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House of Representatives

The House met at 12:30 and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. LARSEN of Washington).

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,
June 17, 2008.

I hereby appoint the Honorable RICK LARSEN to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

NANCY PELOSI,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 4, 2007, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning-hour debate.

CLEMMONS ROTARY CLUB CREATES INNOVATIVE PUBLIC OUTREACH PROGRAM

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. FOXX) for 5 minutes.

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to praise the critical community service being performed by the Rotary Club of Clemmons, North Carolina.

The Clemmons Rotary Club launched a unique initiative this year to boost awareness of organ and tissue donor programs in North Carolina. They have spruced up the sides of about a dozen semi-truck trailers with huge public service ads, calling attention to the constant need for organ donors in North Carolina. Each truck highlights organ donor programs in North Carolina and directs potential donors to visit www.DonateLifeNC.org.

Currently, about 3,000 people in North Carolina are awaiting life-saving organ transplants. The Clemmons Rotary's Billboards on Wheels program is going to improve the lives of these people in need of an organ transplant in North Carolina. In fact, this brilliant marketing idea is beginning to garner some national attention from other rotary clubs that would like to replicate this program in States other than North Carolina.

The trend-setting people of the rotary club are model citizens who are working to make our world a healthier and more livable place. I hope that their good deeds inspire others to take up this great outreach idea and to help match donors with those in need.

Mr. Speaker, today, I also want to call special attention to the innovation and hard work of the students involved in West Wilkes High School's electric vehicle program.

Under the guidance and direction of Advisor Chris Tolbert, students in the West Wilkes electric vehicle program have completely rebuilt two vehicles—a Ford pickup and a Mazda Miata—into fully functional electric cars. This award-winning electric vehicle program is exactly the sort of program we need to help teach young people the skills and technology of the future.

I applaud Mr. Tolbert and the students at West Wilkes for their forward-thinking mindset. These students have custom-built electric cars, cars without gas engines, from the ground up. This is a herculean accomplishment with more than 3,000 hours of hard work going into the design and building of the Mazda Miata alone.

Fortunately, their hard work is paying dividends. Not only are they investing in a cleaner environment and in an economy that is less dependent on gas and oil, but they have brought home many awards and have captured national attention for their electric car innovations.

Just last month, they won multiple awards at the SMARTT Challenge competition in Raleigh. The SMARTT electric vehicle challenge, which draws hundreds of students from across the southeast, stands for Students Making Advancements in Renewable Transportation Technology.

The students and teachers at West Wilkes High School are on the cutting edge of hands-on instruction and learning, and I congratulate them for maintaining one of the best high school electric vehicle programs in the Nation. I hope they'll keep up the good work.

This leads me into my next comments, Mr. Speaker. The Democrats are inventing false arguments again.

''Use it or lose it'' is already the law.

For Federal onshore competitive oil and gas leases, an oil company must have a producing well by 10 years. This comes from section 17(e) of the Mineral Leasing Act, (source: 30 U.S.C. 226(e)). Prior to 1992, the lease term was 5 years. The Energy Policy Act of 1992, under a Democrat House, modified it to 10 years. For Federal offshore oil and gas leases, an oil company must produce energy between 5 and 10 years. This is from the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act.

So House Democrats do not even know what is existing law. What Democrats would have you believe is that a lease is a license to produce oil and gas. It is not. A lease is only the start of a process involving several steps the government requires an oil company to take before it may get permission to drill.

Democrats are effectively arguing that we should pull leases away from oil companies before they even receive permission to drill. That's like saying we should flunk a first grader on his first day of school because he has not yet taken his final exam.

Most of the drilling on Federal leases has been for natural gas. Natural gas

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production was up, way up last year, and so was demand. In fact, the industry is producing more gas under these leases, but they cannot keep up with demand because Democrats and their radical environmental allies will not allow the leasing of new areas. Ninety-seven percent of Federal offshore areas are not leased. Ninety-four percent of Federal onshore areas are not leased.

Again, I say, Mr. Speaker, the Democrats are inventing false arguments to keep us from increasing our supply of energy in this country.

LOWER GAS AND ENERGY PRICES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. WESTMORELAND) for 5 minutes.

Mr. WESTMORELAND. Mr. Speaker, I want to take just a moment, before I start with any of my energy remarks, to welcome President Chen, Joy and Sean Chen here with General Protecht that is opening up a business in my district in Barnesville, Georgia. It's great to have them visiting Washington, D.C.

What I really want to talk to the people about today, Mr. Speaker, is the fact that it is time that the American people understand where Congress is on providing them with our own resources to bring about lower gas prices and lower energy prices.

I have had several constituents and people e-mailing me and calling me, asking me about a number of petitions that were on the Web or that were in service stations or in Wal-Marts or in Home Depots, and they were wanting to know how I felt about drilling onshore, about drilling in deep water and about bringing more refineries on line.

So, as I looked at some of these petitions—and some of them I saw—one was on American solutions, and there were others, but the one on American solutions had about 600,000 signatories. Six hundred thousand Americans had taken the time to go to that Web site to sign the petition that said, ''Drill now. Drill here. Less price.'' Less gasoline price.

So I thought, you know, that's interesting because we know how these constituents feel, but do our constituents really know, Mr. Speaker, how Members of Congress feel? Because we do things up here to keep the American people from knowing exactly what we do think because we make these issues as to so many different subject matters that we can find excuses to vote for or against most any proposal that is brought to this floor. So what I want to do is simplify it, simplify it for the American people—for our constituents—and, Mr. Speaker, for the Members of Congress.

So I came up with a petition for this House of Representatives, and the petition is simple. The petition says: ''American energy solutions for lower gas prices. Bring onshore oil on line. Bring deep water oil on line, and bring new refineries on line.''

I've got a petition here. Don't worry. This is one board. We've got five boards. We've got every district, all 435 Members who can vote in this House. We've got a petition, and it says, ''I will vote to increase U.S. oil production to lower gas prices for Americans.'' How simple is that? That's pretty simple.

So what we've done is we've got this. Congressman PRICE and myself didn't bring it out until, really, after everybody had kind of gone home up here last Thursday, and we've already gotten 20 signatories. I've got two pens that I'm going to attach to these petitions. Mr. Speaker, I'm going to put them over here by the back door here on the minority side, and I'm going to invite every Member of Congress who believes that they would vote to reduce these prices to come by and sign them.

Just to give the American people, Mr. Speaker, a way to look at this, we are going to post, and are going to try to post in as real a time as we can, on different Web pages who has signed it. So, if you want to know who has signed so far, you can go to House.gov/Westmoreland, and you can also go to GOP.gov/energy. Now, these are two Web sites that are going to have posted by the end of the day who all has signed. If you, Mr. Speaker, or if anybody out there might want to know if your Congressman has signed, then you can go to that Web site.

We have had all different types of arguments in this House about energy, and the Democrats had an energy bill that they proposed and actually passed that President Bush signed into law in December of 2007. The Democratic majority passed this as one of their big issues in January of 2007.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. WESTMORELAND. With that, I'll leave it up to Mr. PRICE, but for every Member in this House, the pens are here; the petition is here. Let the American people know how you feel.

THE STATE OF ISRAEL'S 60TH ANNIVERSARY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New Hampshire (Mr. HODES) for 2 minutes.

Mr. HODES. Mr. Speaker, just last month, we celebrated the 60th anniversary of the creation of the State of Israel.

Last year, I was privileged to take my first trip to the Promised Land. Israel is the birthright for Jews around the world. As our stanchest ally, Israel is the only democracy in the Middle East, but to Jews, it is much more. It is the homeland, the true community that my own Jewish ancestors dreamed of when hounded by anti-Semitism, repression and violence.

To truly honor Israel on this 60th anniversary, we must seek a true, lasting peace from committed partners to provide for Israel's long-term survival, security and prosperity. For Jews in America, we owe it to our ancestors to protect the Jewish homeland that they toiled for centuries to achieve. We owe to it our grandparents and to our great grandparents who never saw the Promised Land. We owe it to our children and to our grandchildren, who must always know a world with a Jewish homeland. We owe them peace in our time.

RISING GAS PRICES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. PRICE) for 5 minutes.

Mr. PRICE of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, it's a privilege to come to the well of the House and address this body. It's Tuesday, about 16 minutes to 1 o'clock, and the House is back in session for another week.

Today, we are going to be taking up some interesting resolutions. H.R. 1002 expresses support for the designation of April 2008 as Public Radio Recognition Month. We are going to take up House Resolution 1029, which congratulates and recognizes Chi-Chi Rodriguez for his continued success on and off the golf course. We are going to rename a post office in Cleveland, Ohio. We are going to rename another post office in Rancho Mirage, California, and we are going to recognize or have a bill that recognizes the historical significance of Juneteenth Independence Day. That's what is on tap for the House of Representatives today, Mr. Speaker.

What aren't we going to do?

Well, we aren't going to do what my constituents in the Sixth District of Georgia want us to do and what Americans all across this Nation want us to do, and that is to deal with the issue of gas prices, of rising gas prices. For another week, we're not going to deal with that because the leadership in this House, the Democrat leadership in this House, will not allow the bills to come to the floor that will increase American energy for Americans.

The average gas price in this Nation today, Mr. Speaker, is $4.08 a gallon. In California, it's $4.60 a gallon. In Connecticut, it's $4.38 a gallon. Now, facts are stubborn things, Mr. Speaker, but there are some laws of economics that are driving all of this.

Part of it, not all of it, is supply and demand, and there are some other facts that are important for all of us to appreciate. The United States expanded its dependence on foreign members of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries—that's OPEC, Mr. Speaker—by a full 7 percent in 2007 alone. That means we increased our dependence on foreign oil. The United States is the only developed Nation in the world that forbids, that forbids, Mr. Speaker, safe energy production in its Outer Continental Shelf. That's deep sea exploration. We are the only developed Nation in the world to do this.

The U.S. Minerals Management Service estimates that America's Outer

Continental Shelf contains nearly 86 billion barrels of oil, 86 billion barrels of oil. How much is that, Mr. Speaker? It's enough oil to replace OPEC imports for 50 years. We can gain that in an environmentally sensitive and sound way without threatening the environment.

On our side of the aisle, for the Republicans, when those votes have come up in the House, 81 percent of us have supported deep sea exploration for American energy for Americans. As for the other side of the aisle, when those votes have come up, 83 percent of House Democrats have opposed this.

So, as my friend Mr. WESTMORELAND has said, we are going to break it down pretty simply. Who wants to bring onshore oil on line for Americans? Who wants to bring deep water oil on line for Americans? Who wants to increase refining capacity in America? American energy for Americans, which Members of this body want to do that?

We've got a petition. We've got the pens at the ready, Mr. Speaker. All it takes is for Members to step up and to find their line and sign, and if they need help finding their line, we'll be glad to help them. It's important. It's important that the American people know that this body, the House of Representatives, appreciates the challenges that they're having right now at the gas pump, with filling up their cars and their vehicles, the difficulty of the truckers across this Nation in delivering the goods and services.

It's imperative that this House of Representatives addresses the issue of conservation, yes, alternative fuel, yes, but increasing supply. When you hear our friends on the other side of the aisle, they will say, well, there's already land that has been leased to the oil companies, and they aren't using it. Well, you're right. They're not using it because there's no oil underneath it. They need to go where the oil is, and the oil is demonstrated in the deep sea exploration that we ought to allow.

So, Mr. Speaker, I'm proud to stand here with my colleague who has brought forward the kind of clear evidence that Members of this House can demonstrate to their constituents back home and to their colleagues here in the House. It's time to increase American supply of American energy for Americans. I call on the leadership, on the Speaker of the House and on the leadership of the majority party—the Democrats—to bring those bills forward. Let us vote.

WELCOMING OLIVET BAPTIST CHURCH

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. COHEN) for 1 minute.

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure today to welcome a group from my hometown, Olivet Baptist Church, hosted by their pastor, Kenneth Whalum, Jr.

Pastor Whalum's father, Pastor Kenneth Whalum, Sr., passed away last year, and this House named the post office on South Third Street, the main post office in Memphis, in his memory.

He was a city councilman, an outstanding community leader, a clergyman of renown, and my friend. He has three sons—two musicians, one of whom is Kirk Whalum, as many of you know from his saxophone playing—and then his son, Pastor Kenneth Whalum, Jr., who serves on the Memphis City School Board and who is a political and ecumenical leader in the City of Memphis as well.

I welcome Olivet Baptist Church to the House of Representatives, and I give praise to them for helping me get here.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until 2 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 12 o'clock and 50 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess until 2 p.m.

□ 1400

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. LARSEN of Washington) at 2 p.m.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Daniel P. Coughlin, offered the following prayer:

O God, who rules all the world from everlasting to everlasting, during the time given them, help this Congress to set a great agenda for this Nation and its future. Grasping a sense of the urgent needs of Your people, may this week provide a sense of priorities. May the desires of the common good overshadow particular concerns and personal preferences.

Inspire each Member to draw upon his or her best instinct and highest ideal so true goodness overcomes every evil and determined work whittles away at every problem, until this great Nation becomes Your living glory for all the world to see.

Show us the way, fill us with life, and let truth reign, both now and forever. Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from Iowa (Mr. BOSWELL) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. BOSWELL led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

> I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

IOWANS UNITED IN TIME OF TROUBLE

(Mr. BOSWELL asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BOSWELL. Mr. Speaker, today I come to share with you that Iowa is in a lot of trouble. We have had extensive floods, the worst I have ever seen, in our part of the country, and it is devastating. Since I saw you last, I have spent hours and hours with the United Way, Red Cross, civic leaders, both city, county, State, emergency operations centers in and out, and so on, and it is really tough.

We have experienced that before in this Nation. In our Pledge we say ''indivisible,'' and we are. This country will stand behind us, we know that, and we look forward to that possibility.

I fly an old airplane, and so I spent Saturday afternoon with one of my staff flying over the various cities, and a lot of them were really tough. When I flew down over Cedar Rapids low level and looked down upon the homes and businesses, at the devastation, the roads out, bridges, et cetera; over Iowa City, the university, with a lot of flooded buildings and so on; and then over to Ottumwa and back up the Des Moines River, it looked like a big lake. A lot of cropland is ruined, over 17 percent, maybe more, and will not produce this year.

So we need the help of the country. We need the help of this Congress. And I salute the people of Iowa for coming together. They have come together with determination. I asked one lady in the Emergency Operations Center after telling me all these things, I said, ''How are you doing?'' She said, ''You know, we are like family. We have pulled together. We are going to do this, but we are going to have to have some help.''

Mr. Speaker, I would hope today our Speaker and leaders will be ready to help Iowa and other States out there who are in dire need of help at this time.

HONORING WKSK, A PILLAR OF THE ASHE COMMUNITY

(Ms. FOXX asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a pillar of the Ashe County, North Carolina, community, WKSK radio and its owner Jan Caddell. Most of the Fifth District of North Carolina is a rural landscape, and beautiful, mountainous Ashe County is no exception.

As people who live in rural America well know, local radio stations are often the lifeblood of vital community life. WKSK radio is just such a radio station, and recent audience measurement results illustrate just that. According to these results, WKSK has the most loyal local audience in its home county of any station in North Carolina.

Next year, WKSK will celebrate the 50-year mark of service to the people of Ashe County. The fact that nearly 55 percent of listeners in Ashe tune their radios to WKSK, seven times more than the next closest station, is a true testament to the emphasis that WKSK places on serving Ashe County.

WKSK radio is a real community fixture, and I wish the station 50 more years of sterling service to the High Country.

EXPRESSING CONCERN ABOUT THE AIR FORCE TANKER CONTRACT AWARD

(Mr. CARNAHAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. CARNAHAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to express concern about the Air Force's award of a $35 billion contract to a foreign consortium which received over $5 billion in foreign government subsidies.

Of concern is the Air Force defying its own ranking system, which awarded the Boeing Corporation 98 positive discriminators and Northrop Grumman-EADS only 30, yet the tanker contract went to EADS.

Boeing's 767 tanker had a positive survivability rating. EADS' aircraft had a negative rating. Yet the tanker contract went to EADS.

Boeing has manufactured over 2,000 tankers with advanced fly-by-wire booms; EADS, zero. Yet the tanker contract went to EADS.

The lifecycle cost of the EADS tanker is going to be billions and billions more than that of the Boeing aircraft, yet the tanker contract went to EADS.

We continue to face record fuel prices, and it is critical that the Air Force's next refueling tanker meet or exceed their requirements and be as efficient as possible. An independent study has determined that the Boeing KC–767 fleet burns 24 percent less fuel than the EADS A–330s.

For the sake of the American workers, the American economy and our national security, it is time to revisit this contract.

MARKING THE 78TH ANNIVERSARY OF SMOOT-HAWLEY

(Mr. HERGER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HERGER. Mr. Speaker, today marks the 78th anniversary of perhaps the most disastrous economic legislation in our Nation's history, the Smoot-Hawley Tariff Act of 1928. It set off a chain reaction of retaliatory tariffs that caused a sharp decline in global trade. Modern economists largely agree that it deepened the Great Depression.

Unfortunately, today this lesson seems to have gone largely unnoticed, judging by the isolationist course the Democrat House leadership is currently embracing. Expanded trade is critical to job creation and economic growth, it levels the playing field for U.S. workers, and is crucial to keeping our Nation as the world's number one economic trading powerhouse.

Mr. Speaker, the United States must reject the rising tide of economic isolationism and lead the world toward open markets.

WELCOMING PRIME MINISTER SERGEI STANISHEV OF BULGARIA

(Mr. WILSON of South Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, as cochair of the Bulgaria Caucus, I rise today to welcome Prime Minister Sergei Stanishev of the Republic of Bulgaria to Washington.

Since the defeat of communism in Eastern Europe, Bulgaria has emerged as a dynamic democracy. The country became a part of NATO in 2004 and the European Union in 2007. Recently the World Bank classified Bulgaria as one of the top 10 nations to have undertaken important economic reforms to attract business investment. Bulgaria is the only EU nation to be listed in the top 10.

Since my first visit as an election observer in June 1990, I have seen firsthand the talented people of Bulgaria emerge from totalitarianism to be one of the world's most vibrant nations as a free market democracy. Elena Poptodorova, the able ambassador from Bulgaria, has been vital in developing Bulgarian-American friendships.

I especially wish to thank Bulgaria for their continued support in the global war on terrorism. I have visited Bulgarian troops in Afghanistan, and my son Alan served with Bulgarians in Iraq. Our Nation and the world is safer and more prosperous by defeating terrorism overseas.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and we will never forget September the 11th.

THE TUNNEL RAIDERS OF EGYPT

(Mr. POE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. POE. Mr. Speaker, it seems like Indiana Jones is at it again. This time the search is on for the secret underground tunnels of Egypt.

The United States Army in Texas is training Egyptian soldiers to locate and destroy underground tunnels used by criminals to smuggle arms from Egypt into the Gaza Strip. Our troops are out there teaching digging techniques to the Egyptians looking for the lost treasure tunnels of guns and rockets. We are doing this to help protect the borders of Israel and Egypt.

Meanwhile, the U.S.-Mexican border is still porous for underground smuggling. Since 9/11, more than 40 smuggling tunnels from Mexico to the United States have been discovered. Last year, the DEA located a high-tech, sophisticated concrete tunnel 85 feet underground filled with two tons of drugs. Law enforcement expects there to be more tunnels found.

Rather than just protecting the borders of other nations by training Egyptian tunnel raiders, maybe we ought to send the military to protect our own southern border from the underground secret tunnel invasion of guns, drugs and people coming into the United States without permission.

And that's just the way it is.

THE PRESIDENT SHOULD REVOKE BAN ON EXPLORATION OF THE OUTER CONTINENTAL SHELF

(Mr. TIM MURPHY of Pennsylvania asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. TIM MURPHY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, oil prices climb to record highs; gasoline over $4; diesel prices near $5; family budgets stretched to the limits. And how do we handle this? We beg OPEC to produce more oil. The Saudis say they will give us 200,000 more barrels a day in the world market, but the daily world demand is 84 million barrels.

Hey, how about putting the U.S. in charge of our own economy? What about American energy? Sixty-four percent of Americans support American-made energy.

Today I will introduce a resolution calling upon the President to revoke a ban President Clinton extended in 1998 that prohibits exploration of our Outer Continental Shelf. The U.S. has the technology and regulatory framework to ensure that these resources are developed in an environmentally sound manner. The President has the power to remove this ban today, if he chooses.

I invite all my colleagues to cosponsor my resolution, and send a clear signal to the President and to the American people that we will help.

COMPREHENSIVE ENERGY POLICY NEEDED

(Mr. BISHOP of Utah asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BISHOP. Mr. Speaker, during the Second Continental Congress, John Adams wrote a letter to his wife, Abigail. He said, ''I have always felt dissatisfied, but apparently now I seem to reek of discontent.'' He reeked of discontent because he knew what the right thing to do was, but he couldn't

get the leaders of the Continental Congress to do it, which was to declare independence.

Today, with gasoline at over $4 a gallon, $1.75 higher than when we started this Congress, and still no comprehensive energy plan, I as well as the American people seem of reek of discontent, because we know what the right thing to do is, but we can't get the leaders of Congress to do it, in this case to declare energy independence.

I specifically take umbrage at the fact that last week I had to fly for 4 hours to come back here to vote on telling people how to spend their stimulus paycheck and saying that Congress approved of D-day and ending the Revolutionary War, but still no effort to try and solve our energy problem.

We need a comprehensive bill that will increase our conservation, increase our production and increase our ability to innovate how we deliver energy to the American people, and we need it now. Otherwise, we will continue to reek of this discontent.

□ 1415

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, June 16, 2008.

Hon. NANCY PELOSI,
The Speaker, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MADAM SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of Rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on June 16, 2008, at 10:25 a.m.:

That the Senate agreed to without amendment H. Con. Res. 325.

With best wishes, I am

Sincerely,

LORRAINE C. MILLER,
Clerk of the House.

EXPRESSING CONCERN ABOUT THE AIR FORCE TANKER CONTRACT AWARD

(Ms. DELAURO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, this week the GAO will rule on the Boeing protest of the Air Force acquisition process for the $35 billion award to replace the KC–135 air refueling tankers that went to Northrop and a European consortium team in February.

The Department of Labor's employment report for May showed a loss of 49,000 jobs and an unemployment rate that increased to 5.5 percent—the biggest monthly rise since 1986. Yet this contract will not only continue but accelerate the erosion of our industrial base and skilled workforce. According to an Economic Policy Institute analysis released earlier this month, this decision will ground at least 14,000 U.S. jobs. Roughly half the parts and labor that go into making Airbus tankers will come from overseas.

Producing the Airbus KC–45 tanker would support about 14,350 U.S. jobs per year, while Boeing's proposed tanker would support at least twice as many jobs—including those for high-skilled workers manufacturing engines in Middletown, Connecticut. Our economy has lost nearly 325,000 jobs since the beginning of the year. We should not be sending more jobs overseas, outsourcing our technological base. We should be creating jobs at home, supporting local innovation, and investing in our economy.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on motions to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or on which the vote is objected to under clause 6 of rule XX.

Record votes on postponed questions will be taken after 6:30 p.m. today.

CAPTIVE PRIMATE SAFETY ACT

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2964) to amend the Lacey Act Amendments of 1981 to treat nonhuman primates as prohibited wildlife species under that Act, to make corrections in the provisions relating to captive wildlife offenses under that Act, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 2964

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the ''Captive Primate Safety Act''.

SEC. 2. ADDITION OF NONHUMAN PRIMATES TO DEFINITION OF PROHIBITED WILDLIFE SPECIES.

Section 2(g) of the Lacey Act Amendments of 1981 (16 U.S.C. 3371(g)) is amended by inserting before the period at the end ''or any nonhuman primate''.

SEC. 3. CAPTIVE WILDLIFE AMENDMENTS.

(a) PROHIBITED ACTS.—Section 3 of the Lacey Act Amendments of 1981 (16 U.S.C. 3372) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) in paragraph (2)—

(i) in subparagraph (A), by inserting ''or'' after the semicolon;

(ii) in subparagraph (B)(iii), by striking ''; or'' and inserting a semicolon; and

(iii) by striking subparagraph (C); and

(B) in paragraph (4), by inserting ''or subsection (e)'' before the period; and

(2) in subsection (e)—

(A) by redesignating paragraphs (2), (3), (4), and (5) as paragraphs (3), (4), (5), and (6) respectively;

(B) by striking ''(e)'' and all that follows through ''Subsection (a)(2)(C) does not apply'' in paragraph (1) and inserting the following:

''(e) CAPTIVE WILDLIFE OFFENSE.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—It is unlawful for any person to import, export, transport, sell, receive, acquire, or purchase in interstate or foreign commerce any live animal of any prohibited wildlife species.

''(2) LIMITATION ON APPLICATION.—This subsection—

''(A) does not apply to a person transporting a nonhuman primate to or from a veterinarian who is licensed to practice veterinary medicine within the United States, solely for the purpose of providing veterinary care to the nonhuman primate, if—

''(i) the person transporting the nonhuman primate carries written documentation issued by the veterinarian, including the appointment date and location;

''(ii) the nonhuman primate is transported in a secure enclosure appropriate for that species of primate;

''(iii) the nonhuman primate has no contact with any other animals or members of the public, other than the veterinarian and other authorized medical personnel providing veterinary care; and

''(iv) such transportation and provision of veterinary care is in accordance with all otherwise applicable State and local laws, regulations, permits, and health certificates;

''(B) does not apply to a person transporting a nonhuman primate to a legally designated caregiver for the nonhuman primate as a result of the death of the preceding owner of the nonhuman primate, if—

''(i) the person transporting the nonhuman primate is carrying legal documentation to support the need for transporting the nonhuman primate to the legally designated caregiver;

''(ii) the nonhuman primate is transported in a secure enclosure appropriate for the species;

''(iii) the nonhuman primate has no contact with any other animals or members of the public while being transported to the legally designated caregiver; and

''(iv) all applicable State and local restrictions on such transport, and all applicable State and local requirements for permits or health certificates, are complied with; and

''(C) does not apply'';

(C) in paragraph (2) (as redesignated by subparagraph (A))—

(i) by striking ''a'' before ''prohibited'' and inserting ''any'';

(ii) by striking ''(3)'' and inserting ''(4)''; and

(iii) by striking ''(2)'' and inserting ''(3)'';

(D) in paragraph (3) (as redesignated by subparagraph (A))—

(i) in subparagraph (C)—

(I) in clauses (ii) and (iii), by striking ''animals listed in section 2(g)'' each place it appears and inserting ''prohibited wildlife species''; and

(II) in clause (iv), by striking ''animals'' and inserting ''prohibited wildlife species''; and

(ii) in subparagraph (D), by striking ''animal'' each place it appears and inserting ''prohibited wildlife species'';

(E) in paragraph (4) (as redesignated by subparagraph (A)), by striking ''(2)'' and inserting ''(3)'';

(F) in paragraph (6) (as redesignated by subparagraph (A)), by striking ''subsection (a)(2)(C)'' and inserting ''this subsection''; and

(G) by inserting after paragraph (6) (as redesignated by subparagraph (A)) the following:

''(7) APPLICATION.—This subsection shall apply beginning on the effective date of regulations promulgated under this subsection.''.

(b) CIVIL PENALTIES.—Section 4(a) of the Lacey Act Amendments of 1981 (16 U.S.C. 3373(a)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1), by inserting ''(e),'' after ''subsections (b), (d),'' ; and

(2) in paragraph (1), by inserting '', (e),'' after ''subsection (d)''.

(c) CRIMINAL PENALTIES.—Section 4(d) of the Lacey Act Amendments of 1981 (16 U.S.C. 3373(d)) is amended—

(1) in paragraphs (1)(A) and (1)(B) and in the first sentence of paragraph (2), by inserting ''(e),'' after ''subsections (b), (d),'' each place it appears; and

(2) in paragraph (3), by inserting '', (e),'' after ''subsection (d)''.

SEC. 4. APPLICABILITY PROVISION AMENDMENT.

Section 3 of the Captive Wildlife Safety Act (117 Stat. 2871; Public Law 108–191) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a), by striking ''(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 3'' and inserting ''Section 3''; and

(2) by striking subsection (b).

SEC. 5. REGULATIONS.

Section 7(a) of the Lacey Act Amendments of 1981 (16 U.S.C. 3376(a)) is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

''(3) The Secretary shall, in consultation with other relevant Federal and State agencies, issue regulations to implement section 3(e).''.

SEC. 6. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS FOR ADDITIONAL LAW ENFORCEMENT PERSONNEL.

In addition to such other amounts as are authorized to carry out the Lacey Act Amendments of 1981 (16 U.S.C. 3371 et seq.), there is authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary of the Interior $5,000,000 for fiscal year 2009 to hire additional law enforcement personnel of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service to enforce that Act.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Guam (Ms. BORDALLO) and the gentleman from Utah (Mr. BISHOP) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Guam.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the bill under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Guam?

There was no objection.

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

H.R. 2964, the Captive Primate Safety Act, was introduced by our colleague from Texas, Congresswoman EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON. This bill amends the Lacey Act Amendments of 1981 to prohibit the import, export, transportation, sale, receipt, acquisition, or purchase in interstate or foreign commerce of nonhuman primates.

Although the importation of nonhuman primates into the United States for the pet trade has been banned by Federal regulation since 1975 due to health concerns, these animals are readily available for purchase on the Internet and from exotic animal dealers. While some States already prohibit the possession of these animals as pets, there remains an active trade in these animals.

Nonhuman primates may pose serious risks to public health and safety. They can transmit diseases and inflict serious physical harm. In addition, most people cannot provide the special care, housing, diet and enrichment that these animals require. Interstate transport increases these risks to both humans and primates. Conversely, decreasing commerce in nonhuman primates, as H.R. 2964 would do, limits interactions and diminishes risks.

Mr. Speaker, I understand that late last week there were some concerns raised about the effect of the bill on nonhuman primates that serve as assistance animals for individuals with spinal cord injuries. We have committed to work to carefully address that very narrow issue in a way that does not create unintended loopholes in the prohibitions established by the bill.

With that, Mr. Speaker, I ask Members on both sides to support passage of this noncontroversial bill.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Speaker, I wish to yield myself such time as I may consume and I would like to raise a few issues that give me pause.

As a matter of full disclosure, neither I nor any member of my family own a pet capuchin, a howler or a spider monkey. However, I admit that I'm not particularly fond of those annoying rally monkeys that seem to show up during the American League baseball playoffs.

This legislation would amend the Lacey Act to make it a Federal crime to import, export, transport, sell, receive, acquire or purchase a nonhuman primate pet in either interstate or foreign commerce. This measure contains the distressing trend of federalizing yet another issue that clearly falls under the jurisdiction of State fish and wildlife agencies. In fact, more than 40 States already either prohibit the ownership of monkeys or require a license or permit to own them.

It also begs the question of why is there an overriding need for this legislation? According to the proponents, nonhuman primates attack people and spread deadly diseases. Yet there have only been 132 documented incidents over a 10-year period where nonhuman primates have injured a human primate. Of these incidents, 80 involved primate pets, not covered by this bill, or less than eight attacks per year. By contrast, man's best friend sends more than 100,000 people to the hospital each year, not to mention the numerous romps in the yard ruined by the discovery of a substance left by the neighbor's schizophrenic canine friend.

Furthermore, we heard testimony before our committee that there is no documentation of pet primates being a threat to public safety. In fact, there have been no instances where a captive nonhuman primate pet has caused a disease transmission or human death. While I am not a betting man, the chances of being bitten by a pet nonhuman primate in this country appears to be about one in 38 million.

Since this is hardly a public safety issue, I wish to address this body—or direct this body if there are any Members of the body actually here—to the cost of this legislation. According to the Congressional Budget Office, it will cost $4 million a year for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, who opposed this bill, to hire additional staff to conduct inspections and investigations to enforce this act. On a per incident basis, this represents about a half million dollars in U.S. public taxpayer money per bite. At that rate, I hope I can apply for the job.

At a time when our national debt is approaching a staggering $9 trillion, certainly it is legitimate to ask whether this is a wise use of taxpayer money, especially in light of the fact that the States have been and are quite capable of regulating the nonhuman primate pet trade now and in the future. Maybe we should actually spend more of our time with the human primates' energy issues instead of the nonhuman primate pet trade nonissue.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I have no additional requests for time and would inquire of the minority whether they have any additional speakers.

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. I do have a few other speakers.

Ms. BORDALLO. In that case, then, Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. I will yield as much time as the lady wishes to consume to the gentlelady from the State of North Carolina.

Ms. FOXX. I want to thank my colleague from Utah for yielding.

I agree with my colleague from Utah that we ought to be dealing with things that are important to the American people, and it seems to me that this bill is not something that is high on the agenda of most Americans. What is high on the agenda of most Americans is the cost of gas and oil in this country. The Democratic leadership simply is refusing to deal with it and deal with it in a realistic manner.

I think it's very important that we point out the history of our having dealt with these issues over the years and what Republicans have tried to do. Let me talk about the issues of supply and demand. We have tried and tried to increase the supply of fuel oil and gasoline in this country for many years. Let me tell you how we have voted on this issue:

On ANWR exploration, House Republicans, 91 percent of us, have supported that. Eighty-six percent of House Democrats have opposed it. Consistently Democrats have voted against creating more supply by drilling in ANWR, a place about the size of a postage stamp on a football field as the size of ANWR is to the State of Alaska.

How about coal-to-liquid. There are many ways that we can help our energy situation in this country. The Democrats say we can't drill our way out of it. Well, there are lots of ways that we could get the resources we need. We have supported the issue of turning coal into liquid fuel for a long, long time. Ninety-seven percent of Republicans have supported it. Seventy-eight percent of Democrats have opposed it.

How about exploring oil shale. Ninety percent of Republicans have supported that issue. Eighty-six percent of

Democrats have opposed it. It is no wonder that we are having problems with supply of energy resources in this country when we have had almost all Democrats opposing it over the years.

How about drilling on the Outer Continental Shelf. Eighty-one percent of House Republicans have supported it. Eighty-three percent of House Democrats have opposed it.

How about increasing refinery capacity in this country, which is an issue in terms of providing the supply we need. Ninety-seven percent of House Republicans have supported increasing refinery capacity. Ninety-six percent of House Democrats have opposed it.

Just so people know, we have validated these statistics by going back and counting the actual votes on these issues over the years.

So here is the summary: Ninety-one percent on average of House Republicans have historically voted to increase the production of American-made oil and gas. We do have the capability in this country to become energy independent. But 86 percent of House Democrats have historically voted against increasing the production of American-made oil and gas. They obviously want us to remain dependent on foreign oil. It is something I simply cannot understand. They seem to want the American people to suffer. They and their radical environmentalist friends don't want us to do anything to increase the supply of oil and gas. Republicans do want to increase the supply of oil and gas, and the facts prove it out.

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Georgia.

Mr. WESTMORELAND. I thank my friend for yielding.

I found some of the facts today pretty interesting about this monkey bill, this monkey business, Mr. Speaker. I've only been in Congress 4 years, I was in the State legislature 12 years, and I've never had a call about a monkey bite or monkey bites being rampant in my district. I'm sure that it's important. As my friend from Utah stated, don't be real alarmed that your Congress has brought this front and center, the first bill on the floor today in the House of Representatives. You can take comfort, because only one in 38 million, that's your chances of getting bit by a monkey today.

□ 1430

Now your chances are pretty good if you are driving a gasoline-powered car, when you pull into the service station, you are going to pay about $4.08 for gas. Now that's for sure. We need to be concentrating on that pain that you're feeling, not the pain of a monkey bite, but the pain at the gas pump that you're feeling.

And, you know, we're going to spend, as my friend from Utah said, a half million dollars per monkey bite in this country. Those are expensive monkey bites. Not only are they rare, and that may be the reason they're so expensive is they are so rare; but we could be spending that money towards drilling, towards exploring our own natural resources.

That's the reason I came up with a petition. I heard about all of these petitions on the Internet about where American citizens could go and sign a petition to let Congress know how they felt about high energy prices. And I thought, you know, why don't you come up with a petition that the Members of Congress can sign to let the people of America know how their Representative feels about the commonsense issue of providing our own resources.

So we came up with the American Energy Solutions for Lower Gas Prices, bring onshore oil online, bring deep water oil online, and bring new refineries online. And just to make it special, I made every Member of Congress a separate line on the petition. And what the petition says is: I will vote to increase U.S. oil production to lower gas prices for Americans. And there are two pens on it. So I am going to invite everyone to sign it.

Mr. Speaker, today when we vote on the monkey bite bill, there will probably be a little over 400 Members, probably around 410 or 412, that will vote on the monkey bite, and I would hope that we would have that many signatures on this petition. There are 435 slots over here for people who have the ability and under the Constitution to vote on this floor, have an opportunity to sign that petition to let their constituents know that they are for commonsense energy practices.

You know, the keyword today, Mr. Speaker, in all of the campaigns you hear about is change. I think Americans do want change. I think our voters do want change. I don't know if it is the radical, rock-your-world, turn-everything-upside-down change that some of the candidates are talking about, but I think it is this kind of change, I think it is a change for honesty. I think the American people want to know where their Member or their elected official stands on the issues. And we make them so complicated that every Member of this body can go home and give a good reason why they voted for or against something. This simplifies it so the American people can see the honesty in their Member that says yes, I will vote to increase U.S. oil production to lower gas prices for Americans. That's simple.

The other thing they want is common sense. They want common sense. Common sense, Mr. Speaker, is to use our own natural resources rather than going into other countries in the world hat in hand begging for their natural resources. That's not common sense. It is not common sense to be in this body passing a law today about monkey bites when you have a 1 in 38 million chance of getting bit. Or that it is going to cost a half a million dollars per bite, that's not the kind of common sense, that's not the kind of change that American people are looking at.

What they're looking at is the commonsense change of us getting out of fetal position in this body, Mr. Speaker, and doing something to lower the price, to lower the pain for them at the gas pump, not reduce the pain from monkey bites.

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Yes, Mr. Speaker, people indeed are being bit by monkeys, and they are also being bit at the gas pumps. I would just like to note a few statistics regarding monkey risks to the public.

In June of 2008 in New York, a 22-month-old girl playing in her backyard put her fingers through a fence into a neighbor's yard and was bitten by their pet monkey. Doctors spent 12 hours trying to reattach her finger.

In March 2008 in Indiana, a child visiting a home was bitten by a pet capuchin monkey.

In February 2008 in Arizona, a 3-year-old boy was bitten by a pet lemur his family just got 2 weeks before.

In February 2008 in Washington, a pet monkey escaped from a home and bit three people.

In December 2007 in North Carolina, a clerk at a convenience store was bitten by a customer's pet monkey.

In September 2007 in Missouri, two children were bitten by a pet monkey at a park. The woman who owned the monkey ran off with the animal.

In August 2007 in Wisconsin, a woman was bitten by a pet monkey a man had on a leash.

In April 2007 in Mississippi, a Federal agent approached a home and was attacked by a monkey.

Mr. Speaker, from January 2007 right here on my list until March 2005, there are nine other listed cases. So yes, people are being bitten by monkeys.

And this is how they are getting bitten at the pumps. Currently oil and gas companies hold leases on nearly 68 million acres of Federal land both on shore and under OCS waters that they are not, I say that they are not developing. That is roughly the size of the State of Colorado. That 68 million acres of leased but stockpiled, inactive Federal oil and gas lands could produce an additional 4.8 million barrels of oil and 44.7 billion cubic feet of natural gas every day. I would point out that would nearly double total U.S. oil production and increase natural gas production by 75 percent.

Let me reiterate that if drilling took place on the 68 million acres of Federal lands currently under lease to oil and gas companies, an area the size of Colorado, we would nearly double total domestic oil production. It would also cut U.S. oil imports by one-third and it would be more than six times the estimated peak production from the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. So that is where the problem lies, the industry is simply not using what it already has.

And one must wonder, is this done on purpose? Is it being done to keep supply off the market in order to keep record-level prices and world-record profits?

Let me remind my colleagues that the number of Federal onshore drilling permits has exploded in recent years. Between 1999 and 2007, the Interior Department increased the number of those permits it issued by 361 percent. I would also note that of all the oil and gas believed to exist on the Outer Continental Shelf, 82 percent of the natural gas and 79 percent of the oil is located in areas that are currently open to leasing.

So the gentleman is correct, we have a problem here; but the solution is to prompt the holders of these valuable energy leases to develop them. The chairman of the Natural Resources Committee, Mr. NICK RAHALL, has put forth a solution, drill it or lose it.

The Responsible Federal Oil and Gas Lease Act of 2008 would compel oil and gas companies to either produce or give up Federal onshore and OCS leases that they are stockpiling by barring the companies from obtaining any more leases unless they can demonstrate that they are producing oil and gas or are diligently developing the leases they already hold during the initial term of the leases.

Companies could avoid this new lease prohibition by relinquishing their nonproducing leases, creating an opportunity for another company to explore for and perhaps produce oil or gas from them. Under the bill, the terms of leases which are in production or which can demonstrate diligent development are extended. Companies which lease Federal coal resources are by law required to diligently develop these leases. This requirement has discouraged the rampant speculation that once existed in the Federal coal leasing program, the same type of speculation that now appears to be plaguing the Federal oil and gas leasing program.

So I say, let's set the Big Oil monkey off the people's backs; drill it or lose it.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Speaker, I wish to yield additional time to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. WESTMORELAND).

Mr. WESTMORELAND. I thank my friend from Utah.

I want to just address a couple of things that have been brought up; use it or lose it, drill it or lose it. That is already the law. That's already the law.

We have 68 million acres out of 2.5 billion. Now we talked about common sense, at least I talked about common sense, about what we are doing here. And, I'm sorry, I didn't have time to write down all of the dog bites. I noticed we were quoting all of the monkey bites. But what I will tell you as far as common sense goes, if you were an exploration company, if you were an oil company, would you drill where you knew that there was no oil? I would say no. But evidently the majority, the Democrats, believe that because you have 68 million acres of land, that you need to drill on it. Although 54 percent, 54 percent of the holes that were put in the ground for exploration between 2002 and 2007 were dry. So would you continue drilling on that 68 million acres out of 2.5 billion acres? I don't think so. I think that the American people with common sense would say, you know what, if there isn't oil there, why would you drill?

Do you go to the hardware store to buy groceries? I don't think the average American goes down to the hardware store looking for Quaker oats. He goes to a grocery store.

And so if you are going to be drilling for oil, the commonsense thing is that you would want to drill where oil is at.

We know how many barrels are under ANWR. We know how many barrels of shale, a trillion barrels of shale in the western United States, enough oil in ANWR to last us 50 years at the rate of what Saudi Arabia produces. So there is some common sense, and there is truth that there is 68 million acres leased. But the truth of it is half of the exploratory holes have been dry, so why would you want to continue to drill.

We need to open up new oil reserves and we need to make this to where companies want to go and explore for oil. We need to use our common sense and say we are not going to be dependent any longer on foreign oil in foreign places and foreign resources. Let's use our own resources. We have the technology to do it. We can do it in an environmentally safe way.

But it is time that the majority of this country is quit being held hostage at the gas pump for gas over $4 a gallon by a small, radical environmental group that is controlling the majority party in this Congress.

Mr. Speaker, I hope that we will bring some energy legislation to this floor rather than the monkey bite bill.

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, the gentleman stated that if you were an oil company, would you drill where there is no oil; of course not. And that is not the situation. The oil companies bid on these Federal leases. They pay for them because they believe there is oil on this acreage. The oil companies are paying rental fees on these leases. Why, because they believe they hold oil. Drill it or lose it.

I do have another comment on the gentleman's comments that he made earlier.

Mr. Speaker, monkeys do pose a disease risk. Some monkeys used as pets often carry the deadly Herpes B virus, and the CDC concludes that makaks are unsuitable as pets because of this health risk.

And the gentleman mentioned dog bites. Of course there are more dog bites, Mr. Speaker, there are 75 million dogs in the United States, but only 10,000 to 15,000 monkeys.

□ 1445

But every monkey bite causes unnecessary disease risk to those who are bitten.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. I think I am ready to finish out here.

One of the problems that we have had over the past is an effort, as we try to look at energy independence, is to find some kind of scapegoat, someone whom to blame, usually a corporation. The reality is that is not what we should be doing. What we should be doing is finding commonsense solutions to the problem.

Oil companies already are putting billions of dollars into research, but for every one of those holes that are drilled, there is always a delaying concept that sometimes will last between 7 and 10 years for environmental engineering studies, permitting, and then even comes the litigation and the regulation on top of that.

The bottom line is still, on our offshore coast, 85 percent and onshore 67 percent of all our land is permanently locked away where there is no way of getting to the resource assets that are there. That's the reality of what's taking place.

May I also address this bill specifically as well. The gentlelady from Guam has given seven examples of situations and problems with nonhuman primates, monkey bites. Unfortunately, every situation that was given was already covered in existing law, and the bill before us would in no way cover any of those situations.

This deals simply with transportation. It doesn't deal with the situations that were brought up. Once again, this bill does not fit the examples that have been brought up as to why the bill should be there.

The bottom line is still the Department of the Interior is opposing this bill because they say it is new enforcement mandates. They're enforcement mandates in areas they have not been historically responsible because their area is in the area of wilderness and wildlife conservation. This does not meet it.

And indeed, the Interior Department once again said that this bill is coverage that is duplicative of existing laws. And that's one of the reasons why we have a problem with this particular bill, in an area to try to expand what we're doing in an area which ought not be expanded because local governments and States have a better way and can easily, easily solve this particular problem without the extra expense to the national taxpayer.

With that, Mr. Speaker, I will yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I find it interesting that a bill that was approved by the Natural Resources Committee by unanimous consent is suddenly objectionable to the minority. But I urge Members to support it.

Mr. SHAYS. Mr. Speaker, as co-chair of the Congressional Friends of Animals Caucus, I

rise in support of H.R. 2964, the Captive Primate Safety Act, which prohibits the sale of nonhuman primates such as chimpanzees, monkeys, and lemurs.

I am concerned about both the public health and animal welfare implications of nonhuman primate ownership, which this legislation addresses. For example, nonhuman primates can spread disease and inflict serious injury on their owners. They require a special diet and large habitats, two things most pet owners are unable to provide, particularly as these animals grow in size and strength.

Federal health regulations currently prohibit importing primates into the U.S. as pets, and many States prohibit pet ownership of primates as well. In spite of this, an estimated 15,000 primates are owned by private individuals, and are available for purchase around the country.

The bottom line is, the average pet owner does not have the ability to properly care for these animals and, because of this, both they and their pets are at risk.

It is appropriate we protect nonhuman primates, man's closest animal relative, by prohibiting pet ownership of this kind. I strongly support adoption of H.R. 2964.

Ms. BORDALLO. I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Guam (Ms. BORDALLO) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2964, as amended.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. WESTMORELAND. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

MONTANA CEMETERY ACT OF 2008

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3702) to direct the Secretary of Agriculture to convey certain land in the Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forest, Montana, to Jefferson County, Montana, for use as a cemetery, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 3702

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the ''Montana Cemetery Act of 2008''.

SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) COUNTY.—The term ''County'' means Jefferson County, Montana.

(2) MAP.—The term ''map'' means the map that is—

(A) entitled ''Elkhorn Cemetery'';

(B) dated May 9, 2005; and

(C) on file in the office of the Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forest Supervisor.

(3) SECRETARY.—The term ''Secretary'' means the Secretary of Agriculture.

SEC. 3. CONVEYANCE TO JEFFERSON COUNTY, MONTANA.

(a) CONVEYANCE.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act and subject to valid existing rights, the Secretary (acting through the Regional Forester, Northern Region, Missoula, Montana) shall convey by quitclaim deed to the County for no consideration, all right, title, and interest of the United States, except as provided in subsection (e), in and to the parcel of land described in subsection (b).

(b) DESCRIPTION OF LAND.—The parcel of land referred to in subsection (a) is the parcel of approximately 9.67 acres of National Forest System land (including any improvements to the land) in the County that is known as the ''Elkhorn Cemetery'', as generally depicted on the map.

(c) USE OF LAND.—As a condition of the conveyance under subsection (a), the County shall—

(1) use the land described in subsection (b) as a County cemetery; and

(2) agree to manage the cemetery with due consideration and protection for the historic and cultural values of the cemetery, under such terms and conditions as are agreed to by the Secretary and the County.

(d) EASEMENT.—In conveying the land to the County under subsection (a), the Secretary, in accordance with applicable law, shall grant to the County an easement across certain National Forest System land, as generally depicted on the map, to provide access to the land conveyed under that subsection.

(e) REVERSION.—In the quitclaim deed to the County, the Secretary shall provide that the land conveyed to the County under subsection (a) shall revert to the Secretary, at the election of the Secretary, if the land is—

(1) used for a purpose other than the purposes described in subsection (c)(1); or

(2) managed by the County in a manner that is inconsistent with subsection (c)(2).

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Guam (Ms. BORDALLO) and the gentleman from Utah (Mr. BISHOP) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Guam.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the bill under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Guam?

There was no objection.

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

H.R. 3702 requires the Secretary of Agriculture to convey approximately 9.67 acres of land in the Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forest, Montana, to Jefferson County, MT for use as a cemetery. The parcel to be conveyed to Jefferson County is currently being used for these same purposes, and is known as ''Elkhorn Cemetery.'' The conveyance will provide land to accommodate all known grave sites and any additional sites that may be outside of the concentration of known graves.

The bill also provides for the continued protection of the historic and cultural values associated with the property.

Mr. Speaker, we have no objections, and it is time to put this bill to rest.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

The gentlelady from Guam has adequately explained this bill. I'd like to commend congressman DENNY REHBERG and his staff for their diligence in this particular bill; grateful for all for allowing the conveyance of this 10 acres of excess Forest Service land to the community of Jefferson County, MT to be used as their cemetery.

I join the gentlelady from Guam in saying that I am glad that we can finally put this issue to rest in peace.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I again urge Members to support the bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Guam (Ms. BORDALLO) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3702, as amended.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY

Mr. WESTMORELAND. Parliamentary inquiry, Mr. Speaker.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman will state his inquiry.

Mr. WESTMORELAND. How did you count? You said a sufficient number having arisen. I only see four Members in here, and I only saw one rise.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair's count is not subject to appeal.

Mr. WESTMORELAND. Okay. Well, all right. But further parliamentary inquiry. If there's four of us in here, and one stands up, is that, in the Chair's opinion, enough to call for a vote?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair stated that a sufficient number had arisen and his count is not subject to appeal.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

A message in writing from the President of the United States was communicated to the House by Ms. Wanda Evans, one of his secretaries.

SUPPORTING THE GOALS AND IDEALS OF AMERICAN EAGLE DAY

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the

resolution (H. Res. 1247) supporting the goals and ideals of ''American Eagle Day'', and celebrating the recovery and restoration of the American bald eagle, the national symbol of the United States, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 1247

Whereas the bald eagle was designated as the national emblem of the United States on June 20, 1782, by our country's Founding Fathers at the Second Continental Congress;

Whereas the bald eagle is the central image used in the Great Seal of the United States and the seals of the President and Vice President;

Whereas the image of the bald eagle is displayed in the official seal of many branches and departments of the Federal Government, including—

(1) Congress;
(2) the Supreme Court;
(3) the Department of Defense;
(4) the Department of the Treasury;
(5) the Department of Justice;
(6) the Department of State;
(7) the Department of Commerce;
(8) the Department of Homeland Security;
(9) the Department of Veterans Affairs;
(10) the Department of Labor;
(11) the Department of Health and Human Services;
(12) the Department of Energy;
(13) the Department of Housing and Urban Development;
(14) the Central Intelligence Agency; and
(15) the United States Postal Service;

Whereas the bald eagle is an inspiring symbol of the American spirit of freedom and democracy;

Whereas the image, meaning, and symbolism of the bald eagle have played a significant role in American art, music, history, literature, architecture, and culture since the founding of our Nation;

Whereas the bald eagle is featured prominently on United States stamps, currency, and coinage;

Whereas the habitat of bald eagles exists only in North America;

Whereas by 1963, the number of nesting pairs of bald eagles in the lower 48 States had dropped to about 417;

Whereas the bald eagle was first listed as an endangered species in 1967 under the Endangered Species Preservation Act, the Federal law that preceded the Endangered Species Act of 1973;

Whereas caring and concerned citizens of the United States in the private and public sectors banded together to save, and help ensure the protection of, bald eagles;

Whereas in 1995, as a result of the efforts of those caring and concerned citizens, bald eagles were removed from the endangered species list and upgraded to the less imperiled threatened species status under the Endangered Species Act of 1973;

Whereas by 2006, the number of bald eagles in the lower 48 States had increased to approximately 7,000 to 8,000 nesting pairs;

Whereas the Secretary of the Interior removed the bald eagle from the Federal list of threatened species effective August 8, 2007;

Whereas the bald eagle remains subject to the Migratory Bird Treaty Act and on May 28, 2008, the Secretary of the Interior issued regulations providing continued protection under the Act popularly known as the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act;

Whereas bald eagles would have been permanently extinct if not for vigilant conservation efforts of concerned citizens and strict protection laws;

Whereas the dramatic recovery of the bald eagle population is an endangered species success story and an inspirational example for other wildlife and natural resource conservation efforts around the world;

Whereas the initial recovery of the bald eagle population was accomplished by the concerted efforts of numerous government agencies, corporations, organizations, and individuals; and

Whereas the sustained recovery of the bald eagle populations will require the continuation of recovery, management, education, and public awareness programs, to ensure that the populations and habitat of bald eagles will remain healthy and secure for future generations: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) supports the goals and ideals of ''American Eagle Day''; and

(2) encourages—

(A) educational entities, organizations, businesses, conservation groups, and government agencies with a shared interest in conserving endangered species to collaborate on education information for use in schools; and

(B) the people of the United States to observe American Eagle Day with appropriate ceremonies and other activities.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Guam (Ms. BORDALLO) and the gentleman from Utah (Mr. BISHOP) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Guam.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the resolution under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Guam?

There was no objection.

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

House Resolution 1247, as amended, celebrates the recovery of the American bald eagle, the symbol of our country displayed on American currency and government agency seals, including the seal of the United States Congress. The bald eagle's recovery is a huge success story for the Endangered Species Act and the conservation laws which preceded it.

In 1963, there were just 487 pairs of bald eagles in the lower 48 States. Today, Mr. Speaker, according to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, there are an estimated 9,789 breeding pairs.

Effective August 8, 2007, the bald eagle was removed from the list of threatened species under the Endangered Species Act, demonstrating that it had truly recovered. At the same time, the Migratory Bird Treaty Act and the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act continue to provide important protections for this magnificent bird.

I commend our colleague, Congressman DAVID DAVIS from Tennessee, for introducing this resolution encouraging organizations and government agencies working on the conservation of endangered species to collaborate on educational information for use in our schools.

The resolution further encourages the American people to observe American Eagle Day with appropriate ceremonies.

This resolution merits our support.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Speaker, I wish to yield, before I make my statement, to the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. DAVID DAVIS), the sponsor of this particular resolution, as much time as he may consume.

Mr. DAVID DAVIS of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 1247, a bill I introduced, to support the goals and ideals of June 20 as American Eagle Day. The bill also highlights the successful recovery story of the American bald eagle, the official national emblem of the United States.

The American bald eagle has been a part of American culture for hundreds of years. In 1782, the Second Continental Congress established that the bald eagle was the official emblem of the United States because of its uniqueness to North America. It can be seen on the United States seals in public buildings, schools, and even here in the House Chamber. Over the years, the bald eagle has become a living symbol of the United States spirit, freedoms, and continual pursuit of excellence.

Mr. Speaker, just 45 years ago the United States had only about 400 nesting pairs of the American bald eagle. Through conservation, education and careful planning, today we have seen a significant rise to about 7,000 nesting pairs of the American bald eagle.

Because of the successful recovery exhibited by the American bald eagle, the Department of the Interior has taken the bald eagle off both the endangered and threatened species list. The bald eagle has been a national symbol, and its recovery has been a national success story.

H.R. 1247 will not only honor the now thriving American bald eagle, it will also encourage support of the United States Mint bald eagle commemorative coin program which has been a success for the past few years. Currently, this coin program has raised over $5 million for the American Eagle Foundation, which is located in Pigeon Forge, Tennessee, which is located in my district.

The American Eagle Foundation is a successful not-for-profit organization seeking to protect and fully restore the bald eagle population across North America. They also care for the injured and orphaned birds that have a strong environmental presence through educating thousands of families who visit Pigeon Forge, Tennessee each year.

Furthermore, this bill encourages school systems, businesses, governmental agencies and conservation groups to share information on the American bald eagle that will benefit children and schools across our Nation.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in supporting H.R. 1247, a bill I introduced to support the goals and ideals of June 20 as American

Eagle Day, and celebrate the recovery and restoration of this great bird, the bald eagle, the national symbol of the United States.

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself as much time as I may consume.

I rise also in support of House Resolution 1247 which endorses the goals and ideals of the American Bald Eagle Day, or American Eagle Day.

226 years ago the Second Continental Congress decided to use the image of the American bald eagle on the great American, great seal of the United States. Since that time, the image of this majestic bird has graced our art, our culture, currency, stamps, headbands, and rubber things you put around your wrist. It's been the subject of more than 2,500 published books, making the bald eagle the most extensively studied bird in North America.

While we estimate there were nearly 500,000 bald eagles on this continent, this species was particularly devastated by a reproductive failure. In response, Congress did enact the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act, and the bird was listed on the Endangered Species Act.

□ 1500

From its all-time low of 417 nesting pairs in the continental United States during the Lyndon Johnson administration, extraordinary conservation efforts have saved the bald eagle since that time, and we have witnessed a significant population increase.

Today, there are just under 10,000 breeding pairs in the lower 48, not to mention to 30,000 bald eagles living in Alaska. By any objective stand, the recovery of the bald eagle has been remarkable and sadly, one of the few success stories of the Endangered Species Act, an act that obviously needs significant reform.

The Secretary of Interior has removed the bald eagle from the Federal list of threatened endangered species, and there is no question that the bald eagle will continue to inspire millions of America, but it symbolizes fundamental values of this country: courage, freedom, patriotic spirit, and of energy development.

Under the terms of House Resolution 1247, the people of the United States are encouraged to observe American Eagle Day on June 20, to provide educational information about the bald eagle and our Nation's wildlife resources. And I also urge a ''yes'' vote.

And I want to commend and compliment the author of this resolution, Congressman DAVIS of Tennessee, for his effective leadership in proposing this celebration of American Eagle Day.

I will reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. BORDALLO. In that case, Mr. Speaker, I also reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Speaker, I wish to recognize the gentlelady from North Carolina (Ms. FOXX) for what time she may choose to consume.

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank my colleague from Utah for yielding me time, and I want to congratulate and commend my colleague from Tennessee (Mr. DAVIS) for his work on this resolution.

I want to say that this Capitol Building in which we are working today and which people are visiting every day is one of the most wonderful symbols of our country. The American bald eagle is another symbol of our country,

An intangible symbol of our country has always been our independence and our innovative nature and our freedom. The people all around the world know this country for what we stand for: freedom, and the rights of individuals, and the ability to solve problems, and to create ways to solve those problems.

But right now our way of life is being threatened because of the price of gasoline in this country, and there are many who believe that there are liberals in this country who think that the United States should be taken down a peg or two, that we shouldn't be allowed to be the great Nation that we are; and that one way of doing that is by crippling the United States through the inability to be independent with gas and oil.

But I want to say that that's not the direction that Republicans want to be going. Republicans want us to have the supply that we need for gasoline so that we can bring down the price of gasoline. We know that Democrats have blocked our ability for that. I spoke about that a few minutes ago, and I'm not going to repeat that; but I heard my colleague on the other side of the aisle talking about the argument that there are many, many leases out there that oil companies are not utilizing. That's another tactic of the Democrats: blame the oil companies, blame George Bush, blame everybody else for the problems that we have. Don't take the responsibility yourself. But again, unfortunately, we have the facts to back up what we know is true, which is Democrats have voted against our increasing supplies.

They're also wrong on the issue of leases. They talk about ''use it or lose it.'' They want to introduce a bill that has no basis. They're inventing false arguments again.

''Use it or lose it'' is already the law. For Federal onshore competitive oil and gas leases, an oil company must have a producing well by 10 years. This comes from section 17(e) of the Mineral Leasing Act. Prior to 1992, the lease term was 5 years. The Energy Policy Act of 1992, under a Democratically controlled House, modified it to 10 years. So it's the Democrats who changed the leasing terms.

For Federal offshore oil and gas leases, an oil company must produce energy between 5 to 10 years. It's in the government's discretion. This is from the Outer Continental Shelf Land Act. So Democrats, House Democrats, do not even know what is the existing law now.

What Democrats would have you believe is that a lease is a license to produce oil and gas. It is not. A lease is only the start of a process involving several steps the government requires an oil company to take before it may even receive permission to drill.

Democrats are effectively arguing that we should pull leases away from oil companies before they receive permission to drill. This is like saying we should flunk a first grader on his first day of school because he has not yet taken his final exam.

Most of the drilling on Federal leases has been for natural gas, and natural gas production was up, way up last year, and so was demand. In fact, the industry is producing more gas under these leases, but they cannot keep up with the demand because Democrats and their radical environmental allies will not allow the leasing of new areas and 97 percent of Federal offshore areas are not leased; 94 percent of Federal onshore areas are not leased.

We can solve our energy problems in this country, and we do have them, but they've been brought on by the Democrats who say, We can't drill our way out of this. No, but we can do many things, including drilling. That will be a part of what we can do, and we can be energy independent. But again, many of them don't want us to be.

They don't want us to have a Nation that soars into greatness like the bald eagle that we are honoring in this resolution or continue the great reputation that we have had over the years for being the greatest Nation on earth. They would like to take us down a peg or two. I know Republicans and most Americans don't agree with them.

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I would say to the gentlelady that we are here to salute the American eagle. I would say that the American eagle would not be proud that 68 million acres of Federal energy lands are being held hostage by big oil companies.

To respond to the points just made, number one, current law allows leaseholders 10 years to develop oil or gas. The Responsible Federal Oil and Gas Lease Act cuts that down to 5 years. While existing leases can be canceled if leaseholders fail to comply with lease provisions, laws, or regulations, such as public safety and environmental requirements, there is no law or regulation that requires diligent development of Federal oil and gas leases.

The next point. As long as leaseholders pay the required annual rental fee, the government cannot compel diligent development of the lease lands.

Next. The Responsible Federal Oil and Gas Lease Act requires oil and gas operators to diligently develop Federal oil and gas leases as is currently required of coal leaseholders. This requirement was enacted in the 1970s to

prevent coal operators from using Federal resources for speculation that would drive up prices.

And finally, no such requirement is placed on oil and gas operators. And H.R. 6251 corrects that situation.

And again, I would like to repeat, and I would say to the previous speaker, that we are here this afternoon to salute the American eagle. And I would say that the American eagle would not be proud that 68 million acres of Federal energy lands are being held hostage by big oil.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Speaker, I yield as much time as he may wish to consume to the gentleman from California (Mr. ISSA).

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, only on this floor would we debate how the American eagle would feel. I'm astonished that the Democrats have the hubris to talk in terms of how the American eagle would feel. As a matter of fact, the American eagle and countless thousands of birds and other wildlife have been used as an excuse for a generation for 68 million acres—yes, they are leased, but a lease is in fact not a right to drill. Just because you have a lease doesn't waive any environmental consideration. So beyond the requirement to find out if in fact there is oil on a lease site, you have to go through a myriad of hoops before you can begin drilling.

It's one of the reasons that, in fact, offshore drilling has become so popular. Not only are there vast resources out there, but in fact, the fish simply swim away; and in deep water, particularly over 400 meters, it is unlikely to find an environmentalist at the bottom claiming that there is some new form of life that is not only new but highly in danger.

So with all fairness to the Nation's bird, I would say that what we need to do is stop talking about 68 million acres that are ''available for production'' when in fact, the vast majority of that has little or no usable oil.

And I just want to give you a fairly short statement, Mr. Speaker. It is not a question of whether or not you have acreage, it's a question of whether the acreage is valid acreage for oil. I will give you the easiest example. West Virginia. It's a wonderful State. Beautiful State. They take a tremendous amount of coal out of there. They also take a quite a bit of oil. As a matter of fact, with 3,400 oil wells, they take a total of 5,000 barrels a day out of there. To the contrary, or to the other example, Alaska, with only 1,700, half as many wells, take 700,000 barrels a day.

So it's not, Mr. Speaker, whether or not you have millions of acres, it's do you have the acreage that you are able to drill in, do you have the acreage that is, in fact, yielding oil. And I can assure you at $134 a barrel, if anyone was holding acreage that yielded barrels that in fact could deliver that kind of revenue, it would be drilled today.

The truth is the vast majority of the acreage is either off limits for environmental reasons or, in fact, would be like West Virginia: 3,400 wells, 5,000 barrels a day.

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Vermont (Mr. WELCH).

Mr. WELCH of Vermont. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlelady from Guam.

It's probably appropriate that we're here saluting the American eagle because if there is anything that the American eagle represents, it's the spirit of American independence, American self-reliance, American strength.

In the debate we're having today about the resolution honoring the American eagle, I don't want to say the energy debate has hijacked it because in many ways, it's quite relevant. The fundamental question that this country must decide is whether we will pursue a path of energy independence or continue to go hat-in-hand to the oil-exporting countries to try to solve our problems.

Some of you may remember, which for me was the most vivid representation of the American energy policy, and that was a picture on the front page of the New York Times a couple of years ago, when the President of the United States went to Saudi Arabia, and hand-in-hand, as is the custom in many of the Middle East countries, President Bush and the Saudi prince walked in to have a private conversation about America's oil future. And what was going on there was not the spirit of American independence represented by the eagle. It was a spirit of capitulation where our President was imploring a foreign country to solve the problems that we face.

A confident country, an energetic country solves its own problems. It doesn't look to others to help solve those problems. It takes on the challenge. Energy is a big challenge. It takes on the challenge of solving those problems on its own.

And that's the question that this Congress faces: Will we have the self-confidence of a vigorous and strong Nation to chart a course of energy independence?

□ 1515

Now we're hearing arguments that the problem we face can be solved by drilling our way out of it, and of course, that's an argument that has been pursued vigorously since we discovered oil. But you know, there's enormous evidence that allows us to take a look at this proposition. Will more permits to drill, will more drilling reduce the cost of oil?

And I have here, Mr. Speaker, a chart. The first chart shows the number of wells. The number in red here, we've got the number of leases, and in this blue, we have the number of wells. Starting in 1994, there's been a steady increase of the number of leases and a steady increase in the wells drilled. And step by step by step, as leases and as drilling has increased, so has the price of a gallon of gas, from $1 up to about $4 a gallon today.

So reasonable people would step back and ponder the question, whether more drilling and more leases results in lower prices. History shows us, in nearly the past 20 years, that is simply not the case.

The other proposition is that the problem is the Federal Government is denying leases to the oil companies so that they can't do drilling, and the evidence is overwhelming that's simply not the case.

This chart, the second chart, shows on a pie chart, the whole circle there is the land that is available for leasing. And the green is all that's available, and the red here, or orange, is all that is open for leasing. Pardon me, I have it the opposite way around.

But of all of the land open and available for leasing, 79 percent is open and subject to exploitation and exploration by our oil companies. Only 21 percent is off limits. Yet, of this land where the oil companies have leases, 68 million acres where they can put metal to the ground is not under production, and there's no effort to put it under production.

My friends on the other side have argued that the oil companies have to go through certain environmental permits. I'm not sure you're right about that because much of that work has been done. Assuming that is the case, that's no different than what has been the requirement for the production of oil on federally-owned lands.

You know, there are many people who are asking the question as to whether the fix is in for the oil companies, and there's overwhelming evidence, in fact, that it is. Number one, the amount of speculation that now is core to the energy future trading markets is inflating the price at the pump, inflating the price of home heating fuel. How did that happen? Thanks to Congress.

In 2002, under the Tom DeLay Congress, the Enron loophole was passed at the request of that great company, Enron, that did so much for America's energy situation. Enron passed a loophole that took away any kind of regulatory oversight of the energy future trading market, and it led directly and immediately to an explosion in speculation. Hedge funds, private investors, folks who saw that they could make a lot of money on the misery of a lot of people rushed into the speculation in the oil energy markets. Now, that's wrong. There should be no speculative premium that comes at the expense of American consumers, folks trying to heat their home, small businesses trying to run a business.

This Congress has had an opportunity to get rid of that Enron loophole. House Democrats have passed legislation. It hasn't gotten through because of opposition on the other side, either

in the Senate or the consistent opposition of the President of the United States.

So what can we do if you want to be independent? One, we can get rid of the Enron loophole, wholly and completely. The second thing is that the energy companies, in fact, are hording leases, and that's a fact. There's an enormous push on this Congress to open up ANWR, and the argument is made and it has a surface appeal that if you open up ANWR, then it is going to mean a reduction in prices because the supply will go up and demand will go down.

A couple of problems with it. First and foremost, the oil companies have leases on 68 million acres. They're not exploiting them. Why? We don't know exactly why because they won't say. They will come in, raise their hand, take an oath, acknowledge that they're paying their executives 10s of millions of dollars, acknowledging that when one executive was retiring he was given a $400 million payday to say good-bye, but they won't tell us why they're not putting drill bits to earth to exploit the leases they have.

But you don't have to be a rocket scientist to figure out what the motive may be. If they keep that lease and the oil or the natural gas sits in the ground and it goes from $28 to $48 to $68 to $134 a barrel, that's sound money for those companies, and it will fatten the already extraordinary profits, $125 billion in profits for the oil companies last year, the big five oil companies.

Second, oil companies push hard to bring online as much Federal land for leases as possible because the Big Oil companies have been extremely successful in crowding out some of our small, independent producers, and in fact, my view is that's a detriment and a reason why this 68 million acres aren't exploited. If you had smaller, more independent, hungry, energetic companies that had an opportunity to make good money at $134 a barrel, and they owned those leases, they'd be drilling.

So what you have is a situation where the oil companies are doing quite fine, they really are, and the status quo serves them very well. What may not serve them so well is the self-confident Congress, the self-confident President saying, you know what, we're not going to play that game anymore. There are other ways.

We're going to take away the tax breaks, about $13 billion that American taxpayers are turning over to our oil companies, and that, with all due respect, is just an astonishing public policy. Our folks are paying over $4 a gallon for gas. In my home State of Vermont, we're paying over $4.25, $4.40 for a gallon of home heating fuel, and taxpayers are paying the oil companies about $13 billion in tax breaks. That's your money and mine. It's hard to see how that's justified, but the oil companies are quite happy to take that taxpayer subsidy.

But what they won't like is what the House is pushing, and that's a policy of energy independence, where we take those tax breaks, we steer them, as America has frequently done when there's something important for the American people, and it's taken a push from our taxpayers to get us over that initial technological hump, and that's having those tax breaks go as incentives to alternative energy sources, wind and solar, biofuels.

You know, if we could step back a minute and take a look at some of our friends in Europe and the leadership they're taking because of self-interest, a recognition in Portugal that investing in alternative fuel is a way to strengthen the economy, or Germany, investing in solar, Germany has less sun than Vermont. And let me tell you, I'm here to tell you that Vermont doesn't have as much sun as we need and I want. They have less sun than we do, but they are leading in solar technology.

So, the bottom line question is really very simple. Do we want leadership, as best exemplified by President Bush when he was with the Saudi prince, imploring the Saudi prince to rescue us from ourselves, or do we want leadership where we say we will take care of our own future, that particularly in face of what I think are unfounded arguments, that we can drill our way out, that Congress or the American government is an impediment to drilling that is available immediately for our oil and natural gas companies, and that there isn't supply that we can achieve through efficiency and alternative energy.

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. May I inquire how much time is left for the bald eagle to discover oil?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Utah has 7½ minutes. The gentlewoman from Guam has 4 minutes.

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Let me yield myself as much time as I will go through here.

We're now looking at a whole bunch of issues that deal from an Endangered Species Act that has few examples of success—this one happens to be one of those few—to an energy policy that we have developed over the last 40 years which can only be described as discombobulated.

It seems there are a group of people who control this floor whose past policy towards energy development and energy independence was to blame Big Oil, and now that prices of gasoline are at $4 a gallon, $1.75 more than when this Congress started, it seems now we try to have an expanded policy which is to blame Big Oil and allow lawyers to sue OPEC to give us more oil.

Simply, it does not come back to the reality of the situation that we have locked resources within this country, both onshore and in this country, that can produce our own energy independence.

We have laws that already say if you have a lease, you have 5 to 10 years. The Secretary of the Interior has power already under law that if he thinks that is not being used properly, they have power to abrogate those contractual leases. However, for each one of those, we have 7 to 10 years of regulation, litigation and study, including an Interior appropriations bill that will be coming to the floor either this week or next week, which expands those restrictions and expands the moratorium that we have.

The bottom line is 30 years ago this country was producing about 11 million barrels of oil a day, and our need was 17. We had to import. Today, we produce about 8 million barrels of oil a day, and our need is 20, which means we have to import more.

We have a 22 percent reduction in production in this United States, and we're the only country in this continent that does that. Mexico has increased. Canada has increased. We have decreased our energy production, even though our needs have come up.

The chart you were looking at is somewhat skewed because it deals with only the offshore, and there's a difference to land that's documented and open and not opened to lease. The bottom line is, offshore, there's 1.7 billion acres of area that we could do to produce energy. We are doing 68 million acres. That leaves 1.6 billion acres still undiscoverable, locked away, not usable. That's 85 percent of everything we have.

The gentleman from Vermont was correct in which he said speculation is indeed driving the cost of oil, but the speculation is driving the cost of oil because the speculators believe this country will not continue to produce, that we will decline in our production. And until we have a policy that says we are going to increase our production, speculation will continue to increase, and those costs will increase.

What this Congress has to have is a comprehensive policy that says we will do more for conservation and we will do more for production of all sources of energy, alternative as well as carbon-based, and we will come up with new and innovative ways of delivering that energy. And until this Congress actually sits down and says we will have a comprehensive energy policy, all the data, all the instructions, everything else we're talking about is nothing more than useless rhetoric.

Interesting facts, totally irrelevant to the needs of the time. The needs are people are suffering now, and we need to do something to help those people who are suffering. And we have to have a comprehensive policy which does include increases of production of all sources of energy.

The gentlelady from Guam will be happy to know, I'm the last speaker on this bill.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, in closing, I want to say, as Mr. WELCH stated, ANWR, everybody keeps talking about ANWR. But if you opened

ANWR today, you would not get any energy production tomorrow. You wouldn't get any for a decade or more. Whereas right now, the oil companies have 68 million acres of land available for development, and they are not exploiting them.

□ 1530

I don't care how much rhetoric goes on here today, there is still the 68 billion acres of land available for development. They have access to enough acreage to produce six times the amount of energy that we might get from ANWR. So again, I'll repeat over and over, ''use it or lose it.''

I urge support for House Resolution 1247.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Guam (Ms. BORDALLO) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 1247, as amended.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

COMMENDING THE ORANGE COUNTY WATER DISTRICT ON ITS 75TH ANNIVERSARY

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 1199) commending the Orange County Water District and its employees for their sound financial management and innovative groundwater management, water quality, water efficiency, and environmental programs, on its 75th anniversary.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 1199

Whereas the Orange County Water District (OCWD) is celebrating its 75th anniversary of providing high quality groundwater to millions of residents in northern and central Orange County, California, and upon this occasion, deserves special recognition;

Whereas OCWD was created in 1933 by the California State Legislature's passage of Senator N.T. Edwards' SB 1201, which was signed into law on June 14, 1933;

Whereas OCWD was empowered to manage Orange County's large groundwater basin, to protect the quality and quantity of the groundwater, to conserve and manage groundwater supplies, to protect Orange County's water rights to the flow of the Santa Ana River, and to ensure that the water needs of the people of Orange County, who depend on the groundwater basin, are provided for;

Whereas in the 1950s, OCWD initiated the region's first sustained artificial recharge replenishment system, which today is one of the most sophisticated and efficient recharge systems in the country;

Whereas in 1972, OCWD built the internationally-acclaimed Water Factory 21, the Nation's first and largest wastewater purification plant, to use reverse osmosis to purify sewer water for injection along the coast to prevent seawater intrusion;

Whereas in 1989, OCWD published a comprehensive Groundwater Management Plan for increasing water supplies, cleaning up contamination, and improving basin management, which became the model for groundwater management across the State;

Whereas in 1991, OCWD's Green Acres Project became operational as the Nation's first landscape irrigation wastewater treatment plant that provided water to local parks, golf courses, highway medians, and industry, freeing high quality drinking water for more valued uses in the arid Orange County;

Whereas in 2008, OCWD began operating the Groundwater Replenishment System, the world's largest sewer water purification project of its kind built to protect groundwater from seawater intrusion, delaying the need for another ocean outfall and making the region less dependent on imported water from the San Joaquin-Delta and Colorado Rivers by providing a new supply of high quality, locally controlled and energy efficient water to Orange County;

Whereas OCWD has one of the best water quality monitoring and protection programs, testing for twice the amount of chemicals required by law, maintaining a proactive philosophy of looking for emerging contaminants, and developing southern California's largest constructed wetlands to naturally purify Santa Ana River flows into Orange County;

Whereas OCWD has one of the highest financial ratings in the State, won every major water award, begun eliminating the evasive arundo donax through its environmental programs, and developed experimental wetlands to clean up dairy wastewater; and

Whereas OCWD has also developed basin-cleaning vehicles to enhance recharge efficiency, sponsored the Nation's largest Children's Water Education Festival, and brought back the least Bell's vireo, an endangered California songbird: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives commends the Orange County Water District and its employees for their sound financial management and innovative groundwater management, water quality, water efficiency, and environmental programs, on its 75th anniversary.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Guam (Ms. BORDALLO) and the gentleman from Utah (Mr. BISHOP) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Guam.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the resolution under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Guam?

There was no objection.

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

House Resolution 1199 commends the Orange County, California Water District and its employees for their sound financial management and innovative groundwater management, water quality, water efficiency, and environmental programs upon the occasion of its 75th anniversary.

During its 75-year history, the Orange County Water District has been a model for implementing groundwater recharge projects. Starting in 1950, the Water District developed the region's first sustained artificial recharge replenishment system. Earlier this year, the District opened its groundwater replenishment system, the world's largest sewer water purification project. This project, Mr. Speaker, currently is providing a new supply of high-quality water to Orange County, while making the region less dependent on imported water from Bay Delta and the Colorado River.

I wish to commend my colleague from California, Congresswoman LORETTA SANCHEZ, for sponsoring this very important resolution before us today, and I ask my colleagues to support its passage.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this resolution that was introduced by our colleagues from southern California.

The Orange County Water District has experienced rapid changes since it was created in 1933. It once relied on pumping ground water for agriculture, now it uses a combination of sources, including imported and recycled water, for its urban needs. Due to environmental litigation, the Orange County Water District will more than likely experience significant imported water cutbacks, leading to higher water costs that will be passed on to the consumers.

These same water reductions are forcing family farmers to fallow ground and let their crops die. The situation is so dire the Governor of California, Governor Schwarzenegger, last week declared parts of California under a state of emergency. These same family farmers are experiencing higher costs of living caused by the high cost of water as well as the high cost of gasoline prices. It is almost a perfect storm, and yet we have done nothing to help them to reduce those gas and oil prices.

This resolution is a nice reward to Orange County Water District for its hard work over the years, but Congress' time actually should be spent in devising energy solutions because, once again, real people are suffering and real needs are there.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlelady from California (Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ) such time as she may consume.

Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased today

the House of Representatives is considering House Resolution 1199, which honors the 75th anniversary of the Orange County Water District.

As a sponsor of this legislation, I would like to thank the Committee on Natural Resources, especially the gentleman from West Virginia, Chairman RAHALL, for his assistance in bringing this resolution to the floor, and my good friend from Guam for managing this resolution. I also would like to thank the rest of my colleagues from Orange County, all of whom are original cosponsors of this resolution.

You see, this Water District, the Orange County Water District, began its operations in 1933 when then California Governor James Rolph, Jr. signed it into existence on June 14. At that time, the Water District covered more than 163,000 acres and was intended to serve about 60,000 people primarily in agriculture. That is the beginning of Orange County. But today, the Orange County Water District covers well over 200,000 acres, and it serves a population of more than 2.3 million people.

As it has grown, the Water District has stayed on top of its game at the forefront of efforts with respect to water supply and the efficient distribution of that through Orange County. And the best example of that, of course, is what we just opened in January of this year, and that is our groundwater replenishment system.

The replenishment system is on the cutting edge of water reuse technology. It will purify 70 million gallons of water a day to provide clean drinking water for more than 100,000 Orange County families.

This system is the premier groundwater replenishment project in the world. And Orange County is often visited by other people from our country and from dignitaries from around the world, scientists from around the world, engineers from around the world, who want to come and see what we are doing. And yes, basically what we're doing is that we dispose of the water by flushing the toilet, send it into a tertiary process, clean it purer than the water you would find in the ground. We put it into the ground, and about 3 or 4 years later the same water is being used through your house once again. This makes it self-contained. It means that in a desert like southern California, we are not importing water for our usage, we're actually using our own water over and over, and this is the wave of the future. As I said, so many from around the world, from Israel and from other places, are coming to take a look at what we have done. And even just recently, the Mayor of Los Angeles said he would like to try to make a system like that work in the County of Los Angeles.

So the Orange County Water District's vision and initiative in establishing this system is the reason that it received the 2008 Clair A. Hill Award from the Association of California Water Agencies, and it was also named the Public Water Agency of the Year in 2008.

Throughout its 75-year history, the Orange County Water District has proven that it is a leader in identifying and creating new and existing options to meet the water needs of California, of our Nation, and of the world. Along with the entire county delegation, I hope that all of my colleagues will vote for this resolution today.

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. I yield such time as he may consume to another of the good representatives of southern California, the gentleman from California (Mr. ISSA).

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, I join with the gentlelady from Orange County in support of this resolution. But this resolution brings to mind one of the challenges we have in California. You see, in California, we don't allow coal to be used to make electricity. In California, we don't allow nuclear; we banned it for more than 30 years, no new nuclear. As a matter of fact, in California, with the exception of some geothermal that we can't seem to find a way to bring power lines from where it is to where we want it, all of our new power comes from natural gas.

And in California, we are not looking for natural gas. As a matter of fact, we don't allow any leasing, Federally or State, off of our coastline. Literally a thousand miles of coastline out 200 miles is off limits to natural gas. We can't take clean natural gas from our own shores in California. As a result, water projects are in danger.

The gentlelady from California rightfully so did speak about groundwater replenishment, which she has in her district and I have in my district. We also have desalinization in both of our districts. And guess what? Desalinization is another term for electricity-to-water.

In order to meet our water needs, whether it's pumping from the north to the south, pumping for replenishment or, in fact, desalinization, we need energy. That energy is electricity. That electricity comes from natural gas. That natural gas comes from unstable parts of the world in which it must be hauled in by liquefication because we don't meet our own natural gas needs.

Republicans here in the House support opening up the opportunity to get natural gas, at least allow some exploration for natural gas 50 miles off the California coast. That's not difficult. And the leaks, in fact, would be methane 50 miles offshore. You wouldn't see it, you wouldn't hear it, and it's nonpolluting. And yet, as of today, the Democrats continue to block that.

We need to open up. We've been talking about oil, but we need to talk about natural gas. California needs clean natural gas. It's off our shoreline, it's close to us today. And I would absolutely urge my colleagues, when they're looking at water in California, look at water as electricity and electricity as natural gas, and natural gas is something we have off our shore that is presently unavailable; millions, countless millions of acres unavailable.

And last, Mr. Speaker, I would hope that when people are talking about the acreage that isn't being used today, the 68 million acres that's not currently in use, and, you know, we can look at whether some of it just recently was granted and it's in exploration, whether it's in environmental, we can break it down. But the amazing thing is, out of only 41 million acres that is out on lease of any exploration or production, we're getting a huge amount of oil off Federal lands. Just think if we, in fact, used those 68 million acres over the next few years and opened up some major portion of 2.351 billion acres, that's 2,351 million acres that are not available today.

So when people talk about the 68 million that are, they should also talk about the 41 million that are under use today that are generating oil and natural gas, the many millions that are coming in from leases that are out that are just now beginning to bear fruit, and of course the 2,351 million acres that are presently closed, a lot of which is off the California and the gulf coast 50 miles out that no one would see, that, in fact, could be drilled in deep water safely, but of course is not available today.

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I was listening intently to the previous speaker, and I'm wondering if he is suggesting that we drill in national parks and military bases—when you mentioned all the acreage that's available.

Mr. ISSA. If the gentlelady will yield.

Ms. BORDALLO. I will yield.

Mr. ISSA. What I was talking about is a portion of the 2.351 billion acres. Obviously, all of us would want to make sure that certain areas were not drilled in, but of course most of this acreage we have no idea what is there.

As you probably know, there are 3,400-plus oil wells throughout West Virginia. We have overdrilled West Virginia and Oklahoma. We haven't put a new drill even for exploration off the California coast in decades, not even to find out how much natural gas is out there. And that, in fact, from 50 to 200 miles, is an economic zone created by Ronald Reagan that belongs to the United States that could be explored.

Ms. BORDALLO. So the 2 billion acres that you're referring to does exclude national parks and all of the military bases?

Mr. ISSA. Well, Madam Chair, of course it excludes it. But when we look at only 3 percent and 6 percent that are under oil leases, we have to look at all the available BLM land. Just, for example, though, there are 700 million acres that are presently held by the BLM. By definition, the Bureau of Land Management holds that for productive use. So that would be an example where there are no parks on BLM land, there are no national monuments or military bases on those 700 million acres alone.

Ms. BORDALLO. Well, Mr. Speaker, I was just requesting that the gentleman clarify. I want to be sure that his numbers are accurate.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. GARY G. MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 1199, a resolution congratulating the Orange County Water District on its 75th anniversary. The Orange County Water District and its employees have effectively delivered innovative groundwater management, water quality, water efficiency, and environmental programs which will reduce our region's dependence on imported water.

We all know that with increased demand, decreased availability of imported water, and higher water quality requirements, future water supplies will become even more limited and expensive. If we want to sustain southern California's economic growth and provide for a rapidly increasing population, we must ensure efficient and reliable access to water resources and pursue a modernized sanitation infrastructure. The Orange County Water District recognized that we needed a reliable source of quality water and has pursued multi-pronged strategies for capturing and recycling water that would otherwise flow downstream to the ocean.

The first initiative involves a series of agreements between the Orange County Water District, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to allow the District to conserve water behind Prado Dam. This water, which would otherwise flow downstream to the ocean, is captured to recharge the local aquifer. In addition, the Orange County Water District has partnered with the Orange County Sanitation District in the development of the groundwater replenishment system. This system will take highly treated sewer water and treat it above and beyond existing drinking water standards by undergoing an advanced purification process that includes two membrane filtration and treatment by ultraviolet light and hydrogen peroxide. Once purified, the water will be sent to groundwater recharge facilities or injection wells. This project is a model of self-reliance and should be replicated throughout water districts around southern California.

The Orange County Water District is working to ensure water reliability for generations to come. This is a comforting thought to businesses as well as residents interested in moving to Orange County. Their efforts will allow our economy to grow without being restrained by potential water shortages.

I congratulate the Orange County Water District for their 75 years of service to the region and I am proud of the Federal, State, and local agencies that have worked together to serve the community and address the region's growing water needs.

Mr. CAMPBELL of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate the Orange County Water District for its 75 years of exemplary service to the communities of Orange County, California.

Orange County Water District and its employees deserve special recognition for their exceptional effectiveness in protecting and providing an essential resource for 2.3 million customers in Orange County. They are to be acknowledged especially for the quality and efficiency of their systems and programs that are among the most innovative in the industry. Orange County Water District in its dedication to excellence in public service is a shining example of government that works.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to express our deep appreciation and gratitude to Orange County Water District and congratulate them on their 75 years.

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H. Res. 1199, Commending the Orange County Water District and its employees for their sound financial management and innovative groundwater management, water quality, water efficiency, and environmental programs, on its 75th annIversary.

As a cosponsor of this resolution and a representative from Orange County, I know of the valuable service the OCWD has provided to Orange County. The recent drought in California has reminded many of us how imperiled our water supply is. Water demand in California is set to increase by 16 percent between 2010 and 2030, but fortunately, the OCWD is doing much to meet the counties needs.

The new groundwater replenishment system is one of the world's most high-tech, as it produces 70 million gallons per day, enough for half a million people. Innovative thinking such as this has greatly helped our community, and will do much to meet growing demand.

On its 75th anniversary, I'd like to again congratulate the OCWD and its employees for its valuable contributions to Orange County.

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. BORDALLO. I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Guam (Ms. BORDALLO) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 1199.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

□ 1545

EASTERN NEW MEXICO RURAL WATER SYSTEM AUTHORIZATION ACT

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 5710) to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to provide financial assistance to the Eastern New Mexico Rural Water Authority for the planning, design, and construction of the Eastern New Mexico Rural Water System, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 5710

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the ''Eastern New Mexico Rural Water System Authorization Act''.

SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) AUTHORITY.—The term ''Authority'' means the Eastern New Mexico Rural Water Authority, an entity formed under State law for the purposes of planning, financing, developing, and operating the System.

(2) ENGINEERING REPORT.—The term ''engineering report'' means the report entitled ''Eastern New Mexico Rural Water System Preliminary Engineering Report'' and dated October 2006.

(3) PLAN.—The term ''plan'' means the operation, maintenance, and replacement plan required by section 4(b).

(4) SECRETARY.—The term ''Secretary'' means the Secretary of the Interior.

(5) STATE.—The term ''State'' means the State of New Mexico.

(6) SYSTEM.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The term ''System'' means the Eastern New Mexico Rural Water System, a water delivery project designed to deliver approximately 16,500 acre-feet of water per year from the Ute Reservoir to the cities of Clovis, Elida, Grady, Melrose, Portales, and Texico and other locations in Curry, Roosevelt, and Quay Counties in the State.

(B) INCLUSIONS.—The term ''System'' includes the major components and associated infrastructure identified as the ''Best Technical Alternative'' in the engineering report.

(7) UTE RESERVOIR.—The term ''Ute Reservoir'' means the impoundment of water created in 1962 by the construction of the Ute Dam on the Canadian River, located approximately 32 miles upstream of the border between New Mexico and Texas.

SEC. 3. EASTERN NEW MEXICO RURAL WATER SYSTEM.

(a) FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may provide financial and technical assistance to the Authority to assist in planning, designing, conducting related preconstruction activities for, and constructing the System.

(2) USE.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Any financial assistance provided under paragraph (1) shall be obligated and expended only in accordance with a cooperative agreement entered into under section 5(a)(2).

(B) LIMITATIONS.—Financial assistance provided under paragraph (1) shall not be used—

(i) for any activity that is inconsistent with constructing the System; or

(ii) to plan or construct facilities used to supply irrigation water for irrigated agricultural purposes.

(b) COST-SHARING REQUIREMENT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Federal share of the total cost of any activity or construction carried out using amounts made available under this Act shall be not more than 75 percent of the total cost of the System.

(2) SYSTEM DEVELOPMENT COSTS.—For purposes of paragraph (1), the total cost of the System shall include any costs incurred by the Authority or the State on or after October 1, 2003, for the development of the System.

(c) LIMITATION.—No amounts made available under this Act may be used for the construction of the System until—

(1) a plan is developed under section 4(b); and

(2) the Secretary and the Authority have complied with any requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.) applicable to the System.

(d) TITLE TO PROJECT WORKS.—Title to the infrastructure of the System shall be held by the Authority or as may otherwise be specified under State law.

SEC. 4. OPERATION, MAINTENANCE, AND REPLACEMENT COSTS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Authority shall be responsible for the annual operation, maintenance, and replacement costs associated with the System.

(b) OPERATION, MAINTENANCE, AND REPLACEMENT PLAN.—The Authority, in consultation with the Secretary, shall develop an operation, maintenance, and replacement plan that establishes the rates and fees for beneficiaries of the System in the amount necessary to ensure that the System is properly maintained and capable of delivering approximately 16,500 acre-feet of water per year.

SEC. 5. ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS.

(a) COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may enter into any contract, grant, cooperative agreement, or other agreement that is necessary to carry out this Act.

(2) COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT FOR PROVISION OF FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall enter into a cooperative agreement with the Authority to provide financial assistance and any other assistance requested by the Authority for planning, design, related preconstruction activities, and construction of the System.

(B) REQUIREMENTS.—The cooperative agreement entered into under subparagraph (A) shall, at a minimum, specify the responsibilities of the Secretary and the Authority with respect to—

(i) ensuring that the cost-share requirements established by section 3(b) are met;

(ii) completing the planning and final design of the System;

(iii) any environmental and cultural resource compliance activities required for the System; and

(iv) the construction of the System.

(b) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—At the request of the Authority, the Secretary may provide to the Authority any technical assistance that is necessary to assist the Authority in planning, designing, constructing, and operating the System.

(c) BIOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT.—The Secretary shall consult with the New Mexico Interstate Stream Commission and the Authority in preparing any biological assessment under the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.) that may be required for planning and constructing the System.

(d) EFFECT.—Nothing in this Act—

(1) affects or preempts—

(A) State water law; or

(B) an interstate compact relating to the allocation of water; or

(2) confers on any non-Federal entity the ability to exercise any Federal rights to—

(A) the water of a stream; or

(B) any groundwater resource.

SEC. 6. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—In accordance with the adjustment carried out under subsection (b), there is authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary to carry out this Act an amount not greater than $327,000,000.

(b) ADJUSTMENT.—The amount made available under subsection (a) shall be adjusted to reflect changes in construction costs occurring after January 1, 2007, as indicated by engineering cost indices applicable to the types of construction necessary to carry out this Act.

(c) NONREIMBURSABLE AMOUNTS.—Amounts made available to the Authority in accordance with the cost-sharing requirement under section 3(b) shall be nonreimbursable and nonreturnable to the United States.

(d) AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS.—At the end of each fiscal year, any unexpended funds appropriated pursuant to this Act shall be retained for use in future fiscal years consistent with this Act.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Guam (Ms. BORDALLO) and gentleman from Utah (Mr. BISHOP) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Guam.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the bill under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Guam?

There was no objection.

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

H.R. 5710, as introduced by our colleague, Congressman TOM UDALL of New Mexico, would direct the Secretary of the Interior, acting through the Bureau of Reclamation, to assist in the design and the construction of the Eastern New Mexico Rural Water System. The project would provide a sustainable water supply to nine communities and an Air Force base. This bill has received bipartisan support.

I ask my colleagues to support its passage.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

The gentlelady from Guam has, once again, in her role as the bill manager, adequately explained the legislation that has been introduced by our colleague from New Mexico, TOM UDALL. And it is also supported by our committee colleague, the ranking member on the Energy and Mineral Resources subcommittee, himself an expert on energy, STEVE PEARCE. Both of them are trying to seek to provide alternative water sources to communities in eastern New Mexico.

One thing that is not contemplated in this bill is, of course, how much energy it will take to pump the water over almost 100 miles of pipeline. Water pumping costs for this project will require massive amounts of electricity. It is unclear on how we, as a country, are planning on generating that electricity in the future. But since commitments have been made to work on specific committee report language involving land owner rights and military contributions to this particular water project, we certainly have no objection at this point to this bill and would also urge a favorable vote.

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in support of H.R. 5710, The Eastern New Mexico Rural Water System Authorization Act. In so doing, I would like to thank Chairman RAHALL and Chairwoman NAPOLITANO for their efforts in bringing this legislation to the floor today. This important bill will authorize the Bureau of Reclamation to help communities in eastern New Mexico develop the Eastern New Mexico Rural Water System (ENMRWS).

There has long been a recognized need for a reliable and safe supply of potable water for eastern New Mexico. After years of drought and ever-increasing community growth, this water supply project is now absolutely critical for the continued economic well-being of Curry and Roosevelt counties in eastern New Mexico.

These eastern New Mexico counties are built on a strong agricultural heritage, and the communities are known for their great sense of unity and mutual support. With the threat of extreme water scarcity, eastern New Mexico counties are rallying to ensure community survival.

The Ogallala aquifer currently provides 100 percent of the municipal and industrial water supplies and the vast majority of agricultural water for eastern New Mexico. However, both the quantity and quality of this groundwater reserve have declined severely in recent decades. It is estimated that this groundwater supply will not be able to sustain current use into the next decade, and may be functionally depleted within 25 years.

For 45 years, water users in eastern New Mexico have worked to develop an alternative source of municipal water that will be sustainable into the future. The Eastern New Mexico Rural Water Supply Authority, consisting of nine communities in the Curry and Roosevelt counties of eastern New Mexico, was formed in 2001 to oversee the development of a rural water system. This Authority has expeditiously and effectively finalized the studies and planning necessary to move forward with this project.

The Eastern New Mexico Rural Water System Authorization Act is the result, and it has come after years of research, years of consultation, years of planning, and years of negotiation. The legislation is strongly supported by the communities involved, by the state of New Mexico, and by the entire New Mexico Delegation. H.R. 5710 passed by unanimous consent in both subcommittee and full committee, and it is my hope that the bill will continue to garner strong bipartisan support on the floor today and in the Senate as it moves to that chamber.

I applaud the efforts of the Eastern New Mexico Rural Water Supply Authority, of the state of New Mexico, and of the counties and cities involved in this project. They have worked expeditiously and tirelessly to finalize the studies and planning necessary to move forward with this project.

The establishment of the Eastern New Mexico Rural Water System is essential to the socio-economic survival of communities in eastern New Mexico. While vital to New Mexico, H.R. 5710 is just one piece in the larger puzzle of water resources in the arid west and across the nation. As our nation is confronted with changing and extreme weather, states and communities must work to address water scarcity with conservation efforts, with new technology, and with negotiation of water rights.

H.R. 5710 builds on the ongoing efforts of the 8 cities and counties participating in the

project. These communities are working to establish innovative approaches to conserving water both agriculturally and domestically. They are part of a movement in the west to recognize the limitations of this precious resource and to work within these limitations to build strong communities.

The Eastern New Mexico Rural Water System Authorization Act is key to the survival of numerous New Mexico communities, and is part of a wider national approach to sound water management. We cannot stand by and watch vibrant communities dissolve into western ghost towns, especially when solutions exist. I encourage my colleagues to support H.R. 5710 and help provide a positive, long-term solution to a pressing water need in the rural West.

Mrs. WILSON of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I rise to speak in favor of passage of H.R. 5710, the Eastern New Mexico Rural Water System Authorization Act, which will establish the Ute water pipeline. This bill authorizes construction of a pipeline from the Ute Reservoir that will carry water to several communities in Curry and Roosevelt counties.

Under the proposed bill, the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation is authorized to spend up to $327 million to assist the Eastern New Mexico Rural Water Authority (ENMRWA) in the construction of the pipeline. The State of New Mexico and the ENMRWA, which represents communities in eastern New Mexico that will benefit from the pipeline, will contribute 25 percent of the cost of construction. ENMRWA will operate and maintain the pipeline.

Construction of this pipeline is essential as communities in eastern New Mexico try to meet future demand for water. It will provide a critical supply of water to growing communities and create certainty in these communities that safe, clean water will continue to be available long into the future.

The Ute Reservoir was built on the Canadian River in 1959 as a sustainable water supply for eastern New Mexico. It has been nearly 40 years since Congress authorized the study of a pipeline to transfer water to communities in eastern New Mexico, but only in the past few years have the affected New Mexico communities began planning for the pipeline.

Communities that will be served by the Ute pipeline include Grady, Clovis, Melrose, Texico, Portales and Elida, as well as Cannon Air Force Base.

I am a cosponsor of this important legislation and urge its swift passage.

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Guam (Ms. BORDALLO) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 5710.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

LEADVILLE MINE DRAINAGE TUNNEL REMEDIATION ACT OF 2008

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 5511) to direct the Secretary of the Interior, acting through the Bureau of Reclamation, to remedy problems caused by a collapsed drainage tunnel in Leadville, Colorado, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 5511

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. LEADVILLE MINE DRAINAGE TUNNEL REMEDIATION.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This section may be cited as the ''Leadville Mine Drainage Tunnel Remediation Act of 2008''.

(b) TUNNEL REMEDIATION.—The Reclamation Projects Authorization and Adjustment Act of 1992 (Public Law 102–575) is amended as follows:

(1) By striking section 705.

(2) In section 708(a)—

(A) by striking ''(a)'' and inserting ''(a)(1)'';

(B) by striking ''The Secretary shall have'' and inserting ''Except as provided by paragraph (2), the Secretary shall have''; and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

''(2) The Secretary shall participate in the implementation of the operable unit 6 remedy for the California Gulch Superfund Site, as such remedy is defined in the Environmental Protection Agency's 2003 Record of Decision for such operable unit, by—

''(A) treating water behind any blockage or bulkhead in the Leadville Mine Drainage Tunnel, including surface water diverted into the Tunnel workings as part of the remedy; and

''(B) managing and maintaining the mine pool behind such blockage or bulkhead at a level that precludes surface runoff and releases and minimizes the potential for tunnel failure due to excessive water pressure in the tunnel.''.

(3) In section 708(f), by striking ''and 708'' and inserting '', 708, and 709''.

(4) By adding at the end of title VII the following:

''SEC. 709. TUNNEL MAINTENANCE.

''The Secretary shall take such steps to repair or maintain the structural integrity of the Leadville Mine Drainage Tunnel (LMDT) as may be necessary in order to prevent tunnel failure and to preclude uncontrolled release of water from any portion of the tunnel.''.

(5) In the table of sections contained in section 2—

(A) by striking the item relating to section 705; and

(B) by inserting after the item relating to section 708 the following new item:

''Sec. 709. Tunnel maintenance.''.

THE SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Guam (Ms. BORDALLO) and gentleman from Utah (Mr. BISHOP) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Guam.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the bill under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Guam?

There was no objection.

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

H.R. 5511 was introduced by our colleague, Congressman DOUG LAMBORN of Colorado. The bill, as amended, would direct the Bureau of Reclamation to remedy problems caused by collapses in the Leadville Mine Drainage Tunnel. Due to structural deterioration, contaminated water has backed up in the tunnel posing a grave public health and environmental threat.

This bill has received bipartisan support. We have no objection to this noncontroversial bill. And I ask my colleagues to support its passage.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support for the bill that was introduced by our committee colleague, DOUG LAMBORN of Colorado. The Leadville Mine Tunnel was supposed to be used for a nearby Federal water project but has ended up becoming a public danger. It has been on the verge of bursting and sending what is presumed to be chemical-laden water toward local homes. The Bureau of Reclamation owns the tunnel and must be responsible for resolving the situation. And that is what this bipartisan bill accomplishes.

