

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

TRIBUTE TO MRS. MARY ELLEN
TOLLIVER

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 15, 2008

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, there is no greater gift that one can give when they give of themselves and Mr. Speaker such was the life and such is the legacy of Mrs. Mary Ellen Tolliver.

Mary Ellen Tolliver was born on September 1, 1915 in Richmond, Virginia; to the union of the late Thomas Day and Georgetta Walker-Day. Mary Ellen Day was the oldest of four children.

On Tuesday, May 13, 2008 at 2:30 a.m., God called Mary Ellen Day home for she had done her part. "Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled neither let it be afraid" (John 14:27).

Mary Ellen Day moved to Pennsylvania as a young child with her family where she attended the public school system. Mary Ellen Day was married to John L. Toliver in 1935 and they attended Enon Tabernacle Baptist Church in Germantown, where she worshiped until her passing. John and Mary Toliver never had children of their own, but considered many in the community as their own family and provided them with values and traditions that will live on forever.

Mary Ellen Toliver dedicated her life to the field of mental health. She worked as a nurse at the Byeberry State Mental Hospital in Pennsylvania, also known as the Philadelphia State Hospital for 40 years from where she retired.

While at Byeberry, Mary Ellen Toliver became close to and took two long-term patients from Byeberry into her home in Germantown. Julia and Sweeney were abandoned by their families, but felt at peace with Mary Ellen Toliver. Mary Ellen Toliver shared her home with both ladies until their passing; Julia for 24 years and Sweeney for 30 years. They brought her great joy.

Mary Ellen Toliver, was preceded in death by her husband John L. Toliver, her brother Sonny Day, and sister Mabel Day. Mary Ellen Toliver leaves to cherish her lasting memories; her sister Willeta Day, and her sister Aquilla Laws. Mary Ellen Toliver leaves a host of nieces, great-nieces, nephews, great nephews, cousins, and the Enon Tabernacle Baptist Church family.

CONGRATULATING TOM HAMBY ON
THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIRE-
MENT

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 15, 2008

Mr. BONNER. Madam Speaker, it is with great pride and pleasure that I rise to honor the long and distinguished career of Tom Hamby, on the occasion of his retirement from AT&T Inc.

A native of Social Circle, Georgia, Tom earned a Bachelor of Science degree in engineering at the University of Georgia. He was commissioned in the Army Corps of Engineers and went on to serve 10 years in the reserves and National Guard.

As the Birmingham News described Tom, he is "one of Birmingham's most influential business leaders." With a career spanning over 37 years, Tom has served in various assignments in the network, marketing, and regulatory departments in Georgia, Alabama, and Washington, DC, and he was appointed to his current position, AT&T president—Alabama, in 1999.

In the early 1990s, Tom led the effort to bring caller identification and voice mail products to customers. During his tenure as president, the Alabama Legislature passed landmark telecommunication legislation, which led to greater competition, investment, customer choice as well as new services.

Tom is also well-known in Birmingham and throughout the State of Alabama as a leader in both the business and civic communities. He is chairman of the board of the Birmingham Museum of Art and the Greater Alabama Council of Boy Scouts of America. He is a past chairman of Birmingham's Metropolitan Development Board, the Business Council of Alabama, and the Birmingham Regional Chamber of Commerce. He is a current director on the boards of Protective Life Corp. and the Birmingham Civil Rights Institute.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing a dedicated community leader and friend to many throughout the State of Alabama. I know his family; his wife, Wyona; and his many friends join me in praising his accomplishments and extending thanks for his service over the years on behalf of the city of Birmingham and the State of Alabama.

Tom will surely enjoy the well deserved time he now has to spend with family and his first grandchild, who is due this summer. I wish him the best of luck in all of his future endeavors.

HONORING THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF
HELEN MYERS

HON. JERRY MCNERNEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 15, 2008

Mr. MCNERNEY. Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Mrs. Helen Myers as the Brentwood Chamber of Commerce's Citizen of the Year. Helen is an extraordinary woman whose entrepreneurial endeavors, generous spirit, and deep commitment to the residents of Brentwood will benefit our community for generations to come.

One of seven children, Helen's father passed away when she was only five years old. To support her family during this time of need, she began selling produce from her mother's vegetable garden to neighbors. This entrepreneurial spirit carried into her adulthood, and she is now a successful small business owner of both Irene's Dress Shop and The Weathervane.

The only child in her family to graduate from high school, Helen went on to marry Bill Myers. Together they moved to California, and eventually settled in Brentwood in 1968 with their two children, Corky and Sherry.

Soon after moving to Brentwood, Helen joined the East Contra Costa Chapter of the Soroptimists International Club, of which she has proven to be both a valuable member and a tireless volunteer. She has not only been instrumental in raising funds for various community projects, she has also served on numerous boards and commissions, including the Delta Hospital Board, the City's Art Commission, and the Art Society Board.

Helen's friends and family describe her as someone who is always looking out for others. As an example of her kindness, friends often tell the story of the time Helen caught a young woman shoplifting in one of her stores. After soon learning the woman was homeless and living out of her car with her young child, Helen decided against calling the police, and instead provided the woman with food and clothing and contacted a social service agency to assist her with housing. A few weeks later, the young woman returned to Helen, thanked her for her compassion, and reimbursed her for the food and the clothing.

A woman who has given so much to her community, Helen has done so quietly and without fanfare, making her selection as the Brentwood Chamber of Commerce's Citizen of the Year all the more worthy of public recognition. From her countless hours as a volunteer, to her success as a small business owner, Helen has touched the lives of many and has improved the community of Brentwood for years to come.

It is for these reasons that I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Helen Myers, Brentwood Chamber of Commerce's Citizen of the Year.

● This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 2419,
FOOD, CONSERVATION, AND EN-
ERGY ACT OF 2008

SPEECH OF
HON. RUSH D. HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, May 14, 2008

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend the Conference Committee for its hard work on the Farm Bill, and for all of the improvements the final bill makes to existing nutrition, conservation, organic farming and other important programs. But I also must express my great disappointment that, in this year of record crop prices and soaring agricultural profits, we have let a precious opportunity go by to implement real reform to the extremely outdated commodity and price support programs in the bill.

The good news today fills a long list. According to the USDA, more than 11 percent of U.S. households are food-insecure. Today, we will approve more than \$10 billion in funding for programs that provide American families with low cost, healthy food, including more than \$1 billion for The Emergency Food Assistance Program and more than \$1 billion for the USDA Snack Program. This bill also increases the minimum benefit for food stamp recipients and excludes retirement and education savings accounts from the assets to be considered in determining eligibility. And I am particularly pleased to see that it includes \$5 million in funding annually for Community Food Projects grants, which funding I have previously urged Congress to maintain and which I engaged in a colloquy about with the gentledady from Connecticut Ms. DELAURO in connection with the Fiscal Year 2008 Agriculture Appropriations Bill.

Similarly, the bill before us today will authorize almost \$8 billion in conservation funding, including increasing funding for the Environmental Quality Incentives Program by \$3.4 billion, adding more than \$1 billion in new funding for the Conservation Security Program, reestablishing the funding level for the Wetlands Reserve Program at \$1.4 billion, and doubling funding for the Farm and Ranchland Protection Program. And I was especially pleased to see that the House-passed provision that would have restricted USDA conservation programs from encouraging farmers to reduce their use of toxic pesticides in implementing integrated pest management programs was removed from the final bill, and I would like to thank the two dozen Members who joined me in sending a letter to the Conferees to request that the pesticides discrimination provision be removed.

The Farm Bill supports organic farmers by providing \$22 million in funding for the USDA's organic certification cost share program, which defrays the costs that organic producers incur when seeking organic certification, provides \$5 million in funding for organic marketing data, and authorizes the Secretary of Agriculture to make payments of up to \$20,000 per year, capped at \$80,000 over six years, to a producer for conservation practices related to organic production or the transition to organic production. I have long supported facilitating the conversion to organic farming, and was delighted to have the support of this chamber when it voted in favor of my amendment to the

Fiscal Year 2007 Agriculture Appropriations Bill to more than double the funding for the Organic Transitions Research program.

Therefore, although I will be voting in favor of this bill today, for all of the good that it will do, I note that there is still a substantial amount of good that it should have done, and will not. Although the commodity programs in the bill account for less than 13 percent of the Farm Bill funding, and represent a decrease of \$60 billion compared to the last Farm Bill in 2002, we could have, and should have, done better.

First, although cuts to direct payments totaled \$300 million, that represents a decrease of less than one percent to the \$50 billion program. At the same time, subsidies for commodities such as soybeans and wheat have actually increased, despite the fact that prices for those commodities have also increased—by more than 100 percent and 200 percent, respectively, since 2002. The House-passed Farm Bill would have guaranteed \$840 million in funding for the McGovern-Dole International Food for Education and Child Nutrition Program over five years, but in the final bill the program was cut to one tenth that amount—only \$84 million. According to news reports, the amount of international food aid provided represents less than 1 percent of the Farm Bill's total cost, while at the same time the bill preserves the trade-distorting subsidy programs that make it virtually impossible for farmers in developing nations to compete.

And finally, I was troubled to learn that an 11th-hour change was inserted into the bill by the Conference Committee, despite it not having been debated or voted on in either Chamber, that would negate a U.S. Court of Appeals, DC Circuit ruling mandating disclosure of USDA data relevant to producer compliance with subsidy programs. In reaching its decision, the Court stated that "there is a special need for public scrutiny of agency action that distributes extensive amounts of public funds in the form of subsidies and other financial benefits." No title of the Farm Bill has been more hotly debated than the commodity title, the original justifications for which have all but evaporated over time, and thus it troubles me that a provision that not only goes to the very heart of that matter but also appears to fly squarely in the face of a recent court ruling on the subject is being put before this body without debate or a specific vote on the merits. In fact, I intend to request a hearing on this last-minute language.

Therefore, this is one of those decisions that is not clear cut. On balance, I feel that the good news in the Farm Bill outweighs the bad, although not by much. I want to commend my colleague from Wisconsin Mr. KIND for his continuing leadership in working to develop a Farm Bill that more equitably reflects our modern day needs and economic realities, and I want him to know that I look forward to working with him and others in the future to address the shortcomings of this bill.

COMMEMORATING RANDY
JEFFERS

HON. NICK LAMPSON

OF TEXAS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 15, 2008

Mr. LAMPSON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commemorate a true Texan, Randy Jeffers of Amarillo, Texas.

Mr. Jeffers is the 2008 chairman of the 90,000 strong members of the Texas Association of Realtors, TAR.

The tireless leader of TAR, Mr. Jeffers has worked day and night to ensure that the eternal American dream of homeownership will not be denied to any Texan, even in these challenging times for the real estate market.

As a former realtor and real estate course instructor, I fully recognize the sub-prime mortgage crisis facing our Nation. The real estate market affects every city, town, county, and State in our country, and as we have all seen, the wellbeing of the housing market is key to the overall strength of the U.S. economy.

This Congress and the Texas Association of Realtors have worked hard to address serious issues facing our housing market, and we are working together toward a balanced solution that turns the market around, stops falling prices, stops abuses, aids stable homeownership, and preserves our vibrant communities.

Mr. Jeffers was not able to come to Washington for his legislative conference this year, but I wanted to set the record straight that Mr. Jeffers passionately believes that real estate is a major driving force behind a strong American economy and he is working hard to champion his industry at every opportunity.

IN HONOR OF ARKANSAS' THIRD
DISTRICT POLICE OFFICERS

HON. JOHN BOOZMAN

OF ARKANSAS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 15, 2008

Mr. BOOZMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of National Peace Officer Memorial Day and recognize the sacrifices and honorable service of law enforcement officers in Arkansas and throughout the country.

Their efforts were first honored with this special recognition in 1962 when President John F. Kennedy designated May 15th as Peace Officers Memorial Day and the week as National Police Week.

The law enforcement career path attracts many brave Americans. Today there are more than 900,000 sworn law enforcement officers serving, which is the highest number ever.

With the honor of the badge also comes the possibility of anguish. On average a law enforcement officer is killed in the line of duty in the United States every 53 hours. Earlier this year, the Third District of Arkansas experienced the loss of an Arkansas State Trooper who sacrificed his life while on duty.

My appreciation for these Americans who help protect us every day is immeasurable. We must recognize and honor the efforts of these brave men and women not only this week, but all year long.

KEEPING SPORTS IN PERSPECTIVE

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 15, 2008

Mr. TOWNS. Madam Speaker, I would like to share with my colleagues an excellent May 13th article by Steve Politi of The Star Ledger entitled "Spygate Shouldn't Concern Congress." It emphasizes the importance of Congress remaining focused on critical national issues such as the economy, healthcare, education and the war.

[From the Star-Ledger, May 13, 2008]

SPYGATE SHOULDN'T CONCERN CONGRESS

(By Steve Politi)

If Congress really wanted to make a difference in our lives, it could hold hearings on how to make our most annoying sports storylines go away. Start with the endless debate over Joba Chamberlain and his eighth-inning celebrations, then move to Roger Clemens' creepy personal life.

Then, and only then, should Washington tackle "Spygate," which has dragged on through an entire season and has the legs to make it to training camp. No matter what Roger Goodell declares today after meeting with fired Patriots video assistant Matt Walsh, the NFL commissioner can't get rid of this one himself.

Arlen Specter will see to that. The Pennsylvania senator plans to meet with Walsh this afternoon, and it's hard to believe he'll emerge from their conversation and tell the world that the matter is settled. Which means, sometime in the near future, Bill Belichick could be packing his hoodie for a trip to Washington and another unnecessary sports-related hearing.

Specter is another politician who has figured out that the quickest path to easy publicity—and to getting noticed by his football-loving constituency—is to take on a sports issue. Why settle for C-SPAN when you can get on ESPN and a few hundred sports radio stations, too?

Congress can make an impact on a sports issue occasionally, as it did with steroids in baseball. Without those early hearings, Major League Baseball would have continued to take its time cleaning up the sport and Mark McGwire might have a bust in Coopers-town.

But what, exactly, would society gain from a hearing into the Spygate mess? Is it to set an example for kids who might steal signals at their Pop Warner games? To distract us from rising gas prices, the struggling economy and the million or so more important issues?

"Congress has a legitimate reason to conduct hearings on any number of issues in sports," said Stephen Ross, director of Penn State's Institute for Sports Law Policy. "The question is, what are they looking at? Steroids is a legitimate public problem. Whether a mass on Roger Clemens' butt is evidence of steroid use is not."

Specter insisted recently that "we have a right to have honest football games," but the Founding Fathers must have forgotten to include that with life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. NFL games should be fair, of course, but the responsibility for keeping them that way belongs to the NFL.

Goodell fined Belichick, who was caught taping signals at the season opener against the Jets last fall, \$500,000 and docked the team a draft pick. He should have suspended Belichick, too, to send a message that even the league's most successful coach is not above the rules.

But Goodell is the one who should make that decision. Walsh apparently will arrive at the NFL offices in New York today without a smoking gun—reports from February that Walsh had taped the St. Louis Rams' walk-through before the 2002 Super Bowl were false.

Walsh did turn over eight tapes made from 2000 to 2002, which further confirms what we already know: Belichick is a cheater. He has been scolded and embarrassed, his legacy as a coach tarnished forever. Do another eight examples make it more tarnished?

No one can ever say for sure what impact taping signals had on the Patriots dynasty. The answer is probably more than the NFL wants to admit, and less than the posse chasing after Belichick with the torches thinks. Dragging the coach and commissioner to Capitol Hill won't clear up a thing.

"If the sole focus of the hearing is, 'What did Belichick do and when did he do it?' I agree it's hard to see the need," Ross said. "Whether it becomes the football equivalent of a discussion of Tom Cruise and Katie Holmes, well, that remains to be seen."

It is hard to believe that Specter's motives are pure. Beyond the usual grandstanding for the cameras, his secondlargest political contributor is Comcast, which is battling the NFL over fees for the NFL Network. Tops on the list? Comcast's Washington lobbying firm.

Soaring cable bills! Now there's a good topic for a Congressional hearing. We love a good conspiracy, but the only way Spygate resembles Watergate is how long it has dominated the news. Bill Belichick is not Richard Nixon. He shouldn't be heading to Washington.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JERRY WELLER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 15, 2008

Mr. WELLER of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I rise today to enter into the RECORD votes I would have cast had I been present for rollcall votes 306 through 316. I was absent on Tuesday, May 13th and part of the day Wednesday April 14th due to personal reasons.

If I were present I would have voted, "yea" on rollcall vote 306, "yea" on rollcall vote 307, "yea" on rollcall vote 308, "nay" on rollcall vote 309, "nay" on rollcall vote 310, "nay" on rollcall vote 311, "yea" on rollcall vote 312, "yea" on rollcall vote 313, "yea" on rollcall vote 314, "yea" on rollcall vote 315, "yea" on rollcall vote 316, and "nay" on rollcall vote 317.

HONORING PFC WILBUR J. (WEB) FENBERT FOR BEING NAMED 2008 VETERAN OF THE YEAR

HON. JIM JORDAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 15, 2008

Mr. JORDAN of Ohio. Madam Speaker, I am honored to commend to the House the distinguished service of PFC Wilbur J. (Web) Fenbert to the United States of America during World War II. PFC Fenbert will receive Veteran of the Year honors at an Armed Forces Day celebration breakfast this weekend.

During his time in the military, Web served in the 4th Armored Division which was the spearhead of the 3rd Army as it pushed into German territory. Web was an ambulance driver and moved casualties to field hospitals. In 1944, on Christmas Day, his division moved into Bastogne, and casualties had to be evacuated to the field hospital in Chaumont. Web bravely made seven trips through German artillery shell fire as he carried 22 wounded soldiers to the hospital.

Web's closest call was in a combat offensive called Task Force Baum while involved in a mission to liberate the concentration camp at Hanneburg, Germany. The camp was sixty miles behind German lines. Web picked up five casualties from a battle at Schweinhaim and took them back to the field hospital. Once there, he was ordered not to return. Although the Task Force reached Hanneburg, they ran into a Panzer Division on their return. All Task Force members were either killed or taken as prisoners of war.

Web has many war memories. One is of seeing General Patton and General Eisenhower directing traffic at a crossroads outside Bastogne. Another memory is of liberating POW camps such as Moosburg. He said that Buchenwald was the worst. Web said, "I'll never forget the stench or the heinous scene." Web was also at Foshenbroke, Germany, where General Patton was killed, and he attended the funeral.

At the end of the war, Web turned in his ambulance which had 29 shell holes and said, "I wasn't even scratched."

RECOGNIZING THE ACHIEVEMENTS AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF J. MICHAEL DURNIL DURING HIS TENURE AT ROOSEVELT UNIVERSITY

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 15, 2008

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I want to take this opportunity to recognize the significant contributions of J. Michael Durnil, Ph.D., to Roosevelt University. Dr. Durnil will leave Roosevelt University, where he has devoted his talents and energies for the last 15 years, for the newly created position of Senior Vice President for GLADD, the Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation in Los Angeles.

Throughout his career at Roosevelt, Dr. Durnil has been a staunch advocate for students, especially those who are the first in their family to attend Roosevelt, a protector and promoter of the university's image, reputation, and history as an institution of higher education founded on the principles of social justice and academic excellence, and a devoted cheerleader for Roosevelt University at both the Chicago and Schaumburg campuses.

During his time at Roosevelt, Dr. Durnil rose quickly through the ranks, beginning as Dean of Students, serving as the Campus Executive Officer for the Schaumburg campus, and eventually being promoted to Vice President for Administration and Assistant Secretary to the Board of Trustees. In spring 2004, he was honored as an American Council on Education Fellow, a highly prestigious appointment made

only to the Nation's top college and university leaders. He spent the next academic year at Fairleigh Dickinson University in New Jersey.

