

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

A TRIBUTE TO JOVENES, INC. AND ITS NATIONALLY RECOGNIZED STREET SOCCER TEAM

HON. LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 31, 2008

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize four highly motivated and talented street soccer players and their coach who traveled from Los Angeles to our nation's capital this summer to compete in the Homeless USA Cup. This was the first time a team from Los Angeles joined the street soccer tournament, which this year included homeless and formerly homeless youth from 11 cities throughout the country.

I am especially proud of the fact that this talented and resilient team was sponsored by Jovenes, Inc., an exemplary community organization that provides needed services to homeless and low-income Latinos in my 34th Congressional District.

Jovenes, Inc. was founded in 1989 by Reverend Richard Estrada, Associate Pastor of Our Lady Queen of Angels Catholic Church in Downtown, Los Angeles. Initially, Father Estrada created Jovenes, Inc.—which means youth in Spanish—to address the dire needs of homeless immigrant youth in Los Angeles.

Today, while Jovenes, Inc. remains committed to assisting the immigrant Latino community, the non-profit organization has expanded its reach. Jovenes, Inc. assists at-risk young people ages 16 to 24, foster youth, homeless individuals of all ages, and low-income families. Each year, an estimated 1,500 youth benefit from Jovenes, Inc.'s services, which include emergency and transitional housing, arts programs, mental health services, health education, employment preparation, financial literacy classes for families, after-school programs, GED preparation and computer courses.

Madam Speaker, I have had the pleasure of working with Father Estrada and Jovenes, Inc. on several occasions. He is an uplifting and positive force throughout the community and I thank him for his advocacy and tireless work to improve the lives of young people and families in my district and elsewhere in Los Angeles County.

Clearly, the notable success of our four street soccer players—Johnny, Densi, Carlos and Peter—who competed in the Homeless USA Cup in June have the dedicated staff of Jovenes, Inc., especially Executive Director Ernesto Montañón, and Director of Programs/Team Coach Andrea Marchetti, to thank for working to make such memorable and empowering opportunities available to them.

While our star street soccer players from Los Angeles lost in their final round against a Minnesota team at the U.S. Homeless Cup, their unstoppable performance in the qualifying round got them noticed. They were all selected for spots on the national team. Three of the players will travel to Australia in Decem-

ber to represent the United States in the Homeless World Cup. The fourth player will serve as an alternate. In addition, all four athletes have been invited to come back to next year's Homeless USA Cup to motivate and serve as examples for new teams and players. In between competitions, the Jovenes, Inc. players continue to work to turn their lives around by resuming their education, furthering their careers, and chasing their goals to live independently in a stable and safe environment.

The organization's newsletter poignantly sums up the impact of the street-soccer tournaments in helping to inspire and motivate these soccer players. "For our youth this is the country that is giving them an opportunity for a successful life, and they will do their best to make everybody proud of them, on and off the pitch! . . . Through soccer, homeless individuals have a way to find the motivation, energy and discipline to solve their daily struggles and feel appreciated and respected. Jovenes, Inc. will continue this experience in the future to motivate our youth to succeed through sports in their life."

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to please join me in recognizing the significant work of Father Estrada and Jovenes, Inc. in bettering the lives of young people and Latino families in the community. I also congratulate Johnny, Densi, Carlos and Peter for their exceptional street-soccer abilities. They are truly an inspiration, on and off the soccer field. After all, as they have shown, with the right support and a lot of hard work, anything is possible.

TRIBUTE TO THE KOSSUTH 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 Kossuth County Fair on its 150th year anniversary, from July 24 to August 3, 2008. The Kossuth County Fair is located in Algona, Iowa and serves the approximate 17,000 residents of the county in North Central Iowa.

Throughout many years the Kossuth County Fair has thrived and kept the county together with community fellowship, celebration and camaraderie. I congratulate the Kossuth 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 Kossuth County Fair an equally storied future.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO DUNCAN MCCOY

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 31, 2008

Mr. PORTER. Madam Speaker, it is my distinct pleasure to rise today to honor my friend Duncan McCoy by entering his name in the Congressional Record, the official record of the proceedings and debates of the United States Congress since 1873. Today, I honor Duncan McCoy for his service to the Boulder City community and congratulate him on his retirement.

Duncan has dedicated his life to enriching the lives of others and sharing his passion for reading. Duncan is a veteran librarian with over 38 years of experience and he became Director of the Boulder City library in 1989. Upon becoming Director, Mr. McCoy has continuously and tirelessly advocated for the Boulder City Library. His tenacity and hard work paid off when he was able to secure bond funding to help the library move into a much larger building to expand its growth.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to honor my friend Duncan McCoy. His vision and commitment to excellence have greatly enriched the Boulder City community and allowed many of our friends and neighbors to experience the joys of reading. I applaud his efforts and wish him the best in his future endeavors.

RECOGNIZING THE HOPE AND LIGHT FOUNDATION

HON. TOM PRICE

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 31, 2008

Mr. PRICE of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Hope and Light Foundation for their enduring commitment to the elimination of Spinal Muscular Atrophy.

Founded by Aaron and Stephanie Miller after their first child was diagnosed with SMA, this group has tirelessly advocated research and education to eliminate this threat. They have armed families with the latest data and educated public, business, and community leaders about the need for more focus on this genetic disorder.

Thanks in part to their work, such as co-funding the first FDA approved drug trial for SMA Type I and organizing the first Southeastern conference dedicated to SMA care and research, the families and researchers working to find a cure are closer than ever. Out of over 600 neurological disorders analyzed by the National Institutes of Health, SMA is considered the closest to realizing effective treatment.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me and recognize the Hope and Light Foundation for their positive efforts for thousands of

• 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.

children and families affected by Spinal Muscular Atrophy.

TRIBUTE TO SANDY HUANG

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 31, 2008

Mr. LATHAM. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Sandy Huang, of Ames, Iowa, one of fifty outstanding U.S. high school students selected to attend the twenty-fifth annual Research Science Institute sponsored by the Center for Excellence in Education and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

The mission of the Center for Excellence in Education is to nurture young scholars to careers of excellence and leadership in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics. The Research Science Institute is a highly competitive six-week program which emphasizes advanced theory and research in mathematics, the sciences, and engineering. Sandy was selected for this program upon scoring in the upper one-percent of those in the U.S. who took the PSAT exam. From June to August 2008, Sandy will learn from distinguished professors and conduct a research project.

I commend Sandy Huang for his commitment to leadership in science and technology. He is a future leader of this country of whom Iowa is very proud. I am honored to represent Sandy in the United States Congress and I wish him the best in future endeavors.

HONORING SHERIFF BROWNLOW

HON. JEB HENSARLING

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 31, 2008

Mr. HENSARLING. Madam Speaker, today I rise to recognize an outstanding citizen and public servant, J.R. Ronny Brownlow, in honor of his retirement from law enforcement after serving the public for 44 years.

In 1964, Sheriff Brownlow began his life of public service at the Mesquite Police Department. Three years later, Sheriff Brownlow moved to the Texas Department of Public Safety where he served for 27 years as a Highway Patrolman and a Texas Ranger.