The Leadville Mine, addressed in this bill, was used during World War II and the Korean War to supply critical metals to help our Nation. Years ago, our Nation smartly invested in mining our natural resources. Yet today, the mining industry is under attack by some and by many. And the net effect, of course, has been to outsource U.S. jobs to countries that have commonsense environmental regulations and an increase in consumer prices to those here at home. It would be nice if Congress would promote our own mining industry and not destroy it by 1,000 cuts. America does deserve better.

This bill, though, solves a particular problem that is faced in Colorado. It is a bipartisan bill. And I urge its adoption.

Mr. LAMBORN. Mr. Speaker, today is, an important day for the citizens of Lake County and all residents of Colorado. They deserve to see what the federal government will do to correct problems associated with the Leadville Mine Drainage Tunnel.

The Leadville Mine Drainage Tunnel was originally constructed by the federal Bureau of Mines in the 1940's and 1950's to facilitate the extraction of lead and zinc ore for the World War II and the Korean War efforts. The Bureau of Reclamation acquired the Tunnel in 1959 hoping to use the tunnel as a source of water for the Frying pan-Arkansas Project. Although the tunnel was never used for the Fryingpan-Arkansas Project, water that flows out of the tunnel is considered part of the natural flow of the Arkansas River.

With the passage and subsequent signing into law of H.R. 429 during the 102nd Congress (1992), the Bureau of Reclamation constructed and continues to operate a water treatment plant at the mouth of the Tunnel.

Groundwater levels at the tunnel have fluctuated in recent years. In addition, a collapse in the tunnel has increased the tunnel's mine pool significantly, leading to new seeps and springs in the area. Estimates suggest that up to 1 billion gallons of water may have built up within the mine pool.

In November 2007, the Environmental Protection Agency sent a letter to the Bureau of Reclamation expressing concerns over a catastrophic blowout, and in February 2008, the Lake County Commissioners declared a state of emergency.

We know that the Bureau of Reclamation is completing a risk assessment in the area, and we look forward to reviewing that report. Additionally, some emergency measures are currently being undertaken by the Environmental Protection Agency and the Bureau of Reclamation to relieve water pressure in the vicinity.

But many of the problems reported at this site are not new. Legislation addressing this matter and authorizing the Secretary of the Interior to rehabilitate this tunnel dates back to at least 1976.

In response to the request for action from the local community, I worked together with Congressman MARK UDALL from Colorado and introduced H.R. 5511. This bill would direct the Bureau of Reclamation to relieve water pressure behind certain blockages in the tunnel, permanently manage the mine pool behind any blockage to prevent releases of contaminated water, and manage the tunnel in such a way to prevent failure of the structure.

I look forward to seeing this situation remedied so that concerns about human safety and environmental integrity may be appropriately and responsibly addressed. I encourage all members to support passage of this legislation.

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, I submit the following letters for inclusion in the RECORD on the consideration of H.R. 5511, the Leadville Mine Drainage Tunnel Act of 2008.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE,
Washington, DC, June 12, 2008.

Hon. NICK RAHALL,
Chairman, Committee on Natural Resources, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN RAHALL: I write to you regarding H.R. 5511, a bill to direct the Secretary of the Interior to remedy problems caused by a collapsed drainage tunnel in Leadville, Colorado.

H.R. 5511 contains provisions that fall within the jurisdiction of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure. I recognize and appreciate your desire to bring this legislation before the House in an expeditious manner and, accordingly, I will not seek a sequential referral of the bill. However, I agree to waive consideration of this bill with the mutual understanding that my decision to forego a sequential referral of the bill does not waive, reduce, or otherwise affect the jurisdiction of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure over H.R. 5511.

Further, the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure reserves the right to seek the appointment of conferees during any House-Senate conference convened on this legislation on provisions of the bill that are within the Committee's jurisdiction. I ask for your commitment to support any request by the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure for the appointment of conferees on H.R. 5511 or similar legislation.

Please place a copy of this letter and your response acknowledging the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure's jurisdictional interest in the Committee Report on H.R. 5511 and in the Congressional Record during consideration of the measure on the House Floor.

I look forward to working with you as we prepare to pass this important legislation.

Sincerely,

JAMES L. OBERSTAR, M.C.,
Chairman.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES,
Washington, DC, June 16, 2008.

Hon. JAMES OBERSTAR,
Chairman, Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you for your willingness to expedite floor consideration of H.R. 5511, a bill to direct the Secretary of the Interior to remedy problems caused by a collapsed drainage tunnel in Leadville, Colorado.

I appreciate your willingness to waive rights to further consideration of H.R. 5511, notwithstanding the jurisdictional interest of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure. Of course, this waiver does not prejudice any further jurisdictional claims by your Committee over this legislation or similar language. Furthermore, I agree to support your request for appointment of conferees from the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure if a conference is held on this matter.

This exchange of letters will be placed in the committee report and inserted in the Congressional Record as part of the consideration of the bill on the House floor. Thank you for the cooperative spirit in which you have worked regarding this matter and others between our respective committees.

With warm regards, I am

Sincerely,

NICK J. RAHALL II,
Chairman, Committee on Natural Resources.

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Once again, I have no other speakers on this particular bill. Does the gentlelady have any other speakers?

Ms. BORDALLO. I have no other speakers.

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. I will yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers, and I yield back.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Guam (Ms. BORDALLO) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 5511, as amended.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, June 17, 2008.

Hon. NANCY PELOSI,
Speaker, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MADAM SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of Rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on June 17, 2008, at 10:40 a.m.:

That the Senate passed without amendment H.R. 814.

That the Senate passed without amendment H.R. 5778.

That the Senate passed with an amendment H.R. 3403.

That the Senate agreed to S. Con. Res. 84.

Appointments:

Board of Trustees of Gallaudet University

With best wishes, I am

Sincerely,

LORRAINE C. MILLER,
Clerk of the House.

DESIGNATING CHAIRMAN AND VICE CHAIRMAN OF UNITED STATES INTERNATIONAL TRADE COMMISSION—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following message from the President of the United States; which was read and, without objection, referred to the Committee on Ways and Means:

To The Congress of the United States:

Consistent with the provisions of 19 U.S.C. 1330(c)(1), this is to notify the Congress that I have designated Shara L. Aranoff as Chairman and Daniel Pearson as Vice Chairman of the United States International Trade Commission, effective June 17, 2008.

GEORGE W. BUSH.

THE WHITE HOUSE, *June 17, 2008.*

PUBLIC RADIO RECOGNITION MONTH

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 1002) expressing support for designation of April 2008 as ''Public Radio Recognition Month,'' as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 1002

Whereas the mission of public radio is to create a better informed public that is challenged and invigorated by a deeper understanding and appreciation of events, ideas, and cultures;

Whereas the programming content created and distributed by public radio is based on 3

core values: qualities of mind, qualities of heart, and qualities of craft, which exemplify the inherent meaning of localism by placing value and financial investment in local and regional assets to gather and distribute a collection of programming that informs and improves community;

Whereas public radio is known for distinctive, award-winning programming that includes ''Morning Edition'', ''All Things Considered'', ''A Prairie Home Companion'', ''Marketplace'', ''Speaking of Faith'', and ''This American Life'';

Whereas America's more than 800 public radio stations serve every State and every congressional district with news, information, cultural, and music programming that are unique to free radio;

Whereas some 33,000,000 Americans listen to public radio programming each week;

Whereas the public radio audience has doubled in the past 15 years and has increased by some 70 percent in the past decade;

Whereas public radio stations are licensed by community foundations, colleges, universities, school boards, libraries, and other local nonprofit entities;

Whereas public radio stations are locally licensed, locally staffed, and locally programmed, and have tailored their programming to meet the needs of local audiences;

Whereas public radio stations on average receive more than 85 percent of their annual funding from local sources;

Whereas public radio's public service finds expression through a deep music discovery, education, and enrichment experience for both its audience and the performers, singer-songwriters, musicians, lyricists, and composers, which places the greatest emphasis on a valued partnership with performers to bring all facets of music into the lives of its audience in a way that is found nowhere else;

Whereas public radio has preserved and enhanced the archetypal musical formats of American music history, such as jazz, classical, folk, bluegrass, the blues, and Celtic;

Whereas public radio is responding to its commitment to community-based and fact-based journalism with several initiatives, including the Local News Initiative, a national effort to increase public radio's service to communities through investments in station capacity to provide in-depth, serious, and balanced news, and Public Insight Journalism, a pioneering concept that uses citizens to help cover the news by sharing their observations, knowledge, and expertise;

Whereas public radio has embraced digital broadcasting technology because of its inherently inclusive nature and potential to expand public service programming; and

Whereas public radio exists to serve the public interest: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) expresses support for the designation of a ''Public Radio Recognition Month''; and

(2) encourages the celebration of America's public radio stations for their contributions to our Nation's communities and enduring civic spirit.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) and the gentleman from California (Mr. ISSA) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Illinois.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Illinois?

There was no objection.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I might consume.

Mr. Speaker, public radio, of course, is one of the things that all of us spend a great deal of time listening to. As a matter of fact, there are many of us, and many people in America, who feel that if they don't get the opportunity to listen, to know what has taken place, to recognize what is going on in our country, then they are seriously deprived.

Whereas the mission of public radio is to create a better informed public that is challenged and invigorated by a deeper understanding and appreciation of events, ideas and cultures; and whereas public radio is almost a mainstay in hundreds of thousands and perhaps even millions of Americans' homes. We wake up in the morning, many families go to bed at night, and public radio is the balance that they need to feel that the information they are receiving is not being commercialized, that it is information that is coming straight from wherever the purveyors have gotten it.

□ 1600

They are not necessarily trying to shape ideas in one direction or another, but to simply give information to people that they can use and take advantage of and make it a part of their everyday lives.

So, based upon those facts and based upon that information, it is certainly my pleasure to express support for this legislation. I want to commend the gentleman from Oregon, Mr. BLUMENAUER, for introducing it.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. ISSA. Madam Speaker, I too rise in support of the resolution. National Public Radio is important. KPBS in my hometown represents a voice that provides a plethora of information that would not otherwise be available.

Some of the information that I hope they would provide would be to get to the true causes of our high oil prices. In San Diego, Public Broadcasting is playing a role in saying that $5 gas is unacceptable. Unfortunately, Madam Speaker, public radio is not yet making us aware of just why it is so high.

The fact that over 2 billion acres are not available for exploration of oil and gas in California is part of the reason that last weekend I paid $5-plus for a gallon of gas in my home district. That, Madam Speaker, is in fact something that we need to take care of. We need to have public radio and all of our communications systems running on full bore.

I do note, Madam Speaker, that this is an April resolution. This is a resolution that we are so far behind in the important business of the House, we are only getting to now celebrating April of 2008 for Public Broadcasting. I find it interesting that we were so busy, and yet we didn't have time to find out what were the real causes of high oil and gas prices, why America is importing half a trillion dollars a year of other people's oil and a similar growing amount of natural gas and other resources.

So I would hope that when we get this April legislation off our plate, we would turn to the important issues of the day, certainly the incredibly high price of gas in my home district, caused by a lack of domestic exploration.

And if we have just a little time, perhaps we could find out why in the midst of the sub-S meltdown, we discover that Members of this body and Members of the body on the other side of the dome were in fact getting special deals that saved themselves tens and hundreds of thousands of dollars on their home mortgages. These investigations need to happen, because we need to solve the problem of how America finds itself with financial meltdown. We need to find out what it is going to take to get American oil and high-paying American jobs flowing again.

Madam Speaker, I would yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I would urge support of this resolution and yield back the balance of our time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. JONES of Ohio). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 1002, as amended.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. ISSA. Madam Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

SUPPORTING THE GOALS AND IDEALS OF FLAG DAY

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 1219) celebrating the symbol of the United States flag and supporting the goals and ideals of Flag Day.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 1219

Whereas Flag Day is celebrated annually on June 14, the anniversary of the official adoption of the American flag by the Continental Congress in 1777;

Whereas on June 14, 1777, in order to establish an official flag for the new Nation, the Continental Congress passed the first Flag Act, which stated, ''Resolved, That the flag of the United States be made of thirteen

stripes, alternate red and white; that the union be thirteen stars, white in a blue field, representing a new Constellation'';

Whereas the second Flag Act, signed January 13, 1794, provided for 15 stripes and 15 stars after May 1795;

Whereas the Act of April 4, 1818, which provided for 13 stripes and one star for each State, to be added to the flag on July 4 following the admission of each new State, was signed by President James Monroe;

Whereas in an Executive order dated June 24, 1912, President William Howard Taft established the proportions of the flag and provided for arrangement of the stars in 6 horizontal rows of 8 each, a single point of each star to be upward;

Whereas in an Executive order dated January 3, 1959, President Dwight D. Eisenhower provided for the arrangement of the stars in 9 rows staggered horizontally and 11 rows of stars staggered vertically;

Whereas the first celebration of the American flag is believed to have been introduced by Bernard Cigrand, a Wisconsin school teacher, who arranged for his pupils at Stony Hill School in Waubeka to celebrate June 14 as ''Flag Birthday'' in 1885;

Whereas on June 14, 1894, the Governor of New York ordered that the American flag be displayed at all public buildings in the State, prompting many State and local governments to begin observing Flag Day;

Whereas President Woodrow Wilson proclaimed the first nationwide Flag Day in 1916;

Whereas in 1947, President Harry S. Truman signed legislation requesting National Flag Day be observed annually;

Whereas the United States flag is a symbol of our great Nation and its ideals;

Whereas in times of national crisis, Americans look to the United States flag as a symbol of hope, courage, and freedom;

Whereas the United States flag is universally honored;

Whereas the United States flag honors the men and women of the Armed Forces who have given their life in the defense of the United States;

Whereas the United States flag serves as a treasured symbol of the loss of loved ones to the countless families of those who died in defense of our Nation; and

Whereas June 14, 2008, is recognized as Flag Day: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives celebrates the United States flag and supports the goals and ideals of Flag Day.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) and the gentleman from California (Mr. ISSA) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Illinois.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Illinois?

There was no objection.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

As a member of the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, I present for consideration H. Res. 1219, which celebrates our Nation's flag and the goals of Flag Day, a day honoring the America's most enduring symbol.

H. Res. 1219's lead sponsor, Representative ROBERT LATTA of Ohio, introduced the bill on May 21, 2008, and it was reported from the Oversight Committee on June 12, 2008, by voice vote. This measure has the support and sponsorship of 62 Members of Congress and expresses our appreciation for and belief in the power of the red, white and blue.

The importance of the American flag as a symbol to our Nation is enormous. Our flag represents the service men and women who proudly wear it, the judges and legislators who serve in honor of it, and the millions of Americans who stand daily and pledge their allegiance to it. It is indeed representative of every American as a symbol of hope and freedom that resonates around the world.

Flag Day is celebrated every June 14, because it was on that day in 1777 that the Continental Congress passed the first Flag Act, giving our Nation an enduring and identifying emblem. The flag has changed since then, but the ideas it embodies have endured. From the images of the Americans planting the flag in the sands of Iwo Jima, to the flag that was pulled from the rubble of the New York World Trade Center after the attacks of 9/11, Old Glory has become an integral part of our national fabric.

So, Madam Speaker, I urge swift passage of H. Res. 1219, for it will provide due recognition of the importance of the American flag and demonstrate our support of the day which honors it.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. ISSA. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I too rise in strong support of Flag Day. Since 1777, America has in fact invested a great deal of who we are, what we do, what is right and what we stand for in our Nation's flag. Whether it was the first Flag Day, which emerged in 1885 when a 19-year-old schoolteacher in Wisconsin declared the flag's birthday, or in 1889, when a kindergarten teacher in New York City held a patriotic ceremony to help educate his children, or throughout the years, year after year after year, in which America invested its patriotism in the flag, or, as the gentleman in the majority said, in fact on September 11, when here in Washington and around the world we invested in a patriotic showing after the terrible events in New York, here in Washington and Pennsylvania, we did so because in fact we are what America stands for. Our flag represents that.

But, today, Madam Speaker, America stands for a country that imports half a trillion dollars worth of oil and vast amounts of natural gas. America is a country with crushing debt owed to other countries around the world. America today is a country proud of itself and proud of its flag, but mortgaging our children's future by investing in foreign oil and foreign natural gas and foreign minerals at a time in which the vast majority of our resources are not being used.

Madam Speaker, I join with the majority in saying that in fact America has to make sure that our natural resources are used, whether it is the 68 million acres being called into question by the majority as to whether or not oil leases are being pursued, or the 41 million acres that do have oil under production, or in fact the 2 billion-plus acres, including the area over 50 miles off the California coast that has been permanently taken off limits to oil and clean natural gas so needed in our country.

So, as we celebrate this Flag Day and our reinvestment in our flag and in who we are as a nation, let's remember who we are is a country of self-sufficiency, and self-sufficiency starts with the ability to produce our own products and certainly to heat our own homes.

Madam Speaker, I have no more to say about our flag than what our flag says for itself, but I have a great deal to say about who we as Americans will be. We will be a country, God willing, that in fact is self-sufficient.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I continue to reserve.

Mr. ISSA. Madam Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. LATTA), the author of the bill.

Mr. LATTA. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Madam Speaker, I am pleased to introduce House Resolution 1219, celebrating the symbol of the United States and supporting the goals and ideals of Flag Day.

Flag Day is celebrated on June 14, which is the anniversary of the official adoption of the American flag by the Continental Congress in 1777. This was done by the first Flag Act, which stated, ''Resolved, That the flag of the United States be made of 13 stripes, alternating in red and white, that the union be 13 stars, white in a blue field, representing a new constellation.''

Since 1777, our flag's design has been altered three times under executive order, rearranging the design of the stars and stripes each time a State was added.

The first celebration of the American flag was believed to have been introduced by a Wisconsin schoolteacher, who arranged for his students at Stony Hill School to celebrate June 14 as Flag Day in 1885. President Woodrow Wilson proclaimed the first nationwide Flag Day in 1916, and in 1947, President Harry Truman signed legislation requesting National Flag Day be observed annually.

Flag Day is an important holiday, as our flag is the official symbol of our great Nation and its ideals. Our flag serves as a beacon of hope, courage and freedom during times of crisis and triumph alike. It honors the men and women of the Armed Forces who have

paid the ultimate sacrifice in defending the United States, and serves as a symbol for those families who have lost loved ones while defending our Nation.

So, Madam Speaker, it is with great honor I ask for unanimous approval of House Resolution 1219 as we celebrate our Nation's flag.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, it is my pleasure to yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. BLUMENAUER).

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Madam Speaker, I appreciate the gentleman's courtesy in permitting me to speak on that. I rise in support of this resolution and think that it is appropriate and timely for it to come forward and agree with the representation that I have heard from my colleagues.

As a long-time public radio listener and Chair of the Public Broadcasting Caucus, I was proud to sponsor the resolution recognizing Public Radio Recognition Month.

Too often we take for granted the rich and diverse contributions of public radio to America's communities, and this was an opportunity on the floor of the House to reflect on its contributions and show our appreciation for public radio as a genuine national treasure.

The future of radio depends on programming and content, first and foremost, and in the area of high-quality radio content, public radio has no peer. Public radio offers an unmatched commitment to using the airwaves to create a more informed public, a public that craves and is challenged by an examination of ideas, events and culture.

Each week, over 33 million Americans listen to NPR, an audience that exceeds the top 35 U.S. daily newspapers combined. When we consider this figure, along with the 100 million people who watch public television each week, we can see the profound reach of Public Broadcasting. It connects people with their local community, their Nation and their world in a way that no other outlet can or does.

□ 1615

Distinctive, award-winning programs such as This American Life, A Prairie Home Companion, and Speaking of Faith tell the story of our shared American experience, and the vibrant, enduring programs of Morning Edition, All Things Considered, and Marketplace draw on reporting from correspondents based in bureaus around the world and from producers and reporters in 19 locations in the United States.

But the strength of the NPR and the member station news network goes far beyond this corps of international and national NPR reporters; it reaches into communities across America. Through community-based journalism, such as the Diane Rehm Show right here in Washington, DC on WAMU and Think Out Loud on OPB back home in Oregon, we see a dedication to bringing people together at the local level for thoughtful conversations about complex and sometimes contentious issues.

These strong, news-oriented programs exist today in most of the top markets across the country, and when the strength of these stations is combined with NPR's strength in national and international reporting, the result is one of the largest, most capable and most trusted news network organizations anywhere in the world.

Public radio reliably provides a careful, balanced and thoughtful approach to news and culture. This feature is unique to public broadcasting, and it is a breath of fresh air in our often shrill and argumentative mass media environment.

We hear a lot about commercial broadcasting's becoming little more than 30-second, sound-bite news. That's one of the reasons I believe NPR's audience has grown so significantly in recent years, doubling in the last 15 years and increasing by 70 percent in the last decade.

Americans are thirsty for thoughtful and intelligent programming, and at a time when our media is controlled by fewer and fewer entities, we can have confidence that public radio which is owned by the public is committed to public interests, not to special interests.

In every congressional district across the country, through over 800 locally controlled and managed stations, Americans can turn to a public radio station as their single source for local, national and international news as well as for informative, cultural and musical programming.

There is nowhere else you can find such unique and valued service for all of our communities, and I hope that resolution was a reminder that we in Congress, as individuals and policymakers, must continue to provide critical support for local, publicly owned radio stations, the heart of public radio.

I invite my colleagues to recognize this achievement as they reflect on public broadcasting. It's part of the framework that makes the country so great and part of why we revere our flag and our Nation.

Mr. ISSA. Madam Speaker, I have no further speakers at this time, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. I would continue to reserve, Madam Speaker.

Mr. ISSA. Madam Speaker, I would yield back.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, we have no additional speakers, and I would urge passage of this resolution.

Mr. SHULER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to support H. Res. 1219, supporting and honoring the ideals of Flag Day. The American flag represents the freedom and democratic ideals of this nation and the brave Americans who have defended these ideals throughout our history.

Established in 1885, Flag Day commemorates the adoption of our flag on June 14, 1777. Bernard Cigrand, the Father of Flag Day, was the President of the American Flag Day Association and the National Flag Day Society. In 1894, he orchestrated a celebration of Flag Day in Chicago that brought together over 300,000 public school students. The celebration was such a success that it was continued the following year. The trend of observing Flag Day caught on and quickly spread to New York and Philadelphia. However, it was not until August 3rd, 1949 that President Truman signed an Act of Congress designating June 14th as National Flag Day.

Today, we continue to honor Flag Day with a proclamation from the President urging U.S. citizens to fly the American flag from their homes for the duration of the June 14th week. Also, it is encouraged that all government buildings fly the American flag. On the second Sunday of June, the National Flag Day Foundation holds an annual observance for Flag Day. The program includes a recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance, singing of the National Anthem, a ceremonial rising of the flag, and a large parade. These types of celebrations play an important role in observing one of our nation's most important symbols, the American flag.

I ask my colleagues to join me in supporting this resolution to support the ideals of Flag Day. May we continue to recognize the symbol of our freedom and display our patriotism proudly.

Mr. POE. Madam Speaker, in 1814, Francis Scott Key wrote of a star-spangled banner which America "so proudly hailed . . ." through a night of bomb blasts and rocket-fire. The flag consisted of fifteen stripes, alternating red and white, and fifteen white stars on a field of blue; it united a brand new Nation under the principles of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.

In the 194 years since our national anthem was written, we've come a long way—Old Glory has acquired 35 more stars, and has become the most recognized flag in the world. But its power to unify a nation hasn't changed. Our flag has become synonymous with Freedom, Justice, Prosperity, and all the principles upon which our great Nation was founded.

On this, the 58th National Flag Day that our nation has celebrated, let's fly our flags with reverence in honor of our men and women who have given their lives, and for those who continue to fight to defend our great Nation.

For a country whose trust is in God, our flag is a precious reminder of how we've gotten here as well as a beacon for which we strive.

And that's just the way it is.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. I yield back the balance of our time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 1219.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. ISSA. Madam Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

CONGRATULATING AND RECOGNIZING CHI-CHI RODRIGUEZ

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 1029) congratulating and recognizing Mr. Juan Antonio ''Chi-Chi'' Rodriguez for his continued success on and off of the golf course, for his generosity and devotion to charity, and for his exemplary dedication to the intellectual and moral growth of thousands of low-income and disadvantaged youth in our country, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 1029

Whereas sports figures, through their perseverance, discipline, and good behavior, can serve as examples of excellence, dedication, and devotion to our youth;

Whereas Chi-Chi Rodriguez was born in Rio Piedras, Puerto Rico, on October 23, 1935, to an agricultural laborer and a housekeeper;

Whereas Chi-Chi joined the ranks of golf professionals at the age of 24, reportedly standing at 5 foot seven inches and weighing 117 pounds;

Whereas Chi-Chi Rodriguez had a stellar career in the sport of golf, earning an impressive record of 38 professional wins, including 8 PGA Tour wins and 22 Senior PGA Tour wins;

Whereas his Senior Tour records for most consecutive victories, at 4, and most consecutive birdies, at 8, still stand;

Whereas in 1979, Chi-Chi Rodriguez helped create the Chi-Chi Rodriguez Youth Foundation, and the Chi-Chi Rodriguez Academy in Clearwater, Florida, which help thousands of low-income and disadvantaged youth reach their life potential through educational opportunities and support programs;

Whereas in 1986, the Chi-Chi Rodriguez Youth Foundation was awarded the National Golf Foundation's Award for Best Youth Program in the United States and the Robie Award for Humanitarianism presented by the Jackie Robinson Foundation;

Whereas Chi-Chi Rodriguez was recognized by the Points of Light Foundation for its youth and community service efforts;

Whereas Chi-Chi Rodriguez and the FBI Agents Association have organized the Chi-Chi Rodriguez G–Man Desert Shootout Tournament to raise funds for college scholarships for the children of FBI agents killed in the line of duty;

Whereas in 1989, the United States Golf Association granted Chi-Chi Rodriguez its highest honor, the Bob Jones Award, in recognition for his distinguished sportsmanship in golf;

Whereas in 1994, Chi-Chi Rodriguez was inducted to the first class of the World Sports Humanitarian Hall of Fame;

Whereas in 1992, Chi-Chi Rodriguez was inducted to the World Golf Hall of Fame;

Whereas in 1973, Chi-Chi Rodriguez was a member of the U.S. team that won the Ryder Cup in Muirfield, Scotland;

Whereas in 1981, Chi-Chi Rodriguez was selected by the Northern Ohio Golf Charities as its first Ambassador of Golf;

Whereas Chi-Chi Rodriguez has received countless other distinguished awards and recognitions such as the 1974 Charlie Bartlett Award of the Golf Writers Association, the 1981 Richardson Award of the Golf Writers Association of America, the 1982 Father of the Year Award, the 1986 Card Walker Award (Outstanding Contribution to Junior Golf), the 1986 Salvation Army Gold Crest Award, the 12th Roberto Clemente Cup, the 1986 Byron Nelson Award, the 1986 Hispanic Achievement Recognition Award, the 1987 Byron Nelson Award, the 1987 Senior Tour Arnold Palmer Award, the 1988 Fred Raphael Golf Achievement Award, the 1989 Old Tom Morris Award, the 1990 ''Caring for Kids'' Award, the 1991 Jackie Robinson Humanitarian Award, the 1993 Civilian Meritorious Service Medal presented by the Department of Defense, the 1997 International Network of Golf Award, the 1998 Ford Achievement Award, and the 2003 Paul Runyan Memorial Recognition Award, among others; and

Whereas Chi-Chi Rodriguez has authored and coauthored several books and articles about golf, such as ''Chi Chi's Secrets of Power Golf'' in 1967, ''Everybody's Golf Book'' in 1975, ''Chi Chi's Power Pack'' in 1982, ''Every Golfer's Guide to Lower Scores by Chi-Chi Rodriguez'' in 1990, and ''Chi Chi's Golf Games You Gotta Play'' in 2003, among others: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) congratulates Chi-Chi Rodriguez for his successes in the sport of golf; and

(2) commends Chi-Chi Rodriguez for his exemplary conduct as a humanitarian and advocate for underprivileged youth.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) and the gentleman from California (Mr. ISSA) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Illinois.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Illinois?

There was no objection.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Now, Madam Speaker, it is my pleasure to yield as much time as he might consume to the author of this resolution, my good friend from Illinois, Representative GUTIERREZ.

Mr. GUTIERREZ. I thank the gentleman for the time.

Madam Speaker, I rise today in strong support of House Resolution 1029, congratulating and recognizing Mr. Juan Antonio ''Chi-Chi'' Rodriguez for his continued success on and off the golf course, for his generosity and devotion to charity and for his dedication to the intellectual and moral growth of thousands of low-income and disadvantaged youth in our country.

I am proud to have introduced this resolution honoring a great American. Chi-Chi Rodriguez was born the fifth of six children to an agricultural worker and to a housekeeper in Rio Piedras, Puerto Rico. From these humble beginnings, he rose to become one of the Nation's most talented professional golfers, using his skills and status to benefit others. Chi-Chi is distinguished as a great humanitarian and role model for children across the Nation.

Chi-Chi joined the ranks of professional golfers at the age of 24, and over the next four decades, he earned 38 professional wins, including 8 PGA tour wins and 22 Senior PGA tour wins. In 1979, Chi-Chi Rodriguez had used his national recognition as a great sportsman to help found the Chi-Chi Rodriguez Youth Foundation and the Chi-Chi Rodriguez Academy, which have collectively raised $4 million to assist disadvantaged youth.

The Chi-Chi Rodriguez Foundation has been honored by the National Golf Association, by the Jackie Robinson Foundation and by the Points of Light Foundation for its youth and community service efforts.

Chi-Chi also joined with the FBI Agents Association to create the Chi-Chi Rodriguez G–Man Desert Shootout Tournament in order to fund college scholarships for the children of those FBI agents who have been killed in the line of duty.

Chi-Chi has been heard to say, ''For me, satisfaction comes from knowing that I was put on this planet to make it better.'' This philosophy has guided his life and has made him an example of dedication and generosity of spirit.

Madam Speaker, as Members of Congress, one of our great honors is to recognize our fellow citizens who stand out as exceptional individuals. I am proud to support this resolution, honoring a great Puerto Rican-American humanitarian.

Mr. ISSA. Madam Speaker, I would like to yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. BILIRAKIS).

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Madam Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H. Res. 1029, which congratulates and recognizes Mr. Juan Antonio ''Chi-Chi'' Rodriguez for his success on the golf course, for his devotion to charity and for his dedication to the intellectual and moral development of low-income and disadvantaged youth throughout our Nation.

Mr. Rodriguez' knack for golf began at a young age. He learned to play golf with makeshift golf clubs fashioned from guava tree limbs and from tin cans hammered into golf balls. He shot a remarkable 67 at age 12. By the end of his professional career, he had won 22 Senior PGA tour events and the hearts of many Americans with his trademark toreador dance.

Part of what makes Mr. Rodriguez such a remarkable individual is that he took his own professional accomplishments and channeled them into the Chi-Chi Rodriguez Youth Foundation, which supports the Chi-Chi Rodriguez Academy, which is in my congressional district. Starting in 1979 and with just 17 students, the mission of the academy is to assist at-risk children by improving their self-esteem, character, work ethic, social adjustment, and academic performance by using the golf course as a classroom.

The academy encompasses a public-private partnership school that fosters

students' achievements through interactive experiences in various real-world business environments: The First Tee of Clearwater, incorporating life skills with golf skills; the After School Enrichment program, reinforcing and furthering academic studies; and the Community Service program, designed to help students fulfill their graduation and scholarship volunteer service hour requirements.

Madam Speaker, my kids have had the honor of meeting Mr. Rodriguez, and I have had the pleasure of seeing firsthand his good work in my district. Mr. Rodriguez, after meeting with Mother Teresa, embraced her lesson of living to help other people, and he has served as an inspiration to thousands of young men and women over the past three decades. His unique idea to teach the important life skills of self-control, responsibility and respect for others to at-risk youth while maintaining an atmosphere that builds confidence and positive educational experiences through golf is truly commendable.

It is with great admiration that I rise today to honor the accomplishments of Mr. Chi-Chi Rodriguez by supporting this resolution.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I would yield myself such time as I might consume.

I rise as a member of the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform to join my colleagues in consideration of H. Res. 1029, which recognizes as well as congratulates Mr. Juan Antonio ''Chi-Chi'' Rodriguez for his continued success on and off the golf course, for his generosity and devotion to charity and for his exemplary dedication to the positive development of thousands of low-income and disadvantaged youth in our country.

H. Res. 1029 was authored by Congressman LUIS GUTIERREZ of Illinois and is cosponsored by 52 Members of Congress. The bill before us was first introduced on March 6, 2008 and was taken up by the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform on June 12, 2008 where the measure was amended and then passed by a voice vote.

A native of Rio Piedras, Puerto Rico, Juan ''Chi-Chi'' Rodriguez is recognized as one of the greatest golfers of our time, and he is the first Puerto Rican professional golfer to be inducted into the World Golf Hall of Fame. With over 37 professional golf wins, including 8 PGA tour wins and 22 Senior PGA tour wins, Mr. Rodriguez rose from sugarcane cutter to world-renowned professional golfer and youth advocate, which is a great indication of one who need not be so concerned about where one comes from but in recognizing where one will be going.

Mr. Rodriguez, obviously, went to the very top. Not only did he stand out as a professional golfer, but as a humanitarian and as an individual who gave back and gave to others, he will always be renowned and remembered.

I commend my colleague for introducing this resolution.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. ISSA. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, no one is a better example of energy, of doing more with less than is Chi-Chi Rodriguez. Not only did he begin golfing at age 6 and shoot a 67 at age 12, but in fact, for a man who never rose above 5'7'' in height or 130 pounds in weight, he has one of the most famous long balls in golf. That is the energy of Chi-Chi Rodriguez, an energy that America covets. He is somebody who doesn't let size or any other limitation keep him from achieving his goals.

Earlier, the gentleman from Florida talked about Florida and Chi-Chi Rodriguez' activities there in Clearwater. Florida brings to mind that, when you talk about a man of energy, just 50 miles off the coast of Florida, China and Cuba are now issuing contracts that are going to allow for drilling, for drilling closer to America than we allow, just 50 miles off the coast of Florida, in fact, without the kind of safeguards that American companies would use.

□ 1630

So when I think of Florida and I think of a man of energy, I think of the energy that is being kept away from the American people, energy that would keep our dollars from flowing to countries less friendly to us, energy that would make us self-sufficient and self-reliant, and energy that would heat our homes and fuel our cars at a cost far less than what we are paying today.

Madam Speaker, I truly think of energy when I think of Chi-Chi Rodriguez, and I appreciate the opportunity to speak on Chi-Chi Rodriguez and urge passage of this resolution.

Mr. SHULER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the extraordinary life of Juan Antonio ''Chi-Chi'' Rodriguez. Mr. Rodriguez was a native Puerto Rican who overcame the obstacles of poverty and became recognized as a renowned professional golfer, and a true inspiration to the Latino community.

Mr. Rodriguez has had nothing less than an exceptional career as a professional golfer. Among his many accomplishments, Mr. Rodriguez has a total of 38 professional wins, including 8 PGA tour wins, 22 Senior PGA wins, and wins in the Bahamas, Colombia, and in Panama. Because of Chi-Chi's distinguished sportsmanship throughout his career, in 1989 he was awarded the Bob Jones Award, which is the highest award given by the United States Golf Association. In 1989, he was also awarded the Tom Morris Award, from the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America. In 1992, Chi-Chi was inducted into the World Golf Hall of Fame This was a remarkable accomplishment because he was the first Puerto Rican honored into this elite group.

Mr. Rodriguez has not only been an inspiration on the course, but through his charitable work as well. He established the ''Chi-Chi Rodriguez Youth Foundation'', an after school program at the Glen Oaks Golf Course in Clearwater, Florida. Chi-Chi and his staff work with children to improve their self-esteem, character, work ethic, social adjustment, and academic performance. His humanitarian work allowed him to be recognized as an inaugural inductee into the World Humanitarian Hall of Fame.

Madam Speaker, Juan ''Chi-Chi'' Rodriguez leads an exemplary life of public service and gives hope to the underprivileged children of America. He has used his success in his professional career to make a positive impact in many people's lives. Mr. Rodriguez is deserving of the utmost respect and recognition for his contributions to the youth of America. That is why I support H. Res. 1029, introduced by Mr. GUTIERREZ of Illinois.

Mr. BACA. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 1029, recognizing Chi-Chi Rodriguez for his generosity and work with low-income and disadvantaged youth in our country.

Chi-Chi is famous for his success on the golf course. He was a self-taught golfer that started out fusing a branch from a guava tree for a club and a metal can as a ball.

He then went on to win 8 titles on the PGA tour and represented our country as a member of the 1973 U.S. Ryder Cup team.

He is a true ambassador of the game, and a role model for all Latino golfers, including myself.

From his childhood in the sugar cane fields of Puerto Rico, to the World Golf Hall of Fame, Chi-Chi has lived the American Dream.

What most people don't know about Chi-Chi is his dedication to working with underprivileged kids. He inspires others to pursue their dreams as well.

At the Chi-Chi Rodriguez Academy, kids learn valuable lessons to help them in life—respect, confidence, honesty, responsibility, integrity, and sportsmanship, to name a few.

Under-achieving students with behavioral problems and learning disabilities get free help at Chi-Chi's academy.

This resolution recognizes Chi-Chi's continuing efforts to improve the lives of thousands of low-income and disadvantaged youth in our country, I encourage my colleagues to join with me and honor Mr. Juan Antonio ''Chi-Chi'' Rodriguez.

Mr. ISSA. Madam Speaker, we have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, we have no further requests for time, I urge passage of this resolution, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 1029, as amended.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. ISSA. Madam Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

JOHN P. GALLAGHER POST OFFICE BUILDING

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 6150) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 14500 Lorain Avenue in Cleveland, Ohio, as the ''John P. Gallagher Post Office Building''.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 6150

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. JOHN P. GALLAGHER POST OFFICE BUILDING.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 14500 Lorain Avenue in Cleveland, Ohio, shall be known and designated as the ''John P. Gallagher Post Office Building''.

(b) REFERENCES.—Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the facility referred to in subsection (a) shall be deemed to be a reference to the ''John P. Gallagher Post Office Building''.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) and the gentleman from California (Mr. ISSA) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Illinois.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Illinois?

There was no objection.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, it is my pleasure to yield such time as he might consume to the author of this resolution, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. KUCINICH).

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I want to thank my colleague from Illinois and Mr. ISSA. I rise in strong support of H.R. 6150, the bill that renames the post office at 14500 Lorain Avenue in Cleveland, Ohio, as the ''John P. Gallagher Post Office Building.'' I would like to again thank the chairman of the Federal Workforce, Postal Service and District of Columbia Subcommittee and his helpful staff for working with me on this bill.

I am proud to have sponsored this bill to honor Mr. Gallagher's lifetime of devotion to public service. Let me share with you the story of this man who was a member of what Tom Brokaw called ''The Greatest Generation.''

This is a quote from an article that was published on June 6, 2004. The subheading was, ''Like dwindling World War II comrades, vet shuns hoopla.''

''John P. Gallagher is one of the men we honor today. He is a proud veteran, but is also impatient with the embroidery and rhetoric that lingers after the smoke clears and the dead are buried.

''So the man who dodged bombs, bullets and a bad heart was asked whether he's a hero. 'No,' he said in his modest room amid medals, patches and other mementos. 'You did your job. That's all.'

''He was a combat engineer. He helped clear obstacles at Utah Beach before the infantry came ashore. His service is a virtual core sample of the big moments in the European theater.

''He was in North Africa after General Eisenhower led the Operation Torch Landings, in Sicily briefly, and then in Italy for the Rome-Arno campaign. He was at the little-known place in England called Slapton Sands, where GIs practicing for the invasion of France were surprised and slaughtered by German torpedo boats. Then there was Normandy, the Battle of the Bulge in the Ardennes region of Belgium, and a Rhine River crossing.''

For his service in the 1st Engineer Special Brigade, along with the other members of the brigade, he received an exceptional honor during World War II. Charles de Gaulle, then the General Army and Chief of State, Major General of National Defense for France, sent this commendation for John Gallagher's unit: ''For exceptional services of war rendered during the course of the operations for the liberation of France, the 1st Engineer Special Brigade, including all units assigned or attached, which were part of the Assault Force U and which were engaged in the assault on Normandy beaches, this citation is of the order of and confers the Croix de Guerre with Palm, May 25, 1945,'' signed Charles de Gaulle.

This was a much-decorated unit, but this was a man who after he finished his service to our country he then went to serve our country in another way, at the city of Cleveland.

He was employed by the city of Cleveland for 30 years. He worked his way up to become Superintendent of Sidewalks. Those of you who are familiar with big cities can understand that when a city has thousands of miles of sidewalks, it is very important for those who deliver the mail, as well as people in the neighborhood, to have someone who pays attention to make sure that this infrastructure is kept in shape. That was John Gallagher's job. He served for six mayors of Cleveland, and he did such a good job that when he retired in 1987 he was honored by the city of Cleveland in a special commendation from then-Mayor John Voinovich.

Mr. Gallagher is someone whose service to the community went far beyond his work for the city of Cleveland. He was one of the primary advocates for the inclusion of programs for seniors in the city of Cleveland's Gun and Recreation Center. He actually led the charge to create new programs for senior citizens.

His home is across the street from a city park where he actually for the neighborhood for years has kept an eye on the park. He has been a lifelong parishioner of St. Vincent DePaul Parish, and he is a fixture each and every week, he has been a fixture until he came into ill health, volunteering as an usher at the 5:30 mass. He is someone who comes from a very strong Irish heritage. His father, who was a Cleveland policeman, was actually born in County Mayo, Ireland, and John lived with his father and took care of him for many years before he passed. John is very involved in the Irish community and is someone who has great respect across the city of Cleveland and throughout Cuyahoga County.

When we name post offices, we often name post offices after very famous people, after people who are politicians and are in public service, but we don't often get the opportunity to recognize the work of someone who, a World War II vet who served his country with honor, who continued in public service for many years and who today, like so many members of that greatest generation, just kind of wait their turn to be called to an even higher service.

This is a great opportunity for the House of Representatives to show that the kind of people who make up this country, that the kind of people who have served this country and made it the great Nation that it is, deserve recognition. And so for that reason I put forth this bill honoring the life and service of John P. Gallagher through naming this post office after him.

Mr. ISSA. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I join with my friend and colleague from Ohio in urging support for H.R. 6150 to name the post office in Cleveland, Ohio, in honor of John P. Gallagher. Like the gentleman, I am also a Clevelander born and raised. Like many of us in the room, I know what Mr. Gallagher came home to after World War II. He came home to a Cleveland that had helped win the war. He came home to a Cleveland in which women had come out of their homes to work in all of the major plants. They worked in auto plants that were now making tanks. They worked in the steel mills. In fact, Cleveland won the war both by the men it sent off to war, and by the men and women who stayed home and worked those heavy industries.

So I very much believe it is appropriate and vital that we recognize the Cleveland workforce that made America great and won World War II. And, in fact, the common man, who did the uncommon thing, that was all too common in World War II, and that is going off and fighting for your country while others stayed home and made sure that the tanks, the steel, the tires all came to the battle.

And as a Clevelander, I recognized that Cleveland ran on resources. Cleveland ran on coal and iron ore. And yes, Cleveland ran and used to run very well on oil and natural gas, in addition to coal, that made our steel mills work and that made our auto companies produce.

Cleveland no longer runs that way. Cleveland is, in fact, a city that is now

needing to turnaround yet again. Why, among other reasons, because of $5 gasoline, the cost of home heating oil, the cost of living that is spiraling up much faster than the men and women of Cleveland have the ability to pay.

So as we honor Mr. Gallagher, I would hope that we also turn our focus to the need to deal with these natural resources that we now import, the copper we import, the coal that if we don't change we will soon be importing, certainly the steel mills that have gone to Korea; and yes, the half a trillion dollars a year of oil that we are importing from countries often hostile to us simply because we are not willing to open up exploration on our 2 billion-plus acres of Federal land.

So I join with my colleague in strong support of remembering what made America and Cleveland great, and I ask that we join together and do that again by passing comprehensive land opportunities for oil so that we too can be self-sufficient, as we were when Mr. Gallagher came home from World War II.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, as a member of the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, I am pleased to join my colleagues in the consideration of H.R. 6150 which asks that we designate a postal facility in Cleveland after Mr. John Gallagher who served that city faithfully for over 30 years. H.R. 6150, which was introduced by Representative DENNIS KUCINICH on May 22, 2008, was reported favorably from the Oversight Committee on June 12 by voice vote.

The measure, which will name a post office after a truly humble and dedicated civil servant, has the support and sponsorship of the entire Ohio congressional delegation.

John Gallagher has been described as a man who served his country and the city of Cleveland with dignity for his entire life. At the age of 19, he joined the U.S. Army where he fought bravely in Europe during World War II. After his years of service, he returned to his hometown of Cleveland, Ohio, where he would work for the city government for over 30 years, rising through the ranks to become Cleveland's Superintendent of Sidewalks.

Mr. Gallagher did not regard his commitment to the city of Cleveland as anything extraordinary, but that he was simply doing his job, that's all. Like many public sector workers in our country, Mr. Gallagher devoted his life to serving and working on behalf of his fellow citizens.

Therefore, Madam Speaker, let us extend a small token of our appreciation for the work of this outstanding gentleman by passing H.R. 6150 which will rename the postal facility on Lorain Avenue in Cleveland, Ohio, as the John P. Gallagher Post Office Building.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. ISSA. Madam Speaker, I have no further speakers at this time, and I would inquire of the majority if they have any additional speakers.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. I have one additional comment.

Mr. ISSA. Then I continue to reserve.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. KUCINICH) for such time as he may consume.

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, in furtherance of describing the kind of man that we are honoring here today, when the war was over and people went back about their business, John Gallagher had this idea that he should bring together all of his brothers who served together under these conditions of World War II and to find a way so they could reconnect. And so he was in charge of organizing this group. And for a period of 1963 all of the way through the year 2000, a period of 37 unbroken years, this band of brothers came together year after year after year under John Gallagher's leadership and organization and renewed not just their friendship but their dedication to the cause of service to their Nation.

John Gallagher also participated in a very important endeavor where he helped to organize his friends from across the country from the 1st Engineer Special Brigade to raise the funds to erect a monument which was on a German pill box on Normandy Beach in France with contributions from members of the 1st Engineer Special Brigade and under supervision of the brigade commander.

□ 1645

And inside the walls were plaques bearing the names of the men of the unit who died in battle.

The time comes when this generation will fade into memory. But those individuals who are still alive need to be forever reminded of the great gratitude that this country has for them, not just putting their lives on the line, but the youth of their lives on the line, for showing a continual love of country, for showing love for each other and their fellow soldiers.

I am so proud to be here to ask for your support because, in recognizing John Gallagher, we recognize all those who served who still remain with us for serving through their love of country.

Mr. ISSA. Madam Speaker, I yield myself just 1 minute to thank the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. KUCINICH). I think often the famous get post offices named after themselves; but I would like to comment that the gentleman has done a wonderful job, Madam Speaker, of making someone less famous, but equally deserving, the subject of today and the subject of this post office.

And so once again I'd like to congratulate my colleague, not only on selecting somebody, but on doing a good job of making sure that we understood just who he was and what he contributed.

Madam Speaker, I yield back all of my remaining time.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, we urge passage of this resolution, and yield back the balance of our time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 6150.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. ISSA. Madam Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

GERALD R. FORD POST OFFICE BUILDING

Mr. HIGGINS. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 6085) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 42222 Rancho Las Palmas Drive in Rancho Mirage, California, as the ''Gerald R. Ford Post Office Building''.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 6085

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. GERALD R. FORD POST OFFICE BUILDING.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 42222 Rancho Las Palmas Drive in Rancho Mirage, California, shall be known and designated as the ''Gerald R. Ford Post Office Building''.

(b) REFERENCES.—Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the facility referred to in subsection (a) shall be deemed to be a reference to the ''Gerald R. Ford Post Office Building''.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New York (Mr. HIGGINS) and the gentleman from California (Mr. ISSA) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. HIGGINS. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New York?

There was no objection.

Mr. HIGGINS. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

As a member of the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, I join my colleague in the consideration and support of H.R. 6085, which

names a postal facility in Rancho Mirage, California, after the late President Gerald R. Ford.

H.R. 6085, which was introduced by our colleague, Congresswoman MARY BONO MACK of California, on May 20, 2008, was reported from the Oversight Committee on June 12, 2008, by voice vote.

H.R. 6085 is sponsored by 113 Members of Congress, including 51 Members from the California delegation. This bill before us does more than just redesignate one of our post offices. It provides the entire House an opportunity to, once again, pay tribute to one of our Nation's leaders and former Presidents, the Honorable Gerald Ford.

Gerald Ford's public service career began back in 1948 when he was elected to represent Michigan's Fifth Congressional District. From there, the late President Ford ended up serving 25 years in the House of Representatives, including 8 years as minority leader of the House.

Forced to assume the office of the United States Presidency under what he described as extraordinary circumstances, the late President Gerald Ford conducted his presidency with honesty and integrity.

During his years of service to our country, President Ford often reminded people that he considered himself ''a moderate in domestic affairs, a conservative in fiscal affairs, and a dyed-in-the-wool internationalist in foreign affairs.''

With his wife, Elizabeth Ford, by his side, on December 26, 2006, President Ford succumbed to his death at the age of 93, but his mark on our country continues to live on.

Madam Speaker, I'd like to thank the gentlewoman from California for offering the bill in support of renaming the Rancho Mirage Post Office after the late President Gerald Ford and in recognition of his many contributions to America, both while in office and out.

I urge swift passage of this measure.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. ISSA. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I urge the passage of H.R. 6058 to designate the U.S. post office at 42222 Rancho Las Palmas Drive in Rancho Mirage, California, as the Gerald R. Ford Post Office Building.

Throughout his life, Gerald Ford was a patriot and a civil servant. Throughout his life he had a ''can do'' attitude, whether it was attending the University of Michigan where he played ball and was quite an athlete, or upon graduation from the University of Michigan, when he had the opportunity to play for the NFL, he declined the offer and instead attended the Yale Law School where he gained a skill that he used the rest of his life.

He then served 4 years in World War II, and, like many people, came home from World War II with a ''can do'' attitude, served his district of Michigan for 25 years, and as we all know, gave up the job of minority leader to become the Vice President and almost immediately became the President.

Gerald Ford, as the 38th President of the United States, enjoyed the dubious honor of being the only President not to have run for President or Vice President. But he didn't let that stop him. He was not an unelected president but, rather, he was a President who had a mandate to heal the Nation. He was a President who had a mandate to deal with a post-Vietnam, post-Richard Nixon period. He did so not only by pardoning Richard Nixon, something that undoubtedly cost him his own election, but, in fact, he did so recognizing that America's healing was more important than politics.

Today, as we recognize Gerald Ford, I would like to just briefly explain that I didn't know him as President. I didn't get to vote for him, of course, as President. I didn't meet him until 1996, when we were doing the Republican convention in San Diego, and his son, Jack, was the executive director for that. And a then aged Gerald Ford came out simply to support his son and to support what we were trying to do in San Diego. He came out repeatedly to help us, help us in the fund raising, but more importantly, help his son who he still, at that age, was trying to make sure that he went even further than his father.

Gerald Ford was the kind a person who stayed focused on basics throughout his life. One of the basics here in America is our need for energy, our need for the natural resources to be domestic, not imported. Gerald Ford understood that.

During Gerald Ford's time our debt was internally held. We had just come off of a balanced budget in 1969 and were near a balanced budget for his years. And more importantly, the vast majority of our oil was, in fact, domestic.

As a matter of fact, although we did have Aramco operating in Saudi Arabia, it was an income stream to the United States and the oil, for the most part, did not come to America.

Additionally, the Prudhoe Bay was coming on line at that time, and America's likelihood of getting its oil from its own country made more sense.

Many people do not understand, as Gerald Ford certainly would have understood, that Alaska was larger than Saudi Arabia, and that oil reserves every bit as plentiful in some areas as Saudi Arabia should be gleaned from our 50th State.

So as we honor and remember Gerald Ford and name this post office after him, let's also remember the time, not too long ago, when Gerald Ford was President, and America was self-sufficient. America had not yet fallen into the melees that it found itself in just a few years later when OPEC turned off the oil and America went cold.

Mrs. BONO MACK. Madam Speaker, I would first like to take this opportunity to thank Chairman WAXMAN and Ranking Member DAVIS for their support of H.R. 6085, which will designate a postal facility in Rancho Mirage, CA, as the 'Gerald R. Ford Post Office Building.' It is because of their efforts, along with those of Subcommittee Chairman DAVIS and Ranking Member MARCHANT, that this legislation was able to move so quickly through the Committee and comes before us today.

Madam Speaker, I recently introduced H.R. 6085 to honor President Gerald R. Ford and pay tribute to his remarkable life and career as our 38th President. I am grateful to the more than 100 of my Colleagues who have joined me in this effort to commemorate President Ford's life by naming a post office located in Rancho Mirage, CA, in my District, as the Gerald R. Ford Post Office.

This is an especially meaningful piece of legislation to me and many of the residents of our District. As many of my Colleagues may know, President Ford and his family resided in Rancho Mirage for many years before his passing. Naming Ford's local post office in his honor is a tribute to this great man and his many accomplishments.

President Ford and former First Lady, Betty Ford, were active members of our local community, generously contributing to the betterment of our residents with their involvement in charities and support for the successful Betty Ford Center for drug and alcohol rehabilitation. President Ford regularly connected with residents and participated with local leaders. Many locals remember him as a friend and pillar of our community.

President Ford's many lifetime achievements included serving our country during WWII, rising to the rank of Naval Lieutenant Commander, and serving in Congress for 25 years, eight of which he was the Minority Leader in the U.S. House of Representatives. As President, he led our citizens during a time of war, economic uncertainty, and low moral. With his steady direction, he worked to unify our nation during a tumultuous time in our nation's history.

He was one of our most respected leaders, and worked on many fronts to bring together our citizens and strengthen our trust in America's future. Years after his service as Commander-in-Chief, President Ford continued serving as a source of wise counsel to leaders throughout our nation and the world. President Ford was always willing to offer me insight and guidance when I came to Congress, and I will forever treasure his shared wisdom.

As a cherished resident of our District, were many locals called him a friend, President Ford is most deserving of the honor that this Gerald R. Ford Post Office will bring him and his family.

I ask that my colleagues, who wish to commemorate the legacy of President Ford, join me in naming the post office near his residence after this exemplary American.

Thank you, Madam Speaker, and I ask for the support of Members from both sides of the aisle for H.R. 6085, legislation I am proud to have authored.

Mr. ISSA. Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. HIGGINS. We urge passage and yield back, Madam Speaker.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New York (Mr. HIGGINS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 6085.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. ISSA. Madam Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

RECOGNIZING JUNETEENTH INDEPENDENCE DAY

Mr. HIGGINS. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 1237) recognizing the historical significance of Juneteenth Independence Day, and expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that history should be regarded as a means for understanding the past and more effectively facing the challenges of the future.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 1237

Whereas news of the end of slavery did not reach frontier areas of the United States, and in particular the Southwestern States, for more than 2 years after President Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation of January 1, 1863, and months after the conclusion of the Civil War;

Whereas on June 19, 1865, Union soldiers led by Major General Gordon Granger arrived in Galveston, Texas, with news that the Civil War had ended and that the enslaved were free;

Whereas African-Americans who had been slaves in the Southwest celebrated June 19, commonly known as Juneteenth Independence Day, as the anniversary of their emancipation;

Whereas African-Americans from the Southwest continue the tradition of Juneteenth Independence Day as inspiration and encouragement for future generations;

Whereas for more than 135 years, Juneteenth Independence Day celebrations have been held to honor African-American freedom while encouraging self-development and respect for all cultures;

Whereas although Juneteenth Independence Day is beginning to be recognized as a national, and even global, event, the history behind the celebration should not be forgotten; and

Whereas the faith and strength of character demonstrated by former slaves remains an example for all people of the United States, regardless of background, religion, or race: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That—

(1) the House of Representatives recognizes the historical significance of Juneteenth Independence Day to the Nation;

(2) the House of Representatives supports the continued celebration of Juneteenth Independence Day to provide an opportunity for the people of the United States to learn more about the past and to better understand the experiences that have shaped the Nation; and

(3) it is the sense of the House of Representatives that—

(A) history should be regarded as a means for understanding the past and more effectively facing the challenges of the future; and

(B) the celebration of the end of slavery is an important and enriching part of the history and heritage of the United States.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New York (Mr. HIGGINS) and the gentleman from California (Mr. ISSA) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. HIGGINS. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New York?

There was no objection.

Mr. HIGGINS. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, as a member of the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, I present for consideration H.R. 1237, which recognizes the historical significance of Juneteenth Independence Day, and expresses the sense of the House of Representatives that history should be regarded as a means for understanding the past and more effectively facing the challenges of the future.

H.R. 1237 was introduced on June 4, 2008, and has over 70 Members of Congress who also support Juneteenth, or what many call Freedom Day or Emancipation Day. The measure was considered and reported from the Oversight Committee on June 12, 2008, by voice vote, which brings us to today's floor consideration of the measure.

Most of us are aware, Madam Speaker, Juneteenth commemorates the day Union General Gordon Granger and 2,000 Federal troops arrived at the Galveston Island, Texas to take possession of the State and enforce the emancipation of its slaves 2½ years after the enactment of the Emancipation Proclamation.

On June 19, 1865 General Granger read the following Order Number 3: ''The people of Texas are informed that, in accordance with the proclamation from the Executive of the United States, all slaves are free. This involves an absolute equality of personal rights and rights of property between former masters and slaves, and the connection heretofore existing between them becomes that between employer and hired laborer. The freedmen are advised to remain quietly at their present homes and work for wages. They are informed that they will not be allowed to collect at military posts, and that they will not be supported in idleness either there or elsewhere.''

In receipt of this message, African Americans who had been slaves in the Southwest celebrated June 19 as the anniversary of their emancipation, and continued the tradition to inspire and encourage future generations.

□ 1700

For more than 135 years, Juneteenth Independence Day celebrations have been held to honor not only the freedom of African Americans but also to encourage self-development and respect for all cultures.

Juneteenth has been recognized as either a State holiday or observance in Texas, Oklahoma, Florida, Delaware, Idaho, Alaska, Iowa, California, Wyoming, Missouri, Connecticut, Illinois, Louisiana, New Jersey, New York, Colorado, Arkansas, Oregon, Kentucky, Michigan, New Mexico, Virginia, Washington, Tennessee, Massachusetts, and North Carolina, as well as the District of Columbia.

The faith and strength of character demonstrated by former slaves remains an example for all Americans, regardless of background, religion, or race.

Madam Speaker, I ask that we, too, show our support for Juneteenth Independence Day by agreeing to adopt H.R. 1237 without reservation.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. ISSA. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I, too, rise in support of this resolution.

Certainly history is replete with examples like this where well-intended, strong statements are made and then as much as 2 years passes before the event becomes complete. Juneteenth is no exception to that.

More than 2 years after the Emancipation Proclamation, it took 2,000 Federal soldiers marching into Galveston Island in order to free slaves from servitude. So as we look at what we need to do here in Congress today, let us not be dissuaded from doing what is right because it may take time. Let us not be dissuaded from making sure that America has its freedom and independence assured by our own independence in all areas, including natural resources.

I certainly think more than 100 years after the Civil War, we can celebrate the successes of the Civil War; but we also have an obligation to deal with problems that might take 4 or 5 years of domestic exploration and domestic investment in oil and natural gas in order to bear fruit. But I would ask today that we resolve to begin that process because certainly, as we look at President Abraham Lincoln who knew that the Emancipation Proclamation would not immediately free slaves but, in fact, would make a strong statement that we were resolved to do so.

I would hope today as we pass this important piece of legislation, we would resolve to make sure that America is independent and free in the years to come.

With that, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. HIGGINS. Madam Speaker, I now yield to the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON-LEE) for as much time as she may consume.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. I thank the distinguished gentleman from New

York, and I thank the original author of this legislation, the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. DAVIS), and I thank the distinguished Speaker for her leadership as well, and my colleagues.

Congressman HIGGINS, this is Juneteenth Week for those of us who come from the States in which we honor this very special holiday. And so it is very special to stand today to acknowledge how important, how moving a time this is, particularly in the State of Texas where Major Granger landed in Galveston 2 years after the Emancipation Proclamation, which means that the slaves that were held in the State of Texas were held 2 years longer than any slaves in the United States in the region in which slavery was the law. I would like to acknowledge Rep. Al Edwards who is the Father of the Juneteenth Holiday in Texas.

So we hold this as a sacred time, a time of jubilee and celebration, but also of pain and anguish for knowing that we were held in bondage in the State of Texas for a period of time longer than the time that was declared by the President of the United States, Abraham Lincoln.

I'm delighted to be one of the original cosponsors to acknowledge what this day really means. And as we celebrate it throughout the week in Texas, this past weekend I celebrated with the Acres Home Community and their Juneteenth celebration and the Zydeco music and the fun that seniors and children alike would have in fellowship and understanding our history.

And many people don't recognize that it is as important a date as might be days that we commemorate Black History Month, special days such as the acknowledgment and the celebration of the birthday of Dr. Martin Luther King, or the 40th anniversary of the signing of the Civil Rights bill or the March on Washington or the tragic assassination of Dr. King, and this happens to be the 40th year.

It is a time when we renew ourselves in having a respect for freedom. And Major Granger, who came and acknowledged, gave way to decades and years of celebration.

He also gave way to something called Freedom Watch on New Year's Eve. Many people believe that is a celebration for the new year. But in old years or years back, black churches used to watch on New Year's Eve calling it Freedom Watch to be able to celebrate freedom; and it was the idea of knowing that on January 1, 1863, the slaves would be free.

This is a time to acknowledge that our history should be remembered, that we should teach it to our children, that we should take this history to ourselves, if we will, embed it in our hearts and our souls, and make sure that as we embed it, that we live what this history stands for. It stands for determination, tenacity, strength, character, integrity.

And we must fight against all of these things that enslave us now, and that is, of course, drugs and crime and poverty. And I hope that this Congress, in passing this legislation, will renew our commitment to ridding this Nation of drugs and the devastation of how it destroys families and that we will commit ourselves to building housing, we will commit ourselves to educating our children, we will commit ourselves to building our families, we will commit ourselves to peace, because that's what an emancipation means: Emancipating yourselves from things that were wrong, that were ill.

The Emancipation Proclamation rid this Nation of slavery. Its dastardly effects still continue even today as it separates races and religions, but we have a commitment as the United States Congress to use this floor today to be able to stand against what was a horrific time in the history of America where we held slaves, we debased them, and we rejected humanity and human rights and dignity; but now we must come and respect through this resolution.

So I thank the Congressman for his leadership on managing this bill. I particularly pay tribute to my colleague and friend, Congressman DANNY DAVIS, and to all of my constituents in the State of Texas who will now celebrate this day with a gospel celebration on Saturday, a parade on Saturday, and many, many family reunions around the idea of being emancipated.

Let us live freedom. Let us stand for freedom by building this Nation free of the ills of drugs and poor housing and poverty and war, and that will truly be a commemoration of Juneteenth because Juneteenth is a freedom, and it is emancipation.

Mr. PAUL. Madam Speaker, I am pleased to support H. Res. 1237, legislation commemorating a monumental day in the history of liberty, Juneteenth Independence Day. Juneteenth marks the events of June 19, 1865, when slaves in Galveston, Texas learned that they were at last free men and women. The slaves of Galveston were the last group of slaves to learn of the end of slavery. Thus, Juneteenth represents the end of slavery in America.

I hope all Americans will take the time to commemorate Juneteenth. Friends of human liberty should celebrate the end of slavery in any country. The end of American slavery is particularly worthy of recognition since there are few more blatant violations of America's founding principles, as expressed in the Declaration of Independence, than slavery. I am particularly pleased to join the recognition of Juneteenth because I have the privilege of representing Galveston.

I thank the gentleman from Illinois for introducing this resolution. I thank the House leadership for bringing this resolution to the floor, and I urge all of my colleagues to honor the end of slavery by voting for H. Res 1237.

Mr. SHAYS. Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of House Resolution 1237, which recognizes the historic significance of Juneteenth Independence Day and encourages its continued celebration so all Americans can learn more about our country's past.

The resolution also rightly expresses the sense of Congress that knowing our history helps us solve challenges we face in the future, and that the celebration of the end of slavery is an important part of the history and heritage of the United States.

Madam Speaker, Juneteenth has long been recognized as the day to celebrate the end of slavery in the United States. Juneteenth is the traditional celebration of the day on which the last slaves in America learned they had been freed.

Although slavery was abolished officially in 1863, it took over 2 years for news of freedom to spread to slaves. On June 19th, 1865, U.S. General Gordon Granger rode into Galveston, Texas and announced that the State's 200,000 slaves were free. Vowing never to forget the date, the former slaves coined the nickname Juneteenth, a blend of the words June and 19th. This holiday originated in the Southwest, but today it is celebrated throughout the Nation.

H. Res. 1237 underscores that the observance of Juneteenth Independence Day is an opportunity for all Americans to learn more about our common past and to better understand the experiences that have shaped our great Nation. I urge my colleagues to support this important resolution.

Mr. ISSA. Madam Speaker, I have no further speakers, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. HIGGINS. Madam Speaker, I urge passage, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New York (Mr. HIGGINS) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 1237.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. ISSA. Madam Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

HONORING THE LIFE OF TIMOTHY JOHN RUSSERT, JR.

Mr. HIGGINS. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 1275) honoring the life of Timothy John Russert, Jr., public servant, political analyst, and author.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 1275

Whereas Tim Russert was born in Buffalo, New York, on May 7, 1950;

Whereas Tim Russert graduated from Canisius High School in Buffalo, John Carroll University in University Heights, Ohio, and the Cleveland-Marshall College of Law in Cleveland, Ohio, and received 48 honorary doctorate degrees;

Whereas Tim Russert served as special counsel to Senator Daniel Patrick Moynihan from 1977 to 1982 and counselor to Governor Mario Cuomo from 1983 to 1984;

Whereas Tim Russert began his celebrated career in journalism with the National Broadcasting Company in 1984, reporting from South America, Australia, China, and Rome, where he arranged for the first live appearance on American television by Pope John Paul II;

Whereas in 1991, Tim Russert was named moderator of ''Meet the Press'', the longest-running program in the history of television;

Whereas Tim Russert served masterfully as anchor and political analyst, and earned a reputation as a tenacious yet fair interviewer of his guests, who included the leading political candidates, holders of public office, and newsmakers of the day;

Whereas Tim Russert moderated presidential debates with the same dogged yet respectful manner with which he conducted his interviews, and in so doing provided a valuable service to American voters;

Whereas Tim Russert was a successful author, and his moving books ''Big Russ and Me'' and ''Wisdom of our Fathers'' became New York Times bestsellers;

Whereas Tim Russert won an Emmy Award for his coverage of the funeral of President Ronald Reagan; he also won the Radio and Television Correspondents' Joan S. Barone Award, the Annenberg Center's Walter Cronkite Award, and the Edward R. Murrow Award for Overall Excellence in Television Journalism for his interviews of leading national political figures;

Whereas Tim Russert sat in the front seat of world history, chronicling the domestic and international political events that have defined our time, deftly describing and analyzing these events for millions of Americans;

Whereas Tim Russert was a man of devoted and humble faith who believed in the value of a Jesuit education and who called himself ''a respectful servant in the laity of the church'';

Whereas Tim Russert powerfully advocated on behalf of abused children and voiced the need to protect our Nation's young people, serving on the board of directors of the Boys and Girls Clubs of Greater Washington and America's Promise Alliance;

Whereas Tim Russert was a prominent booster of Buffalo and a famous fan of his beloved Buffalo Bills;

Whereas Tim Russert was always proud of his South Buffalo roots and was a source of civic pride in the western New York community; and

Whereas Tim Russert's love for his family was evident to all who knew him and to readers of his books: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) recognizes and honors the contributions of Timothy John Russert, Jr., as an award-winning political analyst; and

(2) expresses its deepest condolences upon the death of Timothy John Russert, Jr., to his wife, Maureen Orth, his son, Luke, and his surviving family members and friends.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New York (Mr. HIGGINS) and the gentleman from California (Mr. ISSA) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. HIGGINS. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New York?

There was no objection.

Mr. HIGGINS. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, it's with a heavy heart that I call up for consideration H. Res. 1275 which honors the life of legendary journalist Tim Russert whose life slipped away suddenly on Friday, June 13, 2008. I would like to thank the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform Ranking Member TOM DAVIS and also Committee Chair HENRY WAXMAN.

That said, it is with profound regret that I stand before you on the floor of the House today to mourn and commemorate the life of Tim Russert, an icon of America's media for nearly two decades. Mr. Russert died on Friday after collapsing at NBC's Washington, D.C., home of ''Meet the Press'' at age 58.

While Tim Russert was a former Democratic congressional staffer, Washington bureau chief, and senior vice president of NBC News, the world knew him best as the host of the famous Sunday morning news show ''Meet the Press.''

In addition to his professional journalism accomplishments, Mr. Russert was also a best-selling author, penning the New York Times best-selling memoir ''Big Russ & Me'' and ''Wisdom of Our Fathers.''

From his chair at ''Meet the Press,'' Mr. Russert demonstrated his dedication to Democracy, his passion for politics, his admiration for fairness, honesty, and humanity. Mr. Russert's enthusiasm for journalism and politics earned him the respect and acclaim of so many Americans, including myself and many of my colleagues.

Born in Buffalo, New York, on May 7, 1950, Tim Russert received his undergraduate degree from John Carroll University, then proceeded to earn a law degree from Cleveland-Marshall College of Law. Over the years, he earned 48 honorary doctorate degrees, which serves as further evidence of his prolific impact on the world.

While Tim Russert sat in the front seat of world history chronicling the domestic and international political events that have defined our time, he performed his work with great humanity and quality of character. Tim Russert had a gift for making the all-too-complex nature of Washington politics understandable and compelling for Americans across our great country.

In recognition of his work as the epitome of journalistic talent and devotion, Tim Russert won an Emmy Award for his coverage of the funeral of President Ronald Reagan, the Radio and Television Correspondents' Joan S. Barone Award, the Annenberg Center's Walter Cronkite Award, and the Edward R. Murrow Award for Overall Excellence in Television Journalism for his interviews of leading national political figures.

As the former Washington bureau chief of the Wall Street Journal stated, Tim Russert ''really was the best political journalist in America, not just the best television journalist in America.''

Accordingly, it is my hope that we will join the citizens of this country in recognizing and honoring the contributions of a great American, Timothy John Russert, Junior.

H. Res. 1275 formally expresses our deepest condolences upon the death of Timothy John Russert, Junior, and expends our sympathies to his wife Maureen and his son Luke for their loss. It is a loss that will certainly impact all of us for quite some time to come.

Madam Speaker, earlier today, I attended at St. Albans the viewing service for Tim Russert with Erie County Clerk Kathy Hochul, a trusted friend, former colleague, and student intern of Tim Russert. The tribute based on a line that was extending around the campus is extraordinary and profound to recognize his life.

I would like to leave you with the story about Tim Russert and how he made it to Washington from his native Buffalo. Tim Russert would always tell that story to highlight the importance of the working-class values that were instilled in him by his father, Big Russ.

It was the blizzard of 1977 when 3 feet of snow fell on Buffalo with extraordinary winds. Tim Russert was working for Daniel Patrick Moynihan at the time. Moynihan had come to Buffalo to survey the damage from the blizzard.

□ 1715

He was so impressed with Tim Russert, Senator Moynihan said, ''Tim, you have to come to Washington; you have great qualities that will serve you very well there, and you can be with me on my staff.''

Russert went to Washington and, after a short period of time, was somewhat discouraged. Senator Moynihan had recognized that he was discouraged and asked him what the problem was. Tim said, ''Senator, your staff is made up of ideologues, Ivy League-educated people, and I'm from a blue collar background in Buffalo.'' Senator Moynihan put his arm around Tim and said, ''Tim, what they know you can learn. What you know, the values of hard work, of honesty, of love of community, of love of family, they can never learn.''

It's with that that Tim Russert started his career in Washington, in both politics first and foremost and then in journalism.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. ISSA. Madam Speaker, I yield myself as much time as I may consume.

Tim Russert was a great man whose time came too early. He had much more to give to us, not just this past Sunday where he would have had JOE

BIDEN in a one-on-one or a one-on-two and then brought him to task and brought his other guests to task.

But in fact, his legacy will disappear unless we bring ourselves to realize that the truth should not be a casualty of politics. That's what Tim Russert really brought to bear on ''Meet the Press.'' He made the style about the truth. He invited Republicans, Democrats. I think he had Ralph Nader on more than a few times. He made it a point to bring in people who were interesting, and then he asked them interesting questions. And when they answered, he then brought out the interesting fact that they perhaps had not yet prepared for. He asked them to tell the truth, and then if that was not the truth or if there was more to be heard in the truth, he brought that out. His research was second-to-none.

Now, he certainly seemed to say every single week, ''Go Bills.'' But as a Clevelander, I am going to take a little liberty today in his name because when it came time to go to a fine college, he went to John Carroll, a Jesuit college in the city in which my high school, Cleveland Heights University High School, was located. He went there because it was a fine education. I'm only surprised that he learned during those years that it was a little less expensive to go to John Marshall for his law school. So he trotted downtown to Cleveland's John Marshall, now Cleveland State's John Marshall Law School. So he was as much a Clevelander in his education, in his preparation, as he was from Buffalo.

I think that, in fact, his Cleveland roots are something we need to understand because one of the most famous things he ever did was predict in 2004 that it would be ''Ohio, Ohio, Ohio,'' that would indicate the outcome of the 2004 election. I know, Madam Speaker, that you're well aware that Ohio was, in fact, critical, not Florida.

Tim Russert was the kind of person who really enjoyed that kind of let's call the facts to bear, let's bring them in, let's force people to answer tough questions. He did so whether you were a Republican or a Democrat. He did so whether or not the outcome was one direction or the other.

I believe that's part of his Cleveland upbringing. I believe it's what made him great. So he will always be remembered for talking about the Buffalo Bills, but for me, he will always be remembered as somebody who was the product of Jesuit education at John Carroll and Cleveland-John Marshall.

With that, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. HIGGINS. Madam Speaker, I now yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON).

Ms. NORTON. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Professional journalism and millions around the world are in mourning today and ever since they heard of the passing of one of America's giants of journalism. Hometown D.C. is also experiencing its special brand of mourning.

It's true that Tim Russert always talked about Buffalo and the Buffalo Bills. He never let you forget where he was from. It was important to him, where he was from. He identified with the Buffalo Bills because he identified with Buffalo and because Buffalo reminded him of his childhood and his church and his working class upbringing.

The fact is that Tim made his fortune in the District of Columbia and lived in this city. So we adopted Tim long ago as a resident of the city, knowing that his heart was back in Buffalo, but he needed a hometown. This was a man who always needed a hometown, and I can tell you he knew where he lived, and he made me know that he knew where he lived.

I was, in fact, on his program more than once and especially remember one of his end-of-the-year programs, where he kind of looked at the world and looked at what is going to happen. I love it that somehow Tim understood or at least allowed me to weave into an answer what he expected, which was some notion of voting rights that was still necessary in the District of Columbia.

Buffalo and the Buffalo Bills were the only things I know that Tim was not objective about. His gift was somehow to humanize hard news and subjects for interviews by reminding us every so often of Buffalo and the Buffalo Bills and making us laugh and making us know that he was one of us all. At the same time, he managed to be a thoroughly objective reporter and tough interrogator. That, Madam Speaker, is indeed a gift. I don't know of anyone else in broadcast who has that gift.

What was both heartbreaking and heartwarming to hear were the many personal stories from Tim's colleagues, not about their professional work with him but about how he related to them and their families as people. That, in a real sense, makes us know that when Tim talked about the Buffalo Bills and Buffalo this was always the human being talking.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentlewoman's time has expired.

Mr. HIGGINS. I yield 1 additional minute to the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia.

Ms. NORTON. By talking about ''Big Russ'' his father and writing about ''Big Russ,'' Tim was reminding us that he always knew whatever he did on his program, what was important, that family was important. He was not a politician but imagine what kind of politician he would have made? Can you imagine what he would have done in political life?

Tim took an old, respected format and made it new. Tim revolutionized his species of broadcast and branded it as his own.

Our hearts are breaking but our hearts go out to Maureen, to Luke, and especially to Tim's beloved ''Big Russ.''

Mr. ISSA. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

No story of Tim Russert would be complete if we didn't talk about the loss we're going to have this political season. Clearly, as BARACK OBAMA and JOHN MCCAIN compete for the hearts and minds of the American people, we're going to miss Tim Russert asking the tough questions. We're going to miss him undoubtedly at the debates. Somebody else is going to have to be there to be fair but tough.

Madam Speaker, additionally, we're going to miss Tim Russert when it comes to the people on both sides of the issue of why we have $5 gasoline and $135 oil. I think Tim Russert would have been just the right guy to hold people accountable, who would talk about the 68 million acres that are ''inactive'' while, in fact, 41 million are under current lease and use and are producing millions of barrels of oil and natural gas a day, but more importantly, over 2 billion, 2 billion acres are not available for exploration and development, including the over 50 miles and less than 200 miles off the California coast. Those miles certainly could give us the natural gas we need to fire our electricity in California at a time when we are dangerously close to the lights going out once again.

So, Madam Speaker, I'm going to miss Tim Russert because this debate is too important not to have, a fact-oriented, unbiased moderator who can, in fact, bring to bear the truth that we need to have.

With that, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. HIGGINS. Madam Speaker, I now yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. SLAUGHTER).

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

I rise with a heavy heart today because last Friday, one of Buffalo's most cherished sons was taken from us Today, I join my colleagues in celebrating the life of Tim Russert, whose contributions to journalism and American discourse will outlive us all.

As anyone who watched ''Meet the Press'' knows, Tim Russert never forgot where he came from. He was an unabashed and shameless fan of anything Buffalo, and that was fitting. He embodied the values of the old steel town: honesty, integrity, and hard work. Instead of forgetting them when he came to Washington, as so many do, he brought Buffalo with him.

When Tim Russert spoke with someone, he was making a friend, not climbing a ladder. While his career soared, he stood with his feet solidly on the ground. A product of his South Buffalo roots, his character was his trademark and earned him the respect of journalists and politicians and all Americans alike.

Tim Russert didn't chase ratings by taking cheap shots. He didn't distort his guests' positions to create a news story. He always asked fair questions, encouraged open debate, and held politicians accountable to the people who

elected them. He was the epitome of a journalist, sorely lacking today, and his show was the gold standard.

And I would be remiss if I didn't mention his role in honoring fatherhood. Tim Russert reminded Americans of the important role fathers play in child rearing, both through his books and by sharing stories about ''Big Russ'' and his own son. His admiration for his father and his unconditional love for his son were evident every time he spoke of them.

There will be a void on America's television sets every Sunday, and later this fall, the Bills and the Sabers will miss the sounds of cheers from their most loyal fan. But Tim Russert's legacy, his unwavering pride in Buffalo, his devotion to his family, and his indelible mark on journalism will live on.

My thoughts are with his wife and son and the rest of the Russert family.

Mr. ISSA. I would continue to reserve.

Mr. HIGGINS. Madam Speaker, I now yield 2 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from Georgia (Mr. LEWIS).

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Madam Speaker, Tim Russert personified the best of America. He rose to the top of American journalism. He worked for a Governor, a United States Senator, and received a very good education, but he never ever lost the common touch. He never strayed from his Buffalo roots. He loved to talk about Buffalo. He knew that I had many relatives living in Buffalo.

On the ''Today Show,'' his son, Luke, called his father ''the questioner for the American people.'' He had a high calling, a mission, a mandate, to ask politicians and public officials the questions most Americans could not.

When we mourn for Tim Russert, we mourn for his wife, his son, and his father, ''Big Russ.'' We mourn for his colleagues at NBC and the community of journalists, but we also mourn for ourselves at a turning point in the history of our Nation. We mourn for his words, his insight, and his commitment to the people's right to know.

God bless Tim Russert. He will be deeply missed.

□ 1730

Mr. ISSA. I have no further requests for time and I continue to reserve my time.

Mr. HIGGINS. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. COHEN).

Mr. COHEN. Madam Speaker, I think the whole country shared in mourning the loss of Tim Russert as if he was part of our family. We had seen him on television for so many years, and he would come into our homes on Sunday mornings.

And he was so much like so many people in America in that he was passionate about politics, passionate about government, passionate about sports, and passionate about being an American. He loved his Buffalo Bills, Buffalo Sabers, he loved baseball and he loved horse racing. He loved politics, and he had two great mentors in Senator Patrick Moynihan and in Governor Mario Cuomo, two of the great people in political life to ever have the opportunity to work for.

And he was a success story, climbing from the ranks of a government official in the media and perfecting that trade and going to the heights of his profession. He was diligent in doing his research and in quizzing everybody, I think, in an even-handed manner that you really didn't know exactly where Tim Russert was coming from. I had the pleasure of meeting him at a Vanity Fair dinner, which I was invited to last year, and we were at a small table. At the time, I didn't know his wife worked for Vanity Fair. I thought Tim Russert was just there because he was Tim Russert, and that was a good enough reason for him to be there. And he was nice as he could be, just a regular guy, and we had a delightful conversation.

He loved his father. And the book about his dad, Russ, has been well spoken about. But I think what's amazing is I have a very good friend in Memphis named Ted Donaldson. And Ted had written a letter to Tim Russert to be included in the book. And Ted's not a bashful guy at all, and Ted came up to Tim Russert at a function, I think it was in New York, and he said, ''Hi, I'm Ted Donaldson, I'm from Memphis and I wrote you about my dad.'' And he said, ''Yup, page 45.'' He knew exactly the page in the book that it was. He knew his book. He appreciated the people who remembered their fathers and wrote and shared with him. And that book will go on forever remembering the relationship of fathers and sons. I'm sure his son Luke has a great tribute, what he lived and what he remembers from his father and will have a great life. I mourn with him and I'm sorry that he lost his father.

Mr. ISSA. Madam Speaker, I will continue to reserve.

Mr. HIGGINS. Madam Speaker, I now yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON-LEE).

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. I thank the distinguished gentleman, and to the New Yorkers and Washingtonians that had the privilege of having Tim Russert as their native son and someone who moved to their particular area, and to the State of Ohio where he was educated.

Let me thank the author of this legislation, the Congressman from New York (Mr. HIGGINS), the full committee Chair and ranking member.

This is a special tribute that is necessary for this body because we are nothing without words. And Tim Russert was the architect of words that gave politicians a basis of explaining how democracy works. That's what Meet the Press and Sunday morning was all about for many, many Americans.

So I rise to pay tribute to Tim Russert for his life and what he gave to the process of government, and to thank him as well as I watched over the weekend in the times that I was able to see the tributes toward him that he also gave a sense of importance of family, and how he emphasized his wife and his son and of course his family and ''Big Russ.''

And isn't it interesting that he lost his life on the weekend of Father's Day? But it allows so many to emphasize that he was more than just the moderator, the host of Meet the Press; he was an American who loved this country and loved his flag, but he was also someone who loved his family and showed America that even in all of his energy and all of his business he could stop and smell the roses and appreciate the wonderment of his family.

And so I join my colleagues in tribute to him today on the floor of the House and ask, as we celebrate his life, that we will be reminded of the preciousness of democracy and all that we have in benefits to be able to stand on this floor and to espouse our words and to talk about what democracy and freedom is all about. Tim Russert captured it in his love for this process, and his giving to America the ability to understand it in layman's terms.

I offer my deepest sympathy to the Russert family.

Mr. ISSA. Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. HIGGINS. Madam Speaker, just let me say in closing, Tim Russert was the voice to a Nation and to the world with a distinct inflection of that of Buffalo, imbued with exuberance and tempered with a love of family and community and country.

With that, I would ask that this resolution be approved.

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor and remembrance of Mr. Tim Russert, devoted husband, father, son, brother, and friend, whose brilliant legacy as a journalist served to inform the lives of all who knew him well.

Since 1991, Mr. Russert's piercing assessment of our Nation's political scene graced America's television screens on NBC's ''Meet the Press,'' enlightening viewers with tough questions posed to political candidates, elected leaders and influential people of our time. In his relentless search for the truth, Tim Russert served to provide the checks and balances critical to maintaining the integrity of our national freedoms. In every interview, with every question posed, Mr. Russert created an atmosphere of respect, fairness and integrity—an atmosphere in which his ultimate goal as a journalist was sought—discovering the truth.

Tim Russert grew up in working-class Buffalo, NY, where the lessons of hard work, faith and family remained at the core of his being. He and three sisters, Betty, Kathleen, and Patricia were raised by their dedicated parents, Tim and Elizabeth (''Betty''). A sanitation worker and truck driver, his father worked two jobs to provide for his four children. He carried the lessons of his parents every day and within every interview. One of the most engaging and effective journalists of our time, his passion and commitment to his profession was

eclipsed only by his devotion to his family and friends. Mr. Russert shared his joy for life with everyone he met, and he treated everyone with respect and kindness, regardless of their social standing. Tim Russert never forgot where he came from, and his street-smart common sense, infused with a brilliant mind and kind heart, endeared everyone to him—even his toughest competitors.

Madam Speaker and Colleagues, please join me in honor and remembrance of Mr. Tim Russert, whose professional legacy raised critical and complex societal issues into the clear light of day. I offer my deepest condolences to his wife, Maureen; to his son, Luke; to his parents and sisters, and to his extended family members and numerous friends. Tim Russert lived his life with passion and joy, and although he will be greatly missed, the love he shared with family and friends will live on forever, and he will be remembered always.

Mr. DAVIS of Virginia. Madam Speaker, there are two types of people in Washington—those known for what they love and those known for what they hate. Tim Russert was known for all the things he loved.

He loved politics, as he discovered at an early age and as his two bosses in the industry—Mario Cuomo and Daniel Patrick Moynihan—would learn to cherish. He loved humor. All of America knew his jowly and ever-present smile. He loved the give-and-take of a good, rousing political argument—as I and all who appeared with him on Meet the Press would attest.

He loved his family. What moved him finally to write a book? His love for his father. It led to two books, in fact, both of which ended up atop The New York Times bestseller list. His son, Luke, was one of the luckiest kids in Washington. He grew up with a sports-mad dad who took him to every game or match they could squeeze into their days. Nats baseball. Bills football. Wizards basketball. On nights when none were playing, a good high school or college game. Now, Luke and James Carville co-host a sports talk show on XM.

He loved his faith. He called his time in the Catholic schools of Buffalo the most important of his life. He served on numerous boards and devoted countless hours to working on behalf of his faith.

He loved the people who make up Washington—the leaders and media moguls, of course. But he also had a strong relationship with those who are never seen in front of the cameras. It was Russert who stood against staff cutbacks and defended the hard-working men and women behind the scenes who made his show a reality each week.

A lot of people claim to love, but when it comes time to do the work that exemplifies this love, they fall short. That was not the case with Tim Russert. He did the work. He scooped the competitors. He put in the time with family. He practiced and lived his faith. He lived and died with his teams. He looked out for the big and little people in his midst.

A number of commentators have seemed surprised by the extensive coverage of his passing, how hard America seems to be taking it. Why? This is just my guess, but I think when the American people watched him every Sunday morning or during election or other news coverage, they saw a little bit of themselves. They saw someone inherently fair, scrupulously prepared, unfailingly thankful and thoroughly, pleasantly humble. He had the conversation with world leaders and newsmakers we like to think we'd have had if we'd been there. He was us. Part of our families. And we will miss him.

Mr. REYNOLDS. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H. Res. 1275 honoring the life of Timothy John Russert, Jr.

It has been just days since one of Buffalo's favorite sons was taken from us tragically, and suddenly. We have been touched by the makeshift memorial outside the NBC News bureau in Washington, DC, the flags flying at half-staff outside City Hall in Buffalo and Rockefeller Center in New York City, and the thousands who have come from all walks of life to visit the park right outside South Buffalo that bears the name of this giant of broadcast journalism.

Tim and I walked similar beats, cutting our teeth in New York politics—the tricks of the trade Tim picked up working for the late great Sen. Daniel Patrick Moynihan and former Gov. Mario Cuomo, he took with him to NBC, where he ended up the sparring partner of many a public official, including me. Every time we got together, Tim was tough, but fair—and at the end of the day, we were still two Buffalo guys who could talk shop about the Bills and the Sabres.

Though we cannot begin to comprehend the reach of Tim Russert's legacy—we are still a community in mourning—we can say with great certainty that he has left an indelible mark on all of us.

Thank you, Tim. Go Bills!

Mr. HIGGINS. Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New York (Mr. HIGGINS) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 1275.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. ISSA. Madam Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

GRANTING A FEDERAL CHARTER TO KOREAN WAR VETERANS ASSOCIATION, INCORPORATED

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the Senate bill (S. 1692) to grant a Federal charter to Korean War Veterans Association, Incorporated.

The Clerk read the title of the Senate bill.

The text of the Senate bill is as follows:

S. 1692

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. GRANT OF FEDERAL CHARTER TO KOREAN WAR VETERANS ASSOCIATION, INCORPORATED.

(a) GRANT OF CHARTER.—Part B of subtitle II of title 36, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by striking the following:

"CHAPTER 1201—[RESERVED]";

and

(2) by inserting after chapter 1103 the following new chapter:

"CHAPTER 1201—KOREAN WAR VETERANS ASSOCIATION, INCORPORATED

''Sec.
''120101. Organization.
''120102. Purposes.
''120103. Membership.
''120104. Governing body.
''120105. Powers.
''120106. Restrictions.
''120107. Tax-exempt status required as condition of charter.
''120108. Records and inspection.
''120109. Service of process.
''120110. Liability for acts of officers and agents.
''120111. Annual report.
''120112. Definition.

"§ 120101. Organization

''(a) FEDERAL CHARTER.—Korean War Veterans Association, Incorporated (in this chapter, the 'corporation'), a nonprofit organization that meets the requirements for a veterans service organization under section 501(c)(19) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 and that is organized under the laws of the State of New York, is a federally chartered corporation.

''(b) EXPIRATION OF CHARTER.—If the corporation does not comply with the provisions of this chapter, the charter granted by subsection (a) shall expire.

"§ 120102. Purposes

''The purposes of the corporation are those provided in the articles of incorporation of the corporation and shall include the following:

''(1) To organize as a veterans service organization in order to maintain a continuing interest in the welfare of veterans of the Korean War, and rehabilitation of the disabled veterans of the Korean War to include all that served during active hostilities and subsequently in defense of the Republic of Korea, and their families.

''(2) To establish facilities for the assistance of all veterans and to represent them in their claims before the Department of Veterans Affairs and other organizations without charge.

''(3) To perpetuate and preserve the comradeship and friendships born on the field of battle and nurtured by the common experience of service to the United States during the time of war and peace.

''(4) To honor the memory of the men and women who gave their lives so that the United States and the world might be free and live by the creation of living memorial, monuments, and other forms of additional educational, cultural, and recreational facilities.

''(5) To preserve for the people of the United States and posterity of such people the great and basic truths and enduring principles upon which the United States was founded.

"§ 120103. Membership

''Eligibility for membership in the corporation, and the rights and privileges of members of the corporation, are as provided in the bylaws of the corporation.

"§ 120104. Governing body

''(a) BOARD OF DIRECTORS.—The composition of the board of directors of the corporation, and the responsibilities of the board,

are as provided in the articles of incorporation of the corporation.

''(b) OFFICERS.—The positions of officers of the corporation, and the election of the officers, are as provided in the articles of incorporation.

''§ 120105. Powers

''The corporation has only those powers provided in its bylaws and articles of incorporation filed in each State in which it is incorporated.

''§ 120106. Restrictions

''(a) STOCK AND DIVIDENDS.—The corporation may not issue stock or declare or pay a dividend.

''(b) POLITICAL ACTIVITIES.—The corporation, or a director or officer of the corporation as such, may not contribute to, support, or participate in any political activity or in any manner attempt to influence legislation.

''(c) LOAN.—The corporation may not make a loan to a director, officer, or employee of the corporation.

''(d) CLAIM OF GOVERNMENTAL APPROVAL OR AUTHORITY.—The corporation may not claim congressional approval, or the authority of the United States, for any activity of the corporation.

''(e) CORPORATE STATUS.—The corporation shall maintain its status as a corporation incorporated under the laws of the State of New York.

''§ 120107. Tax-exempt status required as condition of charter

''If the corporation fails to maintain its status as an organization exempt from taxation under the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, the charter granted under this chapter shall terminate.

''§ 120108. Records and inspection

''(a) RECORDS.—The corporation shall keep—

''(1) correct and complete records of account;

''(2) minutes of the proceedings of the members, board of directors, and committees of the corporation having any of the authority of the board of directors of the corporation; and

''(3) at the principal office of the corporation, a record of the names and addresses of the members of the corporation entitled to vote on matters relating to the corporation.

''(b) INSPECTION.—A member entitled to vote on any matter relating to the corporation, or an agent or attorney of the member, may inspect the records of the corporation for any proper purpose, at any reasonable time.

''§ 120109. Service of process

''The corporation shall have a designated agent in the District of Columbia to receive service of process for the corporation. Notice to or service on the agent is notice to or service on the corporation.

''§ 120110. Liability for acts of officers and agents

''The corporation is liable for any act of any officer or agent of the corporation acting within the scope of the authority of the corporation.

''§ 120111. Annual report

''The corporation shall submit to Congress an annual report on the activities of the corporation during the preceding fiscal year. The report shall be submitted at the same time as the report of the audit required by section 10101(b) of this title. The report may not be printed as a public document.

''§ 120112. Definition

''For purposes of this chapter, the term 'State' includes the District of Columbia and the territories and possessions of the United States.''.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The item relating to chapter 1201 in the table of chapters at the beginning of subtitle II of title 36, United States Code, is amended to read as follows:

''1201. Korean War Veterans Association, Incorporated ..... 120101''.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON-LEE) and the gentleman from California (Mr. ISSA) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Texas.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the bill under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Texas?

There was no objection.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Madam Speaker, I would now like to yield 1 minute to our distinguished majority leader, Mr. STENY HOYER, the author of this legislation.

Mr. HOYER. I thank my friend, the distinguished representative from the State of Texas and a leader in our caucus and in our Congress.

I want to say how very proud I am to be associated with my good friend, SAM JOHNSON, an American hero not only to this body, but to veterans who have served in every one of our wars, and certainly the Korean War in particular. I thank him for his cosponsorship of this resolution with me.

Madam Speaker, I strongly support this legislation granting the Korean War Veterans Association a Federal charter. It will enable them to expand its mission and further its charitable and benevolent causes.

The Association, comprised exclusively of Korean War members, has more than 23,000 members and is one of the few such organizations of its size without a Federal charter.

More than 50 years have passed since the war-weary men and women who served in Korea returned home. History has revealed that the sacrifices made by these brave soldiers was instrumental in stopping the expansion of communism, and that their sacrifice effectively contributed to a more peaceful world. Can one imagine if North Korea were in charge of all of Korea, what a dangerous world this would be? Granting this Federal charter is a small expression of our appreciation for the extraordinary courage of our forces who were deployed to the Korean Peninsula.

This bipartisan legislation is an opportunity to express our gratitude and respect for our military, past and present, and to give Korean War veterans the long-awaited recognition that they so deserve so that the so-called ''forgotten war'' is and should be forgotten no more.

I want to thank, as I have done earlier, my colleague, Representative SAM JOHNSON, a decorated Korean and Vietnam veteran, for cosponsoring this legislation with me in the House. He honors our House by his service, as he honored this House and this country by his service in Korea and in Vietnam. I know that the Korean War veterans, his colleagues who stood the battle in Korea, are extraordinarily honored by his cosponsorship of this resolution.

I want to thank my good friend, Senator BEN CARDIN of Maryland, for his work on this issue in the Senate.

This is an appropriate step for us to take. This recognition for our Nation's Korean War veterans is long overdue, but it is never too late to do the right thing. And I am pleased, Madam Speaker, to rise and urge my colleagues to unanimously support this resolution, and again thank the distinguished soldier who serves with us and served his country so well in battle.

Mr. ISSA. Madam Speaker, I would like to express my support for S. 1692, legislation that grants a Federal charter to the Korean War Veterans Association.

Many Americans are only familiar with the Korean War through the television series M*A*S*H. Yet, it was one of the defining conflicts of the 20th Century. Because of the courageous service of millions of American servicemen and women, the global spread of Communism was halted on the Korean peninsula. More than 36,000 Americans lost their lives to preserve the liberty of the South Korean people. The fall of the Iron Curtain. would have been inconceivable without their sacrifice.

The Korean War Veterans Association was established in 1985 as the only veteran's organization comprised solely of Korean War Veterans. It now has over 25,000 members. The Association was founded in order to maintain a continuing interest in the welfare of veterans of the Korean War, to rehabilitate disabled veterans of the War, to establish facilities for the assistance of War veterans and to represent them in claims before the Department of Veterans Affairs without charge, and finally to perpetuate and preserve the comradeship and friendships born on the field of battle and to honor the memory of the men and women who gave their lives in the Korean War.

Now, on June 6 of last year, the Immigration Subcommittee adopted the following policy concerning the granting of new federal charters: The Subcommittee will not consider any legislation to grant new federal charters because such charters are unnecessary for the operations of any charitable, non-profit organization and falsely imply to the public that a chartered organization and its activities carry a congressional ''seal of approval,'' or that the Federal Government is in some way responsible for its operations. The Subcommittee believes that the significant resources required to properly investigate prospective chartered organizations and monitor them after their charters are granted could and should be spent instead on the Subcommittee's large range of legislative and other substantive policy matters. This policy is not based on any decision that the organizations seeking federal charters are not worthwhile, but rather on the fact that

federal charters serve no valid purpose and therefore ought to be discontinued.

This policy represented the continuation of a policy the Subcommittee put in place at the start of the 101st Congress and has been continued every Congress since, against granting new federal charters to private, non-profit organizations. However, if the majority seeks to jettison the policy adopted by its own Judiciary Committee just last year, so be it. If we are to grant any organizations federal charters, then the Korean War Veterans Association should be at the top of the list. I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

Madam Speaker, it is my great honor to yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Plano, Texas, a man of personal experience on what it's all about to be a Korean War veteran, a man who I believe brings to the House the kind of insight necessary to bring this bill to the floor.

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the 5 million valiant men and women who served in the Korean War. Some may know the names Buzz Aldrin or John Glenn. You know, we all flew F–86s in the 51st Fighter Wing back then together. They were household names then. I flew 62 combat missions in the Korean War and got a chance to fly with Buzz many times.

On Capitol Hill, there are three of us who served in Korea in this Congress—CHARLIE RANGEL of New York, JOHN CONYERS of Michigan, and I. The Congress is better off because Korean War veterans are represented.

They call the Korean War the ''forgotten war'' as STENY HOYER said. Nowhere is this more evident than the fact that the Korean War Veterans Association has not received a national charter.

A little known fact is that American prisoners of war in Korea endured even more severe treatment than those of us in Vietnam. In fact, they didn't even want to talk about it for years. Giving the Veterans of the Korean War a national charter will put them in the same echelon as the Veterans of Foreign Wars and American Legion, truly a mark of distinction.

There is a Sam Johnson Korean War Veterans Group, chapter 270, in north Texas. The founder, Ed Buckman, a great patriot, did not talk about his history or his story for decades. It wasn't until a couple of years ago that he started sharing his experience and became a Korean War veteran champion.

Ed Buckman is the one who helped bring the need for a national charter to my attention. Mr. Buckman arrived home in Fort Worth after serving from 1950 to 1951 as a Navy electrical engineer aboard the USS Princeton. The Veterans of Foreign Wars advised him that because President Truman dubbed the conflict in Korea a ''police action'' and not a war, Mr. Buckman and other military personnel were not considered veterans.

He once said he did not say the word ''Korea'' out loud for more than 40 years. He confided to the Dallas Morning News that he was bitter. ''We were treated like dirt when we got home.'' Then, in 2000, he heard about a parade in New York City honoring veterans, including those from the Korean War. ''When I went to this parade,'' he said, ''with 25,000 marchers, they put me on the front float and there were a million people saying thank you. No one had ever thanked me for my service in Korea before,'' and he said ''it made me feel proud.'' He tirelessly advocated a national charter for the Korean War veterans, and it brings me great pleasure to know that his hard work paid off.

Ed Buckman, your country and your Congress are saying thank you for your sincere devotion to the cause by creating this long overdue national charter for all Korean War veterans.

I want to thank STENY HOYER and the others in this Congress for helping do this. It's about time our Nation thanked the Korean War veterans for their service and sacrifice with national recognition and premier status.

This July, we mark the 55th anniversary of the Korean War armistice. To the remaining one million plus Korean War veterans we will say, God bless you and God bless America. Your war and your efforts will not be forgotten. This is for you. America salutes you.

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Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Madam Speaker, I would like to now yield 2 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from Maryland (Mr. SARBANES) who also desires to rise to thank the Korean War veterans.

Mr. SARBANES. I thank my colleague very much.

Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of Senate bill 1692 which will grant this Federal charter to the Korean War Veterans Association. This day, as has been said already, is long, long overdue. Later this summer will mark the 55th anniversary of the armistice that ended the full-scale fighting in Korea.

I am very pleased the House will today pass legislation to finally grant the Korean War Veterans Association a Federal charter. My father, Senator Paul Sarbanes, introduced this legislation over several Congresses in an effort to get these veterans the recognition that they deserved. And although this legislation had been a priority of his and Leader HOYER's for many years, we had been unable to get certain opponents to move out of the way and allow it to pass.

Now, thanks to the majority leader and to Senator BEN CARDIN and to others who stepped forward with their support, we will finally send this legislation to the President for his signature, and it will become law.

Madam Speaker, this is about recognizing the 5.7 million veterans who fought in the Korean War and more than 36,000 Americans who made the ultimate sacrifice in service to their country in that conflict.

This is also about fairness. A Federal charter will give the Korean War Veterans Association the same status as other major veteran services organizations and allow them to more efficiently assist their membership.

The Korean War is often called the ''forgotten war.'' By passing this legislation, we take a modest step to reassure the Korean War veterans that we will never forget them and their tremendous sacrifice to our Nation.

Mr. ISSA. Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I might consume.

Madam Speaker, let me rise in appreciation to the chairman of the House Judiciary Committee, Mr. CONYERS, and the ranking member, Mr. SMITH, in working with the Senate and working with the staff on this very important initiative. And I would like to acknowledge both former Senator Sarbanes, Senator CARDIN, and of course our very, very able and distinguished and dedicated Majority Leader HOYER in collaboration with Congressman SARBANES to have this legislation, S. 1692, move, which is to create the Korean War Veterans Association to become a Federally tax-exempt organization. It was a Federally tax-exempt corporation that was incorporated in the State of New York on June 25, 1985. And now this bill will grant a Federal charter to the Korean War Veterans Association.

The veterans association is an association of persons who have seen honorable service during the Korean War at any time between June 25, 1950 and January 31, 1955, both dates inclusive, and of certain other persons, the particular qualifications for membership to be set forth in the bylaws of the Korean War Veterans Association.