Upon his return in 2005, he was named to the newly created position of Vice President for Governmental Affairs and University Outreach, the position he will leave on May 28, 2008. Making a strong impact from the start, Dr. Durnil oversaw the creation, direction and implementation of strategic activities focused on governmental, community, public and external relations for the university.

Through Dr. Durnil's efforts, Roosevelt University gained national and international recognition as a major sponsor for the 2006 Gay Games, which were hosted by the City of Chicago. From serving as a registration site for the 140,000 participants to hosting a mayoral press conference on campus to providing housing for athletes, Roosevelt University was a major part of this event, thanks to Dr. Durnil. His hard work and penchant for developing productive and solid relationships in Springfield and Washington, DC, has resulted in a strengthened presence and recognition for the university with elected officials.

With deep appreciation and admiration for his efforts, I thank Dr. Durnil for his service to Roosevelt University and the city of Chicago and wish him well in his new endeavors.

CONGRATULATING JULIAN SMITH
ON THE OCCASION OF HIS RE-
TIREMENT

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 15, 2008

Mr. BONNER. Madam Speaker, it is with great pride and pleasure that I rise to honor the long and distinguished career of Julian Smith, on the occasion of his retirement from Alabama Power Company.

With a career spanning over 34 years, Julian rose through the ranks of the Alabama Power Company. Julian joined Alabama Power in 1974 in the construction department at Greene County Steam Plant. In 1982, he transitioned to the governmental affairs department, and in 1991, he was promoted to vice president of governmental affairs. Julian assumed his current position, vice president of corporate relations, in 2000.

Julian has been active in Alabama politics his entire adult life. He served as corporate liaison to former Alabama Governor Don Siegelman. In 2001, he was appointed to the Delta Regional Authority as well as the Alabama Commission on Physical Fitness. Julian also served as corporate liaison for the creation of the Alabama Black Belt Community Foundation, leading Alabama Power to partner with Auburn University in their effort to establish a Regional Foundation for the Black Belt.

Julian serves on the board of trustees for Marion Military Institute. He is an alumnus of Leadership Birmingham. He served on the 1996 Birmingham Soccer Organizing Committee as well as numerous committees for the Birmingham Chamber of Commerce. In 1981, the Alabama Jaycees named Julian among the "Four Outstanding Young Men of Alabama."

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing a dedicated community leader and friend to many throughout Alabama. I know his family and his many friends and colleagues join me in praising his accomplishments and extending thanks for his service over the years on behalf of the State of Alabama.

Julian will surely enjoy the well deserved time he now has to spend with family and loved ones. On behalf of a grateful State, I wish him the best of luck in all his future endeavors.

HONORING LEE HUDSON OF NAPA
COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 15, 2008

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Lee Hudson, who is being honored by the Napa Valley Grapegrowers as their Grower of the Year on Friday, May 16, 2008. Mr. Hudson is being recognized for his outstanding contributions to the wine grape industry and the larger community of the Napa Valley.

Hudson Vineyards has established itself over the last 25 years as one of the truly great vineyards of the Napa Valley. Mr. Hudson found his love for winemaking early on, receiving his B.S. in Horticulture from the University of Arizona and continuing his education in Viticulture and Enology at the University of California, Davis. Mr. Hudson's dedication and passion to his craft shows in the number of critically acclaimed wines that Hudson Vineyards has produced and continues producing today.

Throughout his career, Lee Hudson has set a lofty standard for farming in the Napa Valley. These high standards are reflected not only in the quality of his fruit and clients, but also in the loyalty of his employees. In recent years, Mr. Hudson has brought significant benefits to some of his field-based employees by offering after-hours English courses and low-cost housing options on the ranch.

Mr. Hudson is a great role model for other growers in the industry through his innovation, progressive farming techniques, and managing vineyards and surrounding land with a "systems approach". This "systems approach" makes Hudson Vineyards stand out among the rest in land stewardship and land conservation. Mr. Hudson sets a tremendous example with his strong advocacy for the preservation of agriculture in the Napa Valley, as well as his active involvement with the Napa Valley Grapegrowers.

Madam Speaker and colleagues, it is appropriate at this time that we thank Mr. Lee Hudson for the incredible work he has done on behalf of the Napa Valley. As a respected grape grower he has advanced the reputation of Napa Valley grapes and wine, and has been a model citizen and superb steward of the land.

NATIONAL PEACE OFFICERS
MEMORIAL DAY

HON. DAVID G. REICHERT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 15, 2008

Mr. REICHERT. Madam Speaker, Today is National Peace Officers Memorial Day.

Just outside this chamber, are thousands of law enforcement officers, here to honor the fallen.

Freedom is not something we can take for granted. Police officers understand their role in this and take it seriously. For 33 years, I wore the badge of the King County Sheriff's office, and understand the sacrifice, and the pain of losing a partner.

My good friend Mr. POE has a resolution honoring these brave men and women who sacrificed all while protecting our communities and keeping our children safe. The House Oversight and Government Reform Committee passed the resolution on May 1st and yet the Majority has failed to bring it to the floor. Why? The House has honored our peace officers and passed this resolution every year since 1999. This is the first time in 5 years the resolution has failed to come to the floor during National Police Week.

Madam Speaker, on this National Peace Officers Memorial Day, I ask this body to reconsider, and pass the resolution honoring these brave men and women.

TRIBUTE TO MS. CRYSTLE
STEWART, MISS USA 2008

HON. NICK LAMPSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 15, 2008

Mr. LAMPSON. Madam Speaker, on April 11, 2008, Crystle Stewart, 26, of Missouri City, Texas was awarded the coveted Miss USA crown. I am honored to recognize her on this tremendous accomplishment.

Miss Stewart graduated from the University of Houston with a degree in consumer science and merchandising and now runs her own company "Inside/Out." This remarkable company aids young women in building self-esteem and volunteers with many organizations in the community. Her ability to juggle academics, her company, and work at a modeling agency is a testament to her amazing discipline and strong desire to succeed.

In the process of obtaining her crown, Miss Stewart made history; she is only the second African-American woman to win the title of Miss Texas and the first in more than a decade. I commend Miss Stewart for being a trailblazer, scholar, and success story to young women throughout the country, and I wish her luck as she competes for the title of Miss Universe in Vietnam this June. I know she will continue to bring pride to the state of Texas and the United States of America.

THE GREEN SCHOOLS ACT OF 2008,
H.R. 6065

HON. MARK STEVEN KIRK

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 15, 2008

Mr. KIRK. Madam Speaker, I am proud to stand here today to introduce legislation with Congressman CHRISTOPHER CARNEY (D-PA) which will provide healthier and more productive environments for students.

As energy prices soar and state budgets shrink, schools around the country need more assistance than ever to keep afloat. Congress can provide a commonsense way to help schools achieve fiscal sustainability by helping them to reach energy sustainability through energy efficient and other green improvements.

According to the independent U.S. Green Buildings Council which established a nationally recognized green school certification program, the LEED rating system, green schools on average save \$100,000 per year. This is enough to hire two new teachers, buy 500 new computers or purchase 5,000 new textbooks. In fact, if all new school construction or school renovations went green, energy savings alone would total \$20 billion over the next ten years.

Green schools also provide better environments for our children, improving student achievement and health. Students at LEED certified schools perform twenty percent better on reading tests and twenty-four percent better on math tests than the average student. There are nearly forty percent fewer asthma occurrences at green schools, contributing to the decreased number of sick days students experience.

Providing green school improvements are extremely cost effective. Construction costs average less than \$3 per square foot more to build, yet save roughly \$12 per square foot in energy and water savings.

Some schools are already investing in green school technology to take advantage of all the benefits it provides. I am proud that a school in my Congressional District of northern Illinois, Thomas Middle School, installed a one-kilowatt solar array on its roof in November, 2007 with a \$10,000 grant from the Illinois Clean Energy Community Foundation. The photovoltaic panel produced enough energy to date to offset more than 310 pounds of carbon dioxide. The output so far is equivalent to the energy needed to power 3 homes for one day, or operate one TV for 1,084 hours.

Thomas Middle School teachers also use the solar array data to help teach students about the importance of renewable energy. Classes use the information from the solar panels in experiments about energy conservation and environmental protection.

I applaud Thomas Middle School Principal Tom O'Rourke and science department chair Jay Bingaman for taking such an initiative to improve the school, environment and education of their students.

We are introducing the Green Schools Act to encourage schools all around the country to follow the example of Thomas Middle School. This legislation provides up to \$10,000 in matching grants for schools to undertake green construction and improvement projects. The bill would also reauthorize the Qualified

Zone Academy bonds program, which is used to fund renovations and repairs at schools in low-income neighborhoods. The bill would require that any improvements or rehabilitations be energy efficient. Since its establishment in 1997, the QZAB program has provided nearly \$1.7 billion for school improvements projects.

I hope my colleagues will join me in supporting this bill to improve the health and education of our children and provide financial security to schools.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 2419,
FOOD, CONSERVATION, AND EN-
ERGY ACT OF 2008

SPEECH OF

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 14, 2008

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Madam Speaker, I have supported and cosponsored legislation to allow farmers who grow fruit and vegetables for processing to opt out of farm programs on an acre for acre basis without limitation. That legislation would reduce farm program costs and improve the environment by allowing more extensive crop rotations. I am very pleased that the conference report takes a step toward that proposal by establishing a pilot project to allocate 75,000 acres of new authority for production of fruit and vegetables for processing in specified Midwestern states. The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) has broad discretion in administration of this pilot project to meet the objectives of the pilot project. The conference report does not specify a procedure for allocation of the pilot project acreage or other administrative matters, such as re-allocation of unused acreage allocations among states. However, the USDA is clearly required to establish rules to assure that this additional fruit and vegetable production authority will not be abused. Only fruit and vegetables under contract for processing are to be produced under this authority.

The USDA is to assure that all of the crop produced is delivered to a processor and that the quantity of crop delivered under the original contract (the contract in existence upon Farm Service Agency certification) does not exceed the quantity that is produced on the contracted acreage. Additionally, the effects of the pilot project and fruit and vegetable restrictions on the specialty crop industry, both fresh and processed, are to be evaluated. These restrictions are intended to ensure protection of the objectives of the pilot project, not to compel food waste or excessive regulatory burden. Further, the conference report includes an important statement of policy indicating that in the next recalculation of base acreage, fruit and vegetable production will not cause a reduction in farmer's base acreage. While this is a timid step in reducing restrictions on production of fruits and vegetables, I commend this step in the right direction.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. PETER J. ROSKAM

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 15, 2008

Mr. ROSKAM. Madam Speaker, on rollcall No. 307, I was detained in traffic while returning to the Capitol. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye."

HONORING LIEUTENANT COLONEL
JOHN R. DEHAVEN ON BEING
NAMED 2008 VETERAN OF THE
YEAR

HON. JIM JORDAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 15, 2008

Mr. JORDAN of Ohio. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor LTC John R. DeHaven of Findlay, OH, on being named 2008 Veteran of the Year at the Armed Forces Day Celebration on Saturday, May 17, 2008, in Findlay, OH.

A graduate of Findlay High School, John was drafted in 1941 into the Infantry and taught trainees to use rifles in Texas Training Camp. In 1942, he passed the exam for the Army Air Corps and took his Basic Flight Training in Randolph Field in San Antonio, TX. He later completed his advanced pilot training in Victoria, TX. During his training, he flew the BT-6 single engine biplane. Later in 1942, he graduated and stayed in Victoria as a flight instructor.

During World War II, John was assigned to the Chinese-American Composite Wing to fight against the Japanese. Before his move to China, he trained in Mitchell Field on Long Island. His mission was to fly P-40's from Karachi, India to Kunming, China. While in Karachi, John trained American and Chinese Pilots for the 5th Fighter Group.

As the struggle in China against the Japanese intensified, John showed incredible bravery. His unit was constantly re-deployed and they eventually ended up in Zhejiang, a mountainous area where flights were incredibly dangerous.

His main mission was to strike the Japanese, often going after eight to ten aircraft per mission. He also escorted B-25 bombers to Japan. On one mission, John was returning to base and got separated from his squadron. It got dark and John was lost and running out of fuel. He had to fire his machine gun over a town, causing all the town's lights to go out. He then saw the searchlight in the distance and followed it to base.

As the war drew to a close, John returned to the United States to train pilots in Texas. When the war ended, he remained in the Air Force Reserve and rose to the rank of Lieutenant Colonel. After his retirement, he remained active with the military, serving as a liaison for the Air Force Academy interviewing and recommending Academy applicants.

I am honored to join the chorus of well-wishers as the State of Ohio again recognizes his distinguished service to Ohio's veterans. He is a shining example of our mutual responsibility to serve those who devoted their lives to protecting the freedoms we enjoy.

IN HONOR AND IN MEMORY OF
BRIAN D. SHRADER OF
HUEYTOWN, ALABAMA

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 15, 2008

Mr. BONNER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of a young man from Hueytown, Alabama, who recently made the ultimate sacrifice while serving as a firefighter for the United States Department of Defense in Mosul, Iraq.

A 1994 graduate of Pleasant Grove High School, Brian's childhood dream was to become a career firefighter. Brian had even interviewed with Mobile Fire-Rescue by telephone from Iraq and would most likely have received a position in the upcoming class of recruits.

In a fitting tribute, the Mobile Fire-Rescue Department honor guard escorted the funeral procession down Interstate 65 from Hueytown to Mobile. The procession was met by the Mobile County Sheriff's Office at the Mobile County line, and the hearse carrying Brian's casket passed under a 30-foot-by-50-foot flag hung from extended ladders of two Mobile Fire-Rescue trucks on its way to the Mobile cemetery where he was laid to rest.

At this difficult time, it is only appropriate for us to pause and give thanks to God that there are still young men like Brian D. Shrader. His life and actions personify the very best America has to offer. I feel certain his many friends and family, as well as his fellow firefighters in Iraq, while mourning the loss of this fine young man, are also taking this opportunity to remember his many accomplishments and to recall the fine gift they each received simply from knowing him and having him as an integral part of their lives.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to take a moment and pay tribute to Brian D. Shrader and his selfless devotion to our country and the freedom we enjoy.

We should also remember his wife, Rebecca Shrader; their three children, Kaitlyn, Hailey, and Jacob; his parents, Richard F. Shrader Sr. and Linda Shrader; and his other relatives and many friends. Our prayer is that God will give them all the strength and courage that only He can provide to sustain them during the difficult days ahead.

HONORING THE NAPA VALLEY AGRICULTURAL PRESERVE

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 15, 2008

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Madam Speaker, I have had the honor for the past 10 years to represent in the House of Representatives the Napa Valley, an area known throughout the world for its immense beauty, environmental consciousness and bountiful agriculture. This evening, the Jack L. Davies Napa Valley Agricultural Land Preservation Fund will celebrate an act of foresight and wisdom that has helped the Napa Valley to earn its lofty reputation: the creation of the Napa Valley Agricultural Preserve.

In 1968, the Napa County Board of Supervisors passed Ordinance No. 274, creating the Napa Valley Agricultural Preserve. The ordinance ensured that agriculture and open space were the "highest and best use" of our land and should be preserved for those uses. This unprecedented action revolutionized land use policy nationwide and paved the way for other landmark measures, such as measure J, to help preserve agricultural land.

Among its many virtues, the establishment of the Ag Preserve proved that responsible land stewardship and a thriving economy were not mutually exclusive values; indeed, the Napa Valley owes much of its economic prosperity and special quality of life to the preservation of its agricultural and open space lands.

Madam Speaker and colleagues, it is my distinct pleasure to honor Napa County Supervisors Dewey Anderson, Jack Ferguson, and those former Supervisors who are with us in spirit Henry Wigger, Julius Caiocca and Pete Clark for having the foresight to protect the land so that future generations could enjoy the majesty of the Napa Valley. We also salute those who are working today to preserve and protect agricultural land and open space in Napa County.

FINANCIAL NET WORTH

HON. F. JAMES SENSENBRENNER, JR.

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 15, 2008

Mr. SENSENBRENNER. Madam Speaker, through the following statement, I am making my financial net worth as of March 31, 2008, a matter of public record. I have filed similar statements for each of the 29 preceding years I have served in the Congress.

ASSETS—REAL PROPERTY

Single family residence at 609 Ft. Williams Parkway, City of Alexandria, Virginia, at assessed valuation. (Assessed at \$1,502,816). Ratio of assessed to market value: 100% (Unencumbered)—\$1,502,816.00.

Condominium at N76 W14726 North Point Drive, Village of Menomonee Falls, Waukesha County, Wisconsin, at assessor's estimated market value. (Unencumbered)—\$153,700.00.

Undivided 25/44ths interest in single family residence at N52 W32654 Maple Lane, Village of Chenequa, Waukesha County, Wisconsin, at 25/44ths of assessor's estimated market value of \$1,760,300.00—\$1,000,170.04

Total Real Property—\$2,656,686.40.

2008 DISCLOSURE

Common & preferred stock	# of shares	\$ per share	Value
Abbott Laboratories, Inc.	12200	55.15	672,830.00
Alcatel-Lucent	135	5.76	777.60
Allstate Corporation	370	48.06	17,782.20
AT&T	5335,8322	38.30	204,362.37
JP Morgan Chase	4539	42.95	194,950.05
Benton County Mining Company	333	0.00	0.00
BP PLC	3604	60.65	218,582.60
Centerpoint Energy	300	14.27	4,281.00
Chenequa Country Club Realty Co.	1	0.00	0.00
Comcast	634	19.34	12,261.56
Darden Restaurants, Inc.	1440	32.55	46,872.00
Delphi Automotive	212	0.09	19.08
Discover Financial Services	156	16.37	2,553.72
Dunn & Bradstreet, Inc.	2500	81.38	203,450.00
E.I. DuPont de Nemours Corp.	1200	46.76	56,112.00
Eastman Chemical Co.	270	62.45	16,861.50
Eastman Kodak	1080	17.67	19,083.60
El Paso Energy	150	16.64	2,496.00
Exxon Mobil Corp.	9728	84.58	822,794.24

2008 DISCLOSURE—Continued

Common & preferred stock	# of shares	\$ per share	Value
Fairpoint Communications, Inc.	26	9.02	234.52
Gartner Group	651	19.34	12,590.34
General Electric Co.	15600	37.01	577,356.00
General Mills, Inc.	2280	59.88	136,526.40
General Motors Corp.	304	19.05	5,791.20
Hospira	1220	42.77	52,179.40
Idearc	67	3.64	243.88
Imation Corp.	99	22.74	2,251.26
IMS Health	5000	21.01	105,050.00
Kellogg Corp.	3200	52.56	168,192.00
Kimberly-Clark Corp.	1740	64.55	112,317.00
Merck & Co., Inc.	34078	37.95	1,293,260.10
3M Company	2000	79.15	158,300.00
Medco Health	8218	43.79	359,866.22
Monsanto Corporation	2852,315	111.50	318,033.12
Moody's	2500	34.83	87,075.00
Morgan Stanley/Dean Whitter	312	45.70	14,258.40
NCR Corp.	68	22.83	1,552.44
Newell Rubbermaid	1676	22.87	38,330.12
JP Morgan Liquid Assets			
Money Mkt	718.76	1.00	718.76
Pactiv Corp.	200	26.21	5,242.00
PG&E Corp.	175	36.82	6,443.50
Pfizer	22211	20.93	464,876.23
Qwest	571	4.53	2,586.63
Reliant Energy	300	23.65	7,095.00
RH Donnelly Corp.	500	30.31	15,155.00
Sandusky Voting Trust	26	1.00	26.00
Solutia	82	14.00	1,148.00
Tenneco Automotive	182	27.94	5,085.08
Teradata	68	22.06	1,500.08
Unisys, Inc.	167	4.43	739.81
US Bank Corp.	3081	32.36	99,701.16
Verizon	1430,6338	36.45	52,146.60
Vodafone	323	29.51	9,531.73
Weenergies (Wisconsin Energy)	1022	43.99	44,957.78
Total common & preferred stocks and bonds			\$6,656,430.29

Life insurance policies	Face \$	Surrender \$
Northwestern Mutual #4378000	12,000.00	80,901.36
Northwestern Mutual #4574061	30,000.00	194,541.15
Massachusetts Mutual #4116575	10,000.00	12,130.16
Massachusetts Mutual #4228344	100,000.00	304,666.59
American General Life Ins. #5-1607059L	175,000.00	41,647.56
Total life insurance policies		\$633,888.82

Bank & savings & loan accounts	Balance
JP Morgan Chase Bank, checking account	13,850.37
JP Morgan Chase Bank, savings account	14,274.18
M&I Lake Country Bank, Hartland, WI, checking account ..	9,958.76
M&I Lake Country Bank, Hartland, WI, savings	370.60
Burke & Herbert Bank, Alexandria, VA, checking account ..	1,570.17
JP Morgan, IRA accounts	128,936.66
Total bank & savings & loan accounts	\$168,963.74

Miscellaneous	Value
1994 Cadillac Deville—retail value	\$3,350.00
1989 Cadillac Fleetwood—retail value	\$2,200.00
1996 Buick Regal—retail value	\$3,000.00
1991 Buick Century automobile—retail value	\$1,600.00
Office furniture & equipment (estimated)	\$1,000.00
Furniture, clothing & personal property (estimated)	\$180,000.00
Stamp collection (estimated)	\$110,000.00
Interest in Wisconsin retirement fund	\$410,371.69
Deposits in Congressional Retirement Fund	\$182,301.98
Deposits in Federal Thrift Savings Plan	\$303,826.87
Traveller's checks	\$7,800.00
17 ft. Boston Whaler boat & 70 hp Johnson outboard motor (estimated)	\$6,500.00
20 ft. Pontoon boat & 40 hp Mercury outboard motor ..	\$12,500.00
Total miscellaneous	\$1,224,450.54
TOTAL ASSETS	\$11,340,419.79

LIABILITIES—None.