Since then, Sheriff Brownlow has worked as the Anderson County Chief Deputy Sheriff, spent 1 year with the U.S. Marshals Service, and worked 3 years as the Henderson County Chief Deputy Sheriff. In 2000, he was elected Henderson County Sheriff and has worked tirelessly since then.

Sheriff Brownlow's work has not gone unnoticed. In addition to receiving the Peace Officer Award for Excellence, Sheriff Brownlow secured a spot in the Texas Ranger Hall of Fame and in 2004 won the Chairman's Award from the Texas Ranger Association Foundation. This year, Sheriff Brownlow was named the 2008 Law Enforcement Officer of the Year.

Sheriff Brownlow accomplished all this while raising three sons and a daughter. Currently, he is a proud grandfather of four and husband to wife Theresa.

Madam Speaker, on behalf of the Fifth District of Texas, I am honored to recognize

Sheriff J.R. Ronny Brownlow for his courage in protecting and serving citizens all across the Fifth District of Texas.

MS. SALLY GALEGO HONORED FOR HER LONGEVITY

HON. C. W. BILL YOUNG

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 31, 2008

Mr. YOUNG of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Ms. Sally Galego of Largo, Florida who I am proud to represent, for being one of Florida's longest living persons at 108 years old.

During Ms. Galego's rich life she has witnessed the popularization of indoor plumbing, electricity, flight, the internet and so many wonderful innovations that made the last century so great. Born in 1900, she lived through the American Century, a time of great turmoil and triumph, through which our nation has become one of the truly great nations of the world.

For the benefit of my colleagues, I would like to include in the RECORD a story about Ms. Galego from her hometown paper, the Largo Leader.

Madam Speaker, Ms. Galego is a reminder of this last century as we look forward to the new one stretched out ahead of us. Please join me in congratulating her for her long lifetime of experiences.

[FROM THE LARGO LEADER, JUN. 12, 2008]

(By Thomas Michalski)

LARGO—Sally Galego will be 108 years old on Saturday, June 14. She might be among the oldest person in Pinellas County, man or woman, and possibly the state, but still goes to the YMCA three times a week to exercise.

She was born before the Wright Brothers flew their first plane and before the popularity of electricity, automobiles, radio and television came along.

"I have many, many fond memories," Galego said. Born June 14, 1900 in Belfast, Maine, she and her two brothers and two sisters grew up on a 100-acre farm. There was no electricity. No telephones. No inside plumbing.

One sister, Louise, 99, of Bangor, Maine, survives and the two sisters stay in touch on a regular basis.

Galego's father was killed by a swarm of bees when she was 9. She later not only graduated elementary school, but high school and college as well. That was almost unheard of in those days. Galego recalls seeing television for the first time at the 1939-40 New York World's Fair.

Over the years, she traveled the world to visit the pyramids in Egypt, the Vatican in Rome and toured England, Ireland, Scotland, Wales and other countries.

TRIBUTE TO NICK DONOFRIO

HON. PETER WELCH

OF VERMONT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 31, 2008

Mr. WELCH of Vermont. Madam Speaker, it is my great pleasure to pay special tribute to Mr. Nick Donofrio who is retiring after more than 40 years in various leadership capacities at the IBM Corporation.

Nick Donofrio is an adopted son of the Green Mountain State. For many years, Nick led IBM's semiconductor development and manufacturing facility in Burlington and he and his wife, Anita, raised their two children, Nicole and Michael, in Vermont.

Nick joined IBM in 1967 and spent the early part of his career in integrated circuit and chip development, as a designer of logic and memory chips. He held numerous technical management positions and, later, executive positions in several of IBM's product divisions. He has led many of IBM's major development and manufacturing teams—from semiconductor and storage technologies, to microprocessors and personal computers, to IBM's entire family of servers.

Nick has always been a champion for innovation across IBM and its global ecosystem. He has been the leader of IBM's global technology strategy. In addition to his strategic business mission, Nick has led the development and retention of IBM's technical population and strives to enrich that community with a diversity of culture and thought.

Nick has been focused sharply on advancing education, employment and career opportunities for under represented minorities and women—all issues of great importance to me as well.

He served for many years on the Board of Directors for the National Action Council for Minorities in Engineering (NACME). He has served on the Board of Directors for INROADS, a non-profit organization focused on the training and development of talented minority youth for professional careers in business and industry, and he is co-chair of the New York Hall of Science. A fellow Italian-American, Nick was awarded the prestigious 2007 National Education and Leadership Award from the Sons of Italy Foundation.

He is the holder of seven technology patents and is a member of numerous technical and science honor societies. In 2002, Nick was recognized by Europe's Institution of Electrical Engineers with the Mensforth International Gold Medal for outstanding contributions to the advancement of manufacturing engineering. In 2003, he was named Industry Week magazine's Technology Leader of the Year, the University of Arizona's Technical Executive of the Year, and was presented with the Rodney D. Chipp Memorial Award by the Society of Women Engineers for his outstanding contributions to the advancement of women in the engineering field. In 2005, Nick was elected a member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, he was presented with Syracuse University's highest alumni honor—the George Arents Pioneer Medal, and he was honored by CNBC with its Overall Technology Leadership Award.

Madam Speaker, please join me in congratulating Nick Donofrio, as he begins a new exciting chapter in his life.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO DEMA GUINN

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 31, 2008

Mr. PORTER. Madam Speaker, it is my distinct pleasure to rise today to honor the former First Lady of Nevada, Dema Guinn, by entering her name in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD,

the official record of the proceedings and debates of the United States Congress since 1873. Today, I pay tribute to Dema Guinn for her outstanding service to the State of Nevada.

Mrs. Guinn has served the Nevada community in countless ways including her fundraising campaigns for both the Nevada State Museum and the Keck Mining Museum. Her efforts in bringing Nevada's second statue, Sarah Winnemucca, to Statuary Hall of the Capitol in Washington, D.C. and her renovation of the Governor's Mansion to better reflect Nevada's history were both great successes. While First Lady Dema Guinn has been involved in many projects, her largest contribution has been her continued support of Nevada's health care system. Having lost a cousin to breast cancer in 1995, Mrs. Guinn recognized the hardships and suffering felt by many Nevadans in similar situations. The real tragedy is that Mrs. Guinn's cousin did not have health insurance and never had the chance to have a mammogram performed, which could have staved off this vicious disease. From this devastation, First Lady Dema Guinn was able to found the Mammovan, a traveling health care van that provides free mammograms to uninsured women.

The Mammovan began touring Nevada in January of 2000. During Mrs. Guinn's tenure as First Lady, the Mammovan assisted more than 17,000 women. In 2007, after many successful trips throughout the state visiting rural areas of Nevada, it became necessary to acquire a new van to continue this vital service to our State.

A community partnership was formed with Harrah's Foundation and the Nevada Health Center to help finance a new Mammovan. This improved van will have the ability to help even more women. Mrs. Guinn's many accomplishments during her term have extended far beyond her duties as First Lady. Today, her tireless generosity continues as she works to assist many citizens in our great State. Dema Guinn's endeavors leave behind the legacy of a compassionate woman and a dedicated Nevadan.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to honor Dema Guinn. Her dedication to our community, and specifically the health care system, has impacted countless Nevadans. I applaud her successes and thank her for her dedication to Nevada.

