

the responsibility for the health of their populations. I am pleased that this bill invests more in health infrastructure and the training of healthcare professionals. In addition, I am pleased that the bill recognizes the important role played by the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria in empowering countries to address their own health problems.

The HIV/AIDS pandemic has ravaged the world, especially the African continent, and shows no signs of slowing down. While U.S.-funded HIV/AIDS prevention programs reached 57 million people last year alone, new infections are on the rise. It is essential that we renew our focus on prevention efforts, including key work on preventing mother-to-child transmission. Additionally, we must provide the flexibility to respond to the needs of the communities served including through the removal of the abstinence earmark in this bill, which I applaud.

While I believe this bill represents the strong bipartisan commitment of Congress to combating these epidemics, I am disappointed that the bill took a step backwards in the struggle for poor women to receive access to critical family planning services. A provision in the bill could be interpreted to limit, for the first time and contrary to current practice, the types of family planning programs that would be eligible for PEPFAR funding. I understand this was not the intent of the Committee and hope that this issue can be addressed during conference.

I commend Congressman BERMAN and Congresswoman ROS-LEHTINEN for crafting a bipartisan bill that will save millions of lives. It truly honors the legacy of our great colleagues, Congressman LANTOS and Congressman HYDE.

I urge my colleagues to vote in favor of this critical legislation.

WORLD AUTISM AWARENESS DAY

HON. DAVID G. REICHERT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 3, 2008

Mr. REICHERT. Madam Speaker, in December 2007, the United Nations General Assembly adopted a resolution declaring April 2 as the annual World Autism Awareness Day (WARD). Autism is only the third disorder to be recognized in this manner by the UN, showing the pervasive nature of autism and its ever-increasing effect on millions of people worldwide. As the Founder and Co-Chair of the Congressional Children's Health Care Caucus, I recognize the destructive force that is autism and I am proud to recognize Worldwide Autism Awareness Day in order to raise awareness of this life-altering and little known disorder.

Last year, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention announced that autism now afflicts one in every 150 American children and nearly one in 94 boys. These numbers are extremely disconcerting, especially when coupled with the fact that we know little about the root causes of autism.

By raising public awareness of autism, hopefully more money will be allocated to research and develop cures and treatments. I am leading an effort to increase the funding

for the National Institutes of Health (NIH). Increasing NIH funding offers the best hope we have to finding cures and treatments for diseases and disorders like autism. Collectively, we must commit every available resource to all research in order to enhance the quality of life for many, and it is my hope that raising awareness of this disorder will lead to new resources to combat it.

More children will be diagnosed with autism this year than with diabetes, cancer, and AIDS combined and autism is the fastest-growing serious developmental disability in the world. While currently there is no medical detection or cure for autism, early diagnosis and intervention shows much promise. With increased support for autism awareness, together we will offer hope in an area that desperately needs it. And finally Madam Speaker, I would encourage my colleagues to join us in this fight, to fund NIH medical research and bring hope to children and their families.

CONGRATULATING ENVIRONMENTALIST ROSA "CISSIE" DURANDO FOR BEING NAMED A STATE OF FLORIDA POINT OF LIGHT

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 3, 2008

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Rosa "Cissie" Durando, a legendary environmentalist in Palm Beach County, Florida.

I have known "Cissie" Durando since coming to Congress in 1993. As an officer in the Audubon Society and on her own, Rosa has been actively dedicated to the preservation of our environment for nearly 50 years. Her knowledge of all things ecological, her honesty, diligence and determination combine to make her an invaluable resource to everyone concerned about protecting our water, air and land and the flora and fauna with which we cohabit our planet.

Over the course of her life, Rosa has accrued awards too numerous to mention. Now, her work has been recognized again by Florida Governor Charlie Crist, who has named her a "Point of Light" during Environmental Awareness Month.

I am pleased to join Governor Crist, Rosa's family, friends and huge numbers of admirers in celebrating her much deserved award, and I look forward to her continued contributions to the education of our citizens and the health of our planet.

RECOGNIZING THE EFRAIN ANTHONY MARRERO FOUNDATION

HON. HENRY A. WAXMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 3, 2008

Mr. WAXMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate the efforts of the Efrain Anthony Marrero Foundation.