Net worth—\$11,340,419.79.

2008 DISCLOSURE

STATEMENT OF 2007 TAXES PAID

Federal income tax—\$124,247.00
Wisconsin income tax—\$37,582.00
Menomonee Falls, WI property tax—\$2,415.42

Chenequa, WI property tax—\$24,575.49
Alexandria, VA property tax—\$12,649.00

I further declare that I am trustee of a trust established under the will of my late father, Frank James Sensenbrenner, Sr., for the benefit of my sister, Margaret A. Sensenbrenner, and of my two sons, F. James Sensenbrenner, III, and Robert Alan Sensenbrenner. I am further the direct beneficiary

of five trusts, but have no control over the assets of either trust. My wife, Cheryl Warren Sensenbrenner, and I are trustees of separate trusts established for the benefit of each son.

Also, I am neither an officer nor a director of any corporation organized under the laws of the State of Wisconsin or of any other state or foreign country.

TRIBUTE ON THE PASSING OF
SCOTT S. STUART

HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 15, 2008

Mr. PAUL. Madam Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to a man who recently died at a tragically young age. I am appending his official obituary to this extension of remarks. In addition to those things listed in his obituary, I would like to point out that Scott was very involved in community and political events. This, for him, was essential to share his concern for his country. Scott held a deep and abiding belief in the rights, freedom and dignity of human beings.

May he Rest In Peace.

Stuart, Scott S. Stuart of Baltimore, Maryland, and Canton, Connecticut, passed away peacefully in his sleep on Wednesday, May 7th. He was 43 years old. Scott was the Director of Alumni Relations at Loyola College since June of 2007. Prior to this position, he was the director of alumni relations for his alma mater Niagara University. Scott also had over 15 years of corporate experience as an executive in the banking industry and as a fund-raising director in the non-profit sector. He held the position of vice president, director of marketing, for OBA Bank in Washington, DC. In this post, he formulated corporate growth strategies and directed and identified marketing programs and opportunities, helping to "re-brand" America's oldest thrift institution. Earlier, he spent several years working for the Boy Scouts of America in Boston, Mass., and Washington, DC., as district executive, district director, development director, and director of major gifts.

After graduating from Niagara University in 1986 with a bachelor's degree in commerce/marketing, Scott worked his way up the corporate ladder at M&T Bank to assistant vice president. Scott enjoyed traveling, backpacking, skiing and winter camping. But first and foremost, he loved his family. He was a devoted son and brother and was happiest when he was around them. He had an infectious spirit and love of life and faith. Scott is survived by his mother, Anne Stuart of Canton, Conn., and three younger siblings, Brian and his wife Yvonne of Boston, Mass., Sean Stuart of Broad Brook, Conn., and Tracy Stuart of New Canaan, Conn. To continue to keep his memory alive, the family asks that you pass on a good deed to someone in need.

TRIBUTE TO COLONEL TOM
SCHIESS

HON. GREG WALDEN

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 15, 2008

Mr. WALDEN of Oregon. Madam Speaker, on the occasion of the change of command

this weekend at the 173rd Fighter Wing at Kingsley Field in Klamath Falls, Oregon, I rise to share with you and our colleagues my pride in an outstanding officer and a great American: Colonel Tom Schiess, United States Air Force, Commander of the 173rd Fighter Wing at Kingsley Field. I will have the honor of attending the change of command ceremony in Klamath Falls this weekend, and before Colonel Schiess relinquishes his command I want to express our nation's gratitude for his service. My comments today echo the admiration of residents of the Klamath Basin community and the respect and affection of the men and women who serve in his command. Colonel Schiess is the type of leader who makes a difference in any endeavor he pursues, and he has made a tremendously positive impact at Kingsley Field.

Colonel Schiess, who is approaching 5,000 flight hours, spent eight and a half years in the United States Air Force before joining the Oregon Air National Guard in 1991. His active duty assignments include: Tyndall AFB as a T-33 Instructor Pilot; McDill AFB as an F-16 Student Pilot; Hill AFB, UT; and AL Minhad AB, United Arab Emirates as an F-16 Pilot. He flew 34 combat missions in Operation Desert Storm while deployed in support of the war effort. While stationed at Kingsley Field, he has been Chief of Wing Standardization and Evaluation, 114th Fighter Squadron Operations Officer, 114th Fighter Squadron Commander, 173rd Operations Group Commander, and 173rd Maintenance Group Commander. Colonel Schiess excelled in each of these roles.

Madam Speaker, in the course of his unselfish service to his country and the State of Oregon, Colonel Schiess has earned many awards, including the Meritorious Service Medal, Aerial Achievement Medal, Air Medal, Air Force Commendation Medal, Air Force Achievement Medal, Combat Readiness Medal, Air Force Longevity Award, National Defense Service Medal, Air Force Outstanding Unit Award, Global War on Terrorism Medal, Kuwait Liberation Medal, Southwest Asia Campaign Medal, and Oregon Faithful Service Medal with "M" device.

Colonel Tom Schiess has clearly distinguished himself with awards and recognitions, Madam Speaker, but he is most proud of the collective accomplishments of the 173rd Fighter Wing, which he has led so ably. With the motto of "Land of No Slack," Colonel Schiess leads a world class training facility of more than 1,000 Oregon Air National Guard personnel and state and contract employees at Kingsley Field.

As Wing Commander, Colonel Schiess is essentially the Chief Executive Officer and top leader of a very large and highly successful organization. Colonel Schiess is responsible for the production of F-15 sorties to generate student-flying training to graduate the best air-to-air F-15 pilots in the world. The 173rd Fighter Wing serves as one of only two professional F-15 schoolhouses in the United States for Air Force and Air National Guard fighter pilots.

The 173rd Fighter Wing accomplishes its primary mission, F-15 flight training, on the leading edge of innovative training technology and techniques, setting the standard for military training centers worldwide. The Wing flawlessly provides over 4,700 hours and over 3,500 sorties for the training mission as well

as training opportunities for the Combat Air Force. The Wing has received a Lockheed Martin award for its generation of 20,000 accident-free F-15 sorties since it converted to the F-15 in 1998.

The Wing, under the command of Colonel Schiess, has not only distinguished itself as a world class training facility, but has also proven itself to be a significant international ambassador, deploying to Plovdiv, Bulgaria to participate in Sentry Lion, an air-to-air exercise with the Bulgarian Air Force. Subsequently, the 173rd Operations Group hosted six Bulgarian officers for a week as part of a familiarization program in the United States.

The Wing consistently earns outstanding ratings in accomplishing its mission. The high morale and job satisfaction of Colonel Schiess' team are reflected in extremely high retention rates, reenlistment rates, and manning and training rates in the unit career advisory program.

Colonel Schiess and his team have endeared themselves to the community, rendering over 45,000 volunteer hours annually. Each year they welcome the community onto the base with their Sentry Eagle Exercise open house or hosting an outstanding air show. The men and women at Kingsley Field are not visitors to the Klamath community; they are active and deeply involved neighbors who do a great deal to make the Klamath Basin the very special place that it is.

Madam Speaker, I know that my praise of Colonel Tom Schiess and his exceptional team not only represents the gratitude of the local community, but of a nation well served and protected by highly trained and highly motivated individuals. The time that Colonel Schiess has dedicated in commanding the 173rd Fighter Wing will long be remembered as a period of unmatched accomplishment and stellar service at Kingsley Field. Tom has achieved his goal of seeing that the men and women of the 173rd Fighter Wing are citizen airmen who are second to none, and are constantly ready, reliable, and relevant in answering America's needs through brave, confident, and unselfish service.

My colleagues, please join me in thanking Colonel Tom Schiess for his dedication, his commitment, and his tremendous success in a very big and important job.

H.R. 5872, BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICAN CENTENNIAL COMMEMORATIVE COIN ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. BOB ETHERIDGE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 14, 2008

Mr. ETHERIDGE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 5872, the Boy Scouts of America Centennial Commemorative Coin Act. This bill directs the Secretary of the Treasury to mint and issue up to 350,000 \$1 silver coins in 2010 to commemorate the centennial of the founding of the Boy Scouts of America. The \$10 surcharge required for each coin will be paid to the National Boy Scouts of America Foundation.

Mr. Speaker, I have long been honored to be associated with the Boy Scouts of America. I am the proud father of an Eagle Scout and

I have been proud to support the Occoneechee Council of the Boy Scouts in North Carolina through volunteer work and vital fundraising. I have been honored to receive the Silver Beaver, the Scouts' highest award for volunteering.

Scouting has contributed to the fabric of American life for nearly 100 years. The Boy Scouts of America was incorporated on February 8, 1910, and chartered by Congress in 1916. The Boy Scouts of America's original mission was to provide an educational program for boys and young men to build character, to train in the responsibilities of participating in citizenship, and to develop personal fitness.

You know, North Carolina and America and indeed the entire world have changed a great deal since 1910, yet the Boy Scouts endure. The Boy Scouts remain a mainstay of American life because the message of this organization is timeless: developing American citizens who are physically, mentally and emotionally fit.

The leadership and service skills learned as a Boy Scout have enabled men to become leaders in all walks of life: government, business, sports, science and the arts. These include such distinguished individuals as: President Gerald R. Ford, our first Eagle Scout to become President; Secretary of Defense Robert M. Gates; and my friend, Richard Gephardt, the former Majority Leader of the U.S. House of Representatives, and Supreme Court Justice Stephen Breyer. Closer to my home, former North Carolina Governor and Senator Terry Sanford was an Eagle Scout.

The Boy Scouts of America is an institution that contributes so much to the strength of our social fabric. The activities of the Boy Scouts reinforce our moral core and help sustain our American values, generation after generation.

I support the issuance of this commemorative centennial coin, and I urge my colleagues to join me in support of this bill.

INTRODUCTION OF THE HELP AMERICA VOTE ACT AMENDMENT'S BILL

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 15, 2008

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, as another presidential election fast approaches, I am pleased to introduce a bill to amend and improve the Help America Vote Act of 2002, HAVA, which was enacted after the chaos of the 2000 presidential election. The genesis of my bill is my own experience and observations from the 2004 elections here in the District of Columbia and campaigning in other parts of the country during the 2004 presidential elections.

The first provision is in response to the long lines that voters have been forced to endure throughout the country that may have deterred significant numbers of voters and would require States to permit counties or other subdivisions upon request to begin voting prior to the scheduled date of an election. During the 2004 election, some subdivisions had voting machines that were modern and plentiful, while other jurisdictions in the same State were burdened with scarce and out-of-date

machines, resulting in long lines. In the pivotal state of Ohio, which determined the outcome of the close 2004 presidential election, the controversy was deepened by reports that lines were particularly long in counties where there were large minority populations compared with largely white counties. One reason for the difference is that in many States, voting machines are purchased by counties or other jurisdictions. Differences in income levels, tax bases and other issues often result in large disparities within the same State in the availability of machines. Small changes in the calendar day that voting begins can help eliminate these disparities and the lines that discourage the exercise of the right to vote, and without the often significant capital investment in new equipment.

The second provision of my bill adds a section to HAVA that responds to calls my office received regarding absentee ballots sent in that inadvertently did not include postage, or had insufficient postage. My bill would require officials to accept such absentee ballots. Postage mistakes may be made depending on the number of issues on the ballot and the resulting size and weight of the envelope containing the ballot. The cost to authorities, if any, is de minimis. The public interest in counting every ballot voters have cast outweighs the incidental, virtually immeasurable cost, if any. There should be no doubt that such ballots should be counted.

A third provision amends HAVA to eliminate the confusion that arises when voters go to the incorrect voting sites because they are first-time or infrequent voters or their usual voting site has been changed. To encourage participation, my bill would allow voters registered anywhere in the State to cast a provisional ballot and have it counted and verified. However, voters would be told the correct polling site to allow the option of going to the correct site and thereby avoiding any doubt that their ballots would be counted.

The 2000 presidential election was a calamity of such historic proportions that it cast doubt on the validity of the election of the President of the United States and led to the enactment of HAVA. The continuing problems in the 2004 elections were very serious, unacceptable, and controversial. Although that election was also razor thin close, its problems took longer to surface and there was no delay in the certification and settlement of the final result through the Supreme Court in *Bush v. Gore* in 2001. However, the 2004 elections were another close call that yielded bitter controversy. Beyond the recent election controversies, the voting franchise is precious enough for us to want and endeavor to protect its full expression. Congress must be willing to learn from our continuing experience to make improvements in protecting the right to vote as they are needed. My bill simply uses the experience from my own district and elsewhere to contribute to this effort.

CONCERN ABOUT TREATMENT OF U.S. CITIZEN IN BELARUSIAN DETENTION

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 15, 2008

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Madam Speaker, as Chairman of the Commission on Security

and Cooperation in Europe, I would like to draw attention and concern to the case of Mr. Emanuel Zeltser, a U.S. citizen who was detained March 12th upon his arrival in Minsk, Belarus, charged with "use of forged documents." In the entire time that Mr. Zeltser has been detained, he has only been allowed visitation by the U.S. Embassy twice, on March 21st and April 25th. Upon the latter visit it was noted by the U.S. consul that Mr. Zeltser had been beaten several times and appeared in greatly weakened health. Mr. Zeltser suffers from Type 2 diabetes and a severe form of arthritis. Though his condition causes him severe pain and has further deteriorated during his incarceration, the authorities in the detention facility where he is held have reportedly denied him necessary medications. Without proper medications, Mr. Zeltser may not be able to survive the harsh conditions of his detention. Furthermore, according to his lawyer, Belarusian authorities have recently extended the period of Mr. Zeltser's term of detention.

It is incumbent upon the Belarusian government to provide Mr. Zeltser full consular access, proper medical care, and ensure that he is not subjected to further physical abuse and degrading treatment—consistent with its international legal obligations and basic human rights standards.

Time is of the essence in Mr. Zeltser's case, as further delays could lead to further deterioration of his health to the point of endangering his life.

Madam Speaker, I call upon the Belarusian authorities to ensure that Mr. Zeltser immediately receives the medication his doctor has prescribed, and is protected from further ill-treatment, given access to U.S. consular representatives and any medical attention he may need. On April 25, the State Department requested the Government of Belarus to release Emanuel Zeltser on humanitarian grounds. I urge the Belarusian Government to favorably consider that request.

CELEBRATING TAYLOR'S 40TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. JOHN D. DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 15, 2008

Mr. DINGELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge, honor, and celebrate the City of Taylor on the occasion of its 40th Anniversary. Incorporated as a city on May 13, 1968, and named after our country's 12th president, Taylor's roots as a community date to the mid-19th Century. What began as a largely agricultural town grew into a prosperous and diverse city which features ample retail and industry for employment and safe neighborhoods for her citizens.

Taylor first began as a Township when residents succeeded in petitioning for their own government in 1847. Like many Michigan communities, Taylor began to thrive when Ford Motor Company opened the nearby Rouge Plant. The Rouge, as it was often simply called, provided over 100,000 jobs at one time during the 1930s. This mighty economic engine created a boom in the burgeoning town that would carry it through the Great Depression and World War II, during which it played an invaluable part of the American war effort.

As the auto industry continued to expand, Taylor grew as well. At the time of incorporation as a city in 1968, Taylor had a population of over 70,000 and was one of the largest cities in southeast Michigan. Residents like to say that "all roads lead to Taylor," a statement justified by the many major transportation arteries that flow through the city. Taylor has taken wonderful advantage of this fact by becoming not only a community that it is necessary to drive through, but also a community that is necessary to stop in and enjoy.

Taylor continues to thrive today as a result of active involvement and partnership from its corporate and individual citizens alike. Taylor is home to numerous industries and businesses, a large and impressive new SportsPlex, and many beautiful new municipal buildings and community centers. Of particular pride to the city and the region, Taylor is the annual host of the Junior Little League World Series—a week-long tournament that features teams from across the globe.

Madam Speaker, I ask that all of my colleagues join me in honoring the City of Taylor on its 40th Anniversary. The City of Taylor is home to vibrant and stable neighborhoods, significant industrial production, world-class youth sports, and numerous commercial business opportunities.

In celebrating Taylor's 40th Anniversary, we are honoring a city that truly represents the best of American history and progress.

HONORING MARIAN LOFTIN AND
THE CHILDREN'S TRUST FUND
OF ALABAMA FOR 25 YEARS OF
SERVICE TO THE CHILDREN OF
ALABAMA

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 15, 2008

Mr. BONNER. Madam Speaker, today I rise to pay tribute to Marian Loftin and the Children's Trust Fund of Alabama for 25 years of dedicated service to protecting the children of Alabama.

Created in 1983 by the Alabama legislature, the Children's Trust Fund was created to reduce the incidence of child abuse and neglect. The Children's Trust Fund was unique in the fact that it specifically focuses on solving the problem of child abuse before it occurs.

This state agency, which has its own board, funding and staff dedicated solely to preventing child abuse, is the state of Alabama's only agency designated to preventing child neglect and maltreatment.

Through education initiatives and community involvement, the Children's Trust Fund has worked to increase awareness, prevent the abuse and neglect of children, find new and effective solutions for preventing child abuse before it occurs, and strengthen Alabama families to prevent such tragedies in the future.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join with me in congratulating both Marian Loftin and all of those at the Children's Trust Fund on 25 years of service to the children of Alabama and their families. For all their accomplishments, I extend my heartfelt thanks for their continued service to the children of Alabama, the First Congressional District, and the state of Alabama.