Over the years, the organization has established a strong record of service and commitment to fellow Korean War veterans ranging from the efforts on behalf of Project Freedom to a successful effort to construct a national Korean War veterans memorial on the National Mall.

I certainly personally want to thank my friend and colleague from Texas, Congressman SAM JOHNSON, who has never wavered from his commitment and dedication to the men and women of the United States military, to his love of Texas, and certainly to his particular love of those who served in the Korean War as he did, along with his service in the Vietnam War.

He made mention of our friends and colleagues, Congressman JOHN CONYERS and Congressman CHARLIE RANGEL. So today we honor them as we honor many, many of those who served. The Korean War, often overlooked in American history, is anything but forgotten by the nearly 1.2 million American veterans of the Korean War still alive today. And during the 3-year course of the war, some 5.7 million Americans were called to serve.

And by the time the Korean War Armistice Agreement was signed in July 1953, more than 36,000 Americans sacrificed their lives, 103,284 were wounded, 7,140 were captured and 664 were missing. And so we know it was, in fact, a war that saw a painful time in American history but yet saw the valiant effort of our American soldiers.

American troops fought to protect our freedom as we know it today and paved the way for the United States to vanguard the movement for global democracy and liberty, a movement that afforded many countries the opportunity to shift to democratic regimes.

And so it is a special honor to me to able to stand today and join my colleagues, to be able to support this legislation, S. 1692. I would ask my colleagues to support this legislation and be reminded that no war should ever be forgotten. We stand here today to acknowledge that the Korean War is not forgotten, and as well, that we will have the opportunity to celebrate in the passing of this legislation.

With that, Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to vote for S. 1692.

Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of S.1692, a bill to grant a Federal charter to the Korean War Veterans Association. This legislation honors the sacrifice and courage of our soldiers who served in the Korean War. My distinguished colleague from Maryland, Senator BENJAMIN L. CARDIN and the Majority Leader STENY HOYER seek to recognize the heroic deeds of Korean War veterans by granting the Korean War Veterans Association Incorporated a Federal Charter.

The Korean War Veterans Association (KWVA) is a federally-tax exempt organization that was incorporated in the State of New York on June 25, 1985. Its original founder was Mr. William T. Norris, of New York, a member of F Company, 27th Infantry Regiment (Wolfhounds), 25th Infantry Division, when he served as a sergeant in the Korean War.

This legislation provides an opportunity for each of us, regardless of political views, religion, ethnicity, gender, or background to come together, and to recognize and honor our nation's heroes. We gather here today, in the midst of ongoing conflict and warfare, honoring the dedication of our men and women in uniform. Though we may be divided by our positions on the war in Iraq, we stand together to support all of our veterans, highlighting in this particular legislation those who fought in the Korean War.

Our nation has a proud legacy of appreciation and commitment to the men and women who have worn the uniform in defense of this country. We must be united in seeing to it that every soldier, sailor, airman, and marine is welcomed back with all the care and compassion this grateful nation can bestow. S.1692 assists us in these endeavors by extending a small gesture of gratitude that grants a federal charter to an organization that promotes and maintains benevolent and charitable endeavors. The Korean War Veterans Association is an association of persons who have seen honorable service during the Korean War at any time between June 25, 1950 and 31 January 1955, both dates inclusive, and of certain other persons, the particular qualifications for membership to be set forth in the by-laws of the Korean War Veterans Association. Over the years, the organization has established a strong record of service and commitment to fellow Korean War veterans, ranging from efforts on behalf of Project Freedom to its successful effort to construct a national Korean War Veterans Memorial on the National Mall.

The Korean War, often overlooked in American history, is anything but forgotten by the nearly 1.2 million American veterans of the Korean War still alive today. During the three year course of the war, some 5.7 million Americans were called to serve, and by the time the Korean Armistice Agreement was signed in July 1953, more than 36,000 Americans sacrificed their lives, 103,284 were wounded, 7,140 were captured and 664 were missing.

American troops fought to protect our freedom as we know it today and paved the way for the United States to vanguard the movement for global democracy and liberty; a movement that afforded many countries the opportunity to shift to democratic regimes.

Sadly, all too many of our veterans are left without the help and support they need to transition from the horrors they bravely faced on the front lines of battle to a successful civilian life. According to the Veteran's Affairs Department, as of 2006, on any given night, 196,000 veterans of all ages were homeless. As we work to curb this formidable reality, let us demonstrate our support for the veterans of the Korean War by supporting this legislation. This should encourage us to continue to honor this nation's troops who are fighting and who have fought for the rights of all of us in places we do not dare to go, under environments we cannot fully appreciate from this comfortable position.

I firmly believe that we should celebrate our veterans after every conflict, and I remain committed, as a Member of Congress, to both meeting the needs of veterans of previous wars, and to provide a fitting welcome home to those who are now serving. Veterans have kept their promise to serve our nation; they have willingly risked their lives to protect the country we all love.

I have always been a strong supporter of our country's troops, male and female. That is why I introduced the House Concurrent Resolution 320 which celebrates one of our heroic daughters of Texas, Specialist Monica L. Brown of the United States Army with for her efforts earlier this year.

Spec. Brown was the first woman in Afghanistan and only the second female soldier since World War II to receive the Silver Star, the nation's third-highest medal for valor. This soldier from Lake Jackson, Texas was only 20-years-old.

On April 25, 2007, Specialist Brown was part of a four-vehicle convoy patrolling near Jani Kheil in the eastern province of Paktia on April 25, 2007, when a bomb struck one of the Humvees.

When Spec. Brown saw her fellow soldiers were injured, she grabbed her aid bag and started running toward the burning vehicle as insurgents opened fire. All five wounded soldiers from her platoon scrambled out. Under this commotion, she assessed her patients and moved them to a safer location because they were still receiving incoming fire.

Other veteran's legislation that I am pursuing entails guaranteeing that our VA hospitals have the capacity to efficiently and effectively meet the needs of our troops. The Riverside Hospital in Houston, Texas is a historic medical center that has served the needs of veterans in the Houston area for a long time. However, currently, the hospital is lacking the tools necessary to treat the augmenting number of troops who suffer from Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) and other common problems associated with fighting in battle. Today, at this very second let us take a united stand for the well being of our veterans; to say the very least, they deserve it and to say the most; we've promised it.

This attests to the fact that we must now ensure that we keep our promises to our veterans by extending our gratitude and appreciation. Currently, there are over 25 million veterans in the United States. There are more than 1,633,000 veterans living in Texas and more than 32,000 veterans living in my Congressional district alone. I hope we will all take the time to show appreciation to those who have answered the call to duty. As the Winston Churchill famously stated, ''Never in the field of human conflict was so much owed by so many to so few.'' This recognition for our nation's Korean War Veterans is long overdue, and it is a small expression of appreciation our nation can offer to these men and women, and it will enable them to ensure that the ''Forgotten War'' is forgotten no more.

Madam Speaker, as we approach the 55th anniversary of the Korean War Armistice, I encourage my colleagues to join me in supporting and serving those who have served this nation.

Mr. BUYER. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of S. 1692, a measure to grant a Federal charter to the Korean War Veterans Association (KWVA).

Though the Korean War is sometimes referred to as the ''Forgotten War,'' it is among the most significant events of the 20th century. Communist military aggression was defeated and the United States and its allies sent a signal to the world that militaristic expansion of communism would be countered with force.

Nearly 6 million Americans served during the Korean War, and tens of thousands of them faced some of history's most adverse circumstances and challenges for the cause of freedom—by the time the Korean Armistice Agreement was signed in July 1953, more than 36,000 Americans had died, 103,284 had been wounded, 7,140 were captured, and 664 were missing.

The heroism displayed by Korean War veterans should never be forgotten. We can help honor the 1.2 million American veterans of the Korean War who are still alive today by granting a Federal charter to America's oldest and largest association of Korea veterans. KWVA is a 20,000-member veterans' service organization devoted exclusively to Korean War veterans.

That is why we should approve S. 1692 calling on Congress to grant a Federal charter to KWVA. This recognition is well deserved, and I am hopeful that Congress will act swiftly to approve this measure. I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this legislation.

Additionally, I would encourage my colleagues to join me in supporting H.R. 5854, a bill to grant a Federal charter to the Military Officers Association of America (MOAA).

MOAA is the largest professional association for military officers and the fourth largest

veterans group in the Nation. With 370,000 members, MOAA has a distinguished 79-year history of service to the military community, veterans, and their families.

Like KWVA, MOAA is among the veterans' service organizations without a Federal charter. In addition to the deserved recognition it would accord MOAA, a Federal charter would enable some state-level MOAA affiliates to participate on governor-appointed advisory councils to which they are presently excluded.

Again, I urge my colleagues to support this legislation to grant a Federal charter for KWVA, and I would also encourage my colleagues to cosponsor H.R. 5854 to grant a Federal charter to MOAA.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. With that, I yield back my time.

Mr. ISSA. Madam Speaker, I would also yield back at this time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON-LEE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the Senate bill, S. 1692.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the Senate bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

REVISING SHORT TITLE OF THE FANNIE LOU HAMER, ROSA PARKS, AND CORETTA SCOTT KING VOTING RIGHTS ACT REAUTHORIZATION AND AMENDMENTS ACT OF 2006

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the Senate bill (S. 188) to revise the short title of the Fannie Lou Hamer, Rosa Parks, and Coretta Scott King Voting Rights Act Reauthorization and Amendments Act of 2006.

The Clerk read the title of the Senate bill.

The text of the Senate bill is as follows:

S. 188

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

Section 1 of the Fannie Lou Hamer, Rosa Parks, and Coretta Scott King Voting Rights Act Reauthorization and Amendments Act of 2006 (Public Law 109–246) is amended by striking ''and Coretta Scott King'' and inserting ''Coretta Scott King, César E. Chávez, Barbara C. Jordan, William C. Velásquez, and Dr. Hector P. Garcia''.

SEC. 2. CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.

Paragraphs (7) and (8) of section 4(a), and section 13(a)(1), of the Voting Rights Act of 1965 (42 U.S.C. 1973b(a), 1973k(a)(1)) are each amended by striking ''and Coretta Scott King'' and inserting ''Coretta Scott King, César E. Chávez, Barbara C. Jordan, William C. Velásquez, and Dr. Hector P. Garcia''.

SEC. 3. CONSTRUCTION.

Title I of the Voting Rights Act of 1965 (42 U.S.C. 1973 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''SEC. 20. A reference in this title to the effective date of the amendments made by, or the date of the enactment of, the Fannie Lou Hamer, Rosa Parks, Coretta Scott King, César E. Chávez, Barbara C. Jordan, William C. Velásquez, and Dr. Hector P. Garcia Voting Rights Act Reauthorization and Amendments Act of 2006 shall be considered to refer to, respectively, the effective date of the amendments made by, or the date of the enactment of, the Fannie Lou Hamer, Rosa Parks, and Coretta Scott King Voting Rights Act Reauthorization and Amendments Act of 2006.''.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON-LEE) and the gentleman from California (Mr. ISSA) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Texas.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the bill under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Texas?

There was no objection.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. And I now yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of S. 188, a companion bill to H.R. 6250, providing for revising the short title of the Fannie Lou Hamer, Rosa Parks, and Coretta Scott King Voting Rights Act Reauthorization and Amendments Act of 2006.

On January 31, 2007, I introduced H.R. 745 to add Barbara Jordan and Cesar Chavez. On June 12, 2008, I authored and introduced the House companion to S. 188, H.R. 6250, in order to add numbers of individuals who deserve the recognition of this legislation.

I would like to thank Senator SALAZAR on the Senate side for his leadership on this issue. And certainly I would like to thank the chairman of the full committee, Mr. CONYERS, and the ranking member, Mr. SMITH, for their leadership and collaboration, along with the chairman and ranking member of the subcommittee. I also want to thank Mr. Keenan Keller of the Judiciary Committee staff and all the staff who worked with him, Mr. Yohannes Tsehai and Mr. Arthur D. Sidney of my staff, for their work on the House bill and for their work on bringing this bill as quickly as possible to the floor.

The bill before us adds the names of Cesar E. Chavez, Barbara C. Jordan, William C. Velasquez and Dr. Hector P. Garcia to the short title. It is only an addition of names. It is not a deletion of any names. It is adding to the name portion of the bill only.

These great people are pillars in the Nation's struggle for civil rights, equality and justice for all, and I strongly support the bill.

Allow me, Madam Speaker, to share the humble beginnings of all of the individuals that have come before us to be named now to this very important bill, a bill of which we know was really borne in the sweat and tears of those who struggled in the civil rights movement. Many lost their lives in this battle. This reauthorization that occurred in the last session, and the session before is a testimony to the struggle.

Cesar Estrada Chavez was born of humble beginnings on March 31, 1927, in Yuma, Arizona. Early in his life, Mr. Chavez was forced to recognize the harsh realities of racism that all too often plagued communities of color. After his family's home and land were taken from them, Mr. Chavez knew firsthand what it meant to be a victim of gross injustice. Yet despite this and similar experiences of discrimination, Mr. Chavez was not deterred. He often said that ''the love for justice that is in us is not only the best part of our being but also the most true to our nature.''

At only 10 years old, Mr. Chavez became a migrant farmworker. He attended 38 different schools before quitting at the end of the eighth grade to support his family full time.

In 1945, he joined the U.S. Navy and served in the western Pacific during the end of World War II. After completing his military service, Mr. Chavez returned to his roots, laboring in the fields.

Mr. Chavez was unwavering in his activities in voter registration campaigns. He is truly warranting of this honor today.

By day, Mr. Chavez picked apricots in an orchard outside of San Jose. And be reminded that he served in the United States Navy. But he picked apricots in this orchard, and by night he was actively involved in galvanizing voter registration drives. In 1952, Mr. Chavez was a full-time organizer with the Chicago-based Community Service Organization (CSO), not only coordinating voter registration drives, but battling racial and economic discrimination against Chicano residents and organizing CSO chapters across California and Arizona, as well.

In 1968, Chavez conducted a 25-day fast to reaffirm the United Farm Workers' commitment to non-violence. In the process, Mr. Chavez gained the support of the late Senator Robert F. Kennedy and was propelled onto the national political scene. Kennedy called Cesar Chavez ''one of the heroic figures of our time'' and actually flew to be with Mr. Chavez when he ended his fast.

On August 8, 1994, Mr. Chavez became the second Mexican American to receive the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the highest civilian honor in the United States. The award was presented posthumously by then-President Bill Clinton.

Mr. Chavez dedicated his life to improving the working conditions for the poor and exploited. He worked on behalf of the migrant workers in the western United States. He worked also tirelessly to ensure that Hispanic Americans were involved in the political process. He is deserving of this honor. And we commend him as we move this legislation forward.

The next named person to have her name listed on the Voting Rights bill is Barbara Charline Jordan. Congresswoman Jordan was a friend to many, a mentor to me, and an icon. The late honorable Congresswoman Barbara Jordan represented the 18th Congressional District. She was the maiden holder of this seat. After this opportunity was given through the Voting Rights Act of 1965, I am now privileged to serve, and she was one of the first two African Americans from the South to be elected to the House of Representatives since Reconstruction.

Barbara Jordan was known for her eloquence but also to many for her quiet thoughtfulness and seriousness in the legislative process. Barbara Jordan was a renaissance woman, eloquent, fearless and peerless in her pursuit of justice and equality.

I pay tribute also to her sister who has carried on her legacy by presenting herself to the public and helping people understand Barbara's legacy, that is to a dear friend, Ms. Rosemary McGowan, who lives in Houston, Texas, today. All of her family grew up and lived in Fifth Ward, and we were with them just a few weeks ago when they showed us the remnants of where they lived. It is now railroad tracks. But we will never have their history extinguished.

Barbara Jordan exhorted all of us to strive for the excellence, stand fast for justice and fairness, and yield to no one in the manner of defending the Constitution and upholding the most sacred principles of a democratic government. To Barbara Jordan, the Constitution was a very profound document, one to be upheld.

On January 17, 1996, Barbara Jordan died too early, at the young age of 59. On that day, Texas and the Nation lost one of its finest daughters, a woman who had served the people of Houston and Harris County in State and national government for over a decade. And with Barbara Jordan's passing, America lost one of its finest citizens.

Barbara Jordan's voice and eloquence was one of a kind, and so was she.

From her outspokenness during Watergate, to her ethics back in Texas to improve transparency, accountability and ethics in government, no stand was too controversial or too unpopular for Barbara Jordan to take. If she believed that it was the right thing to do, she did it. She was not afraid to take unpopular stands. And she often ruffled the feathers of friends and foes alike.

The Washington Post, too, half-jokingly described Barbara Jordan as ''the first black woman everything.'' And a Cosmopolitan magazine survey of 700 political opinions in 1975 put Jordan at the top of the list of women they would like to see become President.

And in 1966 she became the first African American woman elected to the Texas State Senate. She was the only woman in that legislative session.

In 1972, she came to the United States Congress. She worked on worker's compensation and she also amended the Voting Rights Act to include Mexican Americans in Texas and other southwestern States and to extend its authorities to those States where minorities had been denied the right to vote.

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She obviously was renowned for her Watergate work and also her 1976 speech to the Democratic Convention. One of Professor Jordan's colleagues paid her the ultimate compliment. ''She pushed her students. She said, 'You know, you have an obligation. You owe something for what you have, and you need to pay it back.' '' That was Barbara Jordan, continuing to give public service.

She ended her life as a professor at the Lyndon Baines Johnson School. In the tradition of Frederick Douglass, Martin Luther King and Thurgood Marshall, she believed that the Constitution should be upheld.

We honor her, deservedly so, by naming her to the Voting Rights Act of 1965, reauthorized.

The next named person is William C. Velasquez, also a Texan, affectionately known as ''Willie.'' He paved the way for his generation and future generations of Hispanics to empower themselves through voter registration, political empowerment, economic self-reliance and education.

Mr. Velasquez was one of the founding members of the Mexican American Youth Organization, MAYO, a Chicano youth organization aimed at social action. His role in MAYO led to his becoming Texas' first statewide coordinator of the El Movimiento Social de la Raza Unida, the precursor of La Raza Unida Party. His involvement with the Latino organization was extensive. In 1968, as boycott coordinator for the United Farm Workers, he organized strikes in the Rio Grande Valley of Texas.

After leaving the UFW, he became the founder and director of the Mexican-American Unity Council in San Antonio, Texas. In 1970, he was named field director of the Southwest Council of La Raza.

From 1972 to July 1974, he concentrated his efforts on building the Southwest Voter Registration Education Project. That is what so many of us know him for, SVREP. Little notice was given when Velasquez opened the doors to SVREP in 1974, seated on a folding chair behind a small desk calling from a borrowed rotary telephone to spur Mexican Americans into politics.

Mr. Velasquez's work of empowering all Americans through political participation by his nonpartisan voter registration, voter education, candidate training, get-out-the-vote efforts, this work of SVREP continues as it began through his work. He enlisted the aid of community organizers. Together they launched hundreds of voter registration and get-out-the-vote GOTV campaigns throughout the Southwest.

The legacy of Mr. Velasquez is apparent. Since its inception, his organization has cultivated 50,000 community leaders, successfully litigated 85 voting rights lawsuits, and has conducted 2,300 nonpartisan voter registration and GOTV campaigns. Consequently, voter registration has grown over the years from 2.4 million registered Latinos in 1974 to almost 12 million nationwide.

Upon news of his death, the Congress adjourned its session for the day, symbolically illustrating his single-handed effect on our political process. President Clinton posthumously awarded Mr. Velasquez the Presidential Medal of Freedom, stating that he was driven by an unwavering belief that every American should have a role in our democracy and share in the opportunities of our great Nation, adding that Mr. Velasquez made this a greater country.

I agree with him. It is for this reason, Madam Speaker, that we are honored today to be able to add Mr. William ''Willie'' C. Velasquez in the short title of the Voting Rights Act, now reauthorized, but the Voting Rights Act of 1965.

Our next named person, Dr. Hector P. Garcia, was an interesting and strong Texan. Dr. Hector P. Garcia was a Mexican immigrant who became a doctor, soldier, war hero and presidential confidante. He dedicated his life to advocating for the education, civil rights, labor rights and human rights of our community by struggling against racism and injustice. His life is an example for the younger generation.

Dr. Garcia received many honors during his life-long fight for veterans rights. He is a giant in Texas. He is well-known, as we have found, throughout the Nation, throughout the veterans efforts that have come about, particularly representing Latinos. He is a giant. His fight for veterans rights and his struggle against discrimination in housing, education and voting rights is renowned.

In 1968, President Lyndon B. Johnson made him the first Mexican to serve on the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights. Johnson also appointed him Alternate Ambassador to the United Nations to promote better relations with Latin America and Spain. Dr. Garcia served Presidents John F. Kennedy and Jimmy Carter as an adviser.

President Ronald Reagan awarded him the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the Nation's highest civilian honor. Pope John Paul II recognized him with the Equestrian Order of Pope Gregory the Great. President Clinton eulogized him as a national hero.

The Treasury Department's new $75 Series I U.S. Savings Bond bears Dr. Garcia's portrait. The eight Americans depicted on the bonds, which debuted on September 1, 2007, were chosen for their individual achievements and service, and, for the first time, to reflect the Nation's racial and ethnic diversity. Dr. Garcia is the only Hispanic. Other honorees include General George C. Marshall and the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King.

Congress honored Dr. Garcia, who died on July 26, 1996, at the age of 82, by passing a bill in August 1996 that made the American G.I. Forum a Congressionally chartered veterans organization. Dr. Garcia founded the organization in 1948, and today it is the Nation's largest Hispanic veterans group. The charter status recognizes the G.I. Forum as a peer of the American Legion.

Dr. Garcia was born in a Mexican village in 1914 to a college professor and a schoolteacher. They fled to Texas in 1918 to escape the Mexican Revolution. He was one of seven children, six of whom became doctors. He graduated from the University of Texas Medical School, joined the Army in World War II and served in North Africa and Italy as an infantryman and combat engineer until the Army officials found out that he was a doctor. He earned the Bronze Star Medal with six battle stars in Italy.

A disturbing incident in 1949 convinced Dr. Garcia that the Forum needed to fight for more than veterans rights. Army Private Felix Longoria was killed on June 14, 1945, while on patrol in the Philippines to flush out retreating Japanese. It took nearly four years to identify and return his remains to his family. A funeral director in Three Rivers, Texas, told the family that the Anglo community wouldn't stand for his remains to lie in the chapel for a wake, but he offered to arrange for Longoria's burial in the segregated Mexican cemetery separated by barbed wire.

Private Longoria's widow called Dr. Garcia for help, who then contacted the funeral home and asked permission to use the chapel. The director told him no Mexican American had ever used the chapel and he wouldn't allow it because it might offend the whites. Dr. Garcia went on to talk about this issue and to fight against it, and ultimately he prevailed when many noticed that the State of Texas, which loomed so large on the map, looked so small tonight.

So within 24 hours the founder of the newly organized American G.I. Forum received a telegram from then Senator Lyndon B. Johnson, who expressed his regret about what occurred, and therefore he made arrangements to have Felix Longoria buried with full military honors in Arlington National Cemetery in Virginia.

This is truly a story of a hero, and that is why we stand today to acknowledge Hector P. Garcia, who will be named to the short title of the Voting Rights Act of 1965. He will join these heroes, Cesar Chavez, Barbara Jordan, Willie Velasquez, and now Dr. Hector P. Garcia, for he has fought for those who could not speak for themselves to in essence have the opportunity to vote.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to support this legislation in honor of these magnificent individuals.

Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of S. 188, to revise the short title of the Fannie Lou Hamer, Rosa Parks, and Coretta Scott King Voting Rights Act Reauthorization and Amendments Act of 2006. On January 31, 2007, I introduced H.R. 745 to add Barbara Jordan and Cesar Chavez. On June 12, 2008, I authored and introduced the House companion, H.R. 6250 to S. 188. I want to commend the author on the Senate side, Senator SALAZAR.

I would like to thank Mr. Keenan Keller, and Mr. Yohannes Tsehai and Mr. Arthur D. Sidney of my staff for their work on the House bill and for their work on bringing this bill quickly to the floor. The bill before us adds the names of Cesar E. Chavez, Barbara C. Jordan, William C. Velasquez, and Dr. Hector P. Garcia to the short title. These great people are pillars in the nation's struggle for civil rights, equality, and justice for all. I strongly support this bill.

CESAR ESTRADA CHAVEZ

Cesar Estrada Chavez was born of humble beginnings on March 31, 1927, near Yuma, Arizona. Early in life, Mr. Chavez was forced to recognize the harsh realities of racism that all too often plagued communities of color. After his family's home and land were taken from them, Mr. Chavez knew first hand what it meant to be the victim of gross injustice. Yet, despite this and similar experiences of discrimination, Mr. Chavez was not deterred. He often said that "the love for justice that is in us is not only the best part of our being but also the most true to our nature."

At only 10 years old, Mr. Chavez became a migrant farmworker. He attended 38 different schools before quitting at the end of the eighth grade to support his family full time.

In 1945, Mr. Chavez joined the US Navy and served in the Western Pacific during the end of World War II. After completing his military service, Mr. Chavez returned to his roots, laboring in the fields.

Mr. Chavez was unwavering in his activities in voter registration campaigns. By day, Mr. Chavez picked apricots in an orchard outside of San Jose; by night, he was actively involved in galvanizing voter registration drives. In 1952, Mr. Chavez was a full time organizer with the Chicago-based Community Service Organization (CSO), not only coordinating voter registration drives, but battling racial and economic discrimination against Chicano residents and organizing new CSO chapters across California and Arizona as well.

Mr. Chavez was also a passionate member of the labor movement in this country. In 1962, he moved his wife and eight young children to California, where he founded the National Farm Workers Association (NFWA), the first successful farm workers' union in U.S. history.

In 1968, Chavez conducted a 25-day fast to reaffirm the United Farm Workers commitment to non-violence. In the process, Mr. Chavez gained the support of the late Senator Robert F. Kennedy and was propelled onto the national political scene. Kennedy called Cesar Chavez "one of the heroic figures of our time," and actually flew to be with Mr. Chavez when he ended his fast.

In 1991, Mr. Chavez received the Aguila Azteca (The Aztec Eagle), Mexico's highest award presented to people of Mexican heritage who have made significant contributions outside of Mexico. When he passed away on April 23, 1993, at the age of 66, he was the president of the United Farm Workers of America, AFL–CIO.

On August 8, 1994, Mr. Chavez became the second Mexican American to receive the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the highest civilian honor in the United States. The award was presented posthumously by then-President Bill Clinton.

Mr. Chavez dedicated his life to achieving better working conditions for the poor and the exploited migrant farmers in the western United States. He also tirelessly worked to ensure that Hispanic Americans were involved in the political process and were registered to vote. He is regarded as one of the most important people in the U.S. labor movement and in the Hispanic voter registration movement in this country. We honor his life and his legacy with the addition of his name on this important piece of legislation.

BARBARA CHARLINE JORDAN

Barbara Charline Jordan was a friend to many, a mentor to me and an icon. The late honorable Congresswoman Barbara Jordan represented the 18th Congressional District of Texas that I am now privileged to serve, and was one of the first two African-Americans from the South to be elected to the House of Representatives since Reconstruction.

Barbara Jordan was a renaissance woman, eloquent, fearless, and peerless in her pursuit of justice and equality. She exhorted all of us to strive for excellence, stand fast for justice and fairness, and yield to no one in the matter of defending the Constitution and upholding the most sacred principles of a democratic government. To Barbara Jordan, the Constitution was a very profound document, one to be upheld.

On January 17, 1996, Barbara Jordan died at the young age of 59. On that day, Texas lost one of its finest daughters—a woman who had served the people of Houston and Harris County in state and national government for over a decade. And with Barbara Jordan's passing, America lost one of its finest citizens.

Barbara Jordan's voice and eloquence were one of a kind. And so was she.

Her accomplishments and admirers were legion. As a statesman and as a teacher, Barbara Jordan transcended race, gender, class, and political affiliation. She was not afraid to take unpopular stands—and she often ruffled the feathers of friends and foes alike.

From her outspokenness during Watergate, to her efforts back in Texas to improve transparency, accountability, and ethics in government, no stand was too controversial or too unpopular for Barbara Jordan to take—if she believed that it was the right thing to do.

Her rise through the ranks of state and national politics compelled The Washington Post to half-jokingly describe Barbara Jordan as "the first black woman everything." And a Cosmopolitan magazine survey of 700 political opinion leaders in 1975 put Jordan at the top of a list of women they would like see become President.

In 1966, she became the first African-American woman elected to the Texas state Senate. She was the only woman in that legislative session.

In 1972, she became the first African-American woman elected to Congress from Texas after Reconstruction. While in Washington, she served with distinction on the House Judiciary Committee.

As a public servant, Barbara Jordan sponsored bills that championed the cause of the poor and the disenfranchised. One of her most

important bills as state senator was the Workman's Compensation Act, which increased the maximum benefits paid to injured workers. As a congresswoman, she sponsored legislation to broaden the Voting Rights Act of 1965 to cover Mexican Americans in Texas and other southwestern states, and to extend its authority to those states where minorities had been denied the right to vote or had their rights restricted by unfair registration practices, such as literacy tests.

She gained national prominence for the position she took and the statement she made at the 1974 impeachment hearing of President Richard Nixon. In casting her "yes" vote, Jordan stated, "My faith in the Constitution is whole, it is complete, it is total."

In 1976, she was the first African-American woman to deliver a keynote address at the Democratic National Convention. She would deliver the keynote address again at the Democratic National Convention in 1992.

President Jimmy Carter considered her for Attorney General and U.N. Ambassador, but she chose to remain in Congress. She seriously considered challenging Sen. John Tower in 1978, but became ill and retired from politics.

Representative Jordan left Congress in 1979 to become Professor Jordan when she joined the faculty of the Lyndon Baines Johnson School of Public Affairs at the University of Texas. President Johnson was a mentor to Jordan. Fittingly, Professor Jordan held the endowed Lyndon B. Johnson Centennial Chair in National Policy.

One of Professor Jordan's colleagues paid her this ultimate compliment: "She pushed her students. She said, 'you know, you have an obligation. You owe something for what you have and you need to pay it back.' And I think they all caught that passion that she had for public service."

Professor Jordan, reflecting on her service in Congress, offered this pearl: "One sometimes gets the feeling that the Washington politician feels that all wisdom resides in the nation's capital. That is not the view of the people on the outside, the people I am now working with and communicating with. Distance has a way of lessening the impact of what the Federal Government does." Few truer words have ever been spoken.

As a distinguished professor at the LBJ School, Professor Jordan was able to have a major influence on the next generation of public officials. She impressed her students with her intellect and ability to inspire them to achieve excellence in the classroom, and to be committed to public service.

Barbara Jordan was a lawyer, legislator, scholar, author, and presidential adviser. She was immensely gifted, and used every bit of her talent and skill to address, improve, and dignify the conditions of human life. In the tradition of Frederick Douglass, Martin Luther King, and Thurgood Marshall, she challenged the Federal Government and the American people to uphold the principles set forth in the Constitution.

Today, we honor Barbara Jordan by including her name on the Voting Rights Act, an Act up which she personally worked. She sponsored legislation to broaden the Voting Rights Act of 1965 so that its promises would be extended to all Americans. For this, we celebrate her and her legacy.

WILLIAM C. VELÁSQUEZ

William C. Velásquez, affectionately known as "Willie," paved the way for his generation and future generations of Hispanics to empower themselves through voter registration, political empowerment, economic self-reliance, and education.

Mr. Velásquez was one of the founding members of the Mexican American Youth Organization (MAYO), a Chicano youth organization aimed at social action. His role in MAYO led to becoming Texas' first statewide Coordinator of El Movimiento Social de la Raza Unida, the precursor of La Ram Unida Party.

His involvement with Latino organizations was extensive. In 1968, as Boycott Coordinator for the United Farm Workers (UFW), he organized strikes at the Rio Grande Valley of Texas. After leaving the UFW he became the founder and director of the Mexican American Unity Council in San Antonio, Texas. In 1970, he was named Field Director of the Southwest Council of La Raza.

From 1972 to July 1974, he concentrated his efforts on building the Southwest Voter Registration Education Project (SVREP). Little notice was taken when Velásquez opened the doors to SVREP in 1974, seated on a folding chair; behind a small desk calling from a borrowed rotary telephone to spur Mexican Americans into politics.

SVREP continues Mr. Velásquez's work of empowering all Americans, through political participation, by its nonpartisan voter registration, voter education, candidate training, and get-out-the-vote efforts.

He enlisted the aid of community organizers, together they launched hundreds of voter registration and get-the-vote-out (GOTV) campaigns throughout the southwest. The legacy of Mr. Velásquez is apparent—since its inception, SVREP has cultivated 50,000 community leaders, successfully litigated 85 voting rights law suits and has conducted 2,300 nonpartisan, voter registration and GOTV campaigns. Consequently, voter registration has grown over the years from 2.4 million registered Latinos in 1974 to almost 12 million nationwide.

The groundbreaking work of Mr. Velásquez and his associates created opportunities for Hispanics to enter into the political arena, and gain a voice for a significant community in American society.

Upon news of his death, the Congress adjourned its session for the day, symbolically illustrating, his single-handed effect on our political process. President Clinton posthumously awarded Mr. Velásquez the Presidential Medal of Freedom, stating that he "was driven by an unwavering belief that every American should have a role in our democracy and a share in the opportunities of our great Nation," adding that Velásquez "made this a greater country."

The Presidential Medal of Freedom, in the words of President Clinton, celebrates those who have changed America for the better and who embody the best qualities in our national character. His contributions will broaden the historical understanding of the development and struggle of the Hispanic community of the United States and further serve to increase awareness of the influence of Hispanics on our country.

Madam Speaker, it is indeed fitting that we include the name William "Willie" C. Velásquez in the short title of the Voting Rights Act.

DR. HECTOR P. GARCIA

Dr. Hector P. Garcia was a Mexican immigrant refugee who became a doctor, soldier, war hero and presidential confident. He dedicated his life to advocating education, civil rights, labor rights and human rights of our community by struggling against racism and injustice. His life is an example for younger generations.

Dr. Garcia received many honors during his lifelong fight for veterans' rights and his struggle against discrimination in housing, jobs, education and voting rights. In 1968, President Lyndon B. Johnson made him the first Mexican American to serve on the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights. Johnson also appointed him alternate ambassador to the United Nations to promote better relations with Latin America and Spain. Dr. Garcia served Presidents John F. Kennedy and Jimmy Carter as an adviser.

President Ronald Reagan awarded him the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the nation's highest civilian honor. Pope John Paul II recognized him with the Equestrian Order of Pope Gregory the Great. President Bill Clinton eulogized him as a national hero. The Treasury Department's new $75 Series I U.S. Savings Bond bears Dr. Garcia's portrait. The eight Americans depicted on the bonds, which debuted September 1, 2007, were chosen for their individual achievements and service and, for the first time, to reflect the nation's racial and ethnic diversity. Dr. Garcia is the only Hispanic; other honorees include Gen. George C. Marshall and the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Congress honored Dr. Garcia, who died on July 26, 1996, at age 82, by passing a bill in August 1996 that made the American G.I. Forum a congressionally chartered veterans organization. Dr. Garcia founded the organization in 1948, and today is the nation's largest Hispanic veterans group. The charter status recognizes the G.I. Forum as a peer of the American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars and others.

Dr. Garcia was born in the Mexican village of Llera, Tamaulipas, on January 17, 1914, to a college professor and a schoolteacher. When he was four, his family fled to Mercedes, Texas, in 1918 to escape the Mexican Revolution. He was one of seven children, six of whom became doctors.

A 1940 graduate of the University of Texas Medical School, he joined the Army during World War II and served in North Africa and Italy as an infantryman and combat engineer until Army officials found out he was a doctor. He earned the Bronze Star Medal with six battle stars in Italy.

After the war, he opened a medical practice in Corpus Christi and worked as a contract physician for the Veterans Administration. That's when he discovered his employer was denying proper medical treatment and educational benefits to Mexican-American war veterans. He founded the American G.I. Forum on March 26, 1948, to fight that discrimination.

A disturbing incident in 1949 convinced Dr. Garcia that the Forum needed to fight for more than veterans benefits. Army Pvt. Felix Longoria was killed on June 15, 1945, while on patrol in the Philippines to flush out retreating Japanese. It took nearly four years to identify and return his remains to his family. A funeral director in Three Rivers, Texas, told the family that the Anglo community "wouldn't

stand for'' his remains to lie in the chapel for a wake, but he offered to arrange for Longoria's burial in the segregated ''Mexican'' cemetery, separated by barbed wire.

Pvt. Longoria's widow called Dr. Garcia for help, who then contacted the funeral home and asked permission to use the chapel. The director told him no Mexican American had ever used the chapel and he wouldn't allow it because it might offend the whites.

Dr. Garcia reported the conversation to a Corpus Christi newspaper reporter and sent 17 telegrams to congressmen, senators, a governor and other reporters. The telegrams stated, ''The denial was a direct contradiction of those same principles for which this American soldier made the supreme sacrifice in giving his life for his country, and for the same people who deny him the last funeral rites deserving of any American hero regardless of his origin.''

The statement was aired internationally by radio broadcasters Drew Pearson, Westbrook Pegler and Walter Winchell, who said: ''The State of Texas, which looms so large on the map, looks so small tonight. . . .''

Within 24 hours, the founder of the newly organized American G.I. Forum received a telegram from then Sen. Lyndon B. Johnson that read, in part: ''I deeply regret to learn that the prejudice of some individuals extends even beyond this life. I have no authority over civilian funeral homes. Nor does the federal government. However, I have made arrangements to have Felix Longoria buried with full military honors in Arlington (Va.) National Cemetery . . . where the honored dead of our nation's war rest.''

Lyndon and Lady Bird Johnson and President Truman's personal aide, Maj. Gen. Harry Vaughn, attended Longoria's funeral on February 16, 1949. The incident propelled the G.I. Forum's civil rights agenda to national attention. With its headquarters in Austin, Texas, the Forum has evolved from a veterans' rights group into a civil rights organization with more than 160,000 members in 500 chapters in 24 states and Puerto Rico. Today it serves all Hispanics and promotes greater participation in civic affairs, educational attainment, employment, equality in income and health services.

In 1960, Dr. Garcia became national coordinator of the Viva Kennedy clubs organized to elect John Fitzgerald Kennedy-president. The civil rights agenda of the Forum, however, was not at the forefront of the Kennedy administration's platform, and Dr. Garcia and his supporters were forced to content themselves with his perfunctory appointment as representative of the United States in mutual defense treaty talks with the Federation of West Indies Islands in 1962. The talks were successful, and the appointment was notable as the first instance that a Mexican American had represented an American president. After President Kennedy's assassination, his successor Lyndon Johnson appointed Dr. Garcia Presidential Representative with the rank of Special Ambassador to the presidential inauguration ceremonies of Dr. Raúl Leoni in Venezuela.

In 1966, through the efforts of the Forum and other groups, the Texas poll tax was repealed. The Forum also undertook a march on the Texas state capital to protest the low wages of Mexican agricultural laborers. In 1967, President Johnson appointed Dr. Garcia alternate ambassador to the United Nations. He was tasked with the improvement of relations with Latin American nations. He made history when, on October 26, 1967, he became the first United States representative to speak before the U.N. in a language other than English.

In 1968, President Johnson appointed him to the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights. In 1972, Dr. Garcia was arrested at a sit-in protest of the de facto segregation in Corpus Christi School District.

Madam Speaker, there has never been a more important time to honor the great legacy of these civil rights pillars and it is, indeed, fitting that we include the name Dr. Hector P. Garcia in the short title of the Voting Rights Act.

Madam Speaker, the renaming of this historic piece of legislation is critically important. These civil rights legends have left an indelible mark upon my career and they have paved the way for me. Much respect and honor is due to these individuals. I owe them a debt of gratitude. I have stood on their backs and enjoyed the fruits of their labor. I am grateful as an African American, a woman, and a member of Congress for the sacrifices these individuals have made for all Americans.

I urge my colleagues to support this important legislation.

Mr. ISSA. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. ISSA. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of S. 188, which adds several names to the short title of the Voting Rights Act Reauthorization and Amendments Act of 2006.

The individuals whose names are added by this legislation deserve to be embodied in that historic legislation for the roles they played in encouraging the participation of all Americans in the political process.

Cesar Chavez and Dr. Hector Garcia followed the path of Martin Luther King, Jr. Mr. Chavez founded and led the first successful farm workers' union in the United States and became the president of the United Farm Workers of America, AFL–CIO. From its beginnings, the UFW adhered to the principles of non-violent change. Mr. Chavez received the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the highest civilian honor in the United States, in 1994.

Dr. Hector Garcia was a Mexican Revolution refugee and medical doctor. He, too, led peaceful protests to empower Mexican Americans to fight legal and political battles against discrimination through his founding of the American GI Forum. He was also awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom by President Ronald Reagan in 1984.

Barbara Jordan was the first African-American woman to serve in the U.S. Congress from the South. She became the first African-American woman to serve in the Texas Senate since 1883, where she served as the chair of a major committee. As a Congresswoman, she sponsored legislation to broaden the Voting Rights Act of 1965 to cover Mexican-Americans and to extend its provisions to States where minorities had been denied the right to vote or had their rights restricted by unfair registration practices.

Finally, William Velasquez founded the Southwest Voter Registration Education Project in 1974 to encourage Latinos to join the democratic process. Starting with a folding chair and a borrowed rotary phone, Mr. Velasquez's organization cultivated over 50,000 community leaders, successfully litigated 85 voting rights lawsuits, and conducted 2300 non-partisan voter registration drives. He was also awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 1995.

The names of these voting rights leaders and Presidential Medal of Freedom recipients deserve to stand side by side with Fannie Lou Hamer, Rosa Parks, and Coretta Scott King, in the short title of the Voting Rights Act Reauthorization and Amendments Act of 2006.

Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Madam Speaker, I thank the distinguished gentleman. It is my hope that we will enthusiastically support this legislation in tribute to these outstanding Americans.

Mr. CONYERS. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of S. 188, which would rename the Fannie Lou Hamer Rosa Parks, and Coretta Scott King Voting Rights Act Reauthorization and Amendments Act of 2006, to include the names of civil rights pioneers Cesar E. Chavez, Barbara C. Jordan, William C. Velasquez, and Dr. Hector P. Garcia. It passed the other body unanimously, and I would hope that this House would follow suit.

I want to commend SHEILA JACKSON-LEE, a distinguished Member of the Judiciary Committee from Texas, who introduced legislation in the House. It is vitally important that we all remember the many courageous leaders whose achievements make possible the work we do today.

The reauthorization of the Voting Rights Act was an important achievement. The extension of this historic civil rights legislation passed in the last Congress with broad bi-partisan support.

The Voting Rights Act has, since its enactment in 1965, helped to fulfil the promise of this nation to the world that all are created equal, and all have an equal right to determine their destinies.

Although the 15th Amendment to the Constitution was meant to guarantee that ''[t]he right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of race, color, or previous condition of servitude,'' that guarantee was not given full effect for many former slaves and their descendants for a full century after its adoption.

The Voting Rights Act changed the legal landscape and gave citizens, backed up by the Department of Justice, new legal remedies to ensure that their voices would be heard at the ballot boxes—freely, fairly, and equally.

It is therefore fitting that we should add the names of these four civil rights leaders to the title of the Voting Rights Act.

Who were these leaders?

Cesar Chavez dedicated his life to the rights of some of the most vulnerable and powerless in this nation. The migrant farm workers who pick our crops were unable to provide even the most basic needs for their families. Lack of decent pay, schooling, education, sanitation, housing, and political power made them some of the most oppressed Americans. In a land of plenty, these workers had nothing.

Edward R. Murrow rightly called it our ''Harvest of Shame.''

Cesar Chavez organized the unorganized, built a national movement, and won a contract and a life with dignity for these workers. As the founder of the United Farm Workers, he brought hope, dignity, and self-respect to thousands of hardworking Americans who had

faced bleak oppression and disenfranchisement.

With the founding, and the success, of this movement, nothing would ever be the same.

Barbara C. Jordan was a distinguished Member of this House from Houston, Texas, from 1973 to 1979, and a member of the Judiciary Committee.

In 1966, she became the first African American to serve in the Texas State Senate since 1883.

In 1972, she and and Andrew Young became the first African Americans elected to Congress from the South since 1898.

If those dates are jarring, they should be. The post-Reconstruction era was marked by violence, state-sponsored terror, and legal roadblocks that disenfranchised African Americans throughout the South. These efforts were so effective in undermining the plain command of the 15th Amendment, that no African American would represent the South in this House until we enacted and began enforcing the Voting Rights Act of 1965.

Representative Jordan was both a symbol of that new law, and an activist who gave those legal guarantees real meaning.

When it came time to reauthorize the Voting Rights Act in 1975, Representative Jordan sponsored legislation broadening it to include Hispanic Americans, Native Americans, and Asian Americans. Thanks to her efforts, the Voting Rights Act now protects the rights of voters with limited English proficiency.

Always a tireless fighter for social justice, Barbara Jordan was known for her passion and her eloquence. In 1976, she became the first African American to deliver the keynote speech at the Democratic National Convention.

For her outstanding contributions to this nation, Barbara Jordan was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom by President Bill Clinton in 1994.

A legal scholar, a skilled legislator, an educator, and a fighter for social justice, Barbara Jordan's name belongs on the Voting Rights Act.

William C. Velasquez, another Texan, and another Presidential Medal of Freedom honoree, founded the Southwest Voter Registration and Education Project, the nation's largest voter registration project aimed at the Hispanic community.

Under his leadership, the SVREP launched hundreds of successful get-out-the-vote and voter registration drives throughout the Southwest, greatly expanding the number of registered Latino voters and increasing Hispanic participation in the political process.

Mr. Velasquez, who was also a leader in the United Farm Workers and helped found the Mexican American Youth Organization, and la Raza Unida, helped others believe as he did that "Su voto es su voz"—your vote is your voice.

When President Clinton posthumously awarded Mr. Velasquez the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 1995, he was only the second Latino to receive the nation's highest civilian honor.

His contributions make it more than appropriate for us to add his name to the Voting Rights Act.

Dr. Hector P. Garcia was a decorated veteran of World War II, a physician, and the founder of American GI Forum.

Organized by Dr. Garcia in a Corpus Christi elementary school classroom one evening in March, 1948, the GI Forum ultimately spread across the United States and became a leading civil rights organization.

World War II was very much a watershed in opening up new opportunities for Texas Mexicans. But civil rights between 1945 and the late 1950s did not come to Mexican Americans automatically.

Many housing developments, restaurants, movies, swimming pools, and even hospitals were considered off-limits to Mexican-Americans. Police and other law enforcement agencies, such as the Texas Rangers and the Border Patrol, all too often reminded Tejanos of their second-class citizenship through disparagement or intimidation. Employment opportunities diminished quickly.

Politically, Texas Mexicans had to pay the poll tax, and cope with other voting and office-holding restrictions. Mexican American farm laborers, like those in a labor camp in nearby Mathis, Texas, endured inhuman living conditions.

Disabled Mexican American veterans were left starving or sick when a dilatory Veteran's Administration failed to send financial and medical benefits. Local school officials blithely admitted on the radio that Mexican American children were segregated. This was the Texas that Dr. Hector Garcia returned to after World War II.

In 1966, through the efforts of the Forum and other groups, the Texas poll tax was repealed. The Forum also undertook a march on the Texas State Capitol to protest the low wages of Mexican agricultural laborers.

In 1967, President Johnson appointed Dr. Garcia alternate ambassador to the United Nations. He was tasked with the improvement of relations with Latin American nations.

Dr. Garcia made history when, on October 26, he became the first United States representative to speak before the U.N. in a language other than English. President Johnson also appointed him to the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights.

In 1972, Garcia was arrested at a sit-in protest of the de facto segregation in Corpus Christi school district. In 1987, he became involved in the struggle against the campaign to name English the official language of the United States. His final project was to improve the standard of living in the colonias in the Rio Grande Valley along the United States-Mexico border.

A fighter for this nation in combat, a distinguished physician, a courageous leader in the struggle for equality and freedom, it is fitting for us to add Dr. Garcia's name to the Voting Rights Act.

I urge my colleagues to support this important legislation.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON-LEE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the Senate bill, S. 188.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the Senate bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

ANDREW L. JEFFERSON ENDOWMENT FOR TRIAL ADVOCACY

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 31) recognizing the Honorable Andrew L. Jefferson, Jr., on the occasion of the establishment of an endowment for trial advocacy called the ''Andrew L. Jefferson Endowment for Trial Advocacy'' at Texas Southern University's Thurgood Marshall School of Law in Houston, Texas.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 31

Whereas this distinguished gentleman graduated from the University of Texas School of Law in 1959 and became a partner with Washington and Jefferson, Attorneys at Law, in Houston; he served as an assistant criminal district attorney for Bexar County, a chief assistant United States attorney for the Western District of Texas, and a trial counsel and labor relations counsel for Humble Oil & Refining Company;

Whereas in 1970, Andrew Jefferson was appointed judge of the Court of Domestic Relations 2, Harris County, and in 1974, he was elected judge of the 208th District Court, Harris County; in 1975, he decided to re-enter the practice of law and is currently in private practice;

Whereas Judge Jefferson was admitted to practice in the United States Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit, Sixth Circuit, and Eleventh Circuit and the Supreme Court of the United States;

Whereas a longtime active committee member of the State Bar of Texas, he is also a Fellow of the Texas Bar Foundation and the American Bar Foundation and a member of the Texas Trial Lawyers Association; he was formerly a member of the Texas Constitutional Revision Commission;

Whereas well known for his expertise in the legal field, Judge Jefferson has been a highly sought-after speaker throughout his career; he has been a frequent speaker at the Criminal Law Institute for the Houston Bar Association and the San Antonio Bar Association; he was a speaker for the National Bar Association's convention and for the Family Law Institute;

Whereas a highly respected individual, Judge Jefferson has been prominent in community organizations and activities throughout his life and is noted for his leadership and sound judgment;

Whereas a former chairman of the board of the Houston Branch of the Federal Reserve Bank and of the Texas Southern University Foundation, he is a life member of the Houston Area Urban League and the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People;

Whereas he has been the recipient of a number of awards, including the Anti-Defamation League National Torch of Liberty Award, the Forward Times Community Service Award, the League of United Latin American Citizens National Community Service Award, and the Community Service Award from La Raza; and

Whereas an exemplary and distinguished gentleman, Judge Jefferson is beloved and respected by his many friends and the people of the legal community, and he deserves recognition for his outstanding career and accomplishments: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives hereby commends Andrew L. Jefferson,

Jr., on his achievements and extends congratulations to him on his selection as the First Endowed Chair of the Thurgood Marshall School of Law Trial Advocacy Program.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON-LEE) and the gentleman from California (Mr. ISSA) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Texas.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the resolution under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Texas?

There was no objection.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, it is a true honor to have the opportunity to sometimes honor those who are quiet giants, who represent the embodiment of the best of America, those who have pulled themselves up by their bootstraps, and to have the success story written by their own pen, by their own ink. So I rise today to honor a great Texan, a great civil rights advocate and a great American. The resolution recognizes a great legal scholar, as well as a great institution of legal education located in Houston, Texas.

Judge Andrew Jefferson is the embodiment of scholarship, of toughness, of respect, of fairness. He is respected by members of our community, Republicans and Democrats alike. He is respected by members, icons themselves, of the Texas Bar, and well-known around the Nation. He is cherished by the National Bar Association, the Houston Bar Association, the American Bar Association, and as well he is cherished by Texas Southern University and the Thurgood Marshall School of Law.

This scholar is Judge Andrew L. Jefferson, and the institution that he cherishes is the Thurgood Marshall School of Law at Texas Southern University. Both embody the spirit of legal excellence and public service.

As we talked this day on the celebration of Juneteenth, I am reminded of Representative Al Edwards, who organized Juneteenth, and we have celebrated under his leadership for 29 years. Juneteenth, as I indicated, was about freedom, and Judge Jefferson connotes freedom.

Andrew L. Jefferson, a native of Dallas, Texas, graduated from the University of Texas School of Law in 1959. After earning his Bachelor's Degree from Texas Southern University, he was the President of the Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity and rose to become a partner at the law firm of Washington and Jefferson, Attorneys at Law, in Houston. He has served as an assistant criminal district attorney for Bexar County. These, Madam Speaker, were jobs that he was able to secure with his own talents way before integration came to the south.

He was a Chief Assistant United States Attorney for the Western District of Texas. He was a pioneer for young lawyers, a pioneer in going in places in the law where African American lawyers could not go. In Houston, Texas, African American lawyers could not use the law library. They could not eat in the cafeteria. And, of course, he was a trial counsel and labor relations counsel for Humble Oil and Refining Company, the predecessor to Exxon.

Each time, he was a pioneer, he explored new ground, and certainly as an African American getting his degrees in the late 1950s going through the 1960s before the passage of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and 1965 and the Voting Rights Act, he truly braved new areas and stood for the dignity and respect of all in our community.

Judge Jefferson served in the Judge Advocate General Corps in the United States Army Reserve. He was honorably discharged as a captain. Mind you, he was pioneering and doing all of this in the early days of the 1950s and 1960s.

He has as his lovely bride another civic leader, Mary Jefferson, who I spoke to just last evening. I sent her my best greetings and those to Judge Jefferson, who is mending. We wish him a speedy recovery.

But we also know he has strength and determination and is a role model to many. Mary Jefferson, his partner of many years, has served on many organizations herself. She is a strong advocate for quality education for our youth and for more opportunities for young people to go to college by expanding financial access, and she is a fighter for civil rights herself. She is a long-standing member of the Links in Houston.

□ 1815

A longtime, active committee member of the State Bar of Texas, Judge Jefferson is also a fellow of the Texas Bar Foundation, a member of the American Bar Foundation, of the Texas Trial Lawyers Association, and of the Texas Constitutional Revision Commission. This outstanding jurist, who is renowned for his expertise in legal practice, has been a highly sought after speaker throughout his career and has frequently shared his experience and knowledge with the Criminal Law Institute for the Houston Bar Association, with the San Antonio Bar Association, and he has spoken in many places. He served on the board of the Houston branch of the Federal Reserve Bank and of the Texas Southern University Foundation.

I remind my colleagues that Texas Southern University was borne out of discrimination when individuals in the State of Texas could not go to the University of Texas, as evidenced by the Heman Sweatt lawsuit.

He has received numerous awards and honors, among them the Anti-Defamation League's National Torch of Liberty Award, the Forward Times Community Service Award, the League of United Latin American Citizens National Community Service Award, and the Community Service Award from La Raza. In addition, he was the Presidential nominee to sit on the United States Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit.

To honor Judge Jefferson on this occasion will be momentous for the City of Houston, for Texas Southern University and for minorities worldwide who aspire to study and practice law.

I congratulate Judge Jefferson for the life that he has led, for the young people whom he has been able to lead. Through his great service, the Texas Southern University Law School, the Thurgood Marshall School of Law, has established a trial advocacy program that will be in his name at the Thurgood Marshall School of Law, and it will be because of what he did for those he stood by and for those he managed to lead and to inspire.

Judge Jefferson was a good friend and advisor to Barbara Jordan. He ran many campaigns, but as he continues to live his life, he will be renowned and will continue to be known for fighting for equality, for civil rights, for standing tall, and for never stepping away from a tough fight.

So, as we acknowledge Congresswoman Barbara Jordan, I will say that he is the person who stood by her as she sought to expand the Voting Rights Act in her time in Congress.

Judge Jefferson: A leader, a role model, a civil rights fighter, along with his wife, Mary Jefferson, icons of our community, patriots, and great Americans.

I ask my colleagues to support the legislation H. Res. 31.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. ISSA. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise in support of House Resolution 31, recognizing the Honorable Andrew L. Jefferson, Jr. and congratulating him on his selection as the First Endowed Chair of the Thurgood Marshall School of Law Trial Advocacy Program at Texas Southern University in Houston, Texas.

Mr. Jefferson, a graduate of the University of Texas School of Law, served as an assistant criminal district attorney for Bexar County, a chief assistant United States attorney for the Western District of Texas, and a trial counsel and labor relations counsel for Humble Oil & Refining Company. He was later elected judge of the 208th District Court in Harris County before returning to private practice.

Mr. Jefferson received the Anti-Defamation League National Torch of Liberty Award, the League of United Latin American Citizens National Community Service Award, and the Community Service Award from La Raza.

I join my colleagues in congratulating Mr. Jefferson, and in recognizing his distinguished career and community service.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Madam Speaker, let me close by indicating

that Judge Jefferson is to be honored today for many reasons, but I hope one of the strongest reasons will be his ability to work with young lawyers and the excellent service that he gave as a member of the State bench.

For those reasons, along with his commitment to civil rights and voter rights, I ask my colleagues to enthusiastically support H. Res. 31, recognizing the Honorable Andrew L. Jefferson.

Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a great Texan, a great civil rights advocate, and a great American. My resolution recognizes a great legal scholar, as well as a great institution of legal education located in the 18th Congressional District of Texas.

The scholar is Judge Andrew L. Jefferson, and the institution is the Thurgood Marshall School of Law at Texas Southern University. Both embody the spirit of the legal excellence and public service.

Andrew L. Jefferson, a native of Dallas, Texas, graduated from the University of Texas School of Law in 1959, after earning his Bachelor's degree from Texas Southern University.

He was president of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, and rose to became a partner with Washington and Jefferson, Attorneys at Law, in Houston.

He has served as an assistant criminal district attorney for Bexar Country, a chief assistant United States Attorney for the Western District of Texas, and a trial counsel and labor relations counsel for Humble Oil and Refining Company.

Each time, he was a pioneer, he explored new ground, and certainly as an African American, getting his degrees in the late 1950s, going through the 1960s before the passage of the Civil Rights Acts of 1964 and 1965, and the Voting Rights Act, he truly braved new areas and stood for the dignity and respect of all in our community.

Judge Jefferson served in the Judge Advocate General Corps in the U.S. Army Reserve, where he was honorably discharged as a captain.

He has as his lovely bride another civic leader, Mary Jefferson, who I have the pleasure of serving with on a number of organizations. She advocates for quality education for our youth, and for more opportunities for young people to go to college by expanding financial access.

A long-time active committee member of the State Bar of Texas, Judge Jefferson is also a Fellow of the Texas Bar Foundation, a member of the American Bar Foundation, the Texas Trial Lawyers Association, and the Texas Constitutional Revision Commission.

This outstanding jurist, who is renowned for his expertise in legal practice, has been a highly sought-after speaker throughout his career, and has frequently shared his experience and knowledge with the Criminal Law Institute for the Houston Bar Association and the San Antonio Bar Association. Furthermore, Judge Jefferson has spoken at conventions for the National Bar Association and the Family Law Institute.

Aside from the respect that he has earned as a skilled jurist and advocate, Judge Jefferson's leadership and sound judgment has merited tenures as chairman of the board of the Houston Branch of the Federal Reserve Bank and of the Texas Southern University Foundation. Moreover, he is a life member of the Houston Area Urban League and the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

He has received numerous awards and honors, among them the Anti-Defamation League National Torch of Liberty Award, the Forward Times Community Service Award, the League of United Latin American Citizens National Community Service Award, and the Community Service Award from La Raza. In addition, he was a Presidential Nominee to sit on the United States Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit.

To honor Judge Jefferson on this occasion will be momentous for the City of Houston, for Texas Southern University, and for minorities worldwide who aspire to study and practice law. He is an inspiration for minority students to give them confidence in their potential to succeed.

I congratulate and thank the State of Texas for its contribution to the overall accrual of the resources that were required for the endowment.

The establishment of a Trial Advocacy program at the Thurgood Marshall School of Law will be both an actual and a symbolic landmark.

It was not in the Sixties, but only a few years ago, that I joined the students, legislators, and community leaders at Prairie View A&M University on the birthday of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. to fight for fair and unobstructed voting rights for those students. It was the skilled advocacy of the Lawyer's Committee that produced a statement by the Secretary of State in favor of the students.

Furthermore, the well-settled jurisprudence of case law such as Symm v. United States and United States v. Texas, which made important pronouncements as to the adequacy of students' residency/domicile status to determine eligibility to vote, were the product of skilled trial advocacy.

Without the work of the skilled advocates who argued those cases, we would have an even longer journey to equality of the right to vote in this nation.

Judge Jefferson was also a good friend and advisor to Barbara Jordan. They were strong friends together, because they believed in the empowerment of all. They fought side by side for equality and civil rights. When Barbara Jordan sought to expand the Voter Rights Act of 1965 to Texas in 1968, Judge Jefferson was right by her side.

My mentor, Barbara Jordan, was surrounded by the best and brightest, and Judge Jefferson was no exception.

Therefore, the endowment that will be established in the name of the Honorable Andrew L. Jefferson, Jr. will provide a legacy and will produce legal scholars who will contribute to the achievement of equality in the United States of America.

I congratulate the Thurgood Marshall School of Law at Texas Southern University and I thank Judge Jefferson for his service.

I urge my colleagues to support this resolution.

Mr. CONYERS. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H. Res. 31, which commends the Honorable Andrew L. Jefferson, Jr. This resolution honors the professional excellence aid community leadership of Judge Andrew Jefferson upon the establishment of an endowment for a trial advocacy chair in his honor at Texas Southern University's Thurgood Marshall School of Law in Houston, Texas.

I believe that it is important for Congress to recognize the contributions of our constituents to the overall development of our communities. I commend Representative SHEILA JACKSON-LEE, a distinguished Member of the Judiciary Committee from Texas, who introduced this legislation for highlighting the contributions of Judge Jefferson. It is vitally important that we all remember the many courageous leaders whose achievements make possible the work we do today.

Judge Jefferson is a noted legal scholar and institution of legal education in the Eighteenth Congressional District of Houston, Texas. His experience ranges from service in the Judge Advocate General corps in the United States Army Reserve to labor relations. He has been appointed and elected to the Texas state courts and nominated for a seat on the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals. In addition to serving both the bar and bench, Judge Jefferson has participated in the life of the Houston community and has been honored by numerous organizations, ranging from the Anti-Defamation League to the League of United Latin American Citizens.

The endowment of a chair in his honor at the Thurgood Marshall School of Law is a fitting tribute for such a distinguished member of the bar and community. I salute his record of achievement and encourage all Members to support this resolution in his honor.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. I have no other speakers, and I would be happy to yield back my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON-LEE) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 31.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 5876, STOP CHILD ABUSE IN RESIDENTIAL PROGRAMS FOR TEENS ACT OF 2008

Ms. SLAUGHTER (during consideration of H. Res. 31), from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 110–717) on the resolution (H. Res. 1276) providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 5876) to require certain standards and enforcement provisions to prevent child abuse and neglect in residential programs, and for other purposes, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 5781, FEDERAL EMPLOYEES PAID PARENTAL LEAVE ACT OF 2008

Ms. SLAUGHTER (during consideration of H. Res. 31), from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 110–718) on the

resolution (H. Res. 1277) providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 5781) to provide that 8 of the 12 weeks of parental leave made available to a Federal employee shall be paid leave, and for other purposes, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until approximately 6:30 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 6 o'clock and 20 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess until approximately 6:30 p.m.

□ 1832

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mrs. JONES of Ohio) at 6 o'clock and 32 minutes p.m.

HOUR OF MEETING ON TOMORROW

Mr. ARCURI. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that when the House adjourns today, it adjourn to meet at 9:30 a.m. tomorrow.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New York?

There was no objection.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, proceedings will resume on motions to suspend the rules previously postponed.

Votes will be taken in the following order:

H.R. 2964, by the yeas and nays;

H.R. 3702, by the yeas and nays;

H. Res. 1275, de novo.

Votes on remaining suspensions will be taken tomorrow.

The first electronic vote will be conducted as a 15-minute vote. Remaining electronic votes will be conducted as 5-minute votes.

CAPTIVE PRIMATE SAFETY ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2964, as amended, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Guam (Ms. BORDALLO) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2964, as amended.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 302, nays 96, not voting 35, as follows:

[Roll No. 414]

YEAS—302

Abercrombie
Ackerman
Alexander
Allen
Altmire
Andrews
Arcuri
Baca
Bachus
Baird
Baldwin
Barrow
Bartlett (MD)
Bean
Becerra
Berkley
Berman
Berry
Biggert
Bilbray
Bilirakis
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (NY)
Blumenauer
Bono Mack
Boozman
Boren
Boswell
Boucher
Boyd (FL)
Boyda (KS)
Brady (PA)
Braley (IA)
Brown (SC)
Brown, Corrine
Buchanan
Butterfield
Calvert
Camp (MI)
Campbell (CA)
Capito
Capps
Capuano
Cardoza
Carnahan
Carney
Carson
Castle
Castor
Cazayoux
Chabot
Chandler
Childers
Clarke
Clay
Cleaver
Clyburn
Cohen
Cole (OK)
Cooper
Costa
Costello
Courtney
Cramer
Crowley
Cuellar
Cummings
Davis (AL)
Davis (CA)
Davis (IL)
Davis, Lincoln
Davis, Tom
DeFazio
DeGette
Delahunt
DeLauro
Dent
Diaz-Balart, L.
Diaz-Balart, M.
Dicks
Dingell
Doggett
Donnelly
Doolittle
Doyle
Drake
Duncan
Edwards
Ehlers
Ellison
Ellsworth
Emanuel
Eshoo
Etheridge
Farr
Fattah
Ferguson
Filner
Forbes
Fortenberry
Foster
Frank (MA)
Gallegly
Gerlach
Giffords
Gillibrand
Gonzalez
Gordon
Granger
Green, Al
Grijalva
Gutierrez
Hall (NY)
Hare
Harman
Hastings (FL)
Hayes
Heller
Herseth Sandlin
Higgins
Hill
Hinchey
Hinojosa
Hirono
Hobson
Hodes
Hoekstra
Holden
Holt
Honda
Hooley
Hoyer
Inslee
Israel
Issa
Jackson (IL)
Jackson-Lee (TX)
Jefferson
Johnson (GA)
Johnson, E. B.
Jones (NC)
Jones (OH)
Kagen
Kanjorski
Kaptur
Keller
Kennedy
Kildee
Kilpatrick
Kirk
Klein (FL)
Knollenberg
Kucinich
Lampson
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Latham
LaTourette
Lee
Levin
Lewis (GA)
Linder
Lipinski
LoBiondo
Lofgren, Zoe
Lowey
Lucas
Lynch
Mahoney (FL)
Maloney (NY)
Markey
Marshall
Matheson
Matsui
McCarthy (NY)
McCollum (MN)
McCotter
McCrery
McDermott
McGovern
McHugh
McIntyre
McMorris Rodgers
McNerney
McNulty
Meek (FL)
Melancon
Mica
Michaud
Miller (MI)
Miller (NC)
Miller, George
Mitchell
Mollohan
Moore (KS)
Moore (WI)
Moran (VA)
Murphy (CT)
Murphy, Patrick
Murtha
Nadler
Neal (MA)
Nunes
Oberstar
Obey
Olver
Ortiz
Pallone
Pascrell
Pastor
Payne
Pearce
Perlmutter
Peterson (MN)
Petri
Pickering
Platts
Pomeroy
Porter
Price (NC)
Rahall
Ramstad
Rangel
Regula
Rehberg
Reichert
Reyes
Reynolds
Richardson
Rodriguez
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rogers (MI)
Ross
Roybal-Allard
Royce
Ruppersberger
Ryan (OH)
Salazar
Sánchez, Linda T.
Sanchez, Loretta
Sarbanes
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schwartz
Scott (GA)
Scott (VA)
Sensenbrenner
Serrano
Sestak
Shays
Shea-Porter
Sherman
Shuler
Shuster
Simpson
Sires
Skelton
Slaughter
Smith (NJ)
Smith (WA)
Snyder
Solis
Space
Speier
Spratt
Stupak
Sutton
Tauscher
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Tiberi
Tierney
Towns
Tsongas
Turner
Udall (NM)
Upton
Van Hollen
Velázquez
Visclosky
Walsh (NY)
Walz (MN)
Wasserman Schultz
Waters
Watson
Watt
Waxman
Weiner
Welch (VT)
Weller
Whitfield (KY)
Wilson (NM)
Wilson (OH)
Wittman (VA)
Wolf
Woolsey
Wu
Yarmuth
Young (AK)
Young (FL)

NAYS—96

Aderholt
Bachmann
Barrett (SC)
Barton (TX)
Bishop (UT)
Blackburn
Blunt
Boehner
Bonner
Boustany
Brady (TX)
Broun (GA)
Brown-Waite, Ginny
Burgess
Burton (IN)
Buyer
Cantor
Carter
Coble
Conaway
Cubin
Culberson
Davis (KY)
Davis, David
Deal (GA)
Dreier
Emerson
Everett
Fallin
Feeney
Flake
Foxx
Franks (AZ)
Garrett (NJ)
Gingrey
Gohmert
Goode
Goodlatte
Graves
Hall (TX)
Hastings (WA)
Hensarling
Herger
Inglis (SC)
Johnson, Sam
Jordan
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kingston
Kline (MN)
Kuhl (NY)
LaHood
Lamborn
Latta
Lewis (CA)
Lewis (KY)
Lungren, Daniel E.
Mack
Manzullo
Marchant
McCarthy (CA)
McCaul (TX)
McKeon
Miller (FL)
Miller, Gary
Moran (KS)
Murphy, Tim
Musgrave
Myrick
Neugebauer
Paul
Peterson (PA)
Pitts
Poe
Price (GA)
Putnam
Renzi
Roskam
Ryan (WI)
Sali
Scalise
Sessions
Smith (NE)
Smith (TX)
Souder
Stearns
Sullivan
Tancredo
Terry
Thornberry
Tiahrt
Walberg
Walden (OR)
Wamp
Westmoreland
Wilson (SC)

NOT VOTING—35

Akin
Cannon
Conyers
Crenshaw
Engel
English (PA)
Fossella
Frelinghuysen
Gilchrest
Green, Gene
Hulshof
Hunter
Johnson (IL)
Kind
Loebsack
McHenry
Meeks (NY)
Napolitano
Pence
Pryce (OH)
Radanovich
Rohrabacher
Ros-Lehtinen
Rothman
Rush
Saxton
Schmidt
Shadegg
Shimkus
Stark
Tanner
Taylor
Udall (CO)
Weldon (FL)
Wexler

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (during the vote). There are 2 minutes remaining on this vote.

□ 1858

Messrs. LAHOOD, MANZULLO, HALL of Texas, TIAHRT, LEWIS of California, and BOEHNER changed their vote from ''yea'' to ''nay.''

So (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

MONTANA CEMETERY ACT OF 2008

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3702, as amended, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Guam (Ms. BORDALLO) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3702, as amended.

This will be a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 396, nays 0, not voting 37, as follows:

[Roll No. 415]

YEAS—396

Abercrombie
Ackerman
Aderholt
Alexander
Allen
Altmire
Andrews
Arcuri
Baca
Bachmann
Bachus
Baird
Baldwin
Barrett (SC)
Barrow
Bartlett (MD)
Barton (TX)
Bean
Becerra
Berkley
Berman
Berry
Biggert
Bilbray
Bilirakis
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (NY)
Bishop (UT)
Blackburn
Blumenauer
Blunt
Boehner
Bonner
Bono Mack
Boozman
Boren
Boswell
Boucher
Boustany
Boyd (FL)
Boyda (KS)
Brady (PA)
Brady (TX)
Braley (IA)
Broun (GA)
Brown (SC)
Brown, Corrine
Brown-Waite, Ginny
Buchanan
Burgess
Burton (IN)
Butterfield
Buyer
Calvert
Camp (MI)
Campbell (CA)
Cantor
Capito
Capps
Capuano
Cardoza
Carnahan
Carney
Carson
Carter
Castle
Castor
Cazayoux
Chabot
Chandler
Childers
Clarke
Clay
Cleaver
Clyburn
Coble
Cohen
Cole (OK)
Conaway
Cooper
Costa
Costello
Courtney
Cramer
Crenshaw
Crowley
Cubin
Cuellar
Culberson
Cummings
Davis (AL)
Davis (CA)
Davis (IL)
Davis, David
Davis, Lincoln
Davis, Tom
Deal (GA)
DeFazio
DeGette
Delahunt
DeLauro
Dent
Diaz-Balart, L.
Diaz-Balart, M.
Dicks
Dingell
Doggett
Donnelly
Doolittle
Doyle
Drake
Dreier
Duncan
Edwards
Ehlers
Ellison
Ellsworth
Emanuel
Emerson
Eshoo
Etheridge
Everett
Fallin
Farr
Fattah
Feeney
Ferguson
Filner
Flake
Forbes
Fortenberry
Foster
Foxx
Frank (MA)
Franks (AZ)
Gallegly
Garrett (NJ)
Gerlach
Giffords
Gillibrand
Gingrey
Gohmert
Gonzalez
Goode
Goodlatte
Gordon
Granger
Graves
Green, Al
Grijalva
Gutierrez
Hall (NY)
Hall (TX)
Hare
Harman
Hastings (FL)
Hastings (WA)
Hayes
Heller
Hensarling
Herger
Herseth Sandlin
Higgins
Hill
Hinchey
Hinojosa
Hirono
Hobson
Hodes
Hoekstra
Holden
Holt
Honda
Hooley
Hoyer
Inglis (SC)
Inslee
Israel
Issa
Jackson (IL)
Jackson-Lee (TX)
Jefferson
Johnson (GA)
Johnson, E. B.
Johnson, Sam
Jones (NC)
Jones (OH)
Jordan
Kagen
Kanjorski
Kaptur
Keller
Kennedy
Kildee
Kilpatrick
King (NY)
Kingston
Kirk
Klein (FL)
Kline (MN)
Knollenberg
Kucinich
Kuhl (NY)
LaHood
Lamborn
Lampson
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Latham
LaTourette
Latta
Lee
Levin
Lewis (CA)
Lewis (GA)
Lewis (KY)
Linder
Lipinski
LoBiondo
Lofgren, Zoe
Lowey
Lucas
Lungren, Daniel E.
Lynch
Mack
Mahoney (FL)
Maloney (NY)
Manzullo
Marchant
Markey
Marshall
Matheson
Matsui
McCarthy (CA)
McCarthy (NY)
McCaul (TX)
McCollum (MN)
McCotter
McCrery
McDermott
McGovern
McHugh
McIntyre
McKeon
McMorris Rodgers
McNerney
McNulty
Meek (FL)
Melancon
Mica
Michaud
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Miller (NC)
Miller, Gary
Miller, George
Mitchell
Mollohan
Moore (KS)
Moore (WI)
Moran (KS)
Moran (VA)
Murphy (CT)
Murphy, Patrick
Murphy, Tim
Musgrave
Myrick
Nadler
Neal (MA)
Neugebauer
Nunes
Oberstar
Obey
Olver
Ortiz
Pallone
Pascrell
Pastor
Paul
Payne
Pearce
Perlmutter
Peterson (MN)
Peterson (PA)
Petri
Pickering
Pitts
Platts
Poe
Pomeroy
Porter
Price (GA)
Price (NC)
Putnam
Rahall
Ramstad
Rangel
Regula
Rehberg
Reichert
Renzi
Reyes
Reynolds
Richardson
Rodriguez
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rogers (MI)
Roskam
Ross
Roybal-Allard
Royce
Ruppersberger
Ryan (OH)
Ryan (WI)
Salazar
Sali
Sánchez, Linda T.
Sanchez, Loretta
Sarbanes
Scalise
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schwartz
Scott (GA)
Scott (VA)
Sensenbrenner
Serrano
Sessions
Sestak
Shays
Shea-Porter
Sherman
Shuler
Shuster
Simpson
Sires
Skelton
Slaughter
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Smith (WA)
Snyder
Solis
Souder
Space
Speier
Spratt
Stearns
Stupak
Sullivan
Sutton
Tancredo
Tauscher
Terry
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Thornberry
Tiahrt
Tiberi
Tierney
Towns
Tsongas
Turner
Udall (NM)
Upton
Van Hollen
Velázquez
Visclosky
Walberg
Walden (OR)
Walsh (NY)
Walz (MN)
Wamp
Wasserman Schultz
Waters
Watson
Watt
Waxman
Weiner
Welch (VT)
Weller
Westmoreland
Whitfield (KY)
Wilson (NM)
Wilson (OH)
Wilson (SC)
Wittman (VA)
Wolf
Woolsey
Wu
Yarmuth
Young (AK)
Young (FL)

NOT VOTING—37

Akin
Cannon
Conyers
Davis (KY)
Engel
English (PA)
Fossella
Frelinghuysen
Gilchrest
Green, Gene
Hulshof
Hunter
Johnson (IL)
Kind
King (IA)
Loebsack
McHenry
Meeks (NY)
Murtha
Napolitano
Pence
Pryce (OH)
Radanovich
Rohrabacher
Ros-Lehtinen
Rothman
Rush
Saxton
Schmidt
Shadegg
Shimkus
Stark
Tanner
Taylor
Udall (CO)
Weldon (FL)
Wexler

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (during the vote). There are 2 minutes remaining on this vote.

□ 1905

So (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

HONORING THE LIFE OF TIMOTHY JOHN RUSSERT, JR.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the question on suspending the rules and agreeing to the resolution, H. Res. 1275.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New York (Mr. HIGGINS) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 1275.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. CROWLEY. Madam Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. This will be a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 395, nays 0, not voting 38, as follows:

[Roll No. 416]

YEAS—395

Abercrombie
Ackerman
Aderholt
Alexander
Allen
Altmire
Andrews
Arcuri
Baca
Bachmann
Bachus
Baird
Baldwin
Barrett (SC)
Barrow
Bartlett (MD)
Barton (TX)
Bean
Becerra
Berkley
Berman
Berry
Biggert
Bilbray
Bilirakis
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (NY)
Bishop (UT)
Blackburn
Blumenauer
Blunt
Boehner
Bonner
Bono Mack
Boozman
Boren
Boswell
Boucher
Boustany
Boyd (FL)
Boyda (KS)
Brady (PA)
Brady (TX)
Braley (IA)
Broun (GA)
Brown (SC)
Brown, Corrine
Brown-Waite, Ginny
Buchanan
Burgess
Burton (IN)
Butterfield
Buyer
Calvert
Camp (MI)
Campbell (CA)
Cantor
Capito
Capps
Capuano
Cardoza
Carnahan
Carney
Carson
Carter
Castle
Castor
Cazayoux
Chabot
Chandler
Childers
Clarke
Clay
Cleaver
Clyburn
Coble
Cohen
Cole (OK)
Conaway
Cooper
Costa
Costello
Courtney
Cramer
Crenshaw
Crowley
Cubin
Cuellar
Culberson
Cummings
Davis (AL)
Davis (CA)
Davis (IL)
Davis (KY)
Davis, David
Davis, Lincoln
Davis, Tom
Deal (GA)
DeFazio
DeGette
Delahunt
DeLauro
Dent
Diaz-Balart, L.
Diaz-Balart, M.
Dicks
Dingell
Doggett
Donnelly
Doolittle
Doyle
Drake
Dreier
Duncan
Edwards
Ehlers
Ellison
Ellsworth
Emanuel
Emerson
Eshoo
Etheridge
Everett
Fallin
Farr
Fattah
Feeney
Filner
Flake
Forbes
Foster
Foxx
Frank (MA)
Franks (AZ)
Gallegly
Garrett (NJ)
Gerlach
Giffords
Gillibrand
Gingrey
Gohmert
Gonzalez
Goode
Goodlatte
Gordon
Granger
Graves
Green, Al
Grijalva
Gutierrez
Hall (NY)
Hall (TX)
Hare
Harman
Hastings (FL)
Hastings (WA)
Hayes
Heller
Hensarling
Herger
Herseth Sandlin
Higgins
Hill
Hinchey
Hinojosa
Hirono
Hobson
Hodes
Hoekstra
Holden
Holt
Honda
Hooley
Hoyer
Inglis (SC)
Inslee
Israel
Issa
Jackson (IL)
Jackson-Lee (TX)
Jefferson
Johnson (GA)
Johnson, E. B.
Johnson, Sam
Jones (NC)
Jones (OH)
Jordan
Kagen
Kanjorski
Kaptur
Keller
Kennedy
Kildee
Kilpatrick
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kingston
Kirk
Klein (FL)
Kline (MN)
Knollenberg
Kucinich
LaHood
Lamborn
Lampson
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Latham
LaTourette
Latta
Lee
Levin
Lewis (CA)
Lewis (GA)
Lewis (KY)
Linder
Lipinski
LoBiondo
Lofgren, Zoe
Lowey
Lucas
Lungren, Daniel E.
Lynch
Mack
Mahoney (FL)
Maloney (NY)
Manzullo
Marchant
Markey
Marshall
Matheson
Matsui
McCarthy (CA)
McCarthy (NY)
McCaul (TX)
McCollum (MN)
McCotter
McCrery
McDermott
McGovern
McHugh
McIntyre
McKeon
McMorris Rodgers
McNerney
McNulty
Meek (FL)
Melancon
Mica
Michaud
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Miller (NC)

Miller, Gary
Miller, George
Mitchell
Mollohan
Moore (KS)
Moore (WI)
Moran (KS)
Moran (VA)
Murphy (CT)
Murphy, Patrick
Murphy, Tim
Musgrave
Myrick
Nadler
Neal (MA)
Neugebauer
Nunes
Oberstar
Obey
Olver
Ortiz
Pallone
Pascrell
Pastor
Paul
Payne
Pearce
Perlmutter
Peterson (MN)
Peterson (PA)
Petri
Pickering
Pitts
Platts
Poe
Pomeroy
Porter
Price (GA)
Price (NC)
Putnam
Rahall
Ramstad
Rangel
Regula
Rehberg
Reichert
Renzi
Reyes
Reynolds
Richardson
Rodriguez
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rogers (MI)
Roskam
Ross
Roybal-Allard
Royce
Ruppersberger
Ryan (OH)
Ryan (WI)
Salazar
Sali
Sánchez, Linda T.
Sanchez, Loretta
Sarbanes
Scalise
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schwartz
Scott (GA)
Scott (VA)
Sensenbrenner
Serrano
Sessions
Sestak
Shays
Shea-Porter
Sherman
Shuler
Shuster
Simpson
Sires
Skelton
Slaughter
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Smith (WA)
Snyder
Solis
Souder
Space
Speier
Spratt
Stearns
Stupak
Sullivan
Sutton
Tancredo
Tauscher
Terry
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Thornberry
Tiahrt
Tiberi
Tierney
Towns
Tsongas
Turner
Udall (NM)
Upton
Van Hollen
Velázquez
Visclosky
Walberg
Walden (OR)
Walsh (NY)
Walz (MN)
Wamp
Wasserman Schultz
Waters
Watson
Watt
Waxman
Weiner
Welch (VT)
Weller
Westmoreland
Whitfield (KY)
Wilson (NM)
Wilson (OH)
Wilson (SC)
Wittman (VA)
Wolf
Woolsey
Wu
Yarmuth
Young (AK)
Young (FL)

NOT VOTING—38

Akin
Cannon
Conyers
Engel
English (PA)
Ferguson
Fortenberry
Fossella
Frelinghuysen
Gilchrest
Green, Gene
Hulshof
Hunter
Johnson (IL)
Kind
Kuhl (NY)
Loebsack
McHenry
Meeks (NY)
Murtha
Napolitano
Pence
Pryce (OH)
Radanovich
Rohrabacher
Ros-Lehtinen
Rothman
Rush
Saxton
Schmidt
Shadegg
Shimkus
Stark
Tanner
Taylor
Udall (CO)
Weldon (FL)
Wexler

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (during the vote). There are 2 minutes remaining on this vote.

□ 1913

So (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the resolution was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. CONYERS. Madam Speaker, on June 17, 2008, I regret that I was not present to vote on H.R. 2964, H.R. 3702, and H.R. 1275 due to a personal business conflict.

Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on all votes.

□ 1915

AIR FORCE TANKER DECISION

(Mr. HARE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. HARE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to discuss the Air Force tanker decision and its impact on our economy and jobs, especially during these hard economic times.

Recently, an independent report predicted that 14,000 jobs would be lost if the multibillion dollar Air Force tanker contract was awarded to a foreign company. And the report states, ''These figures understate the potential losses to U.S. employment.''

Madam Speaker, it's outrageous that the Air Force officials did not take into consideration the economic impact of this decision. By outsourcing the production of the tanker, we are denying hardworking Americans good, high-paying jobs, and turning a blind eye to our deteriorating economic situation.

Madam Speaker, this tanker deal further jeopardizes the economic security of our Nation. At a time when America is facing a record-high level of unemployment recession, creating jobs in Europe is not in the best interests of the American people.

Madam Speaker, this Congress must address the broader economic concerns raised by the tanker decision. We owe it to the American people to take advantage of the opportunity to create jobs right here in the United States and resuscitate our failing economy.

PERMISSION FOR MEMBER TO BE CONSIDERED AS FIRST SPONSOR OF H.R. 2472

Mr. TOWNS. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that I may hereafter be considered to be the first sponsor of H.R. 2472, a bill originally introduced by Representative WYNN of Maryland, for the purposes of adding cosponsors and requesting reprintings pursuant to clause 7 of rule XII.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New York?

There was no objection.

CONGRESS MUST INCREASE DOMESTIC OIL SUPPLIES

(Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to share the absolute disgust that my constituents have with the inability of this majority to do anything about rising gas prices.

Today, I received this letter from a constituent in Wesley Chapel. His name is Benjamin, and he's more than ready to drill for oil and natural gas here in the United States and certainly off the coast of Florida. His message is, ''It's Time to Drill Our Own Oil Now!'' And that's very clear.

But in case you don't get the message, he was also kind enough to include a drill bit in his envelope so that we might start drilling right away.

Madam Speaker, if Benjamin gets the need for increased domestic production, why doesn't this Congress?

We need to promote efforts to drill in ANWR, drill in the non-protected areas of the Outer Continental Shelf, support new refineries, and promote nuclear power.

Instead, the Democrat majority wants to raise your gas tax by as much as 50 cents gallon, as the chairman of the Energy and Commerce Committee recently suggested.

Madam Speaker, we need to listen to Benjamin and to other constituents who don't want our taxes raised.

INTERIOR APPROPRIATIONS BILL

(Mr. TIAHRT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. TIAHRT. Madam Speaker, the Interior approps bill will be in the full committee tomorrow and is, on balance, a very good bill. Chairman DICKS has done a thorough job, with many hearings, and has been very fair in looking at the various elements of the bill.

But it is an energy bill as well, and with gas at $4.089 as a nationwide average, and with great opportunity in the Interior bill, we have done nothing to bring down the price of gas.

So, tomorrow, in the full committee, we have a series of amendments that will address the price of gasoline, and I urge all my colleagues to join in the effort to bring down the price of gas.

We can do this by increasing production in ANWR, in the Outer Continental Shelf. We can start to do the permitting process for oil shale. In every case, we will increase a reliable, environmentally safe supply of oil, and bring down the price of oil for working men and women here in America.

So, again, Madam Speaker, I encourage my colleagues to join with us and bring down the price of oil by increasing the supply.

WE NEED TO DRILL FOR OIL HERE IN AMERICA

(Mr. BURTON of Indiana asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Madam Speaker, you know, one of the things that I think everybody in business understands is if you raise the taxes on a business, they pass that tax along to the consumer in the form of a price increase, cars, no matter what the product is. And in this particular case, what we're talking about tonight is oil.

Senator OBAMA, who is running for President, says we ought to tax the windfall profits of the oil companies. Well, that may be a good idea as far as he is concerned, but when you tax the oil companies, they're going to pass that on to the consumer in the form of price increases. Gas prices are already high enough as it is.

What we should be doing instead of increasing taxes like that is to drill in the United States of America. As my colleagues have just said, we have a lot of oil in the ANWR, and the geologists have told us there is oil there, as much as 1 million or 2 million barrels of oil a day, which could drive the price of gasoline down. And yet, my colleagues on the other side of the aisle and Senator OBAMA continue to say, no, no, that's not the answer; raise taxes on the oil companies.

That isn't going to get us one drop of oil. We need to drill here in America.

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 18, 2007, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

STOP-LOSS POLICY IS A BREACH OF TRUST

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WOOLSEY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. WOOLSEY. Madam Speaker, for over 5 years, the American people have seen the administration break one promise after another when it comes to Iraq. Now, another promise is being broken. This time, it has to do with the stop-loss policy, a policy that forces soldiers to stay in the military when their unit deploys to Iraq within 90 days of the end of the soldiers' enlistment period. Stop-loss means that troops must continue to serve even when their enlistment period has expired.

In January 2007, Secretary of Defense Gates ordered the military services to limit the number of stop-loss troops. For a while, in fact, the order seemed to be working. The number of troops affected by the policy dropped to about 8,500. However, now the number is back up to 11,000, and Admiral Mike Mullen, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, said just last week that the number of stop-loss troops would continue to rise over the next couple of years.

Stop-loss soldiers are forced to serve an average of over 6 months more than they signed up for. This creates enormous stress, Madam Speaker, and it also creates great strain on the soldiers and on their families. The multiple deployments that many of our troops face make the hardship even worse.

The stop-loss policy is actually a backdoor draft, but it is even worse than that. It is a breach of trust with the men and women who put their lives on the line for our country. They deserve a lot better treatment and a lot more respect than that.

The stop-loss policy is causing a great deal of suffering, but our troops and veterans are suffering in many other ways as well. It is easy for some of us to convince ourselves that everything is just hunky-dory with our troops now because Iraq has disappeared from our television screens. But while the conflict may have disappeared from television, it has not disappeared from the lives of our troops and from the lives of their families.

Over 300,000 veterans of Iraq and Afghanistan have major depression or post-traumatic stress disorder, according to the Rand Corporation. That is one in five who have served, and an additional 320,000 have sustained head injuries. The great majority of these injuries were sustained in Iraq.

Only half of those suffering from depression or post-traumatic stress have sought treatment actually because many fear that it will harm their military careers. And half of those who have received treatment have gotten only ''minimally adequate'' treatment. That, too, is according to Rand.

And there was also a very disturbing report in the press today that the Veterans Administration has tested drugs on veterans suffering from post-traumatic stress without telling them about the possible mental side effects. Congress must conduct a full investigation of that report.

Most tragically, suicides among members of the Army have been rising steadily during the occupation. In 2007, 150 soldiers committed suicide, Mr. Speaker, compared with 67 in 2004. About a quarter of the deaths occurred in Iraq. And an average of five U.S. soldiers attempted suicide every day in the year 2007. Before the occupation, the number was one per day.

However, not everyone is being hurt by the occupation. Some people are doing quite well, thank you, and they've got the money to prove it. Chairman WAXMAN of the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform has asked the Inspector General of the Department of Defense to investigate ''potentially thousands of criminal cases involving fraudulent contracts in Iraq.'' Hundreds of millions of dollars could be involved.

□ 1930

And the Special Inspector General for Iraq Reconstruction has already reported that millions of dollars in contracts have been wasted.

Mr. Speaker, we must hold the administration accountable for every dollar spent in Iraq. We must do everything we can to give our veterans the best possible care. We cannot allow war profiteering to go on while our injured veterans lack the care that they need.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. DONNELLY). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. POE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. POE addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

SUNSET MEMORIAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. FRANKS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. FRANKS of Arizona. Mr. Speaker, as so many times before, I stand once again before this body with yet another Sunset Memorial.

It is June 17, 2008, in the land of the free and the home of the brave, and before the sun set today in America, almost 4,000 more defenseless unborn children were killed by abortion on demand. And that's just today, Mr. Speaker. That's more than the number that were killed on September 11 in this country, only it happens every day.

It has now been exactly 12,930 days since the tragedy called Roe v. Wade was first handed down. Since then, Mr. Speaker, the very foundation of this Nation has been stained by the blood of almost 50 million of its own children. Some of them cried and screamed as they died, but because it was amniotic fluid passing over the vocal chords instead of air, we couldn't hear them.

All of them had at least four things in common: First, they were each just little babies who had done nothing wrong in this world to anyone. And each one of them died a nameless and lonely death. And each one of their mothers, whether she realizes it or not, will never be quite the same. And all of the gifts that these children might have brought to humanity are now lost forever. Yet even in the glare of such tragedy, this generation still clings to a blind, invincible ignorance while history repeats itself and our own silent genocide mercilessly annihilates the host helpless of all victims yet to date, those yet unborn.

Mr. Speaker, perhaps it's time for those of us in this Chamber to remind ourselves of why we're really all here. Thomas Jefferson said, ''The care of human life and its happiness and not its destruction is the chief and only object of good government.'' The phrase in the 14th amendment capsulizes our entire Constitution. It says, ''No State shall deprive any person of life, liberty or property without due process of law.'' Mr. Speaker, protecting the lives of our innocent citizens and their constitutional rights is why we are all here.

The bedrock foundation of this Republic is that clarion declaration of the self-evident truth, that all human beings are created equal and endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. Every conflict and battle our Nation has ever faced can be traced to our commitment to this core, self-evident truth. It has made us the beacon of hope for the entire world. Mr. Speaker, it is who we are. And yet today another day has passed, and we in this body have failed yet again to honor that foundational commitment. We have failed our sworn oath and our God-given responsibility as we broke faith with nearly 4,000 more innocent American babies who died today without the protection we should have given them.

And it seems so sad to me, Mr. Speaker, that this Sunset Memorial may be the only acknowledgement or remembrance these children who died today will ever have in this Chamber. So as the smallest gesture, I would ask for those in the Chamber who are inclined to join me for a moment of silent memorial to these lost little Americans.

Mr. Speaker, let me conclude this Sunset Memorial in the hope that perhaps someone new who heard it tonight will finally embrace the truth that abortion really does kill little babies, that it hurts mothers in ways that we can never express, and that 12,930 days spent killing nearly 50 million unborn children in America is enough. And that it is time that we stood up together again and remember that we are the same America that rejected human slavery and that marched into Europe to arrest the Nazi Holocaust. And we are still courageous and compassionate enough to find a better way for mothers and their unborn babies than abortion on demand.

Mr. Speaker, as we consider the plight of unborn America tonight, may we each remind ourselves that our own days in this sunshine of life are also numbered, and that we will all too soon, each one of us, walk from these Chambers for the very last time. And if it should be that this Congress is allowed to convene on yet another day to come, may that be the day when we finally hear the cries of unborn children in this Nation. May that be the day that we find the humanity, the courage, and the will to embrace together our human and our constitutional duty to protect these, the least of our tiny little brothers and sisters, from this murderous scourge upon our Nation called abortion on demand.

It is June 17, 2008, 12,930 days since Roe v. Wade first stained the foundation of this Nation with the blood of its own children; this in the land of the free and the home of the brave.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. DEFAZIO) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. DEFAZIO addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. JONES) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. JONES of North Carolina addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. KAPTUR) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. KAPTUR addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BURTON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. BURTON of Indiana addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

STATUS REPORT ON CURRENT LEVELS OF ON-BUDGET SPENDING AND REVENUES FOR FISCAL YEARS 2008 AND 2009 AND THE 5-YEAR PERIOD FY 2009 THROUGH FY 2013

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. SPRATT) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. SPRATT. Madam Speaker, I am transmitting a status report on the current levels of on-budget spending and revenues for fiscal years 2008 and 2009 and for the 5-year period of fiscal years 2009 through 2013. This report is necessary to facilitate the application of sections 302 and 311 of the Congressional Budget Act and sections 301 and 302 of S. Con. Res. 70, the Concurrent Resolution on the Budget for Fiscal Year 2009.

The term "current level" refers to the amounts of spending and revenues estimated for each fiscal year based on laws enacted or awaiting the President's signature.

The first table in the report compares the current levels of total budget authority, outlays, and revenues with the aggregate levels set by S. Con. Res. 70. This comparison is needed to enforce section 311(a) of the Budget Act, which creates a point of order against measures that would breach the budget resolution's aggregate levels.

The second table compares the current levels of budget authority and outlays for each authorizing committee with the "section 302(a)" allocations made under S. Con. Res. 70 for fiscal years 2008 and 2009 and fiscal years 2009 through 2013. This comparison is needed to enforce section 302(f) of the Budget Act, which creates a point of order against measures that would breach the section 302(a) discretionary action allocation of new budget authority for the committee that reported the measure.

The third table compares the current levels of discretionary appropriations for fiscal years 2008 and 2009 with the "section 302(a)" allocation of discretionary budget authority and outlays to the Appropriations Committee. The Appropriations Committee shortly will be distributing this section 302(a) allocation among its subcommittees, creating 302(b) suballocations. At that time, a point of order under section 302(f) of the Budget Act will become applicable to measures that would breach the applicable section 302(b) suballocation.

The fourth table gives the current level for fiscal years 2010 and 2011 for accounts identified for advance appropriations under section 302 of S. Con. Res. 70. This list is needed to enforce section 302 of the budget resolution, which creates a point of order against appropriation bills that contain advance appropriations that: (i) are not identified in the statement of managers; or (ii) would cause the aggregate amount of such appropriations to exceed the level specified in the resolution.

REPORT TO THE SPEAKER FROM THE COMMITTEE ON THE BUDGET—STATUS OF THE FISCAL YEAR 2009 CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET ADOPTED IN S. CON. RES. 70

[Reflecting Action Completed as of June 13, 2008—On-budget amounts, in millions of dollars]

	Fiscal Year 2008 [1]	Fiscal Year 2009 [1, 2]	Fiscal Years 2009–2013
Appropriate Level:			
Budget Authority	2,454,256	2,455,920	n.a.
Outlays	2,435,860	2,490,920	n.a.
Revenues	1,875,400	2,029,644	11,780,107
Current Level:			
Budget Authority	2,448,861	1,472,948	n.a.
Outlays	2,433,207	1,875,104	n.a.
Revenues	1,879,400	2,097,399	12,116,677
Current Level over (+) / under (-) Appropriate Level:			
Budget Authority	-5,395	-982,972	na.
Outlays	-2,653	-615,816	n.a.
Revenues	4,000	67,755	336,570

n.a. = Not applicable because annual appropriations Acts for fiscal years 2010 through 2013 will not be considered until future sessions of Congress.

[1] Current aggregates do no include spending covered by section 301(b)(1) (overseas deployments and related activities). The section has not been triggered to date in Appropriations action.

[2] Current aggregates do not include Corps of Engineers emergency spending assumed in the budget resolution, that will not be included in current level due to its emergency designation (section 301(b)(2)).

BUDGET AUTHORITY

Enactment of measures providing new budget authority for FY 2008 in excess of $5,395 million (if not already included in the current level estimate) would cause FY 2008 budget authority to exceed the appropriate level set by S. Con. Res. 70.

Enactment of measures providing new budget authority for FY 2009 in excess of $982,972 million (if not already included in the current level estimate) would cause FY 2009 budget authority to exceed the appropriate level set by S. Con. Res. 70.

OUTLAYS

Enactment of measures providing new outlays for FY 2008 in excess of $2,653 million (if not already included in the current level estimate) would cause FY 2008 outlays to exceed the appropriate level set by S. Con. Res. 70.

Enactment of measures providing new outlays for FY 2009 in excess of $615,816 million (if not already included in the current level estimate) would cause FY 2009 outlays to exceed the appropriate level set by S. Con. Res. 70.

REVENUES

Enactment of measures resulting in revenue reduction for FY 2008 in excess of $4,000 million (if not already included in the current level estimate) would cause FY2008 revenues to fall below the appropriate levels set by S. Con. Res. 70.

Enactment of measures resulting in revenue reduction for FY 2009 in excess of $67,755 million (if not already included in the current level estimate) would cause FY2009 revenues to fall below the appropriate levels set by S. Con. Res. 70.

Enactment of measures resulting in revenue reduction for the period of fiscal years 2009 through 2013 in excess of $336,570 million (if not already included in the current level estimate) would cause revenues to fall below the appropriate levels set by S. Con. Res. 70.

DIRECT SPENDING LEGISLATION—COMPARISON OF CURRENT LEVEL WITH AUTHORIZING COMMITTEE 302(a) ALLOCATIONS FOR RESOLUTION CHANGES, REFLECTING ACTION COMPLETED AS OF JUNE 13, 2008

[Fiscal Years, in millions of dollars]

	2008		2009		2009–2013 Total	
	BA	Outlays	BA	Outlays	BA	Outlays
House Committee:						
Agriculture:						
Allocation	0	0	0	0	0	0
Current Level	0	0	0	0	0	0
Difference	0	0	0	0	0	0
Armed Services:						
Allocation	0	0	0	0	0	0
Current Level	0	0	0	0	0	0
Difference	0	0	0	0	0	0
Education and Labor:						
Allocation	0	0	0	0	0	0
Current Level	0	0	0	0	0	0
Difference	0	0	0	0	0	0
Energy and Commerce:						
Allocation	0	0	0	0	0	0
Current Level	0	0	0	0	0	0
Difference	0	0	0	0	0	0
Financial Services:						
Allocation	0	0	0	0	0	0
Current Level	0	0	0	0	0	0
Difference	0	0	0	0	0	0
Foreign Affairs:						
Allocation	0	0	0	0	0	0
Current Level	0	0	0	0	0	0
Difference	0	0	0	0	0	0
Homeland Security:						
Allocation	0	0	0	0	0	0
Current Level	0	0	0	0	0	0
Difference	0	0	0	0	0	0
House Administration:						
Allocation	0	0	0	0	0	0
Current Level	0	0	0	0	0	0
Difference	0	0	0	0	0	0
Judiciary:						
Allocation	0	0	0	0	0	0
Current Level	0	0	0	0	0	0
Difference	0	0	0	0	0	0
Natural Resources:						
Allocation	0	0	0	0	0	0
Current Level	0	0	0	0	0	0
Difference	0	0	0	0	0	0
Oversight and Government Reform:						
Allocation	0	0	0	0	0	0
Current Level	0	0	0	0	0	0
Difference	0	0	0	0	0	0
Science and Technology:						
Allocation	0	0	0	0	0	0
Current Level	0	0	0	0	0	0
Difference	0	0	0	0	0	0
Small Business:						
Allocation	0	0	0	0	0	0
Current Level	0	0	0	0	0	0
Difference	0	0	0	0	0	0
Transportation and Infrastructure:						
Allocation	395	0	1,496	0	4,176	0
Current Level	0	0	0	0	0	0
Difference	−395	0	−1,496	0	−4,176	0
Veterans' Affairs:						
Allocation	0	0	0	0	0	0
Current Level	0	0	0	0	0	0
Difference	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ways and Means:						
Allocation	0	0	0	0	0	0
Current Level	0	0	0	0	0	0
Difference	0	0	0	0	0	0

DISCRETIONARY APPROPRIATIONS FOR FISCAL YEARS 2008 AND 2009—COMPARISON OF CURRENT LEVEL WITH APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE 302(a) ALLOCATION [1]

[In millions of dollars]

	302 Allocations [2]		Current level reflecting action completed as of June 13, 2008		Current level minus allocations	
	BA	OT	BA	OT	BA	OT
2008	1,050,478	1,094,944	1,045,478	1,092,291	−5,000	−2,653
2009	1,011,718	1,106,112	25,719	486,341	985,999	619,771

[1] Comparisons are not provided by subcommittee because the Appropriations Committee has not yet approved 302(b) allocations pursuant to section 302 of the Congressional Budget Act and S. Con. Res. 70.
[2] Allocation for 2009 can be further adjusted if funding is provided pursuant to section 301 of S. Con. Res. 70.