TRIBUTE TO DANIEL HOLSTE

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 31, 2008

Mr. LATHAM. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize the retirement of Mr. Daniel Holste, a science teacher at Humboldt High School in Humboldt, Iowa, and to express my appreciation for his dedication and commitment to the youth of Iowa.

For the last 39 years, Mr. Holste has contributed his time to educating and enriching the lives of youths. After graduating from Wartburg College, Mr. Holste began teaching in Alta, Iowa, for 2 years and took a year off for graduate studies at Fisk University. He returned to teaching for 3 years in Eddyville, Iowa, until he took a teaching position at Hum-

boldt High School, where he remained for 34 years until his recent retirement. In the classroom, Mr. Holste has taught numerous courses including Chemistry, Advanced/Organic Chemistry, Physics, Geology/Astronomy, Hydrology and several math courses. Mr. Holste has also sponsored the Junior Engineering Technical Society Tests of Engineering Aptitude in Math and Science (JETS-TEAM), Science Bowl, Knowledge Master Open and the Physics Olympics. In 1990, his team earned the Iowa Physics Olympics Team Grand Championship, and his JETS-TEAM has placed as high as second nationally.

Mr. Holste has also received a number of awards in recent years. In 2006, he was honored with the Outstanding Youth Leadership Award. In 2007 he received the Fort Dodge District Air Force Association Teacher of the Year Award. This year he also earned the ISEA UniServ Unit 10 "Distinguished Service to the Association" Award.

Mr. Holste's leadership will be missed, but he leaves a lasting impact on the Humboldt community and everyone he has been involved with. I consider it an honor to represent Mr. Daniel Holste in the United States Congress, and I wish him and his wife, Jean, a long, happy and healthy retirement as they both continue to serve the community through different projects.

COLONEL LEONARD SCHROEDER HONORED AS FIRST AMERICAN INVADER ON D-DAY

HON. C. W. BILL YOUNG

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 31, 2008

Mr. YOUNG of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend Retired Colonel Leonard Schroeder of Largo, Florida who I am proud to represent, for being the first American soldier to land at Utah Beach.

During the Invasion of Normandy, Colonel Schroeder led F Company onto Utah Beach as part of the first wave of American infantry at the battle that would turn the war. Commander Schroeder bravely battled for eight hours before being shot and forced to leave the fight.

As part of the first landing, F Company took heavy casualties with half of the members killed or injured before Colonel Schroeder was hit himself.

Colonel Schroeder continued to serve our great nation through World War II earning both a Silver and Bronze Star. He went on to fight in the Korean War and provide logistical support during the Vietnam conflict. Colonel Schroeder retired from the Army in 1971.

Madam Speaker, Colonel Schroeder represents the best our Nation has to offer. He served our Nation in uniform and to protect our freedom and liberty in its darkest days. Please join me in saying thank you to him for his actions and his lifetime of service.

[FROM THE ST. PETERSBURG TIMES, JUNE 6, 2008]

(By Demorris A. Lee)

Leonard Schroeder will never forget watching the sun rise off the coast of France the morning of June 6, 1944.

Schroeder, who was 25 and an Army company commander, spent the night before the

D-day invasion with the 219 soldiers from Company F in small, flat-bottomed boats.

"We were a little nervous, hoping we were going to hit the place we were supposed to hit," said Schroeder, who is now 89 and lives in Largo.

At about 6:30 a.m., Schroeder's company began wading toward shore in waist-high water. He held up his .45-caliber pistol to keep it from getting wet.

Amid a flurry of smoke and gunfire, they stormed Utah Beach. Schroeder is believed to be the first American soldier to step foot on the beach during the battle considered the turning point of World War II.

"We prayed and prayed that everyone got the right signal," said Schroeder, who retired from the Army in 1971 as a colonel.

It's been 64 years since that fateful day. But Schroeder said the images from that morning remain etched in his mind forever.

For the next eight hours, Schroeder led his men in battle. By noon, half of them were either killed or injured.

Relatives thousands of miles away in America were desperate for details.

Schroeder's wife, Margaret, 91, said she received a call from her mother-in-law that morning.

"She said, 'My son and your husband landed safely on the beach,'" Margaret said, laughing. "I thank God over and over that he made it back safely to his family."

During the fight, a machine gun round ripped open Schroeder's left forearm. The next thing he remembers, he was heading to a hospital in England.

"I lost some time after that, and don't remember what happened or how long," Schroeder said. "The decision was whether they could save my arm." Schroeder's forearm still bears the long scar from his five surgeries.

From Glen Burnie, Md., Schroeder graduated from the University of Maryland. After World War II, he went on to fight in the Korean War and worked logistics during Vietnam. He believes he is the only remaining survivor among his college classmates who participated in World II. Two of those classmates died last year.

Schroeder, who earned a Silver Star and a Bronze Star during World War II, now surrounds himself with memories of his Army service. Two ball caps with his unit's name are proudly displayed in his living room. In his office are framed military ribbons and certificates.

The black leather boots Schroeder wore when he landed on Utah Beach are in the garage. There is also a huge poster of him on the front of a French magazine that proclaimed him the first man to land on a beach in Normandy during D-day. He and his wife of 66 years were flown to France in 1984 in honor of D-day's 50th anniversary.

Though he turns 90 on July 16, there's another date that's just as important. "I say that June 6 is my second birthday," he said.

TRIBUTE TO WALTER REEMSTMA

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 31, 2008

Mr. LATHAM. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize the retirement of Mr. Walter Reemstma, a science teacher with Algona Community School District in Algona, Iowa, and to express my appreciation for his dedication and commitment to the youth of Iowa.

For the past 41 years, Mr. Reemstma has contributed his time and talents to educating

and enriching the lives of youths. Mr. Reemstma graduated from Sioux Falls College in 1967 and took his first job at Melcher-Dallas. In 1970 he took a science teaching position at O.B. Laing Middle School in Algona, where he remained until his retirement. He actually hated science classes while growing up but began to enjoy science during his senior year high school biology class. During his time as a teacher, he especially enjoyed taking Washington, DC, trips with students. In addition to teaching, Mr. Reemstma is the music director at First Presbyterian Church in Algona and the president of the Water's Edge Nature Center Foundation. In all, Mr. Reemstma has helped shape the lives of thousands of students.

Mr. Reemstma's leadership will be missed, but he leaves a lasting impact on the Algona community and everyone he has been involved with. I consider it an honor to represent Mr. Walter Reemstma in the United States Congress, and I wish him a long, happy and healthy retirement.

RECOGNIZING THE IMPORTANCE
OF CONNECTING FOSTER YOUTH
TO THE WORKFORCE THROUGH
INTERNSHIP PROGRAMS

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 29, 2008

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 1332, "Recognizing the importance of connecting foster youth to the workforce through internship programs, and encouraging employers to increase employment of former foster youth". First, I would like to thank my distinguished colleague, DENNIS CARDOZA of California, for introducing this important piece of legislation. This resolution will recognize the significance of creating links between foster youth and the workplace through internship opportunities while also urging employers to pursue former foster youth. The creation of internship and employment opportunities for current and former foster youths has the potential to dramatically shape the lives of thousands for the better. I strongly encourage my colleagues to support this act.

