

working to rectify years of gender based wage discrimination.

In my home State of California, women earn only \$55,000 compared to their male counterparts who earn \$72,000 with an equivalent education level. While I am disappointed that California has one of the largest disparities in pay rates between men and women, this is a national problem that we must rectify.

Ensuring that women receive equal pay for equal work is a matter of basic fairness that affects all working women and their families. I urge all of my colleagues to support this very critical piece of legislation, and I applaud Congresswoman DELAURO for continuing to highlight the importance of passing this bill.

PROTECTING THE MEDICAID SAFETY NET ACT OF 2008

SPEECH OF

HON. NEIL ABERCROMBIE

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 22, 2008

Mr. ABERCROMBIE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to support H.R. 5613, the "Protecting the Medicaid Safety Net Act of 2008," a bill that I proudly cosponsored. The bill would place a 1-year moratorium on proposed Medicaid regulations by the Bush administration intended to save money.

Unfortunately, these cuts would take Federal funds from States at a time that many are struggling to meet obligations within Medicaid and other programmatic areas. By limiting access to rehabilitation and targeted case management services, the administration cynically attacks the poorest and weakest members of our society. Eliminating the reimbursement for transportation services for certain special needs students would deny them the basic right to an education. The regulations halt important payments to hospitals at a time that many across the Nation and within my home State of Hawaii are actually losing money.

Placing the 1-year moratorium would help us better assess the full impact of these disastrous cuts, and come up with a plan that controls the growing costs of Medicaid without harming quality, as these regulations seem to do. The extent of the unpopularity of these cuts is clearly shown by the expedited move by the Committee on Energy and Commerce to report the bill unanimously to the House floor, in contravention of the President's veto threat.

Medicaid provides medical coverage for the poorest and neediest of our country. It is the insurer of last resort for many who have either lost jobs or are barely subsisting. To take away these funds at this time is cruel and undermines the intent of the very program. I urge my colleagues to support this important piece of legislation.

A TRIBUTE TO COMMISSIONER R.E. "GENE" BROWN

HON. MIKE McINTYRE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 23, 2008

Mr. McINTYRE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Pender County Com-

missioner R.E. Brown of Burgaw, North Carolina, who recently passed away at the age of 85. Affectionately referred to as "Gene" by those who knew him and those he served, Commissioner Brown had been a commissioner in the town of Burgaw for over 20 years, and was serving as mayor pro-tempore. As a native of southeastern North Carolina and as a public servant, he offered an unwavering service to everything he did and to everyone who knew him, and he had admirable commitment to his responsibilities as an elected official.

Truly an asset to his community, Commissioner Brown understood the people he represented and cared deeply about making a positive difference in their lives. Over his lifetime, Brown dedicated himself to both government and public service. He was a member of the U.S. Army during World War II, and afterward he served for 42 years as the postmaster in the towns of Burgaw and Wallace. He was active in several community organizations, including the Burgaw Jaycees, the Burgaw Lions, the King Solomon #138 Masonic Lodge, and was an original member of the Pender County Rescue Squad. He was chairman of the Pender Adult Services executive board. A man of faith, he was also a member of Burgaw Baptist Church, where he served as a deacon and Sunday school teacher. In honor of his extensive involvement and giving spirit, Brown was awarded the North Carolina Governor's Award for Volunteerism and Community Service in 2004. A father of three and grandfather of five, Brown leaves behind his wife of 57 years.

Commissioner Brown's dedication to the town of Burgaw, both as a citizen and as an elected official, is an inspiration to us all. His record of service is a strong representation of what can be accomplished through devotion to a community and its people. May God bless his family, and may we always remember the leadership and life of Commissioner Gene Brown.

RECOGNIZING THE 60TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FOUNDING OF THE MODERN STATE OF ISRAEL

SPEECH OF

HON. TOM UDALL

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 22, 2008

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, roughly 60 years ago today, Harry Truman had a problem.

After 2,000 years as "strangers in a strange land," the Jewish people were about to establish a homeland in the land of their fathers. Many Americans believed that our Nation would support the aspirations of the Jewish people. However, President Truman's own Secretary of State threatened to vote against the President in the next election if Truman backed Israel.

At midnight on May 14, 1948, Israel declared independence. Eleven minutes later, America recognized the new state. Truman's act of courage created an essential and vital bond. Every American Government since that day has recognized America's special relationship with Israel.