2010 and 2011 advance appropriations under section 302 of S. Con. Res. 70

[Budget Authority in Millions of Dollars]

	2010
Appropriate Level	28,852
Enacted advances:	
Accounts Identified for Advances:	
Employment and Training Administration	---
Job Corps	---
Education for the Disadvantaged	---
School Improvement	---
Children and Family Services (Head Start)	---
Special Education	---
Career, Technical and Adult Education	---
Payment to Postal Service	---
Tenant-based Rental Assistance	---
Project-based Rental Assistance	---
	2011
Appropriate Level [1]	n.a.
Enacted advances:	
Accounts Identified for Advances:	
Corporation for Public Broadcasting	---

[1] S. Con. Res. 70 does not provide a dollar limit for 2011.

U.S. CONGRESS,
CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE
Washington, DC, June 17, 2008.

Hon. JOHN M. SPRATT Jr.,
Chairman, Committee on the Budget,
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: The enclosed report shows the effects of Congressional action on the fiscal year 2008 budget and is current through June 13, 2008. This report is submitted under section 308(b) and in aid of section 311 of the Congressional Budget Act, as amended.

The estimates of budget authority, outlays, and revenues are consistent with the technical and economic assumptions of S. Con. Res. 70, the Concurrent Resolution on the Budget for Fiscal Year 2009, as approved

by the Senate and the House of Representatives.

Since my last letter, dated January 29, 2008, the Congress has cleared several acts that affect budget authority, outlays, and revenues. Please see footnote 1 of the accompanying report for a list of those acts. This is CBO's first current level report since the adoption of S. Con. Res. 70.

Sincerely,

ROBERT A. SUNSHINE
(For Peter R. Orszag, Director).

Enclosure.

FISCAL YEAR 2008 HOUSE CURRENT LEVEL REPORT AS OF JUNE 13, 2008

[In millions of dollars]

	Budget authority	Outlays	Revenues
Previously Enacted [1]			
Revenues	n.a.	n.a.	1,879,400
Permanents and other spending legislation	1,441,017	1,394,894	n.a.
Appropriation legislation	1,604,649	1,635,118	n.a.
Offsetting receipts	−596,805	−596,805	n.a.
Total, Previously enacted	2,448,861	2,433,207	1,879,400
Total Current Level [2]	2,448,861	2,433,207	1,879,400
Total Budget Resolution [3]	2,562,312	2,464,761	1,875,392
Adjustment to budget resolution pursuant to section 301(b)(1) [4]	−108,056	−28,901	n.a.
Adjusted Budget Resolution	2,454,256	2,435,860	1,875,392
Current Level Over Budget Resolution	n.a.	n.a.	4,008
Current Level Under Budget Resolution	5,395	2,653	n.a.

Source: Congressional Budget Office.
Note: n.a. = not applicable; P.L. = Public Law.
[1] Includes the following acts that affect budget authority, outlays, or revenues, and were cleared by the Congress during this session, but before the adoption of S. Con. Res. 70: National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2008 (P.L. 110–181), Economic Stimulus Act of 2008 (P.L. 110–185), Andean Trade Preference Extension Act of 2008 (P.L. 110–191), Ensuring Continued Access to Student Loans Act of 2008 (P.L. 110–227), Consolidated Natural Resources Act of 2008 (P.L. 110–229), Strategic Petroleum Reserve Fill Suspension and Consumer Act of 2008 (P.L. 110–232), Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 1008 (P.L. 110–234), SAFETEA–LU Technical Corrections Act of 2008 (P.L. 110–244), and Heroes Earnings Assistance and Relief Act (H.R. 6081).
[2] For purposes of enforcing section 311 of the Congressional Budget Act in the House, the budget resolution does not include budget authority, outlays, or revenues for off-budget amounts. As a result, current level excludes these items.
[3] Periodically, the House Committee on the Budget revises the totals in S. Con. Res. 70, pursuant to various provisions of the resolution:

	Budget authority	Outlays	Revenues
Original Budget Resolution	2,563,262	2,465,711	1,875,392
Revisions:			
For the Strategic Petroleum Reserve Fill Suspension and Consumer Protection Act of 2008 (section 323(b))	−950	−950	0
For the Heroes Earnings Assistance and Relief Tax Act of 2008 (section 323(b))	0	0	8
Revised Budget Resolution	2,562,312	2,464,761	1,875,392

[4] Section 301(b)(1) of S. Con. Res. 70 assumed $108,056 million in budget authority and $28,901 million in outlays for overseas deployment and related activities. Because action to date has not triggered this provision, the House Committee on the Budget has directed that these amounts be excluded from the budget resolution aggregates in the current level report.

U.S. CONGRESS,
CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE,
Washington, DC, June 17, 2008.

Hon. JOHN M. SPRATT JR.,
Chairman, Committee on the Budget, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: The enclosed report shows the effects of Congressional action on the fiscal year 2009 budget and is current through June 13, 2008. This report is submitted under section 308(b) and in aid of section 311 of the Congressional Budget Act, as amended.

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This is CBO's first current level report for fiscal year 2009.

Sincerely,

ROBERT A. SUNSHINE
(For Peter R. Orszag, Director.)

Enclosure.

FISCAL YEAR 2009 HOUSE CURRENT LEVEL REPORT AS OF JUNE 13, 2008

(in millions of dollars)

	Budget authority	Outlays	Revenues
Previously Enacted [1]			
Revenues	n.a.	n.a.	2,097,399
Permanents and other spending legislation	1,485,953	1,436,774	n.a.
Appropriation legislation	0	471,581	n.a.
Offsetting receipts	−587,749	−587,749	n.a.
Total, Previously enacted	898,204	1,320,606	2,097,399
Entitlements and mandatories:			
Budget resolution estimates of appropriated entitlements and other mandatory programs	574,744	554,498	0
Total Current Level [2]	1,472,948	1,875,104	2,097,399
Total Budget Resolution [3]	2,531,681	2,566,881	2,029,644
Adjustment to budget resolution pursuant to section 301(b)(1) [4]	−70,000	−74,809	n.a.
Adjustment to budget resolution pursuant to section 301(b)(2) [5]	−5,761	−1,152	n.a.
Adjusted Budget Resolution	2,455,920	2,490,920	2,029,644
Current Level Over Budget Resolution	n.a.	n.a.	67,755
Current Level Under Budget Resolution	982,972	615,816	n.a.
Memorandum:			
Revenues, 2009–2013:			
House Current Level	n.a.	n.a.	12,116,677
House Budget Resolution	n.a.	n.a.	11,780,107
Adjusted Budget Resolution	n.a.	n.a.	11,780,107
Current Level Over Budget Resolution	n.a.	n.a.	336,570
Current Level Under Budget Resolution	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.

Source: Congressional Budget Office.
Note: n.a. = not applicable; P.L. = Public Law.
[1] Includes the following acts that affect budget authority, outlays, or revenues, and were cleared by the Congress during this session, but before the adoption of S. Con. Res. 70: National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2008 (P.L. 110–181), Economic Stimulus Act of 2008 (P.L. 110–185), Andean Trade Preference Extension Act of 2008 (P.L. 110–191), Ensuring Continued Access to Student Loans Act of 2008 (P.L. 110–227), Consolidated Natural Resources Act of 2008 (P.L. 110–229), Strategic Petroleum Reserve Fill Suspension and Consumer Act of 2008 (P.L. 110–232), Genetic Information Nondiscrimination Act of 2008 (P.L. 110–233), Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 1008 (P.L. 110–234), SAFETEA–LU Technical Corrections Act of 2008 (P.L. 110–244), and Heroes Earnings Assistance and Relief Act (H.R. 6081).
[2] For purposes of enforcing section 311 of the Congressional Budget Act in the House, the budget resolution does not include budget authority, outlays, or revenues for off-budget amounts. As a result, current level excludes these items.
[3] Periodically, the House Committee on the Budget revises the totals in S. Con. Res. 70, pursuant to various provisions of the resolution:

	Budget authority	Outlays	Revenues
Original Budget Resolution	2,530,703	2,565,903	2,029,612
Revisions:			
For the Strategic Petroleum Reserve Fill Suspension and Consumer Protection Act of 2008 (section 323(b))	950	950	0
For the Heroes Earnings Assistance and Relief Tax Act of 2008 (section 323(b))	28	28	32

	Budget authority	Outlays	Revenues
Revised Budget Resolution	2,531,681	2,566,881	2,029,644

[4] Section 301(b)(1) of S. Con. Res. 70 assumed $70,000 million in budget authority and $74,809 million in outlays for overseas deployment and related activities. Because action to date has not triggered this provision, the House Committee on the Budget has directed that these amounts be excluded from the budget resolution aggregates in the current level report.

[5] Section 301(b)(2) of S. Con. Res. 70 assumed $5,761 million in budget authority and $1,152 million in outlays for the Corps of Engineers. Because action to date has not triggered this provision, the House Committee on the Budget has directed that these amounts be excluded from the budget resolution aggregates in the current level report.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Utah (Mr. BISHOP) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. BISHOP of Utah addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. FORTENBERRY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. FORTENBERRY addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

BONNIE RICHARDSON, A CHAMPION IN EVERY SENSE OF THE WORD

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. CONAWAY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. CONAWAY. Mr. Speaker, Heywood Broun, a renowned sportswriter and life-long champion of the underdog, once said that ''Sports do not build character, they reveal it.'' I've heard it before, but today I finally understand it thanks to Rochelle High School junior Bonnie Richardson.

On the weekend of May 9 and 10 this year, high school athletes from all across Texas gathered for the State track and field championship. At the meet, athletes compete for two honors, for success in each event as individuals and for the State championship as a team.

With Bonnie Richardson as a sole member of the Rochelle High School Lady Hornets to qualify for the meet, the Lady Hornets were the ultimate underdog to win a team trophy. Yet, after medaling in all five of her events—winning two golds, two silvers and a bronze—Bonnie found herself in an unlikely position, standing atop the podium to accept the girl's Class 1A team trophy. Her five individual medals earned her 42 points, more than any other school in her team's class. She also wrote herself into the Texas Track and Field history books as the only female ever to win a State team championship without the help of teammates.

While Bonnie's accomplishment defines the word ''exceptional,'' the depth of her character is not revealed in her medals or trophies, but in her attitude. Even as her story has been transmitted around the world and back again, her comments reflect a young woman with poise beyond her years. In every article and in every quote, Bonnie has been very gracious to her competitors and modest in her unparalleled achievement.

In an era where athletes' behavior and attitudes can be more infamous than celebrated, Bonnie's self-effacing demeanor shows us how sportsmanship should be practiced. I am amazed by Bonnie's athletic prowess, but I am humbled by her easy and free manner in which she praises her opponents, remains grateful for her gifts, and uplifts those around her. Although such an attitude may seem routine to her, a lifetime has taught me that character like hers is not as common as we would all wish.

Bonnie's quiet confidence extends beyond her abilities in track and field. She is a well-rounded athlete who is an all-state basketball player and an accomplished tennis player. In addition, she is in the running to be named her class valedictorian. It is clear to me that her attitude is an asset in all she undertakes.

It is an honor to represent Bonnie and all the students like her across the 11th District of Texas. As she prepares for her senior year, and as her national notoriety begins to wane, I wish her luck in returning to her version of business as usual—excelling at everything—and success in the upcoming season and beyond.

BLUE DOG COALITION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 18, 2007, the gentleman from Utah (Mr. MATHESON) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. MATHESON. Mr. Speaker, I stand before you tonight to lead a discussion among the Blue Dog Coalition as we talk about issues of fiscal responsibility, pursuing a balanced budget, and doing the right thing for future generations.

I would like to open this discussion by recognizing one of my colleagues, one of the newest members of the Blue Dogs, Mr. CAZAYOUX from Louisiana, and I would yield to him as much time as he may consume.

Mr. CAZAYOUX. Mr. Speaker, I rise tonight to express my support for the PAYGO principles by which the Congress has committed to govern.

As a newly elected Member of Congress, PAYGO simply makes sense to me. Thomas Jefferson realized the importance of PAYGO principles nearly 200 years ago when he said, ''It is incumbent upon every generation to pay its own debts as it goes.''

In the 110th Congress, we have made PAYGO a priority, and I hope it continues to remain a priority. My Blue Dog colleagues and I are cosponsoring H.R. 2686 that will extend the PAYGO rules through fiscal year 2012. I urge all Members of Congress to support this important piece of legislation.

I believe that balancing a budget and paying down the debt can be done. We will have to make tough choices now to ensure that our future remains financially solvent for our children. Thank you for the opportunity to speak tonight, and thank you to all my Blue Dog colleagues for their work in furthering the PAYGO principle.

Mr. MATHESON. I thank my colleague for his comments, a new Member of this body, but someone who recognizes the importance of fiscal responsibility.

I think that it's important to expand on what PAYGO is. This is a term that gets thrown around a lot in Washington, but we really ought to review what it means. And at its basis, it's a pretty simple concept, and that is that if you have new spending, you've got to pay for it. You've got to pay for it by cutting spending elsewhere or raising revenues, but you've got to pay for it.

And, you know, this isn't a new concept even here in Washington. It turns out back in 1990, during the presidency of George H.W. Bush, Congress passed legislation to put a pay-as-you-go, or PAYGO, policy into effect. And at that time, Congress came together in a bipartisan way and then President Bush signed that into law.

And when it was passed, it put us on a path to where decisions had to be made where you had to live within a budget. Everybody in this town can come up with a new idea about how to spend money, both sides of the aisle, everyone can come up with those ideas. It's easy to say yes to that. It's a lot more difficult to say, you know what, we're going to live within a budget. But you know what, we ought to be doing that because that's what everyone in this country does, everyone who runs a business, everyone in their own household budget, everybody does that.

So let's look at what happened after passage of that law in 1990. There were a number of other things that happened during the decade of the 1990s. There was a strong economic growth period, the dot-com industry really took off, and a whole series of reasons, including restraint on spending in Washington, allowed us to move from annual deficits to annual surpluses. It was a remarkable period in our country's history to have that transition take place. And it was an exciting time for this country. And it was good for the government's books to be balanced and it was good for our economy, and it led to a stronger dollar. I mention that, and we'll come back to that later in this discussion, because today we all know we're suffering from a rather low dollar situation in the global economy.

So if that was such a good idea, if it worked so well, why is it that we aren't having both the House and the Senate live by that same law today? Well, it turns out that law expired at the end of 2001. And that was really unfortunate that it did because it provided that set of constraints, if you will, on Washington—on Congress, on the President, on everybody, on Democrats, on Republicans. It provided that constraint that asked people to live within a budget.

And after it expired, I think we all know what happened. You had over 6 years, 2001 through 2006, you had an explosion of spending. You had an explosion of debt. Annual deficits were so large. And over those 6 years, our national debt went from $6 trillion to $9 trillion. Now, you throw these numbers around, it almost gets to the point where it's hard to recognize what they really mean. But I think we all know a trillion dollars is a lot of money. And I think we all know that when you have $6 trillion created through the whole country's history through the first 42 Presidents, and then during the first 6 years of the 43rd President you add another $3 trillion, you're adding a lot of debt in a short amount of time. And PAYGO didn't exist. Spending took off at a huge rate, greatest increase in government spending since the 1960s, in fact.

□ 1945

That is what happened during those first 6 years. And the Blue Dog Coalition during all that time said, wait a minute. Wait a minute. Let's not get into a deficit mode again. Let's not create more debt that creates a burden on future generations who have to pay the interest on that debt. Let's not ensure high taxes on future generations to pay the interest on the debt. Let's recognize that we have an obligation to future generations that they shouldn't have to pay for obligations that we have created on our watch.

But we could never get the PAYGO principles put back into place. We couldn't get a vote to put it into statute. We couldn't get it in a rule of the House of Representatives, either, until January of 2007. There was a change in control in the House of Representatives. And on the first day when we were all sworn in here to take the oath of office for the 110th Congress, we set the rules that we are going to work under during that 2-year session. And in that rule, pay-as-you-go was put in place for the House of Representatives.

And I am really proud of the Blue Dog Coalition for taking the lead on pushing that rule to be put in place. It is not easy to live under a budget. The PAYGO rule has been attacked. And yes, there have been a couple of circumstances where it has been waived. But I think that the Blue Dog Coalition deserves a lot of credit for taking a stand, forcing the tough decisions, and quite frankly, creating the dynamic where I think there has been a real restraint on this body in terms of what could have happened instead in terms of additional spending and adding to our national debt.

It is at the start of a real challenging period we face in this country, because we all know that as baby boomers retire and additional pressures occur on Social Security and Medicare that it is going to take a very thoughtful and aggressive effort by this body in a bipartisan way to navigate through that challenge and make sure that we maintain fiscal discipline and fiscal responsibility. And pay-as-you-go, the PAYGO principles, provide a tool. They provide a tool that would benefit all of us.

So this isn't really, again, about Democrats or Republicans. This isn't about trying to place blame on people or anything else. It is really just talking about the fact that if you look at the way we are set up in this country as a government, in the Federal side we are allowed to run deficits. You can have deficits if you don't bring in as much revenues as you spend. In a lot of States, they have constitutional amendments that require a balanced budget. That doesn't exist here in Washington.

As a result, as I said earlier, it is easy to spend money. And over the years both parties have shown an ability to spend money. There's no doubt about that. And so we need this external constraint, if you will, of pay-as-you-go. And I will go beyond that to say the Blue Dogs support a balanced budget, as well. That is one of the guiding principles of the Blue Dog Coalition, is a balanced budget amendment to the Constitution. It takes a long time to amend the Constitution. It takes many years to get enough States to ratify and whatnot. And that is an important goal. But pay-as-you-go we can do right away. We've had it as a rule in the House. We would like to see it as a law. We want a statute passed by the House and the Senate because it will serve us all so well.

I will close with one more comment. And I will recognize a couple of my colleagues from the Blue Dog Coalition to participate in this discussion. But I just want to come back, as I mentioned, to the issue of the low dollar we have today. When you're borrowing lots of money, and the United States has been borrowing a lot of money from foreign lenders, that devalues the dollar. It's a supply-and-demand issue. And we're having to borrow to pay for so much in this country. And we know that that low dollar has had some serious implications for us. Oil is priced on a dollar-per-barrel basis. The global market is one market for everybody. And as other currencies in the world go up, as the dollar goes down, that means the price per barrel in dollars is going up. That's just one example of where a low-dollar policy can have a serious impact on our economy and on the daily lives of all of us.

A strong dollar and a dollar that we can be proud of can be reinforced by public policy that encourages balanced budgets. A government that lives within its means has a stronger currency. And again, that shouldn't be about Democrats or Republicans, or the left or the right. That's about what's right for this country. And that's what the Blue Dogs are about. And that's why I'm proud to be a member of the Blue Dog Coalition, because the Blue Dogs like to look out for what's right for this country. And they take an independent approach. And they want to sit down, roll up their sleeves, tackle these issues and work with everybody on these issues.

So that's why we are here tonight, to talk about pay-as-you-go, to talk about the benefits of this country. I have been joined by some of my other Blue Dog colleagues. And I would like to now recognize my good friend and colleague from the State of Georgia, Representative DAVID SCOTT, for as much time as he might consume.

Mr. SCOTT of Georgia. Thank you very much. It is always a pleasure to come down and to be able to communicate with the American people with my distinguished members of our Blue Dog Coalition. What I would like to do as a part of this discussion tonight is to certainly communicate why we need to institute and maintain what we have instituted or reinstituted, and that is PAYGO, to pay our bills as we go.

Let me see if I can just set the stage to show the American people just how precarious a position we are in both from a national security standpoint as well as an economic security standpoint. As we stand right now, the national debt is a staggering $9.13 trillion. That is almost $10 trillion of national debt. And just to show you how serious this is, we are accumulating this debt at an astounding rate of $1.4 billion every single day. That amounts to nearly $10 billion every week that we are adding to our national debt.

And then we compound that. This debt is not free. We must pay interest on this debt. And the interest on this debt last year alone was an astounding $430 billion. So I can put that in perspective. Just the interest that we pay for borrowing this money is four times more than what we pay for education, for the health of our children, for our veterans and homeland security combined. Folks, that's mighty, mighty dangerous ground for this country to be on. That is one of the foremost reasons why we must change this direction, or else we are going off the cliff. And this is something that is of very, very much concern to Democrats, I think to some Republicans as well, and most assuredly, to our Blue Dog Coalition that is providing the leadership here so that we can be responsible.

Now let me just add another point. This money that we are borrowing is broken down into two groups. Of the $9.13 trillion in debt, about $5.1 trillion of that is what we call the public debt. The other $4 trillion is debt that we

incur through our private means, through borrowing from Social Security and other government agencies. But let's just look at that public debt for a moment because the other reason that this is so much of a great concern is the threat to our national security. Because, ladies and gentlemen, 45 percent of our public debt is being borrowed from foreign governments, and not just any foreign government. We are borrowing this money from places like China. They have $500 billion of our debt. Japan has $601 billion of our debt. And then Saudi Arabia and the oil-producing OPEC nations have $153 billion in debt. And then if we go to places like Russia, $43 billion, and to Korea, $42 billion. And I think you are getting the picture, ladies and gentlemen. These are countries that we have got to deal with firmly. It is undermining our security to have our debt in the hands of these countries because he who controls your debt controls you and your future. And it begins to weaken our leverage in dealing on the international stage.

Let me just give you one example. About 3 or 4 weeks ago, our President Bush went over to Saudi Arabia, yes, to really try to do something about the high price of gasoline that my dear friends on the other side have just talked about a few moments ago. But here is the President going to Saudi Arabia begging hat in hand basically to ask the Saudis to increase their oil output. Keep in mind that it only costs the Saudis $2 a barrel to get that oil out of the ground. And now it's going for what, $120, $130 a barrel? But the Saudis said ''no.'' In the back of their minds I am sure they were saying, we got your oil, and we got your debt.

That's why I'm saying that this debt situation is placing our Nation in a terribly precarious situation from an economic security standpoint as well as a national security standpoint. And we have got to change that.

And finally, I want to just add this one point, too, because this business of continually not only having this huge debt, which we've got to saddle on the backs of our grandchildren and other generations, is not fair to them. But not only that, but the monies that we are spending in Iraq and in Afghanistan are being borrowed from China and Japan.

Finally, on the foreign standpoint, it is very important to really dramatize the seriousness of this debt. Over the last 8 years, since 2001, we have borrowed under this President and this Congress, he couldn't have done it by himself, more money from foreign governments than we have borrowed in the previous 224 years of our existence. That's right, ladies and gentlemen. We have borrowed more money under the Bush administration and under this last 7 years of Congress than we have done in the previous 42 administrations of this country. That is numbing. It is mind-boggling. This is a terrible situation for us to be in. This is the reason why we have got no choice in this matter. We've got to pay our bills.

And it is a great testimony to the leadership of the Blue Dogs and certainly the leadership of the Democratic party in this Congress that we have indeed instituted pay-as-you-go so that we can have both economic security as well as national security. The American people deserve no less.

Mr. MATHESON. I want to thank my colleague from Georgia for those words. He is an excellent member of the Blue Dog Coalition.

And Mr. Speaker, I would like to yield back my portion to let Mr. BOYD control the rest of the 60 minutes if I could.

THE BLUE DOG COALITION

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. DONNELLY). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 18, 2007, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. BOYD) is recognized for the remainder of the hour as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. BOYD of Florida. Mr. Speaker, it is great to see you in that chair as a member of the Blue Dogs, a freshman member of the Blue Dogs. We are very proud of you. And also I want to thank my friend and colleague from Utah (Mr. MATHESON). Mr. MATHESON has been a solid leader of the Blue Dog Coalition since he arrived here 6 or 8 years ago. And he actually, in the previous Congress, served as one of the Chairs of the Blue Dog Coalition. And I am grateful to him for his leadership and also for filling in tonight. Thank you very much, Mr. MATHESON.

At this time, Mr. Speaker, I would like to yield as much time as he would consume to our friend, the gentleman from Kansas, DENNIS MOORE, who is the cochair of the Blue Dog Coalition. He is the cochair for policy. So I will yield at this time to Mr. MOORE.

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Mr. MOORE of Kansas. Thank you, Mr. BOYD. I appreciate the opportunity to speak here tonight about something that should be very important and that, I believe, is very important to every one of us whether we acknowledge and understand the importance or not.

After the change in the last election when we got the majority after 8 years—and this is my 10th year in Congress, and as Mr. BOYD said, I am the policy cochair for the Blue Dog Coalition—the Blue Dog Coalition leadership was invited, along with the leadership of a group called the New Democratic Coalition, over to the White House to meet with the President. Frankly, I think all of us appreciated the opportunity to go over and to meet with the President because we wanted to discuss items of interest to people in our Nation, not on a partisan basis but simply to find some common ground where we could work together. There were, I believe, nine of us all together—four from the Blue Dog Coalition and five from the New Democratic Coalition. We met in my office before going over.

We only had a 45-minute meeting, and I think all of us had a little concern that somebody, if we didn't have any ground rules, might spend more time and take virtually all of the time. So we agreed, if we had a chance to speak at all—and the President was running the meeting—that we would each take 2 minutes.

When it was my turn, I said, ''Mr. President, I'm a year older than you are. I have seven-and-a-half grandchildren, and we have mortgaged their future.'' I said, ''I'm not pointing at you and your administration. This goes back 25 years to Democratic and Republican Presidents.'' Although, because I was trying to find common ground, what I did not say was our debt in this country has gone up over $3.4 trillion in the last 7 years. Fully a third of our debt has been added in the last 7 years of this Presidency.

I tell folks back home all the time that 80 percent of what we do in Congress should not be about Democrats and Republicans. It ought to be about taking care of our people and our country, and I think people out there really believe that and want that to happen.

Put aside this partisanship, and let's work together. Working together for fiscal responsibility should not be a partisan matter at all. We should all be concerned about that because, as Mr. SCOTT, the previous speaker, pointed out, we have a large portion of our debt right now held by foreign nations that might have control over some of our actions in the future by virtue of the fact that they hold our debt. We should be very concerned about that, and we should try to do something positive about that.

Mr. Speaker, we have an opportunity, I think, at this time with the reinstitution of a rule called PAYGO that expired in 2002. Some of the previous speakers, I think, have told you ''PAYGO'' simply means ''pay as you go.'' If you have a new spending proposal, a new program proposal or a new tax cut, section 1 is here is my proposal, and section 2 is here is how it's paid for so it's revenue neutral and doesn't increase our deficit and our debt. To me, that is a very simple, understandable rule that we all should follow. If we do that, we can stop this increase which is going to be detrimental to future generations in our country.

The Blue Dogs passed out a chart that's not manufactured or made by our group. I think it's U.S. Budget ''something,'' and you can get it on the Web site. It shows a bar graph of expenditures in our country, different categories of expenditures. The big three bars on the bottom are, as most people would imagine, defense. We all want an adequate defense for our Nation; the Department of Health and Human Services, which basically is

Medicare; and the third is interest on our national debt. Interest on our national debt is the third largest category of expenditure in our Federal budget at this time. That's money that could be used for education, for health care, for anything worthwhile besides paying interest on a debt.

Folks, we have got to get back to living like most American families do, within a budget. We have got to do this, not just for us. It's not about us. It's about our children and our grandchildren and about future generations in this country. I believe we owe them the very best, and we owe them to do that.

I encourage and I ask that our compatriots across the aisle, our Republican friends, join with us and support this concept of PAYGO because we need to do this for future generations in our country.

Mr. BOYD of Florida. I want to thank my friend and colleague, Mr. MOORE from Kansas, for coming tonight to speak to us on behalf of the fiscally responsible 49-member-strong Blue Dog Coalition. DENNIS MOORE has been a great leader on this issue in Congress ever since he got here 8 or 10 years ago, and I'm very pleased to work with him.

Mr. Speaker, this whole notion of how we run our government's fiscal matters is not rocket science. The people watching us out in the country tonight understand that they have to balance their budgets in their own households. They have to balance their budgets in their own small businesses. They can't spend more money than they take in. In local governments, if they didn't balance their budgets, if they continuously spent more money than they took in, the people would elect somebody else. It's only the United States Government that doesn't put in place a requirement that it lives within its means.

I think it's time that we fix this. The Blue Dogs will continue to press this issue. PAYGO is one of the tools that we can use to make this happen.

I'm delighted to be joined tonight by other Blue Dog members. There is no member who is more passionate about this issue and more principled on this issue than our friend and colleague from Indiana, Representative BARON HILL.

I would like to yield to Representative HILL now whatever time he may consume.

Mr. HILL. I thank my friend, Congressman BOYD from Florida, for being a leader of the Blue Dogs on this particular issue.

Mr. Speaker, I remember when I got elected back in 1998 that PAYGO rules were in place, and there was the strong possibility that if we kept those rules in place that we would actually produce surpluses for the first time in, I think, probably 40 years. Well, that dream did come true. PAYGO rules were in place in 1998 when I got elected, and they were in place in 1999 and in the year 2000. Those rules that were in place caused this place to come up with surpluses for the first time in 40 years.

I can remember at the time how elated I was because, as a Blue Dog who believes in pay-as-you-go rules, the predictions that we were all making in our campaigns were actually coming true. That was, if you have PAYGO, it is the one discipline that Congress can practice that will actually produce balanced budgets and surpluses, and that's exactly what happened in the year 2000. I can remember at the time that I was thinking, now, finally, we've got a handle on the deficit, that we're actually producing surpluses, surpluses to the tune from a lot of economists of $1 trillion over 10 years, that we could actually start doing the things that have to be done to correct some problems that we have with Social Security, with paying down the debt, with maybe reducing some taxes. That's the position the Blue Dogs took when those surpluses materialized. We advocated paying down the debt, fixing Social Security and cutting taxes.

Then we had an election, and Mr. Bush became President of the United States, and the Republicans grew their majorities. They had a different way of looking at things, and that's okay. That's what elections are all about. In that particular year, the Republicans won, and they wanted to change the policies.

One of the policies they changed was in dropping the principle of PAYGO. I can remember, at the time they dropped the principle of PAYGO, that people like ALLEN BOYD and BARON HILL and other Blue Dogs were warning that, if you dropped this discipline, there would be a good chance that these surpluses that we had then would disappear. Well, that's exactly what happened.

In the year 2000–2002, there was an approximately $6 trillion deficit, which was bad enough, but with the surpluses that we knew were going to be created we thought we were going to be able to fix that. Now that those policies were changed, we predicted that the deficit would grow. Sure enough, it has. It is now $9 trillion in debt. So it took us well over 200 years to go $6 trillion in debt, and because we dropped those PAYGO rules, in 8 short years, we've added another $3 trillion to the national deficit.

As Congressman MOORE said earlier this evening, we are paying huge amounts of interest on that deficit, and it is growing, and it is spiraling out of control. We have got to get a handle on it.

Now, there was an article in the U.S. News and World Report recently that talked about the Blue Dogs' advocating these PAYGO rules. Let me read you a bit of what it said. So this is just not the Blue Dogs who are pontificating here tonight and who are bragging on the policies that created surpluses in the year 2000.

''The Blue Dog Democrats are colorfully named, but they're dead serious about their mission of attacking the record $9.4 trillion national debt . . . The group's top dog, Representative Allen Boyd,'' who is leading this discussion tonight, ''a 63-year-old cattle farmer from Florida's panhandle, thinks Americans have been lulled into believing that any new program or tax cut will fly, 'and if there's a gap, we just go overseas and borrow the money.' We go to the piggy bank in the People's Republic of China until it goes empty or until they cut it off.''

What is this talk about China that we're talking about here tonight?

Well, because the American government can not pay its debts, it has to borrow money. One of the countries that we're borrowing money from is the People's Republic of China. I think most people, when they hear that, are appalled that we're actually borrowing money from China to pay for our debts that we have here in the United States.

Now, what does this mean in translation in terms of how this affects the real lives of most Americans? Here is what it does.

These PAYGO rules are tough for Congress. They're tough for Members like myself and Congressman BOYD because we've got to make the tough decisions about how we're going to pay for programs that we think the American people deserve, and we've got a tough vote coming up here in the very near future on the GI Bill.

We all believe as Blue Dogs that our veterans who are coming home from Iraq and Afghanistan deserve additional education benefits through the GI Bill, and the Blue Dogs want to vote for this bill, but we've got to pay for it because it's going to cost approximately $60 billion.

I would think that any veteran who is listening out there on C–SPAN all across this Nation, that most of the American people and that most people in this Congress would believe that we should not be borrowing money from the Chinese to pay for the GI Bill. I think most veterans would agree to that, but that's what I mean when I say it's tough to have these PAYGO rules. We have to make the tough decisions about how to balance the needs of the American people in terms of veterans' programs and also how to balance the needs of the American people because, I think, most veterans would not want us to borrow this money from the Chinese in order for their children and grandchildren to pay for that veterans' program.

So that is the reality of PAYGO rules. It disciplines Congress. Quite frankly, the Blue Dogs are the only ones in Congress right now who are insisting that these rules remain in place so that we can discipline the Members of Congress in doing the right thing.

I throw that out there about the veterans' programs. These are the tough decisions that we have to make. Congressman BOYD and myself and every Blue Dog in this Chamber want to make sure that we extend those benefits to our veterans who deserve them,

but we're going to insist that it be paid for because, I think, our veterans would demand that, and I think the American people would demand that.

Mr. BOYD of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I know that the viewers can see the passion that exists within Congressman BARON HILL. He is a great Member of Congress. He is a good leader of the Blue Dogs. I am happy to serve with him and to call him my colleague.

He has explained what the PAYGO rule does. It makes us make the hard choices. If money just grew on trees, we could do any program we wanted, but somebody has to pay for these programs, and we either pay for them today or we borrow the money and send the bill to our children, along with an interest bill, down the road. We think that's immoral. We think it's wrong, inherently wrong.

I know Mr. HILL said that the Blue Dogs care passionately about PAYGO and about getting this thing back on track. We went to Speaker PELOSI after the 2006 election and said we would like to do this. We know that we can't get a statutory PAYGO, which is one that goes into law.

As you know, Mr. Speaker, in order for it to go into law, the House would have to pass it; the Senate would have to pass it, and the President would have to sign it. We were assured by some other bodies and the White House that that wouldn't happen.

So we asked the Speaker to at least put a rule in place in the House of Representatives that would make the House abide by PAYGO. We knew it wouldn't be as good as statutory PAYGO, but it would, in some ways, serve the same purpose. It would be a rule for which the House would have to take a two-thirds vote. Even though it would only apply to us in the House, the House would have to take a two-thirds vote to waive that. She agreed to do that, to her credit, and she is a great advocate of the PAYGO principle.

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I am grateful to her and the Blue Dogs are grateful to her for her position on PAYGO.

Now, we would like to see PAYGO become part of the law, like it was back in the 1990s. PAYGO, along with discretionary spending caps and other tools that were used, enabled us to dig out of a hole back in 1992, the largest deficit in the history of the Nation at that time, $290 billion.

Congress, working together with the White House, and in the 1990s, that was mid-1990s and late 1990s, that was a Republican-led Congress, and a democratically controlled White House, working together in a bipartisan way, put in place statutory PAYGO, discretionary spending caps and other budget enforcement tools. This enabled us to dig out of that big deficit hole, $290 billion in 1992 is what we were borrowing to operate this government, $290 billion.

For the efforts of the Congress and the White House in the 1990s, tools were put in place. We had an economic turnaround and, lo and behold, the next thing you knew all kinds of good things were happening.

In 1997, Congress put in place The Balanced Budget Act. I had just gotten here as a brand-new freshman, and I was very fortunate to be a part of the Blue Dogs in some ways, and in some minor way involved in helping President Clinton and the congressional leadership get the votes to pass that budget, The Balanced Budget Act.

That was an important act in 1997, and statutory PAYGO, the law of the land, paying your bills as you go, don't borrow money to do it. If you are going to have a program, you have either got to cut spending someplace or find a revenue source. That was a good tool, and it served this country well economically, the greatest economic expansion in the history of this Nation during the 1990s, the greatest economic expansion in the history of this Nation during the 1990s. The government was doing its part, acting responsibly in the discharging of its duties and acting fiscally responsible.

So, what happened, $290 billion deficit in 1992, we worked hard together, we cut spending, we put in place the PAYGO rules. Lo and behold, at the end of the 1990s and the year 2000, we had a budget surplus for the first time, as BARON HILL said, for the first time in 40 years, with we had a budget surplus.

The next year, I think it was 1999, we had our first one. The next year in 2000, we had another one, over $200 billion surplus. It was unheard of in recent American history.

Then what happened? We had an election. The economic forecasters were forecasting over a $5 trillion surplus, its projected surplus. Now, it's not real, it's projected if things worked like they were supposed to for the next 10 years.

We had an election, had a new President, and that President and the Congress decided that they wanted to go a different route, as BARON HILL says. Now, they came and met with the Blue Dogs.

I remember Vice President CHENEY and the OMB Director, who now is the governor of Indiana, came and met with us. We told them they needed to do three things with that surplus.

Cut taxes, who doesn't want to have lower taxes? We know what lower taxes do for our people. It gives them more to spend on their own families, and it helps economically. Cut taxes, number one.

Pay down debt, number two. Debt was continuing to climb, and we thought it was important to pay that down.

Thirdly, we could see the baby boomer retirement coming right over the horizon, and we knew Social Security and Medicare were in trouble. Let's take some of that projected surplus and use it to fix Social Security and Medicare.

Those were the recommendations that we as Blue Dogs made to the White House and their fiscal team, their budget team. What do they decide to do? They said, no, we can't pay down debt, and we don't have time to fix Social Security and Medicare. We have got to take all the money we can get our hands on and put it in tax cuts. The number back then was about $1.7 trillion. It was projected now, it wasn't real, it was projected. That was like in June of 2001.

September 11, 2001, everybody here listening knows what happened. All those projections, every assumption that went into that rejection went out the window on September 11, 2001.

After the Bush economic plan had been put into place, then what do we do as a government? We just charge right ahead with that economic plan. You have seen a continuation or a return to budget deficits that have set records in the last 3 or 4 years, highest budget deficits in the history of this Nation.

You have seen an increase, as BARON HILL said, from $5.6 trillion debt to the a debt that is expected this year to pass $10 trillion, $10 trillion, trillion with a ''T.'' That's a lot of zeros on the end of it. I think it's about 12. I am not even sure.

So the economic policy is wrong, and the Blue Dogs are going to insist that we do it differently. If we have to take baby steps, if we have to do with a PAYGO rule, we are going to stand tough when it comes to the votes on that rule. We are hopeful that the other Members of Congress, House and Senate and the White House, will come to us on this position of fiscal responsibility.

Mr. HILL. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. BOYD of Florida. I will be glad to yield to the gentleman from Indiana.

Mr. HILL. I was listening with great interest what the gentleman from Florida was talking about as he went again down history lane and about what happened in late 1999 and the year 2000, because I get asked quite often, you know, how are we going to balance our budgets? It's almost like when I go home that my constituents don't feel like it is it's realistic for us to be thinking about balancing the budget.

They don't think there is any practical way that we can balance our budget, but we can now use history as our guide that back in the late 1990s and 2000, these issues of PAYGO worked and produced surpluses, and it was Blue Dog proposals during those surplus years, that we should cut taxes, that we should pay down the debt, and that we should fix Social Security.

Now, we are not able to do that because we are running up these huge deficits again. It's important that we return to fiscal discipline by implementing these PAYGO rules.

Now, I don't know about you, Congressman BOYD. Well, I do know about you. We have had many, many discussions about this in the Blue Dogs. Blue Dogs meet every Tuesday at 5:00 to talk about this issue.

But I believe, as you pointed out today very eloquently at the Blue Dog meeting, that it is immoral for us to be passing on this debt. It is immoral that we are not fixing Social Security for our children and our grandchildren.

It's going to be probably okay for us, but it's going to be a real problem if we don't fix it for our children. It's also going to be a problem if we don't fix Medicare. It's probably going to be okay for us, but it's probably not going to be okay for our children and grandchildren unless we start to fix these problems.

One of the ways that we fix it that was thrown down and thrown away after the elections in the year 2000, one way we fix it is to return to the days of fiscal discipline so that we can create these surpluses again.

We create the surpluses, and then we can begin to fix Social Security and Medicare and other programs that the American people demand, want and deserve.

So the Blue Dogs are not only speaking for the principle of PAYGO rules and fiscal discipline just on the merits of fiscal discipline and PAYGO, this is about programs that we believe in and getting our fiscal House in order so that we can preserve Social Security, so that we can preserve Medicare and so that we can start paying down this debt so that we are not passing it on to our children and grandchildren.

Congressman BOYD was right at the Blue Dog meeting today, and he is right tonight to say that it is immoral if we don't start fixing these problems.

Mr. BOYD of Florida. I thank my friend for those insightful remarks.

May I ask the Speaker how much time we have remaining?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Florida has 14 minutes left.

Mr. BOYD of Florida. I thank my friend, Mr. HILL of Indiana.

You know, looking back at the 1990s and coming out of an era where we didn't have much fiscal discipline in the 1990s and then to a period where we put in place some tools, I want to cite some statistics to you. Of course, I already talked about one, in 1992 this country had a deficit of $290 billion, deficit, annual deficit. That was the largest at that time in the history of the Nation.

By the year 2000, we had turned that into a $236 billion surplus, which was also the largest surplus in U.S. history. Again, that's about a $526 billion swing in 8 years with good fiscal management.

Actually, President Clinton was the recipient of those PAYGO policies, but he was very involved, and he believed in it. He, working with the Congress, helped write those PAYGO policies. He was also committed to fiscal discipline, however unpopular that trend was back then, but it also, by doing that, fostered very rapid growth in net national savings and investment in this country.

In 1992, the net savings in the U.S. economy, the net savings, by all of its citizens, were only 3 percent. Eight years later, after fiscal discipline and moving from a deficit to a surplus, savings was at a 6 percent level, had doubled, from 3 percent in 1992 to 6 percent in 2000. Actually, you know what these savings are due, they are used to finance investment, domestic investment, and it makes the economy grow and everything works better.

Unemployment, obviously unemployment is an issue that we are all very concerned about today. We saw some figures come out last week, we are now at about 5.5 percent.

In the early 1990s, unemployment was at 7.5 percent. Those fiscal discipline tools were put in place and the government began to act responsibly from a fiscal perspective. By 2000, 8 years later that, the unemployment rate had dropped from 7.5 percent down to 4 percent. Now, you know, we are back up at that time 5.5 percent figure.

Let's talk about jobs. The average annual increase in jobs in America during the 8 years from 1992 to 2000 was during the Bill Clinton presidency at a time when Congress and the President were working together to solve this deficit problem. The average job creation number was 2.8 million a year, an additional 2.8 million jobs a year.

Does anybody, do you have any idea what it has been since the year 2000, since the new administration, since this administration came in? It's actually less than a half a million a year.

You figure all that out over a period of 8 years, it's 15 to 20 million jobs that we didn't create. Many of us think it's because of the deficit problems that exist, the irresponsible fiscal policy of this Nation.

I want to recognize my friend from Georgia again, but I want to close this point by reminding our viewers that PAYGO helped with this economic boom. Fiscal discipline and the conduct of the government's business is an important part of how this economy works. We can increase productivity, we can increase gross domestic product, and we increase employment.

I want to remind you that the economic expansion of 1991 to 2000 was the largest in U.S. history. We can do it again, but we have to start disciplining ourselves, and we have to get away from this notion that we can have every program we want, and we can have every tax cut we want, and we go somewhere else and borrow the money and not worry about paying for those programs.

I would like to yield to my friend from Georgia.

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Mr. SCOTT of Georgia. Thank you very much, Mr. BOYD.

I want to go back and complement what you are saying because you are hitting it from the domestic side in terms of our jobs. I want to complement that because I serve on the Foreign Affairs Committee, as you know. In addition to that, I serve on the Middle East Subcommittee and am vice chairman of the Subcommittee on International Trade, Nuclear Proliferation and Terrorism, and I am a sitting member of NATO's Parliamentary Assembly. I mention those committees that I serve on because it puts me in a pretty good position as we get around the world to really focus on this other side as to why we have to pay this debt down. We don't have all of the answers, but it is incumbent upon us to start this ball rolling. The very future of our country is at stake.

In this past winter's meeting when we were at NATO, word came out that a Chinese lawmaker, and incidentally, we are borrowing $500 billion from the Chinese, he stands up and he says I think we ought to now start buying euros instead of dollars, and the stock market plunged 300 points. That is what I am talking about in terms of our own national security, the threat that we have if we do not take care of this debt, particularly in the hands of foreign countries.

The other point is in Russia, for example, it is tied into our failure to deal with this debt, it is tied into our energy dependence. And $46 billion of our debt is in the hands of Russia whom we are having a difficult time with. Any reason why? And they are now Iran's number one buddy. And dig this, Mr. BOYD, this is the interesting point: 45 percent of all of the natural gas reserves are controlled by Russia and Iran. And they hold our debt.

When you combine that with the $153 billion that the OPEC countries hold, and the treatment that they gave our President when he went there and asked for them to increase their oil output and they said no. The comment was we control your oil and we control your debt.

The point I am getting at is this, that our failure to pay down this debt will have a devastating impact on the future of our country and our ability to have the leverage we need to survive on the world stage.

I just wanted to make that point from the foreign affairs perspective on why we have to put these PAYGO rules in and make them stick.

Mr. BOYD of Florida. I thank my friend from Georgia for bringing forth that point from the foreign affairs perspective. It is a good and valid point.

Mr. Speaker, we live in the greatest and richest Nation on the face of the Earth. We have 5 percent of the world's population and control 25 percent of the world's wealth. If we are not careful and with poor fiscal management, we will shift a good portion of that wealth to other parts of the world.

A couple of statistics, and I don't know what the trade deficit is today, but we are running huge trade deficits as a result of the oil prices. That trade deficit is ever increasing as a result of the increasing cost of oil because a majority of our oil, more than half of our

oil comes from foreign sources. So that is a very serious problem for us.

I talked earlier about the savings having been 3 percent in 1992 and we moved it to 6 percent, those are American citizens saving their bucks, saving for the future. You know, for the first time since I think maybe World War II, 2 years ago this country had a negative savings rate. That goes directly to the management of our fiscal policy and the performance of the economy. I think that it is sad that we as a nation have a negative savings rate. We need to turn that around and one of the things that we can do as a government is do our job well. Let's identify those functions that we are supposed to do as a government, national security, transportation, education, and environmental protection. We need good strong foreign policy, and there are some other areas. But we ought to be willing and make sure that we perform those functions well, and we ought to be willing to pay for them and we ought not be wasting money.

I agree with many on the other side of the aisle that we can root out some waste. There has to be tremendous cooperation between the legislative body and the executive branch to figure out how to do that because the executive branch obviously operates those agencies that we appropriate money for. So it is their job to operate them and operate them efficiently, and we have an oversight role and we ought to continue to do that.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank my friend from Georgia for being here and I want to thank the other Blue Dogs who came in and helped today. I see another good Blue Dog in the Speaker's chair now, Representative SPACE from Ohio, one of our freshmen members, and we are very pleased to see you. You look good up there, Mr. Speaker.

OUR RICH HISTORY OF FAITH

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 18, 2007, the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. FORBES) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. FORBES. Mr. Speaker, tonight is a rather historic night because as people might be watching this at home, or if they happen to still be in this great, historic Chamber, if you look around, this room is draped with history. Unfortunately, when people look at this great assembly hall in which so many great debates and great pieces of legislation have passed, what they have become accustomed to seeing is if you are on this side of the aisle whenever there is anything that goes wrongs, there are fingers pointed on that side of the aisle in trying to blame everyone sitting over here. Of course the folks on that side of the aisle are turning over here and pointing their fingers in this direction. If anything good takes place, the folks on this side of the aisle want to stand up and take credit for those things that are good, and folks on that side of the aisle want to do the same thing. And folks sitting at home begin to question and ask whether we can ever get anything done, whether we can ever come together as a body. Well tonight, that is what we do. Republicans and Democrats come together to talk about something that is the cornerstone of the American experience, and that is the rich history of faith that we have had in this country that has helped create our greatness, helped sustain us and that many of us who will speak here tonight for this next hour believe will continue to sustain us in years to come.

Mr. Speaker, right behind you tonight is a great phrase. It says ''In God We Trust.'' As you stare out all around this magnificent room, you see some of the greatest lawgivers history and the world has ever known. But the ones you see across this room, you see just half of their face, their half profile except the one directly in front of you which is Moses who we recognize as perhaps one of the greatest lawgivers of all.

And throughout our country we have been steeped in an enormous history of faith that starts all of the way back with the commission that Christopher Columbus had when they talked about the grace of God; the first colonial grant to Sir Walter Raleigh in 1584, the grace of God was mentioned in there. The first charter of Virginia in 1606, it referenced knowledge and worship of God. The Mayflower Compact in 1620, it talked about having undertaken for the glory of God. The Declaration of Independence we all know and can cite that those inalienable rights were endowed to us by what the writers of that document said were their creator.

The first act of Congress, 1774, they asked a minister to open with prayer, and they read four chapters of the Bible. And during the Civil War we are told that soldiers on both sides, Union and Confederates, that religion was the greatest sustainer of morale.

Of course we know numerous stories of the great faith of men and women as they were in slavery and fought to get out of that horrible institution.

In 1815, over 2,000 official government calls to prayer had been made by States in the Federal Government, and thousands more have been made since then.

In 1864 Congress added ''In God We Trust'' to the American coinage.

In 1870, the Federal Government made Christmas an official holiday.

In 1931, the Star Spangled Banner was our national anthem, including the phrase ''in God is our trust.''

In 1954 we added the phrase ''one Nation under God'' to the Pledge of Allegiance.

And in 1956, Congress by law made ''In God We Trust'' our national motto. And, of course, we all know the significant role that faith and religion and the church played in the civil rights movement.

Tonight, Mr. Speaker, for the next hour you will hear some of the greatest leaders in our country and certainly in this body who will come forth not as Republicans and not as Democrats, but come forth as Americans to talk about what we think is the core value system that we have been proud of in this Nation, and that is the rich history of faith that we have.

Now, Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to yield to my good friend, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. MCINTYRE).

Mr. MCINTYRE. Mr. Speaker, I thank RANDY FORBES for his great work in helping us put this event together tonight.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H. Res. 888 which affirms the rich spiritual and religious history of our Nation's founding and subsequent history and designates the first week of May each year as American Religious History Week for the appreciation of and education on America's history of religious faith.

As we join together on the floor of the U.S. House and stand beneath these words ''In God We Trust,'' while recognizing the importance of a religious history week, let us remember the words of our Founding Fathers.

''We, the people of the United States, in order to form a more perfect union, establish justice, ensure domestic tranquility, provide for the common defense, promote the general welfare, and secure the blessings of liberty to ourselves and our posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America.''

So begins our Constitution with those words of the Preamble.

But let us turn back the hands of time for a moment. The day is September 17, 1787. The time is 4 p.m. Thirty-nine men from across the United States look at another one with solemn but joyous faces. The arguments are over; the prayers have been answered; and the miracle has occurred: the Constitution of the United States has just been signed. From May 25 until now, for four long hot months, these men have toiled, not knowing whether their work was one of wisdom or folly. They have their hopes and their doubts. And they wondered whether it would succeed or fail to sustain this infant country.

The oldest delegate, Ben Franklin, rises from his chair. At age 81, he has seen this young Nation flounder already under 4 years of indecisive government that divided rather than united. He looks around the room at the men, many of whom were in their 20s and 30s. And he stares once more at the chair occupied by George Washington at the head of the assembly. He had speculated what the half-sun painted on the chair signified. And he said then, ''I have often in the course of this session looked at that behind the President without being able to tell whether it was rising or setting. But now at length I have the happiness to

know that it is a rising and not a setting sun.''

Indeed, the miracle of Philadelphia had occurred. The United States was a rising and not a setting one, a Nation whose rays of influence, as we know, would one day be felt the world over.

But when we think about why this miracle occurred, when we look back 221 years later, do we know what happened in that hall before those 39 men came out and announced that they had, instead of rewriting the Articles of Confederation had written a new constitution for our country. They had deliberated, they had argued and debated. They had made sure that everyone's opinion was heard. Secondly, they showed their dedication in addition to their deliberation. That meant that they had put in sweat and long hours trying to find out what would benefit us all. But in addition to that deliberation and dedication, they also showed their devotion.

□ 2045

They knew that their reliance must not be just upon themselves, but first and foremost, upon God.

And as Franklin himself, who was not known as one of the most religious founding fathers, but himself acknowledged God's providence upon that group that met to write our Constitution, said, himself, as he looked at Washington, before they went out and announced in what is today known as Independence Hall in Philadelphia, he said, ''I have lived, sir, a long time, and the longer I live, the more convincing proof I see of this truth, that God governs in the affairs of men. And if a sparrow cannot fall to the ground without His notice, is it likely that an empire shall rise without his aid?''

''We have been assured,'' said Franklin, ''in the sacred writings that except the Lord build the house, they labor in vain that build it. I firmly believe this,'' said Franklin, ''and I also believe that without His concurring aid, we shall succeed in this political building no better than the builders of Babel.''

What a challenge to us today. What a challenge that that old man, at that time, Franklin, made to all of those young men who were ready to go out and announce what they'd done politically for a new country. But he himself said ''we can only secure these blessings of liberty for ourselves and posterity when we take time too first pray and rely upon the hand of Almighty God.'' And that those 39 men did. Before they walked out of what is today known as Independence Hall to announce that we had a constitution for this new country, they spent time in prayer.

You know, that story has been sanitized out of our history books today, but those are Franklin's quotes. And I think it's a challenge to all of us to know that even this man knew scripture and knew that the hand of Almighty God had to be upon our country for us to succeed.

We, the people is how the Constitution begins. Will we let the miracle endure? Will we remember what John Adams, our second president, said when our constitution was made? ''Only for a moral and religious people, it is wholly inadequate to the government of any other.''

Mr. Speaker, I challenge us tonight, as we share this time together, I thank Mr. FORBES for giving me this opportunity to share this occasion with him and all of my colleagues who will soon follow, that we support H. Res. 888 as American Religious History Week so that we, as a country, will never forget the very words and actions of our founding fathers, who we are as a Nation, how deep our religious roots run, and remind us of the historical significance that is well documented, of faith and prayer, that we celebrate America's religious heritage, that we remember that we have opportunities in this great land that God has blessed us with, and may we always honor those opportunities in our reliance upon divine providence.

Mr. FORBES. Mr. Speaker, we just appreciate the leadership of Congressman MCINTYRE on all of these issues of faith. MIKE, thank you so much.

And I'd like to now recognize another great leader on faith issues across the country from the State of Arkansas, Congressman JOHN BOOZMAN.

Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise tonight to support American Religious History Week. This great country was founded on religious principles, and the ideal of our founders can be seen in the halls of this very building, the symbol of American democracy, the Capitol.

Statuary Hall, the former meeting place of the House of Representatives, now home to statues donated by individual States, was the site of church services for over 50 years, and the Speaker's podium was used as the preacher's pulpit during that time.

Several of the statues in that great hall are of religious figures important to the growth of this great nation.

John Peter Gabriel Muhlenberg of Pennsylvania was persuaded by his father to study the ministry. He was ordained in the Church of England. From there God called him into the life of politics; serving in the House of Burgesses and becoming a commander in the Continental Army during the revolution. Then he was elected to the first Congress and also served as a senator.

Like so many of the other religious figures in these halls, these men have made significant contributions. Men like Roger Williams, a priest in the Church of England, founded the colony of Rhode Island and wrote the declaration of the principle of religious liberty.

Thomas Starr King, a Unitarian minister, was a fiery orator who spoke favorably of the Union in California in the 1860s, and is credited with saving California from becoming a separate republic.

Father Damien's statue is one of the most recognizable. He was an ordained priest in the Cathedral of Our Lady of Peace in Honolulu, Hawaii in the mid 1860s. He risked his health ministering to lepers, building chapels and comforting the sick before leprosy took his own life.

The accomplishments of these religious men honored in Statuary Hall are felt coast to coast. Now, hundreds of years later, religion is still important, and I'm committed to continuing the efforts started by these great men.

Mr. FORBES. Mr. Speaker, I thank the congressman from Arkansas for his great leadership on this; and now recognize another leader from the State of New Mexico, Congressman STEVE PEARCE.

Mr. PEARCE. Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you, Mr. FORBES for your leadership in this call to establish American Religious History Week.

Also, as a cosponsor of H. Res. 888, I'm strongly supportive of the idea that we should remember that we should always acknowledge the founding fathers' belief that this Nation was indeed blessed by our Maker, that we would, as a Nation, acknowledge our corporate belief.

It's important to remember not only our founding, but also to take a look at where we're headed as a Nation. We acknowledge that our Nation was founded on the right to choose to believe or not believe, but also our founding fathers gave us choices in exactly how to express our faith.

I believe that acknowledging America's rich spiritual and religious history is important and it is a great step towards accomplishing what would be the future of this country, America's religious heritage.

It troubles me that we are beginning to see shifts in this country. We're seeing shifts, not in ideology, not in philosophy, but over whether we can even declare our faith publicly. In this country we're beginning to hear people say that if you declare faith publicly, you're infringing on their rights. I simply do not agree or believe in that.

If you want to acknowledge your faith, there are people who say that it should be behind closed doors. This is sad. Often this mind-set is originating right here in Washington. This mind-set is originating in this institution, but it's also originating even in institutions where the members are not elected, and I think those are critical things for us to look at as we consider where this Nation is headed.

This Nation has a motto ''In God We Trust.'' It was approved by Congress, and yet it's being circumvented sometimes by unelected officials. ''In God We Trust'' is printed on coins, on our currency. It is engraved on our buildings. It appears over the entrance to the Senate Chambers, and you can see the phrase engraved in this Chamber on the wall above the Speaker's dais. This phrase is woven into the fabric of our Nation, but we're beginning to see an unraveling of the phrase, an unraveling of this tradition of declaring that

we do trust in God. This is a string that should not be cut.

In 2006, the U.S. Mint announced plans to move the inscription ''In God We Trust'' from the face of the Presidential Dollar coin pieces to the thin edge around the dollar coin.

In February of 2006 the Treasury announced that in an accidental omission an unknown number of Presidential coins had made it past inspectors and were sent into circulation without the words ''In God We Trust'' at all. Some estimates are as many as 50,000 of these coins are in circulation.

I understand that mistakes happen, but sending 50,000 coins without the basic motto which this institution declared should be on our currency is a major mistake. I ask for the U.S. Mint to give a full report and accounting of the situation.

Our history tells us the importance of God and faith in the birth of our Nation. The problems with the phrase, ''In God We Trust'' being omitted from our coin is just one indicator of how badly we're drifting off course. It is fitting that we honor the spiritual history with a week dedicated to remembering our founding and ensuring that the lasting connection which so many Americans share in and believe in is a part of our national fabric.

I support H. Res. 888, and agree that we should, indeed, establish a week which declares American religious history. And I thank Mr. FORBES for yielding time.

Mr. FORBES. Mr. Speaker, we thank the gentleman from New Mexico. And now another great leader in the Congress of the United States from the State of Maryland, Mr. ROSCOE BARTLETT.

Mr. BARTLETT of Maryland. Thank you very much, Randy, for organizing this special order this evening.

Most of the founders of our country were deeply religious. You wouldn't know that by reading our textbooks. They have been bled dry of any meaningful reference to how religious our founders were.

One of those founders was Patrick Henry. And his words, some of his words may be in our textbook, ''Give me liberty or give me death.'' But I will bet you the textbook will not include the context of this.

This was said on March 23, 1775, at St. John's Church in Richmond, Virginia; and this is what he said. ''An appeal to arms and the God of hosts is all that is left us. But we shall not fight our battle alone. There is a just God that presides over the destinies of nations. The battle, sir, is not to the strong alone. Is life so dear or peace so sweet as to be purchased at the price of chains and slavery? Forbid it Almighty God. I know not what course others may take but, as for me, give me liberty, or give me death.''

Alexis de Tocqueville, the young Frenchman, toured this country in 1831, and this is what he said. ''I sought for the key to the greatness and genius of America in her great harbors, her fertile fields and boundless forests, in her rich mines and vast world commerce, in her universal public school system and institutions of learning. I sought for it in her democratic Congress and in her matchless constitution.

''But not until I went into the churches of America and heard her pulpits flame with righteousness did I understand the secret of her genius and power. America is great because America is good. And if America ever ceases to be good, America will cease to be great.''

In 1863 Abraham Lincoln declared a National Day of Humiliation, and I really love his words. He was not supposed to be a really religious man, but listen to what he said. ''We have been the recipients of the choicest bounties of heaven. We have been preserved these many years in peace and prosperity where we have grown in numbers and wealth and power as no other Nation has ever grown.

''But we have forgotten God. We have forgotten the gracious Hand which preserved us in peace and multiplied and enriched us, and we have vainly imagined, in the deceitfulness of our hearts, that all these blesses were produced by some superior wisdom and virtue of our own.

''Intoxicated with unbroken success, we have become too self-sufficient to feel the necessity of redeeming and preserving grace, too proud to pray to the God that the God that made us! It behooves us then to humble ourselves before the offended Power, to confess our national sins, and to pray for clemency and forgiveness.''

Abraham Lincoln understood that this was an experiment. In his Gettysburg address he said ''Four score and seven years ago, our forefathers brought forth on this continent a new Nation, conceived in liberty and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal.''

We're now engaged in a great civil war testing where that Nation or any Nation so conceived and so dedicated can long endure. Mr. Lincoln, this has been a very successful experiment. But I think the words of Alexis de Tocqueville are true, that America will continue to be great so long as America continues to be good.

And Mr. FORBES, it will be very difficult for America to continue to be good if we forget how much we depend on God. Thank you for yielding to me, sir.

Mr. FORBES. Thank you, Mr. BARTLETT, for those great words.

And now another leader on so many of these issues from the State of North Carolina, Congressman ROBIN HAYES.

Mr. HAYES. Thank you Mr. Speaker, and I want to thank my dear friend and colleague, RANDY FORBES, and all the other Members who are gathered here tonight in support of House Resolution 888.

I rise today to speak in support of this resolution that honors the religious foundation of this country and designates the first week in May as American Religious Heritage Week.

□ 2100

From the devout convictions of the Continental Army to the current steadfast faith of our men and women fighting the war on terrorism, faith and religion have played a significant role in America's history, especially in times of conflict.

Military chaplains have a long history in serving the religious needs of the Armed Forces. There's a list of chaplains in the U.S. military that goes back to George Washington, who first sought to minister for his Virginia regiment in 1756. Washington placed the success and survival of his Continental Army on the power of faith and prayer.

His most famous acclamation was his prayer at Valley Forge. He said, ''Bless O Lord the whole race of mankind, and let the world be filled with the knowledge of Thee and Thy son Jesus. Of all dispositions and habits which lead to political prosperity, religion and morality are indispensable supports. In vain would that man claim the tribute of patriotism, who should labor to subvert these great pillars of human happiness, these firmest props of the duties of men and citizens.

''To the distinguished character of a Patriot, it should be our highest glory to add the more distinguished character of a Christian.''

Today, military chaplains are found in every part of the military from army medical centers, veterans' clinics, official ceremonies, as well as combat zones. Now more than ever our soldiers, veterans, and their families need spiritual leadership and guidance; yet in some places, chaplains and their religious convictions are coming under fire. In several instances across the country, military chaplains have been marginalized for their reference to God and the Bible in religious ceremony.

Tonight, as we honor the religious foundation of America and commend the role of military chaplains, I hope that we can continue in the steps of our Founding Fathers by upholding the importance of faith, prayer, and religion.

Mr. FORBES. Mr. Speaker, and now from Minnesota, another leader on many of these issues, Congresswoman MICHELE BACHMANN.

Mrs. BACHMANN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Virginia.

Our President John Quincy Adams said, ''The virtue which had been infused into the Constitution of the United States . . . was no other than . . . those abstract principles which had been first proclaimed in the Declaration of Independence—namely, the self-evident truths of the natural and unalienable rights of man . . . This was the platform upon which the Constitution of the United States had been erected.''

Abraham Lincoln similarly made reference to the importance of these

foundational principles when he said, ''I have never had a thought politically which did not spring from the sentiments embodied in the Declaration of Independence.''

The Declaration contains 12 such sentiments which follow:

The Pillar number 1 is National Sovereignty.

The Declaration of Independence could just as well be called the ''Declaration of National Sovereignty.''

Pillar number 2: Natural law. Natural law is the universal moral code that governs all people.

Pillar number 3: Self-evident Truth. We hold these truths to be self-evident, evidence for all to see.

Pillar number 4: Equality. We hold these truths to be self-evident that all men are created equal.

Pillar number 5: Inalienable Rights. Inalienable rights are not granted by government. They are granted to us by God. The role of government, then, is to protect our God-given rights.

Pillar number 6: The Inalienable Right to Life.

Pillar number 7: The Inalienable Right to Liberty.

Pillar number 8: The Inalienable Right to Private Property.

Pillar number 9: The primary purpose of government is to protect the inalienable rights. That to secure these rights, governments are instituted among men.

Pillar number 10: Popular Sovereignty. To secure these rights, governments derived their just powers from the consent of the governed.

Pillar number 7: Federalism and State rights. The Declaration affirms not only the sovereignty of the Federal United States, but also the sovereignty of the separate states.

And finally, Pillar number 12: Divine Providence. The Declaration of Independence ends with this sentence:

And for the support of this Declaration, with a firm reliance on the Protection of Divine Providence, we mutually pledge to each other our Lives, our Fortunes, and our sacred Honor.

The Colonists stated their conviction that there is a God in the Heavens who ultimately governs in the affairs of men. There is no Natural law without a Law giver. The unalienable rights they said were God-given. Equality, they said, was the state in which we were created by God.

May God bless to this present generation the memory of the Declaration of Independence and the 12 principles contained therein.

Mr. Speaker, it is vital that we recognize the rich spiritual and religious history of our Nation's founding and subsequent history, and I rise today to express support for the designation of the first week in May as "American Religious History Week" to raise the appreciation of and to promote education on America's history of religious faith.

In doing so, we recommit ourselves to our nation's common religious faith, also called "the American Creed." We reconnect our people with our most basic principles—our fundamental statement of faith—as stated in our foundational Document, the Declaration of Independence.

This document is a Declaration that we are first and foremost a religious country. It clarifies that our breaking of the bond with Great Britain was justified by the spiritual principle of Natural Law—the universal and God-given understanding of morality and human rights that applies to all people and all nations throughout the world.

This American Creed stated in the Declaration clarifies that all people are entitled to be free, to have their lives protected and to own property. Why? Because our Creator—God made us that way.

Our forefathers understood that God made us to be largely like him. That is, they understood that just as God is free, he made us with a right to be free. Just as God lives, he made us with a right to live; and just as God owns everything, he made us with a right to own some things.

The founders understood that religion is the foundation of a just society. Here it is in their own words.

"All our basic rights and freedoms are recognized by the American Creed as belonging to us and inherent in us because of religious principles. If we fail to recognize our nation's religious foundation, these same rights and freedoms become increasingly vulnerable."

The Declaration ends by appealing to "Divine Providence". That is, our Declaration says that the success of this new republic depends on God looking favorably upon it and protecting it.

Today, we recommit ourselves and our country to these all-important religious foundational principles. Today, we recommit ourselves to being free.

Mr. FORBES. Mr. Speaker, now I would like to recognize another good friend from the State of South Carolina (GRESHAM BARRETT).

Mr. BARRETT of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, President John Adams once said, ''The highest story of the American Revolution is this. It connected in one indissoluble bond the principles of civil government with the principles of Christianity.''

So often we hear about the idea of separation of church and State. Mr. Speaker, I believe in the idea of separation of not from church, a distinction worth noting.

Our Founding Fathers never believed that faith should be taken out of our lives. However, they did believe that government should not interfere with an individual's faith. Unfortunately, in the society which we live in today, this distinction has been ignored. It has been forced out of everyday lives, and it saddens me, Mr. Speaker

The faith of the American people remains at the center of our great Nation. Our Founding Fathers were faithful men who believed every individual had the right to express their religious beliefs without fear of persecution or discrimination.

It was Thomas Jefferson, Mr. Speaker, who first uttered the term ''separation of church and state,'' indeed believed that faith played a vital role in the government of our Nation. While President, Jefferson said, ''No Nation has ever existed or been governed without religion. Nor can be.''

During his public life, Jefferson urged local government officials to make land available specifically for Christian purposes, chose to attend church each Sunday at the Capitol, and even provided the service with paid government musicians to assist in the worship. Jefferson proposed that the Great Seal of the United States depict a story in the Bible and include the word ''God'' in its motto.

Enclosed are Presidential documents with the phrase, ''In the year of our Lord Christ, by the President, Thomas Jefferson.''

Mr. Speaker, I'm thankful to be able to address this House on this subject and for the opportunity to cosponsor this legislation designating an American Religious History Week. By their actions, our Founding Fathers showed us that faith and government can and should exist together. It's important for those here and now and future generations, Mr. Speaker, to remember the religious heritage of our Nation. I'm convinced that it's only by God's grace that our Nation has survived the many trials and tests we've experienced. And I will continue to turn to God to seek his guidance and make decisions affecting our country, and I believe by remaining faithful, our Nation will continue to thrive as a beacon of hope in the future.

I pray, Mr. Speaker, that God will continue to bless America.

Mr. FORBES. Thank you for those words of wisdom.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize the gentleman from Michigan (THADDEUS MCCOTTER).

Mr. MCCOTTER. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Virginia and the gentleman from North Carolina for holding this.

Phillip Bobbitt, the author of the ''Shield of Achilles,'' once wrote that if you don't know where you have been, you won't know where you're going, and any road will take you there.

Throughout the history of the 20th century, we have seen where people who deny the role of religion within their government—the hells to which they have descended, hells of which Dostoevsky warned a long time ago that all manners of things are possible in the absence of God.

It has been said tonight, and rightly so, that the United States, from its founding, has understood a self-evident truth that our liberty comes not from the pen of a government bureaucrat but is written on our hearts by almighty God. It is this self-evident truth that allows us to understand that it is our liberty which has curated the subservient government which exists to protect our God-given rights.

I think it is also important that we understand that history is not merely something that happened 200 years ago,

100. But let us look back to our own recent history of religion and its salubrious effects on the American people.

In the civil rights struggle, it was the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Junior, who understood that America was a country founded upon the principle of equality for all because all human beings were endowed by the creator with the gift of liberty. It was the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Junior, who appealed to the conscience of this country to allow us to live together and to one day achieve the dream of equality, regardless of race.

In pursuit of this noble goal, in pursuit of this Godly goal, Dr. King was slain. And in a eulogy performed for him in Indianapolis in the wake of this tragedy, it was Senator Robert F. Kennedy who said, And even in our sleep, pain which cannot forget, falls drop by drop upon the heart until then our own despair, against our will, comes wisdom through the awful grace of God.

In that moment of anguish for our Nation, which would be repeated shortly thereafter for Senator KENNEDY, we saw that religion and government in the United States were not exclusive but complimentary. And we saw that what binds us together as the greatest Nation on the face of the earth stems not from government but from the yearnings and the common bounds of our own heart.

This recognition, this understanding of where we've been, where we are, and where together we must go, is what will allow America to remain a community of destiny, inspired and guided by the virtuous genius of her free people and eternally blessed by the unfathomable grace of God.

Mr. FORBES. Thank you, Congressman MCCOTTER.

Mr. Speaker, now I would like to yield to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. MANZULLO).

Mr. MANZULLO. Mr. Speaker, when Jefferson was given the duty and obligation of drafting the Declaration of Independence, he could have turned to the Revolutionaries of lower Europe, the followers of Russo, which led to the Jacobites and the reign of terror who believe that man is the center of the universe and man is the ultimate judge of what is truth.

But instead, Jefferson turned to the writings of Blackstone and Locke. Ms. Blackstone, the great jurist of England, examined the laws of England and laid them side by side with the biblical statements to come up with something called the Doctrine of Natural Law. And Blackstone said, When the supreme being formed the universe and created matter out of nothing, he impressed certain principles upon that matter from which it could never depart, without which it would cease to be.

This will of a Maker is called the Law of Nature for as God, when he created matter and did it with a principle of mobility, established certain rules for the perpetual direction of that motion so when he created man and indued him with free will to conduct himself in all parts of life, he laid down certain immutable laws of human nature.

Considering the Creator only as a being of infinite power, he was able unquestionably to prescribe whatever laws he placed to his creature, man, whoever unfit or severe. But as he is also a being of infinite wisdom, he has laid down only such laws as were founded in those relations of justice.

These are the quotes of Blackstone. It was the thoughts of Blackstone, in fact many of the words that were incorporated directly into the Declaration of Independence, and that great document set forth not only our severance from Great Britain, but also a statement as to the source of laws in this country that God is the source of liberty, that man is given the power to form governments for the purpose of protecting those rights that God gives.

□ 2115

Jefferson took that knowledge, sat down, inscribed that into the Declaration, and that's what forms the basis of the law of America. It's the law of nature and of nature's God.

Mr. FORBES. I'd now like to recognize from the State of Colorado, Ms. MARILYN MUSGRAVE.

Ms. MUSGRAVE. Thank you, Mr. FORBES, for your leadership on this issue.

As we ponder the importance of our spiritual heritage tonight, we need to remember that it's really central to the founding of America. We are reminded of this when we cite the Pledge of Allegiance at public events and in our children's classrooms. We all know that our Nation's motto is, ''In God We Trust,'' and that is printed on our currency, and it's really imprinted right here in the Capitol Building itself.

Christianity was not only important in American life during the periods of discovery, exploration, colonization, and growth, but it has also been incorporated and acknowledged in all three branches of our American government since its inception.

Our Founding Fathers firmly believed that America could not be built or governed without acknowledging that ''God rules in the affairs of men.''

John Quincy Adams once said, ''The Declaration of Independence laid the cornerstone of human government upon the first precepts of Christianity.'' It is in this religious tradition that our Nation has grown over the course of 300 years.

Our foundation of prayer has been a rock when the tides of freedom and peace were changing. America has not been immune to the devastation of war, and in the midst of intense trials and hardship, our leaders have always turned to God and prayer.

During World War II, President Franklin D. Roosevelt not only led the Nation in a 6-minute prayer during D Day on June 6, 1944, but he also declared, ''If we will not prepare to give all that we have and all that we are to preserve Christian civilization in our land, we shall go to destruction.''

America's religious legacy must be preserved. If some in America continue to deny the importance of our spiritual heritage, our leaders and our citizens will no longer have this foundation to stand on as many have stood on for centuries.

I close with the words of former President Ronald Reagan: ''The lesson is clear that in the winning if freedom and in the living of life, the first step is prayer.''

Mr. FORBES. Thank you, MARILYN, for those words, and now I'd like to yield to the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. WITTMAN).

Mr. WITTMAN of Virginia. I thank the gentleman from Virginia for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the significant contributions of Thomas Jefferson to the religious heritage of this great Nation.

Thomas Jefferson stated in the Virginia Statute for Religious Freedom in 1779 that ''No man shall be compelled to frequent or support any religious worship, place, or ministry whatsoever, nor shall be enforced, restrained, molested, or burthened in his body or goods, nor shall otherwise suffer, on account of his religious opinions or belief; but that all men shall be free to profess, and by argument to maintain, their opinions in matters of religion, and that the same shall in no wise diminish, enlarge, or affect their civil capacities.''

Our Founding Fathers conquered tremendous obstacles to establish our esteemed United States Constitution and the Bill of Rights. The adoption of these documents as laws of the land brought forth the certainty that we would live in a Nation where our natural rights as citizens are defended with all our might.

Thomas Jefferson, the second President of the United States, and one of our Nation's Founding Fathers, understood the need for protecting our natural rights. All of these rights were important to him, but none meant more than the freedom of religion.

The Virginia Statute for Religious Freedom was written in 1779 by Thomas Jefferson and James Madison. The statute declares that compulsory religion is wrong, that no religion should be enforced on an individual, and that the freedom of religion is a natural right. As a Virginian, I am indebted to the Commonwealth and the General Assembly for the adoption in 1786 of the Virginia Statute for Religious Freedom. The statute's doctrine and principles have inspired individuals beyond the Commonwealth and across the Nation.

Thomas Jefferson requested that three of his greatest accomplishments be listed on his epitaph. Freedom of religion was so important to him that the Virginia Statute for Religious

Freedom was listed along with the founding of the University of Virginia and the writing of the United States Declaration of Independence as his greatest lifetime achievements. The statute ultimately facilitated the path to complete religious freedom in the United States and was eventually included in the first amendment to our Constitution.

Jefferson believed and argued that the concept of enforced religion is entirely erroneous, and he fought to uphold any measure that would contradict his belief in religious freedom. Throughout the years since Jefferson, our Nation has undergone tremendous internal and external turmoil, and it has gone through some significant transition. Yet, the right of religious freedom has stood tried and true.

I am privileged to join my colleagues from Virginia, Representative FORBES, and 83 other cosponsors in signing my name on House Resolution 888, legislation which will continue to preserve and affirm our natural rights that were set forth by our Nation's Founding Fathers.

I am honored to live in such a Nation where I can openly profess my faith in my Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, and to share with others Christ's word, as well as the impact His words have on my life.

Jefferson once stated, ''From the dissensions among Sects themselves arise necessarily a right of choosing and necessity of deliberating to which we will conform. But if we choose for ourselves, we must allow others to choose also, and so reciprocally, this establishes religious liberty.''

I am truly grateful to Thomas Jefferson, a Virginian, a true patriot, a Founding Father, and above all else, a leader whose vision has stood the test of time and a man who stood so resolutely for religious freedom in our Nation.

Mr. FORBES. Thank you, Rob, and now, Mr. Speaker, I'd like to recognize another great leader in the House of Representatives from the State of Texas, Congressman JOHN CARTER.

Mr. CARTER. I thank my good friend from Virginia (Mr. FORBES) for yielding to me.

I've been very, very impressed with the folks that have gathered here today to tell us about the religious history of the United States of America. It is so important that Americans and Members of this House remember the history of this country and how important the Christian religion has been to the history of the United States of America, and what an important part of the very basis of our society it is.

But I think it's important, too, for the people of this House and for the men and women back home to know that this religious history continues in the House of Representatives of the United States of America.

The first day I walked through the door of this beloved building, the Capitol of the United States, the first time my old Texas boots set foot inside this building, I was approached by a man who said, ''I think you're Carter from Texas, right? You just got elected.'' I said, ''Yes, sir.'' He said, ''Well, my name's Ron from Kansas.'' He said, ''I saw by your Web site that you proclaim yourself to be a Christian. I want to invite you to a gathering of men and women that get together and study the Bible and pray together for this country, and we're meeting tomorrow morning. Would you join us?''

Recognizing who Jim Ryun was, the famous miler from Kansas, I was flattered by the invitation, and I actually got there an hour early for the event and sat outside in the halls before the rest of them showed up. But I can tell you that that has been a major part of my life for the 6 years I've been in Congress because of the fellowship of those men and women who gathered that day in various numbers. Bipartisan is part of the deal, and we will sit and talk, visit, pray and discuss the Bible, and it revitalizes my life every day and every week.

And I have a friend back home who is in the radio business, and I call him from time to time. He always signs off with me by saying, ''Be sure and do the Lord's work in the devil's city.'' It's a joke and we laugh about it, but the reality is that there are people who think of that, of this city as the devil's city, and I'm here to tell him that the Lord is alive and well. The Lord Jesus Christ reigns in the capital city of the United States of America.

They need to hear that that is part of the present history of the United States, and there are men and women who gather almost every day as people of faith and pray for this great Nation.

The little group that we're a part of, we formed up the National Prayer Caucus. That National Prayer Caucus is catching on around the country, and people are gathering and praying for the United States of America. I would hope that every Member of this Congress and every American citizen would take to their knees and pray for the future of our country and for the salvation of America.

That is what we need. That is what saves our Nation and that's what's here. The history is not only the history of the past, which is glorious; it is the history of the present, and the present is full of grace and peace and love of Jesus Christ in this building and around this town, and I want everybody to know it. It's part of our Nation today, just as it was at its founding and throughout its history.

So it's wonderful that I may stand and rise in support this week where we acknowledge the history, the religious history of our Nation.

Mr. FORBES. Thank you, John, and now, Mr. Speaker, I'd like to recognize someone who has led us in so many of these issues for so many years from the State of Michigan, Congressman VERN EHLERS.

Mr. EHLERS. I thank the gentleman from Virginia for yielding, and I especially thank him for organizing this discussion together.

My comments are going to be a bit different from some of the others because I'm going to talk about an event in my hometown this week which brought home to me how far we have strayed from our complete understanding of the Constitution of the United States.

Let me quote the first amendment, and this amendment is first because the 13 colonies decided this was the most important amendment. ''Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press,'' et cetera.

The event I'm going to talk about that happened in my hometown received extensive coverage. A graduating student at a local public high school was asked to give a speech. This is a model student. He had done well, he was respected, and he was asked to talk about his life experiences. And in that talk, which he had to submit for approval ahead of time, he discussed his life experience, including his religious life. That was judged improper, and he was removed from that particular duty that day.

Now, I fail to understand how anyone reading the first amendment of the Constitution would think that the Supreme Court has ruled that a student discussing his life experiences could not mention his religious life. And yet that is how far we have come in this Nation in our misunderstanding of our origins and what it should be.

I come from a religious community. In fact, our community is sometimes called the ''City of Churches,'' Grand Rapids, Michigan.

□ 2130

Last week, we dedicated a Hindu temple; a few years ago, a Buddhist temple. And we also have a Muslim mosque, actually, fairly close to my home.

We meet the test of the first amendment. We do not prohibit the free exercise of religion and the founding of various religious establishments. But I have to say, with this particular high school, I would not be able to give a commencement speech there because I would not be able to give a commencement speech without speaking about my life experiences and what I thought the students were going to face, and what they would need to face their life experiences.

I find it fascinating in the Capitol, we start with prayer every day, we have a chaplain, we have a Prayer Breakfast once a week, we have Bible studies in the Capitol. No one raises a feather against this and says this is wrong, this is unconstitutional. And if it's permissible in the Capitol of the United States, why is it not permissible across the Nation? It should be. Everyone should be free to discuss their beliefs and their religion and

their faith in God. That's what the first amendment is all about.

And let's not get hung up about Supreme Court decisions, ACLU lawsuits, et cetera. Let's recognize the clear language of the first amendment and let's let our citizens have the freedom that the founders of this Nation intended in the area of religious belief and the government's role therein.

Mr. FORBES. Thank you, VERNON.

Mr. Speaker, now I would like to recognize, from the State of Colorado, Mr. DOUG LAMBORN.

Mr. LAMBORN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with my colleagues in recognition of American Religious History Week, and I thank Mr. FORBES for his leadership.

There are traces of America's religious history all across this Nation. And many things, even here in this very room, convince me that our Nation's founders were intent on preserving the religious beliefs and principles upon which our liberty depends.

Our Nation's motto, ''In God we trust,'' is enshrined above the Speaker's chair right there. And across the Chamber is a facade of Moses, who gazes on the floor where we today write the law of the land. On the ceiling of this Chamber our State seals are found, one of which bears the motto, ''Nil Sine Numine,'' which was adopted by my great State of Colorado. In English, these words mean ''nothing without providence,'' a phrase that undoubtedly influenced the men and women who labored for the great Republic we have always known.

We are greatly indebted to the faith of our founders, which changed history. In fact, in 1818, our second President of the United States, John Adams, shared this reflection on the true American Revolution. He said, ''The Revolution was effected before the war commenced. The Revolution was in the minds and hearts of the people, a change in their religious sentiments of their duties and obligations. This radical change in the principles, opinions, sentiments and affections of the people was the real American Revolution.''

Our Judeo-Christian heritage, unlike any other in the history of the world, is deeply rooted in the philosophy that all men were created in the image of God, endowed with natural rights given to them by God alone rather than by the State. This is the bedrock principle which we must never forget. If we forget this, like many societies before us, we run the dangerous risk of falling prey to tyranny.

Early Americans understood that if government was the source of freedom rather than God, then government can also take it way. We declare ourselves ''one Nation under God'' with Him as the source of our rights and our freedom, and that makes us unique among the nations. It is for these reasons we recognize our religious heritage because it is still relevant to our freedom today.

Mr. FORBES. Thank you, DOUG.

Now I'd like to recognize Mr. DAVID DAVIS from Tennessee.

Mr. DAVID DAVIS of Tennessee. Thank you, Mr. FORBES. I appreciate you giving me the opportunity to be with you.

I rise tonight in support of H.R. 888.

Psalm 33:12 says, ''Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord.'' It doesn't say, ''Blessed is the nation whose God was the Lord,'' and there's a difference. Our Founding Fathers understood the difference. As has been stated before, you can see it all through these hallowed Chambers. Above the Speaker's dais you will see the words, ''In God we trust.'' Unfortunately, on TV at times you don't see the words ''In God We Trust,'' they cut just a little bit below that. You will see Moses in full array in the back of the Chamber.

This building, the Capitol of the United States, was actually used for church services in its early history. Out in the Rotunda, you will see many beautiful paintings. The first one you come to in the Rotunda you will actually see Pocahontas, that you will remember from Thanksgiving. Well, Pocahontas, in the painting, is actually depicted right after she changed her name to Rebecca when she became a Christian and was baptized. Our Founding Fathers understood our Christian Nation and our Christian heritage.

And President James Buchanan understood this completely when he issued a proclamation in 1860 entitled ''Humiliation, Fasting and Prayer.'' And he's quoted, ''In this, the hour of our calamity and peril, to whom shall we resort for relief but to the God of our Fathers? His omnipotent arm only can save us from the awful effects of our own crimes and follies, of our own ingratitude and guilt towards our Heavenly Father.'' It certainly sounds to me like President James Buchanan understood ''Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord.''

We understand today that America isn't great because we have a large government. We're great because down through history, if we had a problem, we turned to God first and then we turned to our neighbors, not to a big government. And if we want to continue to be that great Nation, we need to look to II Chronicles 7:14, which says, ''If my people, who are called by My name, shall humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and heal their land.''

We need healing in our land.

Mr. FORBES. Thank you. Now I would like to recognize from Arizona, Mr. TRENT FRANKS.

Mr. FRANKS of Arizona. I thank Mr. FORBES, and I thank the Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, if, indeed, our Founding Fathers were right, that all men are created, then it follows that all men of reason much surely sense their duty to reverently acknowledge their Creator.

In the modern world of abundance in which we live, I am afraid that we have become arrogant and often educated beyond our own common sense to the extent that we have forgotten sometimes that self-evident truth. But Mr. Speaker, how fortunate we are that those who went before us did not forget that foundational truth and they held it in their hearts.

President George Washington, on the very same day that Congress finished drafting the first amendment, declared, ''It is the duty of all nations to acknowledge the providence of Almighty God, to Obey His will, to be grateful for His benefits, and to humbly implore His protection and favor.'' William Penn, one of our great champions of liberty and founder of what would become Pennsylvania said, ''Those people who will not be governed by God will be ruled by tyrants.'' And President Andrew Jackson said, ''The Bible is the bedrock on which our Republic rests.''

Mr. Speaker, today the secular left often seeks to destroy any vestige of this Nation's religious heritage in history. They seek not to prevent the establishment of religion, but rather, to relentlessly destroy the free exercise thereof. Indeed, they are determined to rewrite America's history, devoid of any mention or trace of the very ideal that gave birth to this Nation in the first place. If left unchecked, they will not stop until they have pulled down the very last Christian cross or Star of David out in Arlington National Cemetery. But, Mr. Speaker, they will not succeed. Because, you see, there is something in the heart of every human being that knows that beyond this world, beyond the stars, and beyond life itself is an Almighty God that holds each one of us in His hands. Our Founding Fathers knew that truth, Mr. Speaker. They knew that America herself was proof that indeed there is an angel that still rides in the whirlwind and directs this storm. I pray for the sake of America and all that made her great tonight that this generation does not forget this great, immutable, self-evident truth that for more than two centuries has been the bedrock foundation of the greatest Republic in the history of mankind.

Mr. FORBES. Mr. Speaker, thank you for our time. I know that our time is expired. We have a few other gentlemen that I hope will be recognized later by the House. But, Mr. Speaker, thank you for your patience.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. FORBES. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the subject of my Special Order.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Virginia?

There was no objection.

AMERICAN RELIGIOUS HISTORY WEEK

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. NEUGEBAUER) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. NEUGEBAUER. Mr. Speaker, just a little over 5 years ago, on June 5, 2003, I stepped on the floor of this House to take the oath of office to be only the fourth Member of Congress from the 19th Congressional District, the 236th Texan, to ever serve in the United States Congress.

But what I really want to talk about, Mr. Speaker, is the hour before I stepped on the floor of this House and took that oath. I met in the Speaker's office. And while we were standing around waiting for the floor to open, the House to open up its daily prayer and Pledge, one of the Speaker's staff members came over to my wife and I and said, ''Congressman, would you like a few minutes alone, some quiet time before you're sworn in? We said, well, that would be great. I brought my own personal Bible with me. And so that lady led me around to a room that I don't know that a lot of people know that is in this Capitol, and that's our chapel, that's just around from the Speaker's lobby. And I didn't know exactly where she was taking us, but she opened the door, and to my wife's surprise, and myself, we saw that we were in a chapel in our Nation's Capitol. She closed that door behind us, and we walked over and knelt at the front of that chapel. And we just sat down as a couple and we began to pray because we realized what an awesome responsibility that the people in the 19th Congressional District of Texas had given us. And so we knelt there, and we began to pray. And we just said, Lord, we are about to embark on a journey that you have brought us here. We ask for Your guidance, we ask for Your direction, we ask for Your wisdom, and Father, all of those things that we're going to need to know in order to serve the American people.

And as we prayed there as a couple, it was a very special moment. And as I was sitting there and we were praying, I began to think about 232 years ago this July 4th, we thought about those men that got up and had this Declaration of Independence that started this great country called America. And I always recall the way they ended that declaration because they said, ''We mutually pledge to each other our lives, our fortunes, and our sacred honor.'' You see, Mr. Speaker, they signed their death warrant for Dana and I to be able to sit there and kneel in the Nation's Capitol and exercise our right to pray to our Lord and Savior.

And I thought about the men and women over the 232 years that have served this Nation, that have given their lives and their service to protect the right for us to do that. I think about just a few hundred feet from where we are tonight, Mr. Speaker, I think about the church services that used to be held right in our Nation's Capitol and what a privilege and honor that must have been to come over to the Nation's Capitol and not only to see the center of freedom and democracy known around the world, but to worship your Lord and Savior.

And so, Father, tonight—Mr. Speaker, tonight—and really I guess that we're talking to our Heavenly Father tonight, and we're talking to you, too, Mr. Speaker—we've been talking about an important part of America, an important part of the foundation and the values of these men that started this great Nation, the foundation of the men and women that have kept this great freedom and democracy alive over these years and how important that is, and what a shame it is going to be if we don't protect that for future generations. Unfortunately, we've seen some Federal judges try to take away what these gentlemen pledged their lives to do. I hope we never let that happen.

And so just 2 weeks ago I reflected back on that very special day that right here in our Capitol there was an opportunity to get down on our knees and pray. But what's more important is that weekly this Congressional Prayer Caucus, these men and women from both sides of the aisle, believe in America and believe in the founding principles.

More importantly they understand that Who is the ultimate leader of this universe.

And so Mr. Speaker, I thank you for this time to talk tonight about a very important part of America, and that is the ability to praise our Lord and Savior.

□ 2145

BENJAMIN FRANKLIN REQUESTS PRAYER IN THE CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. BOOZMAN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. CONAWAY).

Mr. CONAWAY. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank my good colleague from Arkansas for assisting and allowing me to speak tonight.

Mr. Speaker, over the next 3 or 4 days, a partisan tone will be exhibited in these Chambers, harsh rhetoric will be exchanged on both sides, some of it intentional, some of it in the heat of the moment, some of it out of simple frustration with not being able to convince ourselves of issues that are going on, but nevertheless, partisanship that is communicated back to America and America's despair that we will ever get past this partisanship.

Is there some way for us to listen to you and you listen to me and let us thoughtfully consider our positions and then make those compromises that have to be made in order to deal with the issues that face this country?

It is not brand new. Two hundred twenty-one years ago, Benjamin Franklin observed the same partisanship, the same ugly tone going back and forth and came upon a solution that he communicated to President Washington in a letter. And I would like to read some of that letter into the RECORD tonight, because that solution I think would stand us in good stead as well.

Reading from Benjamin Franklin's letter to George Washington:

''In this situation of this Assembly, groping as it were in the dark to find political truth, and scarce able to distinguish it when presented to us, how is it happened, Sir, that we have not hitherto once thought of humbly applying to the Father of lights to illuminate our understandings.

''And have we now forgotten that powerful Friend? Or do we imagine that we no longer need His assistance? I have lived, Sir, a long time, and the longer I live, the more convincing proofs I see of this truth, that God governs in the affairs of men. And if a sparrow cannot fall to the ground without His notice, is it probable that an empire can rise without His aid? We have been assured, Sir, the sacred writings, that 'except the Lord build the House they labor in vain that build it.'

''I firmly believe this, and I also believe without His concurring aid we shall succeed in this partial building no better than the builders of Babel. We shall be divided by our little partial local interests; our projects will be confounded, and we ourselves shall become a reproach and bye word down to future ages. And what is worse, mankind may hereafter from this unfortunate instance, despair of establishing Governments by human wisdom and leave it to chance, war and conquest.

''I therefore beg leave to move that henceforth prayers imploring the assistance of Heaven and its blessings on our deliberations, be held in this Assembly every morning before we proceed to business, and that one or more of the Clergy of this City be requested to officiate in that Service.''

Mr. Speaker, we observe that tradition today. Every morning our House Chaplain and maybe one of our constituents from back home will come and pray and seek God's wisdom on our deliberations. As effective as that is, Mr. Speaker, I would argue that 435 members of this House observing that tradition of daily seeking out the plea that Solomon had in II Chronicles 1:10 in which he asked God for wisdom and knowledge that he might govern this great people, that 435 of us and 100 on the other end of this building, on our knees every day, seeking wisdom, guidance and knowledge as how we would reduce the partisanship, how we would try to strive valiantly to come to conclusions and compromise with each other that deal with the problems that face this country.

Our constituents are crying out for it. None of us go home that we don't come across somebody who has asked, why do you constantly argue with each other and fuss and fight? Get something done.

Benjamin Franklin knew a solution 221 years ago, Mr. Speaker. I would argue that that solution is more powerful today, and it is clearly more needed today by this body than even 210 years ago.

AMERICAN RELIGIOUS HISTORY WEEK

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Alabama (Mr. ADERHOLT) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. ADERHOLT. Mr. Speaker, I do want to thank my colleagues for taking time to call attention to this topic that we have been discussing tonight. And certainly from the very beginning of our history in this Nation, religious expression and faith was the norm amongst conversations that our Founding Fathers had.

Mr. Speaker, the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. FORBES) along with several of my colleagues tonight pointed out that as we stand here tonight in this Chamber that as we look around the room and we see the reliefs under the ceiling of the Chamber, and we see the 23 different lawgivers that are depicted above the gallery doorways, the most prominent relief, of course, has been noted is that of Moses who handed down the Ten Commandments. And of course those Ten Commandments were handed down to the children of Israel from God Himself.

Furthermore, it has been noted here tonight that ''In God We Trust'' is above the Speaker's chair, as it is our national motto. And of course let's not forget that as we started the legislative day today, before we voted on the legislation just a couple of hours ago, a chaplain said a prayer that began the legislative day. And of course that has been the custom dating back to the days of our Founding Fathers.

The Founding Fathers no doubt believed that God had His Almighty hand in the founding and the building of this Nation. George Washington himself believed that America's independence from Britain ultimately depended on God and not man. I find it interesting that it is not unusual for the Founding Fathers when they dated documents at that time they would use the phrase ''in the year of our Lord Jesus Christ 1776'' of what the date may have been.

A few months ago, I was walking down the stairways just outside of the House Chamber, and one of the paintings that is above the stairways is the ''Signing of the Constitution.'' And I have passed by that painting hundreds of times. Of course, most Americans are very familiar with that famous painting. But for some reason, one thing caught my eye that was not usually the case, and I noticed there was an open book there near where the presiding officer was over the signers of the Constitution. And I took a closer look and noticed that it was an open book. And at the top it said ''Saint Matthew.'' And certainly I don't think it is any coincidence that that book was open on that particular day.

One may ask why our Founding Fathers were so concerned about this issue. And one reason I believe that they were so focused on this issue and thought it was so important is because they had this radical belief that we are all endowed by our Creator with certain inalienable rights. And this was indeed a radical concept in the time, because in England your rights were granted to you by the king. Therefore, if the king or the queen granted your rights, or if man granted your rights, then the king or the queen or the man could take those rights away. However, if God granted those rights, no person, be he king or queen, could take them away. They were a gift of God.

So when one asks the importance of religious history and faith in America, one can point to many reasons. And one reason that we can point back to is that in the United States of America, rights are granted by God and not by man.

THE WAR OF PRINCIPALITIES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. JORDAN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. JORDAN of Ohio. I thank the Speaker for his patience this evening. I want to thank Congressman FORBES for putting the previous Special Order together on our religious history here in this country.

Mr. Speaker, make no mistake about it. There is a debate going on today in our culture over whose set of principles, whose set of values are going to prevail. There are those of us who understand the significance of faith, the importance of faith in public life, the importance of faith in America and our entire history and our entire experience, those of us who understand that faith has been central to making us the greatest Nation in human history versus those on the secular side who think we need a more secular culture. That is the debate.

And it is important that we weigh in on that debate. It is important that as we wage that debate and argue for the importance of faith in our culture and our public life that we recognize the religious history in the entire American experience that we have so enjoyed. I believe the American people get it. I believe the vast majority of families understand what the Founders understood, that faith is central to who we are as a people and to the great place we have as the greatest country in history.

It has been said many times already by previous speakers, but I think when you think about some of the things the Founders said, I love what Franklin said when they were in the midst of debate, and he was advocating for prayer before, so they could get through this impasse that they found themselves, he made the statement that if a sparrow can't fall without His knowledge, is it likely an empire can rise without His assistance? The Founders understood the importance of prayer. They understood the importance of faith.

And as many speakers have also referenced that document that I would argue next to Scripture, second only to Scripture, the greatest words ever put on paper, the Declaration of Independence, where the Founders wrote, ''We hold these truths to be self-evident, all men are created equal, endowed by their Creator with certain inalienable rights, that among these are life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness,'' fabulous language, this almost romantic vision that the Founders had about what this country would offer to its people. They understood that we did, in fact, get our rights from the Almighty, and it is government's job not to grant us privileges, not to grant us rights, but to protect the rights we have by the very fact we were created in God's image.

And that fundamental principle is different from any other country in history. And again, it sets us apart. And so it is important that we recognize this history and recognize this debate that is going on and not be afraid to stand up and defend those principles that make us special.

I think it is appropriate that I end with one of my favorite Scriptures in II Timothy where Paul writes to Timothy. He says, ''I fought the good fight, I finished the course, I have kept the faith.'' And that is our charge as Americans, to fight the fight, to finish the course and to keep the faith that the Founders understood was central to making us the greatest nation ever.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. CONYERS (at the request of Mr. HOYER) for today on account of personal business.

Mr. ENGEL (at the request of Mr. HOYER) for today on account of a codel flight delay.

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas (at the request of Mr. HOYER) for today on account of a doctor's appointment.

Mr. KIND (at the request of Mr. HOYER) for today on account of flooding in the district.

Mrs. NAPOLITANO (at the request of Mr. HOYER) for today on account of family obligations.

Mr. STARK (at the request of Mr. HOYER) for today after 6 p.m. and for the balance of the week.

SPECIAL ORDERS GRANTED

By unanimous consent, permission to address the House, following the legislative program and any special orders heretofore entered, was granted to:

(The following Members (at the request of Ms. WOOLSEY) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Ms. WOOLSEY, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. DEFAZIO, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. KAPTUR, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. SPRATT, for 5 minutes, today.

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. SMITH of Nebraska) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. POE, for 5 minutes, June 20, 23 and 24.

Mr. JONES of North Carolina, for 5 minutes, June 20, 23 and 24.

Mr. BISHOP of Utah, for 5 minutes, today and June 18.

Mr. MCCOTTER, for 5 minutes, June 19.

Mr. BURTON of Indiana, for 5 minutes, June 20.

Mr. FORTENBERRY, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. WELLER of Illinois, for 5 minutes, June 18.

Mr. FRANKS of Arizona, for 5 minutes, today, June 18, 19, and 20.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington, for 5 minutes, June 18.

Mr. CONAWAY, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. MORAN of Kansas, for 5 minutes, June 18 and 19.

(The following Members (at their own request) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. NEUGEBAUER, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. BOOZMAN, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. ADERHOLT, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. JORDAN of Ohio, for 5 minutes, today.

SENATE BILL REFERRED

A bill of the Senate of the following title was taken from the Speaker's table and, under the rule, referred as follows:

S. Con. Res. 84. Concurrent resolution honoring the memory of Robert Mondavi; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. FORBES. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 9 o'clock and 56 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Wednesday, June 18, 2008, at 9:30 a.m.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 8 of rule XII, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

7144. A letter from the Congressional Review Coordinator, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule — Consolidation of the Fruit Fly Regulations [Docket No. APHIS-2007-0084] (RIN: 0579-AC57) received June 9, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

7145. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Bifenthrin; Pesticide Tolerances [EPA-HQ-OPP-2007-0535; FRL-8366-4] received June 9, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

7146. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — 1 ,3-Dichloropropene and metabolites; Pesticide Tolerance [EPA-HQ-OPP-2007-0637; FRL-8345-1] received April 30, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

7147. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — (Z)-7,8-epoxy-2-methyloctadecane (Disparlure); Exemption from the Requirement of a Tolerance [EPA-HQ-OPP-2007-0596; FRL-8367-7] received June 9, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

7148. A letter from the Secretary to the Farm Credit Administration Board, Farm Credit Administration, transmitting the Administration's ''Major'' final rule — Federal Agricultural Mortgage Corporation Funding and Fiscal Affairs; Risk-Based Capital Requirements (RIN: 3052-AC36) received June 11, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

7149. A communication from the President of the United States, transmitting a request for FY 2009 budget amendments for the Departments of Agriculture, Commerce, Health and Human Services, Homeland Security, the Interior, Labor, and the Treasury; (H. Doc. No.110–123); to the Committee on Appropriations and ordered to be printed.