There are over 500,000 children and youth in foster care. As the youth age out of the system, 50 percent become homeless within the first 18 months of emancipation. Less than half of these youth are employed 2.5–4 years after leaving the system. Only 38 percent remain employed for over a year. Former foster care youth are twice as likely to have children in foster care. This problem is systemic, yet through opportunities and internships we can break this cycle of impoverishment and failure.

This bill is an appeal to our Nation's employers to help us address this issue by providing internships for disadvantaged foster youth, and by providing employment once they "age-out" of the foster care system. Such action will instill knowledge and work-ethic. These experiences will open up a new world of opportunity to a group that was struggling, not due to a lack of inherent qualifications, but rather due to the misfortunes of their upbringing.

This resolution will express the desire of Congress to address the problems of foster care youth, and this resolution will express Congress' widespread support of partnerships and initiatives between businesses and foster care programs, to help better prepare foster care youth for the working world.

This resolution seeks to benefit the over 500,000 foster care children and youth by providing them with the opportunity to further themselves through educational and work experiences. As these experiences accrue, they will present the foster youth with an idea of the opportunities latent within their world, and will hopefully inspire them to move forward in pursuit of job and educational opportunities.

As of 2003 there were 26,133 children in the Texas foster care system. Since then, the number has only risen. For many of these children the future will include stints in jail, poverty, and homelessness, yet strong action on the part of businesses and foster care programs in creating internships and partnerships may save many from this fate, leading them to secure jobs and successful lives. I have often concerned myself with issues regarding the safety and success of our future, our Nation's children. By preventing toxic lead levels in houses, by ensuring the safety of children in schools, and by encouraging businesses to form partnerships with foster care, we take small, but significant, steps toward guaranteeing the well-being of our children and the security our Nation's future. I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

EMPLOYEE VERIFICATION
AMENDMENT ACT OF 2008

SPEECH OF

HON. DAVID DREIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 30, 2008

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the extension of the e-verify program, which I have supported since it was initially created under the Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act of 1996. Since that time we have continued our fight to strengthen our immigration laws.

Unfortunately when we had the debate in 1996 my colleagues did not approve an amendment to make our Social Security card counterfeit-proof. Since that time, I have worked with my colleagues in a bi-partisan way to ensure that we improve our employment verification system and Social Security cards so that neither is susceptible to fraud. To achieve this goal I have introduced H.R. 98, the Illegal Immigration Reform and Social Security Protection Act with my colleague from Texas, the distinguished chair of the House Intelligence Committee and former Border Patrol Agent SILVESTRE REYES. This bill would go a long way to address the employment magnet that draws illegal immigrants to the United States.

It is important to note that the bill before us commissions further studies on the e-verify program. We know from a 2005 GAO study on e-verify that the system is still susceptible to fraud and cannot identify when multiple people are using the same Social Security number. The raids conducted of Swift Meatpacking plants in 2006 showed the ease with which

fraudulent Social Security numbers were used to gain unlawful employment. Swift was an e-verify participant and yet was found to have been employing several hundred illegal immigrants.

While I support this measure to extend the program, I hope very much that we can have a more open debate on the need to prevent fraud in our employment verification system. Only when we address the need to improve the security of the Social Security card and employment verification system will we be able crack down on the employment magnet that draws people to this country illegally.

CONGRATULATING ALBANIA AND
CROATIA ON BEING INVITED TO
BEGIN ACCESSION TALKS WITH
THE NORTH ATLANTIC TREATY
ORGANIZATION

SPEECH OF

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 30, 2008

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Madam Speaker, as we now consider and certainly will adopt House Resolution 1266, congratulating Albania and Croatia on being invited to begin accession talks with the North Atlantic Treaty Organization and expressing support for continuing to enlarge the alliance, I would like to express my support for these countries as they move forward.

As Chairman of the Helsinki Commission, I convened a hearing on NATO enlargement in early March, where we examined the respective NATO prospects not only of Albania and Croatia but also of Macedonia, Georgia and Ukraine. While some of these countries must still contend with outstanding issues, whether of their own making or not, I strongly support their NATO aspirations and encourage them to move forward as well.

I am well aware of the many hurdles Albania has faced in recovering from decades of extremely repressive communist rule. Albania has also had to confront an often undeservedly negative image in the rest of Europe. Receiving its invitation at the Bucharest summit in April, therefore, was an amazing achievement of which every Albanian citizen, regardless of their political affiliation, should be proud. It is my hope, however, that the sense of accomplishment will encourage the country's leaders to continue the transition to a state based on democratic norms and the rule of law, especially as Albania prepares for elections next year and continues its investigation of the March tragedy at Gerdec.

Croatia also has had to address many challenges prior to receiving its invitation, although in its case those challenges related to the very violent conflicts associated with Yugoslavia's demise in the 1990s. It was clear that Croatia always had the potential to recover quickly, and it fortunately did just that.

The challenges Albania and Croatia have faced, in my view, will ultimately make them better allies. Their citizens have an appreciation of freedom and a desire for protecting freedom that many living in more established democracies may have lost. And as countries who can recall their dependence on European security structures to help them in their times

of need, they now are committed to becoming contributors to those same European security structures.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 4040
CONSUMER PRODUCT SAFETY
IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 2008

SPEECH OF

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 30, 2008

Ms. DeLAURO. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of the conference report on H.R. 4040, the Consumer Product Safety Improvement Act of 2008, and applaud the members of the conference committee for their work in reaching an agreement on this very important legislation.

I also would like to congratulate the coalition of consumer groups for their efforts, including: Consumers Union, Consumer Federation of America, Kids in Danger, National Research Center for Women & Families, Public Citizen, Union of Concerned Scientists, and the U.S. Public Interest Research Group. These groups were instrumental in urging the conference committee to adopt the best provisions from the House and Senate bills.

After 2007 became the "Year of the Recall" due to the numerous recalls of toys and children's products, it was imperative that Congress act to stem the flow of unsafe products into our stores and homes. That is why I introduced legislation that would, among other things, ban lead in children's products, enhance recall and inspection authority of the Consumer Product Safety Commission, CPSC, and expedite recall disclosure to the public. This bill was cosponsored by 167 of my colleagues.

I am pleased that some of the important ideas and provisions in this bill were included in the final conference report, including language that would: essentially ban lead in toys and children's products; require CPSC to establish a publicly-accessible database to inform consumers about unsafe products; require third-party testing of certain children's products; and ensure that the CPSC does not preempt State or local laws.

I am especially pleased that that this legislation includes provisions to provide the CPSC with the new authority to cease the distribution of toys that pose an imminent hazard from the outset. This is a provision that I worked on with Congresswoman ESHOO, and I am proud to see it in the conference report.

The conference committee should be commended for insisting that the final conference agreement include a ban on toxic phthalates from children's products. Earlier this year, some of the country's largest toy sellers, including Wal-Mart, Toys-R-Us, and Babies-R-Us notified their suppliers that they would no longer carry products containing phthalates beginning in 2009. It would have been senseless if Congress had allowed for the continued use of phthalates in children's products even though the market already has essentially banned it.