HONORING DR. CARROLL L. ESTES
PHD OF HEALDSBURG, CALI-
FORNIA

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 15, 2008

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today along with my colleagues Congresswoman JACKIE SPEIER, Congresswoman LYNN WOOLSEY, and you as Speaker of the House of Representatives, to honor the contributions of Carroll L. Estes, PhD. Dr. Estes is one of our country's most highly acclaimed leaders in the field of aging, who has combined distinguished scholarship with a sustained commitment to public sociology.

Dr. Estes was raised in Texas by her mother, Carroll Cox Estes, an artist and writer, and her father, the late U.S. District Judge Joe E. Estes. She received her AB in Sociology from Stanford University, her MA in Sociology from Southern Methodist University, and her PhD from the University of California, San Diego. Her first book, *The Decision Makers: The Power Structure of Dallas*, published in 1963, gained notoriety on both local and national levels at the time of President Kennedy's assassination.

Over her 40 year career, Dr. Estes has been passionately devoted to improving the health and economic security of vulnerable and underserved populations, with special concern for women, older persons, and ethnic and racial minorities. Through research, teaching, and public service, she has steadfastly worked to advance the public good and the interests of America's most powerless and disenfranchised populations. She is an internationally recognized policy advisor in the field of social insurance, Social Security, Medicare, and long term care.

Dr. Estes has authored and co-authored eight books and more than 150 scientific articles and coedited 15 books. Her research, including her groundbreaking book, *The Aging Enterprise* (1979), has contributed to understanding of the impact of social policy on the elderly. Her latest book, *Social Insurance, Social Justice and Social Change* will be published in 2009.

Dr. Estes's current scholarship is focused on the social movements surrounding the privatization of social insurance programs for the elderly. She is also working on the missing feminist revolution in old age policy and studies of the long term care ombudsman program and access to elder mental health services.

In 1979, Dr. Estes cofounded the Aging Health Policy Center, and in 1985 it was approved by the University of California Board of Regents as the Institute for Health & Aging (IHA). Dr. Estes was appointed its first director and served for nearly two decades. She was also chairperson of the Department of Social & Behavioral Sciences in the School of Nursing from 1981 through 1992.

Dr. Estes's service extends far beyond academia. She was a consultant to U.S. Commissioners of Social Security and the U.S. Senate and House Committees on Aging and was a member of Federal commissions, committees of the Institute of Medicine and the National Academy of Sciences, and private foundation boards. She is past president of the Gerontological Society of America (GSA), the Amer-

ican Society on Aging (ASA), and the Association for Gerontology in Higher Education (AGHE), and past national vice-president of the Older Women's League. Dr. Estes is a long-time member of many advocacy organizations including: the Gray Panthers, Responsible Wealth, the Older Women's League (of which she was national vice president). She worked directly with both Tish Sommers and Maggie Kuhn, who continue to inspire her activism.

In 2006 Dr. Estes received the Lifetime Achievement Award from the National Committee to Preserve Social Security and Medicare, where she is currently vice chair. She is also a current member of the Sonoma County Council on Aging.

Most important among Dr. Estes's many contributions is that of mother and grandmother to her daughter Duskie Estes, her son-in-law John Stewart, and her precious granddaughters Brydie and Mackenzie.

Madam Speaker, it is appropriate that Dr. Carroll L. Estes, PhD, is being honored at a University of California, San Francisco, symposium celebrating her 40 years of policy research and leadership in health and aging. We are grateful for her many contributions as a distinguished scholar, inspiring teacher, influential policy advisor, institution builder and advocate for the most vulnerable in our Nation.

A TRIBUTE TO JOSEPH SELLERS,
JR.

HON. ROBERT A. BRADY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 15, 2008

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor Joseph Sellers, Jr., President and Business Manager of Sheet Metal Workers Local 19 Union. Throughout his career, Mr. Sellers has exemplified exceptional labor leadership for the Sheet Metal Workers, the city of Philadelphia, and beyond.

Mr. Sellers began his career as a sheet metal worker apprentice in 1980, and became a journeyman four years later. In the years since, Mr. Sellers has been honored with a number of leadership positions within the Sheet Metal Workers Local Union 19. He was first appointed Training Coordinator in 1996, and was then elected to the position of Business Representative four and a half years later. Just two years after that, he was unanimously appointed by the Local 19 Executive Board to his current position as President and Business Manager. He was overwhelmingly elected to the same position in 2003 and 2006, and is currently serving a three-year term.

During his current tenure, he also holds a number of prominent leadership positions, including President of the Pennsylvania and New Jersey State Councils of Sheet Metal Workers, Vice-President of the Philadelphia AFL-CIO, President of the Mechanical Trades District Council of Delaware Valley, President for the Metropolitan Association of Presidents and Business Representatives, and many other prestigious positions. Mr. Sellers has also been active on behalf of a number of charities throughout his career, and is a long time supporter of the Unico Salute to Labor.

Mr. Sellers's unwavering dedication to organized labor is commendable, as are his enthusiasm and proficiency in leadership. He truly

embodies the Unico motto, "Service Above Self."

RECOGNIZING COOPER BARNES,
TUCKER BARNES, CONNOR
MAGID, AND STEVEN PARKER OF
VENETA, OREGON

HON. PETER A. DeFAZIO

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 15, 2008

Mr. DeFAZIO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Cooper Barnes, Tucker Barnes, Connor Magid, and Steven Parker of Veneta, Oregon. These Veneta Elementary School students are 2008 National ExploraVision winners. The team earned first place in the grade 4–6 division for designing an underwater energy generator to harness the power of ocean waves.

The team accepted the challenge of this extracurricular activity with enthusiasm, determined to create a technology for clean energy generation that was simple and cost-effective. They were supported and encouraged by their teacher and project coach, Michelle Beller, and Mentor Scottie Barnes. Their working prototype, the Wavemaster, successfully fused science, technology, and imagination, and it worked!

ExploraVision, now in its sixteenth year, is sponsored by the National Science Teachers Association and Toshiba. The competition highlights the natural curiosity and creativity of kids. The student projects showcase their innate desire to explore, experiment, invent, and ask really good questions.

Congratulations to Steven, Connor, Tucker, and Cooper for their outstanding achievement. I am proud to represent these young Oregon scientists and excited about the potential of the Wavemaster.

HONORING THE WORK OF
WELCOME HOME TROOPS

HON. DARRELL E. ISSA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 15, 2008

Mr. ISSA. Madam Speaker, today I rise in support of the efforts of the Welcome Home Troops, a Southern California based organization dedicated to "Returning the Hearts of Our Soldiers to our Homeland."

Welcome Home Troops is a non-profit organization based in Lake Elsinore, California. Its efforts extend beyond California to Texas, Kentucky, and future expansion to additional states. Dedicated to the reintegration of The Global War on Terrorism veterans back into the community, Welcome Home Troops provides support services to help servicemembers transition comfortably from combat to home, restore personal relationships, and encourage a productive and positive life after military service.

Welcome Troops sponsors job fairs, college fairs, financial aid counseling, relationship counseling, drug abuse counseling, Vets to Vets mentoring, and Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) counseling. According to the National Center for PTSD, at least 18% of

those serving in Iraq and at least 11% of those serving in Afghanistan will suffer from PTSD. Welcome Home Troops aspires to provide services that will lessen the effects of war time stresses.

In honor of Memorial Day, Welcome Home Troops will involve the community with a Military Appreciation night in Lake Elsinore, California on May 24, 2008. This full afternoon and evening will be filled with assistance outreach opportunities and family fun activities to be capped with an evening game of baseball.

Madam Speaker, I ask you to please join me in congratulating Welcome Home Troops for their dedication this Memorial Day and beyond to our returning servicemembers and their families.

HONORING THE RETIREMENT OF
CEDAR HILL CITY SECRETARY
FRANKIE LEE

HON. KENNY MARCHANT

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 15, 2008

Mr. MARCHANT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Frankie Lee on the occasion of her retirement as City Secretary for the City of Cedar Hill.

Frankie Lee began her service to the City of Cedar Hill on September 20, 1977, when she joined the City as the Purchasing Agent/Secretary. She is currently the longest serving employee of the City of Cedar Hill, holding a 30 Year Service Certificate.

Frankie was Appointed City Secretary on April 1, 1984, upon the retirement of then-City Secretary Marie Vincent.

During her tenure with the City of Cedar Hill, Frankie has been associated with seven Mayors, four City Managers and numerous Council Members. She has been a first-hand witness to the growth and progressiveness of Cedar Hill, growing from a population of approximately 6,800 in 1980 to 46,000 in 2008.

In her early years as City Secretary, Frankie was in charge of Human Resources, insurance, payroll and zoning. Her current role as City Secretary includes Official Meeting Notices, Minutes, City Public Information Coordinator, Records Management Officer and numerous other duties. For several years she was one of Cedar Hill's Alternate Members of the North Central Texas Housing Finance Corporation.

She has also been responsible for the City's general and special elections and has worked closely with the Dallas County Elections Department to insure the proper management of ballots, early voting, Election Day Voting, and results. It is estimated that in her over 24 years as City Secretary, Frankie has overseen approximately 50 elections.

Frankie has been an active Member of the Texas Municipal Clerks Association, North Texas Municipal Clerks Association, and International Institute of Municipal Clerks. Through the years she has attended many Training and Certification Courses and Professional Seminars presented by these organizations, as well as the Texas Attorney General and Secretary of State.

In 2005, she was a Texas Municipal Clerks' Honor Roll "Honoree".

Frankie attended the University of Texas at Arlington and is a Graduate of the Leadership Southwest Class of 1996–97.

She is an active Member of the Cedar Hill Lions Club, serving on the Board of Directors, and has Chaired the Annual Pancake Breakfast for the past three years. Lion Tamer-Elect for 2008–09, she was recently Honored at the Lions District Convention as the Cedar Hill Lions Club "Grass Roots Lion" for 2007–08.

A Member of First United Methodist Church of Cedar Hill, Frankie has two grown daughters and one grandson.

Madam Speaker, in closing, I would like to commend and congratulate Frankie Lee on all of her accomplishments. Her numerous years of service and dedication to the City of Cedar Hill is worthy of recognition. It is an honor to represent Frankie Lee in the 24th District of Texas and I wish her continued success in the years to come.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION
OF CONFERENCE REPORT ON
H.R. 2419, FOOD, CONSERVATION,
AND ENERGY ACT OF 2008

SPEECH OF

HON. JOHN D. DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 14, 2008

Mr. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in support of H.R. 2419, the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act. It has been a long road to this point, and while I must say that I am not entirely pleased with the final bill, I do believe that it makes important steps forward to reforming the priorities of our farm policy.

Michigan has had a tough go of things lately—and farming is no exception. Just last spring and summer Michigan experienced severe weather and droughts that caused enormous damage to local farms, leading the USDA to designate 83 Michigan counties as disaster areas. I have long said that farming is an inherently risky enterprise and with the recent downturn in the economy and fickle Michigan weather, it is clear to see why.

I will be frank and say that this bill is far from perfect. Personally, I would have liked to see greater reforms in the areas of conservation and fruit and vegetable programs, however, I do think Michigan will benefit from the bill. Like the farm bill the House passed last summer, I am pleased to note that most of our farmers in the 15th District of Michigan will not see any significant negative changes if the farm bill is enacted. All of the safety net programs from the 2002 farm bill are maintained with minor changes—including direct payments and the counter cyclical and the marketing loan programs.

However, the conference report does take measures to curb wasteful spending and distribute our resources to those in need. This bill places a cap on payments to those with an adjusted gross income (AGI) of \$500,000 or more, and puts in place the first-ever cap for farm income at \$750,000 for fixed direct payments. In addition, the bill would eliminate the "3-entity" rule that allows producers to collect payments for multiple ownership interests.

As a diverse agricultural state, Michigan has the second-widest variety of farm products after California, this legislation will provide great support for specialty crops. In 2006 Michigan produced 825,470 tons of fresh market and processing vegetables and the state

ranks 5th in exports of fruits and 8th in exports of vegetables nationally. This bill creates a brand new section dedicated to fruit and vegetable producers and allocates a total of \$1.3 billion for new specialty crop programs including \$466 million over ten years for the specialty crop block grant program, which provides grants to states to support projects in research, marketing, education, pest and disease management, production and food safety.

The conference agreement will also create a pilot Farm Flex project that will allow farmers to switch base acres to specified fruits or vegetables for processing for 2009 through 2012 crop years. This pilot project is limited to seven Midwestern States, including Michigan which is allocated 9,000 acres. This planting flexibility pilot program provides an important opportunity for specialty crop producers and I am pleased Michigan is included. More importantly, this will help the 1.26 million Michiganders that are currently using food stamps.

Given Michigan's economic situation, I have advocated that a second economic stimulus package include an increase in food stamp benefits, and I am pleased that the Farm Bill has increased funding commitments for the Food Stamp Program and the Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP). The conference agreement includes \$7.8 billion for the Food Stamp program and would raise and index inflation for the program's standard deduction and minimum benefit. This is the first time since the program was created 40 years ago that the Food Stamp Program would fully account for annual inflation. According to the Congressional Budget Office, this will help 11 million low income people.

TEFAP, a program that has provided assistance to approximately one million people in Michigan, will see \$1.26 billion in funding that will benefit food banks and food pantries across the country. More importantly, this bill will increase annual funding for commodity purchases from \$140 million to \$250 million allowing organizations to meet the increasing demand for food services and the rising food prices. The CBO estimates that Michigan alone will receive \$45 million in additional TEFAP funding from fiscal year 2008 to 2017. This is critical to organizations in Southeastern Michigan such as Gleaners Community Food Bank, who just over the last holiday season provided over 34,000 meals using the TEFAP program.

Now while this conference agreement contains many benefits for my home state, as a lifetime conservationist I am extremely disappointed in the conservation title. I was displeased to see that the cap for the Conservation Reserve Program was lowered to 32 million acres. Both the Senate and the House had reauthorized the current enrollment level of 39.2 million acres. Lowering the cap would result in a cut of almost 7 million acres. Each year this program helps produce 13.5 million pheasants and 2.2 million ducks. As the largest land retirement program, lowering the cap will be devastating.

And while the Wetlands Reserve Program is continued through 2012, it is done so at a lower level than in the 2002 Farm Bill. This is extremely disappointing because 50 percent of Michigan's threatened or endangered species require healthy and functional wetlands. Michigan currently has enrolled 125 easements of

over 16,000 acres and has a backlog of close to 25,000 acres. This reduction will be extremely detrimental as it is the only conservation program solely dedicated to restoring wetland habitat.

In addition, I have real concerns about the wisdom and merit of the agricultural chemicals tax credit provided in Section 15343 that allows a tax credit up to \$2,000,000 per year until 2012 for eligible agricultural businesses to pay for and offset the costs of security measures taken to protect pesticides and fertilizers used in agricultural operations. Fortune 500 companies that manufacture or retail agricultural pesticides and fertilizers should not need the taxpayer to help offset the costs of employee security training, installation of security lighting, computer security measures, locks and fences to protect their facilities, and other such security measures.

Finally, Section 7524 amends current law to direct the Secretary of Agriculture to issue a permit to the Department of Homeland Security to transfer live foot-and-mouth disease virus from Plum Island, New York, to the mainland United States. The majority of the research at Plum Island is concentrated on foot-and-mouth disease, which is very highly contagious, and which Federal law has for more than 50 years restricted to Plum Island. An accidental release of this infectious virus could have grave implications for the livestock industry and for the national economy. This issue is highly controversial, yet it has not been the subject of hearings nor open debate. I believe that it is a mistake to proceed with this until Congress has fully examined whether USDA and DHS have adequately assessed the health and economic risks, environmental impacts, and cost-benefit of this proposal.

Mr. Speaker, this bill is not a perfect one, however, it has bipartisan support. I know from my years in this institution that compromise is necessary in order to be successful, and I know the conferees worked night and day to come to this agreement. I feel confident Michigan farmers and producers will benefit from this final bill, as will the folks in Michigan who have fallen on hard times, which is why I stand today to lend my support.

IN HONOR OF ARMED FORCES DAY

HON. NANCY E. BOYDA

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 15, 2008

Mrs. BOYDA of Kansas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor all branches of the military this Armed Forces Day. I speak for Kansas and for the United States when I say that the men and women who make our country safe have earned our respect and our appreciation.

Many are called upon to protect our towns, our businesses and our homes in times of crisis. When Mother Nature strikes, the National Guard absorbs the blow and ensures that life will go on as usual. Each of our military personnel has been tasked with the defense of our Nation. When terrorism, tyranny and injustice strike, the National Guard, the Army, the Navy, the Marines, the Air Force, and the Coast Guard absorb the blow so that we can remain free. Free to enjoy our values, to pursue our hopes and dreams.

These service men and women have been asked to travel to Iraq or Afghanistan, to be

away from their spouses, their children, their jobs—that's a lot to ask of anyone. Yet they go and they fulfill their responsibilities to their State and our country. Today we recognize these brave men and women. Every day we recognize those who serve. I want to thank them for their vital role in making this Nation the land of the brave and the home of the free.

TRIBUTE TO BOB REGNIER

HON. DENNIS MOORE

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 15, 2008

Mr. MOORE of Kansas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Bob Regnier, who recently was named Philanthropist of the Year by the Kansas City Council on Philanthropy. I was honored to attend a luncheon on May 9th at which he received this very well-deserved honor, which prompted me to consider Bob Regnier's lifetime of service to Johnson County and the entire Kansas City metropolitan area. Bob is the living embodiment of the anonymous saying, "Those who can, do. Those who can do more, volunteer."

I have been privileged to know Bob Regnier for many years. He embodies the observation of leadership consultant Don Blohowiak: "A balanced life is the centered intersection of your values, time and action. That's where integrity resides." Starting in 1970 as a safe deposit clerk and teller at Baltimore Bank in Johnson County, he rose within the Boatmen's Bank organization and, in 1989, he left that organization following a merger and founded the Bank of Blue Valley, meeting with his first customers in a doublewide mobile home. The Bank of Blue Valley developed from its initial asset base of \$2,150,000 to an organization with total assets in excess of \$700 million total loans in excess of \$550 million and total deposits in excess of \$550 million.

Just as importantly, however, Bob Regnier has been a tireless volunteer and source of strength for the Kansas City metropolitan area. As he said in a 2006 column in the Kansas City Business Journal, "There is no question that Kansas City is a good place to live and raise a family. The question for all of us is, will this be a 'great' place to live? The choice is up to each one of us." Phrased differently by Dr. Seuss, the keystone of Bob Regnier's service to our community is based upon this idea: "Unless someone like you cares a whole awful lot, nothing is going to get better. It's not."

Madam Speaker, a cursory review of the many, many ways Bob Regnier has served our Kansas City community as a dedicated volunteer simply would not do him justice. Below I've listed his past civic commitments and current civic activities, as well as the numerous other public recognitions he has earned over the years for his good works. I thank you and the U.S. House of Representatives for joining me in taking note of this distinguished history.

CIVIC—PAST COMMITMENTS

Heart of American United Way, 1977–1988, Member of Campaign Cabinet in 1987–1988; UMKC Banking Advisory Panel, 1986–2000; UMKC Bloch School Alumni Board, 1990–1996; Blue Valley Educational Foundation, 1993–

1997, Treasurer, 1994–1995; Health Partnership of Johnson County, 1994–1995, Treasurer, 1994–1995; Blue Valley School District Board, Member 1995–2003, President 1998–2000; Blue Valley School District Bond Campaigns, Campaign Co-Chairman 1998, 2005; Johnson County Sales Tax for Benefit of Public Schools Campaign, Campaign Co-Chairman 2002, 2005; Menorah Medical Center Foundation, 1998–2003; Enterprise Center of Johnson County Board, 1998–2006, Vice Chairman, 2002–2003, Chairman 2003–2005.