7150. A communication from the President of the United States, transmitting a request for FY 2009 budget amendments for the Department of Agriculture, Energy, Homeland Security, Housing and Urban Development, the Interior, Labor, Transportation, and the Treasury; as well as the Corps of Engineers, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, and the Office of Personnel Management; (H. Doc. No. 110–124); to the Committee on Appropriations and ordered to be printed.

7151. A letter from the Principal Deputy Under Secretary for Personnel and Readiness, Department of Defense, transmitting authorization of the enclosed list of officers to wear the insignia of the grade of rear admiral (lower half) accordance with title 10, United States Code, section 777; to the Committee on Armed Services.

7152. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Installations and Environment, Department of the Navy, Department of Defense, transmitting notice of the completion of a public-private competition at the Marine Corps Air Station Miramar located in San Diego, California, pursuant to 10 U.S.C. 2462(a); to the Committee on Armed Services.

7153. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting the Department's certification regarding the retirement of one U-2 test configured aircraft located at Palmdale, California, in accordance with Section 133 of the National Defense Authorization Act of FY 2007, as modified by Section 132 of the National Defense Authorization Act of FY 2008; to the Committee on Armed Services.

7154. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Installations and Environment, Department of the Navy, Department of Defense, transmitting notice of the completion of a public-private competition at the Fleet Numerical Meteorology Oceanography Center located in Monterey, CA, pursuant to 10 U.S.C. 2462(a); to the Committee on Armed Services.

7155. A letter from the Under Secretary for Acquisition, Technology and Logistics, Department of Defense, transmitting the Department's report on the Federally Funded Research and Development Center's Estimated FY 2009 Staff-years of Technical Effort (STEs) and Estimated Funding, pursuant to Public Law 110-116, section 8025(e); to the Committee on Armed Services.

7156. A letter from the Deputy Under Secretary for Logistics and Material Readiness, Department of Defense, transmitting the annual report on operations of the National Defense Stockpile (NDS), detailing NDS operations during FY 2007 and providing information with regard to the acquisition, upgrade, and disposition of NDS materials, as well as the financial status of the NDS Transaction Fund for FY 2007, pursuant to 50 U.S.C. 98h-2(a); to the Committee on Armed Services.

7157. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; New Jersey; Zero-Emission Vehicle Component of the Low Emission Vehicle Program [Docket No. EPA-R02-OAR-2006-0920, FRL-8522-3] received April 30, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7158. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; State of Colorado; Regulation No. 7, Section XII, Volatile Organic Compounds from Oil and Gas Operations [EPA-R08-OAR-2007-1002; FRL-8521-5] received April 30, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7159. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Ohio; Oxides of Nitrogen Budget Trading Program [EPA-R05-OAR-2006-0976; FRL-8526-8] received April 30, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7160. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Maine; Conformity of General Federal Actions. [EPA-R01-OAR-2007-0633; A-1-FRL-8517-6] received April 30, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7161. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans and Designation of Areas for Air Quality Planning Purposes; Wisconsin; Redesignation of Kewaunee County to Attainment for Ozone [EPA-R05-OAR-2007-0957; FRL-8568-2] received May 19, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7162. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Protection of the Stratospheric Ozone: Alternatives for the Motor Vehicle Air Conditioning Sector under the Significant New Alternatives Policy (SNAP) Program [EPA-HQ-OAR-2004-0488; FRL-8578-1] (RIN: 2060-AM54) received June 9, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7163. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Protection of Stratrospheric Ozone: Allocation of Essential Use Allowances for Calendar Year 2008

[EPA-HQ-OAR-2007-0297; FRL-8577-9] (RIN: 2060-AO44) received June 9, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7164. A letter from the Associate Bureau Chief, PSHSB, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting the Commission's ''Major'' final rule — In the Matter of Improving Public Safety Communications in the 800 MHz Band New 800 MHz Band Plan for U.S. — Canada Border Regions [WT Docket 02-55] received June 9, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7165. A letter from the Legal Advisor, Chief, Wireless Telecomm. Bur., Federal Communications Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — In the Matter of Implementation of Sections 309(j) and 337 of the Communications Act of 1934 as Amended Promotion of Spectrum Efficient Technologies on Certain Part 90 Frequencies [WT Docket No. 99-87 RM-9332] received June 9, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7166. A letter from the Chief of Staff, Media Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — In the Matter of Amendment of Section 73.622(i), Final DTV Table of Allotments, Television Broadcast Stations. (Riverside, California) [MM Docket No. 08-30 RM-11419] received June 9, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7167. A letter from the Director, Office of Congressional Affairs, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting the Commission's ''Major'' final rule — Revision of Fee Schedules; Fee Recovery for FY 2008 [NRC-2008-0080] (RIN: 3150-AI28) received June 11, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7168. A communication from the President of the United States, transmitting a supplemental consolidated report, consistent with the War Powers Resolution, to help ensure that the Congress is kept fully informed on U.S. military activities in support of the war on terror and in Kosovo, pursuant to Public Law 93-148; (H. Doc. No. 110–122); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs and ordered to be printed.

7169. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting a copy of D.C. ACT 17-403, ''Omnibus Domestic Partnership Equality Amendment Act of 2008,'' pursuant to D.C. Code section 1-233(c)(1); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

7170. A letter from the District of Columbia Auditor, Office of the District of Columbia Auditor, transmitting a report entitled, ''Review of the District's Cash Advance Fund,'' pursuant to D.C. Code section 47-117(d); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

7171. A letter from the White House Liaison, Department of Justice, transmitting a report pursuant to the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

7172. A letter from the White House Liaison, Department of Justice, transmitting a report pursuant to the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

7173. A letter from the White House Liaison, Department of Justice, transmitting a report pursuant to the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

7174. A letter from the Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer, Federal Home Loan Bank of Atlanta, transmitting the 2007 management report and statements on system of internal controls of the Federal Home Loan Bank of Atlanta, pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 9106; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

7175. A letter from the Acting Administrator, General Services Administration, transmitting a semiannual report on Office of Inspector General auditing activity, together with a report providing management's perspective on the implementation status of audit recommendations for the period October 1, 2007 to March 31, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. app. (Insp. Gen. Act) section 5(b); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

7176. A letter from the Chairman, National Labor Relations Board, transmitting the semiannual report on the activities of the Office of Inspector General of the National Labor Relations Board for the period October 1, 2007 through March 31, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. app. (Insp. Gen. Act) section 8G(h)(2); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

7177. A letter from the Chairman, Postal Regulatory Commission, transmitting the Commission's Semiannual Report for the period of October 1, 2007 through March 31, 2008, pursuant to the Inspector General Act of 1978, as amended; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

7178. A letter from the Deputy Administrator, Small Business Administration, transmitting the semiannual report of the Office of Inspector General for the period October 1, 2007 through March 31, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. app. (Insp. Gen. Act) section 5(b); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

7179. A letter from the Chair, Board of Trustees, Morris K. Udall Foundation, transmitting the Foundation's 2007 Annual Report; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

7180. A letter from the Acting Fiscal Assistant Secretary, Department of the Treasury, transmitting the Department's FY 2007 Report to the Congress U.S. Government Receivables and Debt Collection Activities of Federal Agencies, pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 3716(c)(3)(B); to the Committee on the Judiciary.

7181. A letter from the Staff Director, Commission on Civil Rights, transmitting notification that the Commission recently appointed members to the Florida Advisory Committee; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

7182. A letter from the Staff Director, Commission on Civil Rights, transmitting notification that the Commission recently appointed members to the Kentucky Advisory Committee; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

7183. A letter from the Staff Director, Commission on Civil Rights, transmitting notification that the Commission recently appointed members to the Wyoming Advisory Committee; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

7184. A communication from the President of the United States, transmitting notification of the designations of Shara L. Aranoff as Chairman and Daniel Pearson as Vice Chairman of the United States International Trade Commission, effective June 17, 2008, pursuant to 19 U.S.C. 1330(c)(1); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES ON PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XIII, reports of committees were delivered to the Clerk for printing and reference to the proper calendar, as follows:

Mr. WAXMAN: Committee on Oversight and Government Reform. Supplemental report on H.R. 5781. A bill to provide that 8 of the 12 weeks of parental leave made available to a Federal employee shall be paid leave, and for other purposes. (Rept. 110–624 Pt. 2).

Mr. RAHALL: Committee on Natural Resources. H.R. 2964. A bill to amend the Lacey Act Amendments of 1981 to treat nonhuman primates as prohibited wildlife species under that Act, to make corrections in the provisions relating to captive wildlife offenses under that Act, and for other purposes, with an amendment (Rept. 110–712). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union.

Mr. RAHALL: Committee on Natural Resources. H.R. 3702. A bill to direct the Secretary of Agriculture to convey certain land in the Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forest, Montana, to Jefferson County, Montana, for use as a cemetery (Rept. 110–713). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union.

Mr. RAHALL: Committee on Natural Resources. H.R. 5710. A bill to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to provide financial assistance to the Eastern New Mexico Rural Water Authority for the planning, design, and construction of the Eastern New Mexico Rural Water System, and for other purposes (Rept. 110–714). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union.

Mr. RAHALL: Committee on Natural Resources. H.R. 5511. A bill to direct the Secretary of the Interior, acting through the Bureau of Reclamation, to remedy problems caused by a collapsed drainage tunnel in Leadville, Colorado, and for other purposes (Rept. 110–715). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union.

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi: Committee on Homeland Security. House Resolution 1150. Resolution expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that the Transportation Security Administration should, in accordance with the congressional mandate provided for in the Implementing Recommendations of the 9/11 Commission Act of 2007, enhance security against terrorist attack and other security threats to our Nation's rail and mass transit lines, with amendments (Rept. 110–716). Referred to the House Calendar.

Mr. CARDOZA: Committee on Rules. House Resolution 1276. Resolution providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 5876) to require certain standards and enforcement provisions to prevent child abuse and neglect in residential programs, and for other purposes (Rept. 110–717). Referred to the House Calendar.

Mr. McGOVERN: Committee on Rules. House Resolution 1277. Resolution providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 5781) to provide that 8 of the 12 weeks of parental leave made available to a Federal employee shall be paid leave, and for other purposes. (Rept. 110–718). Referred to the House Calendar.

PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XII, public bills and resolutions were introduced and severally referred, as follows:

By Mr. SHADEGG:

H.R. 6274. A bill to provide an equivalent to habeas corpus protection for persons held under military authority under that part of Cuba leased to the United States; to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committee on Armed Services, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. RANGEL (for himself, Mr. MCDERMOTT, Mr. LEWIS of Georgia, Mr. NEAL of Massachusetts, Mr. POMEROY, Mrs. JONES of Ohio, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Ms. BERKLEY, Mr. CROWLEY, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. MEEK of Florida, Mr. LEVIN, and Mr. LARSON of Connecticut):

H.R. 6275. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide individuals temporary relief from the alternative minimum tax, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. CAZAYOUX (for himself, Mr. CHILDERS, Ms. WATERS, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts, Mr. CUELLAR, and Mrs. CAPITO):

H.R. 6276. A bill to repeal section 9(k) of the United States Housing Act of 1937; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. BUYER:

H.R. 6277. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to authorize the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to provide a dental insurance plan for certain veterans and their survivors and dependents; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. KIRK (for himself, Mr. COHEN, Mr. REICHERT, Mr. WHITFIELD of Kentucky, Mr. GONZALEZ, Mr. RAHALL, Mr. KUCINICH, Mr. SERRANO, Mr. FOSTER, Mr. SHAYS, Mr. JONES of North Carolina, and Mr. MOORE of Kansas):

H.R. 6278. A bill to amend title 49, United States Code, to prohibit the transportation of horses in interstate transportation in a motor vehicle containing 2 or more levels stacked on top of one another; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. CHABOT:

H.R. 6279. A bill to reduce speculation in crude oil markets, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture.

By Mr. FORTENBERRY:

H.R. 6280. A bill to provide for the offering of Health Benefit Plans to individuals, to increase funding for State high risk health insurance pools, and to promote best practice protocols for State high risk pools; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. GALLEGLY:

H.R. 6281. A bill to provide States with the resources needed to rid our schools of performance-enhancing drug use; to the Committee on Education and Labor.

By Ms. GRANGER (for herself, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, Mr. DOYLE, Mr. BURTON of Indiana, and Mr. HINOJOSA):

H.R. 6282. A bill to increase housing, awareness, and navigation demonstration services (HANDS) for individuals with autism spectrum disorders; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Financial Services, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. LEWIS of Georgia:

H.R. 6283. A bill to increase the standard mileage rate for use of an automobile for business, medical, and moving deduction purposes for 2008 and permanently increase such rate for charitable deduction purposes under the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 and to temporarily increase the reimbursement rate for use of an automobile by Federal employees; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. MATHESON (for himself and Mr. MELANCON):

H.R. 6284. A bill to amend the Commodity Exchange Act to prevent price manipulation and excessive speculation and to increase transparency with respect to energy trading on foreign exchanges conducted within the United States; to the Committee on Agriculture.

By Ms. MATSUI:

H.R. 6285. A bill to amend the National Flood Insurance Act of 1968 to provide for adequate progress on the construction of a flood protection system to include the appropriation of at least 60 percent of the system cost from Federal, State, or local funds; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California:

H.R. 6286. A bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1025 Nevin Avenue in Richmond, California, as the ''Harold D. McCraw, Sr. Post Office Building''; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Mr. SOUDER (for himself and Mr. ELLSWORTH):

H.R. 6287. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to change the method of determining the mileage reimbursement rate under the beneficiary travel program administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. MCHUGH (for himself, Mr. KUHL of New York, Mr. KING of New York, and Mr. WALSH of New York):

H.R. 6288. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for tax-favored retirement health savings accounts, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. HIGGINS (for himself, Mr. ACKERMAN, Mr. ARCURI, Mr. BACA, Ms. BEAN, Mr. BERMAN, Mr. BISHOP of New York, Ms. BORDALLO, Mr. BOUCHER, Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida, Mrs. CAPPS, Mr. CARNEY, Mr. COHEN, Mr. COSTA, Mr. CROWLEY, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia, Ms. DELAURO, Mr. DICKS, Mr. DOYLE, Mr. EMANUEL, Mr. ENGEL, Ms. ESHOO, Mr. FARR, Mr. FILNER, Mr. AL GREEN of Texas, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. HALL of New York, Mr. HARE, Ms. HARMAN, Mr. HINCHEY, Mr. HINOJOSA, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. HODES, Mr. HOLDEN, Mr. HOLT, Mr. ISRAEL, Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. KILDEE, Ms. KILPATRICK, Mr. KING of New York, Mr. KUCINICH, Mr. LANGEVIN, Mr. LEWIS of Georgia, Mrs. LOWEY, Mr. LYNCH, Mrs. MALONEY of New York, Mr. MARKEY, Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. MEEKS of New York, Mr. MELANCON, Mr. MICHAUD, Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota, Mr. MCNULTY, Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin, Mr. MORAN of Virginia, Mr. NADLER, Mr. OBERSTAR, Mr. OBEY, Mr. ORTIZ, Mr. PASCRELL, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. POMEROY, Mr. PRICE of North Carolina, Mr. RANGEL, Mr. REYNOLDS, Mr. RODRIGUEZ, Mr. ROSS, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Mr. RUSH, Mr. RYAN of Ohio, Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, Mr. SERRANO, Mr. SESTAK, Ms. SLAUGHTER, Mr. SMITH of Washington, Ms. SUTTON, Mrs. TAUSCHER, Mr. THOMPSON of California, Mr. TOWNS, Mr. UDALL of Colorado, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Ms. WATSON, Mr. WAXMAN, Mr. WILSON of Ohio, and Mr. WU):

H. Res. 1275. A resolution honoring the life of Timothy John Russert, Jr., public servant, political analyst, and author; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform. considered and agreed to.

By Mr. PETRI (for himself, Mr. WHITFIELD of Kentucky, Mr. LOBIONDO, and Mr. MARIO DIAZ-BALART of Florida):

H. Res. 1278. A resolution expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that the United States Government should lead an international diplomatic initiative to limit inefficient speculation on international energy exchanges through the adoption of international standards for energy futures trading margin requirements as an appropriate means of ensuring access to reliable and affordable supplies of crude oil; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. TERRY:

H. Res. 1279. A resolution recognizing the Special Olympics' 40th anniversary; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. TIBERI (for himself, Mr. REGULA, Mr. BOEHNER, Mr. HOBSON, Ms. PRYCE of Ohio, Mr. LATOURETTE, Mr. CHABOT, Mr. KUCINICH, Mr. TURNER, Mrs. SCHMIDT, Mr. JORDAN, Mr. WILSON of Ohio, Mr. LATTA, and Mr. RYAN of Ohio):

H. Res. 1280. A resolution honoring and recognizing the life, achievements, and contributions of John Henderson McConnell; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions as follows:

H.R. 21: Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania.
H.R. 39: Mr. CARSON.
H.R. 139: Mr. POE.
H.R. 298: Mr. SESTAK.
H.R. 423: Mr. HOEKSTRA.
H.R. 581: Mrs. BACHMANN.
H.R. 618: Mr. SCALISE.
H.R. 741: Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California.
H.R. 821: Mr. BOREN.
H.R. 947: Mr. HOLT.
H.R. 992: Mr. BLUMENAUER.
H.R. 1070: Mr. RUSH.
H.R. 1078: Ms. SUTTON.
H.R. 1148: Mr. BLUMENAUER.
H.R. 1223: Ms. SLAUGHTER.
H.R. 1228: Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California.
H.R. 1232: Mr. CHANDLER.
H.R. 1279: Mr. CARSON.
H.R. 1283: Ms. DEGETTE.
H.R. 1431: Mr. MCHENRY and Mr. UPTON.
H.R. 1436: Mr. CARSON.
H.R. 1540: Ms. NORTON.
H.R. 1552: Mrs. DRAKE.
H.R. 1606: Mr. BARROW, Ms. LEE, and Mr. SESTAK.
H.R. 1621: Mr. REYES.
H.R. 1655: Mr. VAN HOLLEN.
H.R. 1673: Mr. MURTHA.
H.R. 1783: Mr. THOMPSON of California, Mr. PAYNE, and Mr. ETHERIDGE.
H.R. 1801: Mr. LEWIS of Georgia, Mr. BISHOP of Utah, and Mr. MILLER of North Carolina.
H.R. 1866: Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi.
H.R. 1921: Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas.
H.R. 1947: Ms. SUTTON.
H.R. 2020: Mr. MILLER of North Carolina.
H.R. 2032: Ms. SHEA-PORTER.
H.R. 2058: Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi.
H.R. 2104: Mr. HAYES.
H.R. 2266: Mr. PLATTS and Mr. LAMPSON.
H.R. 2279: Mrs. CUBIN, Mr. LUCAS, Mr. THORNBERRY, Mr. CALVERT, Mr. SMITH of Texas, Mr. REHBERG, Mr. SESSIONS, and Mr. BACHUS.
H.R. 2320: Mr. MEEK of Florida.
H.R. 2329: Mr. OBERSTAR and Mr. MARCHANT.
H.R. 2343: Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia.

H.R. 2392: Mr. BISHOP of New York.
H.R. 2435: Mr. WAXMAN.
H.R. 2472: Mr. PASTOR.
H.R. 2493: Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, Mr. REHBERG, Mr. COLE of Oklahoma, and Mr. LUCAS.
H.R. 2639: Mr. BOOZMAN and Ms. FOXX.
H.R. 2712: Mr. HALL of Texas.
H.R. 2721: Mr. GRIJALVA and Mr. PATRICK MURPHY of Pennsylvania.
H.R. 2842: Mr. NADLER.
H.R. 2851: Mr. PATRICK MURPHY of Pennsylvania, Mr. RODRIGUEZ, Mr. WALZ of Minnesota, and Mr. SIRES.
H.R. 2905: Mr. SCALISE.
H.R. 2923: Mr. PICKERING and Mr. BOUCHER.
H.R. 2926: Ms. MATSUI.
H.R. 2942: Mr. GRAVES.
H.R. 2994: Mr. WAMP.
H.R. 3004: Mr. STUPAK.
H.R. 3010: Mr. INSLEE.
H.R. 3036: Mr. LOEBSACK, Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania, and Mr. CARNAHAN.
H.R. 3094: Ms. HOOLEY, Mrs. CHRISTENSEN, Mr. MICHAUD, Mr. INSLEE, Mr. BAIRD, Mr. REICHERT, Mr. FARR, Ms. BERKLEY, and Mr. SOUDER.
H.R. 3098: Mr. CUELLAR and Mr. PLATTS.
H.R. 3144: Mr. KLINE of Minnesota.
H.R. 3327: Mr. KNOLLENBERG.
H.R. 3334: Mr. STEARNS.
H.R. 3347: Mr. RUSH and Mr. HASTINGS of Florida.
H.R. 3430: Mr. GONZALEZ, Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN, Mr. BUTTERFIELD, Mr. STUPAK, Mr. HALL of Texas, and Mr. SHULER.
H.R. 3453: Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York and Mr. HONDA.
H.R. 3494: Mr. SHAYS.
H.R. 3543: Mr. MILLER of North Carolina.
H.R. 3544: Mr. YARMUTH.
H.R. 3563: Ms. LEE.
H.R. 3627: Mr. CHILDERS.
H.R. 3645: Mr. CARSON.
H.R. 3710: Mr. CARSON.
H.R. 3715: Mr. PAUL.
H.R. 3769: Mr. MOORE of Kansas and Mr. Carson.
H.R. 3820: Mrs. BOYDA of Kansas.
H.R. 3822: Mr. PETERSON of Minnesota.
H.R. 3896: Mr. CARSON.
H.R. 3969: Mr. GRAVES.
H.R. 4001: Mr. MCCOTTER.
H.R. 4026: Mr. STARK.
H.R. 4048: Ms. WOOLSEY and Mr. MEEKS of New York.
H.R. 4061: Mr. FILNER.
H.R. 4091: Mr. POMEROY.
H.R. 4188: Mr. WEINER.
H.R. 4208: Mr. MEEK of Florida.
H.R. 4236: Mr. FATTAH, Mr. OBERSTAR, and Ms. WATSON.
H.R. 4238: Mr. PASCRELL.
H.R. 4264: Mr. MEEK of Florida.
H.R. 4273: Mr. WALBERG.
H.R. 4296: Ms. GIFFORDS.
H.R. 4690: Mr. DUNCAN.
H.R. 4736: Mr. PAUL.
H.R. 4838: Mr. CARSON, Mr. DEFAZIO, and Ms. SUTTON.
H.R. 4849: Mr. GRIJALVA.
H.R. 4900: Mr. FORTENBERRY, Mrs. EMERSON, and Mr. BACA.
H.R. 4918: Mr. MILLER of Florida, Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Mr. CRENSHAW, Mr. MEEK of Florida, Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, Mr. KLEIN of Florida, Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida, Mr. WEXLER, Mr. MACK, Ms. CASTOR, Mr. BUCHANAN, Mr. BOYD of Florida, Mr. FEENEY, Mr. BILIRAKIS, Mr. MARIO DIAZ-BALART of Florida, Mr. STEARNS, Mr. KELLER, Mr. PUTNAM, Mr. MICA, Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida, and Mr. MAHONEY of Florida.
H.R. 4930: Mr. FORTUÑO.
H.R. 5143: Mr. DEFAZIO and Mr. CARNAHAN.
H.R. 5244: Mr. INSLEE, Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania, Mr. CARSON, and Ms. SPEIER.
H.R. 5265: Mr. KIND, Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York, Mr. GORDON, and Mr. NADLER.
H.R. 5402: Mr. SESTAK.
H.R. 5443: Mr. SESTAK.
H.R. 5466: Mr. PALLONE.
H.R. 5507: Mr. CARSON.
H.R. 5559: Mrs. BACHMANN.
H.R. 5564: Ms. GIFFORDS.
H.R. 5573: Mr. LATOURETTE and Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia.
H.R. 5575: Mr. ELLISON.
H.R. 5605: Mr. WEXLER, Mr. MARSHALL, and Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts.
H.R. 5629: Mrs. DAVIS of California.
H.R. 5635: Mr. PORTER.
H.R. 5656: Mr. MCHUGH, Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida, Mr. GOODLATTE, Mr. CALVERT, Mr. BACHUS, and Mr. REHBERG.
H.R. 5696: Mr. MICHAUD.
H.R. 5731: Mr. GOODE.
H.R. 5737: Mrs. SCHMIDT and Mr. JOHNSON of Illinois.
H.R. 5760: Mr. LATOURETTE.
H.R. 5772: Mr. LYNCH and Mr. COHEN.
H.R. 5793: Mr. JEFFERSON.
H.R. 5825: Mr. SHERMAN.
H.R. 5831: Mr. ALTMIRE.
H.R. 5854: Mr. STEARNS, Mr. YOUNG of Alaska, Mr. JONES of North Carolina, and Mr. MICA.
H.R. 5864: Mr. FORTENBERRY.
H.R. 5868: Mr. BISHOP of Utah, Mr. MCCAUL of Texas, Mr. ADERHOLT, Mr. LINCOLN DAVIS of Tennessee, Mr. BOREN, Mr. CAZAYOUX, Mr. CHILDERS, Mr. ROSS, Mr. ELLSWORTH, Mr. BOSWELL, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. BACA, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas, Mr. MANZULLO, Mr. PETERSON of Pennsylvania, Mr. MCCOTTER, Mr. SULLIVAN, Mr. SIMPSON, Mr. WAMP, Mrs. MUSGRAVE, Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California, Mr. BURGESS, Mr. MCCARTHY of California, Ms. BORDALLO, and Mr. HOLT.
H.R. 5878: Mr. CASTLE.
H.R. 5898: Mr. TOWNS.
H.R. 5925: Mr. ELLISON and Mr. JACKSON of Illinois.
H.R. 5935: Mr. CUMMINGS.
H.R. 5936: Mrs. LOWEY.
H.R. 5942: Ms. DEGETTE and Mr. DAVID DAVIS of Tennessee.
H.R. 5949: Ms. SUTTON, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, and Mr. KING of New York.
H.R. 5971: Mr. WESTMORELAND and Mr. BLUNT.
H.R. 5974: Mr. TIAHRT.
H.R. 5984: Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. LINDER, Mr. PETERSON of Pennsylvania, Mr. CARTER, and Mr. BUYER.
H.R. 6034: Mr. HINOJOSA and Mr. SHAYS.
H.R. 6045: Mr. LOEBSACK, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. SCOTT of Georgia, Mr. MILLER of North Carolina, Ms. Tsongas, Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York, Mr. STARK, and Mr. WEINER.
H.R. 6052: Mr. JACKSON of Illinois and Mr. KANJORSKI.
H.R. 6067: Mr. HINOJOSA and Mr. DONNELLY.
H.R. 6073: Mr. SHULER, Ms. BORDALLO, and Mr. RANGEL.
H.R. 6076: Mr. BACA, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. CLEAVER, and Mr. MCDERMOTT.
H.R. 6104: Mr. HILL, Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania, Mr. SESTAK, Ms. DEGETTE,
Ms. ESHOO, Mr. LYNCH, and Mr. YARMUTH.
H.R. 6107: Mr. GOODLATTE, Mr. BROUN of Georgia, Mr. ENGLISH of Pennsylvania, Mr. MCCOTTER, Mr. DOOLITTLE, Mr. MILLER of Florida, Mr. FEENEY, Mr. BACHUS, Mrs. SCHMIDT, and Mr. GOODE.
H.R. 6108: Mr. CALVERT, Mr. SCALISE, Mr. SMITH of Texas, Mr. REHBERG, Mr. BACHUS, and Mr. LUCAS.
H.R. 6122: Mr. MCNULTY.
H.R. 6126: Mr. WAXMAN.
H.R. 6127: Mr. WAXMAN, Mr. JEFFERSON, Mr. CARSON, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, and Mr. AL GREEN of Texas.
H.R. 6129: Mr. BOUSTANY.
H.R. 6137: Mr. HENSARLING.
H.R. 6140: Mr. SESTAK, Mr. FRANKS of Arizona, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, and Mr. MICHAUD.
H.R. 6150: Ms. PRYCE of Ohio.
H.R. 6184: Mr. GONZALEZ, Mr. SOUDER, and Ms. SUTTON.
H.R. 6185: Mr. SMITH of New Jersey.
H.R. 6187: Mr. RUSH, Mrs. CHRISTENSEN, Mr. JEFFERSON, Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania, Mr. LEWIS of Georgia, and Mrs. JONES of Ohio.
H.R. 6199: Mrs. MALONEY of New York, Mr. HINCHEY, and Mr. CROWLEY.
H.R. 6209: Mr. BOUCHER and Ms. SPEIER.
H.R. 6210: Mr. BARTLETT of Maryland and Mr. CARSON.
H.R. 6214: Mr. DAVIS of Illinois.
H.R. 6219: Mr. SIMPSON, Mr. MARCHANT, Mrs. CUBIN, Mr. JOHNSON of Illinois, Mr. COBLE, Mrs. BONO MACK, and Mr. WALBERG.
H.R. 6220: Mr. JORDAN.
H.R. 6236: Ms. PRYCE of Ohio and Mr. REGULA.
H.R. 6251: Ms. CASTOR, Mr. VISCLOSKY, Mr. FOSTER, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mrs. MALONEY of New York, Mr. CARSON, Ms. HIRONO, Ms. GIFFORDS, Mr. WAXMAN, Mr. SIRES, Mr. PASCRELL, Mr. KAGEN, Mr. LEWIS of Georgia, Ms. SLAUGHTER, and Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota.
H.R. 6253: Mr. MCCOTTER.
H.R. 6256: Mr. KLEIN of Florida, Mr. MORAN of Virginia, Mr. PATRICK MURPHY of Pennsylvania, and Mr. KAGEN.
H.J. Res. 39: Mrs. MILLER of Michigan.
H.J. Res. 45: Mr. CHILDERS.
H.J. Res. 79: Ms. LEE, Ms. KAPTUR, and Ms. SCHAKOWSKY.
H. Con. Res. 81: Mr. MCCOTTER.
H. Con. Res. 163: Mr. RUPPERSBERGER and Mr. HAYES.
H. Con. Res. 253: Mr. JEFFERSON.
H. Con. Res. 299: Mr. CALVERT, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. WELCH of Vermont, Mrs. MYRICK, and Mr. YOUNG of Alaska.
H. Con. Res. 338: Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Ms. KILPATRICK, and Mrs. MALONEY of New York.
H. Con. Res. 344: Mr. DELAHUNT.
H. Con. Res. 350: Mr. GRIJALVA, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. WAXMAN, Mrs. MALONEY of New York, and Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN.
H. Con. Res. 360: Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida, Mr. RANGEL, Ms. SLAUGHTER, and Mr. JEFFERSON.
H. Con. Res. 361: Mr. MCDERMOTT, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Mr. MCCOTTER, Mr. BLUMENAUER, and Mr. HARE.
H. Con. Res. 362: Mr. TIM MURPHY of Pennsylvania, Mr. CLAY, Mr. COSTELLO, Mr. WEINER, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Mr. EMANUEL, Mr. JORDAN, Mr. HELLER, Mr. LEWIS of Georgia, Mr. FEENEY, Mr. ARCURI, Mr. BOYD of Florida, Mrs. DRAKE, Mr. JACKSON of Illinois, Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. SOUDER, Ms. FALLIN, Mr. LINCOLN DAVIS of Tennessee, Mr. COURTNEY, Mr. DOYLE, Mr. KING of New York, and Mr. BISHOP of Utah.
H. Con. Res. 364: Mrs. MALONEY of New York.
H. Con. Res. 365: Ms. SOLIS.
H. Con. Res. 369: Mr. CARSON, Ms. BORDALLO, Mr. MCNULTY, Mr. RODRIGUEZ, and Mr. DAVIS of Illinois.
H. Con. Res. 371: Mr. BERMAN, Mr. CROWLEY, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Ms. BERKLEY, Ms. SCHWARTZ, Mr. KLEIN of Florida, Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts, Mr. BURTON of Indiana, Mrs. MALONEY of New York, Mr. WEINER, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, and Mr. HALL of New York.
H. Res. 102: Mr. LANGEVIN.
H. Res. 353: Mrs. MALONEY of New York, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. FOSSELLA, and Mr. BILBRAY.
H. Res. 373: Mr. ENGLISH of Pennsylvania and Mr. WEINER.
H. Res. 415: Mrs. DAVIS of California.

H. Res. 711: Mr. SESTAK.
H. Res. 881: Mr. BOEHNER.
H. Res. 937: Mr. SHIMKUS.
H. Res. 970: Mr. ROGERS of Michigan, Mr. ROSKAM, Mr. JONES of North Carolina, Mr. CHANDLER, Mr. CONAWAY, and Mr. WILSON of South Carolina.
H. Res. 1127: Mr. KING of New York.
H. Res. 1136: Mr. TOWNS, Mr. LEWIS of Georgia, Ms. BORDALLO, and Mr. PAYNE.
H. Res. 1143: Ms. GIFFORDS, Mr. SALAZAR, and Mr. YOUNG of Alaska.
H. Res. 1182: Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania.
H. Res. 1187: Mr. HINOJOSA.
H. Res. 1198: Mr. SMITH of New Jersey.
H. Res. 1219: Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania.
H. Res. 1227: Mr. MORAN of Kansas and Ms. SCHAKOWSKY.
H. Res. 1230: Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, Mr. CROWLEY, Mr. CAPUANO, Ms. SUTTON, Mr. BLUMENAUER, and Mr. SMITH of Washington.
H. Res. 1239: Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. TOWNS, Mr. FARR, and Ms. HIRONO.
H. Res. 1242: Mr. MCGOVERN, Ms. BORDALLO, and Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida.
H. Res. 1245: Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. DELAHUNT, Mr. DOGGETT, Mr. DOYLE, Mr. FORTENBERRY, Mr. JEFFERSON, Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. MILLER of North Carolina, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. SESTAK, Ms. SUTTON, Mr. TANCREDO, and Ms. WATERS.
H. Res. 1266: Mr. BILIRAKIS, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Mr. VISCLOSKY, and Mr. RADANOVICH.

AMENDMENTS

Under clause 8 of rule XVIII, proposed amendments were submitted as follows:

H.R. 1328

OFFERED BY: MR. COLE OF OKLAHOMA

AMENDMENT NO. 1: Add at the end the following new title:

TITLE III—MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

SECTION 1. APOLOGY TO NATIVE PEOPLES OF UNITED STATES.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds that—

(1) the ancestors of today's Native Peoples inhabited the land of the present-day United States since time immemorial and for thousands of years before the arrival of people of European descent;

(2) for millennia, Native Peoples have honored, protected, and stewarded this land we cherish;

(3) Native Peoples are spiritual people with a deep and abiding belief in the Creator, and for millennia Native Peoples have maintained a powerful spiritual connection to this land, as evidenced by their customs and legends;

(4) the arrival of Europeans in North America opened a new chapter in the history of Native Peoples;

(5) while establishment of permanent European settlements in North America did stir conflict with nearby Indian tribes, peaceful and mutually beneficial interactions also took place;

(6) the foundational English settlements in Jamestown, Virginia, and Plymouth, Massachusetts, owed their survival in large measure to the compassion and aid of Native Peoples in the vicinities of the settlements;

(7) in the infancy of the United States, the founders of the Republic expressed their desire for a just relationship with the Indian tribes, as evidenced by the Northwest Ordinance enacted by Congress in 1787, which begins with the phrase, ''The utmost good faith shall always be observed toward the Indians'';

(8) Indian tribes provided great assistance to the fledgling Republic as it strengthened and grew, including invaluable help to Meriwether Lewis and William Clark on their epic journey from St. Louis, Missouri, to the Pacific Coast;

(9) Native Peoples and non-Native settlers engaged in numerous armed conflicts in which unfortunately, both took innocent lives, including those of women and children;

(10) the Federal Government violated many of the treaties ratified by Congress and other diplomatic agreements with Indian tribes;

(11) the United States forced Indian tribes and their citizens to move away from their traditional homelands and onto federally established and controlled reservations, in accordance with such Acts as the Act of May 28, 1830 (4 Stat. 411, chapter 148) (commonly known as the ''Indian Removal Act'');

(12) many Native Peoples suffered and perished—

(A) during the execution of the official Federal Government policy of forced removal, including the infamous Trail of Tears and Long Walk;

(B) during bloody armed confrontations and massacres, such as the Sand Creek Massacre in 1864 and the Wounded Knee Massacre in 1890; and

(C) on numerous Indian reservations;

(13) the Federal Government condemned the traditions, beliefs, and customs of Native Peoples and endeavored to assimilate them by such policies as the redistribution of land under the Act of February 8, 1887 (25 U.S.C. 331; 24 Stat. 388, chapter 119) (commonly known as the ''General Allotment Act''), and the forcible removal of Native children from their families to faraway boarding schools where their Native practices and languages were degraded and forbidden;

(14) officials of the Federal Government and private United States citizens harmed Native Peoples by the unlawful acquisition of recognized tribal land and the theft of tribal resources and assets from recognized tribal land;

(15) the policies of the Federal Government toward Indian tribes and the breaking of covenants with Indian tribes have contributed to the severe social ills and economic troubles in many Native communities today;

(16) despite the wrongs committed against Native Peoples by the United States, Native Peoples have remained committed to the protection of this great land, as evidenced by the fact that, on a per capita basis, more Native Peoples have served in the United States Armed Forces and placed themselves in harm's way in defense of the United States in every major military conflict than any other ethnic group;

(17) Indian tribes have actively influenced the public life of the United States by continued cooperation with Congress and the Department of the Interior, through the involvement of Native individuals in official Federal Government positions, and by leadership of their own sovereign Indian tribes;

(18) Indian tribes are resilient and determined to preserve, develop, and transmit to future generations their unique cultural identities;

(19) the National Museum of the American Indian was established within the Smithsonian Institution as a living memorial to Native Peoples and their traditions; and

(20) Native Peoples are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights, and among those are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.

(b) ACKNOWLEDGMENT AND APOLOGY.—The United States, acting through Congress—

(1) recognizes the special legal and political relationship Indian tribes have with the United States and the solemn covenant with the land we share;

(2) commends and honors Native Peoples for the thousands of years that they have stewarded and protected this land;

(3) recognizes that there have been years of official depredations, ill-conceived policies, and the breaking of covenants by the Federal Government regarding Indian tribes;

(4) apologizes on behalf of the people of the United States to all Native Peoples for the many instances of violence, maltreatment, and neglect inflicted on Native Peoples by citizens of the United States;

(5) expresses its regret for the ramifications of former wrongs and its commitment to build on the positive relationships of the past and present to move toward a brighter future where all the people of this land live reconciled as brothers and sisters, and harmoniously steward and protect this land together;

(6) urges the President to acknowledge the wrongs of the United States against Indian tribes in the history of the United States in order to bring healing to this land; and

(7) commends the State governments that have begun reconciliation efforts with recognized Indian tribes located in their boundaries and encourages all State governments similarly to work toward reconciling relationships with Indian tribes within their boundaries.

(c) DISCLAIMER.—Nothing in this section—

(1) authorizes or supports any claim against the United States; or

(2) serves as a settlement of any claim against the United States.

H.R. 1328

OFFERED BY: MR. COLE OF OKLAHOMA

AMENDMENT NO. 2: Add at the end the following new title:

TITLE III—MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

SECTION 1. SENSE OF CONGRESS REGARDING LAW ENFORCEMENT AND METHAMPHETAMINE ISSUES IN INDIAN COUNTRY.

It is the sense of Congress that Congress encourages State, local, and Indian tribal law enforcement agencies to enter into memoranda of agreement between and among those agencies for purposes of streamlining law enforcement activities and maximizing the use of limited resources—

(1) to improve law enforcement services provided to Indian tribal communities; and

(2) to increase the effectiveness of measures to address problems relating to methamphetamine use in Indian Country (as defined in section 1151 of title 18, United States Code).

H.R. 1328

OFFERED BY: MR. COLE OF OKLAHOMA

AMENDMENT NO. 3: Page 341, line 11, after ''title.'' insert the following: ''The Federal Government shall not withhold funding from any Indian tribe or tribal organization or entity, based solely on the Indian tribe's citizenship requirements.''.

Page 344, beginning line 4, insert the following:

(5) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that—

(A) the right of self-government flows from the inherent sovereignty of Indian tribes and nations;

(B) an Indian tribe's sovereignty includes the power to protect tribal self-government and to control internal relations;

(C) the United States recognizes a special government-to-government relationship with Indian tribes, including the right of the tribes to self-governance, as reflected in the Constitution, treaties, Federal statutes, and the course of dealings of the United States with Indian tribes;

(D) it is the policy of the United States to maintain and improve its unique and continuing relationship with, and responsibility to, Indian tribes;

(E) Congress should improve and perpetuate the government-to-government relationship between Indian tribes and the United States and strengthen tribal control over Federal funding and program management;

(F) the courts have consistently recognized that the authority to determine questions of its own citizenship is a fundamental power of an Indian tribe;

(G) the Supreme Court stated in Pueblo v. Martinez that, ''[a] tribe's right to define its own membership for tribal purposes has long been recognized as central to its existence as an independent political community''; and

(H) the power of an Indian tribe to determine questions of its own citizenship derives from the character of an Indian tribe as a distinct political entity, therefore Indian tribes have the exclusive right to determine eligibility for enrollment of their citizenship.

H.R. 1328

OFFERED BY: MR. COLE OF OKLAHOMA

AMENDMENT NO. 4: Page 341, line 11, after ''title.'' insert the following: ''The Federal Government shall not withhold funding from any Indian tribe or tribal organization or entity, based solely on the Indian tribe's citizenship requirements.''.

United States of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 110th CONGRESS, SECOND SESSION

Vol. 154 WASHINGTON, TUESDAY, JUNE 17, 2008 No. 100

Senate

The Senate met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable JON TESTER, a Senator from the State of Montana.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

God of hope, who fills us with joy and peace, sustain our Senators and those who support them with the power of Your Holy Spirit. Work in them, enabling them to do infinitely more than they can imagine.

Lord, give them a peace which the world cannot give and a passion to accomplish Your purposes. When they are weary, give them rest, and when they are discouraged, empower them to persevere. Prepare their hearts and minds to serve You and country with humility and integrity, as they work together with mutual forbearance and respect.

Lord, teach them to seek first Your honor and glory. But above all, fill them with Your matchless love.

We pray in Your great Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable JON TESTER led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. BYRD).

The assistant legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, June 17, 2008.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable JON TESTER, a Senator from the State of Montana, to perform the duties of the Chair.

ROBERT C. BYRD,
President pro tempore.

Mr. TESTER thereupon assumed the chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

SCHEDULE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, today following leader remarks, there will be an hour for morning business. Senators will be able to speak for up to 10 minutes each. The Republicans will control the first half, and the majority will control the second half. The Senate will proceed thereafter to the motion to proceed to H.R. 6049, the Renewable Energy and Job Creation Act. The time until 12:30 is equally divided and controlled between the two leaders or their designees. The Senate will recess from 12:30 p.m. to 2:15 p.m. to allow for the weekly caucus luncheons. Following the recess, the Senate will proceed to a cloture vote on the motion to proceed to H.R. 6049, the Renewable Energy Act.

UNANIMOUS-CONSENT REQUEST—H.R. 5749

Mr. REID. Mr. President, my distinguished friend, the Senator from the State of Arizona, is here. As a result, I am going to propound a unanimous-consent request so as not to cause him to have to spend any time here he would not ordinarily have to do.

The House has passed an unemployment compensation bill. I am going to show the Senate in a little while that we are at 76 filibusters. I am not going to go through another one on unemployment compensation. If we do not agree to pass this bill at this time, there will not be a long floor debate on unemployment compensation. What we will do, it is my understanding this legislation will be in the supplemental we will get from the House. That being the case, we will have ample time to talk about the issue if anybody wants to.

The distinguished majority whip is going to speak on unemployment compensation, as are some others today. But right now I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of Calendar No. 780, H.R. 5749, a bill we recently received from the House, the Emergency Extended Unemployment Compensation Act. I ask that the bill be read a third time, passed, and the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, with no intervening action or debate.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Is there objection?

Mr. KYL. Mr. President, I do object. I wonder if I may make one brief comment.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Objection is heard.

Mr. KYL. Mr. President, I wish to make the point that when we do extend unemployment benefits, if we do, the Senate needs to weigh in on its ideas about how it ought to be done, for one thing. The House-passed bill, which I don't think we want to consider, eliminates the 20-week work requirement which has been the law now since 1981. So theoretically someone could work a very short period of time and be entitled to this 13-week extension, something I don't think we want to change. As a result, we would like the Senate to weigh in and get it done the right way. For that reason, I have to object to bringing the House bill up at this time.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, we will be willing now to accept that change in the legislation and pass it.

Mr. KYL. Mr. President, if I might further address the majority leader

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

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then, I have several concerns. I highlighted one.

Mr. REID. I say to my friend, this, I believe, will be in the package we get from the House, and we will be happy to work with the minority if they feel some changes should be made. There are a number of people on my side who would agree to this, and maybe there are other points on which we can agree.

Mr. KYL. I appreciate that. I think there are some issues the Senate wishes to modify in the proposal. The offer to work together is a fair one, and that is how we ought to proceed.

TAX EXTENDER LEGISLATION

Mr. REID. Mr. President, yesterday was a remarkably good day. When I got out of law school, I went back to Nevada and thought I would be this great golfer. I golfed for 6 months or so, and then realized I was becoming obsessed with the game. Therefore, I decided I shouldn't do this. I had a family, and it took so much time.

For a number of years, I have listened to my friends talk about how much they enjoy golf, and I am sure they do. But it has only been in recent years that the American public has focused on golf, and that is because of Tiger Woods.

I can remember the first time I watched this little boy play. They showed him on the late night shows. Of course, as we all know, it was taped a lot earlier before his bedtime. This little kid, when he was 3 years old, could do remarkable things with his golf club. That is the way it was through his entire career, including at Stanford University.

Over the weekend, we all watched with attention while Rocco Mediate was going stroke for stroke with the great Tiger Woods. They tied in regulation play. They played an extra 18 holes. It was a tie. Finally, yesterday, it was concluded. All of us had mixed emotions as for whom we were pulling. Everyone likes Tiger Woods because he is so good and so nice, but we all also rooted for this underdog.

The one thing we noted yesterday is this golf tournament took place in San Diego. The sun was shining, and it was a beautiful day for golf. That is what the commentators kept saying. We were literally stuck in the rain yesterday. Those of us who were here last night about 4 o'clock saw a violent storm. There was lightning, thunder, driving rain, and lots of wind. As a result, I spoke with Senator MCCONNELL, and we thought it was best to delay the vote. We had people calling saying: I am stuck in Richmond. One Senator was supposed to go to Dulles. She had to land in Richmond. Another Senator was stuck in Buffalo. We had people stuck all over the country. So we did this, and it was the right thing to do.

We intended to vote on the motion to proceed to the Renewable Energy and Job Creation Act, known as the tax extender bill. Some on the other side, I am sure, may have welcomed yesterday's delay, but we are where we would have been last night. We need to return to a vote on the motion to proceed to the tax extender bill today, and we will do that, as has been indicated.

The cornerstone of this legislation is an extension of incentives for businesses to invest in clean, renewable energy. Right now, we reward these innovators who are blazing the trail to a greater, cleaner, more affordable energy future, but we don't reward them very much. These people are creating hundreds of thousands of jobs. The potential is out there. If we can pass this legislation, it would mean so much to the American economy and the world ecology, the world environment.

This is not just the Democrats talking. Somebody I have gotten to know over the years is a man by the name of T. Boone Pickens. As I understand, he is from the State of Texas. He has proven one thing: He knows how to make money. He has proven he is willing to take chances, and most always his chances turn out good at the bank for him.

What T. Boone Pickens has now decided to do is make money on renewable energy. He has done so much in the State of Texas alone. He, among others, thinks we should pass the legislation that is so important to give these tax credits to the American entrepreneurs so they will create jobs.

Here is a chart: Republican filibusters and counting, 76. For a long time, we had to keep creating new charts because they kept filibustering so much and it got to be a burden. So what we have done is we put Velcro on this chart. We can peel these babies off. Because the Republicans are so often filibustering, we now have a Velcro chart. We hope we don't have to change this too much more, the ''7,'' or change the ''6.'' Of course, we changed that a couple times last week. The Republicans are filibustering what T. Boone Pickens and others want.

There are hundreds of thousands of jobs, millions of jobs out there we could create if we have this tax incentive. They are doing it other places. In Australia, they are in the process of constructing a solar energy plant. That one plant will be 10,000 megawatts. They can do that all over Australia. It is an Australian company that is heavily involved now in California and other parts of the West.

These tax credit extensions will continue to encourage the renewable energy industry in States all over the West, States that have wind and Sun, and some States, such as California or Nevada, have a lot of geothermal. If the Senate does not act to extend these tax incentives, this research and entrepreneurship will literally be in jeopardy. Thousands of Americans will lose jobs. They are already in the process of losing jobs because the tax credits are about to expire.

We need an opportunity to move away from $140 barrel oil imported from unstable regions and unfriendly governments. There is no problem facing America that American ingenuity cannot handle. Failing to pass this tax incentive legislation will mean stacking the deck against innovation.

The minority is saying we shouldn't pay for these extensions, we should run up the red ink. During the last 7½ years, we have had the master at running up the red ink in the White House. We have now almost a $10 trillion deficit. We are saying we should pay for this legislation. The House has already done that.

The setoffs are very simple. One tax that does not kick in we have extended on a number of occasions in the past. The Republicans did this. We want to do it again. We also believe these offshore shenanigans that are taking place in America where they put these phony companies offshore to get tax breaks should come to an end. And that is what we have done. Most of it would be directed toward billionaires. These hedge funders have recognized they had a good deal going, and they have indicated, with rare exception, that they think it is a good idea. So it is not as if we are trying to ramrod some vicious tax increase to the American middle class. In fact, that is not the case.

We cannot let this legislation fail, and the Republicans are going to let it fail unless we get cloture on this legislation. Not only does this legislation do good things for renewable energy and job creation, but it also expands the child tax credit for families of 13 million children; it provides as many as 30 million homeowners with property tax relief; it helps 4.5 million families afford the cost of college with the tuition deduction; it allows millions of teachers to deduct out-of-pocket classroom expenses; and it levels the playing field by providing tax relief to people living in States with no income tax through the State and local sales tax deduction. Our economy is losing jobs, for 6 months now losing jobs, hundreds of thousands of jobs. In the 8 years President Clinton was President, almost 23 million jobs were created. In this administration, it is quite to the contrary. The disastrous Bush economic policy is the reason we have these job losses, a policy that Republican nominee JOHN MCCAIN wants to preserve. We think this is wrong.

With millions of Americans suffering from job loss, home foreclosures, record gas, energy, and grocery prices, there is no reason on Earth to oppose the bill before us now. I spoke with someone in New Mexico yesterday. He said his home has dropped in value by 50 percent. In many places in America, the value of homes has dropped 25 percent. This bill would create hundreds of thousands of good jobs here at home, lower taxes for American businesses and families and lower energy prices.

Yesterday, my friend, the Republican leader, indicated his caucus plans to oppose this legislation. Why? It seems,

as I have indicated, Republicans object to paying for these crucial tax cuts by eliminating an existing tax loophole that unfairly allows hedge-fund billionaires to avoid paying taxes. Even the hedge funders themselves realize this loophole is unfair and is destined to be corrected. Yesterday, hundreds of major American corporations sent a letter to Congress urging that we pass the bill.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD the letter to which I just referred.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

JUNE 16, 2008.

Hon. HARRY REID,
U.S. Senate, Hart Senate Office Building, Washington, DC.

DEAR SENATOR REID: The undersigned companies, representing a broad cross section of the U.S. business community and hundreds of thousands of U.S. jobs, request that the Senate take action during the current work period to extend tax provisions that expired at the end of 2007 or will expire at the end of 2008.

The House of Representatives last month passed a tax extenders package included in H.R. 6049, the Renewable Energy and Job Creation Act of 2008, which provides a good starting point for Senate consideration. In April, Senate Finance Committee Chairman Baucus and Senator Grassley introduced S. 2886 containing a tax extenders package, including a critical increase in the Alternative Simplified Credit to spur R&D jobs in the United States. Swift action is now needed by the Senate to enact a tax extenders package that will bring significant positive benefits to the U.S. economy.

Important tax provisions, including the R&D tax credit and the deduction for state and local sales taxes, have already expired. Others, including critical renewable energy incentives, the Subpart F active financial services and look-through rules, the New Markets Tax Credit, and the incentive for domestic film production, expire at the end of this year. Large tax increases would fall on American companies and American workers if the expired and expiring provisions are not extended.

Failure by Congress to move quickly to extend these important provisions will bring investment in renewable energy and energy efficiency projects to a standstill, make it more difficult for U.S. companies to invest in critical R&D projects in this country, reduce private sector investment in business and economic development projects in distressed areas, and force many U.S.-based financial institutions to suffer a massive tax increase at a time when they can least afford it.

Failure to act this summer on tax extender legislation will have significant negative consequences for the U.S. economy. The value of the legislation to the U.S. economy and the need to act quickly at this critical time should be the dominant considerations.

We look forward to working with you on this important legislation and urge action during Congress' June legislative session.

Sincerely,

A.O. Smith Corporation; Abbott Laboratories; Abengoa Solar; Acciona Energy; Acclarent, Inc.; Adroit Medical Systems; Advanced Hydro Solutions; Advanced Micro Devices, Inc.; Advantage Capital Partners; AEE Solar, Inc.; AES Wind Generation; Affymetrix, Inc.; Agilent Technologies, Inc.; Agility Design Solutions Inc.; AGP; Agrilectric Power; AIM Computer Solutions, Inc.; Air Products and Chemicals, Inc.; Akeena Solar; Allergan, Inc.; Alliant Energy; Almyra Management Company, Inc.; AltaTerra Ltd.; Alterra Bioenergy; Alticor Inc.; Altria Group, Inc.; AMD; Ameren Corporation; Ameresco; American Electric Power; American Express Company; American International Group, Inc.; American Laboratory Products Company, Ltd.; American Solar Electric, Inc.; and Amgen.

AngioDynamics, Inc.; Apple Inc.; Applied Materials, Inc.; Apricus; Archer Daniels Midland; Art Technologies, Inc.; AstraZeneca Pharmaceuticals LP; AT&T; Ataco Steel Products Corporation; ATAS International, Inc.; ATEECO, Inc.; Atlantic City Electric; Autodesk, Inc.; Avaya Inc.; Avista Corporation; AWR, Inc.; BAE Systems, Inc.; Ballard Power Systems; Bank of America; The Bank of New York Mellon Corporation; Batesville Tool & Die, Inc.; Baxa Corporation; BioEnergy Systems, LLC; Biogen Idec; Biomass One, LP; BioSelect Fuels; Bloom Energy Corporation; Blue Sky Energy, Inc.; BMC Software; Boehringer-Ingelheim; The Boeing Company; Bommer Industries, Inc.; Boralex Inc.; Borel Private Bank & Trust Company; and Boston Scientific.

BP America; Brookfield Renewable Power; Brunswick Corporation; Butler Sun Solutions; CA, Inc.; CAB Incorporated; Cadence Design Systems, Inc.; California Micro Devices; Calpine Corp.; Calypso Medical Technologies, Inc.; Caravelle International LLC; Cardinal Systems Inc.; Case New Holland Inc.; Cassatt Corporation; Caterpillar Inc.; Central Vermont Public Service Corporation; Cepheid Inc.; Certess, Inc.; CH Energy Group, Inc.; Chelan County Public Utility District; the Chubb Corporation; Cisco Systems, Inc.; Citigroup, Inc.; Click Bond, Inc.; CMS Energy Corporation; Coca-Cola Company; Coherent, Inc.; Coherex Medical, Inc.; Colmac Energy, Inc.; ConAgra Foods, Inc.; Conceptus Inc.; Constellation Energy; Construction Navigator, Inc.; and Con-Way.

Coulomb Technologies; Covanta; Cummins Inc.; Cummins-Allison; Cymer, Inc.; Decker Energy International; Deere & Company; Deeya Energy, Inc.; Delmarva Power; Devine Tarbell & Associates, Inc.; DG Fairhaven; DIAB; DNV Global Energy Concepts; Dominion; The Dow Chemical Company; DTE Energy; Duke Energy; DxTech LLC; Dynatronics Corp.; E&E Manufacturing Co., Inc.; Eaton Corporation; EDS; Electronics for Imaging; Eli Lilly and Company; eLynx; Emphasys Medical, Inc.; Empire Broadcasting Corp.; The Empire District Electric Company; Energy Conversion Devices; Energy East Corporation; Energy Innovations; Energy Unlimited, Inc.; EnFocus Engineering Corporation; Engineering DataXpress, Inc.; and Envision Solar International, Inc.

EPV Solar, Inc.; Eskay Metal Fabricating; EV Solar Products, Inc.; eVent Medical, Inc.; Exelon Corporation; Extol International, Inc.; Fairchild Semiconductor Corporation; FatSpaniel, Inc.; FileMaker, Inc.; First Wind; FirstEnergy Corp.; FlowVision, LLC; Ford Motor Company; FPL Group; Fredon Corporation; GE Energy; GE Energy Financial Services; Genentech; General Electric Corporation; General Motors Corporation; Genworth Financial; Gilead Sciences; GMAC, LLC; Goldman Sachs; Goodrich; GR Spring & Stamping, Inc.; Grant County Public Utility District; Great Plains Energy, Inc.; Green Earth Fuels, LLC; Green Mountain Power Corporation; Greylock Partners; Griffin Realty Advisors; groSolar; Harley-Davidson Motor Company; and Harris Stratex Networks.

Hawaiian Electric Company; HCI Publications; Hewlett-Packard Company; Hitachi Global Storage Technologies; Honeywell; Hospira, Inc.; Human Genome Sciences; Hydra-Tech Pumps; Hydro Consulting & Maintenance Services, Inc.; Hydro Green Energy, Inc.; i2 Technologies; iControl Incorporated; Imperium Renewables Inc.; Impulse Dynamics; INDECK Energy Services, Inc.; Independent Energy Systems; Innovalight; Intel Corporation; Inter-Island Solar Supply; International Business Machines Corporation; International Paper; Interstate Power and Light; Intevac, Inc.; Invenergy LLC; ITC Holdings Corp.; Jan Medical; Jasper Design Automation, Inc.; JDS Uniphase Corporation; Johnson & Johnson; Johnson Controls; JPMorgan Chase & Co.; Juniper Networks, Inc.; K&S Tool, Die & Manufacturing, Inc.; KeyBank; and Keystone Insurers Group.

KLA-Tencor Corporation; Kovio, Inc.; KPMG, LLP; Lam Research Corporation; The LeverEdge; LibraryWorld, Inc.; Lincoln Financial; LM Glasfiber; Lockheed Martin; Louis Dreyfus; LSI Corporation; Lynguent, Inc.; Macrovision Solutions Corporation; Mainstream Energy Corporation; Masimo Corporation; Maxim Integrated Products; McCormick & Company, Inc.; Mead and Hunt; Medlmmune LLC; MEDRAD; MegaWatt Consulting, Inc.; Merck; Merit Medical Systems, Inc.; Merrill Lynch; METACURE (USA) Inc.; MetricStream, Inc.; Microsoft Corporation; Minnesota Power; Minnetronix, Inc.; Mitsubishi Electric; Monsanto Company; Morgan Stanley; Mortenson Construction; Motorola; and MSE Power Systems, Inc.

Mystic Pharmaceuticals, Inc.; National City; National Grid; National Semiconductor Corporation; Naturener USA, LLC; Nelson Energy; NetApp; NetLogic Microsystems, Inc.; Neuronetics, Inc.; NeuroPace, Inc.; New Leaf Paper; News Corporation; Northrop Grumman Corporation; NorthWestern Energy; Novellus Systems, Inc.; Novo Nordisk Inc.; NuVasive, Inc.; NVIDIA; NXP Semiconductors USA Inc.; oDesk Corporation; OGE Energy Corporation; Oracle; Organic Fuels; Orthovita, Inc.; Otter Tail Corporation; Ovalis, Inc.; Owens Coming; Pacific Winds, Inc.; Palm, Inc.; Palmer College of Chiropractic; Pepco Holdings, Inc.; Pfizer; PG&E Corporation; P-K Tool & Manufacturing Company; and Plan it Solar.

PNM Resources, Inc.; Polycom, Inc.; Portland General Electric; PPG Industries; PPL Corporation; Precision Machine & Supply, Inc.; Presencia Technology, LLC; Primary Power International; Procter & Gamble; Progress Energy; Proto Services, Inc.; PSEG; Puget Sound Energy; Q-Cells; Rath, Young and Pignatelli, P.C.; Raytheon Company; Real Intent, Inc.; REC Solar, Inc.; ReGrid Power; Renegy, Inc.; Renewable Energy Group (REG); Renewable Power Solutions, Inc.; Rinnai Tankless Water Heater Corporation; RMT—WindConnect; Rockwell Automation; Rockwell Collins; sanofi-aventis U.S. Inc.; Sanyo; SCHOTT Solar, Inc.; Seagate Technology; SEALED AIR Corporation; Seattle Medical Technologies, Inc.; Siemens Corporation; Sierra Pacific Resources; and Simpson Investment Company.

SkyFuel; Skyline Solar, Inc.; SolarCity; SolarWorld California; SOLEC; SolFocus; Solvay Pharmaceuticals; Spansion, Inc.; Specialized Bicycles; Spinal Kinetics, Inc.; SpinalMotion, Inc.; St. Jude Medical; SteelFab, Inc.; The Stella Group, Ltd.; Stellar Solutions, Inc.; Stratex Energy, LLC; Sun Edison; SunEarth, Inc.; SunPower Corporation; Suntech; SV Solar; SVB Financial Group; Symantec Corporation; Synopsys, Inc.; Tagent, Inc.; Teradata Corporation; Tessera, Inc.; Texas Instruments; Textron, Inc.; Thermal Designs, Inc.; Thermosurgery Technologies, Inc.; Third Sun Solar and Wind Power, Ltd.; Time Warner; The Timken Company; and Toyota.

TPI Composites; TransCanada Hydro Northeast, Inc.; Transitions Industries;

Trimble Navigation Limited; Truseal Technologies, Inc.; Tupperware; U.S. Bank; UniSource Energy Corporation; United Solar Ovonic; United Technologies Corp.; VentureLoop, Inc.; Verari Systems, Inc.; Verizon; Wachovia Corp.; The Walt Disney Company; Watt Stopper/Legrand; Wescor, Inc; Westar Energy, Inc.; Western Renewables Group; Whirlpool Corporation; Wind Capital Group, LLC; Wisconsin Power and Light; Wood's Powr-Grip Co., Inc.; World Energy; Wyeth; Xcel Energy, Inc.; Xerox Corporation; Xilinx, Inc.; Xoft, Inc.; and Zimmer, Inc.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I think it is glaring to note that of these major companies—hundreds and hundreds of them that have signed this letter—not a single oil company has signed on. Oil companies don't want us to do this legislation. They want us to keep being beholden to them. But look at the companies that signed onto this legislation: Genetech, Cummins Inc., The Chubb Corporation, Merck, Merrill Lynch, Microsoft, Owens Corning, Pfizer, U.S. Bank, Wachovia, Verizon, and Whirlpool Corporation.

Scores and scores of other major companies are telling our Republican colleagues to vote for legislation the way it is written. They know the bill and they list the number of it. The letter was signed by the ''Who's Who'' of the Fortune 500 companies and many others—titans of American business. Hundreds of small companies in addition to that all agree Congress needs to act now to extend tax incentives for clean energy and innovation to provide the American people with desperately needed tax cuts.

We got nine Republicans when we voted on this last Thursday, and I publicly commended them. I hope we get more today. The record should be very clear that this, the 76th filibuster of the Republican minority, is something that is going to cause the further deterioration of the American economy. We want this legislation passed to help Americans wean themselves from that which is ruining our country economically and environmentally.

So I hope we have some people who will join Boeing, General Electric, Coca Cola, Intel, and other companies I have mentioned and move forward with this legislation. It is vitally important for the American people.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Republican leader is recognized.

HIGH GAS PRICES

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, it has been more than a week since the Democratic nominee for President, the junior Senator from Illinois, responded to high gas prices by saying it wasn't high gas prices he minded but the fact that people didn't have time to get used to them. In his words, he would have preferred a ''gradual adjustment'' to a sudden jolt.

As I said last week, I can't imagine this is a view many other people share, certainly not the people of Kentucky, who I assure you are not at all interested in getting used to $4-a-gallon gas, however gradual the adjustment. Our Democratic colleagues on the other side of the aisle have had a week to demonstrate they do not embrace the ''gradual adjustment'' philosophy of their nominee. We haven't heard a word from any of them.

Maybe they don't have a problem with $4-a-gallon gasoline either. Maybe the junior Senator from North Dakota was speaking for all of them when he said over the weekend that $4-a-gallon gasoline was finally forcing people to conserve. Telling people whose livelihoods depend on getting to and from work that they should get used to high gas prices is not an energy policy.

Supporting a gradual adjustment to $4-a-gallon gasoline is not an energy policy. Americans need an energy policy befitting America, and that means using the natural resources we have here at home to bring down prices in the short term, while pursuing a long-term strategy for energy independence through clean technologies. We can do both, and we should do both.

We need more American energy now. That is the short-term solution to the current crisis. So, again, I call on our friends to consider this reasonable two-part solution and to drop their absolutist opposition to energy exploration in America.

I yield the floor.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

MORNING BUSINESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will proceed to a period of morning business for up to 1 hour, with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each, with the time equally divided and controlled between the two leaders or their designees, with the Republicans controlling the first half and the majority controlling the final half.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Texas.

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the 30 minutes allotted to our side of the aisle for morning business be divided equally between myself and the distinguished Senator from Iowa, Mr. GRASSLEY.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

GAS PRICES AND NATIONAL SECURITY

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I wish to begin my remarks this morning by quoting the distinguished junior Senator from Illinois, Senator OBAMA, who said recently:

> Our dependence on foreign oil strains family budgets and it zaps our economy. Oil money pays for the bombs that go off from Baghdad to Beirut, and the bombast of dictators from Caracas to Tehran. Our Nation will not be secure unless we take that leverage away, and our planet will not be safe unless we move decisively toward a clean energy future.

I would like to say to those comments from Senator OBAMA: Amen. He is exactly right. And so I would ask him: Why does he and our colleagues on the other side of the aisle continue to oppose domestic energy production that would reduce our dependency on oil from the Middle East?

As this chart shows, restricted domestic production in the United States sends billions of dollars to the Middle East, where we purchase that oil, and to countries such as Venezuela in South America. When one of my constituents back in Texas goes to the gas station and fills their pickup truck, and it costs him $75 to $100, he is wondering perhaps where the money goes. Our colleagues would suggest it just goes to big oil companies. But the fact of the matter is, it is more complicated than that. I think the picture needs to be painted and the story needs to be told of exactly what our refusal to depend more on our own domestic resources, rather than depending, as we do increasingly, on foreign sources of oil, means to our national security.

While taxes, refining, shipping, and marketing add to the cost of retail gasoline, 70 percent of the cost of a gallon of gasoline is related to the cost of oil—crude oil. When the United States imports roughly 60 percent of the oil it consumes, the real profiteers of our dependence are the foreign nations from which we import.

In 2007, the U.S. fuel bill on oil imports was about $330 billion, and some anticipate that figure will go to $400 billion this year. We should be investing more money in America to increase our domestic energy production and creating jobs right here in America as we work to diversify our energy mix and pursue alternative energy sources. Unfortunately, we send American dollars to foreign nations and energy cartels, such as Venezuela and Iran—nations that openly condemn the United States and the principles for which we stand and seek to undermine our national interests at every turn.

Last year, in Venezuela alone, U.S. consumers spent an estimated $30 billion on oil imports. We are all familiar with President Hugo Chavez and his thinly veiled threats and outlandish attacks on our country. But the money that is sent to Venezuela does not just empower the absurd talk of one man, it is helping him assemble a substantial military arsenal.

These pictures show some of the things Hugo Chavez is doing with the money we are sending him as we buy crude oil: fighter aircraft, submarines, Kalashnikov assault rifles, air defense

batteries. As a matter of fact, Russia has agreed to actually create a factory in Venezuela for the production of both AK–103 assault rifles, and 7.62-millimeter ammunition at a cost in excess of $500 billion.

In 2006 alone, Venezuela entered into multiple agreements with Russia for the purchase of numerous advanced Russian-made weapon systems. These transactions included, as I have depicted on this chart, these 24 modern fighter-bomber aircraft at a price of more than $1 billion, numerous attack and transport helicopters at the price of $700 million, and an arsenal of these modern Kalashnikov assault rifles, which I showed a moment ago.

Last week, Venezuela conducted a preliminarily agreement for its Navy to buy three Russian-made, improved Kilo patrol submarines—depicted here. This year, Venezuela accepted delivery of the first of several batteries of Russian-made Tor-M1 air defense systems, depicted on this chart.

In 2005, Venezuela ordered nine Chinese-made mobile air radar systems, valued at $150 million. Earlier this year, the Venezuelan Government ordered six Austrian-made, multipurpose surveillance aircraft.

But we should not delude ourselves into thinking that money only goes to the buildup of the Venezuelan military. Colombia—of course, right next door to Venezuela in South America—our strongest U.S. ally in Latin America, tells us Hugo Chavez has been supporting the FARC, a narcoterrorist organization, and enabling attacks on the people of Colombia. In fact, a laptop recently captured from a terrorist leader demonstrates Hugo Chavez's close ties with the FARC.

The situation has prompted some in Congress to call for Venezuela to be put on our designated ''state sponsors of terrorism'' list. Clearly, the actions of Hugo Chavez and his accelerated militarization of Venezuela poses a significant threat to the stability of Latin America and to the United States because of its close proximity to our country.

It doesn't just stop there. As we know, President Mahmud Ahmadinejad in Iran is enjoying all the money America is sending to him and other countries when they purchase oil, with a price tag now of $135 a barrel. We can't afford to forget that oil is a global commodity used by every country throughout the world, so money spent on oil imports from the Middle East or anywhere benefits Iran. Iran is continuing its effort to develop nuclear technology, depicted at these compounds in Bushehr and Natanz, depicted on these maps.

It is clear that Iran has nuclear ambitions to build nuclear weapons to dominate the Middle East and, frankly, represents a threat to world peace. So money spent on oil imports from the Middle East or anywhere actually benefits Iran, and they use that money to pursue their nuclear ambitions.

Iran is continuing its efforts to develop nuclear technology with the obvious goal of producing nuclear weapons. The last thing we need to do is to provide a steady stream of money to a man who openly pledges to ''wipe Israel off the map'' and promises that the United States, along with Israel, ''will soon be destroyed.''

Aside from Iran's very troubling nuclear ambitions, U.S. military commanders have seen very clear evidence of Iranian involvement of Iraq. We have heard from General Petraeus and Ambassador Crocker about Iran's attempts to destabilize Iraq. What is worse, we have heard reports of the Iranians training militias and ''special groups'' in Iraq, both of whom have been a major source of violence and instability there.

Even more concerning, we have seen reports that Iran has been providing advanced improvised explosive devices called explosively formed penetrators that have been and continue to be used to kill and injure American soldiers in Iraq. As I have said, Iran has been linked to explosively formed penetrators used to kill American troops, and while these penetrators make up only a small percentage of the overall number of IEDs in Iraq, they generate a disproportionate share of American casualties.

The short side of this story is that our dependence on foreign oil is bankrolling deadly weapons. The money we continue to send to the Middle East and to Venezuela does nothing but enrich or enemies. Why in the world, then, would we deny ourselves access to the very natural resources that would allow us to become less dependent?

While Congress may not get it, it is clear that the American people get it. Rasmussen has just come out of the field with a new poll that says that 67 percent of the respondents support offshore drilling in America and 64 percent expect that it will lower gasoline prices. That is two-thirds of the respondents who believe offshore drilling should be allowed. Congress, of course, is the major impediment, having passed moratoria against production of oil from the Outer Continental Shelf since the early 1980s. Congress is the problem, and Congress needs to get out of the way and allow America to do what it does best, and that is to try to achieve less dependence on imported oil from our enemies.

The short version of this story is that our dependence on foreign oil is bankrolling deadly weapons that are being used against our troops and even more advanced weapons systems that could one day be turned on us or our allies—countries such as Colombia. Soaring gas prices are not just a problem for the American consumer, they are a problem for the American soldier, sailor, airman, and marine. They are a problem for our national security. The longer we sit idle and do nothing to increase our domestic energy production, the more money we ship overseas and the more likely it is to empower the threatening actions of some of America's staunchest enemies.

While Congress agrees about the importance of reducing our Nation's dependence on foreign sources of oil—indeed, that is what Senator OBAMA said in the quotation I read at the start—Congress has not yet acted in a way consistent with those expressed concerns or in a way which would improve not only our economic security but our national security as well. I appreciate the determination of Congress to pursue and encourage alternative energy sources and increased energy efficiency—and these energy policies will serve us well into the future—but what we must realize is that oil and gas is the bridge to that future. It is not economically responsible to bypass solutions that will increase energy supply and help bring down the price of gas at the pump. Americans are spending an additional $1,400 on energy costs just this last year, and the Department of Defense—perhaps the largest consumer of oil and gas in the country—spent $12.6 billion on fuel just last year.

We cannot afford to keep filling the coffers of hostile, oil-rich nations such as Iran and Venezuela while we wait for alternative fuels to become a substantial and reliable source for our energy needs. We need a comprehensive and balanced energy policy that includes increased American energy production. We have raised fuel-efficiency standards, we have implemented a renewable fuels standard, we supported tax incentives for wind, solar, biomass, and energy efficiency appliances. Now we need to grow our domestic energy production by tapping into America's proven oil and gas reserves.

If we can begin to produce more energy here at home, then we can begin to ease our minds about how rogue states, such as Venezuela and Iran, will be using those dollars to threaten us. We have all said on numerous occasions that energy security is national security, but I fear many of us have failed to realize exactly what that means. We need to recognize that our inaction is not only raising the burden on American families, it is growing armies and weapons that may one day be used against us. In the case of Iran, that money is already being used against our troops in Iraq through these explosively formed penetrators that have injured and literally killed American citizens.

This is not an issue we can afford to take lightly. We all need to work together to expand American oil production in order to decrease the profits of sworn enemies of the United States and limit their militarization.

I yield the floor.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Iowa is recognized.

Mr. GRASSLEY. May I ask how much time is left on this side?

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. There is 15 minutes 45 seconds.

TAX EXTENDERS

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I hope my colleagues had a chance to listen to the distinguished Democratic leader talk about the tax bill vote coming up and about Republican filibusters. I wish to tell the other side of the story.

As there are 76, according to their count, filibusters, presumably Republican, what defines a filibuster around here is when you file a cloture motion. If people have a desire to talk a few hours on a bill, maybe even a few minutes on a bill, and immediately a cloture motion is slapped in, then that defines a filibuster.

That doesn't define a filibuster. If it does, then the Democrats, by not letting the Senate work its will, have in a sense shut off the purpose of the Senate, which is, of course, to thoroughly debate what passed the other body.

Tax bills can only start in the other body, and they go through there in 2 or 3 hours. If they are going to be thoroughly debated, they have to be debated here. I think it is a little disingenuous to talk about a filibuster on a tax bill when the definition of a filibuster is when a cloture motion is filed. It is filed by the majority party, not by the minority party.

Over the past few years, anyone who has observed the workings of Congress has probably discovered that we spend a lot of time every year wrestling over what are called tax extenders—probably tax policy that for the most part has been on the books for decades, one or two decades, and then sunsets, and then if you are going to keep that policy in place—in other words, keep the existing tax policy—they must be extended. We call them tax extenders. Popular provisions in the Internal Revenue Code, then, are set to expire every year or two unless Congress acts. Of course, if Congress doesn't act, then taxes go up.

In the past, I have compared this constant repetition to a film called ''Groundhog Day,'' staring Bill Murray, where Bill Murray's character relives the same day over and over again. I have a chart showing a scene from that classic and very enlightening film. It almost seems ironic that it would be appropriate on so many occasions for me to talk about a movie that itself is about repetition, but the repetitive actions of the Democratic majority and its leadership make it too hard to resist bringing Bill and Phil down here again to show you and remind you what this body, the Senate, goes through periodically.

Less than a week ago, the Senate, by a vote of 50 to 44, rejected a motion to invoke cloture on a motion to proceed to the House bill, H.R. 6049, the Renewable Energy and Job Creation Act. In just a few moments we are going to repeat that exact same vote. Why? There does not seem to be a discernible reason.

Getting back to Bill and Phil driving the truck, I bet the thinking on the other side is that it is the Senate Republicans who are represented by Bill on this chart, in that the Democrats want people like me to be put through the same actions on the same issues until we do what the other side thinks is the right thing. However, that thinking is mistaken. I am not sure how much resemblance there is, but Bill represents the Democratic leadership. Why? Because the majority sets the schedule for the Senate. When Republicans are in the majority, we set the schedule. Despite having slogged through this very same issue several times over the past few years, the Democratic leadership still insists on beating the same dead horse—or maybe in this case the same dead groundhog.

As anyone familiar with this fine film knows—the film called ''Groundhog Day''—this chart depicts Bill and Phil driving a truck moments before it goes over the cliff. In a few moments, the Democratic leadership is going to drive this Chamber over the same cliff we went over last Tuesday. The vote, again, is one I predict will fail, and we will be exactly where we were before.

Going back to the ''Groundhog Day'' example, the Democratic leadership is stuck in the part of the film where Bill Murray relives the same day because he is doing the wrong things and refuses to change behavior.

I would rather not see this body go over the cliff. But what really concerns me is that the Democratic leadership is not alone. In the back of his truck are roughly 140 million families and individuals who file tax returns. The extenders affect millions of taxpayers. Congress should have learned from the experience we had less than 6 months ago, in December. Waiting until the end of the year to solve these problems creates problems instead for agencies like the IRS. It is a problem for taxpayers who are not getting back their refunds soon enough. If the Democratic leadership cares about those millions of taxpayers, they will slow this truck down. They will not drive over the cliff. They will stop the truck, they will work with the Senate—in the bipartisan way that is the only way to get things done in the Senate—to finally get this bill passed, a bill that will be signed into law.

Included in those roughly 140 million families and individuals in the back of the truck are around 24 million taxpayers who are now subject to the crushing alternative minimum tax. We need to extend the AMT exemption for middle-income taxpayers. Right now, around 24 million of those middle-income families are liable for the AMT because Congress has not acted to protect them for the year we are in, 2008.

The House bill that is the subject of the upcoming cloture vote does nothing to protect those taxpayers, nothing on the AMT.

Many of those families who make estimated payments are hopefully familiar with the form 1040–ES for the second quarter of 2008. That was due yesterday. Many taxpayers who were not subject to the AMT last year but are now caught this year should have filed this form but do not know they are supposed to. It is a tax that these 23 million, or maybe a part of that 23 million, do not pay because they never had to pay it before. Under current law those individuals are subject to penalty.

I made this point on several occasions last year when a quarterly estimated tax return was due. I hope I do not get the same reaction now as I did every time I talked about the estimated tax payments last year, because that response was silence.

I know many will say that Congress will act, but that is not good enough. The American people should no more accept an IOU from Congress than the IRS would accept an IOU from the taxpayer. The right thing to do now is to vote ''no'' on this cloture motion. The sooner we can get the Democratic leadership to stop driving the Bill-and-Phil truck over the cliff, the sooner we can get to work on this extenders bill.

That bill, unlike the bill before us now, will pass both Houses of Congress and will be signed by the President. This law change will protect additional families from being captured by the AMT. Right now the Democratic leadership is in the driver's seat. You see, we have the Democratic leadership in the driver's seat. As I have said of Bill and Phil in the past, I hope eventually they decide to drive responsibly. Do not do what Bill and Phil do, go over the cliff all of the time. Vote ''no'' on the motion to proceed, put the Senate back on a path to a real AMT fix and also pass the extenders bill so it becomes law.

We have been having a lot of discussion over whether these extensions of the expiring tax relief provisions might be offset with tax increases. We heard the distinguished Democratic leader say they should, because it might make the deficit go up otherwise.

My position is if you extend policy that has been in place for a couple decades continuing existing tax policy, you are not making the deficit bigger. You would only do that if you increased or came up with some new tax policy.

I am not going to rehash all the elements of that debate again. The difference between Republicans and Democrats on this point is important. The Democrats have their view, the Republicans have our view. That is the way democracy works. But here is why this is a different point of view. It is important because the hurdle to a bipartisan bill signed by the President on the AMT patch and extenders will not happen unless we get the differences worked out.

There is a group of so-called conservative Democrats in the House of Representatives who are called Blue Dogs. I want to say that I respect the Blue Dogs' call for fiscal discipline. It is critically important in this era of deficit spending.

Revenues are not the problem. One would think from the Democratic leadership that we do not tax people enough so we tax people more. In fact, we are on a revenue path that is above the historic average in terms of Federal revenue as a share of gross national product.

So when the Blue Dogs in the House of Representatives bark about deficit reduction, we on this side will howl with them. We have Huckleberry Hound here to illustrate what I am talking about. The Blue Dogs continue to bite only on the tax side.

When it comes to spending cuts, we do not hear much more than a whimper out of the Blue Dogs. They do not want spending cuts, they want higher taxes. We agree with them on fiscal responsibility, but higher taxes do not bring fiscal responsibility. Higher taxes bring an excuse for Congress to spend more money.

Spending cuts are the way to get taxes down. In fact, when I hear from my constituents, they do not think the American people are undertaxed, they think the American people or the Congress overspend.

On our side, that tax-hike hungry dog won't hunt. We have seen the story of this Huckleberry Hound chart play out in recent legislation. On the additional GI education benefits, the Blue Dogs held out for a tax increase to offset the new spending. But when the pressure from their political leadership got too hot, that objection is now history.

We have another popular new spending proposal, extension of unemployment benefits. The Blue Dogs said no offset was required because it is ''temporary spending.''

Now we have an AMT fix and we have the extenders bill before us. Because it is current law tax relief, the Blue Dogs are insisting on tax increases on other taxpayers. Such inconsistency I do not understand. As with GI benefit packages, we will meet the Blue Dogs' challenge. We will put our money where our mouth is.

The budget resolution, written by the Democratic majority and supported by the Blue Dogs, contains $300 billion in nondiscretionary appropriations. This is brand new extra spending not subject to pay-go. The AMT patch in the extender bill is a $110 billion package. After being challenged by the Blue Dog Democrats to stand up for spending cuts, I suggested we take one-fifth of what they are going to increase spending by, and it will pay for these new spending programs.

I would put them to a challenge of not increasing taxes every time to reduce the deficit, but reduce expenditures to be consistent. Instead of raising taxes, I said let's look at the new non-defense discretionary spending built into the budget. We could let that new undefined future spending expire by an amount necessary to make that AMT patch and extenders bill deficit neutral. Many on the other side say it is harmless to let defined current law tax relief expire. If that is true, then it ought to be easier to let undefined future spending expire.

After meeting the dollar amount in the spending cut challenge, some in the Blue Dog coalition still complained. They said we had to define the spending to be cut. That's a bit curious because the spending is future non-defense discretionary spending. Over the next 10 years, appropriators will spend this new extra money in future appropriations laws. Those bills have not been written yet. So, I don't know how I respond with any more specificity. I've provided the amount and the source of the funds.

The last time I checked, a dollar of spending cuts is the same as a dollar of forgone revenue. If we apply that basic math to taxes and spending, then we will achieve fiscal discipline.

I yield the floor.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Rhode Island is recognized.

EXTENDING UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS

Mr. REED. Mr. President, I rise today to talk about the importance of extending unemployment insurance benefits to workers whose regular benefits ran out before they could get a new job.

As we know, the labor market is weak. The unemployment rate has jumped to 5.5 percent in April from 5 percent in March. That is an extraordinary jump. This is the largest single month spike in 22 years and the highest level in 3.5 years.

In addition, the Labor Department's alternative unemployment rate, a measure that includes people who want to work but who are discouraged from actively seeking employment because they cannot find full-time jobs, reached 9.7 percent in May. This latter statistic might be more accurate with what has actually happened in neighborhoods across America.

For Rhode Islanders, the situation is among the worst in the Nation. The number of unemployed Rhode Islanders has risen to approximately 35,000, which has been trending upward and is the highest since June 1994. Indeed, 6.1 percent are jobless right now, a figure which has remained unchanged over the past 2 months.

This is the fourth highest unemployment rate in the United States, and the highest rate in Rhode Island since August 1995, more than 12 years ago. It is also critical to point out that almost half, 41 percent of Rhode Islanders unemployed in January, February and March, exhausted their benefits, which is more than any other State in New England. Unfortunately, other economic indicators are equally discouraging. Economists think inflation is here to stay, and it is likely to get worse. We have received a very poor inflation number this morning which suggests that the forecasts of economists are sadly becoming true.

Food prices are high. Consumers are able to afford fewer groceries at the supermarket and restaurants are being squeezed by food costs. Food prices across the country spiked by more than 4 percent in 2007, the biggest jump in 17 years, and they are expected to escalate another 6 percent this year, though some items, including eggs and milk, have gone up much more. So we are not talking about luxury items, we are talking about the basics to survive. They are getting more and more expensive as more and more people are not able to find adequate work.

The price of gasoline has risen 35 percent from a year ago, when it averaged approximately $3. In Rhode Island, it now costs $4.11, on average, for a gallon of regular unleaded, making it very difficult for working families simply to get to school, to get to their job, and to get around the State.

The gross domestic product, the Nation's total output of goods and services, the measure of the overall economic activity of the country, increased at a mere .9 percent in the first quarter of 2008, which is nearly the same as the fourth quarter of last year. This stagnant growth obviously is highly correlated with the rising unemployment.

In April, consumer credit borrowing rose $8.9 billion for the month to $2.56 trillion. This is significantly higher than economists forecast. This means increasingly that Americans are going to their credit cards to get by, and this is a timebomb ready to explode in our economy.

More American families are being overwhelmed by debt. More and more families are forced, because they do not have adequate jobs, adequate wages to face the rising cost of gasoline and food, to take out the plastic. That can only last a certain amount of time. This is a looming problem that we have to recognize.

Similarly, there is speculation that the impact of the foreclosure crisis will continue to spread. In my home State of Rhode Island, we have the highest foreclosure rate in New England. And the outlook is just as bleak. A recent Credit Suisse report noted that foreclosures could impact about 6.5 million loans by 2012, meaning that nearly 13 percent of residential borrowers could be put out of their homes; 13 percent of homeowners in America are facing the prospect within the next few years of losing their homes. That is a startling and unacceptable projection.

Given that the economic situation is significantly harsher now than the start of the last recession, the need to extend unemployment benefits is clear. In doing so, we can start to stimulate the economy. We have virtually no growth, we have a foreclosure crisis with escalating gasoline and food prices. If we want to get this country moving again, we have got to stimulate the economy. We tried with the rebates a few months ago; that has not proved effective. Unemployment insurance

benefits have a very high return on their investment. It generates approximately $1.64 in gross domestic product for every dollar we put in, and that makes sense.

Individuals receiving these benefits are going to go right to the store, they are going to fuel their cars, they are going to buy food, they are going to try to take care of their children. This money is going right back in the economy. It is going to stimulate 64 cents more than we invest.

I am disappointed that the administration has released a Statement of Administration Policy stating that it strongly opposes the bipartisan measure overwhelmingly passed by the House of Representatives last week.

I am disappointed that the minority is unwilling to enact this meaningful legislation before us today. This would make a positive difference for America. I think it is reckless and irresponsible. Unfortunately, it is characteristic of this administration that they would oppose unemployment benefits for Americans while they continue to exhort us to spend billions of dollars in Iraq and Afghanistan. The contrast could not be more stark and, I think, more condemning of this administration.

I believe we have to pass this legislation. We have to face it. And for my constituents in Rhode Island, it would be extremely useful.

According to the Center for Budget Policy Priorities, we have done this, we have extended benefits seven times over the past half century. They have provided much needed relief to workers. This is not something novel and unique. This is something we have done and we should do. We cannot afford to delay extending these benefits any longer. People are struggling throughout this Nation. It is our responsibility to respond to their needs, to give them a chance, to keep them afloat in a very stormy economic sea.

I urge the immediate passage of these unemployment benefits.

I yield the floor.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from New York is recognized.

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I too rise to support extension in unemployment benefits, and express the profound regret I and so many others, not only in this Chamber but throughout America, are having that our minority colleagues blocked the attempt to move this bill forward this morning.

There are two reasons to do this. One is the individual and the humane, to help the people who need help. Of course, that is first and foremost. But the second is to give a real shot in the arm to the economy. There is no better way when an economy is in recession, going slow, to give it a shot in the arm than unemployment benefits. They are better than tax cuts, better than any long-term spending program. The economists have shown that.

Our colleagues on the other side of the aisle continue to say no to just about everything.

The sad status quo is not very good. Look at the number of jobs this economy has lost this year: 324,000. That is probably 1 million people, given that so many of them are family members and breadwinners; 1 million people who had jobs or had loved ones who had jobs last year and don't have them today. We refuse to give them the barest of lifelines, an extension of unemployment insurance? That is disgraceful.

Let me talk about who these people are because each one is an individual. How about Vincent DiRoma, former senior engineer for Kodak? Not only does he have a wife and three children, he also supports his elderly mother who relies on Social Security to get by. Vincent is currently training for a new career. We all know Kodak has laid off thousands and thousands in the Rochester area, highly qualified people, people with tremendous work ethic who don't want to or can't leave the Rochester area. Vincent is now training for a new career. He is the kind of American we all appreciate. He is not sitting down and cursing the darkness. He is trying to make his situation better. His old job doesn't exist. An extension of his unemployment insurance will allow him time to complete the training and find a new job to support his extended family which, including himself, is six people.

Why are we telling Vincent DiRoma no? Why are we telling the other hundreds of thousands like Vincent no? That is so important. Again, we just block it.

Economists, liberal and conservative, will tell us, when an economy is teetering on the edge of a recession, or, as many of us think, in recession, the best way to get money into that economy is unemployment benefits. The people who get them spend it. A tax cut is often saved. That is not a bad thing, but it doesn't mainline money into the economy the way unemployment benefits do. The money is sent out quickly. There is an existing system so we don't have to set up a whole new program.

In the past, there have been bipartisan moves to extend unemployment insurance when the economy heads south. Only in this new Congress—this ''no, no, no'' Congress, where Republicans block everything almost instinctively, atavistically—do we not get this kind of extension.

Obviously, there is an attempt to put this in the supplemental bill. We will try to do that, but it should pass like that. There should not be a single opponent to Vincent DiRoma and the other 323,999 people and families who have lost their jobs.

For the sake of humanity, those who are unemployed such as Vincent and need the help, and for the sake of our economy, I urge colleagues on the other side of the aisle to reconsider. Again, there is no better way—none—to get the economy moving than an extension of unemployment benefits. It is something we should move to quickly, without partisan wrangling, without ideological preconception. We should just move forward.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Rhode Island.

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Mr. President, after 7 long years of the Bush administration, our country's economy is in the worst condition it has been in decades. In my State of Rhode Island this week, a gallon of gas cost $4.11. Grocery bills are up. Utility bills are up. Affordable housing is scarce. Many homes are in foreclosure. Health care costs remain high. As a blistering hot summer approaches, there seems to be no end in sight. These are difficult times for many families. But for millions of Americans who are looking for a job today, the challenges seem almost insurmountable. Today, Senate Republicans showed yet again that they are more loyal to the failed economic policies of President Bush than to Americans who right now need our help. Majority Leader REID and Senate Democrats pushed for quick passage of legislation to extend unemployment benefits. But Senate Republicans said no, even though last month the national unemployment rate saw its biggest 1-month increase in over 20 years, reaching a 4-year high of 5.5 percent.

In Rhode Island, things were a bit worse. Last month the unemployment rate in our ocean State exceeded 6 percent. That is one of the highest in the country. These men and women are being forced to deal with both the deep disappointment of losing their jobs and the challenge of trying to make ends meet for their families in an economy that is in recession.

One of these people is Brian Perry. Brian lives in East Providence, RI. He wrote me earlier this month to ask about the possibility of extending unemployment benefits. Brian had been a law clerk at a firm in downtown Providence, but he has been unemployed since January 11.

Since January 11, he has applied unsuccessfully for more than 65 jobs. One of those positions had more than 300 applicants. Brian is receiving unemployment insurance, but it is not enough. Because he couldn't afford to pay both his mortgage and his monthly COBRA payments, Brian has been without health insurance since the end of January.

In the United States of America, a working man trying to find a job without health insurance.

He says it has become more and more difficult just to afford groceries, and some nights he goes to bed hungry. He could go to a food pantry, of course, but he has not yet because he thinks there are too many people who are worse off than he is. Brian's unemployment benefits expire at the end of July.

People such as Brian need our help, and they need it now. What are we here for, if not to help our fellow Americans at times such as this? The Emergency Extended Unemployment Compensation Act would help. It would temporarily extend unemployment benefits

13 weeks beyond the ordinary 26-week eligibility period. In States such as Rhode Island, where people have been hardest hit, jobless workers would receive an additional 13 weeks of unemployment compensation. This critical measure was modeled after a bill introduced in January by Senator TED KENNEDY, a true champion of working Americans. It passed the House of Representatives last week with a strong bipartisan vote.

As my colleagues know, unemployment insurance is just that—insurance. Millions of Americans go out pounding the pavement each and every day looking for work to support themselves and their families. They find work, they work hard, and they earn their paychecks. As part of an employee's compensation, employers pay into the unemployment insurance system so that workers will be covered if they lose their jobs through no fault of their own. Unemployment benefits help hard-working men and women in this terrible Bush economy cover bills and living expenses while they search for a new job. The Emergency Extended Unemployment Compensation Act could help over 3 million Americans pay the mortgage or the rent or feed their families, as they continue to navigate a perilous job market. In Rhode Island alone, there are more than 18,000 people in need of a job, and their benefits either already have or will soon run out.

I have heard the argument that people would not be motivated to find work if we extend this benefit; that they need this little spur to get off the couch and out into the workforce. In my experience, this is a ridiculous argument, a demeaning argument, one that is completely disengaged from the day-to-day experience of regular Rhode Islanders, from ordinary Americans, a true beltway special of an argument. This is a hard-working country, and it is in tough economic times. Good people are hurting. We should gather together around this legislation, support them as they try to get back into the workforce, and pass this piece of legislation.

I yield the floor and suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. TESTER. I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. WHITEHOUSE). Without objection, it is so ordered.

PRODUCTION TAX CREDITS

Mr. TESTER. Mr. President, I rise to emphasize the importance of extending the production tax credits for renewable energy in the tax package we are voting on today at 2:15. These tax credits have helped create a strong and growing renewable energy industry, not only for wind power but also for geothermal, biomass, and landfill gas. Wind power, especially in a State such as Montana and across the country, is critically important, but we have a long way to go before renewable sources of energy can have the full impact on lowering energy costs and fighting climate change. That is why these tax credits are so very important.

Last year the United States installed more than 52 hundred megawatts of wind power, enough to power a million and a half households for an entire year. Put another way, if the population—every man, woman, and child in Montana and Wyoming—each had their own house, there would be a million and a half homes.

All that wind power was about a $9 billion investment into the economy. Wind now powers over 4.5 million homes in the United States. At this rate, the United States will overtake Germany as the world's leader in wind power next year, but only if we extend this tax credit. Unfortunately, everything grinds to a halt if the tax credits are not extended.

Congress has let these tax credits lapse before. Each time we have seen growth in the renewable energy industry flatline. This chart shows exactly what happens when we refuse to extend the tax credits. Over the last 9 or 10 years, you can see where the high bars are, where wind energy megawatts have gone on. That is with the tax credits. When we failed to extend tax credits, we see virtually no growth in wind energy.

I know a lot of my colleagues will be voting to extend these credits by year's end, but waiting until the last minute is just as bad as letting them expire. Right now wind developers are working out financing for future projects. They cannot move these projects forward without certainty. That means projects that are starting right now will stall if we don't re-up these tax credits today.

We have heard a lot for the last few months about energy costs and climate change. Renewable energy is attractive because it can help us get a handle on both problems. Wind is getting more and more affordable and more efficient each year, especially as fossil fuel costs go up. The wind power capacity added last year accounted for 30 percent of all new energy brought online. Because of the wind, we are keeping 28 million tons of carbon dioxide out of the air. That is 28 million tons. There is no more efficient way to help fight climate change than by supporting the tax credits that drive renewable energy. It is just common sense.

Last month, the Department of Energy reported that the United States can get 20 percent of its power from wind by the year 2030, but we need to quit talking about wind power and get some more turbines off the ground and into the air. Wind power means real dollars and cents and real jobs and economic development, especially for rural America.

The first commercial wind farm in Montana started operating in 2005 in Wheatland County. Wheatland County has a population of about 2,000 people and a median household income of about $24,000 a year. In 2007, the wind farm paid over half a million dollars in property taxes to State and local governments. That included nearly a quarter of a million dollars to the local school district. It brought in jobs and royalty revenue for landowners.

Wheatland County, as you can tell by the name, is a farming, agricultural county. Folks there have spent the last century cursing the wind. Today, the local Chamber of Commerce calls Wheatland County the Wind Energy Capital of the United States. Next weekend, Wheatland County is putting on its first Festival of the Wind. Their slogan is to ''honor the wind, celebrate our community, and move forward to a vital future.''

With high gas and food prices, wind power is not just a mirage on the horizon. In fact, we have only skimmed the surface of our potential. To put things in perspective, Montana produces about 150 megawatts of wind-generated electricity. Montana is almost exactly the same size as Germany. Germany has about 22,000 megawatts of wind power. The entire United States has only 16,000 megawatts. Montana will double its wind production this year. Next year, we hope to have a new wind energy transmission line between Montana and Alberta, and we will double it again. But we need that production tax credit in place, not only for next year but well into the future.

Already this year, things have started to slow as developers anxiously watch Congress. One wind farm currently under construction is racing the clock to start selling power before year's end. Developers are scrambling to take advantage of the production tax credit. Their plans for several other wind farms are on hold until the production tax credit is passed here.

I cannot overstate the significance of the production tax credit to my State of Montana and throughout rural America for economic development. But our country cannot afford to let it lapse because of climate change and because of high energy costs.

High costs might be an underestimate. I just read yesterday that companies are raising power prices to the tune of 29 percent. That is 29 percent. That means ordinary folks all across this country are going to have to make some very difficult decisions as they sit around their kitchen tables. We cannot afford to sit back and just talk about it. It is time to get to work, and the work starts today by passing this extension, not by waiting until the end of the year.

That is why I appreciate the leadership of Senator BAUCUS on continuing to bring this measure forward. I believe that passing an extension now will send a good signal to business that Congress is serious about wind power.

Congress can invest in renewable energy that will help control energy costs and fight climate change. I urge my colleagues once again to support this measure and to vote yes and pass it today.

Mr. President, I yield the floor and suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. VITTER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. TESTER. Mr. President, are we out of the quorum call?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. We are out of the quorum call.

Mr. TESTER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that our remaining time be yielded back.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Morning business is closed.

RENEWABLE ENERGY AND JOB CREATION ACT OF 2008—MOTION TO PROCEED

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume consideration of the motion to proceed to H.R. 6049, which the clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

Motion to proceed to Calendar No. 767, H.R. 6049, an act to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide incentives for energy production and conservation, to extend certain expiring provisions, to provide individual income tax relief, and for other purposes.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the time until 12:30 p.m. shall be equally divided and controlled by the two leaders or their designees.

The Senator from Louisiana is recognized.

Mr. VITTER. Mr. President, I have townhall meetings all around Louisiana on a very regular basis. At these meetings we discuss a number of crucial issues facing all of us. Lately, of course, it has been dominated by sky-high gasoline prices and the need for a coherent energy policy. But what I hear more than anything else as I reach out to my constituents all around the State, the biggest, most important sentiment I hear is: When are most folks in Congress going to stop playing political games and actually act? When are most folks in Washington going to stop posturing and arguing just toward the next election and take care of the people's business? Unfortunately, I believe this exercise we have going on on the Senate floor is yet another example of the posturing and of the political gamesmanship that feeds that understandable frustration.

We are going to have a vote coming up later today on the Democratic tax extenders bill. This is a pure political exercise and a pure waste of time. Whether you are for it or against it, whether you like most provisions in it or not, one thing is perfectly clear: This Democratic partisan bill is going nowhere. It doesn't have the support in the Senate. In addition to that, there is a veto threat—a very crystal-clear veto threat—from President Bush. That is for substantive reasons. There are significant objections to the bill—I share most of them—with what is included in this package, things such as a huge earmark to build a train in New York, a new tax break for trial lawyers, expansion of the Davis-Bacon Act, and $55 billion of taxes.

The point isn't the substance. Whether you agree with the substance or not, the point is this bill is going nowhere, and therefore to call it up again and again and to posture and to make speeches is just a political exercise and a waste of time. It is perfectly clear from the vote we took last week that this package doesn't have near the 60 votes required in the Senate to pass it through the process.

If that weren't enough, it is perfectly clear that President Bush will veto the bill. Of course, to override a veto doesn't simply take 60 votes, it takes two-thirds of the Senate—67. So it is perfectly clear that it is going nowhere, and here we are again posturing, making political speeches and political points on the floor.

I have a radical idea. Let's come together in a bipartisan way. Let's come around a consensus bill and actually pass it through the process and get it signed by the President. I believe the Grassley bill, which has been introduced in the Senate, is the basis for that sort of bipartisan discussion and real work.

This is particularly important for many of my constituents in Louisiana because many of those Louisianans, as well as folks in Mississippi and elsewhere, have been suffering from a very unfair situation. They are actually paying a tax penalty because of the enormous losses they suffered during Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. What am I talking about? It is this: In 2005, Hurricane Katrina struck the gulf coast with enormous ferocity. A few weeks later, Hurricane Rita struck southwest Louisiana and southeast Texas. Of course, as we all know, many folks suffered enormous and tragic losses. Many folks I know personally lost their entire homes and virtually all of their belongings. Of course, folks in that situation legitimately could take a big loss on their next tax return. As a result, in 2005, people did what you would expect them to do: They filed loss deductions on their tax returns for that year because of these enormous and tragic losses.

Push forward to 2007. The good news is that the American people responded to the enormous tragedy and Congress responded, representing the American people. One of the most important things the American people funded, one of the most important things Congress passed, was help for these folks I am describing who suffered uninsured losses. In Louisiana, it became known as the Road Home Program. In Mississippi, there was a similar program called the Housing Assistance Program—grants, help from the American taxpayers to help cover uninsured losses.