Many of us who support the final conference report would agree that it could have been stronger, but we also agree that it represent a solid first step. We should remain vigilant in

ensuring that our families and children are truly protected from harmful products and be prepared to make further improvements to these laws should additional problems arise in the future.

WATER USE EFFICIENCY AND
CONSERVATION RESEARCH ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 30, 2008

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 3957, a measure aimed at increasing research, development, education, and technology transfer activities related to water use efficiency and conservation technologies at the Environmental Protection Agency.

It is evident that current water use and management practices are draining supplies and it is critical that we obtain knowledge of newer technologies that will increase sustainability. It is our hope that this legislation will promote technologies and approaches that will contribute towards ensuring a healthy and sustainable water supply.

EPA's research, development and dissemination of technologies that promote greater water use will also help to advance water conservation as a national goal.

More importantly, however, it is our hope that it will reduce the threat of a diminishing water supply and prepare us for water shortages that are increasing in frequency.

As the Chairwoman of the House Transportation and Infrastructure Subcommittee on Water Resources and Environment, I am keenly aware of the need for increased Federal research on new and emerging technologies for water use efficiency and conservation. As noted in testimony before my Subcommittee, the growing water-related challenges facing our nation, including the need to repair and replace much of our antiquated water infrastructure, urban sprawl, and the threat of global warming, requires us to address these challenges in an integrated, comprehensive fashion—including the need to develop the next generation of water-related infrastructure.

I was pleased to work with Chairman GORDON and the sponsor of this legislation, Mr. Matheson, on an amendment to include within the scope of research and development program technologies and processes to enable the collection, storage, treatment and reuse of stormwater, as well as the creation of a publicly-accessible clearing house for information on technologies and processes developed under this program. This amendment was adopted during the Committee on Science and Technology's markup of this legislation.

In an effort to bring this legislation to the floor for consideration as quickly as possible, the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure did not seek a referral of the bill. The Transportation Committee did this, however, with the understanding that this decision does not waive, reduce or affect the jurisdiction of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

I look forward to a continuing dialogue with both the Senate and the Committee on

Science and Technology in Conference as we work to resolve our differences in this important piece of legislation. Working together we will be able to advance sustainable water use and management practices that will contribute to the overall health of our nation.

I also look forward to the next Congress when I hope to work with my colleagues on both the Science and Transportation Committees on improving research of water quality, as well as on improving the nation's monitoring systems for all facets of our precious water resources.

I urge my colleagues to join with me to support this bill, and authorizing the Environmental Protection Agency to establish a research and development program that will promote water use efficiency practices and promote water conservation as a national goal.

COMMODITY MARKETS TRANSPARENCY AND ACCOUNTABILITY
ACT OF 2008

SPEECH OF

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 30, 2008

Ms. McCOLLUM of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the Commodity Markets Transparency and Accountability Act of 2008 (H.R. 6604). I commend Chairman PETERSON for his hard work on this legislation, which will help curtail the rising oil prices through curbing excessive speculation in commodity futures markets.

High gasoline prices are burdening American families every day. The conversation on addressing our energy challenge has focused largely around factors of supply and demand. However, the rise in the price of oil cannot be attributed to any one factor. Burgeoning world oil demand, collusive practices of OPEC nations, the weakening dollar, and possible excessive speculation in the energy futures market are all potential contributors to the problem.

Though we cannot say with certainty whether speculation is driving up the price of oil, Department of Energy officials have observed that the magnitude of price increases is unlikely to result from supply and demand forces alone. They have pointed to excessive speculation as a likely contributor to inflated oil prices. In the face of this possibility, Congress should act now, without disrupting healthy market activity, to close loopholes and prevent excessive speculation from driving up prices and increasing hardship for American families.

The Commodity Markets Transparency and Accountability Act enhances the regulatory capacity of the Commodity Futures Trade Commission (CFTC). Through increased staffing, closing corporate loopholes, and setting position limits for individuals, CFTC will be better equipped to address the problem of high energy prices that are burdening American families. The Commodity Markets Transparency and Accountability Act also directs the Government Accountability Office to conduct a detailed study of speculators' effects on agriculture and energy futures markets and prices. Along with acting proactively to prevent potential excessive speculation today, this bill will allow for a better understanding of what the effects of speculation have actually been.

The Commodity Markets Transparency and Accountability Act takes bold steps to curb excessive speculation that may be contributing to the hardships American families are facing today. I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

SUPPORTING THE GOALS AND IDEALS OF NATIONAL CAMPUS SAFETY AWARENESS MONTH

SPEECH OF

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 29, 2008

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 1288, establishing September as National Campus Safety Awareness Month. Every college and university student should have the opportunity for a quality education on a campus where he or she feels safe and comfortable. We need to support efforts by our nation's higher education institutions to improve safety on our campuses.

National Campus Safety Awareness Month will encourage institutions to participate in endeavors to increase campus safety. September, one of the first months back to school, is a perfect time to remind college and university students about the importance of campus and personal safety. During the month of September and throughout the year, colleges and universities will be motivated to inform students about critical campus issues like sexual assault, drug and alcohol abuse, hazing, and stalking. Schools will be encouraged to use preventative programming to address potential problems early. By increasing knowledge and prevention of these issues, I know students can receive the valuable educational experience they deserve. I ask my colleagues to join me in supporting H. Res. 1288.

APOLOGIZING FOR THE ENSLAVEMENT AND RACIAL SEGREGATION OF AFRICAN-AMERICANS

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 29, 2008

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 194, "Apologizing for the enslavement and racial segregation of African-Americans," introduced by my distinguished colleague from Tennessee, Representative STEVE COHEN, of which I am a cosponsor. This important legislation expresses Congress's remorse for America's past treatment of African-Americans.

Mr. Speaker, I know that many would think it a non-issue to address the events of over 135 years ago, but the legacy of slavery and racial segregation continues to have a profound impact on American society. The social and economic disparity lives on, as do hatred, bias, and discrimination. The consequences of the slave trade have been profound and the scars that it produced still have not healed. Despite two centuries of progress, the African American community continues to feel the impact of slavery and subsequent years of racism

and persecution. Our fight for equality and against injustice against all must continue.

We must recognize and in some small way try to rectify our past. As the famous saying goes, "those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it." This Bill will serve as a testimony to the great injustices that African-Americans suffered at the hands of the United States, and subsequently allow Members of Congress to learn from the past in order to not repeat similar injustices in the future.

The United States today serves as a moral compass for the rest of the world and as such we must provide a voice for race issues. Our willingness to confront our Nation's past and to address the impact which slavery and racial segregation have had on our society strengthens our undeterred commitment to serving as an advocate for human rights and freedom in the international community.

I urge my colleagues to join me in support of H.R. 194, "Apologizing for the enslavement and racial segregation of African-Americans." This legislation acknowledges the fundamental injustice, cruelty, brutality, and inhumanity of slavery and racial segregation in the United States. By doing so, the United States will remember our Nation's wrongdoings in order to not repeat our mistakes.

TRIBUTE HONORING CORPORAL LAWRENCE A. BERGER

HON. CHARLES A. GONZALEZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 31, 2008

Mr. GONZALEZ. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Corporal Lawrence A. Berger, a man who valiantly served our country in World War II and a patriot who is well deserving of the recognition he will be receiving when he is awarded his upcoming Purple Heart.

