

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

SUPPORT THE APPLE CRUNCH

HON. TODD RUSSELL PLATTS

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 30, 2008

Mr. PLATTS. Madam Speaker, I rise to support House Resolution 1143. This resolution is intended to help increase awareness of our nation's domestic apple supply and promote healthy food choices for students and communities.

The United States is the second largest producer of apples in the world, after China. I am fortunate to have a very large apple industry in my District, with many growers and processors. Growers in the states of Washington, New York, Pennsylvania, Michigan, and California are the largest domestic producers.

To promote domestic apple production, the U.S. Apple Association recognizes October as National Apple Month, which focuses on educating consumers about the positive health outcomes associated with apple consumption. The Apple Crunch was created to encourage children to participate in National Apple Month activities.

The Apple Crunch was started in my home state of Pennsylvania and incentivizes schools to serve apples on their school lunch menus, as snacks in the classroom, and for use in classroom activities. Schools that create the most original activities integrating apples into the class day win monetary prizes to be put toward the school's food service operation.

Communities are also encouraged to participate in the Apple Crunch to support their local participating schools. Many local businesses voluntarily serve apples and apple products to their employees and to customers.

Madam Speaker, this October will mark the second year in which the Apple Crunch has been celebrated nationally. I think that we can all agree that supporting our nation's domestic agriculture production is not only important to our economy, but also the health of our citizens. I urge your support of this resolution, which promotes the goals and ideals of National Apple Week, and specifically the Apple Crunch.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 30, 2008

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Madam Speaker, in compliance with new "earmark" disclosure procedures adopted by the House Republican Conference, I hereby provide the following information regarding a request for funding I made of the House Appropriations Committee for inclusion in H.R. 6599, the Military Construction—VA Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2009.

Specifically, the project will be included in Title 1, Military Construction—Army.

H.R. 6599 includes \$9.9 million for Phase 1 of the Ballistic Evaluation Facility (66725) in the Fiscal Year 2009 National Defense Authorization Act. The entity to receive the funding for this project is the United States Army, specifically the Armament Research Development and Engineering Center (ARDEC) located at Picatinny Arsenal, Picatinny, New Jersey, 07806-5000.

The actual design and construction will be executed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

The funding will be used for planning, design and construction of a state-of-the-art Ballistic Experimentation Facility (BEF) for Large Caliber Armaments at Picatinny Arsenal. This process will produce a one-of-kind research and testing facility which will reduce Army's operational overhead and maintenance costs and improve safety for Army employees. The use of U.S. taxpayer funding is justified because this construction will provide near-term and long-range benefits to the joint warfighter—Army, Marines, Navy and Air Force.

As this funding will be provided to the United States Army, the requirement of matching funds is not applicable.

IN HONOR OF ALEX MISTRI

HON. ELTON GALLEGLY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 30, 2008

Mr. GALLEGLY. Madam Speaker, I rise in honor of Alex Mistri, a former U.S. House of Representatives staffer who left the legislative branch to serve with honor and distinction as President Bush's Special Assistant to the President for Legislative Affairs.

I have known many White House legislative liaisons in my 22 years as a U.S. Representative. Of all those who have served the four presidents I have worked with, Alex Mistri stands out as the most professional, dedicated and skilled.

Alex recently left the White House to work for the State Department at our embassy in Baghdad. He is joined there by his wife, Amy McKennis Mistri. I have no doubt Alex will be an asset to both our government and the Iraqi people.

Alex began his service as Special Assistant for Legislative Affairs to the President in February 2005. As one of the President's principal liaisons to the House, Alex's primary responsibility was to develop, coordinate and execute White House strategy on legislative issues. Alex specialized in issues related to national security, homeland security, international affairs and tax policy. As a senior member of the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence and Foreign Affairs, I developed a very strong and productive working relationship with Alex.

Part of Alex's effectiveness, no doubt, arose from his familiarity with congressional proce-

dures. Prior to his service in the White House, Alex served as chief of staff for Congressman BILL SHUSTER. In that role, Alex was the congressman's chief political and legislative advisor with daily responsibility for the management of the office.

From the mid-'90s until taking his position as Congressman SHUSTER's chief of staff, Alex worked as legislative director to Congressman ROBIN HAYES, legislative assistant to Senator Lauch Faircloth, and press aide to Senator Alfonse D'Amato.

Madam Speaker, I know my colleagues join me in thanking Alex for many years of laudable service to the House, Senate and administration, and in wishing him great success in Iraq.

IN TRIBUTE TO JOAN LEE

HON. DORIS O. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 30, 2008

Ms. MATSUI. Madam Speaker, I rise today in tribute to Joan Lee, a dear friend, tireless volunteer and community leader who recently passed away. Joan served as the Convener for the Sacramento Gray Panthers and was an admired advocate for seniors and people with disabilities. As her family and friends gather to honor and remember her wonderful life, I ask all my colleagues to join me in saluting one of Sacramento's most well-respected figures.

Joan was a prominent leader in the Sacramento Region, and her death leaves a tremendous void in leadership in the fight for the rights of seniors, people with disabilities and those with mental health needs. Joan's determined and effective advocacy was evident through her early work with the Gray Panthers of California, where she was widely recognized as a thoughtful policy advocate. Later, along with other leaders, Joan helped form and convene the local Sacramento Gray Panthers chapter, which now meets regularly at the Hart Senior Center.

Through her advocacy at the local, State and national levels, Joan became an important ambassador between diverse groups and helped devise strategies for healthcare reform. Joan was a stalwart for progressive causes, and her passion and commitment to these issues resonated in her advocacy. While in her mid-50's, Joan returned to college and earned a degree in Gerontology. She then used her knowledge to fight for the rights of older adults on many fronts, including creating an innovative long term care program in Northern California and successfully advocating for medical schools to have required courses in gerontology.

At the Federal level, Joan often stood next to me and my late husband Congressman Bob Matsui in the fight against cuts to Medicare. She also was an articulate voice during the implementation of the Medicare Part D prescription drug program, offering insights on

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

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

how to improve the program. Joan was an active member of the OuRx coalition, which links low income seniors with prescription drug discount plans. Furthermore, she never wavered in the fight to preserve the integrity of the Social Security program.

At the State Capitol, Joan became someone who was known in the corridors of power. She served on many policymaking groups, including the Olmstead Advisory Committee. The Committee was in charge of implementing the landmark 1999 U.S. Supreme Court "Olmstead Decision" which requires States to take steps to avoid the unnecessary institutionalization of seniors and people with disabilities. From advocating for an accessible and affordable health care system to ensuring Medicare is responsive to our Nation's seniors needs, Joan always stood up for what is right.

Madam Speaker, as Joan Lee's husband Arnie Godmintz, her children John, David and Cleo and her friends gather to honor her wonderful legacy and countless contributions, I am honored to pay tribute to her. I ask all my colleagues to pause and join me in paying respect to an extraordinary loving woman, Joan Lee.

IN HONOR OF THE DEPLOYMENT
OF THE WASHINGTON ARMY NATIONAL
GUARD 161ST INFANTRY
BATTALION, 81ST BRIGADE COM-
BAT TEAM

HON. CATHY McMORRIS RODGERS

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 30, 2008

Mrs. McMORRIS RODGERS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to join with the citizens of the Fifth Congressional District, State of Washington in recognition of the 161st Infantry Battalion, 81st Brigade Combat Team, Washington Army National Guard as it prepares for its second one-year tour of duty in Iraq since its mobilization in 2003. Soldiers of the 81st Brigade Combat Team will be responsible for convoy security and force protection missions throughout Iraq, where they previously deployed in 2004 and 2005.

From its inception, the mission of the National Guard has been the defense of our Nation's borders. However, since the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001 the defense of our borders has become an "away game" as our military has taken the fight to the enemy. No less involved has been the Army National Guard.

The Chief of the National Guard Bureau, Army Lieutenant General H. Steven Blum reported that at one point in the war on terror, National Guard members made up almost half of the ground forces in Iraq and since 9/11, more than 400,000 Guardsmen have been mobilized in support of operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom.

Every aspect of a military mission is critical to its success and each one of these Guardsmen has committed time for pre-deployment training, leaving family and business behind to prepare themselves for a mission of historic and global significance.

We are grateful to these citizen soldiers and we thank them for their selfless-service in peacetime and war, here in this Nation and throughout the world. Their simple love of

country and dedication to liberty compels them to serve this great nation and so today we recognize their commitment, sacrifice and courage in their willingness to protect and defend our Nation in the Global War on Terrorism.

We are also grateful for the sacrifice of family members who also pay a price for freedom. We may never be able to adequately thank our soldiers and their families but we must always support them. It is with a deep sense of pride, Madam Speaker, I invite my colleagues to join me in thanking the members of the 161st Infantry Battalion, 81st Brigade Combat Team for their service.

HOUSE REPUBLICANS INTRODUCE
ENERGY LEGISLATION

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 30, 2008

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, last week House Republicans introduced the American Energy Act—an all-of-the-above approach to reduce energy prices for hard-working Americans and their families.

Our Nation is increasingly dependent on foreign oil. This endangers our economy and our national security. The billions we send overseas to buy foreign oil should be spent investing in American-made energy by exploring for our own resources in an environmentally sound way.

We also need to expand our research into alternative, renewable energy sources like biomass, hydrogen, wind, solar, and nuclear power while encouraging American consumers to conserve. Our bill does all of this.

I urge the House Democrat leadership to join with us before adjournment to promote an American energy program. The American people deserve this opportunity to have their voices heard.

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

MR. ALVIN G. RANDOLPH

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 30, 2008

Mr. POE. Madam Speaker, today I am proud to honor the life of Mr. Alvin G. Randolph who passed away June 23, 2008. Mr. Randolph was a businessperson, a fine father, and served his community. He also played a role in desegregating the Lamar State College of Technology in 1956, giving a countless number of youth an equal opportunity for education no matter their race.

Alvin was born in Orange, Texas, as the third of eleven children. He graduated from high school in 1943 and enrolled in Prairie View College shortly afterwards, where he worked as a repair person for room and board. He put his education on hold to serve his country when he was drafted into World War II as an officer candidate. After his service to his country, he returned home and attended Jefferson Junior College where he earned his real estate broker's license.

At the same time, there was a tremendous social revolution happening in the United

States. In 1954, the U.S. Supreme Court decided the landmark case Brown vs. Board of Education, naming separate educational facilities inherently unequal and setting the stage for integration and the Civil Rights Movement. This opened the doors to schools and universities across the nation but there was still a segment of the population that was set on keeping them closed.

As African-American students walked up to the doors of their new universities, they were often greeted with protests and picket lines and Lamar State College of Technology was no different. Nevertheless, Alvin and 25 other black students enrolled and were accepted to Lamar's campus of 5,455 students. They battled the almost riotous conditions and paved the way to an equal education for a student of any race.

