

EXPRESSING GRATITUDE FOR THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF THE AMERICAN GI FORUM ON ITS 60TH ANNIVERSARY

SPEECH OF

**HON. SOLOMON P. ORTIZ**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 24, 2008*

Mr. ORTIZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 1291, which celebrates the 60th anniversary of one of our country's most prominent veterans and civil rights organizations—the American GI Forum.

Originally founded to assist Hispanic World War II veterans fight discrimination from the VA, the American GI Forum now advocates for numerous additional causes, including voting rights, job training, and better access to education.

This bill is special to me because it also commends the American GI Forum's founder, Dr. Hector P. Garcia, who hails from my hometown of Corpus Christi, TX. Dr. Garcia, himself a distinguished veteran, was one of the early leaders of the Hispanic civil rights movement.

Dr. Garcia served as an alternate ambassador to the United Nations in 1967, was appointed to the United States Commission on Civil Rights in 1968, and was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom—the Nation's highest civilian honor—in 1984.

Dr. Garcia grew up in South Texas and hitchhiked 30 miles a day to go to school. He enrolled into the University of Texas Medical School which accepted only one Mexican-American student per year.

In addition to helping Hispanic veterans, Dr. Garcia also led the fight against ending discrimination against Hispanic students and brought attention to the poor conditions of migrant workers.

From working with Presidents on civil rights issues to providing medical services to those who couldn't pay, Dr. Garcia dedicated his life to bettering the lives of all. His legacy, through the American GI Forum, will always live on.

I congratulate the members of the American GI Forum for all their work as a beacon of hope for all veterans and citizens aspiring to improve the lives of those in their community.

SESQUICENTENNIAL OF THE CITY OF RIPON, WISCONSIN

**HON. THOMAS E. PETRI**

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 25, 2008*

Mr. PETRI. Madam Speaker, on March 20, 2008, the City of Ripon, Wisconsin, celebrated the 150th anniversary of its being granted a city charter by the State of Wisconsin in 1858. The sesquicentennial of Ripon's chartering will be officially observed this summer at an annual community celebration called "Riponfest," which attracts thousands of visitors to the city to participate in a weekend of events recognizing everything that is best about this outstanding community in the heart of Wisconsin's 6th Congressional District.

Ripon, of course, is best known as "the Birthplace of the Republican Party." According

to the Wisconsin State Historical Society, "the first mass meeting in this country that definitely and positively cut loose from old parties and advocated a new party under the name Republican" took place on March 20, 1854, in the "Little White School House" in Ripon.

I am pleased that a number of my colleagues have had the opportunity over the years to visit the Little White School House in Ripon. This site, which is listed on the National Registry of Historic Places, was recently restored thanks to the generosity of the Jeffris Family Foundation of Janesville, Wisconsin, which provided a challenge grant matched by funds raised by the dedicated and hard-working citizens of Ripon. They recognize the historical significance of this important site and the value of maintaining it so that it may be visited and enjoyed by future generations.

Ripon always has maintained a heritage of active citizenship and has been the home of a number of nationally recognized leaders, including George Peck, nationally beloved author of the Peck's Bad Boy books and Governor of Wisconsin; Harry Selfridge, founder of Selfridge's Department Store in London and the man who revolutionized retail commerce through the creation of the modern department store; Carrie Chapman Catt, a leader of the women's suffrage movement who organized the passage of the 19th Amendment to the Constitution and founded the League of Women Voters; Winifred Edgerton, the first woman in the country to earn a PhD in mathematics; Ben Marcus, whose nationwide empire of cinema complexes, hotels, and restaurants began with the Campus Cinema in Ripon; and Mark Conrad who, when elected mayor of Ripon in 1972 while still attending college, became the youngest mayor in the Nation.

For one hundred and fifty-seven years, Ripon has been the home of Ripon College, a nationally recognized quality liberal arts institution. For over one hundred and fifty years, Ripon has also valued its citizens with entrepreneurial spirit and vision who have given rise to the many businesses that continue to thrive there.

Given its rich history and regional significance, Ripon has been a leader among Wisconsin communities in the preservation of the historic architecture, artifacts, and documentary records related to the city's character and development.

I hope you will all join me in congratulating Ripon, Wisconsin, on the 150th anniversary of its chartering as a city by the State of Wisconsin.

TRIBUTE TO JILL PRUETZ

**HON. TOM LATHAM**

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 25, 2008*

Mr. LATHAM. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Iowa State University primatologist Jill Pruetz on winning a National Geographic Society Emerging Explorer Award for her research on primates in Senegal, Africa.