Overland Park Chamber Research & Development Foundation, 2000–2004; Health Midwest Johnson County Board, 2001–2003; United Community Services “Navigating the Future” Task Force, 2002–2003; Salvation Army Christmas Campaign Chairperson, 2003; Honorary Co-chairman Ronald McDonald Hope Is Building Campaign, 2003–2006; Honorary Vice Chairman Avila College Capital Campaign, 2003–2006; Menorah Medical Center Board of Trustees, 2003–2007, Vice Chairman, 2005–2007; Menorah Legacy Foundation Board, 2003–2006; Co-Chairman of Development Committee, 2004–2006; Truman Medical Center Foundation, Co-Chairman, Capital Campaign for Behavioral Health Network, 2005–2007; Honorary Dinner Co-chair 30th Annual Jewish Community Relations Bureau/American Jewish Committee Human Relations Dinner, 2006; Arts Council of Johnson County, Shooting Stars Gala, Honorary Chairperson, 2007.

CIVIC—PRESENT COMMITMENTS

Johnson County Community College Foundation Board, 1996–Present, Some Enchanted Evening Scholarship Dinner, 1996–2001, Executive Committee, 1999–Present, Some Enchanted Evening Chair Couple—2000, Chairman Technology Center “Blue Ribbon Task Force”—2002, Chairman Business & Technology Center Capital Campaign, 2003–Present, Vice Chairman 2005–Present, Chairman 2007–Present; Kansas University Edward’s Campus Board of Advisors, 2000–Present; Greater Kansas City Chamber Johnson County Leadership Council, 2001–Present, Chairman, 2004–2007; Community Foundation of Johnson County Board, 2002–Present, Vice Chairman, 2005–2006; Union Station Kansas City Board, 2003–Present, Vice Chairman, 2005–Present; REACH Foundation, 2003–Present, Secretary 2003–2006, Chairman 2006–Present; Greater Kansas City Chamber Board of Directors, 2003–Present, Co-Chairman of Annual Meeting, 2004, Vice Chairman & Treasurer, 2004–2005, 2nd Vice Chairman, 2005–2006 1st Vice Chairman, 2006–2007; Chairman 2007–Present.

Civic Council of Kansas City, 2003–Present, Regional Infrastructure Task Force, 2003–Present, P-12 Education Task Force, 2004–Present, Board of Directors, 2004–Present, Vice Chairman, 2007–Present; Arts Council of Greater Kansas City, 2004–Present, Vice Chairman, 2005–Present; Greater Kansas City Community Foundation Board, 2005–Present; Midwest Research Institute, Board of Trustees, 2005–Present; University of Kansas Medical Center & Hospital Advancement Board, 2006–Present; United Way of Greater Kansas City, Board of Directors, 2007–Present, Nelson Atkins Museum of Art, Board of Trustees, 2007–Present; University of Kansas Hospital Authority, Board of Directors, 2007–Present.

PROFESSIONAL & CIVIC RECOGNITION

UMKC Block School Alumni Achievement Award, 1996; Ernst & Young Financial Entrepreneur of the Year, 1998; Overland Park Chamber of Commerce “OP Award”—2002, 2004, 2005; Wayside Waifs “Fur Ball” Honoree, 2003; Johnson County Community Col-

lege “Johnson Countian of the Year,” 2004; Johnson County Housing Coalition Sunflower Award for Community Service, 2004; Salvation Army “Others Award,” 2005; Jewish Family and Children’s Services Alfred Benjamin Award, 2005.

Safehome “Jubilee Gala” Honoree, 2005; Health Partnership of Johnson County “Evening of Stars” Honoree, 2006; Johnson County Community College “Open Petal Award,” 2006; Midwest Christian Counseling Center “Ethics in Business” Award Finalist, 2006; Baker University “Distinguished Leadership in Business” Award, 2006; NAACP, Olathe Branch Martin Luther King Legacy Award, 2007; Shawnee Mission Educational Foundation Patron Award Recipient, 2007; Volunteer Center of Johnson County “Volunteer of the Year,” 2007.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO MRS. MARY BAILEY WHITTINGTON “WHITT” DAVENPORT

HON. MAURICE D. HINCHEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 15, 2008

Mr. HINCHEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor posthumously Mrs. Mary Bailey Whittington “Whitt” Davenport for her invaluable contributions in the areas of education, the arts and historic preservation in Ulster County, New York. For more than 70 years, Whitt Davenport was the epitome of generosity and benevolence. Her pioneering spirit is directly responsible for the creation of a consolidated school system in the Rondout Valley and the construction of Marbleton Elementary School. One of her most notable efforts was advocating for the establishment of Ulster County Community College, where her husband went on to serve as its first president.

Whitt Davenport was born in Greenwood, Mississippi on June 3, 1911 to William and Anna Whittington. Her father, a lawyer and cotton planter, also had the distinct honor of being a member of the U.S. House of Representatives for 28 years. Whitt met Kenneth Davenport during her tenure as a student at Vassar College in Poughkeepsie. They married shortly after her graduation in September 1933.

Once the Davenports took up residence in their historic home in Stone Ridge, Mrs. Davenport quickly become an active member of her newly adopted community. As a native Southerner, she retained her distinctive accent and brought a sense of Southern charm to all of her endeavors. Over the years, she opened her home for the many parties needed to support her philanthropic efforts and was often honored for her volunteerism.

Whitt Davenport was well known for her interest in books and volunteered at the Stone Ridge Library, going on to serve as both a librarian and president of the library board. Her commitment to the arts remains unparalleled, and she has even been called “Queen of the Arts.” She served on the Board of the Ulster Performing Arts Center, Music in the Mountains, and the Hudson Valley Philharmonic. After the death of her husband in 1982, she, along with her family, established the Kenneth Davenport National Competition for Orchestral Works.

Her drive and determination helped save the landmark Luke Kiersted House in Kingston’s Stockade District from the threat of Urban Renewal demolition and she planned the restoration of the gardens at the Senate House Historic site. Mrs. Davenport gave her time to many other organizations, lending them her sense of purpose, strength, and wisdom.

Madam Speaker, I had the pleasure of knowing Whitt Davenport over the course of many years. Her work on behalf of her community was inspiring and commendable. In fact, Whitt Davenport was a force to be reckoned with. It is with sorrow that we mark her passing and with pride and gratitude that we remember her grand accomplishments.

APPOINTMENT OF CONFEREES ON H.R. 4040, CONSUMER PRODUCT SAFETY MODERNIZATION ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. CLIFF STEARNS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 14, 2008

Mr. STEARNS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to first state that it was a pleasure, in my former capacity as Ranking Member of the Subcommittee on Commerce, Trade and Consumer Protection, to work with my good friend from Illinois, Chairman RUSH, in crafting this important legislation. H.R. 4040, the Consumer Product Safety Commission Reform Act, will greatly enhance the ability of the CPSC to secure the proper funding and sufficient number of employees to ensure that the products we import from abroad and manufacture here at home will not harm those who purchase them.

Millions of Americans are concerned with the safety of toys and other children’s products due to lead contamination found in millions of toys imported from China. I commend my colleagues on both sides of the aisle for coming together and taking action to safeguard consumers from lead exposure, and to provide the Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) with the tools and funding it needs to safeguard the public.

The House on December 19, 2007, overwhelmingly approved H.R. 4040, a bill that will change current law and add more stringent lead paint and lead content standards, making them the toughest in the world. It also requires testing of children’s products in accredited labs, and tracking labels on all children’s products.

Furthermore, the bill authorizes increased funding for the CPSC to hire more personnel, creation of a new state-of-the-art laboratory, and the institution of an expedited release of information on health safety risks to the public. All of which will make the CPSC more effective.

The House Committee on Energy and Commerce worked tirelessly to produce this bipartisan legislation and I now ask my colleagues to vote “Yes” on this Motion to instruct conferees and support this bipartisan House passed legislation and call for this bill to remain unchanged through the conference negotiations with the Senate.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. RAHM EMANUEL

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 15, 2008

Mr. EMANUEL. Madam Speaker, I was absent from the Chamber for rollcall vote 320 on May 14, 2008. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye."

IN RECOGNITION OF BARBARA GOODWIN

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 15, 2008

Mr. COSTA. Madam Speaker, I rise today along with my colleague from California, Congressman DENNIS CARDOZA to pay tribute to the distinguished public service of Barbara Goodwin. After working nearly 40 years with the County of Fresno, she has decided to retire this year.

During her tenure, Barbara worked tirelessly to improve Central California's transportation system. At retirement, she held the position of Executive Director of the Fresno County Council of Governments. We have had the pleasure of working with Barbara frequently and her dedication to the community is to be commended.

Due to her vast knowledge and attention to detail, Barbara was frequently called upon by State agencies to represent the Valley on transportation issues at forums and meetings. Over her distinguished career, Barbara has served on multiple statewide committees such as the University of California's advisory panel on transportation planning curriculum, and the task force on State transportation improvement program reform. In 2007 she was appointed by Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger to the California Partnership for the San Joaquin Valley.

Throughout her career with Fresno County, Barbara Goodwin has proven to be a highly effective leader who was always committed to excellent in public service. As she gets ready to spend much more time enjoying other relaxing activities, my colleague and I wish her continued success and best of luck for the future.

HONORING TIAA-CREF'S 90TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. PETER T. KING

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 15, 2008

Mr. KING of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of TIAA-CREF's 90th anniversary and to recognize the important contributions that this company has made to New York and across the country.

TIAA-CREF is a company with a rich and distinguished history. As a trustee of Cornell University in my home State of New York, philanthropist and businessman Andrew Carnegie was appalled by how many college professors could not afford to retire. He then established

the Carnegie Foundation to support pension plans for professors. Soon, he realized the Foundation's endowment was too limited for the increasing number of qualified professors and, in 1918, established the Teachers Insurance Annuity Association with an initial million-dollar subsidy from the Carnegie Corporation of New York. At the time, TIAA was the only large, portable, fully-funded private pension system in the country.

In 1952, TIAA created CREF, the College Retirement Equities Fund, the world's first equity variable annuity and today the largest equity mutual fund. That year, an editor of Fortune magazine wrote, "This is the biggest development in the insurance-investment business since the passage of the Social Security Act."

Now, TIAA-CREF is a Fortune 100 company serving 3.4 million active and retired employees of more than 15,000 institutions. TIAA-CREF is also one of the largest employers in the United States, employing almost 1,200 individuals in New York and over 7,000 Americans nationwide.

Headquartered in New York City, TIAA-CREF provides financial services for over 10,400 participants with assets totaling over \$1.3 billion in my home district and administers plans for 1,784 nonprofit educational, research, and health care institutions across New York State.

The important work that this company does in helping Americans plan for retirement and to save for a quality education is unparalleled. I am proud to be honoring them today and wish TIAA-CREF continued success.

HONORING THE 18TH ANNUAL DC BLACK PRIDE CELEBRATION

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 15, 2008

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, Memorial Day Week, May 21-26, is the 18TH Annual DC Black Pride celebration in Washington, DC.

DC Black Pride is an exciting six-day event complete with dynamic workshops, receptions, cultural arts activities, small and large nightclub events, that culminates in the world's oldest, most inclusive Black Pride Festival. Many consider DC's festival one of the world's pre-eminent Black Pride celebrations. The Festival consistently draws more than 30,000 people to the Nation's Capital. Attendees come from every major urban area in the United States as well as Canada, the Caribbean, South Africa, Great Britain, France, Germany, and the Netherlands. The Black Pride Festival features activities for the entire family, including performances by national recording artists, 200 exhibition booths, book signings from noted writers, participation from national and local health organizations, and arts and crafts.

Black Lesbian and Gay Pride Day, Inc. (BLGPD), the celebration's organizing body, chose the theme "Official 18: Empowered and Poppin'" to encourage the Black lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) communities to vote, to combat homophobia, to promote health and wellness, to strengthen their communities, and to inspire Black LGBT people everywhere to live their lives with pride.

Black Lesbian and Gay Pride Day, Inc., a non-profit organization with a volunteer Board of Directors, coordinates this annual event. BLGPD's 2008 Board of Directors consists of: Courtney R. Snowden, President; Ray T. Daniels, Jr., Vice President; Christopher Lane, Corresponding Secretary; Khalid Parker, Recording Secretary; Meagan Marcano, Treasurer; and the following Members at Large: Lisa Washington, Sterling A. Washington, and Shanika Whitehurst; and these Members Emeritus: Earl Fowlkes, James W. Hawkins, Eric E. Richardson, Clarence J. Fluker, and Cheryl Dunn, who lead BLGPD in its mission to build knowledge of and to create greater pride in the Black LGBT community's diversity, while raising funds to ameliorate and prevent health problems in this community, especially HIV/AIDS.

I ask this House to join me in welcoming all attending the 18th Annual DC Black Pride celebration in Washington, DC, and I take this opportunity to remind the celebrants that United States citizens who reside in Washington, DC are taxed without full voting representation in Congress.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 2419, FOOD CONSERVATION AND ENERGY ACT OF 2008

SPEECH OF

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 14, 2008

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the Conference Report of the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008. I'd like to thank the conferees who worked diligently, day and night for weeks, to craft this bipartisan agreement.

This bill provides an adequate safety net for our farmers and guarantees an affordable and nutritious food supply for the youngest and most vulnerable among us, all in a fiscally responsible way. This bill also helps producers of all commodities stay on the land they hold and love so they may continue with their livelihood, and encourages conservation of natural resources and land for use by future generations.

The bill before us today addresses many of the needs of those in southwest Georgia and Georgia's Second Congressional District, which I represent. The peanut rotation program in the conference agreement, which we paved the way for in the House bill last summer, will bring peanut growers into the next generation of agriculture by encouraging a cleaner, greener method of planting while ensuring an affordable and accessible supply to the markets that rely on U.S.-grown peanuts.

I'm also pleased that Congress has seen fit to include \$100 million for Pigford Claims. This funding will begin to make up for USDA's historical inability to govern our Nation's agriculture programs in a fair, equitable, and non-discriminatory manner.

Many in this legislative body believe this bill is not perfect; truth be told, I am among them. I have concerns about this legislation's ability to completely serve our family farmers in the face of skyrocketing fertilizer and diesel costs, an unstable commodities market that could

see prices plummet just as easily as it saw prices skyrocket, and increasingly unpredictable weather patterns that decimate entire crops in mere seconds.

Despite those worries, I am even more concerned by those who view this bill as not having reformed our commodity programs enough.

No, not every single reform requested by President Bush has been met. No, we haven't reduced the AGI to \$200,000, or completely rearranged the accounting in this bill to deal with the changing baselines and budgetary gimmicking touted by the White House.

But, there has been meaningful compromise on behalf of the lawmakers to whom this legislation is most important. This legislation meets the White House demands by more than half way; this legislation represents billions of dollars to not just rural America, but to people living in every corner of this country.

And, if we can spend billions of dollars fighting a war and rebuilding another country, including supporting that country's land use and agriculture programs, I think we ought to be able to find it within our means here in Congress to support American agriculture.

Mr. Speaker, we must pass this conference report today, and we must do it by a sizable margin to send a message to the President that we will not be bullied by his negotiating tactics.

Today, I say to my colleagues on both sides of the aisle "Let us not let the 'perfect' be the enemy of the 'good.'" Let us pass this conference report today for our farmers and the others across this great Nation who rely on a safe and domestically grown food source.

STATEMENT FOR INTRODUCTION
NASA AUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2008

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 15, 2008

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Madam Speaker, today I am introducing the "NASA Authorization Act of 2008", a bill to reauthorize the programs of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration for fiscal year 2009. I am pleased that Science and Technology Committee Chairman BART GORDON, Ranking Minority Member RALPH HALL, and Space and Aeronautics Subcommittee Ranking Minority Member TOM FEENEY are joining me as original cosponsors. Their cosponsorship demonstrates the bipartisan nature of the support for NASA in this Congress, and I want to thank them for their efforts in helping to develop this legislation.

In addition to providing funding and programmatic direction for fiscal year 2009, this bill is also intended to provide congressional guidance for the next Administration relative to NASA. I believe that it is critically important for Congress to do so. Without a clear statement of congressional priorities and policies for the Nation's civil space and aeronautics enterprise, we run the risk of wasting both time and scarce resources during and after the transition from one Administration to the next. I want to avoid such an outcome if at all possible.

Madam Speaker, 2008 marks the 50th anniversary of the birth of the U.S. space program

and the establishment of NASA. NASA has accomplished a great deal in both space and aeronautical R&D over those past five decades, and we can all take pride in what has been accomplished. However, we cannot become complacent. If we fail to invest adequately in NASA now, it is unlikely that we will see a comparable record of accomplishment over the next five decades—at a great opportunity cost to the Nation.

That is because NASA's programs are strongly relevant to addressing the Nation's needs. In short, a properly balanced and focused NASA portfolio can pay large dividends to our society as well as to our standing in the world, and maximizing the value of the NASA portfolio to the Nation is one of the main goals of the NASA Authorization Act of 2008.

Thus, the bill emphasizes a number of important areas—areas that demonstrate the role that NASA can and should play in improving the quality of life of our citizens, enhancing our economic vitality, demonstrating American leadership in the international arena through the pursuit of challenging scientific and technological goals, and helping to advance knowledge.

To that end, the NASA Authorization Act of 2008 establishes a role for NASA in leading a cooperative international effort on Earth observations research and applications, especially with respect to climate change—one of the major challenges facing our generation. It builds on the recommendations of the National Academies' Earth sciences and applications decadal survey to outline a robust and challenging agenda for NASA to pursue that will help us better understand the causes and impacts of climate change as well as other Earth system phenomena. It is an agenda that will also maximize the opportunities for transitioning those research results into applications that can benefit our society in a myriad of ways.

NASA's aeronautics research program is one of the most relevant activities that NASA undertakes as it impacts both public safety and our national economy, and the bill provides guidance to ensure that that aeronautics program will regain its former health and focus so that it can continue to contribute to the wellbeing of the nation. That guidance takes several forms. For example, the legislation provides enhanced funding for aeronautics, but it makes clear that the additional funding is to be used to take NASA's aeronautics research activities to a sufficiently mature state so that the results of that research can be transitioned to the commercial sector as well as to key public sector users. One of the most important examples of the latter is the interagency initiative to develop the next generation air transportation system for the nation, known as NextGen—a program that will improve both the safety and efficiency of our air travel system. The bill makes it clear that we need to do all we can to ensure that the aircraft of the future leave as small an impact on the environment as possible, whether it be noise, energy consumption, or harmful emissions—and that NASA has a critical role to play in that effort. And the bill requires an external review of NASA's aviation safety research to make sure that it is doing all that it can to protect the flying public.

Finally, the NASA Authorization Act of 2008 recognizes that America's human space flight activities are not, and should not, be an end

in themselves. We need a results-oriented human space flight program that serves the nation's geopolitical goals in addition to advancing America's exploration of outer space. I believe that we provide the foundation for such a results-oriented approach in the bill I am introducing today. Thus, the bill includes provisions to ensure that the International Space Station—a unique orbiting R&D facility that represents a significant investment of resources by both American citizens and those of a host of other nations—will be utilized in as productive manner as possible.

In addition, the ISS is a compelling example of the value of undertaking a cooperative approach to space exploration that we would do well to emulate as we embark on exploration beyond low Earth orbit. To that end, the NASA Authorization Act of 2008 makes clear that any human exploration initiative to return to the Moon and venture to other destinations in the solar system should be undertaken as a cooperative international undertaking under U.S. leadership—and that such a cooperative approach will have the best chance of being successfully sustained if the President is personally involved in inviting our friends and allies to participate in such a venture.