Randolph earned his business degree in 1958 and went on to study property law at Texas Southern University. He worked as a real estate broker, homebuilder, and life insurance underwriter. With his wife Jerodine, they had five children. He was active in both the Northside and Eleventh Street Churches of Christ and served on the Board of Directors at the L.L. Melton YMCA. He passed away at the age of 80.

On behalf of the Second Congressional District of Texas, I honor Mr. Alvin Randolph for his courage in the face of tremendous adversity. He helped make our world a better place to live, and I applaud his unwavering service and dedication to the community. Alvin Randolph is a true American hero.

HONORING MIKE RAMBO

HON. KENNY MARCHANT

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 30, 2008

Mr. MARCHANT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Michael Dean Rambo of Colleyville, Texas. Michael was an outstanding husband, father, and Scout Master for Troop 28. He educated and guided the youth of his community for a number of years. Michael was always looking for the opportunity to give back to the community in which he lived. He loved his family and friends and they loved him.

Michael was a remarkable friend, neighbor, and public servant with infinite talents and gifts which he shared with all who had the honor to know him. He was an expert in ornithology, astronomy, computer architecture, math, and photography.

Michael always had a childlike wonder and awe of the world around him, an insatiable thirst for knowledge, and a relentless desire for understanding. He was constantly observing everything that the world had to offer. His example and enthusiasm made those around him want to learn more, to do more, and be more.

Michael was always up for a challenge and was always willing to lend a hand. He volunteered on the Longhorn Council for over fifteen years. He was the Cubmaster for Pack 254 before taking the lead roll for Troop 28. Michael was the guiding light for Troop 28 for twelve years, and under Rambo's leadership, Troop 28 earned Colleyville's first Service Award. Michael once said, "When I took over

the Scoutmaster role, I felt I was taking responsibility for a living breathing organism.

Among Michael's many other accomplishments, he earned Eagle Scout honors at the age of thirteen. He earned a Select Student in Science and Math Degree from Stephen F. Austin State University in Nacogdoches, Texas. He went on to earn a master's degree in Computer Engineering at the University of Texas at Arlington in Arlington, Texas. Michael was also a three time recipient of The Presidents Volunteer Service Award (2005, 2006, 2007), winner of the 2006 McKesson Corporation Neil Harlan community service award.

His favorite people were his sons, Charles Patrick Rambo and Aaron Michael Rambo, and his wife, Mary Margaret Jameson Rambo. Michael loved to visit the Grand Canyon where he hiked, rafted, and photographed its splendor on multiple occasions. His greatest desire was to travel in space. On May 31, 2008, a photograph of Michael was carried in the flight book of mission specialist Ronald J. Garan aboard the space shuttle *Discovery* on mission STS-124.

Michael Rambo selflessly served the community, loved his family and friends, and enjoyed life to the fullest. He was a role model of superior citizenship who made a tremendous impact on countless lives.

TRIBUTE TO DETECTIVE GARY
EDENHOFER

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 30, 2008

Mr. HIGGINS. Madam Speaker, I am pleased today to honor the accomplishments of Detective Gary Edenhofer of the Cheektowaga Police Department.

Detective Edenhofer began his law enforcement career as a patrol officer on the midnight shift. He is now retiring as a detective after 31 years with the force.

Throughout his career Gary has worked on several high-profile cases including robberies and homicides. The Western New York community is greatly appreciative for the increased security Detective Edenhofer has offered them.

Gary Edenhofer leaves behind a great legacy, as his career is marked by several highlights. In 1989 he was recognized by the Town Board for arresting suspects who had burglarized a gun store. He also received commendations in 2005 for his work investigating the abduction of a man left locked in a car trunk.

Madam Speaker, I thank you for this opportunity to honor Detective Edenhofer's career with the Cheektowaga Police Department, and I ask you to join me in wishing him the best of luck in his future endeavors.

FLIGHT 458

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 30, 2008

Mr. POE. Madam Speaker, flying the friendly skies seems to be increasingly out of reach

for most travelers. I, like many other Americans, am a frequent flyer and have been fortunate enough to have always arrived at my destination safely. Because of the quick action of pilots Captain David Skidmore, 1st Officer Michael Nelson Jr. and the crew of Continental flight 458 on July 22, 2008 this statement still holds true. Captain David Skidmore, has worked for Continental Airlines for seven years and recently completed his Captain's training in December of 2007. 1st Officer Michael Nelson Jr. has been with Continental since May 2008.

When our plane suddenly lost altitude and cabin pressure on Tuesday afternoon, the pilots regained control of the aircraft without hesitation. As I, along with the 117 other people, including 6 other members of Congress, aboard the D.C.-bound flight from Houston, TX put on our oxygen masks we imagined the possibilities. While the plane took a steep descent at rapid speed, Captain David Skidmore and 1st Officer Michael Nelson Jr. remained calm under the pressure.

Although faced with a possibly dire situation, the pilots were able to safely make an emergency landing in New Orleans. We landed with the fire trucks lining the runway—just like in the movies. From the time when our flight began experiencing difficulties to when we were on the ground 20 minutes later, the pilots and crew flawlessly executed their emergency procedures. Continental Airlines made travel arrangements for all 117 passengers and put us on three different flights to D.C. We arrived in Washington about six hours later. The members of Congress did miss votes however. Ironically, one bill was to upgrade aviation safety. The bill passed unanimously without the missing seven members of Congress. No doubt, if present I would have voted yes on this bill H.R. 6493.

The pilot's combined experience, along with the flight crew's quick action, is truly commendable. I am fortunate, as a passenger, to have been in the care of such capable pilot's as Captain David Skidmore, and 1st Officer Michael Nelson Jr.

And that's just the way it is.

HONORING THE REVITALIZATION
OF YOUNGSVILLE (ROY) ORGANIZATION

HON. PHIL ENGLISH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 30, 2008

Mr. ENGLISH of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, today I rise to recognize the Revitalization of Youngsville (ROY) organization and their extraordinary efforts to promote energy conservation in Warren County, Pennsylvania.

In response to the rising food and energy costs, the members of ROY started an innovative project in their community called "Night Out/Lights Out." Starting June 1st, members have been asking residents to turn off all of their lights, televisions, computers and other electrical appliances from 7 to 9 p.m. every Sunday during the summer in an effort to cut electric costs and promote awareness of rising electric and fuel prices. The secondary purpose of the event is to encourage residents to go outside and socialize with their neighbors.

This simple, yet innovative solution to the looming energy crisis is a great example of

how every American can do his or her part to conserve energy. In addition to helping local citizens reduce their energy consumption, this program has revived a deep sense of community among the residents of Youngsville.

Madam Speaker, I hope my colleagues will join me in congratulating the members of ROY on their successes thus far and encourage them to continue their efforts to promote energy conservation and awareness.

THE BENEFITS OF PHYSICAL AND
HEALTH EDUCATION FOR OUR
NATION'S CHILDREN

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 30, 2008

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I would like to thank Chairman MILLER for his continued commitment to comprehensive education and ensuring that all children have access to the resources that will help them become healthy and productive adults. I would also like to thank my friends Congressman RON KIND and Congressman ZACH WALP for their persistence in encouraging healthier lifestyles and choices for our nation's youth.

The problem of childhood obesity is well-documented, and we are all familiar with the statistics: 32 percent of the nation's children are overweight, 16 percent are obese, and the Department of Health and Human Services estimates that the figure will exceed 20 percent by 2010. "Adult onset" diabetes has become a misnomer: incidence of type II has doubled in youth. As computers, cell phones, video game systems, and other types of technology become more prevalent in America's homes, children are redefining "recreation" away from physical activity and toward sedentary activities.

Responses to this epidemic abound, and they need to be supported and enhanced. Youth need more regular physical activity, parents must make healthier decisions regarding family diet, exposure to technology must be monitored and regulated, and nutrition education must be a component of elementary and middle school curricula.

At the same time, however, I believe if we are to combat this problem effectively we must also understand and address the causes of the problem. One of the causes that particularly distresses me, and one that receives relatively little attention, is the aggressive and predatory marketing of food and beverages to children and adolescents.

In 2006 the Institute of Medicine reported that it is estimated that more than \$10 billion annually is spent marketing food and beverages to youth; the vast majority of that money is spent marketing items with marginal or no nutritive value. Do they get a bang for the buck? Food and beverage sales to children and youth exceed \$27 billion annually. They wouldn't do it if it didn't work.

While television remains the most popular medium for marketing, food and beverage companies have been industrious, to say the least, in creating new means to market their products and create branding opportunities. Product placement in movies, video games, music videos, and even news broadcasts ensure exposure to brands and products despite

best efforts to avoid commercials and print advertisements. Banner and pop-up advertisements on the internet intrude on children's surfing routinely, despite the best software protections. Sponsorship at school sporting events, advertisements in school newspapers and in prepackaged media, and snacks in vending machines ensure that children are exposed to products and brands throughout the school day. We are fast approaching the day, if we aren't there already, when children find respite from food and beverage marketing only as they close their eyes to sleep.

This is not harmless advertising. Food and beverage marketing uses the best research available about brain development to ensure that their products are exposed to minds not yet fully developed. Again the Institute of Medicine reports that research tells us that humans develop consumption motives and values at an early age. In other words, developing brand allegiances early in life is profitable. The report also tells us that children have widely varied abilities to separate factual information from persuasive content and those abilities develop at different ages. In other words, it is easy to convince children that a product is healthy.

I firmly believe that if we are to help our children cultivate healthier lifestyle habits and make better nutrition choices, we must protect them from marketing practices whose primary function is to encourage increased consumption of unhealthy products. Any policy response to the youth obesity epidemic must include concrete ways to regulate the exposure of children and adolescents to food and beverage marketing.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 30, 2008

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Madam Speaker, I was not present for the vote on this resolution (H. Con. Res. 398), despite my best efforts to reach the House floor in time to do so.

Had those efforts been successful, I would have voted "no," because I think we should not adjourn or recess this week until completing action on legislation to revise our national energy policies—something that has not yet occurred.

I left on an early flight out of Colorado this morning in an effort to reach the House in time for that vote. My flight landed just as the vote began.

As soon as I got in the car, I called the cloakroom to advise that I was en route, and asked that the vote be held open until I arrived. I was no more than 10 minutes from the Capitol, and I was aware the vote was being held open already—as the first vote of the day, apparently in an effort to give Members additional time to arrive and cast their votes.

However, the vote was completed as I entered the Capitol. I regret that my request that the vote be held open was not honored and that I was not able to cast my vote even though I was only seconds short of being able to do so.

HOUSING AND ECONOMIC RECOVERY ACT OF 2008

SPEECH OF

HON. MAXINE WATERS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 23, 2008

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Speaker. I rise in strong support of this legislation. Simply put, this package is urgently needed to help our nation address the current foreclosure crisis and its impacts on the world financial markets.

I will limit my remarks to two parts of the current package that I was most active on: modernization of the Federal Housing Administration (FHA) and \$4 billion in CDBG funding for states and localities to purchase, rehabilitate, and resell or rent out abandoned and foreclosed homes.