Corporal Berger was born on July 13th, 1922 in San Antonio, Texas. He graduated from Central Catholic High School in 1940 and a year later, Mr. Berger joined the Army Air Corp, 440th Ordnance Aviation Bombardment, attached to the 19th bomb group, stationed in Albuquerque, New Mexico.

On October 1941, he was sent to the Philippines, arriving just two weeks before the Japanese bombed Pearl Harbor. Later, after the service organizations were forced to surrender, he spent a total of 3 years and 3 months as a prisoner of war. Two years were spent in a camp on the Island of Mindanao in the Philippines, and later he was transported to Japan where he spent another year before his release in August 1945.

Mr. Berger's service tells an honorable story of sacrifice and bravery. He epitomizes the word hero and is undoubtedly worthy of the recognition he is receiving with the Purple Heart award. Mr. Berger, his wife Virginia, and their three children Ron, Vernon, and Paulette, should all be very proud of all that his military career symbolizes and the principles for which he fought—for liberty, democracy, and equality. I am honored to call him a constituent and on behalf of my colleagues here in Congress I thank him and his family for their service, sacrifice, and valor.

IN HONOR OF JOE FARROW

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 31, 2008

Mr. FARR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Joe Farrow, the esteemed commissioner of the California Highway Patrol. Farrow, appointed earlier this year by Governor Schwarzenegger, has taken the reigns of one of the largest law enforcement agencies in the nation. His fervent dedication is evident through the great strides he has made in insuring the safety of California's roadways, and his work is worthy of commendation.

Though Farrow is new to the leadership position, he is very familiar with the CHP's mission of safety, service, and security. Farrow began his career with the CHP as a cadet and has since worked his way through the chain of command, leaving his indelible mark every step of the way.

Having grown up in Pacific Grove, California, he is committed to connecting the local community with what many see as just another disengaged state government agency.

Farrow's ability to relate with both those he leads and those he serves has been a beneficial asset to the areas of California that have been damaged by the recent wildfires. When highways are temporarily closed due to the fires, the CHP has the duty of redirecting traffic to alternate routes. Farrow maintains an equal balance of good judgment and compassion for those people whose lives have been touched by the fires.

Before taking his post as commissioner, Farrow was instrumental in implementing several highway safety programs throughout California. Most recently, the Safety and Farm Vehicle Education (SAFE) program led to an immediate and drastic decrease in the number of farm workers' injuries or deaths resulting from unsafe transportation to and from the fields.

Madam Speaker, Farrow is deserving of recognition for his years of service with the CHP. Please join me in honoring Joe Farrow for his contribution to highway safety, as well as congratulating him on his new position as commissioner of the CHP.

CONGRATULATIONS TO ANN KUTSCHER

HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 31, 2008

Mr. SKELTON. Madam Speaker, let me take this opportunity to congratulate Ms. Ann Kutscher on being Empowered Woman of the Present by Missouri GFWC members.

Ms. Kutscher has dedicated her life to service. In addition to her committed efforts in the 4th Congressional District's Jefferson City office, her accomplishments include 22 years of leadership as President of the Missouri Girls Town Board and many other community service organizations. Her award was announced at the Mississippi Valley Regional Conference in Bloomington, MN.

Madam Speaker, I am certain that the Members of the House will join me in congratulating Ms. Kutscher for her achievement and in wishing her luck in all her future endeavors.

CRAWFORDSVILLE HIGH SCHOOL
BASEBALL TEAM—INDIANA
STATE CHAMPIONS

HON. STEVE BUYER

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 31, 2008

Mr. BUYER. Madam Speaker, on July 14, 2008, the Crawfordsville High School Baseball team won the Indiana Class 3A State championship. Ranked number 1 in the preseason polls, the Athenians of Crawfordsville finished right where they were predicted.

The 32–4 Athenians went into the championship game on a 16 game win streak. Strong pitching led the team to its first baseball state title. Pitchers Cameron Hobson and Steven Rice combined forces to only allow 3 hits and had 17 strike outs. In fact, Hobson tied the 3A championship game record with 5 innings played and 11 strike outs recorded.

The Athenians scored single runs in the first, second and fourth innings to take commanding 3–0 lead, and then added two more runs on a sacrifice bunt by Brett Linn and an RBI single by Brett McKinney.

For Coach John Froedge, this victory was a dream come true. He began coaching the Crawfordsville baseball team 27 years ago. This was the first time any of his teams had made an appearance at the State finals.

I would like to extend my congratulations to the Crawfordsville High School Baseball team and coaching staff for a memorable season:

Seniors: Cody Dowell, Blake Harris, Cameron Hobson, Mitchell Ray, Jason Spurlock, Andrew Swart and Justin Wright. Juniors: Quinten Anderson, Scott Hunt, Brett Linn, Brent McKinney, Josh Rager and J.D. Rice. Sophomores: Andrew Allen, A.J. Ehrlich, Austin Evans and Steven Rice. Head coach: John Froedge. Assistant Coaches: Tony Bean, Brandon Froedge, Ashley Lucas, Brett Motz and Rhett Welliever. Student Managers: Justin Dugger, Rogge Merriman and Matt Musselman.

RENEWABLE ENERGY AND ENERGY EFFICIENCY EXPO

HON. LEE TERRY

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 31, 2008

Mr. TERRY. Madam Speaker, one of the greatest threats to our national security is our country's dependence on foreign sources of oil. We must expand the use of our alternative sources of energy and I believe alternative fuels is an integral part of that.

I have introduced a resolution recognizing the importance of alternative and renewable fuels as well as the role of the flexible fuel vehicle club in promoting alternative and renewable fuels. Flex fuel cars can run on any blend of ethanol and gasoline from E10 to E85.

Fuel cell technology has many different applications from emergency backup generators at hospitals and police stations to a pollution free replacement for gasoline and diesel engines in cars, buses and trucks. Fuel cell technology promises to reduce the number of large new power plants and transmission lines we need to build by allowing the distributed generation of electricity across the country.

One other important aspect is tax credits. Research and development in the energy industry requires time and money. We must give the energy industry the assurance that tax benefits will be carried into the future, if we do not they will chose to develop elsewhere leaving us behind the eight ball.

In addition, fuel cell technology provides important emergency backup power generation capability for first responders and our military.

Over the years I have fought hard to diversify our energy supplies and I am not going to stop now. You can count on my strong and unwavering commitment to make our country energy independent once and for all.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TIMOTHY V. JOHNSON

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 31, 2008

Mr. JOHNSON of Illinois. Madam Speaker, unfortunately Tuesday night, July 29, 2008, I was unable to cast my votes on H.R. 2490, H.R. 6113, and H.R. 2192, and wish the RECORD to reflect my intentions had I been able to vote.

Had I been present for rollcall No. 534 on suspending the rules and passing H.R. 2490, to require the Secretary of Homeland Security to conduct a pilot program for the mobile biometric identification in the maritime environment of aliens unlawfully attempting to enter the United States, I would have voted "aye."

Had I been present for rollcall No. 535 on suspending the rules and passing H.R. 6113, Paperwork Assistance Act, I would have voted "aye."

