throughout the school year which not only excite the students about learning but also gives them an opportunity to learn about the outside world.

Accolades such as this one are not new to Ms. Page. She is a three-time Fowler Drive Elementary School Teacher of the Year—1994–1995, 1995–1996, and 2003–2004—and she also received the 2002 Georgia Marine Educator of the Year awarded by the Georgia Association of Marine Educators. Halley Page is indeed worthy of all of these great recognitions and the congratulations of the House of Representatives.

Also worthy of recognition are the more than 12,000 students who attend over 20 schools that make up the Clarke County School District. With over 19 native languages spoken throughout the district, many students face constant difficulty as they work to achieve their greatest potential. With the help of their teachers, parents, and the support of the community, they are overcoming the challenges and