The modernization of the FHA has long been a priority of mine because in recent years FHA had become obsolete in many parts of the country, due to its low loan limits (\$362,790), outdated rules, and slow bureaucracy. I saw too many low-income homebuyers in California with little choice but to turn to the subprime mortgage market for assistance.

This Congress, I introduced H.R. 1852, "the Expanding American Homeownership Act of 2007" to give FHA the tools and resources to allow it to assist more low-income homebuyers. H.R. 1852 passed the House on September 18, 2007 on a bipartisan vote of 348–72, and again on May 8th of this year as part of H.R. 3221, the first go-round on this housing rescue package.

Including FHA modernization in the amendment before the House today is essential because FHA is the only national agency with the capacity and expertise to assist the nation's homeowners on a large scale.

Another part of the package that deserves support is funding for states, counties, and cities to stabilize neighborhoods devastated by foreclosures. According to Realty Trac, banks repossessed over 71,000 properties in June, an astounding 171 percent more than one year ago. This means that 770,000 properties nationwide are now in "real estate owned" or REO status, an increase of 330,000 since the end of 2007.

These abandoned and foreclosed properties drag down the value of homes still occupied by working families, and contribute to a cascade effect whereby plummeting home prices erode the tax base that state and local governments have to work with, while straining their police, fire, code enforcement, and other resources.

States and most local governments must balance their budgets each year, and as a result, at least 20 states have already made budget cuts due largely to revenue losses resulting from the subprime crisis. Even so, many hard-pressed states and cities are dedicating their own limited resources to purchasing foreclosed properties to stabilize neighborhoods.

But they are overwhelmed by the scale of the problem. For this reason, the National Governors Association, the Conference of Mayors, the National Association of Counties, and nearly every other local government trade association support Federal neighborhood stabilization assistance.

This is why I introduced H.R. 5818, "the Neighborhood Stabilization Act of 2008,"

which passed the House on May 8th of this year. Although the amendment before us provides less funding than H.R. 5818—\$4 billion as compared to \$15 billion and distributes funds differently, I believe that the Senate's language, which we are considering today, is basically a sound approach. With time being of the essence, finalizing this bill is more important than playing more ping-pong with the Senate.

I am compelled to respond to criticisms raised by the Administration about the CDBG funding in H.R. 3221: (1) that it is a bailout for lenders and investors, and (2) that it incentivizes foreclosures over loan workouts for distressed borrowers. This is simply not so.

First, the many local officials and community-based nonprofits my Subcommittee has heard from are in no mood to give sweetheart deals to the financial institutions who own these properties—many of whom they are actually suing over their subprime and predatory lending practices during the boom years.

Second, the facts of the current housing market just don't bear out the Administration's claims. Lenders spend \$50,000 to \$60,000 up front in a foreclosure, or on average, 25 percent or more of the value of the loan. It is unlikely that a lender would refuse to work out a loan with a borrower—thereby saving a substantial amount in foreclosure related costs—and instead rush to foreclosure on the chance that a community-based buyer might be willing to purchase the property at 30 to 50 cents on the dollar, which is what foreclosed properties are going for upon resale these days.

In closing, I would like to thank Chairman FRANK and Speaker PELOSI for ensuring that 15 percent of housing counseling funds authorized by H.R. 3221 are directed to organizations—like the National Urban League—that target counseling services to low-income and minority homeowners and neighborhoods.

African-American and minority neighborhoods were disproportionately targeted for subprime loans. It is only appropriate that some of portion of the housing counseling funds are targeted to these communities, lest minority communities and homeowners once again fall through the cracks.

I urge my colleagues to vote for this legislation.

HONORING THE CAREER AND SERVICE OF MARTHA FLORES

HON. ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 30, 2008

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Madam Speaker, I humbly honor a dear friend and a strong community activist, Martha Flores, who has done so much to improve our South Florida area and who relentlessly promotes the cause of human rights. Miami-Dade County has honored Martha by naming the segment of 8th Street and SW 42 Ave after her. This is a testament to her dedication and service to our community. After leaving her native Cuba to escape Fidel Castro's communist regime, she established deep roots in Miami. She has been the producer and host of a nightly radio program, "La Noche y Usted (The Night and You), which has earned the greatest audience of all nightly Spanish talk shows in South Florida.

In recognition of her indelible impact on the community, Martha Flores was the first woman enshrined in the "Calle Ocho Walk of Fame." Throughout her distinguished career, she has received many accolades, but this has not deterred her from her main objective: to humbly serve her community. One of her first radio shows, "La Voz de la Mujer (the Voice of a Woman)," was the first Spanish radio program that raised issues concerning the plight of Cuban exiles. She never forgot her homeland and for nearly 50 years now she has been at the forefront, while working alongside numerous community organizations, of bringing to light the repression of Castro's Cuba.

Martha Flores has selflessly given of her time and resources to volunteer for many humanitarian causes including the League Against Cancer and League Against Blindness. In addition, she also helped St. Jude Children's Research Hospital raise much needed funds. She has been instrumental in bringing public attention and awareness to the needs of the elderly and disabled adults through her radio program and volunteerism. She will also be the first ever recipient of the Claude Pepper Memorial Award in the Media category.

Martha has also made her radio show available to those who work on behalf of a free and independent Cuba, the sacred land of her birth. She sends a nightly message of hope and solidarity to her multitude of fans, many from the oppressed island nation.

Once again, I would like to congratulate Martha Flores for her recent honor as well as for all the service and activism she has undertaken. South Florida is honored to have her and the example she has given all of us.

IN RECOGNITION OF CHAD WATSON'S SERVICE TO THE U.S. MARINE CORPS

HON. DUNCAN HUNTER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 30, 2008

Mr. HUNTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the service and sacrifice of Cpl Chad Michael Watson who lost a leg in an improvised explosive device attack. While on patrol in the Anbar province in Iraq on November 29, 2006, Chad's vehicle came under attack and he was severely wounded and later lost his right leg.

The son of Mike and Gina Watson, Chad was born in Mount Zion, Illinois on February 8, 1983. He attended Mount Zion High School graduating in 2004. Chad joined the Marine Corps May 17, 2004 and was trained as an infantryman. Following his initial training he deployed to Iraq with Charlie Company, 1st Infantry Battalion, and 24th Marines where he served until his injury.

During the twenty months of recovery, Chad maintained a positive and even uplifting attitude which reflected well among those fellow marines and soldiers passing through the recovery process at Walter Reed Army Medical Center. Mr. Albert Caswell of the U.S. Capitol Guide Service, a friend of his, penned the following poem as a fitting tribute to Chad for his sacrifice and unrelenting commitment to his long and enduring recovery.

BREAKING CHAD. . .

Breaking Bad!

Breaking Chad! He's Good, but he's the good king of Bad. . .

A Marine's Marine, one Fine Fighting Machine! The kind of son, you wish you had!

First in boot camp. . .

First in his class in military school . . . training with his brothers in arms, as number one he'd rule. . .

Wherever hearts of courage roam, men like Chad have come home with but their hearts of heroism full. . .

A Hero who went off to war. . .

Who lost a leg, but came back with so much more!

With his courage full, over our hearts he rules . . . as he takes us all to school . . . is that not what heaven is for?

Upon, battlefields of honor seen!

Running towards death, as he was strong . . . fast and lean . . . a real bad fighting machine! Upon the scene!

The kind of guy you'd fight for and not ask why . . . ready to die for you and his United States Marines!

For in our Country Tis of Thee. . .

There have been many heroes such as these who heard the call . . . who did not pause, as did he!

Who are but rough & ready, while in the face of hell were ever steady . . . for their colors did not run, you see!

And now his new fight. . .

To rebuild his life, with his fine and future wife . . . teaching us all what is right!

'Oh what a heck of a sight, bringing tears to eyes . . . as he does not ask why . . . bringing to our world his light!

SORRY!

Is a word, from him . . . you shall never hear! For he is man of courage and convictions so very clear!

Which will teach us, which will reach us . . . into our souls so beseech us here!

In our lives, and in our times. . .

What have we've so done, which so survives . . . which will live on long after we have died?

For it's all about what we've said and done, and for whom we've so bled. . . Which tells the world, Who Am I!

For in That Moment of Truth. . .

How will you break? What is your truth? All in your actions you take, as so lies the proof!

You may stand, or you may run! You may fade, or shine like the morning sun! In heroic truth!

How will you break?

What steps will you take? What hearts will you break? While all in your actions state. . .

God is Good, and God is Great . . . all in heroes as Chad he creates!

Uraaaahh Jar head. . .

You have fought and you have bled . . . Breaking Bad . . . all in what your fine heart has said!

What a hero is, and what you must have to break great and break bad in the fight ahead. . .

CELEBRATING THE 60TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE INTEGRATION OF THE UNITED STATES ARMED FORCES

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 30, 2008

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, as a member of the Congressional Black Caucus I would like to honor the 60th anniversary of the

integration of the United States Armed Forces, which began on July 26, 1948. When talking about an issue that happened in the past, we tend to think of it as something that happened overnight or that it was easy. Integrating the military was not at all easy, but it was a critical step to moving our nation forward in terms of civil rights.

President Harry S Truman initiated the effort to integrate the Armed Forces at the request of many black civil rights leaders. Not too many people expected the President to embrace integration within the military. Truman was born in Missouri, and his opinion on the issue was that of any average Missourian of his time. However, as he learned about the atrocities that were being committed against blacks, especially against those that had served in World War II, he became much more committed to civil rights issues and integrating the military. Indeed, President Truman outlined in his administration's policies key civil rights efforts, including forming agencies to address voting rights and fair employment. The most progressive of his actions was the desegregation of the U.S. Armed Forces, which was proposed by the President's Committee on Civil Rights.

Support, however, did not come readily from Congress which was uninterested in civil rights issues. Indeed, the civil rights of Truman's priorities drew widespread criticism from Southern Democrats. Members of the military also were skeptical, with particular concern about legislation that would end racism overnight rather than more gradually. The argument offered by opponents was that, if blacks were allowed to be integrated into the Armed Forces, many whites would not want to join. Proponents of integration countered that the Federal government must take a leadership role in integrating; if Congress did not integrate Federal jobs, the private sector would definitely avoid doing so. To achieve advances in civil rights, Truman appointed The President's Committee on Civil Rights, which was charged to determine how to strengthen and improve Federal, State, and local laws to safeguard civil rights. The Committee identified multiple policies for Congressional action; however, Truman asserted that civil rights in the services fell under executive purview. On July 26, 1948, Truman signed Executive Order 9981 which mandated equal treatment and opportunity for black members in the Armed Forces. In the end, it was through the commitment and persistence of various leaders that we have an integrated military.

The world would be a different place today if such proposals were not made against the status quo. The integration of the Armed Forces served as an instrument of social change. As we see from the civil rights movement, sometimes the best choices require going against the majority. So, tip my hat to the many leaders who made the integration of the military a reality, and I celebrate this integration on the occasion of the 60th anniversary of its enactment.