So what is the problem? The problem is that under present Federal law, the IRS says that you have to add that check many of these folks got in 2007 to their income and pay taxes on it because under present Federal law that is taxable income. If it was simply a matter of counteracting, equalizing the tax benefit these same individuals gained by claiming a huge loss deduction in 2005, that would be fair, but it went far beyond that in many cases. It increased many of these individuals to a higher marginal tax rate. Because of the size of the help, it pushed them into a whole other tax bracket. It subjected many taxpayers to the AMT, which they would not have been subjected to otherwise. It phased out certain deductions for them. It even subjected some individuals' Social Security benefits to additional taxation. It made many taxpayers ineligible for Federal student loans. So it didn't simply counteract and equalize the tax benefit some folks got in 2007 by claiming a very large loss deduction; it went beyond that in thousands upon thousands of cases.

So on top of Katrina, on top of Rita, on top of unimaginable—to most of us—personal tragedy, what happened is these folks got a tax penalty. That is ridiculous. We need to fix that. There is a clear sentiment and a clear majority in Congress to fix that. That fix for the Road Home Program in Louisiana and for the Housing Assistance Program in Mississippi is included in this Grassley tax extenders bill, which can be a bipartisan product, which can garner bipartisan support, which can gain far more than 60 votes in the Senate, and which can and would be signed into law by the President.

This is enormously important for tens of thousands of Louisianans. This is enormously important for many folks in Mississippi. These aren't simply run-of-the-mill folks; these are by definition folks who suffered through some of the worst losses due to Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. In that context—as they wait year after year simply for a fix so that they aren't penalized by the tax man on top of everything they suffered through because of the hurricanes—in that context, how dare anyone play political games. How dare anyone posture and make political speeches rather than simply trying to come together and do the people's business. But again, that is what is going on here on the floor.

We have a tax extenders package which has provisions that many folks, including myself, have major objections to: A huge earmark to build a train in New York, a new tax break for trial lawyers, an expansion of the Davis-Bacon Act which would hurt our economy, and $55 billion of tax provisions. I cannot support that Baucus package because of those clearly objectionable items. More importantly, about half of the Senate can't support it for that reason, and therefore the Senate isn't near the 60 votes required to pass that on in the process. Even if it were, as I said before, President Bush has made it crystal-clear that because of these controversial provisions, he would veto the bill. So this package is going nowhere. To revote on this package is to waste time and play political games. I don't know why the majority leader is determined to do that, but he is doing that today. He has even talked about doing it a third time.

I urge the majority leader and all of my colleagues to act for the good of the American people, to come around a consensus package that can be passed and be signed into law, not to simply try to score political points, make more speeches, and waste even more time on the Senate floor.

All of the American people deserve that. But, surely, folks who suffered enormous losses because of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita deserve that even more. Surely, those folks deserve the relief contained in both bills, but also the relief that can actually be passed and signed into law in a bipartisan consensus package.

Let's do the work of the American people. Let's put people before politics, and let's pass this important legislation by moving on to a consensus bill that can gain far more than 60 votes in the Senate and be signed into law by the President.

With that, I yield the floor.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Montana is recognized.

Mr. BAUCUS. Mr. President, before the Senator leaves, I would like to make a simple point. He mentioned various provisions he would like to see enacted. I suppose most of them concern his State of Louisiana, as they appropriately should. Let's ask ourselves, what is the parliamentary position we are in now? It is very clear.

The vote before us, which will be taken soon today, is very simple. It is whether we move to the next step to get on legislation. It is called a motion to proceed. It is true it is a motion to proceed to a House-passed bill. If the Senate lets us proceed—including the Senator from Louisiana—to that bill, then I will offer a substitute and presumably we will be on the substitute. I thought it was not only the prerogative of the Senate, but it is an opportunity for Senators to debate amendments and for Senators to offer amendments—amendments to strike certain provisions or amendments to add certain provisions. That is called legislating. It is debate. Before we can do that, we have to get onto the bill. We cannot pass legislation until we can get on the bill.

So I am asking my good friend from Louisiana if maybe the better alternative—nobody is playing politics. We are trying to get ourselves into a procedural situation so we can debate legislation and pass legislation for the good of the country. I ask my good friend from Louisiana if he might consider voting for the motion to proceed so that we can get on the legislation and so that other Senators can offer amendments to improve the legislation and so the Senate can vote.

Mr. VITTER. If the Senator will yield, I appreciate his comments. I would be open for that path forward if there was assurance from the majority leader that there would be that full opportunity for amendments, particularly on the crucial objectionable items that I outlined. Unfortunately, to date, there has been absolutely no assurance in that regard. In fact, the majority leader, through his actions, has taken the opposite course time after time after time, as the Senator knows, by filling up the tree. So if we could take that path forward, with the assurance to have votes on amendments regarding those clearly objectionable matters, that might be productive. Unfortunately, that hasn't been the assurance the majority leader has offered to give, and it hasn't been his practice.

Mr. BAUCUS. I will ask another question. If we vote for the motion to proceed, with the assurance and understanding that there would be the full opportunity for amendments, but also, I think, in the spirit of comity and good faith—sometimes amendments are blocked because they are not good-faith amendments, such as on abortion and other issues that have nothing to do with the bill. They are political amendments. The Senate has, unfortunately, come to the point where because they offer political amendments, with nothing to do with the issue at hand, the majority leader is sometimes forced into that situation in order to set up a procedure to minimize the possibility of the occurrence of those political amendments. So it is a two-way street. It is my objective—and I would counsel the majority leader to allow amendments. That is the way the Senate should operate.

There has to be a good-faith understanding on the Senator's side of the aisle on good-faith amendments.

Mr. VITTER. I only say to the distinguished Senator, if the majority leader would come to the floor and guarantee amendments on the substance of the bill, on the train to New York and the Davis-Bacon provision and down the line in terms of all those highly objectionable issues I outlined a minute ago, which go to the substance of the bill, I will be all ears. Unfortunately, that has not been his practice on prior issues or in this situation.

Mr. BAUCUS. Maybe we are making headway because the substitute amendment I will offer would not include Davis-Bacon, or may not consider some provisions the Senator is addressing. Again, to go back, there has to be an understanding on the Senator's side of the aisle that the amendments offered would be good-faith amendments and not obstructive political amendments.

I thank the Senator for the dialog. Maybe we have made a little headway so we can get enough support to proceed to the bill.

Mr. President, Samuel Johnson called a second marriage ''the triumph of hope over experience.'' Actually, that is where we are today. The Senate seeks a similar triumph of hope today because we are here again to consider the vote on a motion to proceed to H.R. 6049, the Renewable Energy and Job Creation Act of 2008. This time I hope for a better result. And maybe somewhat, based on the discussion I just had with the Senator from Louisiana, we can find a way so that we can proceed to the bill and pass these very important provisions.

This bill will foster clean, new energy sources. This is a bill to extend some very important tax provisions that benefit American families and businesses. This is a bill on which I hope to offer an amendment to stave off certain tax increases under the alternative minimum tax.

Last Tuesday, we tried to do this same thing—move to this bill—but we fell short of 60 votes. Many of my colleagues on the other side of the aisle were against moving to the bill. That meant we could not even get on the bill; therefore, we could not offer amendments to improve it and pass it to help many Americans and individuals in businesses. Again, that meant we could not even discuss the merits of the bill. That meant we could not consider my substitute amendment, which would have addressed several Senate priorities, including a couple on the other side of the aisle.

This bill contains a robust energy package, with more than $17 billion in incentives for alternative energy, efficiency, and clean coal. This package is important for our environment and our energy security, and it is important to facilitate the transition to a carbon-controlled economy. If we don't get this bill, we cannot do any of that.

This bill would extend expiring individual tax provisions, including the teacher expense deduction and the qualified tuition deduction. The bill would also extend expiring business tax provisions. These include the R&D tax credit and the active finance expensing provisions.

These business provisions help to keep America competitive in a global economy. These business provisions help to maintain and create jobs. If these individual and business provisions are not extended, millions of families and businesses will face tax increases. If we don't pass this bill, many

individuals and businesses will find their taxes going up.

The bill is paid for with two revenue raisers that have very broad support. It is also sound tax policy. The arguments against this bill this week may as well be the same as last week's arguments. Last week, we heard that we should not increase taxes to pay for tax cuts.

As I said before, and will say again, these revenue raisers are not tax increases. The first revenue-raising provision in the bill is the delay of the effective date of the worldwide allocation of interest. This provision would delay application of the interest rule, which was not supposed to go into effect until next year.

Many of the companies that will benefit from this provision told me they would rather have the business extenders than early applications of the worldwide application of interest.

Why? These companies realize that because of the firm position of the House of Representatives, we need to offset extending these valuable tax benefits. To make that point more clear, this body knows the House has been insisting that offsets be utilized to pay for some of these tax reductions that will pass with this bill. That is a political reality, something we all face. That is partly why these offsets are in this bill, including delaying application of worldwide allocation of interest.

These companies have weighed the costs and benefits, and they have made the choice in favor of the tax extenders in the bill. The second revenue-raising provision addresses offshore deferred compensation. This provision would prevent hedge fund managers from deferring income.

This is not an increase in tax on hedge fund managers. Rather, it is a change in the timing of when income tax will be applied. This is a timing issue, not a tax increase. Therefore, I believe it is sound tax policy.

Last week, we heard that we should not need to offset extending current tax benefits. This is a curious argument. It is curious because the Senate paid for extending expiring tax provisions in the recent past.

We paid for extenders in the JOBS Act in 2004, we paid for extenders in the Tax Relief Act of 2005, and we paid for extenders in the military tax relief bill that Congress just passed and presented to the President on June 6. We have done that. So this week the Senate is faced with a choice that, in my opinion, is relatively easy. If we can get to H.R. 6049, if the Senate will vote to get to the bill, we could then take up my substitute amendment.

My substitute amendment contains the provisions that I have talked about, plus a 1-year AMT patch—making sure people don't have to pay the AMT in the next taxable year, and that is without any offsets. So by going to the bill and seeing it through, Congress would take care of a lot of families and a lot of businesses.

We need to decide whether we will develop new jobs and new medications. We need to decide whether we will help teachers, families, and schools. We need to decide whether we are going to make energy independence a priority, or we can continue to allow hedge fund managers to defer, without limitation, their compensation for investing other people's money.

Let's show America we can make the right choice. Let's give American families and businesses reason for hope. Let's not give them the same experience they received last Tuesday. Let's proceed to this important tax relief bill for many American families and businesses.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the quorum calls prior to the recess be charged equally to both sides, and I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

RECESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate stands in recess until 2:15 p.m.

Thereupon, at 12:31 p.m., the Senate recessed until 2:15 p.m. and reassembled when called to order by the Presiding Officer (Mr. CARPER).

Mr. BAUCUS. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

Mr. REID. Mr. President, we have a vote that will occur momentarily. I ask unanimous consent that the Senate Committee on the Judiciary be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate in order to conduct a hearing entitled ''Responding to the Growing Need for Federal Judgeships: The Federal Judgeship Act of 2008.'' It is scheduled for 2:30 this afternoon in the Dirksen Building. The witness list is remarkably good. We have the chairman of the Judiciary Resources Committee, Judicial Conference of the United States; the Director of Homeland Security and Justice from the United States Government Accountability Office, William O. Jenkins. That would be an important hearing to go forward. As of now, we have not had consent from the minority to go forward with this.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I object. I will use a few moments of leader time to explain why.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, we need to get back to first principles around here. The Democratic majority scheduled the hearing my good friend references in a way that would violate the standing rules of the Senate. Rule 26.5 provides:

> Notwithstanding any other provision of the rules, when the Senate is in session, no committee of the Senate or any subcommittee thereof may meet, without special leave, after the conclusion of the first two hours after the meeting of the Senate commenced and in no case after two o'clock . . . unless consent therefor has been obtained from the majority leader and the minority leader . . .

Typically, as we all know, the minority provides consent for committees to violate rule 26.5. The minority routinely provides this consent, frankly, in the interest of comity. But comity also requires the majority to treat the minority fairly which means, at a minimum, that the majority needs to keep its commitments to the minority. If commitments in this body are not kept, then comity breaks down. If that occurs, the minority will not routinely grant consent to those matters that we usually do. In this case, we have unfulfilled commitments with respect to treating circuit court judges fairly. It is the middle of June. The Senate has only confirmed eight circuit court nominees. This is less than half the number the majority leader and I agreed to at the beginning of the Congress. It is barely half the number of circuit court nominees that a Republican Senate confirmed in President Clinton's final Congress. More troubling, the chairman has threatened to soon stop confirming circuit court nominees altogether here in June.

The Republican conference does not consider this lack of progress and thinly veiled threat to be, frankly, in good faith. Not surprisingly, it is, therefore, not inclined to freely give its consent to matters that are important to the majority. That is the way things work around here. As I have said before, the Senate works best when there is a spirit of cooperation. Absent that spirit, the minority will be compelled to protect its rights using all protections afforded it under Senate rules.

There is an easy solution to the problem. We have been talking about it both privately and publicly over the last few months. The majority needs to start confirming circuit court nominees, at least those who meet the chairman's own criteria.

And it seems to me that before the committee spends its time creating new vacancies, which is what the hearing today was about, it needs to work

on filling the vacancies that already exist. Unfortunately, the Judiciary Committee is moving at a glacial pace toward that end. It has only held two circuit court hearings this year. Before that, it hadn't held a single one since last September. We have no indication that it is going to pick up the pace. There are several outstanding nominees who have been sitting in committee who meet the chairman's criteria. Until they are treated fairly, the majority will find our cooperation increasingly hard to come by.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I understand that my distinguished counterpart has a right to do this, an absolute right. I don't question that right. We will just have to schedule the hearing at a different time, if they don't want to have the hearing. I will, though, briefly comment, quoting Majority Leader Lott from years past. When we go home to our respective States, there are a lot of issues. Every State has the same issues: housing problems, high gas prices, doing something about global warming. When is the last time anyone went home and somebody said to you: Boy, are you guys going to do something about those judges? As Senator Lott said: The question never comes up.

Senator LEAHY, chairman of this committee, and I have said before, this Judiciary Committee has wide-ranging jurisdiction over a lot of issues, most of which are extremely difficult to deal with. He does a remarkably good job. I am very proud that he is the chairman of the Judiciary Committee. But he and I said we would do our utmost by the Memorial Day break to confirm three more circuit court judges. I think it was three; I don't remember the number. We did our utmost. Senator LEAHY did his utmost. But it was slow walked by the Republicans on the Judiciary Committee. So we are at a point now where finally we had two circuit court judges reported out of the committee last week. We are going to vote on those as soon as we can. We have fulfilled our commitment, so no one needs to talk about commitments not being fulfilled.

Again, I didn't invent the Thurmond rule. It was invented by long-time Senator Strom Thurmond, at one time chairman of the Judiciary Committee. He said that after June 1, he felt it was appropriate not to rush into appointing more Federal judges. We have not said that the Thurmond rule is in place. But some said we should have it in place. It is well after June 1, and Senator LEAHY and I are still committed to taking care of more circuit court judges. We are going to do that. I am sure there will be opportunities to take a look at some trial court judges. But we are doing our very best.

I admire and appreciate the work of Senator LEAHY.

Mr. LEAHY. Will the Senator yield for a question?

Mr. REID. Yes, I will.

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I ask through the Chair, did the majority leader not hear the distinguished Republican leader say they don't want to give consent to these hearings that the majority may want? I was wondering if the distinguished majority leader was aware of this discussion on May 15 of this year about this judgeship act. First, I quote Senator SESSIONS, a noted Republican:

> My comments on the judges' bill, as a member and Ranking on the Courts Subcommittee, we did have hearings several years ago but not recently.

Then we heard from Senator KYL, the distinguished deputy minority leader:

> So what I would like to do, Mr. Chairman, is just recommend that you take our colleagues up on the suggestion that we have a hearing to validate the requirements.

At which point Senator COBURN, another Republican, said:

> If we're going to fix it, let's fix it right. Let's have a great hearing. Let's bring the GAO in, let's bring the Conference in, and let's find out [how] to do it right.

And then Senator GRASSLEY, another noted Republican said:

> That is the purpose of a hearing, and that's why it is very important that we give this adequate study. I ask the distinguished leader, was he aware of the fact that this hearing was being held after four senior members of the Republican caucus asked me to have the hearing?

Mr. REID. I say to my friend, in response to his question, yes. And the Senator from Vermont followed the advice of his colleagues and had someone from the General Accounting Office testify. I appreciate that.

I ask that we have the vote now. Members have been waiting.

RENEWABLE ENERGY AND JOB CREATION ACT OF 2008—MOTION TO PROCEED—Continued

CLOTURE MOTION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, pursuant to rule XXII, the clerk will report the motion to invoke cloture.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, hereby move to bring to a close debate on the motion to proceed to Calendar No. 767, H.R. 6049, the Renewable Energy and Job Creation Act of 2008.

Harry Reid, Max Baucus, Barbara Boxer, Amy Klobuchar, Benjamin L. Cardin, E. Benjamin Nelson, Maria Cantwell, Patty Murray, Bernard Sanders, Daniel K. Akaka, Robert Menendez, Ron Wyden, Debbie Stabenow, Blanche L. Lincoln, Patrick J. Leahy, Richard Durbin, Sheldon Whitehouse.

Mr. SPECTER. Mr. President, I have sought recognition to discuss my vote against cloture on the motion to proceed to H.R. 6049, the Energy and Job Creation Act of 2008.

H.R. 6049 would revive important tax provisions that expired at the end of 2007 and extend provisions that are set to expire at the end of 2008. I support extension of the R&D tax credit, teacher expenses deduction, tuition deduction, accelerated depreciation for leasehold and restaurant improvements, the renewable energy tax incentives, and many other important provisions in this package.

In addition, the bill includes a provision that I introduced, S. 814, which would allow attorneys to deduct reimbursable court costs and expenses in the same tax period in which they are paid or incurred. I strongly support this provision and have urged Chairman BAUCUS and Ranking Member GRASSLEY to include it in this bill.

While the House bill, H.R. 6049, does not address the alternative minimum tax, AMT, it is my understanding that a Baucus substitute amendment will include a 1-year AMT ''patch,'' without offsets, to prevent millions of additional taxpayers from being hit by the AMT as a result of bracket creep. I support the AMT ''patch'' so long as it is not used as an excuse to raise taxes elsewhere by adding offsets. The AMT revenues on millions of taxpayers were never intended to be collected.

Despite the positive elements of this legislation, there are still significant issues that must be addressed. The main sticking point between Democrats and Republicans is whether temporary extensions of tax relief should be offset with permanent tax increases elsewhere. Following that process year-in and year-out means that permanent tax increases must be enacted so that taxpayers can maintain the current tax structure. On April 23, 2008, I, along with 40 other Republicans, wrote to Finance Chairman BAUCUS to support ''enacting a 2008 AMT patch and extending the various expiring tax provisions without offsetting tax increases.'' It would be my preference to see the tax extenders package passed without offsets.

As it relates to the renewable energy tax incentives, it is difficult to understand why the House bill and the anticipated Baucus substitute would require offsets when the Senate has already spoken clearly on the issue. On April 10, 2008, the Senate voted 88 to 8 for an Ensign/Cantwell amendment to the Foreclosure Prevention Act to extend the renewable energy tax incentives without offsets. Pennsylvania is among the leading producers of wind energy east of the Mississippi River. The thousands of Pennsylvanians employed in the alternative energy industry and those interested in clean, renewable sources of energy for their homes are looking to Congress to provide clarity and certainty on this issue. Without immediate action, it is widely believed that investments will decline significantly throughout the second half of 2008.

On June 10, 2008, the Senate failed to invoke cloture on the motion to proceed to H.R. 6049 by a vote of 50 to 44. That vote, and the vote which occurred

today 52 to 44, demonstrate that Senate Republicans need to be included in the process of drafting the bill. An open amendment process is important for this bill to proceed. Republican amendments must be allowed. However, an open process is threatened by the Majority Leader's standard operating procedure of ''filling the tree'' and filing cloture to cut off further amendments and debate.

On May 21, 2008, the White House issued a Statement of Administration Policy which states that the President's senior advisers would recommend a Presidential veto of this bill in its current form. It is my hope that in light of today's vote, leadership on both sides will work quickly to bring up this bill in a bipartisan manner that will allow the Senate to work its will and pass legislation that can be quickly signed by the President.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. By unanimous consent, the mandatory quorum call has been waived.

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the motion to proceed to H.R. 6049, the Renewable Energy and Job Creation Act of 2008, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from New York (Mrs. CLINTON), the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. KENNEDY), and the Senator from Illinois (Mr. OBAMA) are necessarily absent.

Mr. KYL. The following Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from Arizona (Mr. MCCAIN).

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 52, nays 44, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 150 Leg.]

YEAS—52

Akaka	Durbin	Murray
Baucus	Feingold	Nelson (FL)
Bayh	Feinstein	Nelson (NE)
Biden	Harkin	Pryor
Bingaman	Inouye	Reed
Boxer	Johnson	Rockefeller
Brown	Kerry	Salazar
Byrd	Klobuchar	Sanders
Cantwell	Kohl	Schumer
Cardin	Landrieu	Smith
Carper	Lautenberg	Snowe
Casey	Leahy	Stabenow
Coleman	Levin	Tester
Collins	Lieberman	Webb
Conrad	Lincoln	Whitehouse
Corker	McCaskill	Wyden
Dodd	Menendez	
Dorgan	Mikulski	

NAYS—44

Alexander	Craig	Hutchison
Allard	Crapo	Inhofe
Barrasso	DeMint	Isakson
Bennett	Dole	Kyl
Bond	Domenici	Lugar
Brownback	Ensign	Martinez
Bunning	Enzi	McConnell
Burr	Graham	Murkowski
Chambliss	Grassley	Reid
Coburn	Gregg	Roberts
Cochran	Hagel	Sessions
Cornyn	Hatch	Shelby
Specter	Thune	Warner
Stevens	Vitter	Wicker
Sununu	Voinovich	

NOT VOTING—4

Clinton	McCain
Kennedy	Obama

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 52, the nays are 44. Three-fifths of the Senators duly chosen and sworn not having voted in the affirmative, the motion is rejected.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I enter a motion to reconsider the vote by which cloture was not invoked on the motion to proceed to H.R. 6049.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The motion is entered.

VISIT TO THE SENATE BY JAPANESE PARLIAMENTARIANS

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I have spoken with the Republican leader about this. We have the opportunity to greet some Japanese parliamentarians. Senators INOUYE and STEVENS have worked for many years to develop a relationship with the Japanese parliamentarians and have been extremely successful. I hope Senators in the Chamber will say hello to our colleagues from Japan.

RECESS SUBJECT TO THE CALL OF THE CHAIR

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent that the Senate have a short recess subject to the call of the Chair.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 2:51 p.m., recessed, subject to the call of the Chair, until 2:59 p.m., and reassembled when called to order by the Presiding Officer (Mr. CARPER).

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. LANDRIEU). The Senator from Minnesota is recognized.

BURMA

Ms. KLOBUCHAR. Madam President, yesterday I came to the floor, along with Senators HARKIN, GRASSLEY, and others, to talk about the devastating floods the Midwest has experienced, and no one would know more than the Presiding Officer about the tragedies these types of natural disasters can cause for everyone in those communities and for the infrastructure.

But today I am here to talk about something a little different, about how another country, the country of Burma, has dealt with this. I come to the floor today to call attention to the ongoing humanitarian crisis in Burma more than 6 weeks after the deadly storm that wreaked widespread death and destruction throughout that region.

When Cyclone Nargis struck the Irrawaddy Delta on May 2, the international community's attention was captivated by the catastrophic loss of life and the ensuing dangerous and deplorable conditions faced by 2.4 million Burmese who survived the storm.

In the days immediately following the storm, the United States, the U.N., and other nations and organizations applied strong pressure on Burma's ruling Government to allow all international aid workers to enter disaster areas and provide medical and humanitarian aid to survivors. The 16 women Senators who are united in the Congressional Caucus for Women's Issues on Burma sent a letter to the U.N. Secretary urging him to convince the Burmese Government to allow disaster relief assessment teams into the country and lift restrictions on international humanitarian organizations. When the Burmese Government finally consented and pledged to allow international aid workers to enter the country, I believe many of us hoped the full-scale recovery process had begun and that we could turn our attention elsewhere. Sadly, this was not the case. The situation in Burma remains perilous, and the 2.4 million storm survivors need our attention now more than ever.

I recently met with representatives from the local Burmese community in my State who have been personally impacted by this deadly natural disaster, the most deadly in their country's history. Minnesota is home to thousands of people from Burma, including the largest U.N. concentration of refugees who have been victims of religious and ethnic persecution under Burma's military regime. As with so many immigrant and refugee communities in our Nation, the members of Minnesota's Burmese community maintain extensive ties to their country, and the storm and its aftermath has been a particularly painful period. Too many members of this community are still waiting after 6 weeks to hear from grandparents and cousins and sisters and brothers. They do not know if they are alive.

I met with the leaders of their community in order to listen to the information and reports they were receiving from friends and relatives caught in the middle of an ongoing disaster. The stories I heard were heartbreaking. Over 100,000 people are believed to have lost their lives during and after the storm. Tens of thousands are still missing, and millions are homeless and without adequate food or fresh water. This disaster was nearly of tsunami proportions; however, it affected one small country, which time and time again refused our help.

The local Burmese with whom I met told me how difficult it is to get basic information and stay in contact with their family members in the disaster areas. One woman told me she still has not been able to locate her sisters in Burma. Others expressed their fears that the Burmese regime would never admit the need for outside help or allow the aid that entered the country to reach the areas it was needed the most. They feared that unless the international community remained vigilant and refused to accept the Burmese Government's conditions and control over humanitarian aid, the plight of the people would grow weaker while the regime's grip would grow stronger.

Casualties from the Burma cyclone, as I mentioned, are nearly on the same scale as the Indian Ocean tsunami of 2004. But in that instance, the impacted countries accepted and even

asked for international aid. With the military regime in Burma, they have tried to shut the world out. While the outpouring of donations, relief supplies, and aid personnel from around the world has been substantial, only a fraction of available international aid is reaching the storm's 2.4 million survivors. U.N. officials have reported that aid groups are unable to provide 1.1 million survivors with sufficient food, clean water, and shelter, while trying to prevent a second wave of deaths from malnutrition and disease. Of the 1.3 million people who have received some form of help, the U.N. found they only have had access to inconsistent levels of assistance. Yet the Burmese regime continues to raise bureaucratic obstructions to the help waiting helplessly offshore.

Those international recovery workers who have been allowed to enter the country, and even Burma's own aid donors and relief organizations, are facing roadblocks in accessing the disaster regions to provide aid, leaving hundreds of thousands of survivors to fend for themselves. We have seen news reports that survivors have been forced to drink from dirty canals and to go for days without food. Many are turning to Burmese monks for help due to the Government's inaction—the same monks who faced a brutal military crackdown last fall for their peaceful prodemocracy demonstrations.

According to aid officials, in a normal recovery effort, 6 weeks after a disaster—and you think about 6 weeks after Katrina in your home State of Louisiana, Madam President—survivors should be on the road to recovery and thinking about what they need to do to restart their lives. In Burma, 6 weeks after the storm, many survivors still didn't know how they were going to find food, water, or shelter on a daily basis.

We are now receiving reports that the Government is forcibly closing aid camps and forcing homeless survivors to return to devastated villages. They are being told to rebuild their homes, but they haven't been given the assistance to do so.

The representatives of the Burmese community I met with in Minnesota understand that the cyclone, and its aftermath, is more than a natural disaster, it is a political disaster. It is a disaster made far worse, far more deadly, because of the repressive military regime that controls the country. The Burmese people have been repressed and impoverished by their own Government for years. The regime's lack of response to the cyclone disaster just highlights how bad the human rights situation is. Rather than focusing on ways to help the millions of Burmese struggling to survive, the regime instead used the chaos of the storm's aftermath to quietly extend another year the detention of Aung San Suu Kyi, the leader of Burma's democracy movement, who has been detained at home on and off for 12 of the last 18 years.

What would be an appalling and inexcusable action in any other nation facing similar circumstances comes as little surprise to anyone who has been following the events in Burma over the last few years. But it wasn't always that way. In fact, the current political conditions in Burma are ironic and tragic, especially when we consider that this country produced one of the great statesmen of the modern world—U Thant. As Secretary General of the United Nations from 1961 to 1971, he worked so hard to promote international human rights and to bring peace to troubled regions of the world. In an address to the General Assembly commemorating the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, U Thant said that in the age of jet plane and satellites circling the globe, ''the world is fast becoming a community, a community with common interests and common aspirations. Gone are the days when each nation was an island unto itself. Today, questions of human rights are a matter of international concern.''

Unfortunately, the Government in Burma wants to stay an island unto itself and doesn't think the world should concern itself with the human rights of its people. The military regime's neglect and abuse of its own people challenges our traditional notions of national sovereignty and noninterference. The indifference of Burma's military regime has generated an international debate about humanitarian aid and the need for stronger international law to deal with cases where national governments fail or refuse to provide adequate aid.

In recent years, the international community has come to recognize that a government has a fundamental responsibility to protect its own people and that we have a responsibility to take action with humanitarian intervention when a government fails in that responsibility.

Two weeks ago, U.S. Navy ships loaded with aid supplies and equipment withdrew from Burmese waters after repeated unsuccessful attempts to deliver their vital cargo that could save thousands of lives. U.S. officials have said they will return only when Burma's leaders change their minds and allow them to offload their supplies in Burma's ports. But we cannot simply turn away from the Burmese people and allow the Burmese regime to continue to sacrifice thousands of lives in order to protect its own security. We must use all available means to compel the regime to allow full aid supplies and personnel to enter the disaster areas and to stay there until survivors are ready and able to begin rebuilding their lives.

At the end of the meeting with our local Burmese, I pledged to them that I would take their stories to Washington and do what I can to bring attention to the plight of the people in their country as we use our influence to bring about immediate and long-term constructive change. The rebuilding process in Burma will take years, and it is imperative that in the weeks and the months to come, we don't lose our focus or our commitment or our obligation to assist the Burmese people. So I will continue to work with my colleagues to draw attention to this situation and to continue to provide every available opportunity to call attention to it. This is our moral responsibility.

Madam President, I yield the floor, and I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. BROWN. I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mrs. MCCASKILL). Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. BROWN. I ask unanimous consent to speak as in morning business.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE

Mr. BROWN. Madam President, in the last 16 months, I have held some 100 roundtables across my State where I invited some 65 Ohio counties of the 88. I invited a cross section of people, 15 to 20 people from a community, to sit down and talk about their hopes, dreams, and ideas for working together, the Federal Government with local government, businesses, labor organizations, schools, and others.

I have met with a number of workers and small business owners, community leaders, and teachers. I heard over and over, as the Presiding Officer has, about the economic anxiety facing families in the State. I have done these roundtables from Bryan to Steubenville, from Ashtabula to Hamilton. Nowhere is this anxiety felt more acutely than among displaced workers and Ohio families struggling to make ends meet.

Fundamentally flawed trade agreements and Bush economic policies have crippled communities in too many cases and devastated far too many families. Since January 2001, Ohio State has lost 200,000 manufacturing jobs. Since that time, the Nation has lost 3 million manufacturing jobs. When one loses a manufacturing job, especially if it is a plant shutdown in a relatively small community—this is not happening only in Cleveland and Dayton and Youngstown and Toledo; it is happening in Tiffin, Defiance, Portsmouth, and Chillicothe—if it has 300 workers, it means fewer police officers because of what happens to taxes. There aren't as many people working and businesses and individuals who are paying city income tax or county tax. It means teacher layoffs, police, and fire layoffs. It means services from the community to support families are not what they were prior to the plant closings.

Clearly, a big reason is our trade policy, the NAFTA–CAFTA model, PNTR

with China, which has caused the outsourcing of millions of jobs. It is bad tax policy and Bush economic policy. We obviously need to change direction. That is not going to happen with this President. It is not going to happen with the filibusters going on in the Senate right now. But what we can do something about immediately is to help those Ohio families and Louisiana families with unemployment insurance. It is the only economic lifeline so many families have.

Unemployment compensation is insurance. It is called unemployment insurance. It is not a giveaway. It is not welfare. It is individuals paying in while they are working to an insurance plan. The reason it is called insurance is, if they lose their jobs, it is insurance against the loss of the job. They have earned this money. Yet an awful lot of people, most of my friends on the other side of the aisle as well as the gentleman sitting in the White House, seem to think that unemployment insurance is a giveaway, a welfare program, something that people want to game the system and don't want to work. They want to stay home, watch TV, and collect unemployment insurance.

The fact is, we should reward work. People want to work. But hundreds of thousands of Ohioans and millions all over the country have seen their unemployment expire, and they are asking for an additional 13 weeks to get them through the day. Many of these are single parents. Many people, if they have lost a job, lose their health care, and they need a little bit of help.

Extending unemployment benefits is not only the right thing morally to do for these families, it is also a good economic stimulus package. The Presiding Officer knows that when we were earlier trying to figure out how we could do a stimulus package to get the economy going, the single best way is unemployment insurance extension, because that puts money right into pockets immediately. The mechanism of government is already in place so we extend to them their unemployment which had run out. We already know how to do it. It is people who will spend the money on daily living—on food, clothes, books for their kids, paying the rent, paying heating or cooling bills. That is why it is so important.

I have letters I have received in the last few weeks from people in Ohio, individuals, most of who are unemployed. Sometimes they are writing for a neighbor or family member. Usually they are writing for themselves saying: Please extend unemployment insurance.

It is clear that all of us are getting these letters. Members of Congress in the House and Senate are receiving tens of thousands of letters, so it is crucial. In my State, in the last 7 weeks, we have seen a GM plant, 2,500 workers, is going to close near Dayton. We have seen DHL, a company in southwest Ohio that delivers packages, talking about literally shutting their operation down. That is 7,000 jobs in Wilmington, a community of 13,000 people. Imagine what it does to them. There is a company in Geauga County in the northeast part of the State that announced layoffs of hundreds of workers. Continental Airlines is laying off 3,000 workers, not only in Ohio but mostly in its hubs in Newark, Houston, and Cleveland. That is why this is so very important.

It is not a giveaway. It is unemployment insurance. It will be an effective economic stimulus to get the economy going. It is all about thousands of Ohioans, hundreds of thousands of people across the country, thousands of people in my State saying simply: I am trying to find a job. I am working to find a job. I haven't found a job yet, but I need an extension of my unemployment benefit.

Shawna from Akron wrote to me:

> We are facing losing our house, our car, and much more. I beg you to work for an extension of unemployment benefits.

Patricia and David Troy, a small community north of Dayton, wrote:

> My husband is one of 334,000 unemployed Ohioans.

Brent from West Chester, not far from Cincinnati, wrote:

> We need our benefits to be extended or families won't be able to make it.

Nicole from Huron, a town near Lake Erie in northern Ohio, writes in the most direct terms:

> Please help us.

This is something we can do. It is not going to solve our economic problems, but it will help an awful lot of families. It will, in part, be a stimulus for the economy. There is no reason we should not do it.

I ask my friends on the other side of the aisle to support the extension of unemployment benefits, and I ask the President to change his mind and sign this legislation. It will matter for the country, for States, communities, and especially for families.

I yield the floor and suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mrs. MURRAY. I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mrs. MURRAY. Madam President, over the last 8 years, American families have watched as the price of everything from gas to groceries has gone up and up while the value of the dollar has gone down and down. Last month, they got more bad news. Employers cut jobs for the fifth straight month, bringing the total number of people looking for work to 8.5 million. It was the worst 1-month jump in unemployment in 22 years. That means that more of our workers are losing paychecks, even as they need money to pay for electricity, fuel, and food. It comes on top of the mortgage and credit crisis in which millions of families have watched their primary source of wealth, their homes, plummet in value.

Americans are looking to us for help, and we have to take action immediately. We have a proposal before us that would offer some relief by extending unemployment insurance for an extra 3 months. That would have two benefits. It would ensure that Americans, while they are looking for work, will still be able to put food on the table and fill up their gas tanks, and it will give our economy an immediate boost because that money will be spent quickly. This same measure passed the House overwhelmingly last week, because Members on both sides of the aisle realize that we have to move quickly. I am concerned that now Republicans are more interested in blocking our progress on anything than actually taking meaningful action for the American people. Instead of working with us, Republicans have filled endless hours on the floor with speeches complaining about problems but not offering any solutions. Instead of focusing on the concerns of working families, President Bush threatened to veto this bill, and then he left on a tour of Europe.

The American people are hurting. They have had enough of political games at their expense. I truly hope the President and his Republican allies will join us in supporting this very important measure to extend unemployment insurance.

AMERICAN AEROSPACE JOBS

Mrs. MURRAY. Madam President, I turn now to another example of how the President's priorities are hurting working families, and that is the administration's decision to send 44,000 American aerospace jobs to Europe. Within the next couple days, the Government Accountability Office is going to issue a ruling on a decision regarding a defense contract. It is Boeing's first protest of a defense contract in three decades. Boeing is challenging the Air Force's choice to award a $35 billion contract to supply the military's next generation of aerial refueling tankers to a European company, Airbus. We are all now awaiting the GAO's ruling because it was clear there were some major flaws in that contract.

Ever since the Air Force announced in February that it had awarded the contract to Airbus, the Air Force has insisted there were no mistakes and the Airbus tanker cost less. Yet we have already learned that is not true.

Last week, the Air Force admitted to making a critical error when it calculated the operating cost of the two tankers. It is now acknowledging that the Airbus plane actually cost tens of millions of dollars more.

That isn't news that surprises us, but it is further evidence that we have to get more answers from the Pentagon before we, Congress, allow this contract to become a reality. That is why

I have come to the floor this afternoon. While the GAO decision is important, it won't even come close to addressing all of the questions that have been raised about this contract. That is because the GAO's role in this process is very limited. It can examine whether the Air Force followed the letter of the law in the selection process, but it cannot look at anything beyond that. So even if it is obvious to them that the Airbus tanker costs more, that it is less safe, or it doesn't meet the Air Force's needs, the GAO can't take any action. That is our job. That is Congress's job. We have to get answers to the questions that have been raised about this deal.

This is one of the largest contracts in our history, and it is incredibly important. Our tankers refuel planes and aircraft from every single branch of our military. As long as we control that refueling technology, we control our skies and our security, and that is extremely important to our national security. We have to make sure we are making the best decision for our taxpayers and for our servicemembers. That is Congress's responsibility.

I am especially concerned because when you compare Boeing's 767 with Airbus's A–330, the 767 is clearly a better plane. Compared to the 767, the Airbus tanker is a lot larger, it is less efficient, and it is more expensive to operate. According to the Air Force itself, the A–330—the Airbus tanker—ranked lower than the Boeing 767 in survivability, which is our ability to make sure that our warfighters who are flying those planes are safe. The Airbus tanker ranked much lower than the Boeing plane in keeping our men and women who are flying them safe.

Yet although I have asked the Air Force to explain its decision on this tanker numerous times over the last 3 months, I have been stonewalled again and again on answers. No one has explained why the Air Force would ask for a medium-sized plane and then go out and choose a much larger design which is going to cost billions of dollars more in just fuel and maintenance.

No one has explained why we would buy a plane that is so big that we are going to have to rip out and replace hundreds of runways, ramps, and hangars around the globe in order to land that plane.

No one has explained why we would not buy the safest possible airplane for our servicemembers.

Perhaps most importantly, no one can explain why we are giving a multi-billion-dollar contract to a company that has made no secret of its desire to dismantle our U.S. aerospace industry.

For years, the foreign governments that own Airbus have flooded it with illegal subsidies in order to compete with Boeing. In fact, the A–330 is a result of that subsidized system. The U.S. Trade Representative is so concerned that our Government has accused the EU of unfair trade practices before the World Trade Organization. It makes absolutely no sense to me that we would accuse Europe of illegally subsidizing Airbus and then turn around and award it a $35 billion contract of U.S. taxpayer money. It is especially troubling because the consequences to our national security and our economy will be huge.

A report by the nonpartisan Economic Policy Institute shows that Boeing would create at least twice as many American jobs as Airbus. In other words, we stand to lose as many as 14,000 jobs right here in the United States by sending this contract to Airbus. With those jobs that we lose, we lose the knowledge and we lose the expertise that helped us create our global military strength and has made the United States the world leader in aerospace technology. Yet no one has explained why we would let that slip away.

Not only am I very troubled that I haven't been able to get answers to these questions, but this month the Air Force gave us new reason to be concerned. About 2 weeks ago, the Defense Secretary forced out the Air Force Secretary, Michael Wynne, and its Chief of Staff, Michael Moseley, after finding systemic problems in the service that led him to have a serious lack of confidence in their leadership and in their oversight. Mr. Wynne and General Moseley blessed this Airbus contract. Clearly, we in Congress—those who represent the taxpayers of this country—need to look at this deal more closely.

Congress is entrusted by the American people with the responsibility to look out for our taxpayers and to be a check on this administration or any administration. When it is clear that the administration has gone in the wrong direction, we—Congress—have to step in. Now is one of those times. We owe it to our taxpayers and to our service men and women to make sure we buy the right plane. This contract is too important.

So I am here this afternoon on the floor of the Senate to implore my colleagues to stand with me and continue to demand that the Air Force justify this decision.

I yield the floor, and I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. LAUTENBERG). Without objection, it is so ordered.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to a period for the transaction of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

VERMONT STATE HOUSING AUTHORITY

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I congratulate the Vermont State Housing Authority, VSHA, on 40 years of excellence. This organization, which came into existence with a creative spark as the first statewide housing authority in the country, continues to find new and innovative ways to use Federal housing programs to find affordable homes for Vermonters.

Reaching this milestone should bring great pride to the visionaries that created the system in 1968, including Governor Phil Hoff, and to the 40 years of staff, board members and leaders that have ensured that the statewide mission of VSHA has been carried out on a daily basis.

The VSHA executive director, Richard Williams, has been at the helm of the VSHA for more than half its lifespan, working since 1984 to expand the reach of the organization, develop and maintain properties and move people out of the cold and into their own homes. It takes a man of great conviction to accomplish what he has done, and it takes a great team to deliver on the mission he and the board created. Richard was recently quoted saying, ''We are proud of what we've been able to accomplish for Vermonters over the past 40 years, but the challenges have never been greater. We're inspired and motivated by the knowledge that our services are needed more than ever.''

One of VSHA's primary responsibilities is administering the Department of Housing and Urban Development's, HUD, Section 8 Voucher Program in Vermont. During the past 40 years, the VSHA has worked to increase the number of vouchers available to Vermonters in all corners of the State. This has been increasingly important as the Federal resources for the programs many of our Nation's most vulnerable populations depend upon have been shrinking and poorly prioritized. The number of low- to moderate-income Vermonters seeking affordable housing, including those with disabilities, the elderly and returning veterans, continues to climb. Fortunately for Vermonters, the VSHA is constantly recognized by HUD as one of the Nation's most well run and effective housing authorities—giving hope to those that might have lost hope in virtually every other government system.

Not only has the VSHA worked to assist people in finding affordable apartments, but they have also helped many Vermonters pursue their dreams of homeownership. It gives me great pride to say that VSHA's Homeownership program has given more than 80 low-income Vermont families the opportunity to become homeowners. This dynamic program works to improve self-sufficiency by converting Section 8

vouchers into Homeownership Vouchers. I am happy to say that the VSHA Homeownership program has enabled low-income Vermonters to build equity and wealth while increasing their civic involvement.

While providing housing for Vermonters, the VSHA has simultaneously preserved and revitalized town centers, historical buildings and a general sense of community across the State. They have done this with commendable collaboration with nonprofit organizations, the private sector and various government agencies. I have seen their work, and most importantly, I have seen the tremendous impact their programs have had on my home State and the people who call the Green Mountains their home.

I congratulate the VSHA on their outstanding achievements over the past 40 years. On behalf of the people of Vermont, I applaud everyone who has worked to make the Vermont State Housing Authority a great success.

EMERGENCY EXTENDED UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION ACT

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I rise in support of H.R. 5749, Emergency Extended Unemployment Compensation Act. Earlier this month we were met with troubling news about our economy. We learned that the unemployment rate, one of the strongest indicators of our Nation's economic health, experienced the largest one month increase since 1986, from 5 percent to 5.5 percent.

In real terms, this jump in the unemployment rate means that between April and May, 49,000 more American workers lost their jobs. In 2008, our economy has lost a total of 324,000 jobs.

In my State of California, the unemployment rate is the third highest in the Nation at 6.2 percent. Some areas in California's Central Valley have unemployment rates as high as 10 to 12 percent.

Families in these communities are struggling in this economy, and with Governor Schwarzenegger's recently declared a drought emergency in the Central Valley, farmers there tell me that because of the water shortage, fewer acres will be planted this year, which will mean fewer jobs in this area of the State with already skyrocketing unemployment.

Yet in this time of economic uncertainty, when so many workers can't make ends meet because they have lost their jobs, Senate Republicans today did as they have done so many times this year on issues important to American families and said ''no'' to passing a stand-alone unemployment benefits extension bill.

This bill, passed with strong bipartisan support by the House, could have been sent to the President immediately so that unemployed workers who have exhausted their unemployment benefits can get additional support while they try and find a new job.

Opponents of this bill wrongly suggest that extending benefits for an additional period of time in high unemployment States creates a disincentive for unemployed workers to seek a job. This flawed logic is not only demeaning to hard-working Americans, it also ignores the reality for job seekers pounding the pavement in today's economy.

Unemployed workers are out looking for new jobs, but because of the economic downturn, there are fewer and fewer opportunities to find work. Today there are only 3.7 million existing job opportunities for 8.5 million unemployed workers.

In addition, the long-term unemployment rate is 62 percent higher than it was in January of 2001, when our country was in a recession. This means that more and more unemployed workers are running out of benefits before finding new jobs.

In California, over 50 percent of newly unemployed workers are exhausting their benefits before finding a new job.

Californians are also struggling to deal with rising fuel and food costs, making it even more difficult for the 324,000 Americans who have lost their jobs this year to provide for their families.

We learned today that the national gas price average increased yet again to $4.08, up $1.07 from last year.

Prices for food staples like bread and eggs are up as high as 20 percent from last year.

Food banks and soup kitchens, like the Alameda County Food Bank in California, are seeing demand for food aid grow as much as 40 percent over last year, with the increase in visits a direct result of the high unemployment rate.

Senate Democrats know that we must act now to provide additional relief to workers who have exhausted their benefits and in areas of the country with high unemployment.

This bill would immediately provide up to 13 weeks of extended unemployment benefits in every state to workers who have exhausted the 26 weeks of regular unemployment benefits.

Workers in States with higher levels of unemployment, like California, would be eligible for 26 weeks of extended benefits.

This bill will also provide an additional stimulus to the Nation's economy. Leading economists tell us that for every dollar the Federal Government spends on unemployment benefits, it adds $1.64 to the national gross domestic product.

We know that people out of work use extended unemployment benefits to meet the essential needs of their families, to buy groceries and to pay bills. With the much-needed resources this bill provides, jobless workers will help inject money into the lagging economy.

This bill is a win for struggling families and a win for the Nation's economy, and it is unfortunate that Senate Republicans refused to work with us to consider this important legislation.

SELECT AGENT PROGRAM AND BIOSAFETY IMPROVEMENT ACT

Mr. BURR. Mr. President, I rise today in support of S. 3127, the Select Agent Program and Biosafety Improvement Act of 2008. Last week, I introduced this important legislation with my friend Senator TED KENNEDY. I thank my colleague from Massachusetts for his partnership. I enjoyed working closely with him in the 109th Congress on the Pandemic and All-Hazards Preparedness Act, which was signed into law in December 2006. He continues to be one of the great leaders in the U.S. Senate and I look forward to continuing to work with him to ensure our laws protect the American people from health threats of all kinds.

S. 3127 will enhance our Nation's biosecurity and improve the biosafety of our most secure laboratories. The bill achieves two overarching goals.

First, it reauthorizes and improves the Select Agent Program. This program was created in the 1990s to control the transfer of certain dangerous biological agents and toxins that could be used for bioterrorism. The program expanded after the anthrax attacks in 2001; however, the authorization expired at the end of September 2007.

Second, the bill evaluates and enhances the safety and oversight of high containment laboratories. These laboratories are used by scientists to study select agents and other infectious materials. Labs are categorized by their safety level. There are four levels, termed Biosafety Level, BSL, 1 through 4, with 4 being the highest level. The number of these labs has grown, both domestically and internationally, in the last several years. Recent incidents in which laboratory workers were exposed to disease agents have highlighted the need to evaluate ways to improve the safety of these labs.

The Select Agent Program is jointly administered by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services', HHS, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, CDC, and the U.S. Department of Agriculture's, USDA, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, APHIS. The program was intended to prevent terrorism, and protect public and animal health and safety, while not hampering legitimate research. This is an obvious struggle that requires careful consideration, particularly when science is rapidly advancing around the globe.

Under the USA PATRIOT Act, it is illegal to possess ''select agents'' for reasons other than legitimate research. The Public Health Security and Bioterrorism Preparedness and Response Act of 2002 further required laboratories and laboratory personnel to undergo background checks by the FBI prior to approval for possession of select

agents. As of April 2008, there are 72 select agents, meaning the agents pose a severe threat to public or animal health and safety. Thirteen of these agents are found naturally in the United States. There are 325 entities and 9,918 individuals registered with the CDC to work with select agents and toxins, and 75 entities and 4,336 individuals registered with APHIS.

We take four key actions in S. 3127 to strengthen the Select Agent Program.

First, our legislation reauthorizes the program through 2013 and calls for a comprehensive evaluation of the program. The review, to be conducted by the National Academy of Sciences, will look at the effects of the program on international scientific collaboration and domestic scientific advances. Historically, the United States has been an international leader in biosecurity. In fact, Canada recently proposed legislation to tighten safety and access to pathogens and toxins of concern for bioterrorism. Canada's new legislation, released in April 2008, would establish a mandatory licensing system to track human pathogens, similar to our Select Agent Program. It also ensures compliance with the country's Laboratory Biosafety Guidelines across the country.

Second, the bill ensures a comprehensive list of select agents. Currently, CDC and APHIS develop a list of agents and toxins to which the program regulations apply. However, we believe some additional factors should be considered in revising the list. For example, scientific developments now make it possible to create agents from scratch or to modify them and make them more deadly. Highly infectious viruses or bacteria that are otherwise difficult to obtain can now be created by scientists using ''synthetic genomics''. In addition, we now have more information from the Department of Homeland Security, DHS, about the threat posed by certain bioterrorism agents.

In 2002, U.S. researchers assembled the first synthetic virus using the genome sequence for polio. Later, in 2005 scientists reconstructed the 1918 pandemic influenza virus. Then in January 2008, a ''safe'' form of Ebola was created synthetically. While this ''safe'' Ebola can be used for legitimate research to develop drugs and vaccines to protect against it, a scientist could also change it back to its lethal form. Also, earlier this year, advancements in technology yielded the first synthetic bacterial genome.

We must consider these scientific advances, including genetically modified organisms and agents created synthetically, if we are to address all agents of concern. In addition, DHS's recent biological risk assessments provide new information for our assessment of biological threats. This information should also be considered when determining which agents and toxins should be regulated.

Next, the bill encourages sharing information with State officials to enable more effective emergency State planning. State health officials are currently not made aware of which agents are being studied within their State. This leaves medical responders, public health personnel, and animal health officials unprepared for a potential release, whether accidental or intentional.

Lastly, S. 3127 clarifies the statutory definition of smallpox. The Intelligence and Terrorism Prevention Act of 2004 criminalized the use of variola virus, the agent that causes smallpox. The statutory definition of the virus includes agents that are 85 percent identical to the causative strain. Researchers are worried this could be interpreted to also include the strain used to develop the smallpox vaccine, as well as less harmful naturally occurring viruses. This sort of ambiguity could be detrimental to necessary medical countermeasure research and development. Our bill requires the Attorney General to issue guidance clarifying the interpretation of this definition.

In addition, in this legislation we take three key actions to evaluate and enhance the safety and oversight of high containment laboratories.

First, our bill evaluates existing oversight of BSL 3 and 4, or high containment, labs. The bill requires an assessment of whether current guidance on infrastructure, commissioning, operation, and maintenance of these labs is adequate. As I mentioned, the number of these labs is increasing around the globe. As these new facilities age, we need to make sure they are appropriately maintained. It is essential that laboratory workers and the public know these facilities are as safe as possible. If the guidance we currently have in place is not adequate, then we need to know how to improve it.

Second, the bill improves training for laboratory workers. As the number of laboratories and personnel increases, we must ensure workers are appropriately trained and lab accidents to not increase. Accidents and injuries in the lab, such as chemical burns and flask explosions, may result from improper use of equipment. Our bill develops a set of minimum standards for training laboratory personnel in biosafety and biosecurity, and encourages HHS and USDA to disseminate these training standards for voluntary use in other countries.

Finally, the bill establishes a voluntary Biological Laboratory Incident Reporting System. This system will encourage personnel to report biosafety and biosecurity incidents of concern and thereby allow us to learn from one another. Similar to the Aviation Safety Reporting System, which gathers information on aviation accidents, this system will help identify trends in biosafety and biosecurity incidents of concern and develop new protocols for safety and security improvements. Lab exposures to pathogens not on the select agent list will also be captured through this type of voluntary reporting system.

In closing, I encourage my Senate colleagues to join Senator KENNEDY and me as we work to improve our Nation's biosecurity and biosafety systems by passing S. 3127, the Select Agent and Biosafety Improvement Act of 2008. I thank the many researchers, scientists, and State health officials from across the country who shared with me and my staff their ideas, experiences, and recommendations. In this time of exciting scientific advances, we must ensure our laws and prevention programs are updated to reflect current conditions. In addition, we must remain vigilant in our efforts to protect the American people from bioterrorism. The Select Agent Program is an important part of ensuring the Nation's safety and security and I look forward to working with my colleagues to reauthorize and improve the program.

HEALTH CARE

Mr. LAUTENBERG. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD a letter dated May 15, 2008, to Majority Leader REID, Speaker PELOSI, Minority Leader MCCONNELL and Minority Leader BOEHNER.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

MAY 15, 2008.

Hon. HARRY REID,
U.S. Senate,
Washington, DC.
Hon. NANCY PELOSI,
House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.
Hon. MITCH MCCONNELL,
U.S. Senate,
Washington, DC.
Hon. JOHN BOEHNER,
House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MAJORITY LEADER REID, SPEAKER PELOSI, MINORITY LEADER MCCONNELL AND MINORITY LEADER BOEHNER: As representatives of non-partisan organizations committed to improving health care for all children, we are writing to share our deep concern regarding the impact of the directive to states that was issued by the HHS Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) on August 17, 2007. In particular, we are concerned that scores of children who are currently enrolled in the State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP) will lose coverage as a result of this policy change. Unfortunately, the letter CMS sent to states on May 7, 2008, which seeks to clarify the directive's requirements, does not change the policy outlined in the August 17 directive and, sadly, does nothing to mitigate its impact. States still must overcome serious hurdles before they can provide SCHIP coverage to uninsured children in working families and children—even those who lose a parent or whose parents become unemployed—will be subject to a one-year waiting period before they will be eligible for coverage under SCHIP. We urge Congress to enact legislation that would impose a moratorium on the implementation of this directive.

As organizations committed to ensuring that all of our nation's children have access to affordable health care coverage, we strongly believe that no child in America

who is currently covered under SCHIP or Medicaid should lose their health coverage or access to care as a result of this administrative directive. We share your commitment to ensuring that federal health coverage programs make our nation's lowest income children the foremost priority, however, the CMS directive runs directly contrary to our common goal of covering America's poorest children first. The August 17 directive already is jeopardizing access to health care for low-income children in at least 23 states. Moreover, recent reports by the Government Accountability Office (GAO) and the Congressional Research Service (CRS) affirm that the directive goes beyond what is permissible under current law. Unfortunately, CMS' May 7, 2008 letter to states did not address these serious concerns. In light of the directive's impact on state efforts to provide coverage for uninsured children and the recent GAO and CRS findings, we urge the House and Senate to take immediate action to halt the implementation of the August 17 directive and restore states' ability to determine how best to cover their children.

With more than nine million American children lacking any form of health insurance and nearly two-thirds of that number already eligible for Medicaid or SCHIP, we must do all we can to reduce coverage barriers, not add additional ones. This directive already is having a chilling effect on states, stalling efforts in several states that were poised to enact policy changes to improve coverage of uninsured children. Halting the implementation of this directive is essential if we are to tackle the coverage crisis facing our nation's most vulnerable children. No child in America should lose their health coverage as a result of philosophical differences in Washington, D.C. Our nation must do better for our children.

We know you agree that our children are our nation's most precious resource and that investments in health care for kids reap benefits that last a lifetime. We welcome the opportunity to discuss these issues with you and to work with you to be sure that all of our nation's children have access to the health care services and coverage they need.

Sincerely,

First Focus; American Association of School Administrators; LEAnet; National Association of Community Health Centers; PICO National Network; The 2010 Cover All Kids Initiative; AARP; Action for Children North Carolina; Alliance for Excellent Education; American Academy of HIV Medicine; American Academy of Nursing; American Academy of Pediatrics; American Academy of Pediatrics, Pennsylvania Chapter; American Academy of Pediatrics Utah; and American Association of People with Disabilities.

American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists; American Dental Education Association; American Humane Association; American Medical Women's Association; American Music Therapy Association; American Network of Community Options and Resources, ANCOR; American Nurses Association; American Psychiatric Association; American Public Health Association; Anchorage School District, AK; Anchorage's Promise, AK; Association for Community Affiliated Plans; Association of Clinicians for the Underserved, ACU; Association of Women's Health, Obstetric & Neonatal Nurses, AWHONN; and Autism Society of America.

Bayonne Jewish Community Center, NJ; Bayonne YMCA, NJ; Bazelon Center for Mental Health Law; Bedford Youth & Family Services, MA; The Black Children's Institute of Tennessee; California State Association of Counties; Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Newark; Catholic Charities USA; Catholic Healthcare West; Center for Public Policy Priorities, TX; Center for Medicare Advocacy, Inc.; Child and Adolescent Health Measurement Initiative; Child and Family Policy Center, Des Moines, IA; Children and Adults with Attention Deficit/Hyper Activity Disorder; and Child Welfare League of America.

Children First for Oregon; Children Now, Sacramento/Oakland, CA; Children's Aid Society; Children's Dental Health Project; The Children's Health Fund; The Children's Partnership; Clinical Social Work Association; Colorado Children's Campaign, Denver, CO; Colorado Community Health Network; Colorado Organization on Adolescent Pregnancy, Parenting, and Prevention; Community Action Partnership; Community Health Care Association of New York State; Connecticut Association for Human Services; Connecticut Legal Services, Inc.; and Consumer Health Coalition.

Corona-Norco United Way, CA; County Commissioners' Association of Ohio; County Commissioners Association of Pennsylvania; County Welfare Directors Association of California; Cystic Fibrosis Foundation; DePelchin Children's Center, Houston, TX; Disability Rights Education and Defense Fund; Easter Seals; Educational Arts Team; Families USA; Family Voices; Family Voices-NJ; FAMIS Outreach Project, Radford, VA; FRESC: Good Jobs Strong Communities; and Greater Hartford Legal Aid, Inc., CT.

Healthy York Network, York, PA; Health Care For All Massachusetts; HIV Medicine Association; Hudson Perinatal Consortium, Inc., Jersey City, NJ; Immunization Action Coalition; Indiana Primary Health Care Association; Intermoutain Pediatric Society; Iowa/Nebraska Primary Care Association; Jersey City Library Literacy Program; Legal Assistance Resource Center of CT; Legislative Coalition for People with Disabilities (Utah); Maine Children's Alliance; Maryland Women's Coalition for Health Care Reform; Maternal and Child Health Access, Los Angeles, CA; and Maternity Care Coalition, Philadelphia, PA.

Mental Health America; Medicaid Health Plans of America; Mental Health/Mental Retardation Program Administrators of Pennsylvania; Methodist Healthcare Ministries, San Antonio, TX; Miami-Dade County; Michigan County Social Services Association; Michigan's Children; Montview Boulevard Presbyterian Church Health Care Task Force, Denver, CO; Mountain Youth Resources; National Association for the Education of Young Children; National Association of Children's Hospitals; National Association of Counties; National Association of County Behavioral Health and Developmental Disability Directors; National Association of County Human Services Administrators; and National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners.

National Association of School Psychologists; National Association of Social Workers; National Association of State Directors of Special Education; National Council for Community Behavioral Healthcare; National Council of Jewish Women; National Council of Urban Indian Health; National Down Syndrome Congress; National Federation of Families for Children's Mental Health; National Health Law Program, NHeLP; National Hispanic Health Foundation; National Hispanic Medical Association; National Partnership for Women & Families; National Women's Law Center; New Haven Legal Assistance Association; and New Mexico Alliance for School-Based Health Care.

New Mexico Voices for Children; NH Healthy Kids Corp; Organization of Chinese Americans, OCA; Ohio Child Support Enforcement Agency Directors' Association; Ohio Job and Family Services Directors' Association; OPTIONS for Independence; Oregon Action; Pennsylvania Association of County Human Services Administrators; Pennsylvania Partnerships for Children; Prevent Blindness America; Public Children Services Association of Ohio; Public Health-Seattle & King County, WA; Rhode Island KIDS COUNT; Rural Health Association of Tennessee; and Salt Lake County Mayor.

Salt Lake Community Action Program; Sargent Shriver National Center on Poverty Law; SC Appleseed Legal Justice Center, Columbia, SC; Service Employees International Union; Southeastern Network of Youth and Family Services, Bonita Springs, FL; Statewide Parent Advocacy Network of New Jersey; Tennessee Commission on Children and Youth; Tennessee Health Care Campaign; Tennessee Justice Center; Tennessee Primary Care Association; Texas Association of Public and Nonprofit Hospitals; Texas Network of Youth Services; The Arc of the United States; The Arc of Utah; and TII CANN—Title II Community AIDS National Network.

United Cerebral Palsy; United Neighborhood Health Services, Inc.; United Spinal Association; United Way of America; United Ways of California; United Way of Greater High Point; United Way of Hudson County; United Ways of Louisiana; United Way of Pennsylvania; United Ways of Texas; Utah Covering Kids & Families Coalition; Visiting Homemaker Services of Hudson County; Voices for America's Children; Voices for Children, NE; Voices for Ohio's Children; Voices for Utah Children; Washington Health Foundation; and Washington Physicians for Social Responsibility.

MACKINAC ISLAND STATE PARK

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, I am pleased that the Senate is acting on the House Concurrent Resolution, H. Con. Res. 325, which was introduced by Congressman STUPAK and recognizes the celebration of the 50th anniversary of the Mackinac Island State Park Commission's Historical Preservation and Museum Program. This anniversary, which will take place on June 15, 2008, honors the work of the Commission to protect, preserve, and communicate the rich history and natural wonders of Mackinac Island.

Located in the heart of the Great Lakes, between Michigan's Upper and Lower Peninsulas, Mackinac Island is an important part of this Nation's history. In colonial years, the island provided strategic fur-trading posts for French, British, and American settlements. During the Civil War, Britain's Fort Mackinac was established on this island and the fort was also used during the War of 1812. In 1817, the village of Mackinac was incorporated and served as the seat for the territorial county of Michilimackinac, which covered much of what is now Michigan. It also functioned as the seat of Mackinac County from 1849 through 1882. The island was considered a sacred place to Native Americans and functioned as a tribal gathering place and burial site. Today, the island is a popular tourism destination where people can relax, enjoy nature, and learn about history.

Since its inception in 1895, the Mackinac Island State Park Commission has been actively engaged in a variety of

restoration activities and has worked to interpret and communicate the multiple stories of this important island to millions of visitors. The Commission has participated in a number of initiatives, including archeological excavation, lighthouse restoration, and exhibit installation, to protect and manage the historic resources of the park.

The U.S. Congress recognized the significance of Mackinac when it established the Mackinac Island National Park in 1875, making it the Nation's second National Park after Yellowstone. In 1895, park ownership was transferred to the State of Michigan, creating Michigan's first State park. In 1958, the Mackinac Island State Park Commission established the Historical Preservation and Museum Program. This program has served as the primary caretaker and purveyor of the Island's considerable tale. I am pleased to extend my warmest congratulations to those individuals involved with this program who have painstakingly restored and preserved Mackinac Island for future generations.

TRIBUTE TO JOHN ENGBER

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize John Engber for his 11 years of service to the U.S. Senate and the people of Washington State. John served as my State Director during this time, and he was a critical part of my staff. On June 1, he ended his tenure in my office. We were sad to see him go, but we wish him all the best in his next endeavor.

John was a thoughtful and dedicated public servant. As my State Director, he helped ensure that even though Washington State residents are 2,500 miles from DC, their needs are up-front and center. Overseeing my State operations, he was responsible for listening to the people in our communities and for connecting them to the Senate and the Federal Government. And thanks to his hard work, residents of towns from Forks to Clarkston have access to me and my office.

One of John's greatest accomplishments during his time with my office was his help in drafting the recently enacted Wild Sky Wilderness law. John worked closely with local leaders, the environmental community, outdoor enthusiasts, and others to create a wilderness proposal built on community consensus. We faced some tremendous obstacles over the 9 years that we worked on the bill, but John helped us all remain dedicated to the goal of preserving Wild Sky for future generations.

Finally, I would like to thank John for his years of service to me and the people of Washington State. His leadership and his dedication are truly appreciated, and I know that he will always have Washington State's interests at heart. I wish him happiness and success as he moves on to the next phase of his career.

11TH ANNUAL CONGRESSIONAL HEALTH SCREENINGS

Mr. CRAPO. Mr. President, I would like to bring to the Chamber's attention the 11th Annual Congressional Health Screenings and I would like to commend my colleague, Senator SHELBY, for his leadership at this event. The Congressional Health Screenings occur each year during National Men's Health Week the week prior to Father's Day. I encourage all of my colleagues and their staffs to participate in these screenings. As U.S. Senators, we must set an example and not only encourage healthy habits but practice them as well. This year's program offers a number of convenient screenings, including prostate specific antigen, PSA, cholesterol, glucose, blood pressure, and body fat tests, as well as health education materials. The purpose of this event is to increase our awareness of health issues and to help develop comprehensive strategies to improve our health and that of our families.

The state of men's health has become a national crisis. Because of poor health habits, lack of health insurance, failure to seek timely medical attention, and dangerous occupations, men are afflicted with more maladies and die younger than women. Today, men are living approximately 5 fewer years than that of their female counterparts and are dying at higher rates for 9 out of the Nation's top 10 causes of death. This includes death from cancer, diabetes, suicide, accidents, and diseases of the heart, kidney, and liver. When speaking about cancer, it is important to note that one in two men in his lifetime will be diagnosed with cancer and one in six will be diagnosed with prostate cancer.

The Men's Health Network, along with Women Against Prostate Cancer, use National Men's Health Week to emphasize the fact that prostate health issues and prostate cancer is not merely a ''man's disease.'' Each year thousands of wives, daughters, sisters, and friends are impacted—often in devastating ways—by the loss and/or suffering of a man from prostate health issues. Early and regular screenings significantly increase the chance of early detection and successful treatment.

I am pleased to report that we are steadily making progress. Last year during September's Prostate Awareness Month, Men's Health Network and the Washington Redskins held a prostate screening at FedEx Field in Landover, MD. Over 300 people gathered to help their fathers, grandfathers, sons, uncles, and friends move one step closer toward a happier, healthier future. Five of the gentlemen screened had potentially dangerous PSA readings.

There is no better time than now to become more proactive with regard to men's health. Women are 100-percent more likely than men to regularly visit their doctors for annual examinations and to seek out preventative services. Half of the Nation's elderly widows living in poverty did not face economic hardships before the deaths of their husbands. Men between the ages of 45 and 54 are three times more likely to die of heart attacks, 1.5 times more likely to die from heart disease, and 1.5 times more likely to die from cancer than women.

Half of the estimated 54,000 men diagnosed this year with colon cancer will die from it. Over 185,000 men are expected to develop prostate cancer in 2008—almost 15 percent of these cases are expected to be terminal. Preventive measures, such as prostate specific antigen exams, blood pressure and cholesterol screens, and routine self-testing exams for these and other types of cancers that target men can lead to invaluable early detection that will increase the survival rates for such cancers by almost 100 percent.

In addition, I must reiterate the need for an Office of Men's Health in the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services to tackle many of these aforementioned issues. Last year, I introduced S. 640, the Men's Health Act, which would establish such an office. The Office on Women's Health in the department does a fantastic job of saving the lives of thousands of women and improving the lives of many more. Similarly, an Office of Men's Health would provide a support network that would reach out to all men on issues related to men's health.

In closing, I thank the Men's Health Network for hosting the 11th Annual Congressional Health Screenings. I hope that my colleagues and their staffs will take this unique opportunity to not only better their own health, but to encourage the people around them to do the same.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO MONROE ROTARY CLUB

• Mr. VITTER. Mr. President, I wish to honor the Monroe Rotary Club, which is celebrating its 90th anniversary this month, and I would like to take a few moments to publicly recognize their great history.

The Rotary Club of Monroe was founded on April 29, 1918, with a membership of 31; however, they did not receive their charter until June of 1918. The stated purpose of the organization is to bring together business and professional leaders to provide humanitarian service, encourage high ethical standards in all vocations, and help build goodwill and peace in the world. In order to carry out its service programs, Rotary is structured in club, district, and international levels.

In furtherance of the goals of Rotary, the Rotary Club of Monroe has sponsored many local projects including, scholarships at the University of Louisiana at Monroe, Goodfellows, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, Monroe Youth

Baseball, The Food Bank of Northeast Louisiana, Camp Quality, The Salvation Army, and Girl's and Boy's State, to name a few. In addition they also sponsor Interact Clubs at Neville High School and River Oaks High School and sponsor two students each year to attend District 6190's Camp RYLA—Rotary Youth Leadership Award, a program for young people intended to develop qualities of leadership, good citizenship, and personal development.

Each year the members of the Rotary Club of Monroe also open their homes to members of the Rotary Foundation's Group Study Exchange program. They have proudly participated in this program for many years hosting teams from India, France, Norway, England, Brazil, Australia, Scotland, Belgium, Japan, Austria and several other countries. Additionally many of their members have traveled abroad as a part of the Friendship Exchange, where Rotarians seek opportunities to visit other districts throughout the world.

Today, I applaud the Rotary Club of Monroe on their 90th anniversary and thank them for their continued service to the state of Louisiana and the rest of the world.●

NOTIFICATION OF THE DESIGNATION OF SHARA L. ARANOFF AS CHAIRMAN AND DANIEL PEARSON AS VICE CHAIRMAN OF THE UNITED STATES INTERNATIONAL TRADE COMMISSION, EFFECTIVE JUNE 17, 2008—PM 52

The PRESIDING OFFICER laid before the Senate the following message from the President of the United States, together with an accompanying report; which was referred to the Committee on Finance:

To the Congress of the United States:

Consistent with the provisions of 19 U.S.C. 1330(c)(1), this is to notify the Congress that I have designated Shara L. Aranoff as Chairman and Daniel Pearson as Vice Chairman of the United States International Trade Commission, effective June 17, 2008.

GEORGE W. BUSH.

THE WHITE HOUSE, *June 17, 2008*.

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

The President pro tempore (Mr. BYRD) announced that on today, June 17, 2008, he had signed the following enrolled bills, which were previously signed by the Speaker of the House:

S. 1245. An act to reform mutual aid agreements for the National Capital Region.

S. 2516. An act to assist members of the Armed Forces in obtaining United States citizenship, and for other purposes.

H.R. 3179. An act to amend title 40, United States Code, to authorize the use of Federal supply schedules for the acquisition of law enforcement, security, and certain other related items by State and local governments.

H.R. 3913. An act to amend the International Center Act to authorize the lease or sublease of certain property described in such Act to an entity other than a foreign government or international organization if certain conditions are met.

ENROLLED BILLS PRESENTED

The Secretary of the Senate reported that on today, June 17, 2008, she had presented to the President of the United States the following enrolled bills:

S. 1245. An act to reform mutual aid agreements for the National Capital Region.

S. 2516. An act to assist members of the Armed Forces in obtaining United States citizenship, and for other purposes.

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and were referred as indicated:

EC–6617. A communication from the Acting Assistant Director, Directives and Regulations Branch, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Clarifying Prohibitions for Failure to Maintain Control of Fires That Damage National Forest System Lands'' (RIN0596–AC30) received on June 17 , 2008; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC–6618. A communication from the General Counsel, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Civil Procedures'' (RIN0648–AS54) received on June 16, 2008; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–6619. A communication from the Assistant Secretary of the Army (Civil Works), transmitting, pursuant to law, the final report for the Illinois River Basin Restoration Comprehensive Plan; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–6620. A communication from the Chairman, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to new types of information that have been designated to be protected as ''Safeguards Information''; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–6621. A communication from the Chairman, U.S. International Trade Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled, ''Textiles and Apparel: Effects of Special Rules for Haiti on Trade Markets and Industries''; to the Committee on Finance.

EC–6622. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Office of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law , a report by the U.S. Global AIDS Coordinator on the Involvement of Faith-Based Organizations in the Global Fund to Fight AIDS; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC–6623. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Office of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law , a semi-annual report relative to the compliance of several countries with the freedom of emigration provisions of the 1974 Trade Act; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC–6624. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Office of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law , a report relative to the U.S. military personnel and civilian contractors involved in the anti-narcotics campaign in Colombia; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC–6625. A communication from the Deputy Secretary of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Office of Inspector General's Semiannual Report for the period of October 1, 2007, through March 31, 2008; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–6626. A communication from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 17–403 , ''Omnibus Domestic Partnership Equality Amendment Act of 2008'' received on June 13, 2008; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–6627. A communication from the Staff Director, U.S. Commission on Civil Rights, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the Commission's recent appointment of members to the Wyoming Advisory Committee; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC–6628. A communication from the Staff Director, U.S. Commission on Civil Rights, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the Commission's recent appointment of members to the Kentucky Advisory Committee; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC–6629. A communication from the Staff Director, U.S. Commission on Civil Rights, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the Commission's recent appointment of members to the Florida Advisory Committee; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

PETITIONS AND MEMORIALS

The following petitions and memorials were laid before the Senate and were referred or ordered to lie on the table as indicated:

POM–370. A resolution adopted by the North Carolina State Council of the Junior Order United American Mechanics expressing its support of the men and women of the Armed Forces; to the Committee on Armed Services.

POM–371. A resolution adopted by the Council of the Village of Elida, Ohio, expressing its opposition to H.R. 3359; to the Committee on Finance.

POM–372. A resolution adopted by the Commission of the City of Miami, Florida, urging Congress to grant temporary protective status to Haitians in the United States; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

POM–373. A resolution adopted by the North Carolina State Council of the Junior Order United American Mechanics expressing its support for the establishment of the English language as the official language of the United States; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

POM–374. A resolution adopted by the North Carolina State Council of the Junior Order United American Mechanics urging Congress to resolve the immigration issues; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

POM–375. A concurrent resolution adopted by the House of Representatives of the State of Louisiana urging Congress to enact legislation limiting increases in health insurance premiums and other costs; to the Committee on Armed Services.

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 123

Whereas, H.R. 579, the Military Retirees Health Protection Act, and S. 604, the Military Health Care Protection Act, have been pending in the United States Congress since February of 2007; and

Whereas, S. 604 would bar the TRICARE Prime enrollment fee and TRICARE pharmacy copayments from being increased in any year by a percentage that exceeds the percentage increase in military retiree pay; and

Whereas, S. 604 also would bar any enrollment fee or any increase in the TRICARE Standard or any increase in the TRICARE Standard inpatient copayments and would bar TRICARE Reserve Select premiums from being increased by a percentage that exceeds the most recent basic pay increases; and

Whereas, H.R. 579 contains similar provisions to limit certain increases in health insurance premiums, deductibles, copayments, and other charges of military retirees for their military health benefits; and

Whereas, career members in the uniformed services and their families endure unique and extraordinary demands and make extraordinary sacrifices over the course of twenty- to thirty-year careers in protecting freedom for all Americans; and

Whereas, the demands and sacrifices are such that few Americans are willing to bear or accept them for a multiyear career; and

Whereas, a primary benefit of enduring the extraordinary sacrifices inherent in a military career is a range of extraordinary retirement benefits that a grateful Nation provides for those who choose to subordinate much of their personal life for the national interest for so many years; and

Whereas, many private sector firms are curtailing health benefits and shifting significantly higher costs to their employees, and one effect of such curtailment is that retired members of the uniformed services are turning to health care services from the Department of Defense and its TRICARE program for the health care benefits in retirement that they earned by their service in uniform; and

Whereas, while the Department of Defense has made some efforts to contain increases in the cost of the TRICARE program, a large part of these efforts has been devoted to shifting a larger share of the costs of benefits under that program to retired members of the uniformed services; and

Whereas, the cumulative increase in enrollment fees, deductibles, and copayments being proposed by the Department of Defense for health care benefits under the TRICARE program far exceeds the thirty-three percent increase in military retired pay since such fees, deductibles, and copayments were first required on the part of retired members of the uniformed services eleven years ago; and

Whereas, proposals of the Department of Defense for increases in the enrollment fees, deductibles, and copayments of retired members of the uniformed services who are participants of the TRICARE program fail to recognize adequately that such members paid the equivalent of enormous in-kind premiums for health care in retirement through their extended sacrifices by service in uniform; and

Whereas, some of the nation's health care providers refuse to accept participants in the TRICARE program as patients because that program pays them significantly less than commercial insurance programs and imposes unique administrative requirements for health care services; and

Whereas, the Department of Defense and the Nation have a committed obligation to provide health care benefits to retired members of the uniformed services that exceeds the obligation of corporate employers to provide health care benefits to their employees; and

Whereas, the Department of Defense has many additional options to constrain the growth of health care spending in ways that do not disadvantage retired members of the uniformed services who participate in the TRICARE program and should pursue any and all such options rather than seek large increases for enrollment fees, deductibles, and copayments for such retirees and their families or survivors who do participate in the program; and

Whereas, any percentage increase in fees, deductibles, and copayments that may be considered under the TRICARE program for retired members of the uniformed services and their families or survivors should not in any case exceed the percentage increase in military retired pay. Therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby memorialize the United States Congress to enact legislation limiting certain increases in health insurance premiums, deductibles, copayments, and other charges of military retirees for their military health benefits being proposed by the Department of Defense. Be it further

Resolved, That a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the presiding officers of the Senate and the House of Representatives of the Congress of the United States of America and to each member of the Louisiana congressional delegation.

POM–376. A resolution adopted by the House of Representatives of the State of Rhode Island expressing its opposition to federal proposals to authorize increases in the size or weight of commercial motor vehicles; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

HOUSE RESOLUTION 8296

Whereas, The State of Rhode Island is committed to protecting the safety of motorists on its highways and to protecting taxpayers' investment in our highway infrastructure; and

Whereas, The General Assembly of the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations resolved jointly to urge the Congress of the United States to oppose proposals to increase truck size or weight limitations in 1997 (Assembly Joint Resolution No. 8) and 2003 (Senate Joint Resolution No. 7) because of the threat that longer combination vehicles and other larger trucks present to highway safety; and

Whereas, There are proposals to include increases in the size or weight of commercial motor vehicles, including triple-trailer trucks, in legislation reauthorizing federal transportation funding, which will be considered in the United States Congress in 2009; and

Whereas, Recent events have focused public concern on the quality of our highway infrastructure, especially bridges; and

Whereas, Federal and state studies have found that increasing the size and weight of commercial motor vehicles may accelerate the deterioration of bridges and highway infrastructure; and

Whereas, The extent of damage to bridges that would be caused by operations of bigger and heavier commercial vehicles is unknown; and

Whereas, The 2007 National Bridge Inventory maintained by the Federal Highway Administration classified 53% of bridges in Rhode Island as having been rated structurally deficient or functionally obsolete; now, therefore be it

Resolved, That this House of Representatives of the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations hereby reaffirms its opposition to proposals, at all levels of government, that would authorize increases in the size and weight of commercial motor vehicles because of the impact that these increases would have on highway infrastructure, especially bridges; and be it further

Resolved, That the Secretary of State be and he hereby is authorized and directed to transmit duly certified copies of this resolution to the President and Vice President of the United States, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, the Majority Leader of the United States Senate and the Rhode Island Delegation to the Congress of the United States.

POM–377. A concurrent resolution adopted by the General Assembly of the State of Ohio urging Congress to renew the exemption for the sternwheel river steamboat Delta Queen from the 1966 Safety at Sea Act; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 36

Whereas, The sternwheel river steamboat Delta Queen, built in 1926, has been transporting passengers on the Western Rivers system since 1947. It is one of only two sternwheel river passenger boats operating under steam and is the sole remaining Western Rivers system overnight passenger boat; and

Whereas, The Delta Queen serves as a reminder of a time when steamboats transported people and supplies on the rivers of the United States. Life on the steamboat today is much as it was in the 1920s, a relaxing 8- to 10-mile-an-hour pace with no modern electronic distractions such as television and the Internet; and

Whereas, The Delta Queen carries 174 overnight passengers and is currently exempt from the 1966 Safety at Sea Act, which prohibits wooden boats from carrying more than 50 overnight passengers. However, this exemption is set to expire at the end of 2008, and influential members of the Congress of the United States have stated that they are planning on not renewing the exemption, an action that would eliminate this important reminder of Ohio's and America's history; now therefore be it

Resolved, That we, the members of the 127th General Assembly of the State of Ohio, urge the Congress of the United States to renew the exemption for the sternwheel river steamboat Delta Queen from the 1966 Safety at Sea Act so that it can continue to carry overnight passengers on the Western Rivers system; and be it further

Resolved, That the Clerk of the House of Representatives send duly authenticated copies of this resolution to the Speaker and the Clerk of the United States House of Representatives, to the President Pro Tempore and the Secretary of the United States Senate, to the members of the Ohio Congressional delegation, and to the news media of Ohio.

POM–378. A concurrent resolution adopted by the Senate of the State of Louisiana urging Congress to establish grant programs to mitigate the damages caused by the opening of the Bonnet Carre Spillway; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 51

Whereas, on April 11, 2008, the United States Army Corps of Engineers opened the Bonnet Carre Spillway for the first time in eleven years for the purpose of preventing flooding in the New Orleans area; and

Whereas, the seafood industry in St. Tammany, St. Bernard, Orleans, and Plaquemines parishes have been negatively impacted by the opening of the Bonnet Cane Spillway. Therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby memorialize the United States Congress to establish a grant program to assist the seafood industry in St. Tammany, St. Bernard, Orleans, and Plaquemines parishes. Be it further

Resolved, That a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the secretary of the United States Senate and the clerk of the United States House of Representatives and to each member of the Louisiana con ssional delegation.

POM–379. A concurrent resolution adopted by the Senate of the State of Louisiana urging Congress to oppose the authorization of

offshore aquaculture in the Gulf of Mexico; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 36

Whereas, there is currently pending before Congress the National Offshore Aquaculture Act of 2007, which authorizes the secretary of the United States Department of Commerce to establish and implement a regulatory system for offshore aquaculture in the Exclusive Economic Zone; and

Whereas, despite the absence of statutory authority in the Magnusson-Stevens Fisheries Conservation Act to provide a framework for development of deepwater fish farms, the Gulf of Mexico Fisheries Management Council has nevertheless proposed implementation of a regulatory system for marine aquaculture in federal waters off the coast of Louisiana; and

Whereas, as drafted, the proposed plans envision the use of large containment cages located between two and three hundred miles off the coast of Louisiana; and

Whereas, the cages are proposed to be filled with numerous fish and to be located on or near oil and gas rigs in the Gulf of Mexico, without any restrictions as to the location of such cages; and

Whereas, past experiences with aquaculture operations of this nature have resulted in increased pollution of the surrounding waters due to concentrated amounts of fish food, fish waste, and chemicals and antibiotics used to treat the caged fish, and have resulted in damaged cages floating free, interfering with maritime commerce and endangering others attempting to use the surrounding waters; and

Wheres, additional concerns about the development of deepwater fish farming include potential genetic damage to both the farmed fish in the cages and the wild fish in the surrounding waters, the spread of disease among the farmed fish and the wild fish, and the stress that the farms would put on forage fish, such as menhaden; and

Wheres, Louisiana is known for its seafood and for its devotion to fishing the Gulf of Mexico for a myriad of fish, all of which may be impacted by the establishment of deepwater aquaculture facilities in the very areas where our commercial and recreational fishermen pursue their passion for fishing; and

Whereas, Louisiana is also known for its oil and gas industry, much of which is now located offshore in the very areas where these fish farms are likely to be located and where the large containment cages may break their moorings during hurricanes, adding to the damage to oil and gas rigs during times of inclement weather; and

Whereas, there has been little in-depth research conducted into the unintended consequences of deepwater fish farming, particularly in the Gulf of Mexico, and it appears that the Gulf of Mexico Fisheries Management Council is acting too quickly to enact rules allowing the establishment of deepwater fish farms in the Gulf of Mexico and, in fact, is acting in advance of congressional direction to begin development and implementation of such a program; and

Whereas, Louisiana has had little input into the development of the regulatory system that would govern deepwater fish farming, an industry that has every potential for dramatic impact on Louisiana's commercial and recreational fishing industries, the largest such industry in the continental United States; and

Whereas, the recreational and commercial fishing industries in this state combine for an annual economic impact well in excess of a billion dollars, and the oil and gas industries have an even greater economic impact in this state, with accompanying tax revenues that fund many of the services provided by the state; and

Whereas, the development of deepwater fish farms off the coast of Louisiana could have a tremendous negative impact on both these industries which could, in turn, have a tremendous negative impact on the tax revenues received by the state from the industries and related transactions, thereby causing a reduction in the funds available for state expenditure. Therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby memorialize the United States Congress to oppose the authorization of offshore aquaculture in the Gulf of Mexico. Be it further

Resolved, That a copy of this Resolution shall be transmitted to the secretary of the United States Senate and the clerk of the United States House of Representatives, to each member of the Louisiana delegation, to the National Marine Fisheries Service of the National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration, and to the Gulf of Mexico Fisheries Management Council.

POM–380. A resolution adopted by the House of Representatives of the State of Hawaii expressing its support for assistance for persons present in the United States under the Compacts of Free Association; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

HOUSE RESOLUTION

Whereas, in 1986, the United States (U.S.) entered into a Compact of Free Association (COFA or Compact) with the Federated States of Micronesia and the Republic of the Marshall Islands and, in 1994, the U.S. entered into a similar Compact with the Republic of Palau that created a unique relationship between the U.S. and the Freely Associated States; and

Whereas, the terms of the Compacts set out mutually beneficial rights and obligations in several areas, including economic development and defense, and created the right of citizens from the Freely Associated States to freely travel to, and work and reside in, the U.S. without durational limit; and

Whereas, a significant number of COFA citizens travel to and reside in the State of Hawaii; and

Whereas, many COFA migrants arrive in the state with serious medical needs, and many need financial assistance or housing assistance because of the relative lack of resources they have available; and

Whereas, when the Compacts were initially executed, Congress recognized there could be a significant effect on the resources of the places to which the COFA citizens migrated and explicitly stated that, ''*it is not the intent of Congress to cause any adverse consequences for an affected jurisdiction*'' P.L. 108–188, section 104(e)(1) (emphasis added); and

Whereas, in 1997, Congress passed the Personal Responsibility Work Opportunities Reconciliation Act (PRWORA), which provided that most non-citizens in the U.S., with limited exceptions, became ineligible for federally-funded welfare programs including Temporary Assistance for Needy Families, Medicaid, Food Stamps, and Supplemental Security Income; and

Whereas, COFA migrants were among the non-citizen groups excluded by PRWORA, and not included as one of the exceptions, despite the fact that they are legal residents in the U.S. and are more like citizens than immigrants or other legally resident non-citizens in terms of their ability to reside, work, and attend school in the U.S.; and

Whereas, despite losing access to federal funds for services to COFA migrants because of PRWORA, the State of Hawaii has continued to make the services available through equivalent state-funded services to address the social, educational, public safety, and medical needs of COFA citizens who legally reside in the state, just as it provides them to other legal residents; and

Whereas, the State has consistently reported increasing costs each year for the services provided to COFA migrants, the majority of which are not reimbursed by the federal government; and

Whereas, in 2006, the cost reported by the state agencies to provide services for COFA migrants was over $91,000,000, while the federal assistance to the State as Compact Impact Assistance was approximately $10,600,000; and

Whereas, the federal government created the relationship with the Freely Associated States that allows their citizens to freely reside in the U.S. with few limitations; and

Whereas, extending eligibility for federal assistance to the COFA migrants would better support the purposes underlying the COFA; and

Whereas, providing federal assistance for COFA migrants additionally would alleviate much of the burden on the State's budget while still maintaining the same level of services for the COFA migrants; and

Whereas, the Governor has repeatedly suggested in reports and letters to the U.S. Department of the Interior that COFA migrants should be made eligible for federal financial assistance, and Hawaii's Congressional Delegation has consistently supported the idea of extending federal assistance to COFA migrants; and

Whereas, in 2007, Senator Akaka and Senator Inouye introduced a bill in the United States Senate, S. 1676, which would extend eligibility for certain federal benefits to COFA migrants legally residing in the U.S.; and

Whereas, in 2007, Representative Abercrombie and Representative Hirono introduced a bill in the United States House of Representatives, H.R. 4000, which would extend eligibility for certain federal benefits to COFA migrants legally residing in the U.S.; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, By the House of Representatives of the Twenty-fourth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2008, that this body supports the bills currently in Congress, S. 1676 and H.R. 4000, and urges that the bills be heard and moved out of Committee, to receive the consideration of the full Senate and the full House of Representatives, and further to encourage Congress and the President to enact the bills into law, which would benefit COFA migrants in the U.S. regardless of the state or territory in which they reside and support the stated intent of Congress that the relationship created by the Compacts not cause adverse consequences to the states; and be it further

Resolved, That the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations Office of Language Access is requested to provide its services to citizens of COFA nations, and that other programs that may be available to individuals whose first language is not English be provided to citizens of COFA nations; and be it further

Resolved, That certified copies of this Resolution be transmitted to the President of the United States, all members of Congress, the Secretary of the Interior, the Secretary of Health and Human Services, the Secretary of

Agriculture, the Governor, the President of the Republic of Palau, the President of the Federated States of Micronesia, and the President of the Republic of the Marshall Islands.

POM–381. A concurrent resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of Utah urging Congress to pass the Rights-of-way Recognition Act; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 5

Whereas, in 1866, the United States Congress passed an open-ended grant of ''the right-of-way for the construction of highways over public lands, not reserved for public uses'';

Whereas, the statute, commonly referred to as R.S. 2477, remained in effect for 110 years, and most of the transportation routes in the West were established under its authority;

Whereas, although Congress repealed R.S. 2477 in 1976 by passing the Federal Land Policy Management Act, it purposely protected all rights-of-way established prior to October 21, 1976;

Whereas, unlike any other federal land statute the establishment of R.S. 2477 rights-of-way required no entry, application, license patent, or deed on the part of the federal government, and no formal act of public acceptance on the part of the states or localities in whom the rights were vested;

Whereas, because R.S. 2477 rights-of-way were not required by the grant to be formally recorded, they have become one of the more contentious land use issues in the West, resulting in on-the-ground conflicts and expensive litigation;

Whereas, Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance v. Bureau of Land Management (SUWA v. BLM), a 10th Circuit Court of Appeals' order filed January 6, 2006, provides a thoughtful and reasonable way to resolve road disputes between the federal government and counties;

Whereas, the United States Department of the Interior has developed and issued guidelines implementing the well-reasoned principles in SUWA v. BLM, formerly known as the ''Norton Implementation'';

Whereas, certain members of Congress and certain nongovernmental organizations are attempting to defeat the principles of SUWA v. BLM as adopted by the Department of the Interior, and are trying to redefine R.S. 2477 rights-of-way out of existence in order to create additional wilderness across the West, which by definition is roadless;

Whereas, Representative Steve Pearce of New Mexico has introduced in Congress the ''R.S. 2477 Rights-of-Way Recognition Act,'' a bill that codifies the beneficial principles established in SUWA v. BLM; and

Whereas, rights-of-way, including roads established under R.S. 2477, are essential transportation routes which are critical to the economic stability and vitality of the rural West: Now, Therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Legislature of the state of Utah, the Governor concurring therein, urge the United States Congress to support the fair and equitable resolution of R.S. 2477 rights-of-way by enacting the R.S. 2477, Rights-of-Way Recognition Act. Be it Further

Resolved, That a copy of this resolution be sent to the Majority Leader of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, and to the members of Utah's congressional delegation.

POM–382. A concurrent resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of Utah urging Congress to designate a new recipient of royalties from Navajo reservation lands in Utah; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 4

Whereas, in 1933 Congress added federal lands located in San Juan County to the Navajo reservation and directed Utah to receive 37.5% of oil and gas royalties from those lands for ''the tuition of Indian children in white schools and/or the building or maintenance of roads . . . or for the benefit of Indians residing therein'';

Whereas, in 1968 Congress amended the purposes for which the 37.5% of oil and gas royalties are to be expended to be ''for the health, education, and general welfare of the Navajo Indians residing in San Juan County, Utah'';

Whereas, Utah is unique amongst the states in having such an obligation and the San Juan Navajos are unique in having this relationship to the state;

Whereas, by treaty in 1868 the Navajo Nation was recognized as a sovereign and it is now the largest American Indian tribe in the country with significant expertise in its governance of its people;

Whereas, the Navajo Nation receives and expends the other 62.5% of the oil and gas royalties from the San Juan County portion of the Navajo reservation;

Whereas, the San Juan Navajos are valued citizens of the state of Utah whose interests include the need for critical infrastructure such as water and electricity;

Whereas, the state first received monies from the 37.5% of the oil and gas royalties in 1959 and litigation related to those royalties began almost immediately, with a first major decision occurring in 1961;

Whereas, the litigious environment surrounding the state's administration of the oil and gas royalties harms the relationship between the state and the San Juan Navajos and complicates all parties' ability to meet the needs of the San Juan Navajos;

Whereas, Navajos have expressed a desire to have greater input or control over the administration of the 37.5% of oil and gas royalties;

Whereas, there exists several Navajo related entities that are equipped to find a more effective way to administer these royalties where the state is not cast in the role as trustee;

Whereas, removal of the state as a go-between provides an opportunity for Navajos to determine the best use of these royalties;

Whereas, Congress should designate a new recipient of the 37.5% of oil and gas royalties; and

Whereas, the state will continue to assist its citizens in the San Juan County through more traditional state tools such as the Navajo Revitalization Fund: Now, Therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Legislature of the state of Utah, the Governor concurring therein, encourages the United States Congress to expeditiously designate a new recipient of the 37.5% of oil and gas royalties as quickly as possible. Be it further

Resolved, That the Legislature and Governor support congressional action that results in the 37.5% of oil and gas royalties continuing to flow to the benefit of San Juan Navajos. Be it further

Resolved, That the Legislature and Governor request Congress to work with interested parties to ensure the best solution possible regarding the distribution of the 37.5% of oil and gas royalties. Be it further

Resolved, That copies of this concurrent resolution be sent to:

(1) the members of Utah's congressional delegation;

(2) the Navajo Utah Commission;

(3) the President of the Navajo Nation;

(4) the Speaker of the Navajo Nation Council;

(5) the board of trustees of the Navajo Trust Fund; and

(6) the Dineh Committee of the Navajo Trust Fund.

POM–383. A resolution adopted by the House of Representatives of the State of Hawaii urging Congress to agree to an economy-wide reduction in its greenhouse gas emissions; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 53

Whereas, the White House is convening a Major Economies Meeting on Energy Security and Climate Change with seventeen invited countries at the Center for Cultural and Technical Interchange Between East and West, Inc. (East-West Center) on the campus of the University of Hawaii at Manoa on January 30 and 31, 2008, to discuss potential international agreements on global climate change; and

Whereas, for more than half a century, researchers have used atmospheric samples taken at the Mauna Loa Observatory on the island of Hawaii to track a steady annual increase in the concentration of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere and have concluded that concentrations are now higher than they have been in the past eight hundred thousand years; and

Whereas, scientific consensus links the anthropogenic increase in greenhouse gases to global climate change; and

Whereas, the Fourth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change indicates that global emissions of greenhouse gases need to peak in the next ten to fifteen years and be reduced to levels well below half those in 2000 by the middle of this century in order to stabilize greenhouse gases concentrations in the atmosphere at the lowest levels assessed by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change to date in its scenarios; and

Whereas, achieving the lowest levels assessed by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change to date and its corresponding potential damage limitation would require developed countries as a group to reduce emissions in a range of twenty-five to forty percent below 1990 levels by 2020; and

Whereas, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change and the signatory nations of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change have recognized the special dangers of climate change to island states, territories, and nations; and

Whereas, global climate change is causing rapid melting of ice at both the north and south polar regions, which, in conjunction with thermal expansion due to warmer water temperatures, is leading to a rapid rise in sea level; and

Whereas, University of Hawaii experts have demonstrated that a one meter rise in sea level would inundate much of Hawaii's coastline, including the world renowned Waikiki resort area, the Honolulu International Airport's reef runway, the majority of Hawaii's wastewater treatment facilities, many historic sites, and many populated areas, including lands up to a mile away from the existing shoreline in parts of Honolulu; and

Whereas, global climate change also threatens Hawaii with stronger hurricanes, prolonged drought, shifting weather patterns, warmer temperatures, shifting microclimates, increased spread of invasive species, and saltwater intrusion into its aquifers; and

Whereas, increased atmospheric carbon dioxide concentrations foster greater carbon dioxide uptake by the world's oceans, leading

to ocean acidification and the resultant decreases in reef health and decreases in survival of ocean life that rely on calcium carbonate shells; and

Whereas, Hawaii is doing its part to reduce its contribution to global climate change by adopting progressive energy policies that promote the use of clean energy technologies such as wind, solar, wave, and biomass energy; and

Whereas, Act 234, Session Laws of Hawaii 2007, placed a binding statewide cap on Hawaii's greenhouse gas emissions, by requiring Hawaii to reduce its non-aviation greenhouse gas emissions to their 1990 levels before 2020; Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives of the Twenty-fourth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2008, That in recognition of Hawaii's overwhelming vulnerability to global climate change, the President of the United States is urged to use the January 30 and 31, 2008, Major Economies Meeting on Energy Security and Climate Change, which is being hosted in Hawaii, to commit to an economy-wide reduction in greenhouse gas emissions in the United States; and be it further

Resolved, That the President of the United States is urged to consent to binding and quantified commitments for the United States under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change that would result in the rapid stabilization and decrease in atmospheric greenhouse gas concentrations; and be it further

Resolved, That certified copies of this Resolution be transmitted to the President of the United States, the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, members of Hawaii's congressional delegation, and the Secretariat of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.

POM–384. A concurrent resolution adopted by the Senate of the State of Louisiana urging Congress to extend Louisiana's seaward boundary in the Gulf of Mexico to three marine leagues; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 38

Whereas, Louisiana's seaward boundary in the Gulf of Mexico has been judicially determined to be three geographical miles and the United States has jurisdiction past the three geographical miles; and

Whereas, Congress has the power to amend the Submerged Lands Act of 1953, to allow for the recognition that Louisiana's seaward boundary extends three marine leagues into the Gulf of Mexico; and

Whereas, Louisiana acts as a significant energy corridor vital to the entire United States and provides intersections of oil and natural gas intrastate and interstate pipeline networks which serve as references for future markets, such as the Henry Hub for natural gas, the St. James Louisiana Light Sweet Crude Oil, and the Mars Sour Crude Oil contracts; and

Whereas, Louisiana provides storage for the nation's Strategic Petroleum Reserve and is the home of the Louisiana Offshore Oil Port, the nation's major import terminal for foreign oil; and

Whereas, Louisiana and its coastal wetlands provide access to nearly thirty-four percent of the U.S. natural gas supply and nearly twenty-nine percent of the U.S. oil supply, upon which the United States' economic growth depends; and

Whereas, Louisiana ranks first in crude oil production, and ranks second in natural gas production, both including the Outer Continental Shelf production; and

Whereas, hurricanes Katrina and Rita have shown that the loss of vital oil and gas infrastructure in Louisiana and the Gulf of Mexico has an immediate and direct impact upon the economy and well-being of the entire country and its citizens; and

Whereas, hurricanes Katrina and Rita turned approximately one hundred square miles of southeast Louisiana coastal wetlands into open water, and destroyed more wetlands east of the Mississippi River in one month than experts estimated to be lost in over forty-five years; and

Whereas, the states of Texas and Florida have seaward boundaries in the Gulf of Mexico to three marine leagues; and

Whereas, Louisiana will receive an increase in Outer Continental Shelf oil and gas revenues, but such revenues will not be of a significant amount until 2017; and

Whereas, the extension of Louisiana's seaward boundary into the Gulf of Mexico for three marine leagues will provide an immediate stream of revenue for use in the state's efforts to clean up, rebuild, and restore southern Louisiana; therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Legislature of Louisiana memorializes the Congress of the United States to extend Louisiana's seaward boundary in the Gulf of Mexico to three marine leagues; and be it further

Resolved, That a copy of this Resolution shall be transmitted to the secretary of the United States Senate and the clerk of the United States House of Representatives and to each member of the Louisiana delegation to the United States Congress.

POM–385. A concurrent resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of Louisiana urging Congress to take such actions as are necessary to prohibit the importation of nuclear waste generated outside of the United States; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 99

Whereas, EnergySolutions, based in Salt Lake City, is seeking a license from the United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) to import up to approximately twenty thousand tons, a total volume of up to approximately one million cubic feet, of various types of materials from decommissioned nuclear facilities in Italy; and

Whereas, EnergySolutions would process and recycle most of the contaminated material at its facilities in Tennessee, in accordance with licenses issued by the state of Tennessee; and

Whereas, the remaining waste would be sent to EnergySolutions' low-level radioactive waste disposal facility in Clive, Utah, and any waste that does not qualify for disposal at the Utah facility would be returned to Italy; and

Whereas, EnergySolutions' license application specifies that the waste is to be transported to the United States by oceangoing vessel to the ports of Charleston or New Orleans, and at the time of the application, the generators of the waste were ''not fully known'' nor could the waste be evaluated for classification pursuant to federal regulations; and

Whereas, although the NRC seeks the input of the states of Tennessee and Utah as the states where the waste is processed and disposed, the states of Louisiana and South Carolina were not consulted despite the fact that the waste would spend significant time in these states while the cargo is transferred from an oceangoing vessel to either barge, truck, or rail transportation; and

Whereas, the state of Louisiana continues to rebuild in the wakes of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita where substantial federal, state, and private resources are being brought to bear on the New Orleans metro area, and the fact or the perception that New Orleans is a staging area for foreign nuclear waste is counterproductive to that rebuilding effort; and

Whereas, Europe as a whole may see an increase in the need to process and dispose of nuclear waste as many of the countries in Europe rely on an aging inventory of nuclear power plants that will be decommissioned in the coming years, as in the EnergySolutions application, and new facilities are being planned not only as replacements but also to reduce reliance on fossil fuel; and

Whereas, the current application from EnergySolutions may only be the beginning of a trend as the decrease in value of the United States dollar in relation to the Euro will make disposal of Europe's nuclear waste in the United States economically attractive and make New Orleans the gateway to that cheap disposals; therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby memorialize the United States Congress to take such actions as are necessary to prohibit the importation of nuclear waste generated outside of the United States of America; and be it further

Resolved, That a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the presiding officers of the Senate and the House of Representatives of the Congress of the United States of America and to each member of the Louisiana congressional delegation.