Jill, who is also an associate professor of anthropology at Iowa State University, received international recognition for performing a study which recorded habitual hunting by Savannah chimpanzees in Senegal, Africa.

She found that apes made spears from twigs and caught prey with them. Jill is currently focused on the chimps' reactions to fire, use of water and general movements and behaviors. During her 7 years of researching in Senegal, Jill has suffered from malaria and avoided hazards such as poisonous snakes.

Jill's work and research is important to widening the scope of knowledge of different areas and species around the world. Without Jill's individual efforts, science would be left behind in understanding the environment's role in the adaptations of Earth's species.

I commend Jill Pruetz for all her hard work and contributions to scientific exploration. I consider it an honor to represent Jill in Congress, and I know my colleagues join me in wishing her future success and happiness as she continues her work in primatology.

COMMENDING THE WOOLUM FAMILY OF KNOX COUNTY, KENTUCKY, FOR ITS TRADITION OF SERVICE TO THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

**HON. HAROLD ROGERS**

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 25, 2008*

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Madam Speaker, during this time of conflict overseas, the United States has called on her brave men and women in uniform to serve and to sacrifice. And they have answered this call—with honor, with immeasurable courage and with distinction. I rise today to recognize the Woolum Family, hailing from my region of southern and eastern Kentucky, for their dedication and decorated service to our great Nation.

David and Ruby Woolum, of Artemus, Kentucky, devoted their lives to imparting in their 12 children love of God, love of family, and love of country. Today, I am incredibly honored to share with you that seven of their nine sons, and four of their grandchildren, have taken these valuable lessons to heart and in turn dedicated their lives to military service. Their representation of both Kentucky and the United States is exemplary.

David and Ruby's sons David and Robert served valiantly in the Marine Corps; in fact, David returned from his second tour in Vietnam a decorated veteran and a recipient of a Purple Heart. Their brothers—Charles, Richard and Keith—spent their military careers in the Air Force, while Joseph and Terry Woolum served bravely in the Army. Terry is currently in his 33rd year of military service, as a member of the National Guard. The support of their siblings Priscilla, Ellen, Eric, and James never wavered.

Even more impressive is that their collective spirit of patriotism has trickled down to a younger generation of Woolums, who continue to represent southeast Kentucky with pride: David and Ruby's grandchildren Joseph, Robert, Jason and Jolene are currently serving in the Marine Corps, Army, National Guard and Air Force, respectively.

Thankfully these 11 closely knit men and young woman have returned safely from their many overseas tours of duty, including multiple deployments to such destinations as Vietnam, Germany, France, and recently, Iraq. I

believe we have a special duty to honor these brave soldiers, airmen, marines and guardsmen for their outstanding service to our country and, in particular, to recognize the important role of David and Ruby Woolum in raising their children with a desire to serve our country and support one another in this noble endeavor.

When David Woolum passed away in November 2002, he and Ruby had been married for 64 years. I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating and honoring the patriotism of this couple, which should serve as an example to American families for centuries to come.

#### FISA AMENDMENTS ACT OF 2008

SPEECH OF

**HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, June 20, 2008*

Ms. WOOLSEY. Madam Speaker, today Congress is yet again faced with the choice of approving the Bush administration's unconstitutional expansion of executive branch authority in the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act, FISA, or defending the Constitution and protecting the civil liberties of Americans. The choice could not be more clear and consequences more grave.

Passing this legislation today will be the enduring legacy of the Bush administration. It will provide the Congressional seal of approval for years of the White House's stonewalling on Congressional oversight, eroding Congress's authority, and violating the Constitution. A vote in favor of H.R. 6304, the FISA Amendments Act, is a vote for the Bush administration's expansive interpretation of executive power and against the Constitution. That's why I must oppose this legislation.

H.R. 6304 permits mass, untargeted surveillance of all phone and email conversations entering or leaving the U.S. without basic, let alone adequate, protections for Americans' civil liberties. Communications of millions of Americans will be swept up because of reduced reverse targeting protections and minimized court oversight. This bill enables the Government to walk through an enormous loophole by suspending prior court review of intelligence surveillance applications at their discretion. Additionally, there are no safeguards to protect Americans whose information is unintentionally obtained. H.R. 6304 dispenses with real oversight by the court, a requirement fundamental to upholding the Constitution.

Furthermore, this legislation provides nothing less than de facto immunity for telecommunications companies that broke the law. District courts will be forced to dismiss pending cases if they receive a certification from the Attorney General that telecommunication companies were asked to turn over their customers' records. There is no determination if the request was legal. No due process. No penalty. No accountability. Exactly what the Bush administration wanted all along.