VETERANS' HEALTH CARE POLICY
ENHANCEMENT ACT OF 2008

SPEECH OF

HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 29, 2008

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this legislation, which will bar the collection of co-payments from veterans for hospital and nursing home care if the veteran is considered catastrophically disabled. I strongly advocate a noninterventionist foreign policy that would result in far fewer wars and, thankfully, far fewer catastrophically disabled veterans. But I also strongly believe that we must take care of those veterans who have been so severely wounded or otherwise disabled. Too often those who are most vocal in support of foreign military action are most silent when it comes time to take care of those who have paid a very high price for these actions. This legislation will provide at least a little relief to the most seriously injured veterans.

I am concerned, however, that this bill incorporates language from H.R. 6114, which rescinds a current law requirement that the VA obtain a signed consent form from a veteran before conducting an HIV test. We have seen veterans punished severely for attempting to avoid the required but controversial myriad of inoculations they are required to receive. Now we see that they will have less control over what medical tests to which they might be subjected. I am concerned over this loss of control over one's healthcare decisions among those who voluntarily join the military, and I urge the adoption of a more flexible policy. I would also urge my colleagues and the American people to contemplate this deprivation of medical and privacy rights on a massive scale should we ever reinstate the draft. I believe taking care of veterans should include both providing promised benefits and protecting their privacy rights.

INTRODUCING THE "PROHIBITING
THE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR'S
SECRET RULE ACT"

HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 30, 2008

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Madam Speaker, today I am introducing a bill to stop the Department of Labor from proceeding with a new proposed rule that would seriously undermine the ability of the Federal Government to protect workers' health. The Department's proposal is the product of a flawed, politicized process.

On July 7, 2008, the Department of Labor submitted a proposed regulation entitled "Requirements for DOL Agencies' Assessment of Occupational Health Risks" to the Office of Management and Budget, OMB, for E.O. 12866 regulatory review.

This proposal is being made in contravention of a number of rules and processes. No notice of this rule was published in the semi-annual Regulatory Agenda as required under Executive Order 12866. Furthermore, unlike all other DOL regulatory submissions to OMB,

the information provided on the OMB Web site did not originally contain the rule's abstract, legal authority, timetable, agency contact, and other information required by the Executive Order. Although the intent is to finalize this rule before the end of the Bush administration, this submission violated the White House's own directive prohibiting submission of new regulations to OMB after June 1 except in "extraordinary circumstances."

What are the "extraordinary circumstances" that are being used to rush through this last minute, secret regulation on a subject as arcane and technical as "risk assessment?" Assessing risk is the backbone of any OSHA or MSHA standard that addresses hazards posed by chemicals or other health hazards. Changing the assumptions underlying risk assessment to those favored by industry can seriously erode the effectiveness of all future OSHA or MSHA standards far beyond the life of this administration.

The Department claims that this proposal was not published in the most recent regulatory agenda because when the last regulatory agenda was issued, they had not yet decided whether they would issue a proposal. But the Washington Post has revealed that they have been working on this regulation as far back as September 2007, when they paid \$349,000 to outside consultants to conduct a study of the risk-assessment process.

The entire proposal appears to have been designed and originated by political appointees at the Department of Labor, bypassing the real experts at OSHA and MSHA. According to the Washington Post, when a draft was finally shown to health scientists in MSHA and OSHA, they objected to both the legality and substance of the proposal and suggested that the proposal not be issued. The political appointees at the Department went ahead anyway.

In the last 7½ years, the Department has only managed to issue one health standard—and that was done under court order. It has failed to meet its own deadlines on regulations to protect workers against the health effects of silica, against the health effects of beryllium, or against the serious health effects of diacetyl, which causes popcorn lung.

Yet, suddenly, the Department of Labor has decided that further weakening the ability of OSHA or MSHA to issue any future health standards has become its highest priority.

No one is arguing that OSHA or MSHA do not need guidance for risk assessment. But the Department of Labor already has such guidance. This new regulation, however, which clearly has the potential to weaken worker protections, will be codified, binding all future administrations. Other agencies that have such guidance, such as the Environmental Protection Agency, note that "because the science of risk assessment continues to develop rapidly . . . risk assessments will be modified to use different approaches if appropriate."

The new Labor regulation, on the other hand, would add an entire additional layer of review to the already overstressed regulatory process by requiring notice and comments for all risk-related studies before a proposal can be issued. This would be in addition to numerous economic reviews, small business reviews, OMB reviews, public comments and public hearings that are already required before a standard is issued.

This Congress will not stand for further weakening of worker protections, particularly when it's done secretly—as this administration heads out of town. This bill would forbid the Department of Labor from issuing, administering or enforcing any rule, regulation, or requirement derived from the proposal submitted to the Office of Management and Budget. The Department's proposal is the product of a flawed, politicized process that has failed to properly consider the views of experts or the consequences for workplace health.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

PILOT MOUNTAIN STATE PARK
CELEBRATES 40TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. VIRGINIA FOXX

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 30, 2008

Ms. FOXX. Madam Speaker, I rise today in celebration of the 40th anniversary of Pilot Mountain State Park in Surry County, North Carolina.

Pilot Mountain rises above the North Carolina Piedmont to a height of 2,421 feet and has been a local landmark since the first settlers came to the region. It's been said that climbers can see more than 3,000 square miles of beautiful North Carolina country from the peak when skies are clear.

The mountain received the name Pilot Mountain in 1753 and the State of North Carolina designated the mountain a State park in 1968. Before becoming North Carolina's 14th State park, it was privately owned and changed hands many times.

Pilot Mountain is a distinctive and beautiful piece of North Carolina's natural heritage. Its peak, a bald crop of quartzite, stands in stark contrast to the farmland and wooded areas that surround it.

According to local lore, the Saura Indian tribe employed the mountain as a very intuitive guide to the outlying lands and it is their use of the mountain that may have contributed to its eventual naming.

Today the Pilot Mountain State Park takes in more than 3,600 acres and attracts more than 400,000 visitors a year. It is undoubtedly one of North Carolina's greatest natural treasures and I join the county and State in celebrating 40 years of conservation and public enjoyment of this wonderful State park.

CONGRATULATING BUSKEN
BAKERY

HON. JEAN SCHMIDT

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 30, 2008

Mrs. SCHMIDT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Busken Bakery on their 80th birthday. Busken Bakery is truly an American success story. From humble beginnings, Busken's has grown into a Cincinnati institution through hard work, innovation, and a commitment to the local community.

Joseph and Daisie Busken began their business in 1928, opening their first bakery in the Hyde Park neighborhood of Cincinnati. Their goals were modest. According to Busken's

website, Joseph Busken was just looking for a way to feed his family and keep them happy. During the Great Depression, when other companies were failing, Busken's survived by offering products that their customers loved.

Following World War II, Joseph's son, Joe, Jr., entered the family baking business and began making his mark. Joe, Jr., streamlined production and expanded business to local grocery stores. He introduced the city's first 24-hour drive-in bakery and began offering dinner rolls—something unheard of at that time. Some of Joe, Jr.'s other touches are still in existence today, such as his recipe for double-butter coffee cake. Today, Busken Bakery is still run by family including: Page Busken, chairman of the board, Brian Busken, senior vice-president, and Dan Busken, CEO. And, the family has continued to change and innovate with the times. On a personal note, I must admit my favorite Busken item is the Maysville chocolate brownie.

Madam Speaker, please join me in celebrating the rich history of Busken's Bakery and wishing the entire Busken family continued success in years to come.

TRIBUTE TO RESIDENTIAL
OPPORTUNITIES

HON. FRED UPTON

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 30, 2008

Mr. UPTON. Madam Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today in honor of Residential Opportunities Incorporated of Kalamazoo, Michigan, to commemorate their 30th anniversary.

Residential Opportunities was incorporated in December of 1977 to address growing concerns regarding the lack of a standard of care for developmentally disabled adults. Based on the principle of normalization, Residential Opportunities began establishing group homes in an effort to combine an independent living experience with a high standard of care. Since that time, ROI has expanded their programs, and this year alone has improved the quality of life for 648 people.

Today, Residential Opportunities operates Homestead Housing Service, which helps find safe, affordable housing; Stone Cottage, a 24-hour residential and support center for military veterans; and Home Health Aide, which provides in-home support to developmentally disabled children. In addition to these endeavors, ROI operates 21 group homes that currently serve 148 of Southwest Michigan's most vulnerable adults.

I would like to extend my sincere gratitude to the staff and caregivers of Residential Opportunities Incorporated, whose compassion, dedication, and strength has brightened the lives of so many. I am confident that the 30 years of good works provided by ROI is just the tip of the iceberg, and we can expect many more years of exceptional care and service to come.

TRIBUTE TO DR. YUHUA WANG

HON. CORRINE BROWN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 30, 2008

Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida. Madam Speaker, I would like to pay tribute to Dr. Yuhua Wang, who has been recognized as a great artist and sculptor.

Dr. Wang was born in China, and permanently resides in the United States. Since 2000, she has worked as a visiting professor of oriental arts in the College of Liberal Arts at Auburn University, where she has received several commendation certificates for excellent work performance.

In August 2008, Dr. Wang's book entitled *World's Highest-Level Color Paintings and Ink-Wash Paintings* will be published and distributed worldwide by International Arts Publishing. Dr. Wang has meticulously and delicately applied fine-brushwork and oil colors on hand-sculpted coral and cobblestones which have become treasures of the world.

In the history of Chinese art, her lotus flower paintings are unsurpassed and are extremely valuable. In addition to being proficient in Chinese paintings, she is a highly talented sculptor whose themes are nature's mountains, rocks and plants. Dr. Wang's skills in the creation of colors, paintings and sculptures have reached the acme of perfection in their exquisiteness, elegance and beauty.

Dr. Wang, who takes great pleasure in helping others, is a selfless person whose moral character is noble, which is evidenced by the numerous awards and honors she has received. She has made great contributions to the development of cultural exchange between the East and West. Through her practice of Buddhism; Professor Wang benefits humanity and all living beings.

Madam Speaker, I invite my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to Dr. Yuhua Wang, an outstanding artist and scholar, who has chosen to make her home here in the United States because she has heartfelt love for its people.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO LEW AND
AMY KIRSCHNER

HON. MAURICE D. HINCHEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 30, 2008

Mr. HINCHEY. Madam Speaker, I am please to congratulate my constituents, Lew and Amy Kirschner, on the occasion of their 50th wedding anniversary. Mr. and Mrs. Kirschner are venerated members of our community, and I am proud to recognize their commitment to each other.

Amy and Lew Kirschner are a remarkable couple, who have dedicated themselves to each other and to the greater good of their community. In each endeavor they undertake, their remarkable sense of purpose and loyalty shines through. Over the years they have invested much of their time in serving their community in various manners. Lew's work on the boards of many area organizations and Amy's dedication to a variety of community based organizations has kept them at the heart of all

of the most pressing issues facing our city. Their advice and firm support have been invaluable.