POM–386. A resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of Utah relative to trade with Taiwan; to the Committee on Finance.

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 4

Whereas, it is our belief that it is the responsibility of the United States to promote the values of freedom and democracy, a commitment to open markets, and the free exchange of goods and ideas both at home and abroad;

Whereas, the Republic of China on Taiwan shares these values and has struggled throughout the past 50 years to create what is an open and thriving democracy;

Whereas, despite being a member of the World Trade Organization since 2002, Taiwan has no formal trade agreement with the United States;

Whereas, however, Taiwan has emerged as the United States eighth largest trading partner, the 11th largest export market, and the fifth largest farm products market;

Whereas, the United States is Taiwan's largest trading partner, and American businesses have benefitted greatly from this dynamic trade relationship;

Whereas, in terms of labor, environmental, and intellectual property protection standards, Taiwan is a model for advanced economies;

Whereas, a free trade agreement with Taiwan will enable United States firms to leverage Taiwan's role as a gateway to Asia, with Taiwan serving as a secure platform and springboard for innovation and market access;

Whereas, a free trade agreement with Taiwan would provide United States firms with a base of operations from which to export goods and services into the greater China region and Southeast Asia;

Whereas, a free trade agreement with Taiwan would extend the coverage of World Trade Organization agreements to products, sectors, and conditions of trade not adequately covered;

Whereas, over the past two decades, Taiwan has emerged as one of the United States most important allies in Asia and throughout the world;

Whereas, Taiwan has forged an open, market-based economy and a thriving democracy based on free elections and the freedom

of dissent, and it is in the interest of the United States to encourage the development of both of these institutions;

Whereas, the United States has an obligation to its allies and to its own citizens to encourage economic growth, market openings, and the destruction of trade barriers as a means of raising living standards; and

Whereas, a free trade agreement with Taiwan would be a positive step toward accomplishing these important goals: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate of the State of Utah urges the President of the United States and the United States Congress to support a free trade agreement between the United States and the Republic of China on Taiwan; and be it further

Resolved, That a copy of this resolution be sent to the President of the United States, the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, the President of the Republic of China on Taiwan, and the members of Utah's congressional delegation.

POM–387. A joint resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of Utah urging support of Medicaid long-term care funding of home and community-based supports; to the Committee on Finance.

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 5

Whereas, Utah's population is aging and Utahans with disabilities are living longer, healthier lives;

Whereas, thousands of Utahans with disabilities and older Utahans currently need or will need long-term care and support to live productive lives in their communities;

Whereas, facility-based care is a mandatory benefit and community-based supports are an optional benefit of Medicaid;

Whereas, long-term care accounts for over 25 percent of all of Utah Medicaid spending;

Whereas, nearly 60 percent of long-term care expenditures in Utah Medicaid are for facility-based care;

Whereas, facility-based care can be up to five times more expensive than community-based support;

Whereas, Utah Medicaid costs are growing at a rate of approximately 10 percent per year;

Whereas, the Utah Legislature's Medicaid Interim Committee is seeking recommendations for containing costs and increasing accountability; and

Whereas, Medicaid long-term care reform must be a cooperative effort among the Federal and State government, the private sector, and the disability and elderly communities: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Legislature of the State of Utah urges Utah's congressional delegation to support the continued shift of Medicaid long-term care funding toward home and community-based supports; be it further

Resolved, That the Legislature urges Utah's congressional delegation to support providing States with the flexibility and tools needed to manage Medicaid long-term care costs in a fiscally responsible manner; be it further

Resolved, That the Legislature urges Utah's congressional delegation to support providing Medicaid long-term care and supports in the most appropriate and cost-effective manner while maintaining individual choice; be it further

Resolved, That the Legislature urges Utah's congressional delegation to ensure the active participation of people with disabilities and older Americans in the ongoing design, implementation, and review of Medicaid's long-term care system; and be it further

Resolved, That a copy of this resolution be sent to the members of Utah's congressional delegation, the members of the Utah Legislature's Medicaid Interim Committee, and the Disability Law Center.

POM–388. A resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of Utah urging U.S. withdrawal from the Security and Prosperity Partnership of North America; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 1

Whereas, President George W. Bush established the Security and Prosperity Partnership (SPP) of North America with the nations of Mexico and Canada on March 23, 2005;

Whereas, the gradual creation of such a North American Union from a merger of the United States, Mexico, and Canada would be a direct threat to the United States Constitution and the national independence of the United States and would imply an eventual end to national borders within North America;

Whereas, on March 31, 2006, a White House news release confirmed the continuing existence of the SPP and its ''ongoing process of cooperation'';

Whereas, Congressman Ron Paul has written that a key to the SPP plan is an extensive new North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) superhighway: ''[U]nder this new 'partnership,' a massive highway is being planned to stretch from Canada into Mexico, through the state of Texas.'';

Whereas, this trilateral partnership to develop a North American Union has never been presented to Congress as an agreement or treaty, and has had virtually no congressional oversight; and

Whereas, state and local governments throughout the United States would be negatively impacted by the SPP and North American Union process, such as the ''open borders'' vision of the SPP, eminent domain takings of private property along the planned superhighways, and increased law enforcement problems along those same superhighways: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives of the State of Utah urges the United States Congress and Utah's congressional delegation, to use all of their efforts, energies, and diligence to withdraw the United States from any further participation in the Security and Prosperity Partnership of North America. Be it further

Resolved, That the House of Representatives urges Congress to withdraw the United States from any other bilateral or multilateral activity, however named, which seeks to advance, authorize, fund, or in any way promote the creation of any structure to accomplish any form of North American Union as described in this resolution. Be it further

Resolved, That a copy of this resolution be sent to the Majority Leader of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, to the members of Utah's congressional delegation, and all members of Congress by electronic means.

POM–389. A resolution adopted by the Senate of the State of Pennsylvania recognizing the month of May 2008 as ''Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis Awareness Month'' to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 326

Whereas, Amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS) is better known as Lou Gehrig's disease; and

Whereas, ALS is a fatal neurodegenerative disease characterized by degeneration of cell bodies of the lower motor neurons in the gray matter of the anterior horns of the spinal cord; and

Whereas, the initial symptom of ALS is weakness of the skeletal muscles, especially those of the extremities; and

Whereas, as ALS progresses, the patient experiences difficulty in swallowing, talking and breathing; and

Whereas, ALS eventually causes muscles to atrophy, and the patient becomes a functional quadriplegic; and

Whereas, because ALS does not affect mental capacity, persons with ALS remain alert and aware of the loss of motor function and the inevitable outcome of continued deterioration and death; and

Whereas, ALS occurs in adulthood, most commonly between the ages of 40 and 70, with the peak age about 55; and

Whereas, ALS affects men two to three times more often than women; and

Whereas, more than 5,000 new ALS patients are diagnosed annually; and

Whereas, on average, patients diagnosed with ALS survive only two to five years from the time of diagnosis; and

Whereas, research indicates that military veterans are at a 50% or greater risk of developing ALS than other persons; and

Whereas, ALS has no known cause, means of prevention or cure; and

Whereas, ''Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis Awareness Month'' increases public awareness of ALS patients' circumstances, acknowledges the terrible impact of ALS on patients and their families and recognizes ongoing research to eradicate ALS: Now, therefore be it

Resolved, That the Senate of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania recognize the month of May 2008 as ''Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS) Awareness Month'' in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania; and be it further

Resolved, That the Senate urge the President and Congress of the United States to enact legislation to provide additional funding for ALS research; and be it further

Resolved, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the President of the United States, to the Vice President of the United States, to the Speaker of the House of Representatives, to the members of Congress from Pennsylvania and to the United States Secretary of Health and Human Services.

POM–390. A concurrent resolution adopted by the House of Representatives of the State of Arizona urging Congress to enact legislation to provide adequate school facilities on tribal lands; to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

HOUSE CONCURRENT MEMORIAL 2007

Whereas, to achieve true self-determination, Native American governments, including the Hopi Tribe, must have the resources necessary to provide a quality education to their children living on federally recognized tribal lands so that those children have the same opportunity for learning as nonreservation children; and

Whereas, it is vital to Indian education that the concepts of the No Child Left Behind Act be implemented in a manner consistent with the social, civic, economic, educational and cultural needs of American Indian tribes and communities; and

Whereas, the Hopi Day School and the Hotevilla-Bacavi Community School at Third Mesa, Arizona have been in existence collectively for over one hundred and twenty-five years; and

Whereas, due to the age and poor physical condition of the Hopi Day School and the Hotevilla-Bacavi Community School facilities, neither school can provide an appropriate educational environment for its students. The schools' deficiencies include classrooms that do not meet minimum space requirements and that lack a reliable means of controlling the temperature and air quality, interior walls painted with lead-based

paint, numerous cracks in the masonry walls making the structural integrity of the building questionable and a lack of the standard amenities common to most schools. Both school facilities have been described by two different Bureau of Indian Affairs inspections as having exceeded their usefulness and functional life: and

Whereas, the Hopi children living at Third Mesa who attend the Hopi Day School and the Hotevilla-Bacavi Community School are at risk and suffer from a significant educational disadvantage in comparison to their off-reservation peers, and this situation will continue until the federal government replaces the facilities at both schools; and

Whereas, in the face of the deplorable physical conditions of their school facilities, the Hopi children attending these schools have nevertheless excelled at their AIMS test (Arizona Instrument to Measure Standards) and their Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) assessments for the last five years, despite the fact that only one-third of tribal schools nationwide are attaining the AYP, thereby demonstrating their desire to achieve educational excellence; and

Whereas, at a time when schools across the entire country are diligently engaged in educational reforms to ensure that ''no child is left behind'', the Hopi children living in the Third Mesa area are being left behind by the very entity responsible for the reform movement, the federal government; and

Whereas, the Hopi Tribe is the only tribe in Arizona that does not have a gaming compact and, therefore, has no other financial resources with which to improve the conditions of its schools; and

Whereas, the Hopi Tribe believes that a single school facility designed and built to serve the combined student populations served by the Hopi Day School and the Hotevilla-Bacavi Community School would be economically advantageous and would allow the addition of specialized staff and programs not available in the current separate school facilities, would reduce or eliminate duplication of staff, services and bus routes required under the two-school structure, would provide a proper learning environment for delivery of the whole educational program for each child from preschool through the eighth grade, would allow local control and would provide a school facility that is designed and constructed to last for many years and that can appropriately accommodate the growth of the local population; and

Whereas, the Bureau of Indian Education has recognized that combining these two schools on the Hopi reservation would be a more meaningful, appropriate and just solution to the problems caused by the current dilapidated buildings; and

Whereas, the governing boards for the two schools formally agreed to the concept of having a single school facility for the entire Third Mesa area providing educational programs that include early childhood education through the eighth grade; and

Whereas, the reservation-wide Hopi Board of Education adopted a resolution supporting the single school concept and took formal action to reserve a landsite for the new school; and

Whereas, the Village of Kykotsmovi Governing Board endorsed the single school concept and took formal action to reserve a landsite for the new school; and

Whereas, the Hopi Tribal Council adopted a resolution approving both the single school concept and the landsite assignment. Wherefore your memorialist, the House of Representatives of the State of Arizona, the Senate concurring,

Prays:

1. That the United States Congress recognize that failure to maintain adequate school facilities on Indian lands is a violation of the rights of tribal governments and communities to exercise and assert equitable education in their boundaries.

2. That the United States Congress provide a sufficient set-aside of Bureau of Indian Education monies to ensure that one new school will replace the two extremely old schools on the Third Mesa of the Hopi Reservation in order to promote fair and quality education for the children of the Hopi Indian Nation.

3. That the United States Congress promote and support adequate funding of schools on American Indian Reservations.

4. That the Secretary of State of the State of Arizona transmit copies of this Memorial to the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives and each Member of Congress from the State of Arizona

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POM–391. A concurrent resolution adopted by the House of Representatives of the State of Hawaii urging Congress to ratify the UN convention on the elimination of all forms of discrimination against women; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 16

Whereas, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (Convention) was adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in 1979; and

Whereas, the Convention is the most complete international agreement that focuses specifically on basic human rights for women; and

Whereas, the Convention requires ratifying nations to improve the status of women and to work towards eliminating discrimination and violence against women by establishing equality in legal status, political participation, education, employment, healthcare, and the family structure; and

Whereas, the Convention has resulted in reforms for women around the world, including measures against sex slavery, domestic violence, and trafficking of women; increasing primary education previously denied to females; and improved health care that have saved lives during pregnancy and childbirth; and

Whereas, in 1972, Hawaii was the first state to ratify the federal Equal Rights Amendment, which would have amended the United States Constitution by establishing a guarantee of equal rights for women; and

Whereas, although the United States played an important role in drafting the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women, the United States is one of only eight countries that include Sudan, Somalia, Qatar, Iran, Nauru, Palau, and Tonga, that have not ratified the Convention as of March 1, 2007; and

Whereas, the United States' failure to ratify the Convention undermines the principle that human rights of women are universal and worthy of being guaranteed through international human rights standards; and

Whereas, as women in the Unites States are succeeding in greater leadership roles in business and government and participate in local and national elections in record numbers, it is appropriate that the United States Congress demonstrate its unequivocal support for the rights of women internationally by ratifying the United Nations Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women; Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives of the Twenty-fourth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2008, the Senate concurring, That the Legislature urges the United States Senate to demonstrate our national commitment to human rights for all people by ratifying the United Nations Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women, and joining the one hundred eighty-five ratifying nations in endorsing the most comprehensive treaty ensuring fundamental human rights and equality for all women; and be it futher

Resolved, that certified copies of this Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, and members of Hawaii's congressional delegation.

POM–392. A resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of Utah reaffirming the words, ''Under God,'' in the pledge of allegiance; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 3

Whereas, the Pledge of Allegiance is a promise or oath of allegiance to the United States as represented by its national flag;

Whereas, the Pledge of Allegiance is commonly recited in unison at public events and especially in public school classrooms;

Whereas, the Pledge of Allegiance was written in 1892 by Francis Bellamy, a Baptist minister;

Whereas, by presidential proclamation, and later at the urging of the National Flag Conference, Reverend Bellamy's original version of the Pledge was altered prior to being officially recognized as the official national pledge in 1945;

Whereas, on Flag Day, 1954, at President Dwight D. Eisenhower's urging, the United States Congress passed a resolution to add the words ''under God'' to the Pledge of Allegiance;

Whereas, President Eisenhower explained, ''These words [''under God'] will remind Americans that despite our great physical strength we must remain humble. They will help us to keep constantly in our minds and hearts the spiritual and moral principles which alone give dignity to man, and upon which our way of life is founded.''; and

Whereas, it is fitting that the phrase ''under God'' in the Pledge of Allegiance be reaffirmed as part of the official Pledge of Allegiance of the United States; Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Legislature of the state of Utah reaffirms the words ''under God'' as part of the official Pledge of Allegiance of the United States of America; and be it further

Resolved, That copies of this resolution be sent to the President of the United States, the Majority Leader of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, and to the members of Utah's congressional delegation.

POM–393. A resolution adopted by the Senate of the State of Pennsylvania urging Congress to enact bill S. 70 of 2007 relative to Memorial Day; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 321

Whereas, Memorial Day is a day of remembrance for those who have died in this nation's service; and

Whereas, the United States observes Memorial Day as a time to honor and reflect on those sacrifices; and

Whereas, Memorial Day was officially proclaimed by General John Logan, national commander of the Grand Army of the Republic, in his General Order No. 11, and it was first observed on May 30, 1868; and

Whereas, Congress established Memorial Day as the last Monday in May when it approved the National Holiday Act of 1971 (P.L. 90–363) to ensure a three-day weekend for the Federal holiday; and

Whereas, traditional observance of Memorial Day has diminished over the years as many Americans have forgotten the meaning and traditions of Memorial Day and instead use that day to celebrate the beginning of summer; and

Whereas, to help re-educate and remind Americans of the true meaning of Memorial Day, President George W. Bush signed the National Moment of Remembrance Act in 2000 (P.L. 106–579), designating 3 p.m. local time on Memorial Day as the National Moment of Remembrance to encourage citizens to pause and remember our fallen soldiers; and

Whereas, to fully return the solemn spirit to Memorial Day, this nation should also return to the traditional day of observance of May 30 each year, regardless of the day of the week on which it falls; therefore be it

Resolved, That the Senate of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania memorialize the President and the Congress of the United States to enact bill S. 70 of 2007, which would designate the legal public holiday of Memorial Day as May 30, call for the flying of the flag at half-staff until noon that day and encourage Americans to observe Memorial Day as a day of ceremonies for showing respect for American veterans of wars and other military conflicts; and be it further

Resolved, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the President of the United States, the presiding officers of each house of Congress and to each member of Congress from Pennsylvania.

POM–394. A concurrent resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of Utah urging Congress to pass balanced immigration reform; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 5

Whereas, the economic relationship with Mexico, which shares our border, is vital to the United States because Mexico is the United States' second most important trading partner, the United States is Mexico's most important trading partner, and the U.S. is the largest source of direct foreign investment in Mexico;

Whereas, economic, historic, and cultural ties between the U.S. and Mexico are critical to many U.S. industries, including many in Utah;

Whereas, as a result of their shared borders and proximity to Mexico, western states, including Utah, suffer a disproportionate financial burden on health care, education, the environment, and criminal justice systems because of unauthorized immigration from Mexico, affecting the economy of the entire region;

Whereas, the economic impacts may be offset by allowing more legal and readily available foreign workers to enter the U.S.;

Whereas, seasonal industries, including agriculture and hospitality, historically and currently play a pivotal role in Utah's economy, and are heavily dependent upon a stable and reliable foreign labor pool; and

Whereas, current immigration law addresses neither documented U.S. labor shortages nor marketplace dynamics, and without a lawful avenue to provide seasonal employees, encourages continued unlawful immigration to the U.S. which continues to negatively impact the state's economy; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Legislature of the state of Utah, the Governor concurring therein, express support for the development of a balanced national immigration policy with the overarching purpose of protecting and preserving the safety and interests of the United States and its citizens while recognizing the needs of Utah industries to have a stable and legal supply of workers quickly available where there are no U.S. workers otherwise available; and be it further

Resolved, That the Legislature and the Governor urge Utah's congressional delegation to work with the United States Congress to ensure that any reform efforts focus primarily on enabling Utah's employers to hire a legal workforce sufficient to meet the needs of Utah industries to enhance the economic growth of the state's private sector; and be it further

Resolved, That the Legislature and the Governor urge Congress to reform the current systems for obtaining work visas and reduce the delay for legal immigration; and be it further

Resolved, That the Legislature and the Governor express their opposition to granting blanket amnesty to undocumented persons and urge that appropriate sanctions be a part of any solution; and be it further

Resolved, That the Legislature and the Governor recognize that addressing the status of millions of undocumented persons currently present in the U.S. is a complex issue; and be it further

Resolved, That the Legislature and the Governor urge that in passing immigration reform Congress not inadvertently create unnecessary hurdles and lengthy delays for those who wish to legally hire non-U.S. workers; and be it further

Resolved, That the Legislature and the Governor urge that in passing immigration reform Congress not inadvertently create incentives for additional illegal immigration by creating unnecessary hurdles and lengthy delays for those who wish to immigrate legally for work or citizenship; and be it further

Resolved, That the Legislature and the Governor urge Congress to reform the Foreign Worker Visa system as part of any immigration reform; and be it further

Resolved, That the Legislature and the Governor urge Congress to eliminate current visa backlogs and prevent future backlogs to help meet Utah workforce demands; and be it further

Resolved, That the Legislature and the Governor recommend that these tasks can be accomplished by:

(1) dramatically increasing the annual immigrant visa caps, including the limits on H–1B and H–2B visas, particularly in the industries requiring highly trained and educated workers and seasonal hospitality operations;

(2) streamlining the processing of H–2A visas to create a more workable system to enable agricultural employers to hire needed foreign workers for seasonal jobs;

(3) maintaining the L–1 visa program; and

(4) expediting work authorization for foreign nationals who complete University-level degrees in U.S. institutions to ensure that the benefits of the educational investment the nation has made in these individuals remains in the U.S.; and be it further

Resolved, That the Legislature and the Governor urge Congress to ensure the enforcement of current federal employer sanctions for knowingly hiring undocumented labor, which requires the federal government to adopt a secure, reliable, and fast employment verification system accessible to employers electronically 24 hours a day; and be it further

Resolved, That copies of this resolution be sent to the Majority Leader of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, the United States Department of Homeland Security, and to the members of Utah's congressional delegation.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mrs. MURRAY (for herself and Mr. DODD):

S. 3141. A bill to provide for nondiscrimination by eligible lenders in the Federal Family Education Loan Program; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. REID (for Mr. OBAMA):

S. 3142. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to enhance public health activities related to stillbirth and sudden unexpected infant death; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. DURBIN (for himself and Mrs. DOLE):

S. 3143. A bill to assist law enforcement agencies in locating, arresting, and prosecuting fugitives from justice; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. BAUCUS (for himself, Mr. GRASSLEY, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. VOINOVICH, Mr. SALAZAR, Mr. ROBERTS, Mr. BROWN, Mr. SMITH, Mr. CASEY, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. LEVIN, Mrs. DOLE, Mr. LIEBERMAN, Mr. ISAKSON, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. BURR, Mr. DODD, Ms. SNOWE, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. HATCH, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. SCHUMER, Mrs. CLINTON, Ms. MIKULSKI, and Mrs. LINCOLN):

S. 3144. A bill to amend part B of title XVIII of the Social Security Act to delay and reform the Medicare competitive acquisition program for purchase of durable medical equipment, prosthetics, orthotics, and supplies; to the Committee on Finance.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 1117

At the request of Mr. BOND, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1117, a bill to establish a grant program to provide vision care to children, and for other purposes.

S. 1120

At the request of Mr. HARKIN, the name of the Senator from Montana (Mr. TESTER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1120, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to provide grants for the training of graduate medical residents in preventive medicine and public health.

S. 1232

At the request of Mr. DODD, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1232, a bill to direct the Secretary of Health and Human Services, in consultation with the Secretary of Education, to develop a voluntary policy for managing the risk of food allergy and anaphylaxis in schools, to establish school-based food allergy management grants, and for other purposes.

S. 1418

At the request of Mr. DODD, the name of the Senator from New York (Mrs. CLINTON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1418, a bill to provide assistance to improve the health of newborns, children, and mothers in developing countries, and for other purposes.

S. 1430

At the request of Mr. SCHUMER, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 1430, a bill to authorize State and local governments to direct divestiture from, and prevent investment in, companies with investments of $20,000,000 or more in Iran's energy sector, and for other purposes.

S. 1774

At the request of Mrs. BOXER, the name of the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1774, a bill to designate the John Krebs Wilderness in the State of California, to add certain land to the Sequoia-Kings Canyon National Park Wilderness, and for other purposes.

S. 1921

At the request of Mr. WEBB, the name of the Senator from Arizona (Mr. MCCAIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1921, a bill to amend the American Battlefield Protection Act of 1996 to extend the authorization for that Act, and for other purposes.

S. 2035

At the request of Mr. SPECTER, the name of the Senator from Montana (Mr. TESTER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2035, a bill to maintain the free flow of information to the public by providing conditions for the federally compelled disclosure of information by certain persons connected with the news media.

S. 2059

At the request of Mr. WYDEN, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 2059, a bill to amend the Family and Medical Leave Act of 1993 to clarify the eligibility requirements with respect to airline flight crews.

At the request of Mr. AKAKA, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 2059, supra.

S. 2396

At the request of Mr. ROCKEFELLER, the name of the Senator from Washington (Ms. CANTWELL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2396, a bill to amend title XI of the Social Security Act to modernize the quality improvement organization (QIO) program.

S. 2433

At the request of Mr. SCHUMER, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 2433, a bill to require the President to develop and implement a comprehensive strategy to further the United States foreign policy objective of promoting the reduction of global poverty, the elimination of extreme global poverty, and the achievement of the Millennium Development Goal of reducing by one-half the proportion of people worldwide, between 1990 and 2015, who live on less than $1 per day.

S. 2439

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the name of the Senator from New York (Mrs. CLINTON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2439, a bill to require the National Incident Based Reporting System, the Uniform Crime Reporting Program, and the Law Enforcement National Data Exchange Program to list cruelty to animals as a separate offense category.

S. 2550

At the request of Mrs. HUTCHISON, the name of the Senator from Kansas (Mr. ROBERTS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2550, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to prohibit the Secretary of Veterans Affairs from collecting certain debts owed to the United States by members of the Armed Forces and veterans who die as a result of an injury incurred or aggravated on active duty in a combat zone, and for other purposes.

S. 2595

At the request of Mrs. FEINSTEIN, the name of the Senator from Maine (Ms. SNOWE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2595, a bill to create a national licensing system for residential mortgage loan originators, to develop minimum standards of conduct to be enforced by State regulators, and for other purposes.

S. 2619

At the request of Mr. COBURN, the names of the Senator from Texas (Mr. CORNYN) and the Senator from Missouri (Mr. BOND) were added as cosponsors of S. 2619, a bill to protect innocent Americans from violent crime in national parks.

S. 2667

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the name of the Senator from Idaho (Mr. CRAPO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2667, a bill to direct the Attorney General to make an annual grant to the A Child Is Missing Alert and Recovery Center to assist law enforcement agencies in the rapid recovery of missing children, and for other purposes.

S. 2668

At the request of Mr. KERRY, the names of the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. PRYOR), the Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY) and the Senator from Montana (Mr. TESTER) were added as cosponsors of S. 2668, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to remove cell phones from listed property under section 280F.

S. 2874

At the request of Mrs. FEINSTEIN, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. WYDEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2874, a bill to amend titles 5, 10, 37, and 38, United States Code, to ensure the fair treatment of a member of the Armed Forces who is discharged from the Armed Forces, at the request of the member, pursuant to the Department of Defense policy permitting the early discharge of a member who is the only surviving child in a family in which the father or mother, or one or more siblings, served in the Armed Forces and, because of hazards incident to such service, was killed, died as a result of wounds, accident, or disease, is in a captured or missing in action status, or is permanently disabled, and for other purposes.

S. 2888

At the request of Mr. KOHL, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Ms. MIKULSKI) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2888, a bill to protect the property and security of homeowners who are subject to foreclosure proceedings, and for other purposes.

S. 2920

At the request of Mr. KERRY, the name of the Senator from Montana (Mr. TESTER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2920, a bill to reauthorize and improve the financing and entrepreneurial development programs of the Small Business Administration, and for other purposes.

S. 2931

At the request of Ms. SNOWE, the name of the Senator from Kansas (Mr. BROWNBACK) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2931, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to exempt complex rehabilitation products and assistive technology products from the Medicare competitive acquisition program.

S. 2955

At the request of Mr. WHITEHOUSE, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. REED) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2955, a bill to authorize funds to the Local Initiatives Support Corporation to carry out its Community Safety Initiative.

S. 2979

At the request of Mr. KERRY, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Mr. GREGG) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2979, a bill to exempt the African National Congress from treatment as a terrorist organization, and for other purposes.

S. 2983

At the request of Mr. LAUTENBERG, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. CHAMBLISS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2983, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to prevent and cure diabetes and to promote and improve the care of individuals with diabetes for the reduction of health disparities within racial and ethnic minority groups, including the African-American, Hispanic American, Asian American and Pacific Islander, and American Indian and Alaskan Native communities.

S. 2990

At the request of Mr. KERRY, the names of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. REED) and the Senator from Kansas (Mr. BROWNBACK) were added as cosponsors of S. 2990, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to improve access of Medicare beneficiaries to intravenous immune globulins.

S. 3022

At the request of Mr. LEVIN, the name of the Senator from Wisconsin (Mr. FEINGOLD) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3022, a bill to amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to prohibit the sale of dishwashing detergent in the United States if the detergent contains a high level of phosphorus.

S. 3038

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the name of the Senator from Maine (Ms.

COLLINS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3038, a bill to amend part E of title IV of the Social Security Act to extend the adoption incentives program, to authorize States to establish a relative guardianship program, to promote the adoption of children with special needs, and for other purposes.

S. 3086

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from Missouri (Mr. BOND) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3086, a bill to amend the antitrust laws to ensure competitive market-based fees and terms for merchants' access to electronic payment systems.

S. 3118

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the name of the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. BARRASSO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3118, a bill to amend titles XVIII and XIX of the Social Security Act to preserve beneficiary access to care by preventing a reduction in the Medicare physician fee schedule, to improve the quality of care by advancing value based purchasing, electronic health records, and electronic prescribing, and to maintain and improve access to care in rural areas, and for other purposes.

S. 3130

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. JOHNSON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3130, a bill to provide energy price relief by authorizing greater resources and authority for the Commodity Futures Trading Commission, and for other purposes.

S.J. RES. 2

At the request of Mr. VITTER, the name of the Senator from Kansas (Mr. BROWNBACK) was added as a cosponsor of S.J. Res. 2, a joint resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States relative to limiting the number of terms that a Member of Congress may serve.

S.J. RES. 37

At the request of Mrs. FEINSTEIN, the name of the Senator from California (Mrs. BOXER) was added as a cosponsor of S.J. Res. 37, a joint resolution expressing the sense of Congress that the United States should sign the Declaration of the Oslo Conference on Cluster Munitions and future instruments banning cluster munitions that cause unacceptable harm to civilians.

S. CON. RES. 88

At the request of Mr. CORNYN, the name of the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. INHOFE) was added as a cosponsor of S. Con. Res. 88, a concurrent resolution expressing the sense of Congress that the Food and Drug Administration's (FDA) new policy restricting women's access to medications containing estriol does not serve the public interest.

S. RES. 584

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the names of the Senator from California (Mrs. BOXER), the Senator from Ohio (Mr. BROWN), the Senator from Vermont (Mr. LEAHY), the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER), the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. KENNEDY), the Senator from Maryland (Mr. CARDIN), the Senator from Missouri (Mrs. MCCASKILL), the Senator from Louisiana (Ms. LANDRIEU), the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. LAUTENBERG), the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. LIEBERMAN) and the Senator from Arkansas (Mrs. LINCOLN) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 584, a resolution recognizing the historical significance of Juneteenth Independence Day and expressing the sense of the Senate that history should be regarded as a means for understanding the past and solving the challenges of the future.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. BAUCUS (for himself, Mr. GRASSLEY, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. VOINOVICH, Mr. SALAZAR, Mr. ROBERTS, Mr. BROWN, Mr. SMITH, Mr. CASEY, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. LEVIN, Mrs. DOLE, Mr. LIEBERMAN, Mr. ISAKSON, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. BURR, Mr. DODD, Ms. SNOWE, Mr. SANDERS, Mr, HATCH, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. SCHUMER, Mrs. CLINTON, Ms. MIKULSKI, and Mrs. LINCOLN):

S. 3144. A bill to amend part B of title XVIII of the Social Security Act to delay and reform the Medicare competitive acquisition program for purchase of durable medical equipment, prosthetics, orthotics, and supplies; to the Committee on Finance.

Mr. BAUCUS. Mr. President, today I introduce, with my friend Senator GRASSLEY and twenty-four other Democratic and Republican Senators, the Medicare DMEPOS Competitive Acquisition Reform Act of 2008. In doing so, I would also like to recognize the efforts of Congressman PETE STARK, Congressman DAVE CAMP, and so many others in the House of Representatives who worked very hard on this bipartisan legislation.

This legislation will delay the durable medical equipment, prosthetics, orthotics, and supplies competitive acquisition program. Many Members of Congress and I have received reports about potential inaccuracies in the implementation of the CAP program. These reports range from suppliers who believe they were wrongly disqualified to questions about the clarity and consistency of information that suppliers received during the bidding process. Some providers were awarded contracts to serve areas in which they did not previously have a presence. Other suppliers were awarded contracts for service lines with which they have little or no experience.

While I support the concept of competitive bidding as a way to decrease costs, it is the obligation of Congress to make sure that these savings are not at the expense of beneficiary access to the care that they need in their own communities. I believe that Congress should take a closer look to make sure this program lives up to its potential.

In order to ensure that we are getting the best possible price and quality for beneficiaries, it is critical that the competitive bidding process be accurate and inclusive. I am most concerned about the impact that a poorly designed program will have on Medicare beneficiaries, many of whom are confused about what this new program means for them and are concerned that they won't be able to get care from someone in their own community.

This means we must have as many bidders as possible who offer not only the best price but clearly meet high quality standards. Based upon the numbers we have seen as a result of bidding in phase one, I think we need to look more closely to make sure that we are not missing an opportunity to consider additional suppliers who have experience furnishing these services in the communities at play. Furthermore, we need to examine the bidding process outcomes to make sure that the suppliers being offered contracts to serve patients in a selected area have the team on the ground to help patients in those areas.

I have also heard concerns that some of the products included in the first phase of the competitive acquisition program may not be the best fit for this type of program because they require specialized handling or expertise. At the end of the day, the most important goal of the Medicare program is to make sure patients get the care that is appropriate for them, so we must tread carefully when we move ahead with a program covering these products.

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services put forth an admirable effort to implement a complex competitive bidding program in a short time frame. I think that many of the concerns that people have raised about the program can be resolved, but we cannot afford to ignore them. The beneficiary services at stake are just too important to move hastily; no matter how much money we believe we can save.

I think that it is worth it for us to delay for just a bit and take a closer look to make sure this program lives up to its potential. With a few minor tweaks here and there, I am convinced that the competitive acquisition program will live up to its promise to provide cost effective, high-quality services and products to patients.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the text was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 3144

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the ''Medicare DMEPOS Competitive Acquisition Reform Act of 2008''.

SEC. 2. DELAY IN AND REFORM OF MEDICARE DMEPOS COMPETITIVE ACQUISITION PROGRAM.

(a) TEMPORARY DELAY AND REFORM.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 1847(a)(1) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395w–3(a)(1)) is amended—

(A) in paragraph (1)—

(i) in subparagraph (B)(i), in the matter before subclause (I), by inserting ''consistent with subparagraph (D)'' after ''in a manner'';

(ii) in subparagraph (B)(i)(II), by striking ''80'' and ''in 2009'' and inserting ''an additional 70'' and ''in 2011'', respectively;

(iii) in subparagraph (B)(i)(III), by striking ''after 2009'' and inserting ''after 2011 (or, in the case of national mail order for items and services, after 2010)''; and

(iv) by adding at the end the following new subparagraphs:

''(D) CHANGES IN COMPETITIVE ACQUISITION PROGRAMS.—

''(i) ROUND 1 OF COMPETITIVE ACQUISITION PROGRAM.—Notwithstanding subparagraph (B)(i)(I) and in implementing the first round of the competitive acquisition programs under this section—

''(I) the contracts awarded under this section before the date of the enactment of this subparagraph are terminated, no payment shall be made under this title on or after the date of the enactment of this subparagraph based on such a contract, and, to the extent that any damages may be applicable as a result of the termination of such contracts, such damages shall be payable from the Federal Supplementary Medical Insurance Trust Fund under section 1841;

''(II) the Secretary shall conduct the competition for such round in a manner so that it occurs in 2009 with respect to the same items and services and the same areas, except as provided in subclauses (III) and (IV);

''(III) the Secretary shall exclude Puerto Rico so that such round of competition covers 9, instead of 10, of the largest metropolitan statistical areas; and

''(IV) there shall be excluded negative pressure wound therapy items and services.

Nothing in subclause (I) shall be construed to provide an independent cause of action or right to administrative or judicial review with regard to the termination provided under such subclause.

''(ii) ROUND 2 OF COMPETITIVE ACQUISITION PROGRAM.—In implementing the second round of the competitive acquisition programs under this section described in subparagraph (B)(i)(II)—

''(I) the metropolitan statistical areas to be included shall be those metropolitan statistical areas selected by the Secretary for such round as of June 1, 2008; and

''(II) the Secretary may subdivide metropolitan statistical areas with populations (based upon the most recent data from the Census Bureau) of at least 8,000,000 into separate areas for competitive acquisition purposes.

''(iii) EXCLUSION OF CERTAIN AREAS IN SUBSEQUENT ROUNDS OF COMPETITIVE ACQUISITION PROGRAMS.—In implementing subsequent rounds of the competitive acquisition programs under this section, including under subparagraph (B)(i)(III), for competitions occurring before 2015, the Secretary shall exempt from the competitive acquisition program (other than national mail order) the following:

''(I) Rural areas.

''(II) Metropolitan statistical areas not selected under round 1 or round 2 with a population of less than 250,000.

''(III) Areas with a low population density within a metropolitan statistical area that is otherwise selected, as determined for purposes of paragraph (3)(A).

''(E) VERIFICATION BY OIG.—The Inspector General of the Department of Health and Human Services shall, through post-award audit, survey, or otherwise, assess the process used by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services to conduct competitive bidding and subsequent pricing determinations under this section that are the basis for pivotal bid amounts and single payment amounts for items and services in competitive bidding areas under rounds 1 and 2 of the competitive acquisition programs under this section and may continue to verify such calculations for subsequent rounds of such programs.

''(F) SUPPLIER FEEDBACK ON MISSING FINANCIAL DOCUMENTATION.—

''(i) IN GENERAL.—In the case of a bid where one or more covered documents in connection with such bid have been submitted not later than the covered document review date specified in clause (ii), the Secretary—

''(I) shall provide, by not later than 45 days (in the case of the first round of the competitive acquisition programs as described in subparagraph (B)(i)(I)) or 90 days (in the case of a subsequent round of such programs) after the covered document review date, for notice to the bidder of all such documents that are missing as of the covered document review date; and

''(II) may not reject the bid on the basis that any covered document is missing or has not been submitted on a timely basis, if all such missing documents identified in the notice provided to the bidder under subclause (I) are submitted to the Secretary not later than 10 business days after the date of such notice.

''(ii) COVERED DOCUMENT REVIEW DATE.—The covered document review date specified in this clause with respect to a competitive acquisition program is the later of—

''(I) the date that is 30 days before the final date specified by the Secretary for submission of bids under such program; or

''(II) the date that is 30 days after the first date specified by the Secretary for submission of bids under such program.

''(iii) LIMITATIONS OF PROCESS.—The process provided under this subparagraph—

''(I) applies only to the timely submission of covered documents;

''(II) does not apply to any determination as to the accuracy or completeness of covered documents submitted or whether such documents meet applicable requirements;

''(III) shall not prevent the Secretary from rejecting a bid based on any basis not described in clause (i)(II); and

''(IV) shall not be construed as permitting a bidder to change bidding amounts or to make other changes in a bid submission.

''(iv) COVERED DOCUMENT DEFINED.—In this subparagraph, the term 'covered document' means a financial, tax, or other document required to be submitted by a bidder as part of an original bid submission under a competitive acquisition program in order to meet required financial standards. Such term does not include other documents, such as the bid itself or accreditation documentation.''; and

(B) in paragraph (2)(A), by inserting before the period at the end the following: ''and excluding certain complex rehabilitative power wheelchairs recognized by the Secretary as classified within group 3 or higher (and related accessories when furnished in connection with such wheelchairs)''.

(2) BUDGET NEUTRAL OFFSET.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Section 1834(a)(14) of such Act (42 U.S.C. 1395m(a)(14)) is amended—

(i) by striking ''and'' at the end of subparagraphs (H) and (I);

(ii) by redesignating subparagraph (J) as subparagraph (M); and

(iii) by inserting after subparagraph (I) the following new subparagraphs:

''(J) for 2009—

''(i) in the case of items and services furnished in any geographic area, if such items or services were selected for competitive acquisition in any area under the competitive acquisition program under section 1847(a)(1)(B)(i)(I) before July 1, 2008, including diabetic supplies but only if furnished through mail order, −9.5 percent; or

''(ii) in the case of other items and services, the percentage increase in the consumer price index for all urban consumers (U.S. urban average) for the 12-month period ending with June 2008;

''(K) for 2010, 2011, 2012, and 2013, the percentage increase in the consumer price index for all urban consumers (U.S. urban average) for the 12-month period ending with June of the previous year;

''(L) for 2014—

''(i) in the case of items and services described in subparagraph (J)(i) for which a payment adjustment has not been made under subsection (a)(1)(F)(ii) in any previous year, the percentage increase in the consumer price index for all urban consumers (U.S. urban average) for the 12-month period ending with June 2013, plus 2.0 percentage points; or

''(ii) in the case of other items and services, the percentage increase in the consumer price index for all urban consumers (U.S. urban average) for the 12-month period ending with June 2013; and''.

(B) CONFORMING TREATMENT FOR CERTAIN ITEMS AND SERVICES.—The second sentence of section 1842(s)(1) of such Act (42 U.S.C. 1395u(s)(1)) is amended by striking ''except that'' and all that follows and inserting the following: ''except that for items and services described in paragraph (2)(D)—

''(A) for 2009 section 1834(a)(14)(J)(i) shall apply under this paragraph instead of the percentage increase otherwise applicable; and

''(B) for 2014, if subparagraph (A) applied to the items and services and there has not been a payment adjustment under subsection (h)(1)(H) for the items and services for any previous year, the percentage increase computed under section 1834(a)(14)(L)(i) shall apply instead of the percentage increase otherwise applicable.''.

(3) CONFORMING DELAY.—Subsections (a)(1)(F) and (h)(1)(H) of section 1834 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395m) are each amended by striking ''January 1, 2009'' and inserting ''January 1, 2011''.

(4) CONSIDERATIONS IN APPLICATION.—Section 1834 of such Act (42 U.S.C. 1395m) is amended—

(A) in subsection (a)(1)—

(i) in subparagraph (F), by inserting ''subject to subparagraph (G),'' before ''that are included''; and

(ii) by adding at the end the following new subparagraph:

''(G) USE OF INFORMATION ON COMPETITIVE BID RATES.—The Secretary shall specify by regulation the methodology to be used in applying the provisions of subparagraph (F)(ii) and subsection (h)(1)(H)(ii). In promulgating such regulation, the Secretary shall consider the costs of items and services in areas in which such provisions would be applied compared to the payment rates for such items and services in competitive acquisition areas.''; and

(B) in subsection (h)(1)(H), by inserting ''subject to subsection (a)(1)(G),'' before ''that are included''.

(b) QUALITY STANDARDS.—

(1) APPLICATION OF ACCREDITATION REQUIREMENT.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Section 1834(a)(20) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395m(a)(20)) is amended—

(i) in subparagraph (E), by inserting ''including subparagraph (F),'' after ''under this paragraph,''; and

(ii) by adding at the end the following new subparagraph:

''(F) APPLICATION OF ACCREDITATION REQUIREMENT.—In implementing quality standards under this paragraph—

''(i) subject to clause (ii), the Secretary shall require suppliers furnishing items and services described in subparagraph (D) on or after October 1, 2009, directly or as a subcontractor for another entity, to have submitted to the Secretary evidence of accreditation by an accreditation organization designated under subparagraph (B) as meeting applicable quality standards; and

''(ii) in applying such standards and the accreditation requirement of clause (i) with respect to eligible professionals (as defined in section 1848(k)(3)(B)), and including such other persons, such as orthotists and prosthetists, as specified by the Secretary, furnishing such items and services—

''(I) such standards and accreditation requirement shall not apply to such professionals and persons unless the Secretary determines that the standards being applied are designed specifically to be applied to such professionals and persons; and

''(II) the Secretary may exempt such professionals and persons from such standards and requirement if the Secretary determines that licensing, accreditation, or other mandatory quality requirements apply to such professionals and persons with respect to the furnishing of such items and services.''.

(B) CONSTRUCTION.—Section 1834(a)(20)(F)(ii) of the Social Security Act, as added by subparagraph (A), shall not be construed as preventing the Secretary of Health and Human Services from implementing the first round of competition under section 1847 of such Act on a timely basis.

(2) DISCLOSURE OF SUBCONTRACTORS UNDER COMPETITIVE ACQUISITION PROGRAM.—Section 1847(b)(3) of such Act (42 U.S.C. 1395w–3(b)(3)) is amended by adding at the end the following new subparagraph:

''(C) DISCLOSURE OF SUBCONTRACTORS.—

''(i) INITIAL DISCLOSURE.—Not later than 10 days after the date a supplier enters into a contract with the Secretary under this section, such supplier shall disclose to the Secretary, in a form and manner specified by the Secretary, the information on—

''(I) each subcontracting relationship that such supplier has in furnishing items and services under the contract; and

''(II) whether each such subcontractor meets the requirement of section 1834(a)(20)(F)(i), if applicable to such subcontractor.

''(ii) SUBSEQUENT DISCLOSURE.—Not later than 10 days after such a supplier subsequently enters into a subcontracting relationship described in clause (i)(II), such supplier shall disclose to the Secretary, in such form and manner, the information described in subclauses (I) and (II) of clause (i).''.

(3) COMPETITIVE ACQUISITION OMBUDSMAN.—Such section is further amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

''(f) COMPETITIVE ACQUISITION OMBUDSMAN.—The Secretary shall provide for a competitive acquisition ombudsman within the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services in order to respond to complaints and inquiries made by suppliers and individuals relating to the application of the competitive acquisition program under this section. The ombudsman may be within the office of the Medicare Beneficiary Ombudsman appointed under section 1808(c). The ombudsman shall submit to Congress an annual report on the activities under this subsection, which report shall be coordinated with the report provided under section 1808(c)(2)(C).''.

(c) CHANGE IN REPORTS AND DEADLINES.—

(1) GAO REPORT.—Section 302(b)(3) of the Medicare Prescription Drug, Improvement, and Modernization Act of 2003 (Public Law 108-173) is amended—

(A) in subparagraph (A)—

(i) by inserting ''and as amended by section 2 of the Medicare DMEPOS Competitive Acquisition Reform Act of 2008'' after ''as amended by paragraph (1)''; and

(ii) by inserting before the period at the end the following: ''and the topics specified in subparagraph (C)'';

(B) in subparagraph (B), by striking ''Not later than January 1, 2009,'' and inserting ''Not later than 1 year after the first date that payments are made under section 1847 of the Social Security Act,''; and

(C) by adding at the end the following new subparagraph:

''(C) TOPICS.—The topics specified in this subparagraph, for the study under subparagraph (A) concerning the competitive acquisition program, are the following:

''(i) Beneficiary access to items and services under the program, including the impact on such access of awarding contracts to bidders that—

''(I) did not have a physical presence in an area where they received a contract; or

''(II) had no previous experience providing the product category they were contracted to provide.

''(ii) Beneficiary satisfaction with the program and cost savings to beneficiaries under the program.

''(iii) Costs to suppliers of participating in the program and recommendations about ways to reduce those costs without compromising quality standards or savings to the Medicare program.

''(iv) Impact of the program on small business suppliers.

''(v) Analysis of the impact on utilization of different items and services paid within the same Healthcare Common Procedure Coding System (HCPCS) code.

''(vi) Costs to the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, including payments made to contractors, for administering the program compared with administration of a fee schedule, in comparison with the relative savings of the program.

''(vii) Impact on access, Medicare spending, and beneficiary spending of any difference in treatment for diabetic testing supplies depending on how such supplies are furnished.

''(viii) Such other topics as the Comptroller General determines to be appropriate.''.

(2) DELAY IN OTHER DEADLINES.—

(A) PROGRAM ADVISORY AND OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE.—Section 1847(c)(5) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395w–3(c)(5)) is amended by striking ''December 31, 2009'' and inserting ''December 31, 2011''.

(B) SECRETARIAL REPORT.—Section 1847(d) of such Act (42 U.S.C. 1395w–3(d)) is amended by striking ''July 1, 2009'' and inserting ''July 1, 2011''.

(C) IG REPORT.—Section 302(e) of the Medicare Prescription Drug, Improvement, and Modernization Act of 2003 (Public Law 108-173) is amended by striking ''July 1, 2009'' and inserting ''July 1, 2011''.

(3) EVALUATION OF CERTAIN CODE.—The Secretary of Health and Human Services shall evaluate the existing Healthcare Common Procedure Coding System (HCPCS) code for negative pressure wound therapy to ensure accurate reporting and billing for items and services under such code. In carrying out such evaluation, the Secretary shall use the existing process for the consideration of coding changes and consider all relevant studies and information furnished pursuant to such process.

(d) OTHER PROVISIONS.—

(1) EXEMPTION FROM COMPETITIVE ACQUISITION FOR CERTAIN OFF-THE-SHELF ORTHOTICS.—Section 1847(a) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395w–3(a)) is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

''(7) EXEMPTION FROM COMPETITIVE ACQUISITION.—The programs under this section shall not apply to the following:

''(A) CERTAIN OFF-THE-SHELF ORTHOTICS.—Items and services described in paragraph (2)(C) if furnished—

''(i) by a physician or other practitioner (as defined by the Secretary) to the physician's or practitioner's own patients as part of the physician's or practitioner's professional service; or

''(ii) by a hospital to the hospital's own patients during an admission or on the date of discharge.

''(B) CERTAIN DURABLE MEDICAL EQUIPMENT.—Those items and services described in paragraph (2)(A)—

''(i) that are furnished by a hospital to the hospital's own patients during an admission or on the date of discharge; and

''(ii) to which such programs would not apply, as specified by the Secretary, if furnished by a physician to the physician's own patients as part of the physician's professional service.''.

(2) CORRECTION IN FACE-TO-FACE EXAMINATION REQUIREMENT.—Section 1834(a)(1)(E)(ii) of such Act (42 U.S.C. 1395m(a)(1)(E)(ii)) is amended by striking ''1861(r)(1)'' and inserting ''1861(r)''.

(3) SPECIAL RULE IN CASE OF NATIONAL MAIL-ORDER COMPETITION FOR DIABETIC TESTING STRIPS.—Section 1847(b) of such Act (42 U.S.C. 1395w–3(b)) is amended—

(A) by redesignating paragraph (10) as paragraph (11); and

(B) by inserting after paragraph (9) the following new paragraph:

''(10) SPECIAL RULE IN CASE OF COMPETITION FOR DIABETIC TESTING STRIPS.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—With respect to the competitive acquisition program for diabetic testing strips conducted after the first round of the competitive acquisition programs, if an entity does not demonstrate to the Secretary that its bid covers types of diabetic testing strip products that, in the aggregate and taking into account volume for the different products, cover 50 percent (or such higher percentage as the Secretary may specify) of all such types of products, the Secretary shall reject such bid. The volume for such types of products may be determined in accordance with such data (which may be market based data) as the Secretary recognizes.

''(B) STUDY OF TYPES OF TESTING STRIP PRODUCTS.—Before 2011, the Inspector General of the Department of Health and Human Services shall conduct a study to determine the types of diabetic testing strip products by volume that could be used to make determinations pursuant to subparagraph (A) for the first competition under the competitive acquisition program described in such subparagraph and submit to the Secretary a report on the results of the study. The Inspector General shall also conduct such a study and submit such a report before the Secretary conducts a subsequent competitive acquisition program described in subparagraph (A).''.

(4) OTHER CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—Section 1847(b)(11) of such Act, as redesignated by paragraph (3), is amended—

(A) in subparagraph (C), by inserting ''and the identification of areas under subsection (a)(1)(D)(iii)'' after ''(a)(1)(A)'';

(B) in subparagraph (D), by inserting ''and implementation of subsection (a)(1)(D)'' after ''(a)(1)(B)'';

(C) in subparagraph (E), by striking ''or'' at the end;

(D) in subparagraph (F), by striking the period at the end and inserting ''; or''; and

(E) by adding at the end the following new subparagraph:

''(G) the implementation of the special rule described in paragraph (10).''.

(5) FUNDING FOR IMPLEMENTATION.—In addition to funds otherwise available, for purposes of implementing the provisions of, and amendments made by, this section, other than the amendment made by subsection (c)(1) and other than section 1847(a)(1)(E) of the Social Security Act, the Secretary of Health and Human Services shall provide for the transfer from the Federal Supplementary Medical Insurance Trust Fund established under section 1841 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395t) to the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services Program Management Account of $20,000,000 for fiscal year 2008, and $25,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2009 through 2012. Amounts transferred under this paragraph for a fiscal year shall be available until expended.

(e) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall take effect as of June 30, 2008.

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I am pleased to introduce the Medicare DMEPOS Competitive Acquisition Reform Act of 2008 with my colleague, Senator BAUCUS, to delay and reform the competitive bidding program for Medicare durable medical equipment, prosthetics, orthotics, and supplies. We are introducing this legislation to address serious concerns that have arisen over implementation of the competitive bidding program which is set to take effect in certain areas of the country on July 1, 2008. The bill will delay the start of the competitive bidding program for 18 months and require the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services to review the program and address significant issues that have been raised regarding implementation of the program.

We must act now before the competitive bidding program takes effect. We must ensure that the frail elderly who depend on diabetic supplies, oxygen, and other medical equipment for life-threatening conditions will continue to have access to essential medical products and supplies which are vital to their daily lives. The continued viability of much of the home medical supply industry is in serious jeopardy as a result of flaws that surfaced in the program during the first round of competitive bidding. Many small home medical equipment suppliers are in danger of going out of business through no fault of their own if the competitive bidding program is implemented as planned. Losing a significant number of small suppliers from the home medical equipment industry would have severe, unintended adverse consequences on thousands of beneficiaries who need home medical equipment and supplies. If that were to occur, it would severely hamper access to essential medical equipment for an untold number of beneficiaries. It was due to these very concerns that I opposed competitive bidding for DME when it was under consideration in 2003. Now, my original concerns, unfortunately, have become a reality, and urgent action by Congress is required.

These concerns are especially problematic right now in states such as Iowa in the Midwest which are already reeling from the disastrous floods and tornadoes we have experienced this past month. The loss of many more small businesses would be disastrous to beneficiaries whose access to needed medical supplies has already been severely limited, let alone the ripple effect this would inflict on local economies which have already been severely impacted by record floods which have harmed scores of businesses and cost hundreds of millions of dollars in damages.

We heard from many medical equipment suppliers that the rules of the competitive bidding program were unclear or were changed at the last minute, and that their bids were not considered. CMS has told us that roughly two-thirds of the bids submitted by suppliers were ultimately rejected for lack of proper documentation or other issues apart from price. This was done even though CMS had assured suppliers when the program began that they would be notified if their bids lacked the required documentation. Two weeks before the bidding closed, CMS abruptly decided they would not provide such notification. Appropriately, this bill terminates the contracts that were awarded under Round One and pays any applicable damages incurred as a result of the terminations, if any. In the future, the bill requires a more transparent process on the part of CMS. When Round One is re-bid, the bill requires CMS to provide feedback to suppliers with documentation issues or other problems and give them an opportunity to remedy the situation before their bids are thrown out and excluded from consideration.

As Ranking Member of the Senate Finance Committee, I am committed to ensuring that Medicare dollars are spent wisely and provide high quality products to seniors at the lowest possible cost. The program improvements required by this legislation will ensure more protections for beneficiaries and lead to lower prices and higher quality medical products while ensuring that beneficiaries will still have access to the medical equipment and supplies that they need. These improvements will also help prevent many small home medical equipment suppliers from going out of business due to a flawed bidding process which unfairly eliminated them from the Medicare program for three years.

In our bill, the cost of delaying the competitive bidding program and adding additional safeguards to the program would be fully paid for by the durable medical equipment industry. According to the Congressional Budget Office, the delay in implementing competitive bidding and the reforms to the program included in this bill will increase Medicare spending by $3.1 billion over 5 years. To offset the cost of the legislation, in 2009 those DME items subject to Round One of the program will not receive a CPI update, and payments for those items will be reduced by 9.5 percent. Items not subject to Round One will receive a CPI update in 2009, and all DME items will receive CPI updates in years 2010 through 2013. In 2014, those DME items which were subject to the 9.5 percent payment reduction in 2009 will receive an additional payment increase of two percent over the CPI unless they are covered by competitive bidding contracts then.

As is true in many sectors, the DME industry is given a bad name by a few bad apples that spoil the barrel. Unfortunately, we hear on a regular basis from the Office of Inspector General and the Justice Department that the DME industry continues to have far too many incidents of waste, fraud and abuse. The multi-agency Medicare Fraud Task Force formed last year has uncovered numerous examples of criminal behavior and successfully prosecuted dozens of fraudulent or nonexistent DME suppliers in South Florida and elsewhere. In just over a year, the task force has brought more than 120 cases against nearly 200 defendants in South Florida alone who have been charged with a total of $638 million in fraud. We must have stronger safeguards to ensure that companies who participate in competitive bidding are actual, legitimate companies that can provide the equipment and services they bid to provide. In addition, the Inspector General of the Department of Health and Human Services is required to assess the process used by CMS to conduct competitive bidding and verify the calculations of the pricing determinations used to determine the payment amounts for competitively bid items in Rounds One and Two.

This bill also includes standards which will lead to an improved competitive bidding program. Under the bill, all DME suppliers must be accredited and meet quality standards by October 2009. We also close a loophole that currently allows subcontractors to remain unaccredited. We heard many complaints about companies awarded contracts who had no presence in the competitively bid area and who then began to solicit subcontractors to assist in carrying out the terms of the contract they had been awarded. Under the current program, subcontractors do not need to meet accreditation standards. Our bill requires that every company that supplies DME in the Medicare program must meet accreditation standards, whether they are primary suppliers or subcontractors.

I urge my colleagues to support this legislation to delay the competitive bidding program in order to ensure seniors continued access to needed home medical equipment and supplies and to remedy flaws in the bidding process and make other necessary improvements in the competitive bidding program.

NOTICE OF HEARING

COMMITTEE ON INDIAN AFFAIRS

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, I would like to announce that the Committee on Indian Affairs will meet on Thursday, June 19, at 9:30 a.m. in room 562 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building to conduct a business meeting to consider pending legislative issues, to be followed immediately by a hearing to receive comments on a discussion draft bill to address law and order in Indian Country.

Those wishing additional information may contact the Indian Affairs Committee at 224–2251.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the committee on Armed Services be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, June 17, 2008, at 9:30 a.m.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, NUTRITION, AND FORESTRY AND THE SUBCOMMITTEE ON FINANCIAL SERVICES AND GENERAL GOVERNMENT

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry and the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Financial Services and General Government, be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, June 17, 2008 at 10:30 a.m. in room 192 of the Dirksen Senate office building.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate in order to conduct a hearing on Tuesday, June 17, 2008, at 10 a.m., in room SD366 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate in order to conduct a hearing on Tuesday, June 17, 2008, at 2:30 p.m., in room SD366 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Finance be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, June 17, 2008, at 10 a.m., in room 215 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Foreign Relations be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, June 17, 2008, at 2:15 p.m.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Foreign Relations be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, June 17, 2008, at 4:30 p.m.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

PRIVILEGES OF THE FLOOR

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that three law clerks from my Judiciary Committee staff, Erin Mallard, Matt Welling, and Arif Panju, be granted the privilege of the floor for the remainder of this session.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

JUNETEENTH INDEPENDENCE DAY

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on the Judiciary be discharged from further consideration of S. Res. 584 and that the Senate then proceed to its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 584) recognizing the historical significance of Juneteenth Independence Day and expressing the sense of the Senate that history should be regarded as a means for understanding the past and solving the challenges of the future.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, this week we commemorate the 143rd anniversary of Juneteenth, the day our Nation's moral pendulum swung from slavery to freedom.

On June 19, 1865, our Nation turned a significant corner. We ushered in what President Lincoln called in his Gettysburg address a ''new birth of freedom.'' We ended an oppression endured by generations of Americans and threw off the chains that shackled our common bond of freedom. We laid the roots for a constitutional revolution that, through the Civil War Amendments, transformed our founding charter from one that defended oppression, to one that embraced equal rights and human dignity.

Over a century later we have made significant progress, but the struggle to secure basic rights for all remains unfulfilled. Just a few months ago, the United Nations Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination found that racial disparities continue to challenge our commitment to equality. I was not surprised to see that the U.N. report rebuked this administration's poor civil rights record. After 9/11, the Bush administration eroded many of the most precious rights and liberties held by all Americans. Just last week, the Supreme Court in the Boumediene opinion, beat back one of these most egregious attempts, restoring the Great Writ of habeas corpus to its rightful place as a mechanism to guarantee liberty from arbitrary confinement. But this administration has also played politics with critical voting laws, and failed to protect our most vulnerable citizens. The Bush administration's poor civil rights record has damaged America's prestige around the world, and undermined our tradition of progress on civil rights.

Vermont is a State that holds a unique place in America's march toward equal justice. It was the first to outlaw slavery. Vermonters offered shelter to runaway slaves seeking refuge while in transit to Canada. Indeed, in just the tiny town of Brandon, 17 homes were stations on the Underground Railroad. I am proud that this month Vermont joined the States recognizing Juneteenth as a State holiday. It is important for our children and grandchildren to know our history, and to know that ordinary people can make a difference.

As we reflect on the sacrifices of past generations, their example should inspire us all in our present day struggle to secure human and civil rights. We must reaffirm our faith in our cherished freedoms and restore our commitment to protect basic rights. I hope all Americans will celebrate Juneteenth by working towards building the more perfect union we want for generations to come.

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table, with no intervening action or debate, and that any statements related to the resolution be printed in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 584) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 584

Whereas news of the end of slavery did not reach frontier areas of the United States, and in particular the Southwestern States, for more than 2 years after President Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation of January 1, 1863, and months after the conclusion of the Civil War;

Whereas, on June 19, 1865, Union soldiers led by Major General Gordon Granger arrived in Galveston, Texas, with news that the Civil War had ended and that the enslaved were free;

Whereas African-Americans who had been slaves in the Southwest celebrated June 19, commonly known as ''Juneteenth Independence Day'', as the anniversary of their emancipation;

Whereas African-Americans from the Southwest continue the tradition of celebrating Juneteenth Independence Day as inspiration and encouragement for future generations;

Whereas, for more than 140 years, Juneteenth Independence Day celebrations have been held to honor African-American freedom while encouraging self-development and respect for all cultures;

Whereas, although Juneteenth Independence Day is beginning to be recognized as a national, and even global, event, the history behind the celebration should not be forgotten; and

Whereas the faith and strength of character demonstrated by former slaves remains an example for all people of the United States, regardless of background, religion, or race: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That—

(1) the Senate—

(A) recognizes the historical significance of Juneteenth Independence Day to the Nation;

(B) supports the continued celebration of Juneteenth Independence Day to provide an opportunity for the people of the United States to learn more about the past and to understand better the experiences that have shaped the Nation; and

(C) encourages the people of the United States to observe Juneteenth Independence Day with appropriate ceremonies, activities, and programs; and

(2) it is the sense of the Senate that—

(A) history should be regarded as a means for understanding the past and solving the challenges of the future; and

(B) the celebration of the end of slavery is an important and enriching part of the history and heritage of the United States.

SUPPORTING NATIONAL MEN'S HEALTH WEEK

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the HELP Committee be discharged from further consideration and the Senate now proceed to S. Res. 585.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 585) supporting National Men's Health Week.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 585) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 585

Whereas, despite advances in medical technology and research, men continue to live an average of more than 5 years less than women, and African-American men have the lowest life expectancy;

Whereas 9 of the 10 leading causes of death, as defined by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, affect men at a higher percentage than women;

Whereas, between ages 45 and 54, men are 3 times more likely than women to die of heart attacks;

Whereas men die of heart disease at 1½ times the rate of women;

Whereas men die of cancer at almost 1½ times the rate of women;

Whereas testicular cancer is one of the most common cancers in men aged 15 to 34, and, when detected early, has a 96 percent survival rate;

Whereas the number of cases of colon cancer among men will reach almost 54,000 in 2008, and almost ½ will die from the disease;

Whereas the likelihood that a man will develop prostate cancer is 1 in 6;

Whereas the number of men developing prostate cancer will reach over 186,320 in 2008, and an estimated 28,660 will die from the disease;

Whereas African-American men in the United States have the highest incidence in the world of prostate cancer;

Whereas significant numbers of health problems that affect men, such as prostate cancer, testicular cancer, colon cancer, and infertility, could be detected and treated if men's awareness of these problems was more pervasive;

Whereas more than ½ of the elderly widows now living in poverty were not poor before the death of their husbands, and by age 100 women outnumber men 8 to 1;

Whereas educating both the public and health care providers about the importance of early detection of male health problems will result in reducing rates of mortality for these diseases;

Whereas appropriate use of tests such as prostate specific antigen (PSA) exams, blood pressure screens, and cholesterol screens, in conjunction with clinical examination and self-testing for problems such as testicular cancer, can result in the detection of many of these problems in their early stages and increase the survival rates to nearly 100 percent;

Whereas women are 100 percent more likely to visit the doctor for annual examinations and preventive services than men;

Whereas men are less likely than women to visit their health center or physician for regular screening examinations of male-related problems for a variety of reasons, including fear, lack of health insurance, lack of information, and cost factors;

Whereas National Men's Health Week was established by Congress in 1994 and urged men and their families to engage in appropriate health behaviors, and the resulting increased awareness has improved health-related education and helped prevent illness;

Whereas the Governors of over 45 States issue proclamations annually declaring Men's Health Week in their States;

Whereas, since 1994, National Men's Health Week has been celebrated each June by dozens of States, cities, localities, public health departments, health care entities, churches, and community organizations throughout the Nation, that promote health awareness events focused on men and family;

Whereas the National Men's Health Week Internet website has been established at www.menshealthweek.org and features Governors' proclamations and National Men's Health Week events;

Whereas men who are educated about the value that preventive health can play in prolonging their lifespan and their role as productive family members will be more likely to participate in health screenings;

Whereas men and their families are encouraged to increase their awareness of the importance of a healthy lifestyle, regular exercise, and medical checkups; and

Whereas June 9 through 15, 2008, is National Men's Health Week, which has the purpose of heightening the awareness of preventable health problems and encouraging early detection and treatment of disease among men and boys: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) supports the annual National Men's Health Week; and

(2) calls upon the people of the United States and interested groups to observe National Men's Health Week with appropriate ceremonies and activities.

AUTHORIZING THE ADMINISTRATOR OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY TO ACCEPT SUPPLEMENTAL ENVIRONMENTAL PROJECTS

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I ask the Chair to lay before the Senate a message from the House of Representatives on S. 2146.

The PRESIDING OFFICER laid before the Senate the following message from the House of Representatives:

S. 2146

Resolved, That the bill from the Senate (S. 2146) entitled ''An Act to authorize the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency to accept, as part of a settlement, diesel emission reduction Supplemental Environmental Projects, and for other purposes'', do pass with the following amendment:

Strike out all after the enacting clause and insert:

SECTION 1. EPA AUTHORITY TO ACCEPT DIESEL EMISSIONS REDUCTION SUPPLEMENTAL ENVIRONMENTAL PROJECTS.

The Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency (hereinafter, the ''Agency'') may accept (notwithstanding sections 3302 and 1301 of title 31, United States Code) diesel emissions reduction Supplemental Environmental Projects if the projects, as part of a settlement of any alleged violations of environmental law—

(1) protect human health or the environment;

(2) are related to the underlying alleged violations;

(3) do not constitute activities that the defendant would otherwise be legally required to perform; and

(4) do not provide funds for the staff of the Agency or for contractors to carry out the Agency's internal operations.

SEC. 2. SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT PROVISIONS.

In any settlement agreement regarding alleged violations of environmental law in which a defendant agrees to perform a diesel emissions reduction Supplemental Environmental Project, the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency shall require the defendant to include in the settlement documents a certification under penalty of law that the defendant would have agreed to perform a comparably valued, alternative project other than a diesel emissions reduction Supplemental Environmental Project if the Administrator were precluded by law from accepting a diesel emission reduction Supplemental Environmental Project. A failure by the Administrator to include this language in such a settlement agreement shall not create a cause of action against the United States under the Clean Air Act or any other law or create a basis for overturning a settlement agreement entered into by the United States.

SEC. 3. INCLUSION OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA IN CERTAIN STATE AND LOCAL GRANT PROGRAMS FOR DIESEL EMISSION REDUCTIONS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 791 of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 (42 U.S.C. 16131) is amended by adding at the end thereof the following:

''(9) DEFINITION OF STATE.—The term 'State' includes the District of Columbia.''.

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—(1) Section 793(d)(2) of such Act (42 U.S.C. 16133(d)(2)) is amended by striking ''Governor'' and inserting ''chief executive''.

(2) Subparagraphs (A) and (B) of section 793(c)(2) of such Act are each amended by striking ''50'' and inserting ''51'' and by striking ''2

percent'' and inserting ''1.96 percent'' in each place such terms appear.

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate concur in the House amendment, and the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ORDERS FOR WEDNESDAY, JUNE 18, 2008

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it stand adjourned until 10 a.m. tomorrow, Wednesday, June 18; that following the prayer and the pledge, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the morning hour be deemed to have expired, the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day, and the Senate then resume consideration of the motion to proceed to H.R. 6049, the Renewable Energy and Job Creation Act, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each. I further ask that at 2:30 p.m., there be 2 hours for morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each, with the time equally divided and controlled between the two leaders, or their designees, with the majority controlling the first hour and the Republicans controlling the next hour.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

PROGRAM

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, tomorrow, we expect to be in a position to turn to consideration of the House message to accompany H.R. 3221, the Housing and Economic Recovery Act. We will continue working with colleagues on a way to move forward on this important legislation.

Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 10 A.M. TOMORROW

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate stand adjourned under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 5:51 p.m., adjourned until Wednesday, June 18, 2008, at 10 a.m.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING THE JUNIOR GROUP EXHIBIT TEAM FROM CHUCKEY-DOAK MIDDLE SCHOOL FOR THEIR FIRST-PLACE PERFORMANCE IN THE TENNESSEE HISTORY DAY COMPETITION

HON. DAVID DAVIS

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 17, 2008

Mr. DAVID DAVIS of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Junior Group Exhibit Team from Chuckey-Doak Middle School for their first-place performance in the Tennessee History Day competition. They will now move on to the national competition next week.

The Chuckey-Doak Middle School team, composed of students Emily Frazier and Katie Adams, also took first place with their performance on Women's Suffrage: The Conflict Within.

To understand and present these topics in an articulate way is a noteworthy and outstanding accomplishment. The students have represented Chuckey-Doak Middle School and East Tennessee in an exceptional way.

With their first-place performance, the team will travel to the University of Maryland and compete against other students from across the country at the 2007–2008 National History Day competition.

It is a pleasure to see that these students are taking the initiative to represent their schools in the most upstanding way. Their dedication to knowledge, excellence and hard work is honorable and I congratulate them on their successes.

Madam Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in honoring Emily Frazer and Katie Adams and in wishing them the best of luck at next week's National History Day competition.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 17, 2008

Mr. HIGGINS. Madam Speaker, I missed several rollcall votes on June 12, 2008. I would like to enter into the record how I intended to vote on these rollcall votes had I been present:

On #405, on ordering the previous question on the resolution providing for consideration of H.R. 6063, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration Authorization Act, I would have voted ''yea.''

On #406, on agreeing to the resolution providing for consideration of H.R. 6063, I would have voted ''yea.''

On #407, on ordering the previous question on the resolution providing for consideration of H.R. 5749, the Emergency Extended Unemployment Compensation Act, I would have voted ''yea.''

On #408, on agreeing to the resolution providing for consideration of H.R. 5749, I would have voted ''yea.''

On #409, on passage of H.R. 1553, the Conquer Childhood Cancer Act, I would have voted ''yea.''

On #410, on the motion to table the appeal, I would have voted ''yea.''

On #411, on the motion to recommit with instructions H.R. 5749, I would have voted NAY.

On #412, on passage of H.R. 5749, I would have voted ''yea.''

On #413, on passage of S. 2146, I would have voted ''yea.''

IN HONOR OF THE FALLEN HEROES OF 1–34 BRIGADE COMBAT TEAM

HON. MICHELE BACHMANN

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 17, 2008

Mrs. BACHMANN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to 20 heroes who served the people of our Nation valiantly in Operation Iraqi Freedom and who this past weekend were honored at the Fallen Heroes Memorial in Bloomington, Minnesota.

SPC Benjamin J. Slaven, SGT Brent W. Koch, SPC Kyle R. Miller, Staff SGT Jeffrey J. Hansen, Staff SGT Joshua R. Hanson, SGT Germaine L. Debro, SPC Kampha B. Sourivong, SGT 1st Class Scott E. Nisely, SGT Bryan T. McDonough, and SGT Corey J. Rystad.

SGT Nicholas D. Turcotte, Staff SGT Thomas W. Clemons, Staff SGT James M. Wosika, Jr., SPC Carla J. Stewart, SGT MAJ Michael C. Mettille, SGT 1st Class David R. Berry, Staff SGT Greg N. Riewer, SGT Joshua A. Schmit, SGT Brandon L. Wallace, and Staff SGT Robert J. Basham.

Each made the ultimate sacrifice for our freedoms and each deserves a special place in America's history and America's heart. I join with their friends, family, and comrades who were in attendance this weekend in honoring their memories.

A TRIBUTE TO DENNIS HAWTHORNE

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 17, 2008

Mr. TOWNS. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Dennis Hawthorne, owner of Dennis Shipping, a renowned shipping company located in Brooklyn, NY.

Hawthorne is a native of Jamaica, NY and migrated to Brooklyn, NY in 1985 where he founded Dennis Photography and Shipping. In addition, Hawthorne founded the Caribbean American Shippers Association which is now the largest Caribbean American shipping company in Brooklyn.

Hawthorne's success has led him to pursue various humanitarian efforts in Brooklyn and its East Flatbush community. Hawthorne once stated ''give a community of good people, good services, respect and opportunity, and the potential for growth is inevitable.'' Hawthorne has committed to service and supports various outreach programs; he has donated time and money to community organizations including the East Flatbush Friends Education, Caribbean American Outreach Association, Children Outreach of Jamaica, Kings Highway Development Project, local churches, senior civic organizations, and schools.

It is important that we recognize Hawthorne, not only for his success through his Brooklyn-based business, but also for his commitment to serving the citizens of Brooklyn.

INTRODUCTION OF VETERANS AND SURVIVORS DENTAL INSURANCE ACT OF 2008

HON. STEVE BUYER

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 17, 2008

Mr. BUYER. Madam Speaker, today I am introducing the Veterans and Survivors Dental Insurance Act of 2008. This legislation would authorize the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to offer a voluntary dental insurance plan for certain veterans, their survivors and dependents.

Under current law, veterans with service-connected dental conditions, a total service-connected disability, and former Prisoners of War are eligible for lifetime, comprehensive dental care from VA. Newly discharged veterans are eligible for a one-time, comprehensive dental evaluation and restorative services. Additionally, veterans with dental problems negatively impacting a medical condition, disabled veterans receiving vocational rehabilitation training, and certain homeless veterans are eligible for limited dental care. VA also provides inpatient emergency dental treatment at its medical facilities.

In 1997, Congress first authorized the TRICARE Retiree Dental Program (TRDP). As Chairman of the House Armed Services Military Personnel Subcommittee during the 105th and 106th Congresses, I helped champion the TRDP program. It is a voluntary, all-enrollee-paid dental program that currently covers over 800,000 retired members of the uniformed services, including National Guard and Reserve personnel, and their families. This program offers military retirees an affordable comprehensive dental benefit program that covers diagnostic and preventive services, basic restorative services, periodontics, endodontics, oral surgery, and dental emergencies.

Madam Speaker, this legislation would simply provide eligible veterans, survivors, and

dependents the option of enrolling in a high-quality and affordable dental care plan similar to what is available for military retirees under TRDP. I assure my colleagues that nothing in this Act would diminish the responsibility of the Secretary to provide dental care under current law. Eligibility for VA dental benefits according to law would not change.

Important to overall health and quality of life is maintaining good dental health. I urge my colleagues to cosponsor the Veterans and Survivors Dental Insurance Act of 2008.

HONORING RAQUEL GONZALEZ

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 17, 2008

Mr. CUELLAR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Ms. Raquel Gonzalez, for her commitment to the small business community in Laredo, Texas, and her tenure as the longest-serving member of the board of trustees at the Laredo Community College.

Raquel spent her early years learning the value of hard work at her father's business, J.B. Gonzalez Garage. Upon graduation from high school, she became the full-time manager of her father's business, which she turned over to her brothers so she could concentrate on other ventures. Raquel invested in real estate, forming the Southgate Subdivision to develop affordable housing in South Laredo, and also invested in oil and gas wells in South Texas. In 1980, Raquel began serving as a trustee on the Trustee Board of the Laredo Community College, and has honorably worked to promote the value of education in empowering the lives of young people in Laredo, Texas. Her dedication and hard work helped the Laredo Community College become one of the most acclaimed community colleges in the nation.

Ms. Gonzalez has also received many acclaims from the business community in Laredo for her successful entrepreneurship and civic involvement. She was the first female director of the Laredo Chamber of Commerce in 1983, served as the Director of the Falcon National Bank, and was recognized by the Republican National Hispanic Assembly for exceptional service to the community. She also received the Congressional Certificate of Merit in 1992, and was named the Small Business Person of the Year and inducted into the Laredo Women's Hall of Fame in 1995. Ms. Gonzalez remains an active member of the Financial Women International, Rotary Under Seven Flags, the Texas Land Title Association, and the Women's City Club.

Madam Speaker, I am honored to have had this time to recognize the dedication of Ms. Raquel Gonzalez to the small business community in Laredo, Texas, and her contributions to higher education as a member of the Board of Trustees at Laredo Community College.

TRIBUTE TO RENDY AND RENEE MAO

HON. BILL SHUSTER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 17, 2008

Mr. SHUSTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the heroic efforts and dedication of Rendy and Renee Mao. Throughout the past months, Rendy and his sister Renee have worked tirelessly to raise money to feed victims of the devastating earthquake which hit Sichuan Province, China on May 12, 2008.

The Maos' idea of fundraising for earthquake relief began from within the classroom. One of the student's teachers suggested looking further into current events occurring across the globe. Teachers across America plant important seeds in the minds of children, and Rendy's German teacher at Mercersburg Academy is no exception. Through educational discussions about the importance of global awareness and global connections, a teacher sparked the mind of not only Rendy Mao, but also Renee Mao. Together, these students realized the immensity of the devastation which ravaged rural China and felt the need to act. Their decision to act led them to set a goal of raising five thousand dollars by June 30, 2008 for the victims of the Sichuan earthquake. If this goal is reached, over five thousand earthquake victims will be fed for a day. This laudable decision has set an example for all of us.

In order to make their dream of helping others a reality, Rendy and Renee began to increase awareness in their community through several steps. First, they focused on alerting the public to the events which had crumbled part of a nation, through word of mouth and flyers. The flyers provided a variety of information on the earthquake as well as outlined their planned actions for the funding of their effort. As their message spread, the number of volunteers throughout the community increased, which multiplied the effectiveness of their efforts. The goal of this drive is not only to raise money to support the needs of the victims, but also to assure the victims that their plight has not gone unnoticed and will not be ignored. The teens have collected hundreds of signatures to demonstrate to the victims that residents of Franklin County, Pennsylvania support them by sending not only financial aid but also their thoughts and prayers.

These students have truly practiced what they have been taught and have set an example for communities throughout this nation and the world. As Rendy and Renee reflect upon their work and their dedication to helping others, they can certainly be proud of their service to the community of the Sichuan Province. These two students are wonderful representatives of Pennsylvania. They have exhibited compassion and determination to help others who are less fortunate than themselves. The Maos, along with the community of Franklin County, all deserve our thanks and congratulations on their hard work toward giving an extraordinary $5,000 contribution to the victims of the Sichuan Province earthquake. I would like to wish Rendy and Renee the best in their future endeavors as they continue to serve Franklin County and the world. I thank them for their far-reaching commitment and service as they continue to add greatness to their community.

THE INTRODUCTION OF A SENSE OF THE HOUSE RESOLUTION CONCERNING SPECULATION IN CRUDE OIL MARKETS

HON. THOMAS E. PETRI

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 17, 2008

Mr. PETRI. Madam Speaker, today, I am introducing a resolution calling for the U.S. Government to lead a global diplomatic initiative to limit the incentives for speculation in crude oil futures through the adoption of international standards for margin requirements on speculative trading in oil futures. By establishing this policy we can moderate surging oil prices and bring relief to consumers around the world.

Margin payments are paid to an exchange when purchasing a futures contract. Akin to an escrow deposit in a real estate transaction, margin requirements are set by exchanges and not government regulation. On the New York Mercantile Exchange, the purchase of a standard oil futures contract for 1,000 barrels carries a margin requirement of just over $10,000, a small percentage of the value of a contract with a settlement price this week of $135,000 for oil priced at $135 per barrel.

This relatively small amount of capital required to purchase a contract and reap potentially sizeable gains from the daily movements in the price of crude oil is an attractive invitation to speculative investors. Higher margin requirements would reduce this incentive by limiting such opportunities for gain. By removing speculative money from the crude oil market, we can begin to bring down oil prices and relieve the pain our constituents feel at the gas pump.

Currently, there is a heated debate of whether a growth in speculative trading is showing up as part of a "speculative premium" built into the price of crude oil. Because so much trading in energy futures takes place in unregulated exchanges, there is a shortage of good information, and we lack the empirical evidence necessary to make a firm conclusion.

In the absence of such firm data, some have argued that tight supplies and high demand are the only explanation for high prices. On the other hand, many have suggested that heightened speculation has resulted in adding anywhere from $10 to $35 to the price of each barrel of oil. The market indications cited by supporters of the market speculation theory are impressive and include:

April 2008 oil stocks held by the U.S. and its fellow members of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development totaled 2.562 million barrels, above recent averages and sufficient for 53.4 days of consumption.

The president of OPEC, Chakib Khelil of Algeria, in declining to commit the organization's members to a production increase, noted that supply was exceeding demand by one-half million barrels per day.

OPEC has also lowered its forecast of average daily global consumption of oil by 60,000 barrels, the third time this year that the oil cartel has reduced its estimate. This view coincides with that of the International Energy

Agency whose monthly Oil Market Report for June reported that oil consumers would use 70,000 barrels less per month than it had previously estimated.

An economist with WTRG Economics was quoted by MarketWatch as observing, ''We had another week of uncertainty, with oil trading more as a currency and inflation hedge than based upon the fundamentals. This will continue to be the case as long as the long-only index funds are allowed free rein in the futures market. ''

Since 2003, investment in commodity index funds has risen from $13 billion to $260 billion.

National Journal has cited the writings of Anit Anand of brokerage firm KRChoksey in reporting the number of current energy hedge funds as 634, up from 180 in October 2004.

Recognizing the significance of these trends, the Commodity Futures Trading Commission has announced the formation of an interagency task force to examine investor practices, supply and demand factors, and the role of speculators. Additionally, on June 14, 2008, the International Monetary Fund, responding to a call from Group of Eight finance ministers, agreed to look into the role that futures trading has played in pushing crude oil prices ever higher.

Certainly, other factors influence the price of oil, and it is only fair to examine whether any is responsible for the current situation.

Oil prices are subject to a ''political risk premium'' caused by instability and the threat of violence in countries producing significant quantities of oil. While the political climate in these areas remains tense, it cannot be said to have changed appreciably for the worse over the past five years.

Long term supply questions also are part of today's crude oil price. Yes, there are fears that supplies are diminishing, encouraged by peak oil theorists, but there has been no new dramatic information on this point that would explain the 94 percent price boost that Bloomberg Financial has reported over the past year.

Finally, some point to the drop in the value of the dollar to explain the price pain felt by U.S. consumers. This explanation, too, falls short of providing a satisfactory answer. While the dollar price of crude oil is 4.3 times higher than it was in 2004, Europeans also are paying 2.7 times more for oil purchased with the much stronger euro.

In the final analysis, it's clear that among these components of the price of oil, only commodities trading has seen a dramatic change of pace. It is hard to escape the conclusion 4 that financial trading plays a contributing role in having pushed crude oil prices up 94 percent in the past year.

We need to take action to restore the market for oil futures to its intended purpose—not as a speculative vehicle for energy hedge funds. At the same time, we need to recognize the international nature of energy trading and implement market reforms globally. My resolution calls upon the diplomatic and financial leadership of the U.S. government to begin this process. I urge my colleagues to support this resolution.

A TRIBUTE TO ROBERT C. DESOUZA

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 17, 2008

Mr. TOWNS. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Robert C. DeSouza, a very special resident of the Springfield Gardens Community.

Bob, as he is affectionately known through the area was born in Clarendon, Jamaica. He graduated from Kingston College and then went on to pursue an education in Business Management at the University of the West Indies before he came to the United States in 1982. Here he earned a B.S in Business Administration from Iona College in Westchester, New York.

Mr. DeSouza, the CEO of Trans Continental Express Shippers, has garnered the respect of his peers, his immediate community and the Jamaican Diaspora at large. He is largely responsible for the awareness and education of the Shipping Fraternity which he has been associated with for over 25 years. His company sponsors countless public and private events, offers scholarships and financial support to community residents locally and in the Caribbean region. He is the epitome of humility and character.

His commitment and unwavering service and dedication to the community have earned him numerous awards and accolades such as The Jamaica Consul General Award for Outstanding Contribution to the Jamaican and Caribbean Community. His other accomplishments include: The Proclamation Honor by the City Council of New York, The Proclamation Award by the Brooklyn Borough President, The Corporate Award of Excellence from Empire State Grand Chapter, and the Man of the Year Award for Outstanding Community Service from Heartbeats of Jamaica (Father Gregory Ramkissoon-Mustard Seed), to name a few.

He is a member of the New York State Board of Realtors, American Society of Notaries, Cambria Heights Civic Association, St. Albans Chamber of Commerce and the Treasurer for the Kiwanis Club of Rosedale/Laurelton Queens, New York.

Despite his busy and hectic schedule, Bob finds the time to share with the elderly, the Little League Baseball of South East Queens, and assists with youth counseling within the community. He is a person who you will always hear saying something uplifting and positive. He still lives in Springfield Gardens New York and is married to Arlene and is the proud father of two sons, Robert Jr. and Darren.

THE AIR FORCE AND HIGH FUEL COSTS

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 17, 2008

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, every day the American people are faced with another headline about record fuel prices. We have been urged to reduce consumption and the American people are listening. Obviously though, Madam Speaker, the Air Force isn't.

The United States Air Force spends more than $6.6 billion per year on fuel costs and rising fuel prices continues to drive this number higher. As a taxpayer and supporter of our men and women in uniform, I believe the Air Force should be doing all they can to heed the call and maximize fuel economy wherever possible.

However, the Air Force in their recent tanker award has determined that the opposite path is appropriate. The Air Force selection of an Airbus aircraft over the more fuel efficient Boeing aircraft has real impacts and costs for every American.

The independent firm Conklin & de Decker Aviation Information has completed a study that shows the Boeing offering to be nearly 25 percent more fuel efficient than the Airbus aircraft. Over the 40 year life of the aircraft at oil at $125 a barrel this will result in additional costs to Americans of nearly $30 billion dollars and more than 2.24 billion gallons of additional fuel not available to help bring relief to the record prices.

Now Madam Speaker, I understand that our military must choose the best tool for the war fighter and fuel is but one critical input. However, when the Boeing offering meets or exceeds all Air Force requirements with better technology and maximum operational capability when compared to the Airbus aircraft, it simply defies common sense that the Air Force would choose to add this burden to Americans. Higher cost? Less capability? More fuel? Madam Speaker it is time for Congress to take a closer look.

IN REMEMBRANCE OF ALIOUNE BLONDIN BEYE

HON. DONALD M. PAYNE

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 17, 2008

Mr. PAYNE. Madam Speaker, June 26, 2008, will mark the tenth anniversary of the passing of Alioune Blondin Beye in the crash of a light plane near Abidjan. Maitre Beye, as he was known, was undertaking one of his frequent missions to build support for an agreement to end the civil war in Angola, a war that had lasted for two decades, cost more than a half million lives, and left more than three million people homeless. A former Foreign Minister of Mali and Secretary General of the African Development Bank, Maitre Beye had been serving for five years as Special Representative of the United Nations Secretary General for the Angolan peace process and President of the Joint Peace Commission for Angola.

One of the world's most dedicated peacemakers, Maitre Beye touched the lives of all those who knew him and worked with him, and was beloved by millions of Malians, Angolans, and other peoples of Africa and beyond for his selfless dedication to the cause of peace, justice, human rights, and national reconciliation. A French speaker among Lusophones, a Moslem in a country of Christians and animists, Maitre Beye's life was the ultimate symbol of selflessness and dedication to the common humanity of all people. Along with Maitre Beye, seven other people were killed in the tragic plane crash, all committed

men of peace. These included Koffi Adjoyi, Alvaro Costa, Baendegar Dessande, Amadou Moctar Gueye, Jason Hunter, Andrew McCurrah, and Ibikunle Williams.

Maitre Beye's relatives, friends and colleagues will commemorate the life and times of this great man and to honor the others who died that day by hosting a memorial service at the New York Headquarters of the United Nations—the institution he loved and in whose service he ultimately gave his life—on June 26, 2008. The program for Maitre Beye will not be a sad memorial, but a joyous celebration of the life of this great man of wisdom and humor, and a tribute to the peace he and his colleagues sought to bring to the world. We wish them our best in this honorable endeavor.

TRIBUTE TO HIGHLAND BULLDOGS

HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 17, 2008

Mr. SHIMKUS. Madam Speaker, today I rise to pay tribute to an outstanding group of young men from Highland, Illinois, who last week completed an amazing baseball season by winning the state championship.

The Highland Bulldogs defeated Crystal Lake Central in the semifinals, then knocked off Rock Falls 6–2 on Saturday, June 7, to clinch the Class 3A state title at Silver Cross Field in Joliet. It was the first baseball state title for Highland.

My congratulations go to Head Coach Joel Hawkins, Assistant Coaches Sam Weber, Jason Wiegand and Caleb Houchins, Trainer Jamie Wagner, and the members of the 2008 state champion Highland Bulldogs team: Gary Kharibian, Travis Becherer, Brandon Koisher, Randy Knebel, Chris Sudhoff, Luke Potthast, Ben Fieker, Sean Gagen, Gabe Fuehne, Corey Gall, Wes DeGroot, Josh Ammann, Andrew Kimmle, Jake Odorizzi, Justin Huelsmann, Dan Gifford, Brent Kuper and Luke Haberer.

These young men represented themselves, their families and their community in a first-class fashion, and I wish them all the best in their future endeavors, both on and off the field.

HONORING THE ROTARY CLUB OF MONROE FOR 90 YEARS OF SERVICE

HON. RODNEY ALEXANDER

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 17, 2008

Mr. ALEXANDER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the Rotary Club of Monroe, which for 90 years has faithfully carried on the mission of Rotary International to "Serve Above Self."

First established in 1918, Monroe, LA's Rotary Club bears the distinction as one of our Nation's oldest Rotary clubs, founded only 13 years after the original club—the Rotary Club of Chicago—was established. To date, Rotary International includes approximately 31,000 clubs in more than 165 countries.

With a membership of approximately 240 men and women from a host of vocations, the Rotary Club of Monroe takes an active role in the community through many local civic and charitable organizations including the American Cancer Society, American Red Cross, Salvation Army, Fellowship of Christian Athletes, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, YMCA, Monroe Youth Baseball, the Food Bank of Northeast Louisiana, Camp Quality, and the Salvation Army Christmas Party which provides gifts to needy children.

The Rotary Club of Monroe also actively assists local high schools by sponsoring Interact Clubs at four Monroe schools and also sponsoring two high school students to attend Camp RYLA (Rotary Youth Leadership Awards). The Rotary Club of Monroe also assists attendees of Boys' and Girls' State and funds an endowed scholarship at the University of Louisiana at Monroe.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the Rotary Club of Monroe, which will celebrate its 90th anniversary on June 26, 2008, for the countless ways the club has worked since 1918 to enrich the surrounding community and through each individual member's commitment to putting "Service Above Self."

JUNIOR GROUP PERFORMANCE TEAM FROM MOSHEIM MIDDLE SCHOOL FOR THEIR FIRST-PLACE PERFORMANCE IN TENNESSEE HISTORY DAY.

HON. DAVID DAVIS

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 17, 2008

Mr. DAVID DAVIS of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Junior Group Performance Team from Mosheim Middle School for their first-place performance in the Tennessee History Day competition. They will now move on to the national competition next week.

The Mosheim Middle School team, composed of students Brianna Morrow, Melissa Kinser and Brittany Loveall, took first place with their performance on the Salem Witch Trials.

To understand and present these topics in an articulate way is a noteworthy and outstanding accomplishment. The students have represented Mosheim Middle School and East Tennessee in an exceptional way.

With their first-place performance, the team will travel to the University of Maryland and compete against other students from across the country at the 2007–2008 National History Day competition.

It is a pleasure to see that these students are taking the initiative to represent their schools in the most upstanding way. Their dedication to knowledge, excellence and hard work is honorable and I congratulate them on their successes.

Madam Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in honoring Brianna Morrow, Melissa Kinser and Brittany Loveall and in wishing them the best of luck at next week's National History Day competition.

TRIBUTE TO GENE AND CAROLE VUKELIC ON THEIR 50TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 17, 2008

Mr. HIGGINS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Mr. and Mrs. Gene and Carole Vukelic on their 50th wedding anniversary.

Gene and Carole have raised seven children, and their five sons, Paul, Jeff, Tim, Peter, and Matthew, all work for Try-It Distributing, the company Gene's father started in 1928 and a recipient of the Canisius College Center for Entrepreneurship Family Business of the Year.

A devoted Western New Yorker, Gene was raised in Lackawanna, New York and attended Canisius High School and LeMoyne College in Syracuse. The son of a Croatian immigrant, Gene learned the value of hard work and tenacity in the face of adversity from his father, Stephen. Stephen only went to school until the sixth grade and worked wherever he could, including at the Bethlehem Steel plant in Lackawanna. According to Gene, however, Stephen Vukelic was "an entrepreneur at heart". When he was 28 years old, Stephen opened the Try-It Bottling Works company in a small building with one truck, and started bottling soft drinks in Lackawanna. Today, Try-It Distributing Co., Inc. is a hugely successful beverage firm.

Gene has carried on his father's spirit of entrepreneurship and is now Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Try-It Distributing Company. His five sons work with him to develop the business their great grandfather started 80 years ago.

Madam Speaker, it is a great honor for me to recognize Gene and Carole Vukelic for their tenacity, passion, and dedication to the Western New York community. I would like to offer my sincere congratulations in celebration of their 50 golden years together, and extend my best wishes to the Vukelics and their family on their 50th wedding anniversary.

IN HONOR OF THE MINNESOTA ASSISTANCE COUNCIL FOR VETERANS

HON. MICHELE BACHMANN

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 17, 2008

Mrs. BACHMANN. Madam Speaker, since its founding in 1992 with the financial assistance of a local VFW post, the Minnesota Assistance Council for Veterans, MAC–V, has been serving Minnesota's veterans with pride and honor. Back then, it started by providing 4 homeless veterans with shelter and support. Today, it serves hundreds all across the state.

Too often, our brave heroes return from service to find the life they had left behind has left them behind in their absence. MAC–V helps our veterans pick up the pieces of their shattered lives in so many ways. In addition to providing shelter to veterans who return from service and find themselves in need of this basic need, MAC–V also helps veterans struggling with alcohol and drug addiction, provides important job training skills, and more.

Their annual Stand Down event, at which returning veterans have an opportunity to meet with veterans organizations that provide the full range of services, has become one of the most anticipated events in the veterans community.

MAC–V not only provides for the physical and mental needs of our veterans, but also forms a welcoming circle of support, friendship and camaraderie that these brave men and women need most of all. Partnering with local companies, organizations, and an army of volunteers, MAC–V has become an important part of the Minnesota veterans community and I thank them for their service to those who have served us so well.

A TRIBUTE TO MS. ELLEN GALE CATES

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 17, 2008

Mr. TOWNS. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Ms. Ellen Gale Cates, an exemplary citizen.

Ms. Cates is the Assistant Program Director for the Wellness Center under the umbrella of the Bedford Stuyvesant Family Health Center, Inc. (BSFHC) in Brooklyn, New York. She has been a part of the Bedford Stuyvesant Family since 1994. The Wellness Center provides those who enter its doors with the tools, support and encouragement to better manage their health and wellness. The primary focus of the Wellness Center Team is to those who are diagnosed with HIV/AIDS.

Ms. Cates is also the coordinator of the Faith Based Initiatives Project for the Bedford Stuyvesant Wellness Center. This project provides assistance in coordinating informative programs on HIV/AIDS prevention, education, counseling and testing for emerging churches and communities of faith. This project focuses on the responsibility of the communities of faith and community based organizations collaborating on affecting changes. Several ministries have been reached and have started their own programs through this initiative. Ms. Cates and the Wellness Center have been able to continue this on-going project through their affiliation and support from the NYC National Black Leadership Commission on AIDS, INC.

Ms. Cates was appointed by Mayor Bloomberg as a member of the NYC Health and Human Service HIV/AIDS Council Committee, serving her 2-year term faithfully. Ms. Cates has served on several advisory boards, the longest being the South Brooklyn Legal Services Inc. She is an Active member of both the NYC DOHMH Office of Minority Health Borough of Brooklyn Ecumenical Advisory Group Faith Based HIV Task Force and the Faith-based High Blood Pressure Task-force.

Ms. Cates is a newly appointed member of Women of Faith Advocating Change (WFAC), chaired by Reverend Dr. Cheryl Anthony. WFAC is comprised of female clergy leaders, community service providers and elected officials representing Brooklyn neighborhoods. The mission is to address the disparities that adversely impact African American women and girls and find viable faith solutions through education, information and advocacy.

Ms. Cates has been a passionate yet a ''quiet storm'' in the fight against health disparities with a particular focus on HIV/AIDS in the urban community. Ms. Cates has determined that advocacy and leadership will be her path of alliance in this fight against HIV/AIDS in honor of those deserted hero's family members and friends who gave up their battle.

Prior to her coming into the non-profit sector, Ms. Cates worked as a telecommunications manager with Verizon for over 20 years. While transitioning from the corporate sector she worked with the NYC DOHMH as a Community Associate AIDS Hotline Counselor for more than 10 years. Ms. Cates holds a Bachelors Degree in Christian Education; and an Associates Degree from Pace University and an Associates Degree in Medical Assistance from the College of Staten Island. Ms. Cates serves at the St. Stephens United Church of God, as an Associate minister, under Bishop M.D. Williams, Overseer, in Brooklyn, New York.

A TRIBUTE TO THE 2008 ELLIS ISLAND MEDAL OF HONOR RECIPIENTS

HON. DAN BURTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 17, 2008

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the 2008 recipients of the coveted Ellis Island Medal of Honor. Presented annually by the National Ethnic Coalition of Organizations (NECO)—a group representing more than 250 organizations that span the spectrum of ethnic heritages, cultures and religions—the Ellis Island Medal of Honor pays tribute to our Nation's immigrant heritage, as well as individual achievement. The medals are awarded to U.S. citizens from various ethnic backgrounds who exemplify outstanding qualities in both their personal and professional lives, while continuing to preserve the richness of their particular heritage. Since NECO's founding in 1986, more than 1,700 American citizens have received Ellis Island Medals of Honor, including 6 American Presidents, several United States Senators, Congressmen, Nobel Laureates, outstanding athletes, artists, clergy, and military leaders.

As we all know, citizens of the United States can trace their ancestry to many nations. The richness and diversity of American life makes us unique among the Nations of the world and is in many ways the key to why America is the most innovative country in the world. The Ellis Island Medals of Honor not only celebrate select individuals but also the pluralism and democracy that enabled our ancestors to celebrate their cultural identities while still embracing the American way of life. This medal is not about money, but about people who really seized the opportunities this great country has to offer and who used those opportunities to not only better their own lives but make a difference in the lives of those around them. By honoring these outstanding individuals, we honor all who share their origins and we acknowledge the contributions they and other groups have made to America. I commend NECO and its Board of Directors headed by my good friend, Nasser J. Kazeminy, for honoring these truly outstanding individuals for their tireless efforts to foster dialogue and build bridges between different ethnic groups, as well as promote unity and a sense of common purpose in our Nation. Madam Speaker, I ask all of my colleagues to join me in recognizing the good works of NECO, and congratulating all of the 2008 recipients of the Ellis Island Medals of Honor. I also ask unanimous consent that the names of this year's recipients be placed into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD following my statement.

LTC Madelfia A. Abb; Noubar B. Afeyan, PhD; Charles R. Ajalat, Esq.; Robert A. Altenkirch; Hon. Goli Ameri; Roger E. Ashley; Ahoud Avshalomov; Anthony P. Basile; Vasile Beluska; Daniel O. Bernstine; William Boesch; John William Butler, Jr.; LT Jack J. Cambria; Hon. Ben Nighthorse Campbell; Dr. Brian Carty, FSC; Dr. Samir Narayan Chaudhuri; Col. Dik Cheung, MD; Dr. Karlene ChinQuee; Annette Choolfaian; Abla A. Creasey, PhD; Hon. Joseph Crowley; Edward Deeb; Arthur A. Dugoni, DDS, MSD; Christopher Erikson; Richard Farkas; Peter B. Fodor, MD, FACS; Valentin Fuster, MD, PhD; Robert L. Ganley; Hon. George A. Grasso; Hon. Joseph R. Guccione; Noosheen A. Hashemi; Stephan S. Huh; Hon. Dora L. Irizarry; E. Neville Isdell; Chief Anthony J. Izzo; Dr. Stuart W. Jamieson; Trevor O. Jones; Patrick J. Kelly, MD, FACS; James W. Keyes; Laya Khadjavi; Darioush Khaledi; Parisa Khosravi; Daewon Khym; Peter J. Kight; Wilson Ko, MD; MG Anthony R. Kropp; Pamela H. Kwatra; William Landberg; Fred Horst Langhammer; Anthony J. Lariccia; Young Bin Lee, MD; BGen. Paul E. Lefebvre; Robert H. Lessin; Demetrios G. Logothetis; Col. Eugene V. Lombardo; F. Joseph Loughrey; Xindi Lu; Terry J. Lundgren; Franklin R. Manios; Matthew J. McCoy; General Duncan J. McNabb; Maria Mehranian; Leo Melamed; Lewis C. Merletti; Bernd (Ben) Messing; Benjamin Mevorach; Avid Modjtabai; Jacqueline Murekatete; Mary Najarian; Vartkes Najarian, MD, FACS; Jacques Nasser; Long V. Nguyen, PhD; Franco Nuschese; CAPT. Robert R. O'Brien, Jr.; Ronald J. Onesti; Maria Otero; Randy Y. Owen; Mehmet C. Oz, MD, FACS; Laurice Y. Parkins; Richard P. Parrillo; Mukesh (Mike) Patel; Bhupendra R. Patel, MD; Gloria Perez; Hon. August B. Pust, PhD; Robin D. Rapaport; Lt. Cdr. Tamsen A. Reese; Michael P. Ricatto; Daniel M. Rooney; Thomas P. Rosandich, PhD; Harut M. Sassounian; Dhiraj H. Shah, MD; Jerome Shaw; Hon. Paull H. Shin; Sampat S. Shivangi, MD; Gary A. Sinise; Theodore M. Solso; Dr. Theodore J. Strange; Hon. Evelyn Lundberg Stratton; Haldun Tashman; Gerald N. Tirozzi, PhD; Stephen J. Trachtenberg; Nadadur Vardhan; Victor S. Wahby, MD; Aldona Z. Wos, MD; Chun To (Tony) Yeung; Louis S. Zamperini.