Over the last three years, the House Oversight Committee has held numerous hearings into the impact of steroid abuse. We've

learned of widespread abuse, not just by professional athletes, but by millions of teenage boys and girls, and we've learned of the terrible health impacts of this abuse.

We've heard from many experts who are doing the hard work necessary to reduce this epidemic of steroid abuse. And we've heard the tragic personal stories of families that have been affected by this problem.

Frank and Brenda Marrero are the parents of Efrain Marrero. Almost four years ago, their son Efrain, a promising high school athlete, committed suicide following steroid abuse.

The Marreros grieved. And they also acted, starting the Efrain Anthony Marrero Foundation to tell their story and to educate teenagers about the dangers of steroid abuse.

Representing their foundation, and keeping alive the memory of their son, the Marreros have traveled the country, speaking to parents, teachers, coaches, and teenagers at hundreds of workshops. Their simple message—and the power of their tragic personal story and their ability to persevere—have educated thousands of parents and children about the health impacts of steroid abuse.

I want to thank the Marreros for their efforts. The foundation's motto—FAST—Fighting Against Steroids Together—is a reminder of the need for constant vigilance by coaches, teachers, parents, and public officials to solve this public health problem.

I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the ongoing work of Frank and Brenda Marrero, and the Efrain Anthony Marrero Foundation, to reduce steroid abuse.

FISA AMENDMENTS ACT OF 2008

SPEECH OF

HON. JEFF FLAKE

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 14, 2008

Mr. FLAKE. Mr. Speaker, I voted against H.R. 3773, the FISA Amendments Act of 2008, which was approved by the House of Representatives on March 14, 2008. I believe that this bill was a good compromise between the RESTORE Act approved by the House on November 15, 2007 and the version of the legislation approved by the Senate on February 12, 2008. However, I opposed the version of H.R. 3773 considered in March, because it failed to include immunity for the telecommunications companies that cooperated with the administration's request to assist in intelligence collection.

I disagree with the President's decision to bypass congressional authority in authorizing such surveillance. However, I believe that the telecommunications companies were put in a difficult position and acted in a good-faith interest of national security when they cooperated with the administration's request. If Congress fails to grant them immunity, the consequences would be far-reaching.

Without immunity, the pending lawsuits against the telecom companies will carry on for years and saddle the telecoms with millions of dollars in legal fees—fees that will, in turn, be passed onto consumers.

There will be scenarios in the future when cooperation between the private sector and the Federal Government will be necessary. These situations will likely be met with distrust

and extreme hesitance on the part of private companies because we failed to come to their defense in this matter. This could be detrimental to U.S. security.

Instead of immunity, the FISA Amendments Act would allow the telecoms to defend themselves in court by lifting current restrictions and allowing classified information to be introduced as a part of their defense. This may or may not be sufficient to prove the innocence of the telecoms, but the introduction of this information would set a dangerous precedent. Over the objections of the President, highly classified information would be handed over to judges and lawyers who are unlikely to possess the appropriate and necessary security clearances. This would almost certainly make the introduction of such classified evidence in future proceedings easier, and could severely compromise our ability to collect and conduct future intelligence activities.

The initial House-approved FISA reform legislation, the RESTORE Act, did not contain any immunity provisions. I supported it with the expectation that we would consider immunity during a conference with the Senate. We voted instead on the FISA Amendments Act, which I believe is a good bill that represents a careful compromise. Immunity is critical and, because H.R. 3773 has no immunity provisions, I voted against its passage.

SHEYLINN WORK

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 3, 2008

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

The dedication demonstrated by Sheylinn Work 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 Sheylinn Work 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 THE 200TH BIRTHDAY OF KNOX COUNTY OHIO

HON. ZACHARY T. SPACE

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 2, 2008

Mr. SPACE. Madam Speaker:

Whereas, Knox County, Ohio celebrated its 200th birthday on March 1, 2008 with great joy; and

Whereas, they will reflect on the past 200 years with fondness and celebrate; and

Whereas, the residents of Knox County have positively contributed to the history of America from the Civil War to the Industrial Revolution to today's society; and

Whereas, Knox County will reminisce on a lifetime full of memories and look forward to many more: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That along with my friends, family, and the residents of the 18th Congressional District, I wish Knox County, Ohio a happy 200th birthday.