Lew and Amy have truly achieved a tremendous accomplishment in being able to look back and celebrate fifty-years of shared love, personal growth and hard work, knowing that they have remained steadfast in their commitment to one another, their family and their community.

Madam Speaker, I have had the pleasure of knowing and working with Lew and Amy for more than thirty years. They have been good friends and outstanding citizens. I am pleased to be able to recognize and congratulate them on this momentous occasion.

CONGRATULATIONS TO UNITED
SPACE SCHOOL PROGRAM

HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 30, 2008

Mr. PAUL. Madam Speaker, on August 5 the Foundation for International Space Education (FISE) will host United Space School Day at the University of Texas Medical Branch (UTMB) in Galveston, Texas. The United Space School Day is a summer science camp/health careers promotion activity coordinated by the East Texas Area Health Education Center (AHEC). The United Space School Day's activities will focus on the education pathways appropriate for students interested in careers in life sciences, aerospace medicine, and bioastronautics.

United Space School Day is just one part of FISE's United Space School program. The United Space School program, established in 1994, is the major way FISE carries out its mission of providing space-based academic instruction to pre-collegiate students from across America and around the world who are interested in science, engineering, technology, or mathematics careers. The United Space School gives these students the opportunity to learn from some of the space industry's leading experts. Participants in the programs follow a curriculum specially designed to provide appropriate training and development by instructors qualified and knowledgeable in the proper disciplines.

As the students visit the various educational venues and participate in the space-related learning initiatives, they are exposed to myriad examples of space-related careers as well as careers in industries that support the space programs. United Space School students also benefit from daily one-on-one interaction with leading aerospace professionals from the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) or the Johnson Space Center (JSC), and the supporting aerospace community.

United Space School participants are also given a unique "hands on" learning experience through the development of a Manned Mission to Mars Project. United Space School's organization, schedule, and curriculum are designed to provide the structure, knowledge, resources, mentoring, and appropriate settings to complete the Manned Mission to Mars project.

Madam Speaker, FISE's United Space School program is doing invaluable work in preparing the next generation of scientists and

aerospace engineers. I would not be surprised if future breakthroughs in space technology came from alumni of the United Space School program. It is therefore my pleasure to extend my congratulations to the United Space School program on the occasion of the United Space School Day. I also extend my thanks to NASA, the Johnson Space Center, the University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston, East Texas AHEC, and all the volunteers who help make the United Space School program possible.

H.R. 5531 NEXT GENERATION RADIATION SCREENING ACT OF 2008

SPEECH OF

HON. PETER T. KING

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 29, 2008

Mr. KING of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 5531, the Next Generation Screening Act of 2008, and I urge my colleagues to support passage of this critical homeland security bill.

I introduced H.R. 5531 on March 5, 2008, to enhance the effectiveness of the Department of Homeland Security's radiation detection capabilities. Over the past several years, the Department of Homeland Security has made significant progress in deploying radiation detectors at our Nation's ports of entry. While this capability provides a critical layer in our defense against radiological and nuclear terrorism, Customs officials are overburdened by alarms due to radioactive material that is not a threat, such as medical therapeutics, cat litter, and fertilizer.

To reduce this burden on Customs officials, the Domestic Nuclear Detection Office within the Department of Homeland Security, initiated an aggressive research program to develop, test, evaluate, and deploy the next generation of radiation detection technology. This technology, known as the Advanced Spectroscopic Portal, or ASP, is capable of identifying, as well as detecting, radioactive material.

Preliminary results from actual field tests of the ASP systems show a reduction in nuisance alarms by a factor of 20. This means that ports such as the Port of Long Beach in California could reduce the number of radiological alarms that require secondary inspection from 500 per day to 20 per day—resulting in an enormous savings in time and resources for Customs officials.

Although technical progress has been made, the ASP system has not yet been deployed. There have been a series of delays with the ASP program due to miscommunication or misunderstanding between the government agencies involved, the stakeholders, and additional certification requirements established by the Congress.

Therefore, this bill addresses system capability, which appears to be the largest source of miscommunication between the agency preparing the ASP—the Domestic Nuclear Detection Office—and the agency responsible for using the ASP in the field—Customs and Border Protection.

Specifically this legislation directs the Director of the Domestic Nuclear Detection Office and the Commissioner of Customs and Border Protection to enter into a memorandum of un-

derstanding regarding the minimum standards of operational functionality in order to deploy ASP systems. This is not in any way an attempt to rush development of a system, but merely a requirement to spell out in plain English what type of system is required by those who will be operating that system in the field.

This legislation also clarifies a provision in title IV of division E of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2008, Public Law 110–161, which requires the Secretary of Homeland Security to submit a report to Congress certifying that “a significant increase in operational effectiveness will be achieved” with the ASP system before “funds appropriated under this heading shall be obligated for full-scale procurement of Advanced Spectroscopic Portal Monitors” and requires that “the Secretary shall submit separate and distinct certifications prior to the procurement of Advanced Spectroscopic Portal Monitors for primary and secondary deployment that address the unique requirements for operational effectiveness of each type of deployment.”

H.R. 5531 requires the Secretary to develop a quantitative definition of “significant increase in operational effectiveness” and develop appropriate metrics for measuring this effectiveness.

In addition to authorizing the ASP program, this bill also authorizes the Securing the Cities Initiative, which is a successful program that enhances security in the New York City metropolitan region. Funding for the Securing the Cities Initiative is used to deploy next generation radiation detection technology to detect the illicit transportation of nuclear and radiological material in urban areas. The Securing the Cities Initiative has fostered unprecedented collaboration and coordination among its Federal, state, and local partners and has enhanced the security of the New York Metropolitan region. H.R. 5531 authorizes \$40 million for this vital program, which is the same amount appropriated in Fiscal Year 2008, to ensure its continuation in Fiscal Year 2009.

The full Committee on Homeland Security approved H.R. 5531 by unanimous voice vote on June 26, 2008. I urge all Members to join me in supporting passage of this bill.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. ROBERT E. LATTA

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 30, 2008

Mr. LATTA. Madam Speaker, I submit the following:

Requesting Member: Congressman ROBERT E. LATTA.

Bill Number: HR. 6599: Military Construction and Veterans' Affairs Appropriations Act.

Account: Department of Defense; Army National Guard.

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Ohio National Guard.

Address of Requesting Entity: 2825 West Dublin Granville Road, Columbus, Ohio 43235.

Description of Request: Provide \$2 million in P-341 (unspecified minor military construction) funds pursuant to Title 10 US Code 2805, to construct a new 80-bed barracks at the Ohio National Guard's Camp Perry Training Site,

Port Clinton, OH. The request will increase the readiness of our servicemen and women in the Ohio National Guard and help them better prepare for the challenges they face both at home and abroad.

PERSONAL EMPLANATION

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 30, 2008

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I was unable to cast a vote on the following legislative measure on July 15, 2008. If I were present for the roll call vote, I would have voted Yea on the following:

Roll No. 491, July 15, 2008: On Passage, Objections of the President Not Withstanding: H.R. 6331, To amend titles XVIII and XIX of the Social Security Act to extend expiring provisions under the Medicare Program, to improve beneficiary access to preventive and mental health services, to enhance low-income benefit programs, and to maintain access to care in rural areas, including pharmacy access, and for other purposes.

TRIBUTE TO MARK COVERT

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 30, 2008

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Mark Covert who, on July 23rd, harked the 40th anniversary of an unparalleled running streak. Covert, a running coach and former elite athlete, has run at least one mile every day since July 23rd 1968. Overall, he has run 140,045 miles—and counting—since the streak began. The United States Running Streak Association lists Mark Covert as the current U.S. leader for the longest continuous streak.

Although he currently lives in Lancaster, California, where he coaches the Antelope Valley College cross country and track teams, Covert's streak is actually a significant part of Oregon history. One of the most important “daily runs” of the streak came in 1972, when Covert ran in the U.S. Olympic Marathon Trials at the University of Oregon, in Eugene. Even though he just missed making the team, he still made history by being the first athlete to cross a finish line wearing an unusual pair of shoes with rubber soles that were made on a waffle iron.

These so-called “moon shoes” were invented in the kitchen of an enterprising entrepreneur named Bill Bowerman. Bowerman, along with his partner Phil Knight, based an entire company and, indeed, an entire fitness movement, on these revolutionary shoes. The company, of course, is Nike, and Covert was one of the first employees in the early 1970s. He has stayed true to the legacy by running 117,028 miles in Nikes over the years.

The partnership continued at this year's Olympic Track and Field Trials—held, once again, at the University of Oregon's historic Hayward Field—where Nike sold T-shirts honoring two different athletes—legendary Oregon runner Steve Prefontaine and, you guessed it, Mark Covert.

As an important part of the U.S. running movement in its early years, Mark Covert's place in history was already secure. Now, through his current unmatched running streak, he continues to inspire and motivate thousands of runners around the country and around the world. I'd like to thank him for his commitment and urge my colleagues to do the same.

RECOGNIZING THE
CONTRIBUTIONS OF JOEY QUINTO

HON. HILDA L. SOLIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 30, 2008

Ms. SOLIS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the achievements of Joey Quinto, publisher of the California Journal for Filipino Americans.

Mr. Quinto was born and educated in the Philippines, where he received a Bachelor of Science in Marketing from San Beda College in Manila, Philippines. He also graduated from the Minority Business Executive Programs of the Tuck School of Business at Dartmouth in Hanover, New Hampshire. Mr. Quinto now resides with his wife Carlyn and daughter Carlette in Palos Verdes, California.

Mr. Quinto's contributions to the advancement of the API community are many. He began his professional career in California in 1984 as a mortgage banker. As a publisher, his weekly newspaper advances the interests of the API community and appropriately addresses local, consumer and business news, and community events. He is also a member of several community organizations. These include the Los Angeles Minority Business Opportunity Committee and The Greenlining Coalition.

His contributions have been widely recognized. Mr. Quinto is the recipient of the Award for Excellence in Journalism during the Fourth Annual Asian Pacific Islander Heritage Awards in celebration of the Asian Pacific Islander American Heritage Month. This award recognizes prominent APIs that have excelled in bringing pertinent news to the API community. He previously was listed among the Star Suppliers of the Year of the Southern California Regional Purchasing Council in 1999, received the Minority Media Award from the U.S. Small Business Administration in 1997, and has also earned a leadership award from the Filipino American Chamber of Commerce based in Los Angeles.

Madam Speaker, I hope that my colleagues will join me in congratulating Joey Quinto for his years of service to the API community. Through his tireless work effort he has demonstrated that the American dream is possible.

SUPPORTING NATIONAL INTERNET
SAFETY MONTH

HON. BART STUPAK

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 30, 2008

Mr. STUPAK. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H. Res. 1260, a resolution in support of the goals and ideals of "National Internet

Safety Month". This is an issue I have personally been working on for a number of years through the Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations.

Through the Subcommittee's investigation, we've been able to influence significant changes in the industry, including better filtering and reporting efforts among Internet Service Providers, social networking sites, and other content providers.