It is clear that the 21st century will see the emergence and growth of ambitious human space flight programs carried out by a number of nations. It is not in our national interest to get drawn into rerunning a "space race" that we already won almost 40 years ago. Instead, we should be looking to leverage that emerging global interest to promote a peaceful, cooperative approach to space exploration under American leadership. Such an approach can provide a compelling "soft power" rationale for NASA's human exploration program and be an approach that will deliver clear benefits to America beyond just the demonstration of our technological prowess and national commitment to space exploration.

Madam Speaker, those are just three ways in which continued investment in and support for a properly focused NASA can deliver important benefits to the nation, especially if NASA works hand in hand with our colleges and universities and our commercial sector. However, I would be remiss if I didn't mention the important way in which NASA's basic and applied research activities help advance America's competitiveness and promote innovation as well as helping inspire and educate the nation's next generation of scientists, technologists, engineers, and mathematicians. That is why I and many of my colleagues consider NASA to be just as much a part of America's innovation agenda as the other agencies called out for support in the "America COMPETES Act" that was enacted into law last year. This bill recognizes that reality and puts NASA on the same doubling path as those agencies.

However, NASA will not be able to contribute effectively in the ways I have just outlined unless we not only invest adequately in NASA's programs but, equally importantly, direct those investments in ways that maximize their utility. Thus the bill contains a number of provisions focused on each of NASA's main mission areas to ensure that NASA can make the best use of its capabilities to advance the nation's space and aeronautics agenda.

Madam Speaker, I am a passionate believer in the value of America's space and aeronautics programs and the role that NASA can

play in delivering significant benefits to the American people. I believe that the NASA Authorization Act of 2008 that I am introducing today will go a long way towards positioning the agency for a productive future when the next Administration takes office, and I hope that Members will support it.

CONGRATULATING DISTINGUISHED
SERVICE AWARD RECIPIENT
DALE ENGQUIST OF MICHIGAN
CITY, INDIANA

HON. JOE DONNELLY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 15, 2008

Mr. DONNELLY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Dale Engquist of Michigan City, Indiana for receiving the Distinguished Service Award for his dedicated work for the National Park Service.

Dale Engquist has been with the National Park Service for 19 years. He has proven his leadership skills through developing partnerships and cooperative programs and providing collaborative opportunities for a diverse and complex audience. During Mr. Engquist's extensive career with the National Park Service, he increased the lakeshore at the Indiana Dunes by 15 percent and developed an educational program that serves over 35,000 students each year at the Paul Douglas Center for Environmental Education. Mr. Engquist is also responsible for the partnership formed between local community governments, LaPorte County, and the State of Indiana that collaborated to build a new visitor center, which is set to increase contacts with visitors to the area by 500 percent.

Mr. Engquist's vision and passion led to the development of a network of community organizations, state agencies, and environmental organizations to combat invasive species, which have been a pervasive problem along the southern tip of Lake Michigan. His participation on the Executive Steering Committee of the Chicago Wilderness greatly increased the awareness of the region to the biologically diverse and sensitive nature of the Indiana Dunes. Mr. Engquist has also signed a sister park agreement with Kampinoski National Park of Poland, formally providing opportunities for each park to meet and exchange ideas and information about resource management and education.

Due to his extended commitment to both residents and visitors to Indiana's Second District, it is my pleasure to rise today to honor Dale Engquist for receiving the Distinguished Service Award for his long and accomplished career with the National Park Service.

NATIONAL TRAIN DAY

SPEECH OF

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 13, 2008

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my support of H. Res. 1176, Supporting the goals and ideals of National Train Day, as a Member who appreciates and rec-

ognizes the vital role of trains in our economy and as a passenger who commutes between New York and Washington, DC, on the Amtrak Acela. I find my commute by train a convenient, efficient and relaxing way to travel that enables me to read and work in comfort and arrive refreshed, usually on time, and downtown, closer to my destination. I praise the efforts of visionary leaders who over the years have advocated the preservation and modernization of passenger rail service.

Trains have played a vital and historic role in this country, transporting cargo and passengers since the early 19th century, when the first steam locomotive was built by engineer George Stephenson. Without the creation of the steam engine, the Industrial Revolution would not have occurred and our great country would not have been able to prosper as much as it has. In 1869, the first transcontinental railroad was completed. Known as the 'golden pike,' it connected both the east and west coast of the United States, linking our Nation and bridging the geographical divide like never before.

Although there are a greater number of modes of transportation—planes, cars, buses—than there were in the early 1800s, trains are still relied on to transport large amounts of freight and millions of people every day. They have reduced congestion in major cities, helping to reduce pollution connecting people in rural areas to urban centers.

The history of trains has come a long way, from burning coal and going only 130 km/h to high-speed trains that can go from 200 km/h to 350 km/h and are electrically driven by overhead cables. Trains are constantly changing and improving. Due to global warming and greenhouse effects, trains now run more fuel efficiently, emitting only 0.2 percent of the travel industry's total greenhouse gases.

I support National Train Day because the train industry has been an important part of America's story and its economic development, as well as a large part of Americans' day-to-day lives.

TRIBUTE TO HARVEY SCHECTER

HON. HOWARD L. BERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 15, 2008

Mr. BERMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to my dear friends of more than 30 years, Hope and Harvey Schechter. They are being honored at the 7th Annual Hillel 818 Dinner Celebration for their generous support and outstanding contributions to Los Angeles Valley College and to our community.

I have had the pleasure of working with Hope and Harvey throughout the years on many important issues of concern to the San Fernando Valley, the State of California and our Nation. I value their counsel, respect their knowledge and appreciate the help they have given me in my career.

Harvey is a remarkable individual who has dedicated his life to protecting our civil rights and combating anti-Semitism and racial discrimination. From 1952, when he began his impressive career with the Anti-Defamation League (ADL), until 1993 when he retired as Western States Regional Director of the ADL Foundation, he has been at the forefront on

critical humanitarian issues of concern to the ADL, the Jewish community and the world at large. Harvey has been a mentor, confidant, friend, teacher and inspiration to others during his career. His speeches, writings, and incomparable wit have enriched all who have had the good fortune to know him.

Following Harvey's retirement from the ADL, he rediscovered the joy of learning at Los Angeles Valley College. He touched the lives of hundreds of students as he shared with them the knowledge he has gained in his 84 years.

Hope is an outstanding example of the American dream. Born in a small mining town in Arizona to Mexican-American parents who spoke no English, she overcame tremendous challenges to achieve great success. After dropping out of high school, she worked at menial jobs, including as an underpaid garment industry worker. Her personal experience with the injustices to unskilled workers led her to a career as a union organizer for the International Ladies Garment Workers Union. She helped improve the quality of life for hundreds of workers by her determination, positive attitude and resilience. Her career includes many significant contributions to our community, including Community Service Organizer, fighting for safe neighborhoods, establishing the first Head Start Operation in Los Angeles County, helping resolve racial issues as a member of the Board of Directors of the Council of Mexican American Affairs and many more. She became a Certified Court Reporter, established her own firm and was the first woman elected President of the General Court Reporters Association. During my brief period in law practice, Hope was my court reporter of choice.

Beyond her community contributions, Hope has been a valuable asset to the California Democratic Party, serving for many years on the California Democratic State Central Committee in a number of leadership positions and volunteering her time and efforts to numerous political campaigns. Hope's dedication and tireless efforts on behalf of our community are an inspiration to us all.

Hope and Harvey recently celebrated 53 years of a wonderful marriage. Although they have no children of their own, they have been "adopted" as parents by more than one hundred young people they have met on the campus and in the community.

I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in honoring two special people who's caring and contributions have benefited so many.

THE NEW RUSSIAN GOVERNMENT

HON. CLIFF STEARNS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 15, 2008

Mr. STEARNS. Madam Speaker, on May 7th, Dmitri Medvedev was sworn in as the new Russian President. It remains to be seen if he will be more than just a puppet controlled by Prime Minister Putin, but if the President's victory speech is any indication, we should expect a "direct continuation" of Putin's iron-fisted policies.

As Russia desires to regain its stance as a major world power, rest assured Putin and Medvedev will stop at nothing to achieve this. As Americans, we should be wary of Putin's legacy of government corruption, diminished democracy, and antagonistic stance

toward its former Soviet neighbors and the West.

Although there may be opportunities for the U.S. to re-engage with Russia under Medvedev, we must proceed with caution. Let us not forget that there are Iranian enrichment facilities in Russia, and that Russia uses its oil and gas resources to manipulate and control its sovereign neighbors.

These are the characteristics of an emerging dictatorship hiding beneath the mask of democracy.

TRIBUTE TO 2008 ATHENA AWARD
RECIPIENTS

HON. TIMOTHY WALBERG

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 15, 2008

Mr. WALBERG. Madam Speaker, it is my special privilege to recognize the 2008 Lenawee County ATHENA Award recipients Durstynne Farnan, O.P., and Dr. Nancy Kelly, DVM, and Parthenon Award recipient United Bank and Trust. It is with great admiration and pride that I congratulate these individuals and this company on behalf of all of those who have benefited from their demonstrated excellence in their professions and dedicated service to Lenawee County and the State of Michigan.

ATHENA International was founded in the early 1980s by Martha Mertz, who while serving as the sole woman on the board of directors of the Lansing Regional Chamber of Commerce, was inspired to recognize female business leaders in her community whom she felt had largely been overlooked. Thus, the first ATHENA Award was presented in 1982 and 5,000 more have been awarded since to honor men and women across the globe for their professional excellence, community service, and active role in enabling women to achieve success as business and community leaders.

Durstynne Farnan, better known as Sister Dusty, has devoted much of her life to promoting international peace. An advocate for women's liberties worldwide, Sister Dusty has traveled to countries around the globe assisting women in other cultures achieve independence and promote peace. Additionally, she has educated students at Siena Heights University on the serious subject of the trafficking of women and children.

Dr. Nancy Kelly has faithfully served Lenawee County as a successful veterinarian and trusted mentor for many years. She is the on-call veterinarian for the Adrian, Madison, and Fairfield Township Fire Departments and holds an impressive record of extensive community service in the area. In addition to assisting veterinary students secure highly beneficial externships, she selflessly devotes much of her time to mentoring several local female students of veterinary medicine.

United Bank and Trust has a history of producing successful businesswomen and stands as a fine model to companies throughout Lenawee County. As a company committed to providing training and development opportunities to all employees, United has a track record of promoting women to leadership positions. United Bank and Trust has earned respect as a hometown bank for their tailored

service to the Lenawee community and for encouraging each of their employees to volunteer within the community.

This year's ATHENA Award for Lenawee County was presented to Sister Dusty, Dr. Nancy Kelly, and United Bank and Trust for demonstrating excellence, creativity, and initiative in their profession and for actively assisting women in realizing their full leadership potential. The 2008 winners join an international network of men and women who work together to create leadership opportunities and encourage the empowerment of women leaders.

Madam Speaker, today I honor the recipients of the 2008 ATHENA Award for their invaluable service to the Lenawee community. May others know of my high regard for their commitment to promoting women around the world, as well as my best wishes for them in the future.

AMENDED SECURITY ASSISTANCE
AND ARMS EXPORT CONTROL
REFORM ACT OF 2008

SPEECH OF

HON. DONALD A. MANZULLO

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 13, 2008

Mr. MANZULLO. Mr. Speaker, today is a great day. When others talk about a dysfunctional Congress or claim that members of different political parties can't work together, they ought to look at this bill. Today, the House votes on the Security Assistance and Arms Export Control Reform Act of 2008 (H.R. 5196) that we debated on Tuesday. Subtitle A of Title I of H.R. 5916 has been in the making for the past 18 months when I first learned of the complaints from industry regarding the immense backlog of defense export license applications at the State Department. The Executive Branch, both sides of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, industry, and Non-Governmental Organizations, NGOs, interested in non-proliferation all had input into this legislation.

Last year, I joined with Representatives JOE CROWLEY of New York and EARL BLUMENAUER of Oregon to establish the Congressional Export Control Working Group. We educated Members of Congress and their staff on the importance of export control modernization efforts to both our national and economic security.

Export control modernization is extremely important to the constituents I am proud to represent in the 16th District of Illinois. This area of the country is one of the most heavily industrialized Congressional districts in the Nation. We make everything from nuts and bolts to the advanced electrical system for the new Boeing 787, the Dreamliner. Many of the products and technologies produced by the manufacturers I am so proud to represent are regulated under U.S. export control law.

When I was first elected to Congress almost 16 years ago, a manufacturer from northern Illinois came to me for assistance in navigating the regulatory process for selling their product overseas. Ever since that first experience, I have been dedicated to modernizing our Nation's export control system. I am continuing to work on policies that will enhance U.S. na-

tional security, strengthen our defense industrial base, and boost U.S. competitiveness.

One piece of that puzzle is being considered here today. The Security Assistance and Arms Export Control Reform Act of 2008—which I am proud to have co-sponsored—contains legislation (Subtitle A of Title I entitled the Defense Trade Controls Performance Improvement Act of 2008) I co-wrote along with my good friend and colleague from California, Representative BRAD SHERMAN who is the Chairman of the Terrorism, Non-proliferation, and Trade Subcommittee. This legislation will reduce defense trade license processing times, create a spare part waiver for our closest allies, and make licensing of defense items more transparent and predictable. These process improvements will make U.S. defense manufacturers in every category, including space, more competitive in the international marketplace. No longer will they have to fear being shut out of foreign markets or products because of a taint from the International Traffic in Arms Regulations, ITAR.

The bill will modernize the Federal Government's inefficient export control policy while strengthening national security and helping American companies sell more defense-related goods and services overseas to our allies.

H.R. 5916 requires the Directorate of Defense Trade Controls, DDTC, at the State Department to hire more staff to reduce the backlog of license applications that impedes legitimate trade with our allies without compromising national security. The last time I checked, the State Department has only 42 licensing officers. By 2010, this legislation requires adequate staff and resources at the State Department to review and process defense trade licenses in a timely manner. This legislation creates a ratio of at least one DDTC officer for every 1,250 applications by 2010. The independent Congressional Budget Office, CBO, estimated that this provision would require the hiring of 35 additional licensing officers.

H.R. 5916 also requires DDTC to assign no less than 3 individuals by fiscal year 2009 to review applications for commodity jurisdiction determinations. This is one area of export controls that is extremely complex and time consuming—determining whether or not a particular widget is a commercial dual-use item or a munition. Having specialized personnel dedicated to this task will be extremely helpful in improving the processing of these determinations. The legislation also increasing the transparency of commodity jurisdiction determinations with the publication of those decisions on the Internet. This will help companies know in advance whether or not their particular product would fall into a commercial or munitions category.

The legislation also creates a series of performance goals for DDTC: No longer than 60 days to process a defense trade license; 30 days to process a defense trade license for close allies; and 7 days to process a defense trade license from our close allies in support of combat operations or peacekeeping or humanitarian operations with U.S. Armed Forces. This in no way implies forcing a premature decision—these are simply goals to achieve that have already been vetted with the Executive Branch. All tolled, CBO scored these personnel enhancement as costing \$6 million in 2009 and \$31 million over the next 5 years,

which is a relatively modest price to pay to insure a vibrant and growing U.S. aerospace export industry. In 2007, the U.S. exported nearly \$97 billion worth of aerospace products, producing a \$60 billion positive trade balance in an otherwise grim trade picture. Nevertheless, H.R. 5916 also requires a report within 90 days on possible means for DDTC to achieve 100 percent self-financing.

H.R. 5916 creates a special licensing authorization for U.S. manufactured spare and replacement parts or components in connection with defense items previously lawfully exported to our closest friends and allies. This will help free up time of DDTC employees to go after more significant threats to our national security. Finally, the bill augments the input of the private sector Defense Trade Advisory Group, DTAG, into the State Department's defense trade agenda.

In conclusion, the Security Assistance and Arms Export Control Reform Act of 2008 streamlines the export control process, reduces the application backlog, and allows greater scrutiny on sensitive exports that could harm our country. It will better protect our Nation while helping U.S. companies sell more goods and services to our allies, creating more jobs for Americans. I appreciate the Foreign Affairs Committee's bipartisan efforts on this issue, particularly Chairmen BERMAN and SHERMAN and their respective staffs, and I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 5916.

HONORING MARCUS MATHES OF
PASCO COUNTY, FLORIDA

HON. GINNY BROWN-WAITE

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 15, 2008

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor an American soldier who gave his life in service to our Nation.

Army Sergeant Marcus Mathes of Pasco County, Florida, was killed Monday, April 28th outside Baghdad, Iraq, when the equipment truck he was working on was struck by enemy rocket fire. Sergeant Mathes is survived by his mother and step-father, Sue and Mike Sawyer of Sebring, his father, Ralph Mathes of Tampa, and two brothers, Kyle Mathes of Illinois, and Zach Sawyer of Sebring.

A graduate of Zephyrhills High School, Sergeant Mathes grew up in Highlands County before moving to live with his father in Pasco County. While in high school, Sergeant Mathes joined the JROTC, and had dreams of being a professional military member. Inspired by the events of September 11, he enlisted in the Army and left for boot camp on his 23rd birthday. Serving in Afghanistan from October 2006 until March 2007, Sergeant Mathes was sent to Iraq in November of 2007.

A devoted family man, Sergeant Mathes married his high school sweetheart Julia two weeks after her graduation. The two were planning to celebrate their six-year wedding anniversary this June and had wanted to start a family together. During a visit to his base in Louisiana, Sergeant Mathes introduced his sister-in-law, Julia's sister Heather, to one of his fellow soldiers. Two months later, Bryan Harvey and Heather were married. One of his best friends who served in his same unit,

Bryan was nearby when Sergeant Mathes was killed, even picking up his torn Bible where it was thrown from the truck.

Madam Speaker, it is soldiers like Sergeant Marcus Mathes who have volunteered to protect the freedoms that all Americans hold dear. While brave men and women like Marcus have perished in the name of freedom and liberty, his family, friends and loved ones should know that this Congress will never forget his sacrifice and commitment.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION
OF CONFERENCE REPORT ON
H.R. 2419, FOOD, CONSERVATION,
AND ENERGY ACT OF 2008

SPEECH OF

HON. MIKE PENCE

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 14, 2008

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, along with the gentle lady from Wisconsin, Representative Tammy Baldwin, I have sponsored legislation to allow farmers who grow fruit and vegetables for processing to opt out of farm programs on an acre for acre basis without limitation. That legislation would reduce farm program costs and improve the environment by allowing more extensive crop rotations. I am very pleased that the conference report takes a step toward that proposal by establishing a pilot project to allocate 75,000 acres of new authority for production of fruit and vegetables for processing in specified Midwestern states. USDA has broad discretion in administration of this pilot project to meet the objectives of the pilot project. The conference report does not specify a procedure for allocation of the pilot project acreage or other administrative matters, such as re-allocation of unused acreage allocations among states. However, USDA is clearly required to establish rules to assure that this additional fruit and vegetable production authority will not be abused. Only fruit and vegetables under contract for processing are to be produced under this authority. USDA is to assure that the crop produced is delivered to a processor and that the quantity of crop delivered under the original contract, the contract in existence upon Farm Service Agency certification, does not exceed the quantity that is produced on the contracted acreage. Further, the effects of the pilot project and FAV restrictions on the specialty crop industry, both fresh and processed, are to be evaluated. These restrictions are intended to ensure protection of the objectives of the pilot project, not to compel food waste or excessive regulatory burden. Further, the conference report includes an important statement of policy indicating that in the next recalculation of base acreage, fruit and vegetable production will not cause a reduction in farmer's base acreage. While this is a timid step in reducing restrictions on production of fruits and vegetables, I commend this step in the right direction.