COLONEL JOHN D. DROLET

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 17, 2008

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Madam Speaker, it is with great sincerity that I take this opportunity to honor Colonel John D. Drolet. An Army Corps of Engineers officer since 1983, Colonel Drolet has spent the past two years as the District Commander for the United States Army Corps

of Engineers, Chicago District. Since his arrival as District Commander of the Chicago District in 2006, Colonel Drolet's faithful service to the First Congressional District of Indiana has touched the lives of many constituents. For his efforts, and on behalf of my constituents, I take this time to thank Colonel Drolet, who will be relinquishing his command to Colonel Vincent V. Quarles on July 1, 2008, at the Harold Washington Library Center in Chicago.

Colonel Drolet has devoted himself to improving the quality of life for everyone, not only in the United States, but throughout the world. Prior to joining the Chicago District, Colonel Drolet served in many capacities within the United States Army. After being commissioned into the United States Army Corps of Engineers in 1983, Colonel Drolet would eventually command engineers in Germany while assigned to the 237th Engineer Battalion. He went on from there to serve as a Program Analyst and Budget Analyst for the United States Army Training and Doctrine Command, followed by a deployment to Kosovo in 1999, where he served as the Theater Fund Manager for Infrastructure for the North Atlantic Treaty Organization. From 2000 to 2002, Colonel Drolet commanded the Army's 169th Engineer Battalion at Fort Leonard Wood in Missouri. He has also served as the Executive Officer for the 1st Engineer Brigade at Fort Leonard Wood, and as the Chief of Staff for the United States Army Engineer School. Prior to taking over command of the Chicago District, Colonel Drolet served as the Chief of the Economic Division for the Deputy Chief of Staff—Strategic Effects, as part of the Multi-National Force—Iraq in Baghdad while deployed as a student from the United States Army War College.

Colonel Drolet's educational background is equally impressive. As a member of the United States Army, Colonel Drolet has completed: Army War College, the Command and General Staff College, the Professional Military Comptroller School, and United States Army Engineer Basic and Advanced Courses. His civilian educational accomplishments include a Bachelor's Degree in Agricultural Business Management from Pennsylvania State University and a Master's Degree in Comptrollership from Syracuse University, and he has also obtained a Master of Strategic Studies Degree from the United States Army War College. Known as a man of integrity and dedication, Colonel Drolet is a recipient of several military awards, including: the Bronze Star, the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, the Army's Meritorious Service Medal (with three oak leaf clusters), the Joint Service Commendation Medal, the Army Commendation Medal, the Kosovo Campaign Medal, the Iraq Campaign Medal, the NATO Medal, and the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal.

Madam Speaker, since joining the Army Corps of Engineers Chicago District, Colonel Drolet has been a driving force behind many projects aimed at improving the quality of life in the First Congressional District. Throughout his entire career, he has given his time and efforts selflessly to people throughout Northwest Indiana, the country, and the world. His life truly exemplifies selfless service to others, and on behalf of the Northwest Indiana community, I respectfully ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in honoring Colonel John D. Drolet for his outstanding contributions to Indiana's First Congressional District.

HONORING TAIWAN'S AMBASSADOR JAUSIEH ''JOSEPH'' WU

HON. THOMAS G. TANCREDO

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 17, 2008

Mr. TANCREDO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Taiwan's Ambassador to the United States, Jausieh ''Joseph'' Wu.

Prior to entering politics, Ambassador Wu was an academic, completing his Ph.D. in political science in 1989 at Ohio State University. After serving as a teacher in the political science department at Ohio State, he became deputy director of the Institute of International Relations at Taiwan's National Chengchi University.

When the landmark election of President Chen Shui-Bian in 2000 officially put an end to one-party authoritarian rule in Taiwan, Ambassador Wu left academia to serve his country in government.

He was appointed Deputy Secretary General of the Presidential Office, and in 2004 he was tapped by President Chen to head the Mainland Affairs Council in Taiwan, the government body in charge of coordinating bilateral state-to-state relations with the People's Republic of China. Wu performed admirably in this position despite unprecedented threats and belligerence from China designed to undermine President Chen's efforts in Taiwan to expand and deepen its young democracy. Much to the dismay of the Chinese, however, the people of Taiwan resisted this pressure—successfully amending their National Constitution and holding the nation's first democratic referendum.

In 2007, Ambassador Wu was appointed to his current position as Taiwan's Ambassador in Washington, a position nearly as important as the post of Foreign Minister. His invaluable experience as Mainland Affairs Council chief gave him a keen understanding of the Chinese military threat to Taiwan and U.S. interests in the region and around the world—knowledge that made him an ideal choice for this important post. His appointment as Ambassador was also an historic event for Taiwan, as Ambassador Wu became the first non-Kuomintang Ambassador from Taiwan to the United States.

During his time as Ambassador to the United States, Wu served with the same professionalism and diligence as he did in his prior positions. Ambassador Wu and his staff have worked tirelessly to improve Taiwan's traditionally solid relationship with Congress and helped to strengthen the bilateral U.S.–Taiwan relationship—a relationship based on our shared values and our commitment to democracy.

Ambassador Wu has always gone to great lengths to improve mutual understanding and open lines of communication between the United States and Taiwan. During his tenure, the U.S. House of Representatives reciprocated that goodwill by moving to scrap antiquated and arbitrary, 1970's-era State Department restrictions on communications between high-ranking U.S. and Taiwanese officials.

I sincerely hope that the Senate will follow suit so that in the not-too-distant future, the President of the United States can meet with the democratically elected President of Taiwan the same way he meets with the unelected dictator of the People's Republic of China.

Madam Speaker, Ambassador Wu is an exceptional diplomat and a dedicated statesman. He is also my friend. I deeply appreciate his efforts to bring our two countries closer together, and I wish him all the best in his future endeavors.

HONORING ROBERT C. DYNES ON HIS RETIREMENT AS THE 18TH PRESIDENT OF THE UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA

HON. SUSAN A. DAVIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 17, 2008

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor Robert C. Dynes, who stepped down recently as the 18th President of the University of California, one of the world's premier research universities. President Dynes has devoted his talents and vision to the University's historic mission of academics, research, and public service to the state of California.

A renowned scientist with a steadfast commitment to the highest standards of intellectual life—a hallmark of the University of California since its inception—President Dynes has demonstrated himself to be a skilled, creative, and resourceful leader. During his time at the University of California, he has tackled the vital issues facing higher education in the 21st century with both tenacity and foresight.

His service as President of the University of California has been the capstone of a remarkable career in both private industry and higher education. Before he came to the University of California, Dr. Dynes served for 22 years at AT&T Bell Laboratories as department head of semiconductor and material physics research and director of chemical physics research.

I came to know President Dynes in his role as the Chancellor of the University of California, San Diego from 1996 to 2003. Under Chancellor Dynes' guidance, UCSD achieved national and international acclaim for its research and educational excellence.

During his tenure at the University of California, President Dynes has been a staunch and effective advocate for America's security and competitiveness through advances in science and technology. He has also demonstrated this commitment to encouraging innovation on the national level by serving in key positions in the National Academy of Sciences, the Association of American Universities, and the U.S. Council on Competitiveness.

President Dynes also spearheaded the effort by the University of California to overhaul the university's management of our nation's nuclear security national laboratories. To accomplish this goal, he paired the latest scientific evidence with innovative security strategies to update the management and oversight of the Los Alamos and Lawrence Livermore National Laboratories.

President Dynes has also been a vigorous and visionary leader in the national movement to reform K-12 math and science education. Among his most notable achievements is his collaboration with Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger, the California State University system, and California's industry leaders in creating the Cal Teach Science and Math

Initiative. This endeavor has won high praise from both federal policymakers and U.S. corporate leaders.

With globalization playing a greater role in our society, President Dynes recognized that research universities must ''facilitate the free flow of ideas between borders'' to create the economy and quality of life of the future. To strengthen the research capacity and the intellectual development of American students, he initiated international cooperation with institutions of higher education, as well as with business and industry, in China, India, Canada, and Mexico.

President Dynes' foresight and leadership is evident in the launch of the first new research university of the 21st century—University of California, Merced. Likewise, his hard work was instrumental to the creation of the Governor Gray Davis Institutes for Science and Innovation. Both of these efforts will help keep California at the cutting edge of research into bioengineering, nanotechnology, next generation Internet and the many other elements of the ''New Economy.''

Therefore, I rise today in tribute to my friend Robert C. Dynes—for the invaluable service he has rendered to the country and to the state of California. I would like to thank him for his leadership in the continuing search for new knowledge and commend him for his steadfast commitment to the students of California.

MERIDA INITIATIVE TO COMBAT ILLICIT NARCOTICS AND REDUCE ORGANIZED CRIME AUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2008

SPEECH OF

HON. PATRICK J. KENNEDY

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 10, 2008

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the Merida Initiative to Combat Illicit Narcotics and Reduce Organized Crime Authorization Act in order to demonstrate my support for a more proactive approach to the problems of drug addiction and trafficking, weapons smuggling, and gang violence. Only through a re-envisioning of drug policy from the ground up can our Nation make new progress in combating illegal narcotics trafficking.

I am pleased to see that the Democratic leadership and Judiciary Committee have added revolutionary and evolutionary measures to fight these crimes. No longer will this Congress fight only the effects of the drug trade. Instead, we will work alongside our Central American and Mexican allies to fight its causes as well.

I strongly feel that with the passage of the Merida Initiative to Combat Illicit Narcotics and Reduce Organized Crime Authorization Act, we can begin to work alongside our southern allies to combat all levels of drug addiction and trafficking, from preventing youth involvement in these crimes to punishing those who foster them.

For example, with a new emphasis on evidence preservation, increased polygraph capabilities, and custody reform, our allies can streamline their policing efforts, allowing for a more focused campaign.

However, new enforcement capabilities are not enough. The bill's purpose is possible only with its inclusion of after-school programs and programs for at-risk and criminally-involved youth. Gang reeducation and training for CONADIC and other agency staff in best practices and outreach are essential to reducing demand. These programs are the harbingers of our message and the most potent enforcers of our goals.

We must no longer approach our war against illegal narcotics from a reactive standpoint, but must instead work closely with Mexican and Central American authorities to combat the spawning points of these tribulations. Through a more nuanced set of policies, our allies can begin to employ the same successful strategies in their states that we have been using here at home.

MERIDA INITIATIVE TO COMBAT ILLICIT NARCOTICS AND REDUCE ORGANIZED CRIME AUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2008

SPEECH OF

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 10, 2008

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in opposition of H.R. 6028 and the program it would authorize, Merida Initiative. I would like to thank Chairman BERMAN for his efforts to ensure that the Merida Initiative received proper Congressional input, as well as his efforts to include human rights protections. I was disheartened once again, last year, when President Bush developed the Initiative without Congressional input or any regard for the well-documented human rights abuses of the Mexican military and law enforcement. However, to address these problems successfully, it will be necessary to address the problem of drug production in Mexico and South America, to address the problem of drug consumption here in the United States, and to stem drug trafficking between the United States and our neighbors to the south. The Merida Initiative does none of these.

Time and again, research has demonstrated that illicit drug production in developing countries stems from pervasive rural poverty and lack of sustainable sources of income. H.R. 6028 falls woefully short of supporting programs that address these issues. The vast majority of authorized funds will go toward equipment and training for military and law enforcement operations; funding for prevention and development programs will come from a much smaller authorization that competes with certain law enforcement initiatives and judicial reforms.

Similarly, research teaches us that drug use in America stems from poverty, lack of access to basic needs, and other psychosocial stressors. Again, H.R. 6028 will accomplish nothing to reduce drug demand in the United States. H.R. 6028 authorizes no money for demand reduction. In fact, H.R. 6028 only requires the President to submit a report on the measures taken to intensify efforts to address our Nation's demand-related aspects of drug trafficking.

Moreover, interdiction efforts that address exclusively the trafficking aspect of the drug problem have little effect. Most often, the consequence of such intervention is an increase in price and slightly diminished amount of drugs in circulation, which does almost nothing to reduce demand. Enterprising drug dealers will find a way to get their product into the hands of users, and users struggling with addiction will go to extreme ends to get their fix.

More money for guns and other tools of destruction will do nothing to ease the suffering of those struggling with addiction or alleviate the social problems that compel people to produce and/or traffic drugs. For those reasons, I cannot support this bill.

TRIBUTE TO REVEREND WILLIAM J. FOWL

HON. JOHN J. DUNCAN, JR.

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 17, 2008

Mr. DUNCAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a Tennessean who has comforted and inspired thousands of people in East Tennessee.

Reverend William J. Fowler of Knoxville, Tennessee has spent the last 42 years as a Minister of the Gospel. During that time, he was a role model for his congregation and an inspiration to other ministers.

As the head of Church Street United Methodist Church since 1994, Rev. Fowler's compassion and devotion helped grow the congregation into the thousands, and his leadership has been invaluable to the United Methodist Church.

Rev. Fowler served as a member of the Board of Trustees of Emory & Henry College, where he chaired the Religious Life Committee. He also served as a member of the Holston Conference Board of Higher Education and Ministry and the Holston Conference Ethics Committee, and he was a member of the Institutional Review Board of Bristol Regional Medical Center.

In his final sermon, Rev. Fowler urged his congregation to heed God's call: ''God can send different persons to us, and point us the way that he wants us to go.'' He told his followers that his farewell does not mark the end of his service, but the continuation of God's Ministry.

I urge my colleagues to join me as I salute Rev. William J. Fowler and wish him and his wife the best as they enter a well-deserved retirement. His calling as a reverend, friend, and leader will continue to inspire many.

Madam Speaker, in closing, I would like to call to the attention of my colleagues and other readers of the RECORD the article from The Knoxville News Sentinel newspaper, which is reprinted below.

[From the Knoxville News Sentinel, June 7, 2008]

FAMILIAR PAIR AT CHURCH STREET UMC TO RETIRE

(By John Shearer)

Just as the landmark Church Street United Methodist Church on Henley Street has changed little in appearance in recent years, so have its worship leaders.

However, the Rev. William Fowler, who has served as senior minister for the last 14 years, and Jim Rogers, who has been the organist and choirmaster since 1979, have announced plans to retire.

Fowler, whose tenure has been considered long for a denomination with itinerant clergy, will preach his last sermon on June 8, while Rogers is leaving in late July.

The Rev. Andy Ferguson from Broad Street United Methodist in Cleveland, Tenn., will be the new senior minister, while a search is under way for Rogers' replacement.

Fowler, the son of a Methodist minister, began his career after graduation from Duke Divinity School as an assistant pastor at a church in Scotland beginning in 1968. He had come to Church Street from First United Methodist in Bristol and had no idea he would stay so long.

''The first Sunday I was overwhelmed and frightened,'' he said. ''Hearing the organ open up on, 'Lift High the Cross,' I said, 'God, what did you get me into?' I certainly made some mistakes, but I gave all my effort to God and said I tried.''

Fowler, who is building a retirement lakeside home in Kingston with his wife, Virginia, plans to stay away from a pulpit but near a pen and computer writing books. Rogers had come to Church Street from a similar position at Belle Meade United Methodist in Nashville. At Church Street, he has maintained the church's style of more traditional and formal music in an era when contemporary Christian music has become popular. ''People pass a lot different styles of worship to come to this church,'' he said.

Rogers said the most satisfying part of his work has come not from the performances, but in practice.

''The challenge is seeing what you can get out of a group of singers,'' he said. ''God doesn't deserve your second best.''

IN MEMORY OF JOHN RODGERS BARNES

HON. DUNCAN HUNTER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 17, 2008

Mr. HUNTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to the life and memory of a true American hero, John Rodger Barnes. John was a long-time resident of Southern California and passed away at his Indian Hills home on February 15, 2008.

John attended schools in Mansfield and briefly studied law at Boston University. It was there in Mansfield that he met and married his lifelong companion, Alice T. Barnes of Brockton, Massachusetts, in 1940. The young couple began their family at their home on a small farm there in Mansfield. When World War II began, John was working at Harvard University and in 1943 he joined the U.S. Navy, later serving in the Pacific Theater with the Navy Seabees. It was there on the island of Saipan, at Leyte, and later in the Philippines that he distinguished himself in fierce battle earning several medals for valor including six Bronze Battle Stars.

He also participated in battles at Tinian, the Lingayen Gulf, Luzon and Okinawa Island and was on a ship anchored near Japan when the order to drop the first atomic bomb was issued. Following the war, John returned to his Mansfield farm until 1950 when he and Alice moved with their 5 children to Patrick Air Force Base, Florida.

In 1959, John moved his family to Southern California but later joined the Chrysler Corporation as a leader in its tool and die operation. Following his retirement there he and Alice moved back to Southern California and lived at the Galleano Winery in Mira Loma until her death in 1997. The majority of his retirement was spent in Southern California where he continued to enjoy his good health, reading many fine books, watching the birds and squirrels, and penning scores of editorial letters to several local papers.

John was survived by his children Barry, David Harding, Doreen Elizabeth, and Ellen Judith, his brothers Sam and Peter and sisters Rosalee and Margot. His son John Rodgers and siblings Clarence, Jane, David and Thomas all preceded him in death.

The success of his children and grandchildren always gave John great pride often saying that they ''did well because I didn't interfere.'' A highly decorated combat veteran, a talented and distinguished technician and a loving and caring father, John imparted his values and virtues on his large and wonderful family, the several communities he served and the many precious lives he touched so gently. He will be truly missed by all so fortunate to have been touched by his kindness.

A TRIBUTE TO VINCENT HOSANG

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 17, 2008

Mr. TOWNS. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Vincent HoSang, CEO and President of Caribbean Food Delights, a nationally and internationally renowned wholesale trade corporation that produces Caribbean delicacies.

HoSang was born in Springfield St. James, Jamaica to Mr. and Mrs. Henry HoSang, and was the eighth child of ten. As a child, HoSang had aspirations of becoming a medical doctor but halted his studies to help his uncle manage a family grocery store. However, it was this introduction to food services that placed HoSang on the road to founding a lucrative corporation.

In February of 1968, HoSang migrated to Bronx, NY where he saved enough money to buy a fast food store known as ''Kingsbridge Delight,'' which sold fried chicken, shrimp, ribs, and French fries. In 1980, HoSang bought ''Sunrise Bakery'' on Dyre Avenue; HoSang changed its name to ''Royal Caribbean Bakery'' and expanded the corporation into a 20,000-sq ft. wholesale trade company in Mount Vernon, NY.

In 1993, HoSang bought 73,000 sq. ft. of land property in Tappan, New York where he founded Caribbean Food Delights, which produced various Jamaican cuisines. Since then, Caribbean Food Delights has expanded to become internationally recognized and received the Forbes award on February, 5, 2007. Along with his success, HoSang finds time to give back to the communities he's belonged to. Vincent HoSang Family Foundation, founded in 2003, and it contributed $150,000 worth of scholarship money to business students at the University of the West Indies; this is just one example of the many ways HoSang attempts to serve others.

In closing, Vincent HoSang has dedicated his life to helping others through philanthropic giving and through food services.

HONORING SOUTH CENTRAL CONNECTICUT CHAPTER 703 OF THE AMERICAN RED CROSS AS THEY CELEBRATE THEIR 75TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 17, 2008

Ms. DELAURO. Madam Speaker, there are few organizations whose name is synonymous with compassion, care, and community service. The American Red Cross is one of those few. Today, in my hometown of New Haven, Connecticut, South Central Connecticut Chapter 703 celebrates its 75th anniversary. Quite a remarkable milestone for this organization and our community. It is with the greatest pride that I rise today to pay tribute to this outstanding organization, its extraordinary membership, and the many invaluable contributions they have made to our community, our state, and our Nation.

Brought together by its first chairman, William Farnam, the South Central Connecticut Chapter of the American Red Cross was established in April 1906. The earliest records indicate that this group of volunteers were gathering supplies for Serbia as well as provisions for charitable groups throughout Greater New Haven. Shortly after our entrance into World War I, classes in home nursing were started as well as first aid programs, home services, and a corps charged with making surgical dressings. These were all volunteers—a remarkable achievement when you consider the demands brought on by the war. In fact, records from 1918 show that the Surgical Dressings department worked in an area that accommodated 1,200 workers and that in that same year, their fundraising drive included 4,000 women dressed in white, parading for the cause.

One of the greatest contributions of the South Central Connecticut Chapter was the role of one of their most distinguished members in the development and implementation of the present day statewide Blood Program. The National Red Cross pioneered the Blood Program in 1936 and during World War II the Army and Navy put out a call for donations. G. Gordon Copeland was the Chapter's assistant treasurer in 1942 and is credited with initiating the Regional Blood Program in 1950. He was chosen to represent the National Red Cross at the Centenary Congress in Geneva and served on Connecticut's Advisory Board for many years. He would certainly be proud that in Connecticut, where there are no commercial blood banks, is one of only 3 states in the Nation with an entirely free, entirely volunteer program.

In 1955, the Chapter had little chance to celebrate the purchase of the ''Verdi House''—what would become their permanent home on Whitney Avenue—before the most disastrous flood in Connecticut's history came upon the State, paralyzing many communities. Always at the ready, the Chapter's offices were open 24 hours a day for 4 days and then for the following 2 weeks all personnel were on 24-hour call. Providing for 30,000 Connecticut residents, the Chapter moved 7 seaworthy boats into service, and 1,000 disaster workers faced the challenge—gathering generators, short wave radio equipment, food, clothing, water,

cots, blankets and medical equipment. Their quick action earned them the highest complement from then Governor Abraham Ribicoff when he described their endeavors as ''a model of humanitarian relief.''

Today, the South Central Connecticut Chapter of the American Red Cross boasts a volunteer base of more than 3,000 and its programs and services stretch far beyond the Blood Program and disaster relief efforts. They offer preventative programs such as swimming lessons for children, first aid and CPR training, and workshops that help parents identify dangers in the home. Our children are introduced to citizenry and community service through their Youth Program and the Social Service Department offers counsel and assistance to veterans, seniors, and those most in need. As they celebrate their 75th anniversary, the South Central Chapter of the American Red Cross not only reflects on past accomplishments but looks to what they can achieve in the future. This extraordinary volunteer organization has become an integral part of our community—their innumerable contributions touching countless lives. It is my privilege to rise today to extend my heartfelt congratulations to the organization and its many members, past and present, on this very special occasion.

TRIBUTE TO CHRIS RICE

HON. DAVE CAMP

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 17, 2008

Mr. CAMP. Madam Speaker, today I rise to congratulate and pay tribute to Chris Rice upon receiving the title of Northwestern Michigan Spelling Bee Champion, and for his valiant representation of Michigan's fourth district in the Scripps National Spelling Bee Championship this spring.

Achieving previous high marks in the state level competition, it is not only Chris' exemplary study habits but his determination and focus that led him to the national competition in Washington, DC, this year. Chris' natural ability to spell became evident as a 4-year-old child when he began reading the news ticker displayed across the bottom of the television. After continuing to develop his love for spelling at school, Chris enlisted the help of his dedicated parents to begin practicing for spelling bee competitions.

As his Representative, I am proud of the great wealth of knowledge displayed by Chris while competing against 288 students from across the United States during the spelling bee. Chris' focus on spelling and reading makes him a true example and role model to his fellow students across Michigan.

On behalf of the 4th Congressional District of Michigan, I would like to extend my congratulations and thanks to Chris Rice for his educational achievements and leadership within Northwestern Michigan. I wish him the best in all of his future endeavors.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 17, 2008

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, I submit the following:

Requesting Member: Rep. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH.

Bill Number: H.R. 5658.

Account: Research, Development, Test and Evaluation, Navy Account.

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: McGee Industries Incorporated.

Address of Requesting Entity: Nine Crozerville Road, PO Box 2425, Aston, PA 19014.

Description of Request: The next generation aircraft carriers will be built using new technology that replaces the traditional steam catapults with an Electromagnetic Aircraft Launch System (EMALS). The environment around aircraft carrier catapults is among the most corrosive (i.e. seawater spray, heat, deck contaminants) with which the Navy must contend. No reliable corrosion or fracture data exists for the new EMALS materials and configuration operating in a catapult-like environment. A T&E program initiated to develop design-specific corrosion data under simulated catapult conditions needs to be continued in order to permit further design refinement, that will: (1) prevent premature component failures (2) minimize costly fleet maintenance and (3) enhance operational readiness.

Corrosion protection is an important element in producing a durable, highly reliable EMALS that will meet or exceed all Navy performance goals. It can be expected that unforeseen corrosion issues will arise as full-scale development, testing, and implementation of the EMALS proceeds. There is a window to generate corrosion data and recommend changes through 2009. Corrosion fatigue and stress corrosion cracking are critical problems that if addressed correctly, would improve performance, extend their life cycle and lower Operation and Maintenance costs for the carriers and their test facilities. Fracture mechanics testing of various corrosion control alternatives in a realistically simulated environment is required to resolve these concerns.

Detailed Finance Plan—McGee Industries: The total cost of this program has been valued at $3,000,000. We will need to design and develop load frames that will replicate the harsh catapult trough environment. Test equipment will need to be built that simulates the heat extremes, vibration effects, various deck contaminate and their effects on corrosion. All of these parameters will need to be monitored on a periodic basis to assure that we are simulating the EMALS operating conditions. At present we plan to evaluate more than 20 different chemicals and coatings.

The research program planned will follow the direction of the testing results and the direction of appropriate NAVAIR personnel. We estimate that we will need man hours for chemists, engineers, technicians and laboratory services as well as clerical and administrative support.

Breakdown of the Requested Funding: $1,250,000 for Design and Test Equipment; $500,000 for Laboratory Supplies and Equipment; $750,000 for Man Hours for Chemists, Engineers, Technicians; $250,000 Administrative, Travel; $250,000 Technical Assistance from Research Institutes.

Though this program is specifically directed at the EMALS system controlled by NAVAIR, McGee Industries plans to include updates pertinent to NAVSEA. Corrosion issues and improved corrosion protection are a problem throughout all military branches due to the age of existing equipment and the harsh environments which they must operate in successfully. Thus, this program offers conditioned maintenance improvements for the Navy, Army, Air Force, Marines and the Coast Guard.

CAROLINE PRYCE WALKER CONQUER CHILDHOOD CANCER ACT OF 2008

SPEECH OF

HON. DAVID DREIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 11, 2008

Mr. DREIER. Madam Speaker, I would like to thank my colleague Ms. PRYCE for introducing H.R. 1553, the Caroline Pryce Walker Conquer Childhood Cancer Act of 2008. As a co-sponsor of the bill, I am proud to support this measure.

We all know that cancer is a devastating disease that affects untold numbers of Americans each year. While it is often easy to think of cancer as only affecting adults, the measure before us today is a reminder that cancer is in fact the leading cause of disease-related death in children in the United States, claiming the lives some 2,300 children annually. It is therefore fitting that this bill has been named in honor of Caroline Pryce Walker, the late daughter of our colleague DEBORAH PRYCE, who lost her battle against neuroblastoma in 1999 at nine years of age.

As many of us know, there are numerous institutions throughout the country which are dedicated to providing better care and research for childhood cancer patients. I am particularly proud to have several participating institutions located in my home state of California, including Cure Search, which has a research center located in the city of Arcadia, as well as the City of Hope, which is located in the city of Duarte. These institutions work under an unincorporated, nationwide network known as the Children's Oncology Group, which is comprised of over 200 childhood cancer treatment and research centers that collaborate on clinical trials and translational research of pediatric cancer.

The work of Cure Search and the City of Hope, along with hundreds of other institutions across the county, has helped to make significant advances in the treatment of childhood cancer. When the National Cancer Institute founded the first pediatric cooperatives in 1955, the childhood cancer survival rate was a mere ten percent. Thanks to the collaborative work being performed through the Children's Oncology Group, that number has risen to seventy five percent today, and it is because of these joint efforts that new trends and therapies in childhood cancer are discovered each year.

However, in recent years, treating cancer has become just one aspect of addressing the

health needs of children afflicted with the disease. The Children's Oncology Group has been at the forefront of raising awareness about the challenges that exist in the post-treatment, cancer survivorship period. For example, few may know that two-thirds of the children who survive cancer will ultimately experience at least one, if not more, long-term health issue as a result of their treatment. These so called "late-effects" pose substantial health challenges for those who are fortunate enough to survive childhood cancer as well as for the doctors who treat them.

To that end, the Children's Oncology Group has taken an important lead in focusing greater attention on long-term complications that arise from radiation and other therapies and has worked to study the long-term care needs of childhood cancer survivors. In fact, one of my constituents, Dr. Smita Bhatia, a resident of Arcadia who works at the City of Hope, served as the Chair of the Late Effects Committee at the Children's Oncology Group for eight years and was instrumental in establishing national guidelines for survivorship care. Today, these guidelines are being used to help equip survivors with the tools they need to identify the side-effects of specific cancer treatments and remain healthy as they mature into adulthood.

The measure before us today will help advance our understanding of childhood cancer by addressing the need to obtain more accurate data to study trends and evaluate the most effective courses of treatment. While approximately 12,500 children in the United States are diagnosed with cancer each year, researchers have experienced great difficulties in pinpointing the exact causes of childhood cancer. Because of its random occurrence in children across the United States, it has been nearly impossible to acquire statistically significant data on the causes of and effective treatments for childhood cancer. The work of Cure Search and the City of Hope will be amplified by the underlying bill, which authorizes the creation of a national childhood cancer research database to provide better statistics on the occurrence of childhood cancer as well as the most effective treatments for patients. Building this database is critical to ensuring that those who are responsible for treating childhood cancer have the very best data available to them.

Additionally, the bill authorizes $30 million to enhance and expand biomedical research programs that allow scientists to study how tumors form and spread as well as the impact that genetics can have on the likelihood of cancer and relapses of the disease. The bill also will provide better educational and informational services for childhood cancer patients and their families to ensure that they have access to appropriate clinical treatments and support services.

H.R. 1553, Caroline Pryce Walker Conquer Childhood Cancer Act, affirms a long-term commitment to providing a cure to childhood cancer and also will ensure that doctors and patients alike are provided with the best information to make important medical decisions in the near-term. As we seek to address the needs of childhood cancer patients, survivors and their families, I urge my colleagues to recognize the importance of the research that will be authorized by H.R. 1553 and support this bill.

HONORING DR. DONALD F. AVERILL FOR 47 YEARS OF ACHIEVEMENTS IN EDUCATION

HON. JERRY LEWIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 17, 2008

Mr. LEWIS of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a true leader in my community, Dr. Donald F. Averill, who is retiring after 47 years of dedication to education and economic development throughout the Inland Empire.

With 14 years of teaching at the secondary level, and 33 years of community college experience, Dr. Averill was chosen to be Chancellor of a very important education provider in my home town of San Bernardino, California, a position he held for 8 years. The San Bernardino Community College District is comprised of two colleges, San Bernardino Valley College and Crafton Hills College, the Professional Development Center, and its own public television and radio station, KVCR.

Beginning with 140 students at two high school campuses in 1926, San Bernardino Valley Community College has grown into a district with two modern campuses and thousands of students. It has served more than 700,000 students over the past 80 years.

Our district is blessed with many fine educational professionals who are passionate about their work and care deeply about the lives of their students. Dr. Averill took his interest one step further by working with the county and the K–12 students to increase the college-going rate in the region by 45 percent, with the majority of that enrollment going to the community colleges.

Dr. Averill's forward-thinking skills are an essential part of what has made San Bernardino a model community for educational development. In particular, he is credited with developing and implementing extensive workforce development programs that incorporate education and economic development in California. He was one of the founders of the Economic Development Network of the California Community Colleges, or EdNet, an innovative technological tool that utilizes existing community college infrastructure to promote the State's economic expansion. He also was instrumental in completing extensive long-range facilities plans for San Bernardino Valley College and Crafton Hills College in Yucaipa. Dr. Averill's hard work and dedication to ensuring the future success of our young people is truly appreciated.

My constituents in the 41st District are particularly grateful for Dr. Averill's role in adding a simulated fire fighting unit for training in aircraft fire fighting. Our region is always at risk from devastating wildfires and it is crucial that our firefighters have the training tools they need to protect our communities.

Beyond his achievements in the educational field, Dr. Averill is a community leader. He serves on the executive committee of the Economic Development Network of California, and is a board member of the Inland Empire Economic Partnership, the Workforce Investment Board, the San Bernardino Area Chamber of Commerce and Arrowhead United Way.

Madam Speaker, please join me in congratulating Dr. Averill for his many accomplishments and thanking him for making our community a leader in educational, professional and economic advancement. The valuable contributions he has made throughout his career will be remembered for years to come.

NATIONAL D-DAY REMEMBRANCE DAY

SPEECH OF

HON. STEVE BUYER

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 10, 2008

Mr. BUYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 1235, a measure expressing support for the designation of National D-Day Remembrance Day, and recognizing the spirit, courage, and sacrifice of the men and women who fought and won World War II.

On June 6, 1944, the largest sea-borne invasion in military history led to the defeat of Hitler and the Nazis' stranglehold on Europe. Nearly 7,000 ships and landing craft, loaded with American, British and other troops, crossed the English Channel to destroy tyranny and restore freedom to Europe. Nearly 3,500 lives were lost in this immense display of courage and sacrifice.

The heroism displayed by the Allied forces on D-day should never be forgotten and we should always honor the men and women who saved democracy from the shadow of oppression. That is why we should approve H.R. 1235 calling on Congress to support the designation of a National D-Day Remembrance Day.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to recognize and honor the veterans who served on D-day, and join me in supporting this bill thanking them for their courage and sacrifice.

CONGRATULATIONS PROFESSOR JEFFERSON DAVIS FUTCH, III

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 17, 2008

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, for 46 years, Dr. Jefferson Davis Futch, III has been a member of the faculty at Washington and Lee University, my alma mater, in Lexington, Virginia. At the end of this school year, Professor Futch retired from his post. While he may no longer be teaching, his legacy of scholarship and dedication to the W&L community will never be forgotten.

Born in Baltimore, Maryland in 1932, J.D, Futch earned an Associate Bachelors degree in humanities and a Ph.D. in history from Johns Hopkins University. He spent three years in the United States Army from 1957 to 1960, and joined the Washington and Lee faculty in September of 1962.

Throughout his life and career, Dr. Futch has been honored as a member in Phi Beta Kappa and as a recipient of the Woodrow Wilson Fellowship from 1955–1956. He contributed to articles in the widely respected magazine National Review from 1958–1976. And, in 1987, he was recipient of the W.W. Pusey Award which recognizes outstanding and dedicated service to Washington and Lee University.

Dr. Futch specializes in the history of the papacy, Renaissance and modem European history.

From the many lives he has touched to the University he helped grow and strengthen throughout his tenure at Washington and Lee, Dr. Futch is an icon in the Washington and Lee community and someone who will be missed by students, faculty, and friends alike. No professor had a more profound impact on my love of history and interest in public service than Dr. Futch. I will always be deeply grateful for his guidance in my life. I know I speak on behalf of the alumni who have had the honor to know and learn from Dr. Futch when I say that we wish him many years of happy retirement.

A TRIBUTE TO REV. KIMBERLY COUNCIL-HAIGLER

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 17, 2008

Mr. TOWNS. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Reverend Kimberly Council-Haigler of Brooklyn, New York, for the achievements of one who provide selfless contributions to their community.

The daughter of Mr. Benjamin and Rev. Linda Council, she is the oldest of five and the mother of two. In 2003 she gained her license and was ordained at the Berean Baptist Church under the leadership of Rev. Dr. Arlee Griffin Jr. She Received a Bachelor of Arts from North Carolina Central University and a Master of Science in Library Science from Pratt Institute.

Rev. Council is active in her church and professional community overseeing the Young Adult Ministry and Youth Ministry. At the same time she serves as the superintendent of the Young Adult Sunday School Department, an instructor at the Berean Bible Institute and sits on the Board of Directors of Berean's Christian Education Ministry.

Currently she works as a Reference Librarian at Sullivan & Cromwell LLP. She is a member of the Law Library Association of Greater New York where she has served on the Board of LLAGNY's Board of Directors, and co-chair of LLAGNY's Student Relations Committee. She is also a member of the American Association of Law Librarians and Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority incorporated.

Her service to the community is outstanding and deserves grave recognition.

NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND SPACE ADMINISTRATION AUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2008

SPEECH OF

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 12, 2008

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 6063) to authorize the programs of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, and for other purposes:

Ms. ESHOO. Madam Chairman, I rise today in support of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration Authorization Act (H.R. 6063).

This bill authorizes $20.2 billion for NASA for the 2009 fiscal year which represents a 14 percent increase over the President's request of $17.6 billion. The President's vision of new manned space missions without requesting adequate funding for the agency has resulted in cuts to other NASA programs, including important earth sciences research. The bill we're considering today addresses the needs of NASA's entire mission and all four of its directorates which encompass space exploration, aeronautics, and other research and technology development programs.

NASA's Ames Research Center is a key component of the vibrant research and innovation community in my Congressional District. With special expertise in supercomputing, networking and intelligent systems, Ames develops technologies critical to NASA's missions. Ames and the other NASA research facilities around the country rely on the funding within the Science Mission Directorate (SMD). The House of Representatives has consistently exceeded the President's budget request and I'm pleased to see this pattern continue today. We have exceeded the Administration's request for all four of the divisions within SMD to ensure that NASA scientists at Ames and across the country have the resources they need.

While this is a good bill, I hope future reauthorizations will revisit the restrictions imposed on NASA's ability to engage in Enhanced Use Lease (EUL) agreements. Just last week Ames Research Center announced it had signed an EUL with Google in a strategic partnership to develop new ideas, technologies, and applications. I hope we can expand this program in the future to provide further opportunities for NASA to develop these fruitful relationships which leverage private sector expertise to use our tax dollars effectively and efficiently.

NASA is a critical component of our nation's research and development infrastructure and I thank the Committee on Science and Technology for their hard work on this bill. I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to join me in supporting this legislation.

IMPACT OF FLOODING IN IOWA

HON. LEONARD L. BOSWELL

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 17, 2008

Mr. BOSWELL. Madam Speaker, Iowa, the State I am proud to represent in this great body, is facing one of the worst natural disasters it has ever witnessed. Record flooding has affected hundreds of communities, devastated hundreds of businesses, displaced thousands of our fellow citizens, and has done billions of dollars in damage.

The waters are beginning to recede in some parts of the State, but we are not out of the troubles yet. The level of devastation has not yet been fully realized, and probably won't for some weeks. I saw firsthand the damage done as I toured my district this weekend, and words cannot begin to illustrate just how damaging the floodwaters have been.

I rise today to salute my fellow Iowans, and salute the sense of community that is so strong in Iowa. In preparation for the floods, there were countless instances where Iowans banded together, from all walks of life, from all ages, to work together to do whatever was necessary to save the communities we all love to call home.

And this is what Iowans will continue to do. We will continue to work together to rebuild our communities and heal the wounds the flood waters opened. We will continue to work together and fight on because our families, our communities, and our State are worth nothing less.

But Madam Speaker, Iowa will need generous Federal assistance to get back on its feet. Iowans will do whatever they can, but the fact is the flooding that has hit Iowa has never been witnessed, ever, and the damage and challenges presenting themselves are simply too much for the State and local governments to handle by themselves. Iowans will do their part, but we must do ours.

Madam Speaker, Iowans continue to display what is best in the American spirit as we continue to face the challenges that are presented to us today, and we will persevere, for as Iowa goes, so goes the Nation.

IN REMEMBRANCE OF RICHARD ASHBROOK

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 17, 2008

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor and remembrance of Richard Louis "Dick" Ashbrook—devoted family man, accomplished scientist, peace and social justice activist and humanitarian.

Born in Philadelphia, Dick graduated from Lehigh University with a degree in metallurgical engineering. He earned his master's degree from Carnegie Institute of Technology and a Ph.D. from Case Institute of Technology. In 1961, Dick and his wife, Mary, moved to Brook Park where he worked for NASA's Lewis Research Center doing research on high temperature alloys and ceramics. He was also a consultant with Brush Wellman.

He was active in civil rights and fair housing through the Berea Area Council on Human Relations. He participated in countless peace vigils as a member of the Peace Community Church. He was an early member and longtime manager and roadie of the Cleveland area contra dance band, Mud in Yer Eye, in which he played concertina, bones and other rhythm instruments. He volunteered in the book-mending lab at Oberlin College and was an active member of SPINACH (Senior People Interested in Nutrition and Community Health). He also volunteered at the Second Harvest warehouse.

Madam Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honor, gratitude and remembrance of Dick Ashbrook—an exceptional man, scientist and leader whose life reflected accomplishment, caring and joy. I offer my deepest condolences to his devoted wife, Mary, beloved children, Anne (Tom) Fitzpatrick, Connie (Martha Landowne), Peggy (Darryl Francois), Janet (John Dunn), Ellen (Ann Adams), Nico Ashe (Andrew Poltzer) and eight grandchildren. Dick Ashbrook's legacy, both personally and professionally, will be remembered by family, friends and colleagues.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. RON KIND

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 17, 2008

Mr. KIND. Madam Speaker, I was unable to have my vote recorded on the House floor on Thursday, June 12, 2008, having returned to my district to assist my constituents with the severe flooding that recently struck Wisconsin. Had I been present, I would have voted in favor of H. Res. 1257 (Roll No. 405 and No. 406), H. Res. 1265 (Roll No. 407 and No. 408), H.R. 1553 (Roll No. 409), H.R. 5749 (Roll No. 410 and No. 412), and S. 2146 (Roll No. 413). I would have voted against the motion to recommit H.R. 5749 (Roll No. 411).

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. RON KIND

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 17, 2008

Mr. KIND. Madam Speaker, I was unable to have my vote recorded on the House floor on Wednesday, June 11, 2008, having returned to my district to assist my constituents with the severe flooding that recently struck Wisconsin. Had I been present, I would have voted in favor of H. Res. 977 (Roll No. 404).

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BRUCE L. BRALEY

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 17, 2008

Mr. BRALEY of Iowa. Madam Speaker, unfortunately, I was unable to vote on Wednesday, June 11 and Thursday, June 12 due to massive flooding throughout Iowa's 1st Congressional District. Although I realize how important it is to cast votes in Washington, the well-being of my constituents comes first, and I need to be in the District to assist in any way I can.

On rollcall 397, H.R. 6003, I was not present. If I had been there, I would have voted "no."

On rollcall 398, H.R. 6003, I was not present. If I had been there, I would have voted "yes."

On rollcall 399, H.R. 6003, I was not present. If I had been there, I would have voted "no."

On rollcall 400, H.R. 6003, I was not present. If I had been there, I would have voted "yes."

On rollcall 401, H. Res. 1258, I was not present. If I had been there, I would have voted "yes."

On rollcall 402, H. Res. 1235, I was not present. If I had been there, I would have voted "yes."

On rollcall 403, H.R. 5749, I was not present. If I had been there, I would have voted "yes."

On rollcall 404, H. Res. 977, I was not present. If I had been there, I would have voted "yes."

On rollcall 405, H. Res. 1257, I was not present. If I had been there, I would have voted "yes."

On rollcall 406, H. Res. 1257, I was not present. If I had been there, I would have voted "yes."

On rollcall 407, H. Res 1265, I was not present. If I had been there, I would have voted "yes."

On rollcall 408, H. Res. 1265, I was not present. If I had been there, I would have voted "yes."

On rollcall 409, H.R. 1553, I was not present. If I had been there, I would have voted "yes."

On rollcall 410, H.R. 5749, I was not present. If I had been there, I would have voted "yes."

On rollcall 411, H.R. 5749, I was not present. If I had been there, I would have voted "no."

On rollcall 412, H.R. 5749, I was not present. If I had been there, I would have voted "yes."

On rollcall 413, S. 2146, I was not present. If I had been there, I would have voted "yes."

IT'S TIME TO TALK TO IRAN

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 17, 2008

Ms. LEE. Madam Speaker, on Tuesday of this week I had the wonderful experience of participating in a very important and worthwhile exercise in civilian diplomacy.

Coordinated by the Campaign for a New American Policy in Iran, Tuesday's event, called "Time to Talk with Iran," brought together a bipartisan gathering of Members of Congress, citizen groups, and religious organizations calling for bilateral negotiations without preconditions between the United States and Iran to dissuade Iran from seeking to acquire nuclear weapons.

Our message was simple: It is time to talk to Iran.

In fact it is past time we talk to Iran.

Because we hear the same people who supported a disastrous war of choice in Iraq now steadily beating the drum for war with Iran.

We have been down this road before and Americans have learned a simple truth from five hard and bitter years in Iraq:

No unjust war ever produced a just and lasting peace.

It has not worked in Iraq. It will not work in Iran.

We do not need another rush to unwarranted, unnecessary, and misguided military action. We need instead to launch a diplomatic surge for peace and reconciliation.

That is why earlier this year I introduced H.R. 5056, the Iran Diplomatic Accountability Act of 2008, which directs the President to appoint a high-level envoy empowered to seek to conduct direct, unconditional, bilateral negotiations with Iran for the purpose of easing tensions and normalizing relations between the United States and Iran.

My bill takes a common sense approach and it is one the American people understand.

Six out of 10 Americans do want their president to talk to Iran's president, according to the most-recent Gallup poll.

Many leading organizations active in the nuclear nonproliferation movement support this approach as indicated by the attached letter in support of diplomatic dialogue with Iran from the Friends Committee On National Legislation, FCNL.

Foreign policy experts also support direct negotiations without preconditions. In fact, a group of 5 bipartisan former U.S. secretaries of state have called for the U.S. to open talks with Iran to find common ground and resolve differences on Iraq, Iran's nuclear program, and other issues.

They understand that the current policy of avoiding serious negotiations with Iran until Iran suspends uranium enrichment has not worked. They understand that an offer of bilateral negotiations with a precondition is essentially no offer at all, when the precondition is the object of the negotiations.

Not only is talking to Iran the most sensible approach—it is far superior to preemptive military action against Iran. We know from the misadventure in Iraq that the humanitarian, economic, political, and military consequences of military conflict with Iran would be staggering.

Simply put: this Nation cannot afford these costs—especially on top of the tremendous costs of the debacle in Iraq.

Finally, Madam Speaker, although many persons were responsible for planning this extraordinary exercise in civilian diplomacy, I would like to single out for special recognition Carah Ong of the Center for Arms Control and Nonproliferation; Bill Goold, Executive Director of the Congressional Progressive Caucus; and Nicole King of my personal staff. They did a wonderful job organizing this event.

It is time to talk to Iran. As the "Time to Talk to Iran" event this past Tuesday, all it takes to begin is one "Hello."

FRIENDS COMMITTEE ON
NATIONAL LEGISLATION,
Washington, DC, June 3, 2008.

DEAR MEMBER OF CONGRESS, We write to call your attention to the recent call from five former U.S. secretaries of state for the U.S. to open talks with Iran. We urge you to speak out in favor of such talks and to support legislation to encourage them.

Colin Powell, Henry Kissinger, James Baker III, Madeleine Albright, and Warren Christopher all urged the U.S. to open a dialogue with Iran to find common ground and resolve differences on Iraq, Iran's nuclear program, and other issues.

The administration's policy of avoiding serious negotiations with Iran until Iran suspends uranium enrichment has not worked. We agree with those in Congress and elsewhere who have argued that to offer bilateral negotiations with a precondition is no offer at all, especially when the precondition is the object of the negotiations. This position guarantees that the negotiations with the best chance of settling U.S.-Iran differences will not begin.

Former national security advisor Zbigniew Brzezinski and the late former National Security Agency director William Odom wrote recently that "Current U.S. policy toward the regime in Tehran will almost certainly result in an Iran with nuclear weapons." They and many other analysts have concluded) that U.S. military action against Iran would only delay an Iranian nuclear weapons program and insure their determination to acquire nuclear weapons. Extreme elements would be strengthened and the cause of reform in Iran would be set back for years to come. Military action would also increase animosity toward the U.S. in the Middle East and elsewhere. It would prompt a big spike in the price of oil and would likely lead to retaliatory actions against the U.S. in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Current U.S. policy not to seriously negotiate with Iran has failed. The absence of talks and the addition of ever more stringent economic sanctions will resolve nothing. Military action would be disastrous. The only sensible option that serves the interests of the U.S. and the nations of the Middle East is to explore the possibility of finding common ground with Iran through direct negotiations. Common ground is not hard to imagine. For starters, both countries have an interest in a stable Iraq, a Taliban-free Afghanistan, and increased oil production capacity in Iran. The U.S. need not wait to develop leverage.

Please add your voice to those of the five former U.S. secretaries of state and other senior figures who are urging the U.S. to open talks with Iran. And please look for legislative opportunities to put Congress on record in support of such talks.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

JIM FINE,
Legislative Secretary for Foreign Policy.

HONORING THE RETIREMENT OF JO-ANN LOFTUS

HON. JOSEPH CROWLEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 17, 2008

Mr. CROWLEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a wonderful woman; Jo-Ann Loftus is retiring from the New York Stock Exchange after being a dedicated employee for the past 34 years.

Jo-Ann has proven herself to be a dedicated and relentlessly hardworking employee. Starting out as a secretary, Jo-Ann has worked her way up to become manager of the Government Relations department. In her many years of employment there, Jo-Ann has touched many lives at the NYSE.

Jo-Ann is also the mother of two children and would be described by them as supportive, loving and full of life and integrity. Jo-Ann raised her children as a single mother, working full time and putting both through college on her own. She has also never missed one dance recital, baseball game, after-school event or award ceremony that her children have been involved in.

Jo-Ann is also the founder of His Final Touch Prayer group and has been the faithful leader for over a decade. Jo-Ann is also a very involved member of her local Catholic parish and community.

She will be very missed by her colleagues and friends at the New York Stock Exchange but they are very confident that she will be just as successful at retirement as she has been in her years of work and service there.

THE NATIONAL NANOTECHNOLOGY INITIATIVE AMENDMENTS ACT OF 2008

HON. BRAD SHERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 17, 2008

Mr. SHERMAN. Madam Speaker, on June 5, 2008, I voted for the nanotechnology bill (H.R. 5940).

I have often expressed my concerns regarding the social, legal and ethical implications of ''engineered intelligence'', that is, the ongoing efforts of computer engineers and bio-engineers to create intelligence beyond that of a human being. The Congress and the Administration need to consider and address all aspects of these issues as we promote and assist the development of nanotechnology. To that end, I am pleased that this bill provides for a triennial review by the National Research Council of the adequacy of the National Nanotechnology Program's activities addressing ethical, legal, environmental, and other appropriate societal concerns, including human health concerns.

I hope that these concerns will receive even further attention in the legislative process as this bill goes to Senate and as any Senate reports or conference reports on a nanotechnology bill are prepared.

A TRIBUTE TO CLARENCE E. KOONACE

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 17, 2008

Mr. TOWNS. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Clarence E. Koonace, who helps serve his community through developing innovative medical technology. Before his career as an engineer, Koonace served his country as a member of the United States Air Force.

Mr. Koonace obtained a degree in business administration from Farleigh Dickerson's Edward Williams School and an Electronic Engineering Degree from DeVry Institute. On July 1, 1986, Clarence founded the Mordenrn Rad Ltd. Koonace's organization, provides sales and service to medical imaging cliental including NYC Fire Department's medical Division and NYC Office of the Chief Medical Examiner, private clinics, private practices, and consultation to vendors of X-ray equipment.

In addition to his career in engineering, Koonace is also an ordained deacon and member of Liberty Baptist Church of Brooklyn, New York. He is the husband to Evon Koonace and the father to two children, Crystal Bonita and Trevor Lamont.

It is with great honor that I recognize Koonace today for his service in improving health care technology and improving the lives of others.

A TRIBUTE TO JOHN SALOGUB

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 17, 2008

Mr. TOWNS. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of John Salogub, an active citizen of the Carnarsie neighborhood of Brooklyn and president of the 69th Precinct Community Council.

In addition to his work with the 69th Precinct Community, John is an active member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 59 and American Legion Post 573; indeed, John is a military veteran and served his country from October 1967 through May 1971.

John attended New York City Public Schools PS114 and IS211.

It is with great honor that I recognize John Salogub for his commitment to Brooklyn and service to his country.

HONORING THE LIFE AND WORK OF MAYOR BOB BLANCHARD

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 17, 2008

Ms. WOOLSEY. Madam Speaker, it is with great sadness that I rise today to recognize the passing of a valued colleague, Santa Rosa Mayor Bob Blanchard. Mayor Blanchard died June 14, 2008, at the age of 70, leaving a hole in the heart of his community and his family. He will be long remembered for his good humor, enthusiasm, and commitment to the city he loved.

Twenty-seven years ago, Bob and his family moved to Santa Rosa from southern California. He and his wife Angelyn raised their two children, daughter Cameron and son Matt, in the city, where they appreciated the quality of life it offers to families. It was his dedication to ensuring this quality for future generations that led Bob into public service.

After serving a stint in the Army, Bob had worked as a deputy sheriff in Riverside County as well as teaching at Riverside Community College. In 1978, he earned a doctorate in government, and his career shifted toward administration and teaching in the field of criminal justice and political science. This direction led to his move to Santa Rosa to serve as the director of Santa Rosa Junior College, SRJC, Police and Fire Academy. He eventually became a dean and a political science instructor at SRJC where he enjoyed working with young people. Although he had retired as a member of the regular faculty, Bob had stayed involved as an adjunct instructor.

Bob was also a founder of Tomorrow's Leader Today, a program that prepares high school juniors to be community leaders. He is remembered for his warmth and humor in inspiring the teenagers to be their best.

In 1994, Bob was appointed to the Santa Rosa Planning Commission, serving until his election to the City Council in 2002. He was re-elected in 2006 and then selected by his council colleagues to serve as mayor.

Bob and I have not always agreed on issues, but his ability to work with all sides to address concerns facing the city of Santa Rosa made him a leader for all and a spokesman on important issues such as transportation, outreach to diverse communities, public safety, and boosting the city whenever and wherever he could. He always endeavored to forge an appropriate compromise with the same humor and good spirit that characterized all his relationships.

''Work'' is the operative word for Bob. Despite his off-and-on battle with cancer, he maintained a heavy work load, representing the community to the best of his ability and never losing his enthusiasm. During this time he traveled to Santa Rosa Sister Cities in Korea and Mexico and was instrumental in helping the city earn a designation as All America City.

In addition to Angelyn, his wife of 41 years, and his two children, Bob is survived by two grandchildren.

Madam Speaker, I know Bob's colleagues would agree that he respected all people on all sides of an issue and dedicated himself to finding solutions. Whether serving on regional commissions, presiding over council meetings, or representing the city at civic events and in the halls of Congress, Bob did it with the grace, intelligence, and compassion that will be his lasting legacy. I will miss working with him, and I will especially miss his friendship.

HONORING THE LIVES OF MR. AND MRS. JERRY AND JUDY RANK

HON. THADDEUS G. McCOTTER

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 17, 2008

Mr. McCOTTER. Madam Speaker, today I rise to recognize Mr. and Mrs. Jerry and Judy Rank, an inspirational couple, upon reaching their 50th wedding anniversary.

Jerry and Judy were both brought up in Fort Dodge, Iowa and attended Fort Dodge High School. The idyllic duo began to date and became high school sweethearts. On August 10, 1958, Jerry and Judy exchanged vows and were pronounced for the first time as Mr. and Mrs. Jerry Rank. The Ranks relocated to Michigan when Jerry furthered his career with Ford Tractor. Mr. Rank's career with Ford lasted over 30 years, when he decided to retire and create new dreams with Judy.

Upon Mr. Rank's retirement, Jerry and Judy have spent time with the loving family they have built together including their children Kyle (Kris), Mark (Kim), and Beth (Hal) and their grandchildren, Joseph, Thomas, Jennifer, Andrew, and Halee. The beautiful pair continues their strong marriage in Beulah, Michigan on Crystal Lake. Jerry and Judy enjoy watching the sunset together, entertaining guests, and salmon fishing, which is their favorite pastime.

Madam Speaker, Mr. and Mrs. Jerry and Judy Rank are an extraordinary example of love, strength, and togetherness that families today should look to for guidance. The Ranks will celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary on August 10, 2008. I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating The Ranks for reaching this spectacular milestone and honoring the couple's loyal service to the community and our country.

IN HONOR OF CHUCK ESTEP, WINNER OF THE 2008 CABLE'S LEADERS IN LEARNING GENERAL EXCELLENCE AWARD

HON. JOHN D. DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 17, 2008

Mr. DINGELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Chuck Estep for being chosen as a finalist for the 2008 Cable's Leaders in Learning Award for General Excellence. This honor is bestowed annually by Cable in the Classroom, the cable industry's education foundation which promotes the use of cable and technology in schools across the country. Every year, they honor those in the education field who demonstrate leadership skills by using technology to transform the way we teach our students. Through his work as a Curriculum Resource Consultant in the Monroe County Intermediate School District, Chuck Estep certainly meets this criterion, and is worthy of such high praise.

We all know what an important role field trips play in our educational system. Not only do they expose children to new ideas and experiences, but they also promote a hands-on style of learning that is vital to keeping our children engaged in their schoolwork. Faced with a tight budget that was unable to accommodate expenses for field trips, Mr. Estep used his technological skills to overcome the problem. He set up a system of virtual field trips in conjunction with the Monroe County Historical Museum. This allowed students to ask questions in real time to an expert at the museum about the rich history of Monroe County. Specifically, one virtual field trip discussed the Battle of the River Raisin, which occurred in Monroe County during the War of 1812. Museum staff showed the students what dress from that period looked like and they discussed the positions of both sides during the war. Students in the district would not have been able to have such an enriching experience without the work of Chuck Estep.

The Battle of the River Raisin is arguably the most violent battle on continental U.S. soil outside of the Civil War, a fact many residents in Monroe and Michigan are unaware of. This virtual field trip paid special attention to the great role that this Battle played in the War of 1812, ensuring that the heritage and history of Monroe County will live on through today's students.

In this age of technology, we must strive to integrate all of the cutting edge tools that are available to us into our educational system. Doing so will create vibrant and engaging teaching methods that will keep our children interested in learning. Chuck Estep has certainly demonstrated this capacity for innovation, and for this he should be commended. I am proud to represent him here in Congress. I congratulate him on being chosen as a winner for Cable's Leaders in Learning Award for General Excellence Award, because he truly deserves it.

HONORING MICHAEL BIEBER

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 17, 2008

Mr. KILDEE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Michael Bieber as he retires from the United Auto Workers. Mike is the Assistant Director of UAW Region 1–D. A celebration in his honor will be held in Bay City, Michigan, on July 14th.

As a third generation UAW member, Mike joined the UAW Local 167 when he started working at the General Motors Diesel Equipment Division in Wyoming, Michigan, in 1979. He transferred to UAW Local 2151 when he moved to the Rochester Products Division in Coopersville. He was the Alternate Committee Person on the B-shift and a Shop Committee Person for 4 years. Elected as President of the Local at the age of 27, he held that position for 6 years. In 1993 he was appointed to the International UAW staff serving in the Secretary-Treasurer's office until he was named the Assistant Director by Director Donald Oetman in 2002.

In addition to his work with the UAW, Mike is active in the United Way of Ottawa County and serves on the Michigan Association of United Way Executive Board. He is a Democratic Party Precinct Delegate and the Vice-Chair of the Kent County Democrats. He is married to Jamee and is the stepfather to five children, and has five grandchildren.

Madam Speaker, please join me in congratulating Michael Bieber for being a diligent, conscientious proponent of the rights of working men and women everywhere. He has exhibited an abiding commitment to improving the workplace, the community, our country and our world. I wish him the best as he embarks on this new phase of his life.

BIO—MICHAEL BIEBER

Michael Bieber was appointed as Assistant Director of UAW Region 1–D in June of 2002 by Director, Donald Oetman. Mike is a 3rd generation UAW member.

Mike became a member of UAW Local #167 in 1979 when he went to work at the General Motors, Diesel Equipment Division in Wyoming, Michigan.

In 1981 Bieber transferred to the newly formed UAW local #2151 representing workers at the Coopersville, MI location of Rochester Products Division of G.M.

He served the Local as an Alternate Committee Person on the B-shift and as a Shop Committee Person for 4 years.

Despite his relative youth, Bieber was elected as President of the Local at the age of 27. He served in that capacity for six (6) years.

He was appointed to the International UAW staff in May of 1993 and served under the jurisdiction of the Secretary-Treasurer's office until he became Assistant Director.

Bieber has served on many community and labor organizations in Western Michigan. He has been very active with the United Way in Ottawa County and currently serves on the Michigan Association of United Way executive board.

He is active in the Democratic Party as a Precinct Delegate and currently serves as the Vice-Chair of the Kent County Democrats.

Mike is married to his wife, Jamee. Mike is the stepfather to five (5) children and they have (5) grandchildren.

HONORING THE CIVITAN CLUB OF WESTLAND

HON. THADDEUS G. McCOTTER

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 17, 2008

Mr. McCOTTER. Madam Speaker, today I rise to acknowledge the Civitan Club of Westland, a distinguished service organization, upon reaching 30 years as a chartered international group.

Civitan Club of Westland is an organization open to all adult members in the community with the goal to improve the area, assist community members, and grow individually as better citizens. Civitan performs its services both locally, nationally, and internationally. Some of their local projects include, Turn off the Violence, Paws for a Cause Drive, and the National Wheelchair Basketball Tournament. Civitan targets many different careers, ages,

and interests. From Special Olympics to Nursery Olympics, Police Departments to Fire Departments, and Festivals to Historical preservation, the Civitans have a vast range of activities that they plan, organize, and contribute their services to.

The Civitan Club of Westland was chartered on June 19, 1978, and led by Charter President Candice Addis. The organization has continued its purpose of knowledge, service, and fellowship for thirty years and has been successful in all its endeavors. To all those who have been touched by Civitan Club of Westland, a legacy of determination and community support has been established.

Madam Speaker, the Civitan Club of Westland is an organization that should be recognized for its 30 years of service, devotion, and kindness to the Westland community. I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the Civitan Club of Westland for reaching this spectacular milestone and honoring the group's loyal service to the community and our country.

HORSE TRANSPORTATION SAFETY ACT OF 2008

HON. MARK STEVEN KIRK

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 17, 2008

Mr. KIRK. Madam Speaker, today Representative STEVE COHEN and I introduced the Horse Transportation Safety Act of 2008.

In Wadsworth, Illinois, on Saturday October 27, 2007, a double decker cattle truck carrying 59 Belgian draft horses overturned when the driver ran a red light and hit another vehicle.

Residents at the scene could hear the animals kicking and screaming, panicked by their inability to escape. Eight horses died on the scene while another 10 had to be euthanized. After the crash, Wayne Pacelle, president and CEO of The Humane Society of the United States said, "What a gory mess we saw recently in Illinois. It must never happen again. . . ."

It is time that we heed these words by putting an end to using double decker trucks to transport horses. This legislation, endorsed by the Humane Society, Animal Welfare Institute, Hooved Animal Rescue and Protection Society, and the Communication Alliance to Network Thoroughbred ExRacehorses would take steps toward preventing this disaster from occurring again.

This bill prohibits the interstate transport of horses in a motor vehicle containing two or more levels stacked on top of one another as well as creates civil penalties between $100 and $500 for each horse involved.

In my own State of Illinois, the State General Assembly has already moved forward and passed similar legislation. I urge my colleagues to become a cosponsor of this bipartisan commonsense legislation.

TRIBUTE TO LARRY CLYMER

HON. FRED UPTON

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 17, 2008

Mr. UPTON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Larry Clymer, an outstanding public servant with a long and distinguished career of service in Southwest Michigan. Larry passed away unexpectedly this week and will be greatly missed by our community.

As the longtime mayor of Niles he was a valued and trusted friend. Upon my election to Congress, part of Larry's legacy came to Washington with me, in the form of his son, Jeff, who served as my first Legislative Director.

Though Larry was an active Republican, he was not afraid to create coalitions to put the best interests of Niles first—a lesson I learned from him and follow still today. He was indeed "Mr. Niles" and I always appreciated his thoughts and interests, regularly weighing in on behalf of the greater community good.

I would be hard pressed to find someone with a greater dedication to Niles and Berrien County, MI. Larry faithfully served our community for a combined 28 years—14 as the mayor of Niles and 14 as a Berrien County Commissioner. Outside of his official duties, Larry earned the nickname "marrying mayor" after performing more than 250 marriages, and was known for his sense of humor.

Larry was an exceptional public servant, and a gentleman. He has given a lifetime of service to our community, and our thoughts today are with his wife, Eleanor, and his family. We lost a treasure in Niles, and we will all miss him sorely. God bless "Mr. Niles."

HONORING THE LIFE AND SERVICE OF MR. LES CASH, FIRE CHIEF OF THE LYON TOWNSHIP FIRE DEPARTMENT

HON. THADDEUS G. McCOTTER

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 17, 2008

Mr. MCCOTTER. Madam Speaker, today I rise to acknowledge Mr. Les Cash, Fire Chief of the Lyon Township Fire Department, upon reaching his retirement after 35 years of loyal service.

Mr. Les Cash was born in 1943, the sixth of ten siblings to Floyd and Leona Cash. In 1960, Mr. Cash enlisted in the Army, served 16 months in Korea, and was later stationed in Missouri at Fort Leonard Wood where he worked as a battalion mail clerk. In 1963, Les was honorably discharged and married his lovely wife, Renate, in July. Together, the blissful couple had two sons, Dan and Brian, and one daughter, Lisa.

In 1964, Mr. Cash began a career for the Ford Motor Company where he remained until his retirement over 30 years later. During this time, Les volunteered with the Lyon Township Fire Department. In 1973, Mr. Cash was honored to accept the position of Fire Chief and became Full-Time Fire Chief in 1998. Les was a devoted and determined leader and served his community with utmost ability.

Madam Speaker, Mr. Les Cash will retire from Fire Chief of the Lyon Township Fire Department on June 30, 2008. To his wife, Renate; his children, Dan, Brian, and Lisa; his grandchildren, Devin, Taylor, Brianna, and Nicole; and to everyone whose lives have been enriched by him, Les is a man of courage, vigor, and guidance. I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Mr. Les Cash for his 35 years as Fire Chief and honor Mr. Cash's honorable service to the community and our country.

A TRIBUTE RECOGNIZING SARAH LOWE AND SONJA STEPTOE ON THEIR RECENT APPOINTMENT TO THE KNIGHT COMMISSION ON INTERCOLLEGIATE ATHLETICS

HON. LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 17, 2008

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Sarah Lowe and Sonja Steptoe, two residents of California's 34th District, on their recent appointment to the Knight Commission on Intercollegiate Athletics.

The Knight Commission was created by the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation in 1989 with the purpose of recommending a reform agenda that emphasizes academic values in college sports. The commission, which presented recommendations in a series of reports in the early 1990s and in the subsequent A Call to Action in 2001, continues to monitor and report on progress in increasing presidential control, academic integrity, financial integrity and independent certification of programs in college athletics.

Many of the commission's recommended reforms have been enacted by the NCAA. For example, the NCAA recently announced that 218 teams at 123 institutions will be sanctioned for failing to meet minimum academic benchmarks established as part of the Academic Performance Program. In 2001, the Knight Commission on Intercollegiate Athletics advocated that teams be ineligible for postseason competition if they failed to graduate at least 50 percent of their athletes. Although the current benchmarks are lower than those advocated by the Commission, the Commission has supported the full implementation of the NCAA's program since its adoption in 2004.

The commission convenes several times a year to highlight important issues facing intercollegiate athletics, including academic integrity and the rising costs of college athletic programs.

The Commission is comprised of prominent leaders in higher education and journalism as well as former collegiate athletes who have achieved excellence throughout their careers. I am proud to announce that Sonja Steptoe and Sarah Lowe are two of the Knight Commission's newest members.

Sonja Steptoe serves as client development manager at O'Melveny & Myers LLP, an international law firm based in Los Angeles. Prior to joining O'Melveny in 2007, Steptoe served as a senior correspondent and deputy news director for Time Magazine for 5 years following a successful career in sports journalism. Steptoe reported and wrote for CNNSI sports network, HBO's RealSports with Bryant Gumbel and Sports Illustrated. Her investigation of East Germany's systematic doping of Olympic athletes earned her an Emmy Award for Outstanding Sports Journalism. Steptoe earned degrees in economics and journalism at the University of Missouri. She received a law degree from Duke University.

Sarah Lowe graduated magna cum laude and Phi Beta Kappa from the University of

Florida in May 2006. Lowe was a leader on the women's basketball team serving as team captain 3 of her 4 years. Following her graduation, she studied in Costa Rica as a Fulbright Scholar. In addition to being a two-time Rhodes scholar finalist, she received numerous awards for her academic and athletics excellence including the Arthur Ashe, Jr. 2006 Female Sport Scholar of the Year.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Sonja and Sarah on their achievements and in commending them for their continued commitment to strengthening higher education through their work on the Knight Commission on Intercollegiate Athletics.

DAVISON SOURCE WATER PROTECTION PROGRAM

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 17, 2008

Mr. KILDEE. Madam Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to join me in honoring the City of Davison on receiving the Exemplary Source Water Protection Award from the American Water Works Association. Every year the American Water Works Association presents this award to a municipal water system for developing and implementing effective source water protection programs.

This award signifies that the City of Davison has met the highest standards of excellence in their pursuit to supply the residents of Davison with clean, safe water. In July of 2005 Davison's water treatment plant went online and has the capacity to treat up to 2.5 million gallons per day. Working cooperatively with Davison Township and Richfield Township, the City of Davison has implemented a cooperative effort to protect the ground water on which many rely. The new program includes provisions to reduce the number of abandoned wells that pose a serious threat to the health of the aquifers.

The City of Davison, knowing that residents play an important role in protecting the water supply, has worked to reach out to the community in their Source Water Protection Program. In the program Davison encourages residents to be stewards of the water supply by limiting the amount of lawn chemicals and fertilizers that run off and enter the water system. Additionally, Davison has endeavored to educate and inform the community that simple maintenance of septic and home plumbing systems can benefit both the community and the individual by reducing water usage and contamination. The city is assisting residents identify and plug old wells that pose a dangerous risk to the health and safety of the community.

Madam Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to join me in congratulating Mayor Fred Fortner, the Davison City Council, the staff, volunteers and residents for receiving this award. Through their commitment to hard work and education they have demonstrated good stewardship of this vital natural resource.

AMERICAN WATER WORKS ASSOCIATION,
Denver, CO, March 4, 2008.

Ms. ANDREA L. SCHROEDER,
City of Davison,
Davison, MI.

DEAR MS. SCHROEDER: I am pleased to inform you that your utility has been selected as the recipient of the Exemplary Source Water Protection Award for medium-sized systems. This award recognizes organizations in North America who have developed and are implementing exemplary source water protection programs.

In recognition of this honor, an award will be presented to you during the Atlanta Annual Conference in June. Details regarding the presentation will be sent to you later by Linda Moody.

The Association's Officers and Directors join me in congratulating you on this honor.

Sincerely,

GARY J. ZIMMERMAN,
Executive Director.

THE CITY OF DAVISON SOURCE WATER PROTECTION PROGRAM: PROTECTING YOUR DRINKING WATER RESOURCES

Davison's new $3.5 million dollar water groundwater treatment plant was put on-line in July 2005. The plant receives water from the City's five groundwater wells and can treat up to 2.5 million gallons per day using filtration, softening and reverse osmosis.

Through cooperative efforts from Davison and Richfield Townships, Davison's Source Water Protection Program identifies and manages threats to the city water supply.

Please call the DPW offices to learn more.

Protect drinking water—our future depends on it.

HOW DOES GROUNDWATER BECOME CONTAMINATED?

Abandoned wells, leaking underground storage tanks, industrial and transportation activities, dumps and landfills, agricultural activities, and homeowner activities.

How Can I Help?

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BOBBY L. RUSH

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 17, 2008

Mr. RUSH. Madam Speaker, unfortunately I have been out on medical leave. I have been unable to cast votes; however, I would like the RECORD to reflect my intentions had I been present to vote.

Had I been present for rollcall No. 388, I would have voted "aye."

Had I been present for rollcall No. 389, I would have voted "aye."

Had I been present for rollcall No. 390, I would have voted "aye."

Had I been present for rollcall No. 391, I would have voted "aye."

Had I been present for rollcall No. 392, I would have voted "aye."

Had I been present for rollcall No. 393, I would have voted "nay."

Had I been present for rollcall No. 394, I would have voted "aye."

Had I been present for rollcall No. 395, I would have voted "aye."

Had I been present for rollcall No. 396, I would have voted "aye."

Had I been present for rollcall No. 397, I would have voted "nay."

Had I been present for rollcall No. 398, I would have voted "aye."

Had I been present for rollcall No. 399, I would have voted "nay."

Had I been present for rollcall No. 400, I would have voted "aye."

Had I been present for rollcall No. 401, I would have voted "aye."

Had I been present for rollcall No. 402, I would have voted "aye."

Had I been present for rollcall No. 403, I would have voted "aye."

Had I been present for rollcall No. 404, I would have voted "aye."

Had I been present for rollcall No. 405, I would have voted "aye."

Had I been present for rollcall No. 406, I would have voted "aye."

Had I been present for rollcall No. 407, I would have voted "aye."

Had I been present for rollcall No. 408, I would have voted "aye."

Had I been present for rollcall No. 409, I would have voted "aye."

Had I been present for rollcall No. 410, I would have voted "aye."

Had I been present for rollcall No. 411, I would have voted "nay."

Had I been present for rollcall No. 412, I would have voted "aye."

Had I been present for rollcall No. 413, I would have voted "aye."

HONORING ISRAEL'S 60TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. THELMA D. DRAKE

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 17, 2008

Mrs. DRAKE. Madam Speaker, I rise today in tribute to the State of Israel and its proud 60 years of existence.

Last month we were celebrating Israel's 60th birthday, and I was proud to vote in favor of a resolution honoring this great achievement. This month, I look forward in wishing Israel another 60 years as a strong and free democracy.

I have always spoken about how my trip to Israel in 2005 was a life changing event. With a young statehood but an ancient history, Israelis are faced with daily and often costly reminders of the price of freedom. I do not believe a day has gone by since Israel's founding where it has not been subject to attack. Yet, through the sheer will of a people fighting for the right of a brighter future for their children, Israel still stands.

Israel's tumultuous existence has lent itself to a very unique identity—one which can only be understood by the citizens who live their everyday lives in range of the missiles and suicide attacks of terrorists. However, these unfortunate consequences of proximity have created a nation of resolve—strengthening its foundation and purpose as a shining beacon of democracy in the Middle East.

Israel is a story of survival and today I honor Israel's perseverance and wish our ally a hopeful future. Best summed up by the words of by Dr. Israel Zoberman, founding rabbi of Congregation Beth Chaverim in Virginia Beach:

"The Jewish state's perseverance and fortitude to turn adversity into advantage, never betraying the optimistic essence of its people, are ample testimony to the nobility of the human spirit it has so profoundly enriched and painstakingly guarded."

The determined vigilance of Israel is a sobering reminder to us of what it sometimes takes to stand your ground in the face of adversity; and let us remind Israel that she does not stand alone in that fight.

Daily Digest

Senate

Chamber Action

Routine Proceedings, pages S5669–S5705

Measures Introduced: Four bills were introduced, as follows: S. 3141–3144. **Page S5697**

Measures Passed:

Juneteenth Independence Day: Committee on the Judiciary was discharged from further consideration of S. Res. 584, recognizing the historical significance of Juneteenth Independence Day and expressing the sense of the Senate that history should be regarded as a means for understanding the past and solving the challenges of the future, and the resolution was then agreed to. **Pages S5703–04**

National Men's Health Week: Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions was discharged from further consideration of S. Res. 585, supporting National Men's Health Week, and the resolution was then agreed to. **Pages S5704**

Measures Considered:

Renewable Energy and Job Creation Act: Senate continued consideration of the motion to proceed to consideration of H.R. 6049, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide incentives for energy production and conservation, to extend certain expiring provisions, to provide individual income tax relief. **Pages S5678–80, S5681–82**

During consideration of this measure today, Senate also took the following action:

By 52 yeas to 44 nays (Vote No. 150), three-fifths of those Senators duly chosen and sworn, not having voted in the affirmative, Senate rejected the motion to close further debate on the motion to proceed to consideration of the bill. **Page S5681–82**

Senator Reid entered a motion to reconsider the vote by which the motion to invoke cloture on the motion to proceed to consideration of the bill (listed above) failed. **Page S5682**

A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing for further consideration of the motion to proceed to consideration of the bill at approximately 10 a.m., on Wednesday, June 18, 2008. **Page S5705**

House Messages:

Diesel Emission Reduction: Senate concurred in the amendment of the House of Representatives to S. 2146, to authorize the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency to accept, as part of a settlement, diesel emission reduction Supplemental Environmental Projects, clearing the measure for the President. **Pages S5704–05**

Message from the President: Senate received the following message from the President of the United States:

Transmitting, pursuant to law, a notification of the designation of Shara L. Aranoff as Chairman and Daniel Pearson as Vice Chairman of the United States International Trade Commission, effective June 17, 2008; which was referred to the Committee on Finance. (PM–52) **Page S5690**

Messages from the House: **Page S5690**

Enrolled Bills Presented: **Page S5690**

Executive Communications: **Page S5690**

Petitions and Memorials: **Pages S5690–97**

Additional Cosponsors: **Pages S5697–99**

Statements on Introduced Bills/Resolutions: **Pages S5699–S5703**

Additional Statements: **Pages S5689–90**

Notices of Hearings/Meetings: **Page S5703**

Authorities for Committees to Meet: **Page S5703**

Privileges of the Floor: **Page S5703**

Record Votes: One record vote was taken today. (Total—150) **Pages S5682**

Adjournment: Senate convened at 10 a.m. and adjourned at 5:51 p.m., until 10 a.m. on Wednesday, June 18, 2008. (For Senate's program, see the remarks of the Acting Majority Leader in today's Record on page S5705.)

Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

ENERGY AND AGRICULTURE MARKETS

Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry: Committee concluded a joint hearing with the Committee on Appropriations Subcommittee on Financial Services and General Government to examine the role, responsibilities, and resource needs of the Commodity Futures Trading Commission on oversight of futures and derivatives markets in energy and agriculture, after receiving testimony from Walter Lukken, Acting Chairman, Commodities Futures Trading Commission; Mark Cooper, Consumer Federation of America, and James C. May, Air Transport Association of America, Inc., both of Washington, D.C.; Terrence A. Duffy, Chicago Mercantile Exchange Group Inc., Chicago, Illinois; James Newsome, New York Mercantile Exchange, Inc., New York, New York; and Charles A. Vice, Intercontinental Exchange, Inc., Atlanta, Georgia.

INTERROGATION TECHNIQUES AND TREATMENT OF DETAINEES

Committee on Armed Services: Committee held a hearing to examine the origins of aggressive interrogation techniques, focusing the Committee's inquiry into the treatment of detainees in U.S. custody, receiving testimony from Richard L. Shiffrin, former Deputy General Counsel for Intelligence, Lieutenant Colonel Daniel J. Baumgartner, Jr., USAF (Ret.), Former Chief of Staff, Joint Personnel Recovery Agency, Jerald F. Ogrisseg, former Chief, Psychology Services, 336th Training Group, United States Air Force Survival School, Alberto J. Mora, former General Counsel, United States Navy, Rear Admiral Jane G. Dalton, USN (Ret.), former Legal Adviser to the Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff, Lieutenant Colonel Diane E. Beaver, USA (Ret.), former Staff Judge Advocate, Joint Task Force 170/JTF Guantanamo Bay, and William J. Haynes, II, former General Counsel, all of the Department of Defense.

Hearing recessed subject to the call.

RENEWABLE ELECTRICITY RESOURCES

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the challenges and regional solutions to developing transmission for renewable electricity resources, after receiving testimony from Senator Reid; Kevin M. Kolevar, Assistant Secretary for Electricity Delivery and Energy Reliability, and Stephen J. Wright, Administrator, Bonneville Power Administration, both of the Department of Energy; Bryce Freeman, Wyoming Infrastructure Authority, Cheyenne; Gary Hanson, South Dakota Public Utilities Commission, Pierre; T. Boone Pickens, BP Capital, Dallas, Texas; Richard Halvey, Western Governors Association, Denver, Colorado; William Kaul, Great River Energy, Maple Grove, Minnesota; and Don Furman, American Wind Energy Association, Washington, D.C.

LAND BILLS

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources: Subcommittee on National Parks concluded a hearing to examine S. 1774 and H.R. 3022, bills to designate the John Krebs Wilderness in the State of California, to add certain land to the Sequoia-Kings Canyon National Park Wilderness, S. 2255, to amend the National Trails System Act to provide for studies of the Chisholm Trail and Great Western Trail to determine whether to add the trails to the National Trails System, S. 2359, to establish the St. Augustine 450th Commemoration Commission, S. 2943, to amend the National Trails System Act to designate the Pacific Northwest National Scenic Trail, S. 3017, to designate the Beaver Basin Wilderness at Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore in the State of Michigan, S. 3010, to reauthorize the Route 66 Corridor Preservation Program, S. 3045, to establish the Kenai Mountains-Turnagain Arm National Forest Heritage Area in the State of Alaska, H.R. 1143, to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to lease certain lands in Virgin Islands National Park, and S. 3096, to amend the National Cave and Karst Research Institute Act of 1998 to authorize appropriations for the National Cave and Karst Research Institute, after receiving testimony from Senator Boxer; Representative Christensen; Mark Rey, Under Secretary of Agriculture for Natural Resources and Environment; Karen Taylor-Goodrich, Associate Director, Visitor and Resource Protection, National Park Service, Department of the Interior; and Jon Knechtel, Pacific Northwest Trail Association, Sedro-Woolley, Washington.

U.S. ECONOMY

Committee on Finance: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the long-term fiscal outlook of the United States economy, focusing on the federal debt, health care costs, Social Security, and the gross domestic product (GDP), after receiving testimony from Peter R. Orszag, Director, Congressional Budget Office; and Gene L. Dodaro, Acting Comptroller General of the United States, Government Accountability Office.

INTERNATIONAL DISASTER ASSISTANCE

Committee on Foreign Relations: Subcommittee on International Development and Foreign Assistance, Economic Affairs and International Environmental

Protection concluded a hearing to examine international disaster assistance, focusing on policy options, after receiving testimony from James B. Warlick, Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for International Organization Affairs; James Kunder, Acting Deputy Administrator, U.S. Agency for International Development; Edward C. Luck, United Nations, New York, New York; and Mark L. Schneider, International Crisis Group, and Stewart Patrick, Council on Foreign Relations, both of Washington, D.C.

RUSSIA, IRAN, AND U.S.-RUSSIAN NUCLEAR COOPERATION

Committee on Foreign Relations: Committee met in closed session to receive a briefing on Russia, Iran, and United States-Russian nuclear cooperation from William J. Burns, Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs.

PROTECTING INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

Committee on the Judiciary: Committee concluded a hearing to examine protecting consumers by protecting intellectual property, after receiving testimony from Loren Yager, Director, International Affairs and Trade, Government Accountability Office; Brian Monks, Underwriters Laboratories, Inc., Melville, New York; Mike Rose, Johnson and Johnson Health Care Systems, Inc., Fountainville, Pennsylvania; and Jeff Thurnau, Gates Corporation, Denver, Colorado.

House of Representatives

Chamber Action

Public Bills and Resolutions Introduced: 15 public bills, H.R. 6274–6288; and 4 resolutions, H. Res. 1275, 1278–1280 were introduced.

Pages H5880–81

Additional Cosponsors: Pages H5781–83

Reports Filed: Reports were filed today as follows:

H.R. 2964, to amend the Lacey Act Amendments of 1981 to treat nonhuman primates as prohibited wildlife species under that Act and to make corrections in the provisions relating to captive wildlife offenses under that Act, with an amendment (H. Rept. 110–712);

H.R. 3702, to direct the Secretary of Agriculture to convey certain land in the Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forest, Montana, to Jefferson County, Montana, for use as a cemetery (H. Rept. 110–713);

H.R. 5710, to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to provide financial assistance to the Eastern New Mexico Rural Water Authority for the planning, design, and construction of the Eastern New Mexico Rural Water System (H. Rept. 110–714);

H.R. 5511, to direct the Secretary of the Interior, acting through the Bureau of Reclamation, to remedy problems caused by a collapsed drainage tunnel in Leadville, Colorado (H. Rept. 110–715);

H. Res. 1150, expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that the Transportation Security Administration should, in accordance with the congressional mandate provided for in the Implementing Recommendations of the 9/11 Commission Act of 2007, enhance security against terrorist attack and other security threats to our Nation's rail and mass transit lines, with amendments (H. Rept. 110–716);

Supplemental report on H.R. 5781, to provide that 8 of the 12 weeks of parental leave made available to a Federal employee shall be paid leave (H. Rept. 110–624, Pt. 2);

H. Res. 1276, providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 5876) to require certain standards and enforcement provisions to prevent child abuse and neglect in residential programs (H. Rept. 110–717); and H. Res. 1277, providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 5781) to provide that 8 of the 12 weeks of parental leave made available to a Federal employee shall be paid leave (H. Rept. 110–718).

Page H5480

Speaker: Read a letter from the Speaker wherein she appointed Representative Larsen (WA) to act as Speaker Pro Tempore for today. Page H5413

Recess: The House recessed at 12:50 p.m. and reconvened at 2 p.m. Page H5415

Suspensions: The House agreed to suspend the rules and pass the following measures:

Captive Primate Safety Act: H.R. 2964, amended, to amend the Lacey Act Amendments of 1981 to treat nonhuman primates as prohibited wildlife species under that Act and to make corrections in the provisions relating to captive wildlife offenses under that Act, by a 2/3 yea-and-nay vote of 302 yeas to 96 nays, Roll No. 414; Pages H5417–21, H5457

Montana Cemetery Act of 2008: H.R. 3702, amended, to direct the Secretary of Agriculture to

convey certain land in the Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forest, Montana, to Jefferson County, Montana, for use as a cemetery, by a 2/3 yea-and-nay vote of 396 yeas with none voting "nay", Roll No. 415; **Pages H5421, H5457–58**

Honoring the life of Timothy John Russert, Jr., public servant, political analyst, and author: H. Res. 1275, to honor the life of Timothy John Russert, Jr., public servant, political analyst, and author, by a 2/3 yea-and-nay vote of 395 yeas with none voting "nay", Roll No. 416; **Pages H5441–45, H5458–59**

Granting a Federal charter to Korean War Veterans Association, Incorporated: S. 1692, to grant a Federal charter to Korean War Veterans Association, Incorporated—clearing the measure for the President; **Pages H5445–49**

Revising the short title of the Fannie Lou Hamer, Rosa Parks, and Coretta Scott King Voting Rights Act Reauthorization and Amendments Act of 2006: S. 188, to revise the short title of the Fannie Lou Hamer, Rosa Parks, and Coretta Scott King Voting Rights Act Reauthorization and Amendments Act of 2006—clearing the measure for the President; and **Pages H5449–54**

Recognizing the Honorable Andrew L. Jefferson, Jr., on the occasion of the establishment of an endowment for trial advocacy called the "Andrew L. Jefferson Endowment for Trial Advocacy" at Texas Southern University's Thurgood Marshall School of Law in Houston, Texas: H. Res. 31, to recognize the Honorable Andrew L. Jefferson, Jr., on the occasion of the establishment of an endowment for trial advocacy called the "Andrew L. Jefferson Endowment for Trial Advocacy" at Texas Southern University's Thurgood Marshall School of Law in Houston, Texas. **Pages H5454–56**

Suspensions—Proceedings Postponed: The House debated the following measures under suspension of the rules. Further proceedings were postponed:

Supporting the goals and ideals of "American Eagle Day", and celebrating the recovery and restoration of the American bald eagle, the national symbol of the United States: H. Res. 1247, amended, to support the goals and ideals of "American Eagle Day", and to celebrate the recovery and restoration of the American bald eagle, the national symbol of the United States; **Pages H5421–26**

Commending the Orange County Water District and its employees for their sound financial management and innovative groundwater management, water quality, water efficiency, and environmental programs, on its 75th anniversary: H. Res. 1199, to commend the Orange County Water District and its employees for their sound financial management and innovative groundwater management, water quality, water efficiency, and environmental programs, on its 75th anniversary; **Pages H5426–28**

Eastern New Mexico Rural Water System Authorization Act: H.R. 5710, amended, to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to provide financial assistance to the Eastern New Mexico Rural Water Authority for the planning, design, and construction of the Eastern New Mexico Rural Water System; **Pages H5428–30**

Leadville Mine Drainage Tunnel Remediation Act of 2008: H.R. 5511, amended, to direct the Secretary of the Interior, acting through the Bureau of Reclamation, to remedy problems caused by a collapsed drainage tunnel in Leadville, Colorado; **Pages H5430–31**

Expressing support for designation of April 2008 as "Public Radio Recognition Month": H. Res. 1002, amended, to express support for designation of April 2008 as "Public Radio Recognition Month"; **Pages H5431–32**

Celebrating the symbol of the United States flag and supporting the goals and ideals of Flag Day: H. Res. 1219, to celebrate the symbol of the United States flag and to support the goals and ideals of Flag Day; **Pages H5432–35**

Congratulating and recognizing Mr. Juan Antonio "Chi-Chi" Rodriguez for his continued success on and off of the golf course, for his generosity and devotion to charity, and for his exemplary dedication to the intellectual and moral growth of thousands of low-income and disadvantaged youth in our country: H. Res. 1029, amended, to congratulate and recognize Mr. Juan Antonio "Chi-Chi" Rodriguez for his continued success on and off of the golf course, for his generosity and devotion to charity, and for his exemplary dedication to the intellectual and moral growth of thousands of low-income and disadvantaged youth in our country; **Pages H5735–36**

John P. Gallagher Post Office Building Designation Act: H.R. 6150, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 14500 Lorain Avenue in Cleveland, Ohio, as the "John P. Gallagher Post Office Building"; **Pages H5437–38**

Gerald R. Ford Post Office Building Designation Act: H.R. 6085, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 42222 Rancho Las Palmas Drive in Rancho Mirage, California, as the "Gerald R. Ford Post Office Building"; and **Pages H5438–40**

Recognizing the historical significance of Juneteenth Independence Day, and expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that history should be regarded as a means for understanding the past and more effectively facing the challenges of the future: H. Res. 1237, to recognize the historical significance of Juneteenth Independence Day, and to express the sense of the House of Representatives that history should be regarded as a means for understanding the past and more effectively facing the challenges of the future. **Pages H5440–41**

Recess: The House recessed at 6:20 p.m. and reconvened at 6:32 p.m. **Page H7457**

Meeting Hour: Agreed that when the House adjourns today, it adjourn to meet at 9:30 a.m. tomorrow. **Page H5457**

Presidential Message: Read a message from the President wherein he notified Congress of his designation of Shara L. Aranoff as Chairman and Daniel Pearson as Vice Chairman of the United States International Trade Commission, effective June 17, 2008—referred to the Committee on Ways and Means. **Page H5431**

Senate Messages: Messages received from the Senate by the Clerk and subsequently presented to the House today appear on pages H5417, and H5431.

Senate Referrals: S. Con. Res. 84 was referred to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform. **Page H5479**

Amendments: Amendments ordered printed appear on pages H5483–84.

Quorum Calls—Votes: Three yea-and-nay votes developed during the proceedings of today and appear on pages H5457, H5458, and H5458–59. There were no quorum calls.

Adjournment: The House met at 12:30 p.m. and adjourned at 9:56 p.m.

Committee Meetings

ENERGY AND WATER DEVELOPMENT, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS FISCAL YEAR 2009

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development, and Related Agencies approved for full Committee action the Energy and Water Development and Related Agencies Appropriations for Fiscal Year 2009.

FINANCIAL SERVICES AND GENERAL GOVERNMENT APPROPRIATIONS FISCAL YEAR 2009

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Financial Services, and General Government approved for full Committee action the Financial Services and General Government Appropriations for Fiscal Year 2009.

LEGAL REDRESS FOR TERRORISM VICTIMS

Committee on the Judiciary: Held a hearing on Ensuring Legal Redress for American Victims of State-Sponsored Terrorism. Testimony was heard from Representatives Braley of Iowa and Sestak; and public witnesses.

FEDERAL EMPLOYEES PAID PARENTAL LEAVE ACT OF 2008

Committee on Rules: Granted, by a voice vote, a rule providing for consideration of H.R. 5781, the ''Federal Employees Paid Parental Leave Act of 2008.'' The rule provides for 1 hour of debate equally divided and controlled by the chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

The rule waives all points of order against consideration of the bill except those arising under clause 9 or 10 of rule XXI. The rule provides the amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform shall be considered as adopted and the bill, as amended, shall be considered as read. The rule waives all points of order against provisions of the bill.

The rule makes in order the amendment printed in the Rules Committee report if offered by Rep. Davis of Illinois or his designee. The rule waives all points of order against such amendment except those arising under clause 9 or 10 of rule XXI. The amendment made in order shall be considered as read and shall be debatable for 10 minutes equally divided by the proponent and an opponent.

The resolution provides one motion to recommit with or without instructions. Finally, notwithstanding the operation of the previous question, the Chair may postpone further consideration until a time designated by the Speaker. Testimony was heard from Representative Davis of Illinois.

STOP CHILD ABUSE IN RESIDENTIAL PROGRAMS FOR TEENS ACT OF 2008

Committee on Rules: Granted, by a non-record vote, a rule providing for consideration of H.R. 5876, the ''Stop Child Abuse in Residential Programs for Teens Act of 2008.'' The rule provides for 1 hour of debate equally divided and controlled by the chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee on Education and Labor.

The rule waives all points of order against consideration of the bill except clauses 9 and 10 of rule XXI. The rule provides that the amendment in the

nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on Education and Labor now printed in the bill shall be considered as an original bill for the purpose of amendment and shall be considered as read. The rule waives all points of order against the amendment in the nature of a substitute except for clause 10 of rule XXI.

The rule makes in order only those amendments printed in the report of the Committee on Rules. The amendments made in order may be offered only in the order printed in the Rules Committee report, may be offered only by a Member designated in the report, shall be considered as read, shall be debatable for the time specified in the report equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent, shall not be subject to amendment, and shall not be subject to a demand for a division of the question in the House or in the Committee of the Whole. All points of order against the amendments except for clauses 9 and 10 of rule XXI are waived. The rule provides one motion to recommit with or without instructions. The rule provides that, notwithstanding the operation of the previous question, the Chair may postpone further consideration of the bill to a time designated by the Speaker. Testimony was heard from Chairman George Miller of California.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR WEDNESDAY, JUNE 18, 2008

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Senate

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies, business meeting to mark up proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2009 for Commerce, Justice, Science, and related agencies, 10 a.m., SD–192.

Subcommittee on Homeland Security, business meeting to mark up proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2009 for the Department of Homeland Security, 11 a.m., S–127, Capitol.

Committee on Armed Services: to receive a closed briefing on the report titled ''Investigation into the Shipment of Sensitive Missile Components to Taiwan,'' also known as the ''Donald Report'', 12:15 p.m., S–407, Capitol.

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources: to hold hearings to examine the preparedness of federal land management agencies for the 2008 wildfire season, 2 p.m., SD–366.

Committee on Finance: business meeting to consider S. J. Res. 38, waiving certain provisions of the Trade Act of 1974 relating to the appointment of a Deputy United States Trade Representative, an original bill entitled ''the Iran Sanctions of 2008'', and the nominations of Richard T. Morrison, David Gustafson, both of Virginia, and Elizabeth Crewson Paris, of the District of Columbia, each to be a Judge of the United States Tax Court, Eric M. Thorson, of Virginia, to be Inspector General, Department of the Treasury, Edwin Eck, of Montana, to be a Member of the Internal Revenue Service Oversight Board, and Deanna Tanner Okun, of Idaho, to be a Deputy United States Trade Representative, with the rank of Ambassador, Executive Office of the President, 10 a.m., SD–215.

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs: to hold hearings to examine protecting personal information, focusing on steps the federal government has in place, 10 a.m., SD–342.

Committee on the Judiciary: Subcommittee on Antitrust, Competition Policy and Consumer Rights, with the Special Committee on Aging, to hold joint hearings to examine S. 2838, to amend chapter 1 of title 9 of United States Code with respect to arbitration, 10:30 a.m., SD–226.

Committee on Rules and Administration: to hold hearings to examine improving energy efficiency, focusing on increasing the use of renewable sources of energy, and reducing the carbon footprint of the Capitol complex, 10 a.m., SR–301.

Special Committee on Aging: with the Committee on the Judiciary, Subcommittee on Antitrust, Competition Policy and Consumer Rights, to hold joint hearings to examine S. 2838, to amend chapter 1 of title 9 of United States Code with respect to arbitration, 10:30 a.m., SD–226.

House

Committee on Appropriations, to mark up the following: Subcommittee Allocations 302 (b)s; Homeland Security Appropriations for Fiscal Year 2009; and Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies for Fiscal Year 2009, 10 a.m., 2359 Rayburn.

Committee on Education and Labor, to mark up the following bills: H.R. 3195, ADA Restoration Act of 2007; H.R. 2343, Education Begins at Home Act; and H.R. 3036, No Child Left Inside Act of 2007, 10 a.m., 2175 Rayburn.

Committee on Financial Services, hearing entitled ''The 15th Replenishment of the International Development Association (IDA) and the 11th Replenishment of the African Development Fund (AfSF),'' 10 a.m., 2128 Rayburn.

Committee on Foreign Affairs, hearing on The Caucasus: Frozen Conflicts and Closed Borders; 10 a.m., 2172 Rayburn.

Committee on House Administration, Subcommittee on Capitol Security, hearing on the United States Capitol Police Radio Upgrades, 2 p.m., 1310 Longworth.

Committee on the Judiciary, to mark up the following bills: H.R. 3195, ADA Restoration Act of 2007; H.R. 3546, To authorize the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant Program at fiscal year 2006 levels through 2012, 10:15 a.m., 2141 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on the Constitution, Civil Rights, and Civil Liberties, hearing on: From the Department of Justice to Guantanamo Bay: Administration Lawyers and Administration Interrogation Rules, Part II, 2 p.m., 2141 Rayburn.

Committee on Natural Resources, Subcommittee on Fisheries, Wildlife and Oceans, oversight hearing on the reauthorization of the National Marine Sanctuaries Act, 10 a.m., 1324 Longworth.

Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests, and Public Lands and the Subcommittee on Water and Power, joint oversight hearing on Paying to Play: Implementation of Fee Authority on Federal Lands, 10 a.m., 1324 Longworth.

Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, Subcommittee on National Security, and Foreign Affairs, hearing on Oversight of the U.S. Efforts to Train and Equip Police and Enhance the Justice Sector in Afghanistan, 10 a.m., 2154 Rayburn.

Committee on Science and Technology, Subcommittee on Energy and Environment, to mark up the following measures: H.R. 4174, Federal Ocean Acidification Research and Monitoring Act of 2007; H.R. 5618, National Sea Grant College Program Amendments Act of 2008; and the Heavy Duty Plug-in-Hybrid Vehicles Research Program, 10 a.m., 2318 Rayburn.

Committee on Small Business, Subcommittee on Finance and Tax, hearing entitled ''S-corps: Recommended Reforms that Promote Parity, Growth and Development for Small Businesses, 10 a.m., 1539 Longworth.

Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, Subcommittee on Aviation, hearing on Congestion Management in the New York Airspace, 10 a.m., 2167 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Economic Development, Public Buildings and Emergency Management, hearing on The Federal Protective Service: An Agency in Need of Rebuilding, 1 p.m., 2253 Rayburn.

Committee on Ways and Means, to mark up the Alternative Minimum Tax Relief Act of 2008, 10:30 a.m., 1100 Longworth.

Select Committee on Energy Independence and Global Warming, hearing entitled ''Planning Communities for a Changing Climate—Smart Growth, Public Demand and Private Opportunity,'' 9:30 a.m., 311 Cannon.

Joint Meetings

Joint Hearing: Senate Committee on the Judiciary, Subcommittee on Antitrust, Competition Policy and Consumer Rights, with the Special Committee on Aging, to hold joint hearings to examine S. 2838, to amend chapter 1 of title 9 of United States Code with respect to arbitration, 10:30 a.m., SD–226.

Joint Hearing: Senate Special Committee on Aging, with the Committee on the Judiciary, Subcommittee on Antitrust, Competition Policy and Consumer Rights, to hold joint hearings to examine S. 2838, to amend chapter 1 of title 9 of United States Code with respect to arbitration, 10:30 a.m., SD–226.

Next Meeting of the **SENATE**

10 a.m., Wednesday, June 18

Senate Chamber

Program for Wednesday: Senate will continue consideration of the motion to proceed to consideration of H.R. 6049, Energy and Tax Extenders Act; following which, Senate will be in a period of morning business from 2:30 p.m. until 4:30 p.m.

Next Meeting of the **HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

9:30 a.m., Wednesday, June 18

House Chamber

Program for Wednesday: Consideration of the following suspensions: 1) H.R. 4179—FAST Redress Act of 2007; 2) H.R. 5982—The Biometric Enhancement for Airport-Risk Reduction Act of 2008; 3) H.R. 5909—Catching Operational Vulnerabilities by Ensuring Random Testing Act of 2008; 4) H. Res. 1150—Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that the Transportation Security Administration should, in accordance with the congressional mandate provided for in the Implementing Recommendations of the 9/11 Commission Act of 2007, enhance security against terrorist attack and other security threats to our Nation's rail and mass transit lines; 5) H.R. 4749—National Bombing Prevention Act of 2007; 6) H.R. 1333—The Civil Air Patrol Homeland Security Support Act; 7) H.R. 2631—Nuclear Forensics and Attribution Act; 8) H. Res. 1230—Condemning post election violence in Zimbabwe and calling for a peaceful resolution to the current political crisis; 9) H. Con. Res. 350—Expressing the sense of the Congress that the United States, through the International Whaling Commission, should use all appropriate measures to end commercial whaling in all of its forms and seek to strengthen the conservation and management measures to facilitate the conservation of whale species; and 10) H. Res. 1270—Commending the efforts of those who sought to block an international arms transfer destined for Zimbabwe. Complete consideration of H.R. 6063—National Aeronautics and Space Administration Authorization Act of 2008.

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