We have also discovered a number of alarming statistics, for example:

One in five children report receiving a sexual solicitation over the Internet, more than 3.5 million pornographic images of American children are in circulation on the Internet, and the sale of these images over the Internet represents a billion dollar industry.

The anonymity provided by the Internet to those that seek to exploit and harm children and the lightning pace data is transmitted provides a Congress with significant policy challenges.

While we've made some progress in the last few years, I feel that we've only begun to address the scope of this problem.

By recognizing National Internet Safety Month, we remind ourselves how important it is for Congress to remain committed and vigilant to ensure that the Internet is a safe place for children.

VETERANS DISABILITY BENEFITS
CLAIMS MODERNIZATION ACT OF
2008

SPEECH OF

HON. MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 29, 2008

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 5892, The Veterans Disability Benefits Claims Modernization Act of 2008. This legislation will help to address difficulties that our veterans face in accessing needed health care records and medical compensation. I want to thank Chairman JOHN HALL of New York for his leadership on the Subcommittee on Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs of the House Veterans Affairs Committee and for sponsoring this legislation.

I support the bill's intent to streamline the current VA claims process faced by our nation's 24,000,000 veterans. Studies show that the average processing time for veterans' claims has increased from 177 days to 183 days in one year alone. Moreover, the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) predicts that the number of claims will surpass 1,000,000 by the end of fiscal year 2008. H.R. 5892 will provide incentives for the Veteran's Association to modernize their processing protocol by utilizing existing information technology in the processing of claims. These incentives will provide veterans with a more user-friendly means of filing claims and more importantly a faster response time with claims requests.

In particular, our veterans on Guam face the additional challenge of having to file their claims through the Regional Office in Honolulu, Hawaii. Over 20 percent of the backlogged cases in Honolulu are cases from Guam. Improved information technology systems will help facilitate the processing of claims on Guam. Moreover, I will continue to

work with Chairman HALL and the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to enhance services provided by the VA Office on Guam. Improvements in the claims processing system along with a greater VA presence on Guam will greatly improve the current situation for our island's veterans.

H.R. 5892 will also address the Department of Veterans Affairs' standard for adjudicating a veterans level of disability. The VA currently employs the Department of Veterans Affairs Schedule for Rating Disabilities (VASRD), a schedule first commissioned during the First World War. The VASRD was last revised in 1945 and has yet to include contemporary medical practices and procedures. The legislation also requires improvement training and assessment of training for VA caseworkers. In total, this legislation takes a major step forward in ensuring better quality of care and treatment for our nation's veterans.

Our veterans have sacrificed in service to our country, and it is our duty to provide them with the adequate support and service commensurate to their dedication. I would like to thank my colleague Chairman HALL for authoring this bill and I urge passage of H.R. 5892.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. SANDER M. LEVIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 30, 2008

Mr. LEVIN. Madam Speaker, I was also unavoidably absent yesterday during rollcall votes 534, 535 and 536. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall 534 to require the Secretary of Homeland Security to conduct a pilot program using mobile biometric identification tools to identify terrorists and other individuals who pose risks to border security; "yea" on rollcall 535 to require each federal agency to include a telephone number in its collection of information in order to assist people with filling out government forms; and "yea" on rollcall 536 to establish an ombudsman within the Department of Veterans Affairs.

IN HONOR OF YASH PAUL SOI

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 30, 2008

Mr. PALLONE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Yash Paul Soi, a devoted leader who has worked tirelessly to advance and promote Indian culture. Mr. Soi has been an exemplary spokesman and ambassador for the causes of India and its people in the United States.

Mr. Soi has committed himself to supporting the Asian-Indian community through the advancement of Indian cultural activities. He has been recognized as an Indian cultural icon and his Indian music radio program has been vastly influential. His work in bringing Indian issues to the media forefront presented him with the opportunity to interview Indian Prime Minister Indira Gandhi, President Jimmy Carter, and many other distinguished world figures. Additionally, Mr. Soi has contributed to American society through his work to bring Indian arts to many of our Nation's most famous stages.

As a founder and former President of the Federation of Indian Associations (FIA), Mr. Soi performed the essential role of representing Indian groups in New York, New Jersey, and Connecticut. Under his leadership the FIA has thrived and is now known for its annual India Day Parade that goes down New York City's Madison Avenue, the largest celebration of Indian Independence Day outside of India.

As a graduate of Utah State University and Columbia University, Mr. Soi has brought his knowledge and experience to improving his community, as well as the communities of many others. In 2002, he was honored with an "Outstanding Community Service Award" for his tireless service to the Indian-American community. He was also a beacon of hope in the fight to bring democracy to the people of Guyana and supported efforts which led to that nation's first free elections.

Madam Speaker, I sincerely hope that my colleagues will join me in honoring Yash Paul Soi. His leadership and perseverance have improved Indian-American understanding and will long serve as a shining example of what can be accomplished by the determined human spirit.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. HAROLD ROGERS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 30, 2008

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Madam Speaker, pursuant to the Republican Leadership standards on earmarks, I am submitting the following information for publication in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD regarding earmarks I received as part of H.R. 6599, Military Construction and Veterans Affairs Appropriations Act, 2009.

Requesting Member: Congressman HAROLD ROGERS.

Bill Number: H.R. 6599.

Account: MILCON, Army National Guard.

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Kentucky Department of Military Affairs.

Address of Requesting Entity: Boone National Guard Center, 100 Minuteman Parkway, Frankfort, Kentucky 40601.

Description of Request: Provide directed funding of \$7.836 million to complete construction of the Readiness Center Phase 3—London Joint Support Operations Center located in Laurel County, Kentucky. Of this amount, \$646,200 is scheduled for design cost and \$208,000 is for supervision, inspection, and overhead costs. This third and final phase of construction will include administrative space, aircraft hangar space, and paving for hangar aprons, taxiways, and aircraft parking. Aircraft will include various fixed wing aircraft and helicopters, OH-58s, UH-60s, and a C-130. The project is required to fully house the Joint Support Operations equipment and personnel in one facility located in the vicinity of operations. Currently the operation is spread over several facilities approximately 100 miles apart. At the conclusion of this project, the unit will be able to respond quicker and in a much more efficient manner which will allow a greater return on investment funds spent on the operation.

TRIBUTE TO CPL MIGUEL
RODRIGUEZ

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 30, 2008

Mr. CUELLAR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Cpl. Miguel Rodriguez on his retirement from the Texas Department of Public Safety, where he served his State and country honorably for 28 years.

In his 28 years with the Department of Public Safety, Corporal Rodriguez performed a multitude of tasks, such as serving as field training officer in the induction of new officers to the Department, training them on driving, firearms, and accident reconstruction. He helped foster the training of Mexican highway patrolmen, served on interview promotional board for troopers, and worked as chairman on grievance board hearings. Corporal Rodriguez also served on security staff for President George Bush, Sr., on his visit to the University of Texas at Austin. His awards include the District Commander Award, Region Commanders Award, Commanders Accommodations, and Quarter Century Club.

Madam Speaker, I am honored to have had this time to recognize the dedication and commitment of Cpl. Miguel Rodriguez to the State of Texas, and to the United States of America upon his retirement from the Texas Department of Public Safety.

HONORING THE LIFE OF GEORGE
R. SAMPLE, JR.

HON. PHIL ENGLISH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 30, 2008

Mr. ENGLISH of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor the life of George R. Sample, Jr. of Corry, Pennsylvania.

Born and raised in Pennsylvania, Mr. Sample was the longtime publisher of the Corry Journal and had worked there daily since he graduated from college up until becoming ill a few months before he passed away. This outstanding newspaperman got his start in journalism serving as the managing editor of the Collegian newspaper at Pennsylvania State University, where he completed his bachelor's degree in 1946. Throughout his career he strived to make newspapers better.

In the 1960s, Mr. Sample was one of the founders of what would eventually become the American Publishing Co., which was later sold to Hollinger International. He served as vice chairman for Hollinger's American Publishing Co. and was credited for making improvements to the Chicago Sun-Times and the Jerusalem Post. He also created the family-run Sample News Group, which owned two newspapers in Maine and five in Pennsylvania.

In addition to being a well-respected local publisher, George Sample, Jr. was very involved in other aspects of the Corry community. As longtime chairman of the city's Golf Commission, he was known as the driving force behind the North Hills Municipal Golf Course, Corry's top-notch course that has become a vibrant attraction for the community.

Much of the course's growth and success can be attributed to Mr. Sample's efforts.

The life of George Sample, Jr. serves as a role model for us all to follow. He cared about his community and was always working to improve the city.

Madam Speaker, I hope my colleagues will join me in commemorating the life of George Sample, Jr.

HONORING THE CITY OF FOREST
PARK, GEORGIA ON ITS 100TH
ANNIVERSARY

HON. DAVID SCOTT

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 30, 2008

Mr. SCOTT of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the City of Forest Park for reaching their 100th Anniversary. Forest Park began as Forest Station/Astor on just one square mile of land chartered in 1908. This early community was mostly comprised of farming families, but quickly grew as Forest Park became an important railroad stop close to the bustling hub of Atlanta. Although the railroad gradually lost its more prominent role in the area, the people of Forest Park worked with the railroad and with their neighbors to find new opportunities for themselves and for their community. Their perseverance and hard work have paid off, helping to make Forest Park one of the largest cities in Clayton County and an important center of commerce for Georgia and the Southeast.

Today Forest Park is home to over 21,000 dedicated and productive citizens. This diverse community deserves our commendation for setting a positive example for Georgia and our great nation as a whole. I praise Forest Park for its commitment to its citizens through an outstanding police and fire department, school system, and overall community atmosphere. I also applaud Forest Park for fostering strong and affordable community recreation and leisure programs. These activities serve to bring people of all backgrounds and experiences together in friendship and collaboration. I am proud to see these endeavors encouraging a healthy and dynamic environment for the citizens of Forest Park and promoting positive community values throughout the area.

Forest Park will be holding a centennial celebration for just this purpose on August 14th, 15th, and 16th. This celebration will not only serve as a time of fun and enjoyment, but will also educate the public on the rich history of Forest Park. I also look forward to the increased participation and partnership of the citizenry, public institutions, and local businesses during this time and trust this close connection will continue into the future as it has for the past 100 years. This commemoration of the 100th anniversary of Forest Park is sure to be an enjoyable and fruitful enterprise for all involved.

I would further like to laud the dedicated efforts of Mayor Corine Dayton, and City Council members Sparkle Adams, Debbie Youmans, Maudie McCord, Donald Judson, and Linda Lord for their just and spirited public service in the governing of the City of Forest Park. Congratulations on reaching this 100 year milestone are also certainly due to the citizens of Forest Park. Without their tenacity and resolve, Forest Park would certainly not be the

active and vibrant city that it is today. I wish them well in continuing to enrich the lives of their neighbors and in maintaining a beautiful and prosperous community for the 100, 200, 300 years to come.