We should never sacrifice commitment to the rule of law and our system of checks and balances for broad, unbridled power to suspend Americans' civil liberties at will. Unfortunately, this new FISA bill does just that. Elect-

ed officials have a solemn responsibility to defend our country, and, like my colleagues, I support a modernization of our intelligence laws. But being asked to support either our intelligence community or protecting civil liberties is a false and dangerous dichotomy. Benjamin Franklin once wrote that, "those who would trade liberty for some temporary security, deserve neither liberty nor security." With this bill, I believe we have proven him right.

#### SENSE OF CONGRESS REGARDING A NATIONAL DYSPHAGIA AWARENESS MONTH

SPEECH OF

**HON. GENE GREEN**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 24, 2008*

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Con. Res. 195, which would designate June 2008 as National Dysphagia Awareness Month.

Dysphagia is a condition that affects nearly 15 million Americans. According to the NIH, people with dysphagia have difficulty swallowing and may also experience pain while swallowing.

Some people may be completely unable to swallow or may have trouble swallowing liquids, foods, or saliva. Eating then becomes a challenge. Often, dysphagia makes it difficult to take in enough calories and fluids to nourish the body.

The CDC estimates that 1,000 people in the United States annually are diagnosed with dysphagia and 60,000 Americans die from complications from this condition every year.

However, many people have never heard of dysphagia and unfortunately most cases of dysphagia go unreported.

Designating June 2008 as National Dysphagia Awareness Month will help raise awareness and understanding of dysphagia.

I want to thank Mr. WAMP for sponsoring this legislation and urge my colleagues to support this resolution.

#### FEDERAL PRICE GOUGING PREVENTION ACT

SPEECH OF

**HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 24, 2008*

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my full support for H.R. 6346, also known as the Federal Price-gouging Prevention Act. I join my other colleagues from both sides of the aisle and American consumers to address the issue of price gouging of gasoline and other fuels.

This bill has received widespread support for several reasons. First, the bill gives the Federal Trade Commission the ability to investigate and punish companies that falsely inflate energy prices. It is unacceptable for energy companies to artificially raise prices. This bill serves to address these crimes and protect the American people.

Second, this bill will allow for the Justice Department to collect criminal penalties and

impose jail time during a state of national emergency on those who are found guilty of price-gouging. Most importantly, penalties collected from price-gouging companies will be forwarded to the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program, LIHEAP, to help families pay for their heating and air-conditioning bills.

At this time, 28 states have passed legislation against price-gouging. More laws are needed at both the state and local levels to ensure that those who are responsible for artificially raising energy prices are investigated and punished.

I urge other colleagues to support this bill. I applaud the work done by to protect the American people from energy price-gouging.

#### TRIBUTE TO NEW HAMPTON TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

**HON. TOM LATHAM**

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 25, 2008*

Mr. LATHAM. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Trinity Lutheran Church of New Hampton, Iowa, on celebrating their 50th anniversary as a congregation.

On July 31, 1958, the German parishioners of St. Paul's Lutheran Church and the Norwegian parishioners of St. Olaf's Lutheran Church joined together as Trinity Lutheran Church. St. John Lutheran Church of Lawler, Iowa became the third church to join Trinity Lutheran in 1964. The St. John Lutheran Churches in Ionia and Boyd are also now a part of the Trinity family.

The original St. Paul church cost \$19,000 to build. While growing as a congregation, the Trinity family has also faced adversity in dealing with damaging fires at the church in 1973 and 2001. Both times the congregation came together and built their faith community even stronger. Through new contemporary services, Trinity's methods of conducting their services have changed with society, but its message has remained steadfast.

Trinity Lutheran Church of New Hampton is dedicated to benefiting the lives of those in New Hampton and the surrounding rural areas, and for this I offer Trinity my utmost congratulations and thanks on a prosperous history. It is an honor to represent all the parishioners of Trinity Lutheran and the current pastor Reverend Kevin Frey in the United States Congress, and I wish them continued success, grace, peace and celebration as a community.

#### FEDERAL EMPLOYEES PAID PARENTAL LEAVE ACT OF 2008

SPEECH OF

**HON. PHIL HARE**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 19, 2008*

Mr. HARE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of the Federal Employees Paid Parental Leave Act.

Currently, about 46 percent of private employers provide paid parental leave to their employees, but federal workers have no such guarantee. As a Member of the House Education and Labor Committee and a representative of many federal workers, this concerns