Had I been present for rollcall No. 536 on suspending the rules and passing H.R. 2192, to amend title 38, United States Code, to establish an Ombudsman within the Department of Veterans Affairs, I would have voted "aye."

RESTORE BALANCE TO TAX TREATMENT OF CHARITABLE VEHICLE DONATIONS

HON. WILLIAM D. DELAHUNT

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 31, 2008

Mr. DELAHUNT. Madam Speaker, in 2004, the Congress enacted changes in the federal tax code intended to address real and perceived abuses related to charitable donations of vehicles. Those changes, while well-intended, have had unanticipated and serious consequences. Over the last three years, charitable vehicle donations have plummeted. The steep decrease in revenue has forced many charities—in my state and across the country—to reduce services to their beneficiaries.

The objectives of the 2004 changes were commendable. But the specific requirements have choked vehicle donations and the charities—and charitable services—which depend on them. Today I am introducing legislation to refine those changes in ways that restore better balance to this provision of the tax code and fulfills the original intent of Congress: to promote charitable donations.

Before 2005, a taxpayer could deduct the fair market value (FMV) of vehicles donated to charity. Under Section 170 of Title 26 of the US Code, a donor could claim the FMV as determined by well-established used car pricing guides, as long as the FMV was under \$5000. However, there was concern that some taxpayers were gaming the system by claiming excessive deductions; and that there was insufficient IRS oversight to detect or police these problems.

In its FY2005 budget request, the Administration proposed reforming the rules governing vehicle donations by allowing a deduction only if the taxpayer obtained a qualified appraisal for the vehicle. However, the Congress rejected that proposal and went much further. The final version, included in the American Jobs Creation Act of 2004 (PL 108–357), limited deductions over \$500 to the actual proceeds of sale of the vehicle by the charity, regardless of appraised value. Only if the charity actually keeps and uses the car (rather than sells it for the resulting revenue) can the donor deduct its FMV.

The rules took effect for tax year 2005. Today, a taxpayer with an older used car in poor condition can call many charities nationwide to have the vehicle towed at no cost and then claim a \$500 deduction. However, a taxpayer with a newer-model car in good condition has no idea what deduction will be allowed until the vehicle is actually sold. That sale may not occur until months later, forcing the donor to roll the dice on the final deduction amount.

During congressional debate, proponents argued that the changes would not add new burdens on vehicle donors or adversely impact charitable giving. To the contrary, evidence abounds that the changes have seriously disrupted charitable giving and forced many charities to curtail services to low-income beneficiaries.

Two new government reports have concluded that charitable vehicle donations have plummeted since federal tax law changed four years ago. In March 2008, a Government Accountability Office (GAO) study of 10 national charities over the two years after the law changed found that vehicle donations had dropped by 39 percent and that the resulting charitable revenues decreased by 25 percent. In May 2008, the Internal Revenue Service documented that the number of vehicles donated in 2005, the first year after the rules changed, decreased by 67 percent and that their value fell by over 80 percent.

To feel informed enough to decide whether to donate a vehicle, taxpayers need a reasonable degree of certainty about the resulting deduction. Otherwise, alternatives such as a private sale or dealer trade-in become more attractive. This is clearly not what the Congress intended.

The objective of the original 1986 car donation provision in the federal tax code was to encourage charitable donations. The 2004 amendments have undermined that goal without improving IRS enforcement. As a result, charities and their beneficiaries are suffering.

The change has affected not only the number of donations, but also the quality of donated vehicles. News articles from across the country reflect plummeting donation rates and the precipitous decline in revenue of non-profit community organizations. The news coverage itself has exacerbated the problem; potential

donors concerned about the changes are discouraged further by the perception of the new burdens associated with the amended rules.

Charities which had operated successful vehicle donation programs, either independently or through third-party fundraisers, have been hit hard. Those unable to cover overhead costs have eliminated vehicle donation programs and resolved to forego the resulting revenue stream. It appears that no charities have initiated or expanded vehicle donation programs over the past two years.

Contrary to reassurances offered during the congressional debate, the tax law changes constituted a classic "baby and bathwater" overreach that has seriously impacted social services provided by non-profit groups across the country. Modest tax incentives are critical to sustaining charitable contributions, including in-kind gifts. The decline in vehicle donations since 2004 could be addressed by minor legislative refinements that would also address potential abuses and buttress IRS enforcement.

Following are the text and technical analysis of my proposed legislation, which I view as a starting point for new congressional debate on this important issue.

CARIBBEAN-AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH NEED FOR THE UNITED STATES TO FOSTER RELATIONSHIPS WITH CARIBBEAN NATIONS, SUCH AS THE NETHERLANDS ANTILLES, AND SUPPORT EFFORTS TO IMPROVE FINANCIAL AND GEOPOLITICAL STABILITY IN THE REGION

HON. DONALD M. PAYNE

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 31, 2008

Mr. PAYNE. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of this Concurrent Resolution recognizing the importance of our Nation's Caribbean heritage and urge its adoption. I would like to take this opportunity, in part, to focus attention on the provisions of H. Con. Res. 364 that highlight the continuing importance of the Caribbean region to our Nation. I believe it is important that the United States work harder to foster our relationships with Caribbean nations and support their efforts to enhance the financial and geopolitical stability of the region. I recently had the opportunity to visit with Dr. Emsley D. Tromp, President of the Bank van de Nederlandse Antillen, the Central Bank for the Netherlands Antilles. During that meeting, we had the opportunity to discuss the growing importance of our relationship with the Netherlands Antilles, which has grown closer, as this country has approached independent status within the Kingdom of the Netherlands. The Netherlands Antilles has endeavored to improve its security through a more diversified economy and favorable environment for additional foreign direct investment, particularly from the United States. The Netherlands Antilles made substantial changes to their tax laws, bringing them into compliance with international norms. In addition, they entered into a tax information exchange agreement (TIEA) with the United States and have actively cooperated on tax enforcement matters. It is an important strategic partner of the United States in the Caribbean Basin with shared in-

terests in countering transnational terrorism and crime and illegal narcotics production. A Forward Operating Location (FOL) on Curacao provides support for our drug interdiction efforts in the region. Madam Speaker, the United States should recognize and support efforts such as these in the Caribbean region, and actively work to forge closer ties with the Caribbean nations.

HONORING THE CENTENNIAL OF THE UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, DAVIS

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 31, 2008

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today, together with Representatives MILLER, M. SPEIER, MATSUI and LUNGREN, to mark the 100th anniversary of the University of California, Davis. In the past 100 years, UC Davis has emerged from an agricultural outpost into one of the world's premier research universities, and along the way it has provided a first-rate education for generations of students, including several of my colleagues here today.

UC Davis touches and transforms everything that matters to us as human beings—our health; the economy; what we eat and drink; the ways we live and work together; how we find meaning through art, music, and literature; and our understanding of the natural world. UC Davis is a leading institution of education and innovation whose impact is felt around the world.

UC Davis was founded as an agricultural extension of the main University of California campus at Berkeley to address a lack of in-state educational opportunities for students of agriculture. Governor George Pardee signed off on the expansion in 1905, and Davisville was quickly selected as the location where the campus opened to 18 students in 1909. Women joined the student body in 1914.