In closing, I wish the City of Forest Park a Happy 100th Birthday. As the U.S. Representative to the 13th District of Georgia, I honor the City of Forest Park, its leaders, and its inhabitants for reaching this milestone and look forward to the continuation of its proud legacy.

TRIBUTE TO SHANNON GOOD

HON. DIANA DeGETTE

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 30, 2008

Ms. DEGETTE. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize the accomplishments and distinguished public service of Shannon Good, my Legislative Director and former Deputy Chief of Staff. Shannon is a trusted advisor and friend. It saddens me to announce that she is leaving my office to pursue her own endeavors. Her tenure has been defined not only by a standard of professionalism that distinguishes exceptional legislative directors, but by a deep and abiding commitment to fairness, high ethical standards and the best interests of the 1st Congressional District of Colorado and this Nation.

Shannon is a Denver native and graduated from East High School and later graduated from Smith College in Northampton, Massachusetts. Shannon has been active in politics for years, volunteering on various local and national campaigns, including mine. Prior to joining my staff, she worked in the Washington, DC office of Governmental Relations for Salomon Brothers where she tracked legislation for Wall Street analysts.

Effective and committed legislative staff is essential to democratic governance. Few people recognize the magnitude and consequence of their contributions— particularly of those intrepid staff members who actually manage the legislative work we do. Shannon's keen intellect, judgment and common sense have been invaluable to me in dealing not only with the issues all of us face, but in guiding my legislative agenda for the past nine years. She has contributed in no small measure to much of the legislation that best serves this Nation. Her work on legislation protecting our Nation's safety net hospitals, simplifying the enrollment process and expanding presumptive eligibility for children in Medicaid, expanding energy efficiency requirements to improve our Nation's energy policy, expanding FDA and USDA authority to ensure food safety and her invaluable work on the "Stem Cell Research Enhancement Act" are but a few of her most noteworthy contributions. Shannon has been my point person for moving significant national legislation through committee and the House. Numerous other staff members from many offices have come to rely upon her for information and guidance on a variety of issues. Shannon is one of the staff experts in the House on women's reproductive health. Any time an issue related to reproductive health has arisen, whether in major legislation or buried in a motion to recommit or an amendment, many in Washington have sought out Shannon's counsel. Furthermore, Shannon Good

has excelled in recognizing and cultivating the talents and skills of my legislative team, both past and present, and she commands their respect and admiration. My District Office staff admire not only her exceptional capabilities, but her directness and understanding of the issues and challenges local offices face.

Shannon is a valued member of my staff and her competence, discernment and measure will be greatly missed. She has been an abiding source of wisdom and prudent counsel. She has done the people's work without pretension and burnished a reputation for decency and professionalism. Shannon is a public servant in the finest sense and her contributions are rich in consequence. My office and indeed, the United States House of Representatives, are losing a valued resource and friend. Please join me in commending Shannon Good, a distinguished public servant and legislative professional. Her character, leadership and dedication have done much to build a better future for all of us.

A TRIBUTE HONORING THE MCLEOD-SANDSTROM WEDDING

HON. LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 30, 2008

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Madam Speaker, I rise today to extend my best wishes to two young Americans who are starting their new life together this weekend. On Saturday, August 2, 2008, Allison Claire McLeod and Nathaniel Lee Sandstrom will be joined in matrimony surrounded by their loving family and friends at Preston Hall in Baltimore, Maryland.

Allie and Nate, as their family and friends call them, currently live in Baltimore but were both born in the Midwest. In fact, they describe themselves as, "A balanced combination of Midwestern salt-of-the-earth values and Columbia, MD-born neighborliness . . ."

Allie was born in Cleveland, Ohio on May 23, 1980. Her mother, Karen Jean McLeod, is a retired elementary school teacher's assistant for the Columbia School District in Maryland, and her father, Robert John McLeod, is a meteorologist for the National Weather Service. When Allie was three years old, her father's work transferred the McLeod family to Columbia, MD. The family would relocate to Boise, Idaho for several years before eventually returning to Columbia. Back in Maryland, Allie attended Wilde Lake High School. At Wilde Lake, Allie participated on the school's volleyball and lacrosse teams and was active in Students for a Better World. After high school Allie went on to study at Towson University in Maryland.

Nate was born in Appleton, Wisconsin on July 12, 1979. His mother, Vicki Lynn Kessler, is a minister at St. Paul United Church of Christ in Denver, Iowa, and his father, Kent Lee Sandstrom, is a professor at the University of Northern Iowa (UNI). Nate's family relocated to Waterloo, Iowa when his father began working at UNI. Nate attended Cedar Falls High School and was active in baseball, band and the school newspaper. He attended Iowa State University and UNI and then moved to Maryland to complete his studies at Towson University.

It was at Towson University where the future bride and groom eventually met. The two

young students belonged to the same circle of college friends, and after an initial period as good friends, the couple started dating. Their relationship blossomed and Allie and Nate became a couple. When Nate enrolled in graduate school at the University of Illinois Urbana Champaign, the couple both relocated to the Midwest. After two years in Illinois, the couple returned to Maryland in 2006 and set up home in Baltimore.

The couple enjoys spending time with family and friends, camping, and cheering on the Washington Redskins, among other activities. They were engaged on May 23, 2007, and the newlywed couple will make their home in the Federal Hill neighborhood of Baltimore. Their many friends say Allie and Nate are very well suited for each other, and their families already consider each of them a member of the family.

Allie and Nate will be joined in their wedding celebration in Baltimore's historic neighborhood of Mount Vernon by guests from across town and across the country. Family and friends are traveling from California, Illinois, Iowa, Wisconsin, New York, and South Carolina among other states. Special participants in the wedding ceremony will be Katharine Elizabeth McLeod, the bride's maid of honor; Philip Sandstrom, the groom's best man; and the other members of the wedding party: Tracey Bounds, Becca Dougherty, Kelly Neale, Lindsay Thomasson, Mark Goldman, Andrew McLeod, Patrick Newstrom, and Matt Schaffer. When they take their wedding vows, Allie and Nate will have the added honor of having Nate's mother, the Reverend Kessler, perform the ceremony.

Madam Speaker, I offer my best wishes to the McLeod and Sandstrom families, their friends and guests for a very happy and memorable celebration. To Allie and Nate, I offer the sentiment and gifts which George Bailey offered the Martini family as they moved into their new home in the classic film, *It's a Wonderful Life*, "Bread! That their house may never know hunger. Salt! That life may always have flavor. And wine! That joy and prosperity may reign forever." Lastly, I wish that throughout their wonderful life together, Allie and Nate will always have an abundance of what St. Paul wrote of in his letter to the Corinthians, "faith, hope, and love; and the greatest of these is love."

THANKING THE SKENTARIS FAMILY FOR THEIR SERVICE TO THE HOUSE

HON. SHELLEY BERKLEY

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 30, 2008

Ms. BERKLEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to say farewell to the Skentaris Family, the operators of the food service in the Ford House Office Building, and to thank them for their fifteen years of outstanding service to the United States House of Representatives.

Jordan Skentaris, the patriarch of the family business, came to the United States through Ellis Island from Greece on April 17, 1955. Jordan began his food service career in New York City and eventually settled in Fayetteville, North Carolina, where his family operated restaurants for 30 years. In January 1993, Jordan, his lovely wife Soula, and their wonderful

children—daughter Artemis and son Christopher—began their service to the House in the Ford House Office Building. Their unwavering commitment to serve the needs of every customer to the fullest extent possible no matter who they are—and regardless of their political affiliation—has endeared them to Members, House staff, Capitol Police and visitors. This was particularly evident as the Skentaris family made sure their customers and employees were taken care of during 9/11 and anthrax. Since the Ford Building was closed for weeks following the anthrax attack, this was no easy task, but they persevered and found a way to keep continuity of service without missing a beat to the customers and community they so value.

Many times we hear people say that Capitol Hill is a family. I would like to say that the Skentaris family has not only been part of the Capitol Hill family, they have become my family. Many of the customers who pass through the cafeteria daily are greeted by name. Jordan, Soula, Artemis and Christopher can be proud of the level of service they provide to their customers each and every day.

On behalf of the entire House community, we bid a fond farewell to the Skentaris family and extend our deepest appreciation for their dedication and outstanding contributions to the U.S. House of Representatives. We wish them much success in their future endeavor at the Voice of America where I, my staff and hundreds of others will follow them—not only for their delicious food, but for the warmth and considerate service they provide to all who enter. They will be sincerely missed.

THE DAILY 45: A HERO DIES TO
SAVE OTHERS AS A GUNMAN EN-
TERS A CHURCH

HON. BOBBY L. RUSH

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 30, 2008

Mr. RUSH. Madam Speaker, the Department of Justice tells us that, everyday, 45 people, on average, are fatally shot in the U.S. Last weekend, the nation's attention was riveted by the shocking act of a gunman who felt comfortable walking into a church, on Sunday, and opening fire. This incident, at the Tennessee Valley Unitarian Universalist Church, was especially horrific because of the loss of life—two, to date—as well as the long-term scars it will leave on the children who were participating in a choral presentation for their families and friends.

As sometimes happens in these incidents, there was a hero involved who martyred himself to protect others. Such was the case, this time, as church members told police that 60-year-old Greg McKendry, without blinking an eye, saw what was happening and, literally, placed his body in the line of fire. I extend a heartfelt prayer to the church community, Mr. McKendry's family and the other victims whose sense of peace was violated.

Americans of conscience must come together to stop the senseless death of "The Daily 45." When will we say "enough is enough, stop the killing!"

IN HONOR OF CELEBRATING THE
SERVICE OF MR. GREGORY M.
DIAMOND

HON. DIANA DeGETTE

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 30, 2008

Ms. DeGETTE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Gregory M. Diamond, a dear friend and colleague who had served for over 10 distinguished years as my District Director in the First Congressional District of Colorado.

Greg grew up in Denver as the son of Greek and Canadian immigrants. Both of his parents worked extremely hard to establish themselves in the United States instilling within Greg a tireless work ethic, an acumen for equality, an exceptional attention to detail, and a sharp mind for finance, politics, and sympathy for the human condition.

Greg's leadership abilities shined through early when he was elected Head Boy at Denver East High School. Greg moved on to attend the University of Denver earning a Bachelor of Arts in Political Economy during the turbulent 1960's. This era of frustration with the Vietnam War and society's status quo inspired Greg to become involved in the University's anti-war and civil rights movements, imbedding a desire for social justice and fairness and the pursuit of public policies to benefit all people throughout his working life.

Greg earned a Masters of Science in Judicial Administration at the University of Denver College of Law and worked for a few years in the Wayne County Court System in Detroit, Michigan.

When his father became ill, Greg returned to Colorado to work in the family restaurant in the Cherry Creek neighborhood of Denver. In 1988, Greg became greatly inspired by the presidential campaign of Michael Dukakis and joined the Colorado Coordinated Campaign. In addition to sharing Greek heritage with Governor Dukakis, Greg admired his practical yet inclusive style of governing and fiscal policies.