Since 1948, Israel has shown the world true courage and perseverance. They have made

the desert bloom, fended off countless acts of aggression and built a lasting testament to the potential for democracy and freedom in the Middle East. Today, Israeli citizens speak dozens of languages and come from hundreds of countries. They include war-scarred Holocaust survivors, refugees from the ghettos of the Eastern Bloc and young pioneers from the New World. What they share is a common love of their country and commitment to their people. Like America, Israel has turned its diversity into a source of strength and pride.

In New Mexico, we have a great deal of respect for those who make the desert bloom. Israel now ranks as New Mexico's 11th leading trade partner and since 1996, we have exported more than \$490 million worth of goods to Israel. In 2006 alone, our State produced nearly \$3 million in defense products for the Israeli military. Like those throughout New Mexico, I have consistently supported Israel's efforts to defend itself against terrorists and others who seek to harm her, and to seek peace with her neighbors.

As we pass this resolution honoring the 60th Anniversary of Israeli Independence, I want to express my congratulations, my support, and my hope that the next 60 years will bring peace and prosperity to Israel and the region.

HONORING PHILIP A. INGEGNERI OF BANGOR, MAINE

HON. MICHAEL H. MICHAUD

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 23, 2008

Mr. MICHAUD. Madam Speaker, it is my privilege to speak in honor of the life and times of Philip Ingegneri, who was a dedicated public servant, a true friend of Maine, and a loving husband and father.

For over 30 years, Phil Ingegneri served his country as a special investigator for the Internal Revenue Service. His work in special investigations took him to cities across the eastern seaboard and even to postwar Europe, where he was stationed in Paris, France.

When the opportunity arose in the 1950s, Phil jumped at the chance to move his beloved wife, Roslyn, and two young children, Philip and Lois, to Bangor, Maine, where they quickly integrated into that vibrant community.

After a long and distinguished career serving his country, Phil Ingegneri was elected to the Maine House of Representatives, where he dedicated his efforts to improving public education for all of Maine's citizens.

I am sad to announce Philip Ingegneri passed away this Saturday evening at the age of 97. However, it is a privilege to recognize on the floor of the U.S. House of Representatives his service and contributions to our Nation and the great State of Maine. His dedication and love for his family, community, and country is a fine example for all of us.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 23, 2008

Mrs. JONES of Ohio. Madam Speaker, on Tuesday, April 22, 2008, I missed recorded

votes due to unforeseen circumstances. Had I been present, the record would reflect the following votes:

H. Res. 981: Recognizing March 6, 2008, as the first-ever World Glaucoma Day, "yes";

H.R. 5151: Wild Monongahela Act: A National Legacy for West Virginia's Special Places, "yes"; and

H.R. 831: Coffman Cove Administration Site Conveyance Act, "yes."

RECOGNIZING THE 60TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FOUNDING OF THE MODERN STATE OF ISRAEL

SPEECH OF

HON. TOM DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 22, 2008

Mr. DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H. Con. Res. 322.

Following the allied victory in World War II, the United Nations voted to partition the British Mandate of Palestine, leading the way for the people of the region to create, on May 14, 1948, the State of Israel. United States recognition of the State of Israel came within hours of Israel's creation. Since that historic day in 1948, the United States and Israel have remained steadfast allies and friends. On May 11, 1949, the Government of Israel was officially admitted as a member of the United Nations.

Since the creation of the State of Israel, enemies of freedom and peace have persistently attempted to undermine Israel's right to exist. The very day after the creation of Israel, rogue Arab forces from surrounding Middle Eastern countries invaded the land given to Israel based on the U.N. partition. Though less than 24 hours old, the nascent country staved off the invasion, and on June 7, 1949, a ceasefire was called, resulting in Israel acquiring western Galilee, a broad corridor through central Palestine to Jerusalem, and part of modern Jerusalem.

Subsequent attempts to undermine Israel's security have all failed, and Israel has become stronger at each turn. In 1956, 1967, 1973, and 1982, attacks on Israel by her neighbors in the region were met with fierce resistance and resounding defeat for Israel's enemies.

In 1988, Yasir Arafat, then leader of the Palestinian Liberation Organization—a group which had for decades fiercely opposed Israel's right to exist—officially acknowledged Israel's sovereign right, and announced his willingness to enter negotiations for peace. Although peace talks have yet to produce a lasting accord, discussions between the relevant parties have met with progress. It is my firm belief that peace can and will be achieved in the region. It is clear that Israel's right to exist is fully established. The United States will continue to stand shoulder-to-shoulder with her friend until and beyond that day when peace is established.