HONORING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE LA CROSSE, WISCONSIN BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS

HON. RON KIND

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 15, 2008

Mr. KIND. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the city of La Crosse's Board of Park Commissioners for their 100 years of dedication to beautifying the largest city in western Wisconsin. Through their unrelenting hard work, a comprehensive park system consisting of 13 parks throughout the city was developed. Over the past century, countless families have benefited from the opportunities these parks have provided.

The Board of Park Commissioners was established through an ordinance passed by the Common Council in May of 1908. Mayor Wendell A. Anderson, a spirited advocate for park services, appointed Joseph M. Hixon, Edward L. Colman, Lucien F. Easton, and Henry Gund to the Board of Park Commissions. All 4 men were dedicated to public service and guided by a grand vision for the city of La Crosse. This vision was made into reality after the city hired landscape architect John Nolen, an understudy of the legendary Frederick Law Olmstead.

For 100 years, La Crosse's residents and visitors have enjoyed the comfort and recreation these parks offer. Having grown up on the north side of La Crosse, I know that the park system is an essential part of the community. Badger Park offered my friends and me a safe place to shoot hoops, play softball, and go ice skating. These parks are not only a way for families and friends to enjoy one another's company, but are also a means of creating lasting memories.

I applaud the La Crosse Common Council and the Board of Park Commissioners for their inspiration and dedication over the past 100 years. Their gift to the city of La Crosse will undoubtedly be enjoyed by many generations to come.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION
OF CONFERENCE REPORT ON
H.R. 2419, FOOD, CONSERVATION,
AND ENERGY ACT OF 2008

SPEECH OF

HON. PHIL HARE

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 14, 2008

Mr. HARE. Mr. Speaker, as a Member who represents Illinois farmers and rural communities, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 2419, the Food, Conservation and Energy Act of 2008.

The Food, Conservation and Energy Act, which is endorsed by every major agriculture group in my home state of Illinois, is good for our farmers and maintains our ability to provide a safe, affordable and abundant food supply.

This bill improves nutrition and conservation programs, and supports biofuel production at great benefit to the Illinois farm economy.

Most importantly, it extends a critical safety net to help farmers manage production risks when facing unsustainably low prices or natural disasters.

Illinois receives the 4th most nutrition dollars in the nation. I was happy to see that nearly three-quarters of all farm bill spending will go toward food and nutrition programs, including \$50 million for food pantries to address the rising costs of food and food shortages.

The bill also increases conservation spending to safeguard agricultural lands from the pressures of urban and suburban development, and to protect our natural resources.

Finally, the bill makes critical investments in Illinois' rural communities through biofuel production, telecommunications and wastewater infrastructure projects, and healthcare. In this time of economic hardship, we look to new industries to rebuild the economy of Illinois and the rest of the country. This bill puts \$1 billion in programs that will leverage renewable energy industry investments in new technologies and feedstocks. It also provides \$320 million for biorefineries producing advanced biofuels, and \$300 million for the Bioenergy Program, which directly impact Illinois.

I urge my colleagues to support final passage of this comprehensive legislation that funds important programs for rural and urban constituents across Illinois and our Nation.

HONORING 11 OUTSTANDING
BROWARD COUNTY CITIZENS

HON. ROBERT WEXLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 15, 2008

Mr. WEXLER. Madam Speaker, today in Tamarac, Florida, 11 outstanding Broward elders will be honored at the Annual Senior Hall of Fame Breakfast. These 11 seniors being honored have volunteered in their communities and have spent countless hours helping others. Their outstanding character and compassion have truly set them apart. Those being honored are George Bisbikos, Mary Jane Bowen Graff, Sidney Feinberg, Edith Gooden-Thompson, Velma Hawthorne, Reverend Grant Lynn Ford, Dr. Henry "Hank" Mack, Marilyn Manning, Paul B. Snow, Lesley Tobin, and Polly Wilkie.

George Bisbikos of Sunrise, president/executive director of the Learning Center for Vision Impaired Seniors, LCVIS, has been volunteering with the vision impaired for many years. Legally blind himself, George has led a health and finance class at the Lighthouse of Broward County for the blind and vision impaired, and works relentlessly to enable the blind and partially sighted in our community to participate in activities that sighted people take for granted.

Mary Jane Bowen Graff of Fort Lauderdale is the epitome of a volunteer and has been awarded for the over 4,000 hours of her time she has donated to Holy Cross Hospital Auxiliary. An energetic, motivated, and goal/task oriented person, Mary Jane has also been an active member in Kiwanis International, serving as president of her local chapter in 2006-07; and, Mary Jane currently serves as director of the city of Fort Lauderdale's Historic Preservation Advisory Board and board member of the Fort Lauderdale Museum of Art.

Sidney Feinberg of Deerfield Beach was integral in the building of Broward Homebound Program, Inc., in Century Village Deerfield Beach, submitting the grant proposal to the Florida Legislature in 1986 and being awarded a 1-year pilot project in 1986. Broward Homebound Program, Inc., has functioned independently since 1987. Sidney has also served as president of Young Israel in Deerfield Beach, Flatbush, and Jamaica Estates, and is president of the Coalition for Century Village East and is one of the founders of the National Association of Jewish Homes for the Aged, among many other leadership positions.

Edith Gooden-Thompson of Plantation is the daughter of Reverend James Gooden and Evelyn Smith Gooden, both honored as members of the Broward Senior Hall of Fame in 2006 and 1991, respectively. Edith has been volunteering her time with numerous schools and community committees for over 40 years, and is currently serving the Aging & Disability Resource Center as the SHINE, Serving Health Insurance Needs of Elders, volunteer coordinator. In this role, Edith guides more than 25 volunteers committed to providing services to Medicare customers, their families, and caregivers. She also volunteers with Friends of the African-American Research Library and Cultural Center, Florida Leaders.net, and the National Coalition of 100 Black Women, among many other organizations.

Velma Hawthorne of Fort Lauderdale is a Foster Grandparent volunteer, having raised three of her niece's children and two grandchildren in addition to her three children. She continues to help elementary children learn how to read, mentors Girl Scouts, and assists the Broward County Library with after-school programs. During the summer, Velma also volunteers at Kids In Distress, and she enjoys teaching Sunday School and singing in the choir at Evergreen Baptist Church.

Reverend Grant Lynn Ford, Senior Bishop of the Sunshine Cathedral in Fort Lauderdale, has been providing dynamic and inspirational leadership for his congregation and multitudes of organizations, agencies and groups for nearly two decades. Reverend Ford was key in the establishment and continuum of the Noble A. McArtor Adult Day Care Center, the first such program primarily designed for the needs of Broward gay and lesbian elders, and continues to serve the needs of the diverse cross sections of Broward communities through innovative programs, services and projects.

Dr. Henry "Hank" Mack of Lauderhill has the distinction of being one of the few living Buffalo Soldiers of the United States Calvary. A renowned civil rights fighter and past member of the executive committee of the Fort Lauderdale NAACP, Dr. Mack has the distinction of having stood with Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. when he made his "I Have A Dream" speech, and he continues to be active in opening doors for minority firms in Broward County. Dr. Mack has also been recognized numerous times for his volunteer efforts and serves on a number of public safety and education councils and committees in Broward County.

Marilyn Manning of Tamarac has spent the past 8 years donating her time and talents at Florida Atlantic University's Lifelong Learning Program, helping with registration and greeting students. She also volunteers at the Daniel Cantor Senior Center in Tamarac, working in

the thrift store and assisting in the day care. Additionally, she lends a hand mentoring elementary students with behavioral issues and has helped wounded troops recuperating in Germany through her assistance to the Landstuhl Hospital Care Project.

Paul B. Snow of Hallandale Beach has volunteered his life following retirement to volunteering for the poor, elderly, homeless and disabled in south Florida, joining the Hallandale Food Pantry in 1991 and later becoming Director. In that time, the Pantry has expanded from helping 11 families in his first week to more than 7,500 families in 2007. The Pantry also assists the elderly with completing critical benefit paperwork, offers after-school community credits to students wishing to attend college, and takes over 450 inner city youth to professional sporting events.

Lesley Sobel of Margate, along with her husband Jack, recognized the need in the community for a center to aid families caring for someone with alzheimer's disease and founded the Alzheimer's Family Center to fill that need. Lesley served as president of the agency's board of directors for 10 years and has devoted a tremendous amount of time and energy to the center, as she was instrumental in the development of fundraisers which have been held annually for over two decades now. Lesley also serves on the Boards of God's Little Acre, Senior Volunteer Services, and is active with the Margate Chamber of Commerce.

Polly Wilkie of Pembroke Pines is a veteran volunteer, possessing both fundraising acumen and the passion to roll up her sleeves and work. Founder and current president of New Prestige Clubs, Polly has worked to improve the lives of children and homeless women throughout Florida. She has recruited others and inspired them to establish Prestige chapters elsewhere in Florida and in Atlanta, Georgia, and hosts networking breakfasts for business people and inspires them to volunteer. Polly is a board member of the Light of the World Clinic, the Ease Foundation Pantry, the James Jr. Fund, the Boys & Girls Club, and Crime Stoppers, and has served as commissioner for Volunteer Florida.

Madam Speaker, I would like to again congratulate these 11 outstanding Broward County citizens who are being honored at the Annual Senior Hall of Fame, and thank them for their years of service to their fellow Floridians.

TRIBUTE TO RITA AND JACK
SINDER

HON. HOWARD L. BERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 15, 2008

Mr. BERMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to two dear friends, Rita and Jack Sinder, who are being honored by Valley Beth Shalom's 60th Birthday of the State of Israel Dinner Celebration. They are being recognized for their lifetime of commitment to Israel, the Jewish people, and Valley Beth Shalom, VBS.

In 1967, Rita and Jack made their first trip to Israel just prior to the Six-Day War. The outbreak of hostilities forced their early departure on the eve of the war. The impact of their experience motivated them to mobilize the American Jewish community on Israel's behalf.

Their dedication to Israel, however, began long before the State of Israel was created.

Born in Vienna, Rita was immersed in Judaism as a young child. During WWII, when Hitler invaded Austria, Rita's father was shipped to Poland. He fortunately escaped and her mother managed to get herself and her daughters out of Austria. Rita was sent to London on Kindertransport and was not reunited with her family until the war ended. The determination, positive attitude, tremendous resilience, and adaptability that helped her survive still guide her life today. Rita's family was miraculously reunited in America, settling in Los Angeles where Rita attended Belmont High School and graduated from USC with a degree in business administration.

Jack, raised in the Orthodox tradition by his father, a prominent Rabbi in Michigan, earned a degree in mechanical engineering from Michigan State. He worked for a machine tool company that supplied parts to the big three automakers. He was asked by an associate to help send machine tools to the Jewish fighters in Israel, and together with his friends, he shipped tools which ultimately helped in the creation of the Israeli aircraft industry and the Israeli Air Force.

Rita and Jack have been an integral force in the Jewish Community, living up to the motto, "Give of yourself first and only then ask others to join you." They have generously contributed their time and resources to VBS, the Jewish Federation, Israel Bonds, AIPAC and many other worthy organizations. They endowed the Midrasa Program at the VBS, where Jack formerly was a member of the board of directors and currently serves on the board of trustees and the steering committee. Rita has chaired many special events at VBS. She is past president of the San Fernando Valley Women's Division of Israel Bonds and the Golda Meir Club, an active member of AIPAC, serving on its national executive board, and is past president and member of the executive board of the Women's Alliance of Israel. Rita and Jack are founding members of the American Jewish University's Wagner Program, university patrons and also patrons of the Wiesenthal Center.

Rita and Jack work together in their business, Jasin Co., he as a real estate developer and she as a real estate broker and property manager. They are the proud parents of Sherri and Alan and adore their three grandchildren. Rita and Jack's greatest joys are being with family and friends, boating and travel.

I ask my colleagues to join me in saluting Rita and Jack Sinder, who have devoted their lives to working for the survival of the Jewish people and the State of Israel.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO MARA
LETICA SAAD

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 15, 2008

Mr. ROGERS of Michigan. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor the accomplishments of Mara Leticia Saad of Bloomfield Hills, Michigan, who has been honored by Crain's Detroit Business Publication as one of southeast Michigan's "Most Influential Women" over the past five years.

Mara Leticia Saad's experiences are unique, remarkable and in many ways, reflect her wonderful family's success story. Mara was born in Germany during her father, Ilija Leticia's journey toward America after escaping communist rule in former Yugoslavia. Soon they reached their destination in Greenville, Michigan where Mara attended the local schools and her father began to work toward his vision for Leticia Corporation, a plastic packaging company.

Mara attended The University of Michigan where she earned a bachelors degree in history. She traveled west to Seattle University to study law and remained in Washington for several years working as a prosecutor and a commercial litigator.

Fortunately, Mara did not stray long from Michigan. She returned to join the family business and after twenty years, Mara continues to successfully balance many roles as the corporation's executive vice president, general counsel and secretary. Along with her father and other family members, Mara has helped build Leticia Corporation, now headquartered in Rochester, Michigan into a nationwide manufacturer of paper and plastic packaging with more than a dozen locations throughout the U.S.

Mara Leticia Saad's accomplishments are not limited to the business world. Throughout her life she has had a strong interest in her family's birthplace, Croatia, and was actively involved in Croatia's independence movement. With her father, she organized a group of attorneys in the U.S. to aid and supervise the 1990 elections in Croatia. Her efforts were recognized by President George H.W. Bush and she was nominated to be Ambassador to Croatia.

An active participant in the Detroit area community, Mara serves on the board of the Motor City Lyric Opera and until recently served on the board of the Mackinac Center for Public Policy. She resides in Bloomfield Hills, Michigan with her husband, Judge Henry Saad, and they have four grown children.

Mara Leticia Saad has excelled in her profession and her touched many in southeast Michigan and beyond.

Mara Leticia Saad is a loyal and loving family member with a passion for its history, culture, and human dignity. Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Mara Leticia Saad, recipient of southeast Michigan's "Most Influential Women." She truly merits our respect and admiration.

STATEMENT ON LIHEAP

HON. CAROLYN MCCARTHY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 15, 2008

Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise today to call on colleagues to fully fund the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program, also known as LIHEAP, during this year's appropriations process, at the full \$5.1 billion.

LIHEAP is a vital program that helps low-income Americans pay their heating and cooling bills.

Our nation is facing an escalating energy crisis. More and more, American families are being forced to make difficult decisions be-

tween putting food on their tables and paying their utility bills.

If the current trend continues, LIHEAP will not have enough funding for the remainder of fiscal year 2008. Soaring energy prices combined with another heat wave this summer could be deadly if we don't act now to fully fund this important program.

This presents a particular risk to our Nation's most vulnerable, the elderly, infirm and children. Extreme temperatures can be incredibly dangerous to those with compromised physical conditions. They need to be protected and we have the ability to protect them by fully funding LIHEAP.

This month, utility shut-off moratoriums that have been offered by states are set to expire just as temperatures are rising. With past-due notices on the rise, there is no question that millions of Americans could be facing summers with no cooling options available. There is simply no time to waste. I urge all of my colleagues to act now to fully fund LIHEAP. American families cannot sweat out Congress's delays on this matter.

RECOGNIZING THE 90TH
ANNIVERSARY OF TIAA-CREF

HON. JOSEPH CROWLEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 15, 2008

Mr. CROWLEY. Madam Speaker, in keeping with his philosophy that "the man who dies rich thus dies disgraced," Andrew Carnegie took care in distributing his substantial wealth, largely toward the goal of promoting education. When Mr. Carnegie became a trustee at Cornell University, in my home State of New York, he was appalled to learn how little professors earned and thought they deserved financial security. As a result, he donated \$10 million to fund a system of pensions that today allows colleges and universities in the United States to offer some of the best retirement plans in the Nation.

In 1918, the Carnegie Foundation established the Teachers Insurance and Annuity Association, known today as TIAA, a fully-funded system of pensions for professors. By the end of its first year, 30 public and private institutions had signed on. After World War II, facing inflation and increased longevity, TIAA created the College Retirement Equities Fund, the world's first variable annuity in 1952. As TIAA-CREF evolved over the years to meet new challenges, its noble mission bestowed on them by Carnegie never changed: to aid and strengthen the institutions they serve and to provide financial products that are suited to the needs of such entities, their employees, and their families on the best terms practicable.

In his autobiography, Carnegie wrote: "Many college pension fund beneficiaries and their widows have written to me most affecting letters. These I can never destroy, for if I ever have a fit of melancholy, I know the cure lies in re-reading these letters."

TIAA-CREF continues to have a special relationship with those in higher education and also serves those who work in the medical, cultural, and research fields. Today TIAA-CREF celebrates its 90th Anniversary and continues to serve those whose life work advances the greater good.

COMMEMORATING ASIAN PACIFIC
AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

HON. NICK LAMPSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 15, 2008

Mr. LAMPSON. Madam Speaker, this May, all Americans take time to commemorate Asian Pacific Heritage Month. As a proud member of the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus, I honor and celebrate the culture, achievements and valuable contributions of Asian Pacific Americans.

This May marks thirty years since the first ten days of May were designated Asian Pacific Heritage Week. This was extended to a full month once it became quite clear that a week would not be nearly enough time to do justice to the abundant contributions Asian Pacific Americans have made to our Nation, without which we could never have reached the heights we have today.

Asian Pacific Americans are one of the most diverse, talented and successful ethnic groups in America today. There are nearly 16 million Asian Pacific Americans who call America home, representing more than 5 percent of the U.S. population.

In my district, they are without question the fastest growing ethnic group. In Fort Bend and Harris counties, the growth of Asian Pacific Americans has been dramatic. In many cases the growth of Asian Pacific Americans has been more than three times the growth of the overall population. Fort Bend now has the largest percentage of Asian Americans of any county in Texas. In particular, in Sugar Land and my home, Stafford, Asian Pacific Americans make up more than 20 percent of the overall population.

However, population growth is only part of the story. As the grandson of immigrants, I know true assimilation means preserving tradition while achieving success. I am in awe at how quickly the Asian Pacific-American community has mastered both. Asian Pacific Americans have quickly taken hold of many of the most prominent civic, industry, philanthropic and research-based positions in the Houston area.

I would specifically like to honor the trailblazing Asian Pacific American elected officials in my district. Natalie Ong, M.J. Khan, Thomas Abraham, Daniel Wong, Neeta Sane, Ken Mathew, Sonal Bhuchar, and Natasha Kamrani have broken barriers and shattered stereotypes and opened the door for a future generation of Asian Pacific American leaders.

With values of hard work, discipline, community and family, it's no wonder that Asian Pacific Americans are one of the fastest-growing, best-educated and highest-earning ethnic groups in the U.S. From the medical professionals who care for us, the educators who teach us and the titans of industry large and small, Asian Pacific-Americans are one of the most indispensable parts of our Nation's ever-growing national tapestry. Asian Pacific-Americans are authentic Americans, and proof that the American dream continues to thrive.

I am very proud of my friendship with the Asian Pacific-American community. I remain committed to working with my friends to create and promote policies that help the community and its needs. I will continue to seize every opportunity to recognize the valuable contribu-

tions Asian Pacific-Americans make to our community and to the nation.

HONORING SGT. WILLIAM P.
TREECE ON BEING NAMED 2008
VETERAN OF THE YEAR

HON. JIM JORDAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 15, 2008

Mr. JORDAN of Ohio. Madam Speaker, I am honored this day to commend to the House the distinguished service of Sgt. William Patrick Treece for his sacrifices to his country on two different tours of duty. I would like to recognize Sgt. William Patrick Treece as his selection for Veteran of the Year 2008.

Sgt. Treece is a Findlay, Ohio resident. A 1988 graduate of Findlay High School, he has made a career of serving his country and his proud family of three children of the ages twelve, six, and three.

Sgt. Treece served his first tour of duty from 1989–1994 in the Gulf War; followed by a second tour from 2000–2005, serving in Iraq and Kuwait. He finished his service as a Police Sergeant.