JAMES C. DUDDY

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 4, 2008

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, it is with great pride and pleasure that I rise today to recognize the outstanding service and leadership of James C. Duddy on the occasion of his retirement after more than 50 years of service to the Kansas City, Missouri, Fire Department.

James began his career as a firefighter in 1955, and rose to Assistant Chief Fire Marshal. Over the years, James has earned many awards including Firefighter of the Year and the Medal of Honor.

James has also been instrumental in assisting several other organizations. He has assisted the Secret Service, the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms on several occasions, and served as President of the Kansas City Arson Task Force for many years.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join with me in commending James C. Duddy for his dedicated service to ensuring the safety of the people of Kansas City, Missouri. I know James' colleagues, family and friends join with me in thanking him for his commitment to others and wishing him happiness and good health in his retirement.

A TRIBUTE TO BEVERLY WHITE

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 4, 2008

Mr. SCHIFF. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Ms. Beverly White of Altadena, California. Every March we celebrate Women's History Month in recognition of the contributions and the sacrifices made by our Nation's women. Accordingly it is my privilege to highlight Ms. White as a woman whose extraordinary efforts are vital to my district.

Beverly is well known in southern California for her current role as the co-anchor of the "Today in L.A." weekend edition and as a long-time reporter on the popular 11 p.m. Channel 4 News. She focuses in particular on the live coverage necessitated by local natural disasters such as regional wildfires and the Northridge earthquake.

Armed with a degree in broadcast journalism from the University of Texas at Austin, Beverly first set out on her multi-State career at KGEN-TV, NBC, in Temple/Waco and KENS-TV, CBS, in San Antonio. In the late 1980s, she moved to Cincinnati and became

the anchor of the top-rated morning newscast. There Beverly reported on the tumultuous saga of Pete Rose, as well as on the 1988 Democratic and Republican presidential conventions.

As a reporter for WTVJ in Miami, Beverly covered several stories on international affairs concerning Haiti and Cuba, as well as the rape trial of William Kennedy Smith. Exemplifying her specialty in live coverage, she was on the team that won a 1992 Peabody Award for their outstanding coverage of Hurricane Andrew.

Southern Californians encounter Beverly in the field in other ways as well. She is a past president of the Black Journalists Association of Southern California and is a member of the national affiliate, the National Association of Black Journalists. In addition to her professional leadership roles, Beverly supports community causes by hosting myriad annual awards functions, from YWCA's "Women of Excellence" event to Los Angeles Neighborhood Housing Service's luncheon.

As an icon of local journalism and a selfless volunteer, Beverly's dedication to the Altadena community is an invaluable addition to the legacy of Women's History Month. With gratitude and admiration, I ask all Members of Congress to join me today in honoring an extraordinary woman of California's 29th Congressional District, Ms. Beverly White.

APPLAUDING THE RISE IN REMITTANCES SENT TO THE CARIBBEAN AS CRUCIAL TO THE AREA'S DEVELOPMENT

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 4, 2008

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to note the significant role remittances play in the economies of the Caribbean and to applaud their record-setting increases, as described in the New York CARIB News article, "Remittances to Caribbean Reach Record High of \$8 Billion in 2007." That money, sent on behalf of family and friends living abroad, represents a considerable—and pivotal—portion of the region's GDP. These funds go a long way in contributing to the area's development and provide aid for its people to better afford food, shelter, clothing, and medicine.

This boost is a remarkable and laudable sign of global support for our neighbors to the south. Jamaica, Haiti, Guyana, Trinidad and Tobago, Suriname and Belize have particularly benefitted from it, receiving each a record amount. It is my hope that the region continues to see an influx of these funds from supporters worldwide who care intimately about the progress of the Caribbean.

REMITTANCES TO CARIBBEAN REACH RECORD HIGH OF \$8 BILLION IN 2007

The amounts typically range from \$200 to \$300 at each time.

Still, in 2007, they amounted to a whopping \$8.1 billion to the Caribbean, accounting in some cases to at least a third of the economies of nations in the region which receive funds from nationals in North America, Europe and elsewhere. At least \$5 billion of those funds went to Caricom states, particularly Jamaica, Haiti, Guyana, Trinidad and Tobago, Suriname and Belize.