Israel is a shining example of the success that a democracy can produce. Because of the freedom that Israelis enjoy, Israel has been at the forefront of innovation. Israeli scientists have made significant contributions to genetics, medicine, electronics, engineering, and the high-tech world. Indeed, the very cell phones that the world over has become ac-

customed to using were first invented by Israeli entrepreneurs.

Mr. Speaker, it is my great pleasure to congratulate the State of Israel on her 60th Anniversary. I encourage my colleagues to support H. Con. Res. 322.

INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF THE REEF

SPEECH OF

HON. ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 22, 2008

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to express my support of H. Res. 1112, a resolution recognizing 2008 as the International Year of the Reef.

I have the great honor of representing the Florida Keys, an area rich in natural wonders including two national parks, four national wildlife refuges, and the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary—one of the most diverse marine ecosystems in the Nation. The natural and cultural resources and environmental setting of the area make it among the most diverse in North America. Within the surrounding waters are resources deserving of special consideration and protection, including America's only living barrier coral reef.

This designation is part of a global effort to raise public awareness of the value of coral reefs, the significance of the threats faced by coral reef systems, and to mobilize action to develop and implement innovative solutions and strategies to protect and conserve these important natural resources. Coral reef systems provide economic, environmental, and cultural benefits to millions of people around the world and are vital in protecting shorelines and supporting coastal economies. Coral reefs are some of the most valuable and spectacular places on earth. Covering less than 1 percent of the planet's surface, coral reefs and their associated mangrove, sea grass, and other habitats are the world's most biologically diverse marine ecosystems.

Last September, I had the distinct opportunity of participating in a dive to the Aquarius Undersea Laboratory in the Florida Keys. While in Aquarius, I participated in a live, underwater question and answer session with schoolchildren on topics such as coral reef conservation and the dangers of offshore drilling. This visit demonstrated how the Aquarius facility plays a direct role in improving our youngsters' understanding and appreciation of the marine environment.

As part of my passion for preserving the environment, I am proud to serve as co-Chair of the National Marine Sanctuary Caucus along with my colleague Congresswoman LOIS CAPPS. The National Marine Sanctuary Caucus is a bipartisan coalition of Members dedicated to increasing awareness and strengthening commitment to our Nation's cherished marine sanctuaries. The caucus promotes understanding of how national marine sanctuaries help to safeguard our natural heritage and economic well-being. It also serves to inform local communities about the importance of maintaining these ecosystems for future generations to enjoy, educates Members of Congress on the importance of sanctuary protection and management, and ensures that

adequate resources are directed to foster and restore these vital habitats.

I would like to also take this time to recognize the incredible National Marine Sanctuary officials in my district, including Billy Causey and Commander Dave Score, as well as Sanctuary System Director Dan Basta, for all of their work on behalf of our underwater ecosystems.

Once again, I would like to express my support for designating 2008 as the International Year of the Reef. Through this designation, it is my hope that it will encourage further research and development efforts to preserve coral reefs around the world.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 23, 2008

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Madam Speaker, on April 22, 2008, I missed rollcall votes numbered 205, 206, and 207. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall votes 205, 206, and 207.

CELEBRATING 35 YEARS OF SPACE-BASED OBSERVATIONS OF THE EARTH BY LANDSAT SPACECRAFT

SPEECH OF

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 22, 2008

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased that the House yesterday passed my resolution, H. Res. 891, on Celebrating 35 Years of Space-Based Observations of the Earth by Landsat Spacecraft. I would like to thank my colleague, Representative REGULA from Ohio, who has joined me as an original cosponsor of this resolution.

It is only fitting that we celebrate Landsat and its thirty-five year record of space-based observations of the land at a time when we are beginning to address the current and future implications of climate change. The U.S. Climate Change Science Program recently recognized Landsat noting that "Landsat data are invaluable for studying the land surface and how it affects and is affected by climate." I thank my colleagues in Congress for continuing to support Landsat and for enabling the development of these long time-series data that are so important for research on climate variability.

The data collected by Landsat satellites are being used by almost all Federal agencies, by state, regional, and local governments, by researchers and private industry. I held a field hearing earlier this month in Colorado on the important ways in which remote sensing data, including Landsat imagery, can help our state and local officials carry out their responsibilities more effectively. The broad application of these data to provide scientific and societal benefits testifies to the nation's sound investment in space technology. We owe our thanks and appreciation to the talented and dedicated scientists, engineers, and professionals who have contributed to Landsat and its success.