Dukakis' loss was a disappointing blow for Greg, but he had caught the political bug. He moved on to manage a U.S. Senate primary, and worked in senior capacities on various other presidential, congressional, state, local and referenda campaigns, including the bond election to build Denver International Airport, where he met his future wife Faye, to whom he has been married for 16 years.

In 1991, Greg began his career in public policy, serving in former Governor Roy Romer's cabinet in the Office of Energy Conservation, then four years as the Deputy State Treasurer under former Colorado State Treasurer Gail Schoettler. He finished up his years in the Governors Office of Economic Development as a Science and Technology Advisor.

Greg is unique individual and a tower in Denver and Colorado politics in a District with a multitude of strong political personalities. In a city defined by a history of rough-and-tumble politics and a varied electorate, with their own political desires, Greg has managed to fly above the fray gaining the respect, admiration, and trust of the diverse constituencies of the First Congressional District.

Greg has the enviable ability to actively listen to constituents concerns and to frame their arguments and the political realities in ways

only a seasoned political mind and public policy analyst could. Greg will long be remembered for his extensive briefings and memos for District meetings which were exhaustively researched and supplied with extensive supporting materials. In any meeting I attended with Greg, I was confident I was well briefed and any issue or argument would be at my fingertips. Greg is also an eloquent writer, penning many of our offices tributes and speeches.

There is also no doubt Greg was extremely popular in Colorado politics and in the broader Denver community. Any meeting or reception I would attend with Greg, constituents, business, and political leaders would joke with Greg and regale me about some past shared experience. Greg would always return the favor with his hearty infectious laughter filling the room.

Greg is fondly regarded by his District Office staff, many of whom he hired. The high retention rate in my District Office is a great tribute to Greg who treated his employees with respect, compassion, and a sense of humor which often kept the staff on their toes. Greg related well to young and older employee alike, always interested in what everyone had to say, encouraging staff for good deeds done, but also willing to guide staffers back in line when they went astray.

Greg leaves my office in the height of his career, rising with me as a first term Representative to the Dean of the Colorado Congressional Delegation. I am deeply indebted to him for his service, guidance, and enduring commitment to the residents of the First Congressional District of Colorado.

At the end of the day, there is one main reason we come to serve in this body: to help the people we represent and to improve their communities and livelihoods to the best of our abilities. It is with the assistance of such exceptional staff members as Greg Diamond that we are able to achieve these goals. There are thousands of Coloradans and residents of Denver, Englewood, Sheridan, and Cherry Hills Village whose lives have been touched by Greg's dedication and service.

I ask you and our colleagues to join me as I thank Greg for his 10 years of service to the First District, express my gratitude for his long friendship and congratulate him as he enters a new phase of his public service.

TRIBUTE TO SAMUEL SNOW

HON. CORRINE BROWN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 31, 2008

Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay honor and tribute to the memory of Samuel Snow, of Leesburg, Florida.

In 1944, Samuel Snow was among a group of black American soldiers involved in the largest and longest U.S. Army court martial of World War II.

Mr. Snow, then a 19-year-old Army private, and 42 other black troops were tried at Fort Lawton in Seattle for the death of an Italian Army prisoner of war. All 43 were accused of rioting, while three of the GIs were charged with first degree murder. Mr. Snow was one of two men still alive to tell the story.

Mr. Snow enlisted in the U.S. Army in 1944, in New Orleans. His enlistment helped fill a need for black soldiers to fill segregated units to be shipped to Japan. As Snow packed to get ready to be shipped out, a fight broke out between a large number of black soldiers and Italian POWs.

Only two attorneys were appointed. They had just two weeks to prepare a defense and no access to key evidence. After the Army's longest court martial of World War II, 28 soldiers were convicted—and it was all wrong. 13 acquitted and charges against two others were dropped.

He spent a year in confinement. This was the largest court martial during the war, and the only time blacks were tried for alleged lynching. Mr. Snow was issued an ultimatum: Go to prison or receive a dishonorable discharge.

Last October, the Army overturned those convictions after Seattle author Jack Hamann's investigation proved the soldiers were unjustly tried in his book "On American Soil." Their convictions were all set aside. On Saturday, July 26, the Army officially apologized in a ceremony at Fort Lawton in Seattle in front of family and friends of 28 of the soldiers. Only 2 of them are still alive and Sam Snow was determined to attend the ceremony.

Mr. Snow travelled to Seattle from Florida and was admitted to a Seattle hospital Friday night. He smiled when his son Ray read the honorable discharge petition to him following the Saturday ceremony. At 12:45 a.m. Sunday, Samuel Snow died of congestive heart failure.

His son, Ray Snow, who traveled with him to Seattle, said "Getting that honorable discharge was more important than his health."

Sam Snow, on a previous visit to Fort Lawton, said that "we hope this never happens again and I am proud to be an American."

Samuel Snow was a speaker at my Veterans Braintrust at the Congressional Black Caucus Annual Legislative Conference this past September. His is very moving story and if there is one thing to learn, it is that we must always be vigilant against injustice.

He is survived by his loving wife, Margaret Snow; son, Ray; grandchildren, Maurice Snow, Denise S. Norwood, Marvin J. and Ray L. Snow; and three great-grandchildren.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. THELMA D. DRAKE

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 31, 2008

Mrs. DRAKE. Madam Speaker, pursuant to the Republican Leadership standards on earmarks, I am submitting the following information for publication in the Congressional Record regarding earmarks I received as part of H.R. 6599, the Military Construction and Veterans Affairs Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2009.

Project Name: Fire and Emergency Services Station

Requesting Member: Representative THELMA DRAKE

Bill Number: H.R. 6599

Account: Military Construction, Navy

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Representative THELMA DRAKE

Address of Requesting Entity: Naval Station Norfolk, VA, USA

Description of Request: Accelerate funding of \$9,960,000 for a Fire and Emergency Services station located at Naval Station Norfolk, Virginia.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. MICHAEL N. CASTLE

OF DELAWARE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 31, 2008

Mr. CASTLE. Madam Speaker, I submit the following:

Name of Project: Physical Fitness Center
Requesting Member: Congressman MICHAEL N. CASTLE

Bill Number: H.R. 6599

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Dover Air Force Base

Address of Requesting Entity: Dover, DE

Project Description: The existing fitness center at Dover AFB is not large enough to accommodate the needs of all personnel in sports, wellness, and fitness programs. A new facility is necessary to meet the Air Force's new requirements and emphasis on physical fitness, health, and wellness. The existing facility is insufficient to accommodate year-round use necessary for mission readiness. The new facility will provide for an additional gymnasium and fitness rooms, as well as incorporating a Health and Wellness Center. The project has been included in the President's FY09 Budget Request.

Name of Project: Information Operations Communication Facility

Requesting Member: Congressman MICHAEL N. CASTLE

Bill Number: H.R. 6599

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Dover Air Force Base

Address of Requesting Entity: Dover, DE

Project Description: The current Delaware National Guard Information Operations Unit operates from a cramped, overloaded, inadequate facility. Because of the specialized nature of this new mission, there are no facilities on the New Castle Air National Guard base that can accommodate the unit. Without a new facility, the unit will not be capable of properly training or supporting active combat missions with respect to intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance. This project has been included in the President's FY09 Budget Request.

CONGRATULATING LINDA NELSON

HON. BRUCE L. BRALEY

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 31, 2008

Mr. BRALEY of Iowa. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate my friend Linda Nelson on her retirement as President of the Iowa State Education Association (ISEA). Linda was elected President of the ISEA by nearly all of the 500 delegates at their annual meeting in 2004 and was re-elected in 2006. During her 4 year tenure as President Linda proved to be a strong and effective leader for the 34,000 members of the ISEA.

Linda has been active in the ISEA throughout her teaching career. At the local association level, Linda took on many leadership roles including president, executive board member, Governmental Affairs Committee chair, and building representative. Linda's passion for teaching and politics lead her to become involved in ISEA's Political Action Committee where she served in several different positions. In 1992, Linda was elected to the Iowa House of Representatives where she spent four years fighting for teachers all across Iowa. Most importantly, Linda has dedicated her life to being an educator and has been a good friend and mentor to her fellow ISEA members, teaching colleagues and her students.

I'm happy to report that this fall Linda will be returning to her teaching duties at Carter Lake Elementary School in Council Bluffs. Linda taught 4th grade at Carter Lake for 31 years before being elected ISEA President. I congratulate her on all of her success and wish her the best in all of her future endeavors.

TRIBUTE TO THE HUMBOLDT COUNTY FAIR

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 31, 2008

Mr. LATHAM. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Humboldt County Fair on its 150th year anniversary this year, recognized from July 23 to July 27, 2008. The Humboldt County Fair is located in Dakota City, Iowa and serves the approximate 10,000 residents of the county in North Central Iowa.

In 1858, the 300 people living in Humboldt County wanted to get together for a social event offering opportunities to display prize produce and compete at the skills of farming. The first Humboldt County Fair was held in Dakota City on October 5, 1858. The best livestock and agricultural products of the county were on display, showcasing the pride and competitive spirit of America as well as prospects for future agricultural prosperity.

The town of Springvale, larger than Dakota City, attempted to relocate the fair in 1866. But Charles Bergk, a prominent citizen, offered to donate 15 acres of land, furnish enough lumber to fence the entire tract, and dig a well if the fair was held in Dakota City. And so the fair remained in Dakota City.

The fair of 1912 was not a success, and there were fears that the end of the county fair was near. A group of Humboldt's leading citizens organized the Humboldt Get-Together Club and met at MacNamara's Drug Store to discuss the situation. They developed a plan to not only continue the fair but make it bigger and better.

Throughout the many years, the Humboldt County Fair has thrived and kept the county together with community fellowship, celebration and camaraderie. I congratulate the Humboldt County Fair on this historic anniversary. It is an honor to represent the past and current members of the county fair board in the United States Congress. I wish the Humboldt County Fair and Humboldt community an equally storied future.

EARMARK DECLARATION**HON. C.W. BILL YOUNG**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 31, 2008

Mr. YOUNG of Florida. Madam Speaker, pursuant to the Republican Leadership standards on earmarks, I am submitting the following information for publication in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD regarding earmarks I received as part of H.R. 6599, Military Construc-

tion and Veterans Affairs Appropriations Act for FY 2009

Account: Military Construction, Army National Guard.

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Florida Army National Guard.

Address of Requesting Entity: 400 S. Monroe Street, Tallahassee, Florida 32399.

Description of Request: Provide an earmark of \$20,907,000 for construction of Phase IV of the Regional Training Institute (RTI), Project Number 120191, located at Camp Blanding, Starke, Florida 32091. It is my understanding

that the Florida Army National Guard (FLARNG) and Army National Guard readiness will be affected if the school cannot adequately accomplish its mission to educate and train soldiers. This final phase will finish construction of the remaining 65,000 square feet of billeting, all remaining infrastructure, supporting facilities, and all necessary work not completed in the prior phases to support and house students attending the courses at the training institute.