

who are in danger of losing their homes to finance into lower-cost, government-insured mortgages they can afford to repay. It also expands affordable mortgage opportunities for families who might otherwise turn to subprime mortgages to buy a home. The bill, as amended by the House, will also expand tax benefits for homeowners and first-time home buyers. This bill, when combined with H.R. 5818, presents a comprehensive package for addressing the predatory lending and foreclosure crises that our country faces.

In addition to the housing-related bills, I also would have voted in favor of H.R. 4279, the "Prioritizing Resources and Organization for Intellectual Property Act of 2008" (PRO-IP Act.) I am an original cosponsor of this bill and spoke in favor of its passage when it was being debated on the House floor a few days before the vote. As I noted then, this legislation makes important improvements to intellectual property law to help protect against counterfeiting and piracy, including enhanced penalties for intellectual property crimes, additional resources for law enforcement efforts at every level of government, and the creation of a new organizational framework at the Federal level to better combat international piracy and counterfeiting. This bill enjoys widespread support, and everyone from the U.S. Chamber of Commerce to the Teamsters supports it. I am glad that it passed with strong bipartisan support.

Finally, I note that I would have voted against the Flake and Cantor Motions to Instruct Conferees on H.R. 2419, the "Farm, Nutrition, and Bioenergy Act."

TRIBUTE TO ROBERT RAUSCHENBERG, AMERICAN ARTIST

HON. CONNIE MACK

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 14, 2008

Mr. MACK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor one of America's greatest art pioneers of the 20th century, Robert Rauschenberg, who passed away on Monday at the age of 82 on Captiva Island. He led an extraordinary life and his unique approach to abstract expressionism helped to pave the way for a new generation of contemporary artists.

Mr. Rauschenberg was born in 1925 in Port Arthur, Texas. His love for art grew while he served in the U.S. Navy during World War II and had a chance to visit an art museum at the age of 18. When he returned home from the war, he used his GI Bill benefits to pay his tuition at art school.

Throughout the 1950s and 1960s, Mr. Rauschenberg's portfolio was varied and diverse. He rejected abstract expressionism and searched for a new method of painting. Incorporating his enthusiasm for popular culture, he turned to pop art, and used materials traditionally outside of the mainstream. He was also a sculptor and choreographer.

Mr. Rauschenberg moved to Captiva Island in the 1970s. Perhaps the thing that Mr. Rauschenberg will most be remembered for in southwest Florida was his contributions to the art community in our region. He generously donated to the gallery on the Edison College campus in Fort Myers, giving them the rights to reproduce his prints and posters and thus

allowing the institution to support itself financially.

In addition, Mr. Rauschenberg enjoyed sharing his love of art to art students and the general public and was often on hand at gallery openings to support local artists. He was also a strong supporter of Arts for ACT, a charity that supports a shelter for abused women.

Although Mr. Rauschenberg is no longer with us on earth, his memory will live on in the paintings he loved so much, the art community in southwest Florida he fostered and supported, and the people he met and inspired every day.

HONORING MR. IRV ZAKHEIM

HON. CATHY McMORRIS RODGERS

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 14, 2008

Mrs. McMORRIS RODGERS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Irv Zakheim, recipient of the Eastern Washington University 2008 Entrepreneur of the Year award. I am pleased to join with the EWU Center for Entrepreneurial Activities in honoring Mr. Zakheim as a key business leader, locally and globally.

Built on humble beginnings, Mr. Zakheim has grown his company, Zak! Designs, from a small business to a major global competitor with nine offices worldwide. Today, anyone with children would recognize the products that first brought national attention to Zak! Designs.

Zak! Designs is a company that creates dinnerware, drinkware and lunch kits featuring popular animated characters. They have recently added travelware for on-the-go lifestyles, additional products at the forefront of tabletop trends, and customized programs that bring fresh looks to retailers.

In addition to his business pursuits, Mr. Zakheim plays an integral role in the community. He is the founder of the Zak! Celebrity Open, an annual golfing fundraiser that has brought in more than \$1.5 million for charitable organizations in its eight years of existence. Last year alone, the Zak! Celebrity Open raised \$450,000 for the Rypien Foundation and YWCA's Child and Youth Services.

Madam Speaker, Irv Zakheim embodies the entrepreneurial and giving spirit that makes this country so great. I commend Mr. Zakheim for his important contribution to the business community and invite my colleagues to join me in congratulating him on receiving this award.

MENTAL HEALTH MONTH

SPEECH OF

HON. PATRICK J. KENNEDY

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 13, 2008

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H. Res. 1134, legislation to support the goals and ideals of Mental Health Month. I would like to thank my colleagues and co-chairs of the Mental Health Caucus, Representative NAPOLITANO and Representative MURPHY, for their continued dedication to educating Congress on this most important issue.

It is critical for Congress to recognize May as Mental Health Month because we have the leadership role and the responsibility to transform mental health care in America. We are working to change the access, the delivery system and the outcomes of care. But we are also working to bring down the barriers to action that exist because of stigma, ignorance and misunderstanding of mental illness and substance use.

Congress must work to increase public awareness and understanding of mental illness and substance use by funding research in genetics and functional medicine and developing and translating this research into effective treatments. We have the evidence to show how the brain suffers from the effects of mental illness and substance use. We know also that people who suffer the long term effects of mental illness die at an earlier age, suffer from untreated diabetes, hypertension and other chronic disease, because it is so difficult to get the care they need to protect their health and functioning.

Several years ago, our Nation did not talk about cancer because of our fears, our poor understanding and our dread of losing our loved ones. Now mental illness is emerging from that same silence and neglect. As President Kennedy said, "This neglect must end, if our Nation is to live up to its own standards of compassion and dignity."

For all our citizens bearing the burdens of mental illness and substance use, and their families, especially their children, we are working to improve the awareness, understanding and effective treatment of mental illness. We owe it to our veterans to fully treat the damaging psychological wounds of war as well as their physical injuries. We owe it to their children to return them well and sound to be the parents and spouses they deserve to be.

This leadership is a shared responsibility with Federal agencies, State and local governments, employers, businesses, churches, law enforcement, schools, sports, the entertainment industry, and every part of our community. I thank my colleagues for bringing this resolution to the floor and join them in their support recognizing May as Mental Health Month.

CALLING ATTENTION TO THIS COUNTRY'S ORGAN DONATION CRISIS

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 14, 2008

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to note—with alarm—that organ donations are not keeping pace with need in this country, resulting in the deaths of 18 patients per day as they wait idly by for lifelines. The shortage proves particularly detrimental to minority patients, who together make up a staggering 50 percent of people on the transplant waiting list. Because of a paucity of minority donors, and the bruising effect of disparate and unequal access to health care, minority patients find themselves most vulnerable to a deepening crisis that should rally all Americans to the cause.

The health of our citizens should remain foremost on our minds. As the leading power