The list of citations, honors, and medals awarded to Sgt. Treece is as long and distinguished as his active service to this Nation. He was awarded: the Marine Corps Good Conduct Medal, Coast Guard Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal (Iraq), Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal (Iraq), Sea Service Deployment Ribbon, Southwest Asia Service Medal (twice), Air Force Outstanding Unit Award, Presidential Unit Citation, National Defense Service Medal, Kuwait Liberation Medal (Kuwait), and Navy Meritorious Unit Commendation.

I am honored to be one of the many to add my voice in recognizing, and commending, Sgt. Treece for his invaluable and distinguished service for his country. He is a shining example of our mutual responsibility to serve those who devoted their lives to protecting the freedoms we enjoy.

IN HONOR OF JUANA BORDAS

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 15, 2008

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of Juana Bordas, President of Mestiza Leadership International, and in recognition of her dedication, advocacy, and promotion of leadership in the Hispanic Community.

Juana Bordas, is a national speaker and trainer who has worked tirelessly to promote leadership skills in minority communities since the beginning of her illustrious career. Her vision enabled her to found several important organizations and programs. In 1977, she founded what is now considered a national model of women's empowerment, Mi Casa Women's Center in Denver, Colorado, where she served until 1986. Mrs. Bordas is also the founding President and CEO of the National Hispana Leadership Institute, the only program

of its kind in the United States that prepares Latina women for national leadership. Through this program, Mrs. Bordas partners with Harvard's JFK School of Government and Center for Creative Leadership to provide training for Hispanic women. She is also currently serving as President of Mestiza Leadership International, a unique company that focuses the promotion and fostering of leadership, diversity and organizational change.

A former Peace Corps volunteer, Mrs. Bordas has served as advisor to Harvard's Hispanic Journal on Public Policy and the Kellogg National Fellows Program. She was also a former faculty member for the Center for Creative Leadership (CCL), where she guided and mentored students in the Leadership Development Program, which is considered the most utilized executive training program in the world. She is currently the Vice President of the board of Greenleaf Center for Servant Leadership and a trustee of the International Leadership Association. Mrs. Bordas has inspired countless readers through many of her publications and essays including, "Passion and Power: Finding Personal Purpose", an essay in "Reflections on Leadership" and is a contributing author to "Leadership in the 21st Century" in the book "Rethinking Leadership". She has been recognized for her innovative and important work on empowering members of minority communities by numerous organizations and institutions. She has been inducted into the Colorado Women's Hall of Fame, is the recipient of the Wise Woman Award from the National Center for Women's Policy Studies; the Franklin Miller Award from the U.S. Peace Corps and the 2006 Leadership Legacy Award from Spellman College's Center for Leadership. She was one of fifty leaders chosen by the Colorado Legislature to design the state's future plan and was selected by Colorado Business Magazine as one of the top one-hundred influential people in the state.

HONORING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE KUTZTOWN FIRE COMPANY NO. 1

HON. JIM GERLACH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 15, 2008

Mr. GERLACH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge and honor the Kutztown Fire Company No. 1 as they celebrate their 100th anniversary of service to their community. Organized on January 14, 1908 and incorporated on April 1, 1918, the countless hours of service and examples of heroism are a testament to the brave men and women who strive each and every day to keep our communities safe.

The Kutztown Fire Company No. 1 was organized on January 14, 1908, merging what remained of other smaller companies. It was incorporated April 1, 1918, as a completely volunteer fire company, consisting of 10 officers and 10 charter members.

During the early years of the company, funds were raised by sprinkling the streets of the borough, holding band fairs, renting the hall to outside organizations and operating a social quarters.

On October 22, 1931, the company purchased land adjacent to the Fire Dam to build

a swimming pool. The pool has been a source of income and was operated solely by the company until 1963 when the Borough Council had a new swimming pool erected along the Saucony Creek north of the Normal Avenue bridge.

Today, the Kutztown Fire Company runs approximately 450 calls annually and covers 40 square miles, which include residential and rural areas, light industrial section, a university and an interstate highway. The fire company truck crew has about 50 members which operate five pieces, under the leadership of President David J. Reimer Sr. and Fire Chief Troy Arndt. The Company will celebrate this great milestone on Saturday, May 17, 2008 with an Appreciation Banquet.

Madam Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in congratulating the brave men and women of Kutztown Fire Company No. 1 as they celebrate 100 years of protecting our communities. We can never thank our first-responders enough for all their dedication and sacrifices to protect the lives and property of their neighbors, and the Kutztown Fire Company No. 1 is a proud part of this great history.

CLARA WHITE MISSION—"MIRACLE ON ASHLEY ST."

HON. ANDER CRENSHAW

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 15, 2008

Mr. CRENSHAW. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate and recognize the Clara White Mission located in my district in Jacksonville, Florida.

Tomorrow, the Clara White Mission will be awarded the 2007 HUD Secretary's Award for Excellence. This award, made in partnership with HUD and the American Planning Association, recognizes "model" programs that improve employment, education, and housing opportunities, and I cannot imagine any more deserving recipient than the Clara White Mission.

The Clara White Mission, which was founded in 1904, but traces its origins to 1880s Jacksonville, is committed to eradicating chronic homelessness in blighted areas. It should be noted that the Clara White Mission is unique in many ways, but most notably their passion for bettering not only the community but also the individual.

Tomorrow, at the Mission's "Miracle on Ashley Street" event, community and corporate leaders will serve the homeless and community guests a gourmet lunch prepared by area restaurants and the Clara White culinary students in an effort to help raise awareness for the program.

The project assists homeless members of the community through a variety of programs. The Mission offers permanent housing, substance abuse mediation, mental health counseling, and help to those in need of developing marketable job skills tailored to the demands of the local job market.

The saying goes, "Give a man a fish and you feed him for a day; teach a man to fish and you feed him for a lifetime." The Clara White Mission puts this principle in practice every day through the programming they offer those who have the greatest need.

I congratulate this very special program and rise today to acknowledge the wonderful accomplishments of the Clara White Mission as they receive HUD's 2007 Award for Excellence.

IN HONOR OF ROBIN JAY

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 15, 2008

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of Robin Jay, an award-winning speaker, author, and coach who has inspired and motivated countless entrepreneurs to establish their visions and achieve success in their field.

Robin Jay, originally from Cleveland, Ohio, started her own successful writing and public speaking career after eighteen years as an advertising account manager. She recognized the power of a positive mental attitude and that the key to success lay in leadership, management, focused attention, and self motivation. Her personable demeanor and inspiring message has enabled her to connect with audiences of entrepreneurs across the nation and quickly put her in demand as a keynote speaker and coach. As a professional key note speaker, author and corporate trainer, Ms. Jay works with her clients to accomplish the same thing she did—establish their vision and achieve it. As one of the leading business relationship experts, she teaches her clients how to build profitable business relationships in a way that motivates and inspires them.

Her first book, "The Art of the Business Lunch", a book on business relationships, is a best seller and is now sold in ten languages worldwide. She is also the author of "The Power of Mentorship" series which includes "The Millionaire Within", "For the Woman Entrepreneur", and "Chicken Soup for the Wine Lover's Soul". Several of her articles have been featured in What's On Magazine and she was a featured mentor in the movie "The Power of Mentorship—Unlock Your Journey to Success".

Ms. Jay sits on various organizational boards and has been recognized several times for her groundbreaking and inspirational work for business entrepreneurs. She was awarded the Women in Communication Media Award for the Radio Account Executive of the Year and served as past President of the Las Vegas Women in Communications organization. Currently, she is on the board of directors of the Juvenile Diabetes Foundation and The Advertising Community Talent Show.

Madam Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honor and recognition of Robin Jay for her outstanding leadership skills and for her extensive and diverse service to many individuals as they strive to achieve their dreams.

HONORING THE DISTINGUISHED SERVICE OF MR. RALPH NEALMAN AND MR. EDWARD CAMPBELL

HON. JIM GERLACH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 15, 2008

Mr. GERLACH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge and honor Mr. Ralph Nealman and Mr. Edward Campbell for their 31 years of dedicated service to the Norriton Fire Engine Company, located in East Norriton Township, Pennsylvania. Mr. Nealman and Mr. Campbell will be honored for their long history of service with the Distinguished Lifetime Achievement Award on May 17, 2008 at the annual Norriton Fire Engine Company banquet.

Before becoming a member of the Norriton Fire Engine Company in 1977, Mr. Nealman served his country for 27 years as a Sergeant First Class in the U.S. Armed Forces. As a member of the Company, he has served as Assistant Chief Engineer and Engineer, and has worked tirelessly on many committees, including the five he now chairs. Mr. Nealman has been a member of the Board of Trustees for 26 years, and he currently holds the position of Chairman of the Board.

In 1997, Mr. Nealman was awarded Life Membership for his committed service to the Company. Additionally, he was a two-time recipient of the President's Award and a recipient of the Firefighter of the Year Award. Mr. Nealman's leadership included his successful efforts to establish the first driver qualification test for the Company and his foresight in creating a radio-funding account, which was essential to the Company's efforts to comply with new duties following the 9/11 tragedy.

Mr. Campbell also became a member of the Norriton Fire Engine Company in 1977, after serving two years in the U.S. Army. Mr. Campbell holds the position of Vice Chairman of the Board of Trustees and has served as Assistant Engineer for many years. He has enthusiastically worked on the Building and Insurance Committees, and greatly improved the Company's insurance system. Mr. Campbell increased the Company's disability insurance plan, and helped to establish a joint payment plan designed to encourage youth involvement in the Company.

Mr. Campbell is also the recipient of the President's Award and the Chief Engineer's Award. Additionally, he was awarded Life Membership in 1997 in recognition of his untiring efforts on behalf of the people of East Norriton Township and the surrounding communities.

So I ask, Madam Speaker, that my colleagues join me in honoring Ralph Nealman and Edward Campbell for leading two exemplary lives of service. They have spent 31 years protecting the lives and property of their neighbors throughout East Norriton Township and the surrounding areas. May their service be an inspiration to us all and the next generation of first-responders who dedicate their lives to protecting others.

MESSAGE HONORING 4TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICIALS DURING NATIONAL LAW ENFORCEMENT WEEK

HON. ANDER CRENSHAW

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 15, 2008

Mr. CRENSHAW. Madam Speaker, I would like to recognize and honor all law enforcement officials for the crucial and irreplaceable job that they so tirelessly do for our communities' benefit. When I meet with various officials throughout my district and see the job that they do, I am continually impressed by the sense of honor and the level of commitment with which they so unselfishly serve. Many of them continually place their lives on the line in order to protect the families and individuals in our area. Some have indeed given their lives in the line of duty, and for that there is no measure of gratitude that can possibly rise to the level of what our community owes them.

These dedicated individuals give of their time, energy, and heart. They ask for little other than our support. They crave no spotlight or public applause. They serve out of a sense of deep love for their community and out of a sense of purpose in ensuring the citizenry is protected and justice is served.

I would like to especially recognize a fallen officer whose name was added to the wall on the National Police Memorial in Washington, D.C. this week, in a ceremony attended by Jacksonville Sheriff Rutherford.

Jacksonville Sheriff's Officer Eric Bell was killed, on duty, on October 12, 2007 when a vehicle pulled in front of his patrol car. Officer Bell was returning from a call on Heckscher Drive when a van traveling on New Berlin Road collided with his cruiser.

Officers like Eric Bell embody the belief that there is no greater purpose than serving our fellow neighbors, and Officer Bell gave his life in this noble effort. In doing so, he and other law enforcement officials model character and integrity for generations to come.

It is with a grateful heart and a sense of tremendous pride that I recognize and honor Jacksonville Sheriff's Officer Eric Bell and each individual serving our community in a law enforcement capacity during this 2008 National Law Enforcement Week.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. HEATHER WILSON

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 15, 2008

Mrs. WILSON of New Mexico. Madam Speaker, because I was unavoidably detained on Wednesday May 14, 2008, I missed rollcall votes 317, 318 and 319. Had I been present, I would have voted no on rollcall vote 317, no on rollcall vote 318 and YES on rollcall vote 319.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 2008 ANNUAL BUSINESS OHIO BUSINESS WOMEN'S CONFERENCE

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 15, 2008

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the 2008 Annual Ohio Business Women's Conference and Expo, and in honor of the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce for Ohio and the Hispanic Business Association for their work in the state of Ohio.

The Annual Ohio Business Women's Conference is the largest event of its kind for women in business and provides business owners with the information and tools necessary to expand their market. The theme for this year's conference is "Bridging Success" and will feature over five hundred women business owners, entrepreneurs and corporate exhibitors. The mission, put forth by the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce for Ohio and the Hispanic Business Association is to promote women business enterprises through all stages of development. This unique and important event provides women business owners with the forum to display their products and services to America's leading corporations and government agencies, who join the conference from across the nation as sponsors, exhibitors, and attendees. This year's event will provide women business owners and entrepreneurs with networking activities, workshops, panel discussions, and matchmaking procurement sessions.

I also stand in recognition of the Hispanic Business Association (HBA) for their contributions and leadership in promoting and supporting women business owners in the Greater Cleveland Area. The Hispanic Business Association grew out of the vision of local Hispanic business owners in 1981 who were startled by the low participation of the Hispanic community in the private and public sector. Since its official incorporation as a nonprofit in 1983, the HBA has worked to fulfill its mission of promoting Hispanic business interest and its economic development and expansion through strategic partnerships, technical assistance and advocacy.

Madam Speaker and colleagues, please join me in recognition of this year's Annual Ohio Business Women's Conference and Expo as well as in recognition of the Hispanic Business Association for their diverse and extensive service to business owners and entrepreneurs in the Greater Cleveland Area.

THE DAILY 45: SALVADORAN IMMIGRANT FAMILY'S MURDER SUICIDE

HON. BOBBY L. RUSH

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 15, 2008

Mr. RUSH. Madam Speaker, every day, somewhere in America, an average of 45 people are shot and killed at the hands of a gun-wielding assailant. This senseless loss of life

comes in all shapes, sizes, colors and zip codes. And, far too often, death comes at the hands of a loved one.

According to law enforcement authorities, on May 10th in Houston, Texas, death came at the hands of a Salvadoran immigrant husband and father of three young children. Neighbors describe, the father, Salvador, as friendly and hard-working. For reasons we'll never know, Salvador took a rifle and shot his wife, Lupe, and their three children, all under the age of 10. Before he shot himself, Salvador left a Snoopy doll and other plush animals along with a note that read, "May God Have Mercy." So many dreams cut short in an instant of despair.

We must stop the senseless murders of "The Daily 45." When will Americans say "Enough is enough, stop the killing!"

IN RECOGNITION OF WHISKEY ISLAND

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 15, 2008

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Whiskey Island, a natural beauty along Lake Erie's urban coastline near Downtown Cleveland. On Saturday May 17, 2008, our Cuyahoga County Commissioners will be dedicating the Whiskey Island Bridge so that the people will have better access to Whiskey Island. Whiskey Island is a magnificent natural asset at the mouth of the Cuyahoga River in Downtown Cleveland. This lakefront park is not only an environmental asset, but an amenity for people who live, work, and play in Downtown Cleveland.

The Cuyahoga County Commissioners were visionary in having acquired this park for the people of Northeast Ohio. I join with the Commissioners in envisioning a day when the Towpath Trail, which links our state's history, culture, nature, and geography along 110 miles between New Philadelphia and Cleveland, will connect with Lake Erie at Whiskey Island. With our continued stewardship of this important natural resource, Whiskey Island will one day be linked by this pedestrian and bicycle trail through Akron and Canton along the Cuyahoga River and its historic Towpath.

Whiskey Island and the Towpath Trail are the people's treasures. With the dedication of the improved Whiskey Island Bridge, more people may now enjoy this oasis along the shoreline of Lake Erie and the banks of the Cuyahoga River. I have supported these projects in the past and pledge my future support to preserve and protect them as the people's resources.

Madam Speaker, please join me in this moment to reflect on the beauty of Whiskey Island and the will of the people of Northeastern Ohio to protect this important patch of nature for the people's continued enjoyment. <P>Madam Speaker and colleagues, please join me in recognition of Whiskey Island, and the will of the people of Northeastern Ohio to protect this important patch of nature for the people's continued enjoyment.

VOLUSIA HONOR AIR

HON. JOHN L. MICA

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 15, 2008

Mr. MICA. Madam Speaker, on Saturday, May 17, 2008, 102 Volusia County veterans from the Second World War will visit our Nations Capital as part of the Honor Air program. For each of these central Florida veterans this will be their first opportunity to see the World War II Memorial. As the Congressman from Florida's Seventh Congressional District, it will be my privilege to assist in their visit. As part of their mission to Washington, DC, I will join them in laying a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier at Arlington National Cemetery to honor those who have paid the ultimate sacrifice for our Nation. This will be a special occasion in the lives of our World War II veterans. It will be my pleasure to welcome the first Honor Air visit from central Florida. I ask that the United States House of Representatives join me in recognizing Our Greatest Gen-

eration from Florida's Seventh Congressional District and wish them well as they gather in America's Capital City.

It is my privilege to honor the service and sacrifice of those veterans who will be visiting our Nation's Capital on May 17, 2008:

Berkley E. Adams; Robert W. Anderson; Melvin Arnold; Frank R. Balzer; George A. Bass; Jacob R. Beard, Jr.; Edwin L. Best; Vernon B. Bly; Imon F. Boarman; Alfred G. Boykin; Melvin Burgess; Kenneth P. Burnette, Jr.; Lewis H. Buzzell, Jr.; James Callahan; Charles Carafano; Duncan S. Chamberlin; John F. Cheney.

Lawrence E. Cheshire; Ralph H. Chesser; Francis H. Clifton; Odvert H. Cornwell; Edmund D. Covington, Jr.; Otis R. Daniels; William J. Dreggors, Jr.; Ernest S. Eckhardt; H. Leslie Ferrell; Charles Finlayson; Jack F. Fortes; Kenneth E. Fowler; Richard B. Fuquay; Homer Goff; Richard A. Gray; David F. Greenawalt; H.L. Guthrie; Hayden K. Hale.

Dorothy E. Halevy; Georgene E. Hall; Chester V. Hamilton; Edward M. Hampton; Edward L. Herendeen; Wayne Holby; George R. Holden; Paul Hornbaker; Lawrence J. Hubbard; Vera L. Hubler; Russell W. Hunt; Daniel Jarczyński; Eddie Jenkins; Erling John-

son; Irving Kelton; Joseph R. Killeen; Jess Knight; John A. Konrad III.

Claude G. Labranche; Edwin L. Lazarus; Ernest Lee; William F. Litke; Richard Macak; Robert B. Marriett; Evelyn Mazurak; Clifford E. McCalley; William R. McKenzie; Evert Mills; Max W. Minear; Frank R. Nicolo; Chester W. Nixon.

John C. Nuttall; William Orr; Robert L. Orwig; Priscilla I. Pagano; Charles Paiva; Earle H. Palmer; Harold Parson; William F. Patterson; Harold N. Pelton; Robert F. Pennington.

Edward J. Perry; Omar Pritchett; James P. Ragan; John Rokop; John K. Ross; Sam Roth; James E. Sankey; John A. Seeders; Bill W. Sharp; Richard A. Shaw; Phillip Sheak; Leonard Slater; Margaret E. Snowdon; Stephen M. Straight; Robert V. Talley; Margaret S. Terbeek; Angelo Todarello; John C. Toenjes; George V. Tucker; Alexander B. Veech, Jr. Gordon L. Ward; Richard H. Westervelt; Delmar E. Whipple; Donald W. Whynot; John W. Williams.

I know I join countless Americans who continue to recognize their heroism and their families' incredible sacrifice to our Nation.