In 1959 the Regents of the University of California elevated UC Davis to a general campus within the University of California system. This allowed the campus to develop as an institution in its own right, growing into new fields and developing its distinctive identity. Today, the campus is the largest in the system at over 5,300 acres and is internationally renowned for its beautiful layout, the extensive bike paths, arboretum and the art that enhances it throughout.

In 1966, the university affiliated with Sacramento County Hospital and within two years the first students were admitted to the UC Davis School of Medicine. The UC Davis Medical Center is consistently recognized as one of the top-50 hospitals in the Nation, and it serves as the region's trauma center. In addition, the hospital's cancer center, children's hospital and M.I.N.D. Institute for neurodevelopmental disorders are leaders in their respective fields.

As a research institution, UC Davis remains the most vibrant and productive agricultural research university in the United States, but it has expanded far beyond these roots. The faculty and administration are committed to providing a rigorous, attentive and research-oriented campus that has created a world-

class learning environment. Each year, the campus welcomes a diverse and talented group of students, and it remains a popular college destination for students from California and beyond—for the 2008 entering class, UC Davis received over 42,000 freshman applications, a 15 percent increase. With a student body of over 30,000, and 178,000 alumni, UC Davis has had a wide-spread impact on life in our state.

In 1996, the university joined the prestigious Association of American Universities, representing the top 62 research universities in North America. Research funding, most of which is competitively awarded, has risen to \$600 million annually, including a remarkable 15 percent jump over the past year. UC Davis's faculty regularly collaborates with leading researchers and scientists around the world. Recently, the university signed a partnership agreement to collaborate with Chilean universities on research in viticulture and enology, a major industry for California. The faculty maintains active research programs in a wide variety of fields with importance to the state and nation, including 1,500 researchers working on a range of environmental issues and over 100 engaged in cutting edge discovery and innovation in the transportation and energy sectors.

The work of the university has long been sustained by generous philanthropy from alumni and others supportive of the university's mission. Donors have established more than 100 endowed chairs at UC Davis. Recent gifts have included \$100 million from the Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation to launch the new Betty Irene Moore School of Nursing; a \$10 million gift from alumnus Maurice Gallagher and his wife Marcia to fund a new building (Maurice J. Gallagher Jr. Hall) and an endowment for the Graduate School of Management; and \$35 million from Margrit Mondavi and the late Robert Mondavi to help establish the Mondavi Center for the Performing Arts and the Robert Mondavi Institute for Wine and Food Science.

Excellence in women's and men's athletics has long been a proud tradition at UC Davis. For its thorough dominance of college athletics at the NCAA Division II level, Davis was awarded the Sears Cup for best Division II athletic program in six of the first eight years the award was given. At the Division II level, UC Davis won multiple national championships including basketball, softball and tennis. In 2003, UC Davis undertook the rigorous process to move its athletic programs to Division I. In 2007, the Aggies gained full Division I status after completing the probationary study-period and they now compete against the finest athletes in the nation. Undoubtedly, the most exciting times in this transition were the series of upset victories over "the other farm" in a variety of sports including football, basketball, soccer, wrestling and baseball.

Madam Speaker, at this time it is appropriate that we recognize and congratulate the University of California, Davis, on the occasion of its centennial. Over the past one hundred years, the university has been of incalculable benefit to the State of California and our nation with its accomplishments across all the fields of human endeavor. As an educational institution, UC Davis is rightly counted among the finest in the country and generations of students have benefited from the wisdom and

guidance of its faculty. I know that the university will continue into its next century as it finished its first: a dynamic institution for education and research, and a true source of pride for Californians. I ask you to join me in thanking all the students, staff, administrators and faculty, past and present, for their accomplishments and continued hard work.

SUPPORTING NATIONAL NIGHT OUT

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 29, 2008

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker. I support this resolution and encourage my colleagues to do the same. This resolution is important today as Americans are desirous of making America a better, safer place. This resolution recognizes the importance of community policing and crime prevention.

Because the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (Byrne-JAG) Program at fiscal year have been severely cut in America, we must be vigilant and ensure that America and our neighborhoods remain safe. The Byrne-JAG monies are supposed to be used to make America a safer place.

Byrne-JAG allows states and local governments to support a broad range of activities to prevent and control crime and to improve the criminal justice system, which states and local governments have come to rely on to ensure public safety. They support: law enforcement, prosecution and court programs, prevention and education, corrections and community programs, drug treatment, planning, evaluation, technology improvement programs, and crime victim and witness programs (other than compensation). In short, they are an indispensable resource that states use to combat crime.

Unfortunately, in fiscal year 2008 the Byrne-JAG program was cut by two-thirds. Although Congress authorized over \$1 billion, only \$520 million were appropriated for fiscal year 2007. The appropriation was then drastically reduced to \$170.4 million in fiscal year 2008, and the President has proposed further cuts for the fiscal year 2009 budget.

The continuing cuts seem to indicate that information regarding the success of the program has not been brought to the attention of members of Congress or to the Administration. Therefore, H. Res. 1324, recognizes that the President should focus on neighborhood crime prevention.

The trend to reduce the grant funding may result, in part, from instances where Byrne-JAG funding has been abused. For example, in 1999 Byrne-JAG funding was used in the infamous Tulia outrage in which a rogue police narcotics officer in Texas set up dozens of people, most of them African-American, in false cocaine trafficking charges. In other instances, jurisdictions used the funding to fund task forces focused solely on ineffective, low-level drug arrests, which has put the task force concept and the diminished standards of drug enforcement that it has come to represent in the national spotlight.

The most well-known Byrne-funded scandal occurred in Tulia, Texas where dozens of Afri-

can American residents (representing 16 percent of the town's black population) were arrested, prosecuted and sentenced to decades in prison, even though the only evidence against them was the uncorroborated testimony of one white undercover officer with a history of lying and racism. The undercover officer worked alone, and had no audiotapes, video surveillance, or eyewitnesses to collaborate his allegations. Suspicions eventually arose after two of the accused defendants were able to produce firm evidence showing they were out of state or at work at the time of the alleged drug buys. Texas Governor Rick Perry eventually pardoned the Tulia defendants (after four years of imprisonment), but these kinds of scandals continue to plague the Byrne grant program.

These scandals are not the result of a few "bad apples" in law enforcement; they are the result of a fundamentally flawed bureaucracy that is prone to corruption by its very structure. Byrne-funded regional anti-drug task forces are federally funded, state managed, and locally staffed, which means they do not really have to answer to anyone. In fact, their ability to perpetuate themselves through asset forfeiture and federal funding makes them unaccountable to local taxpayers and governing bodies.

But, reducing the funding is not the answer. Instead, we should encourage the President to invest in America and keep our neighborhoods safe. H. Res. 1324 does just that. I urge my colleagues to support it.

RECOGNIZING MARIAN MEDICAL CENTER'S CO-GENERATION ENERGY PLANT

HON. LOIS CAPPS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 31, 2008

Mrs. CAPPS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Marian Medical Center, located in Santa Maria, California, and in my congressional district, for the recent completion of a new Co-Generation Energy Plant. This truly is a win-win project that will benefit our community and the environment.

With skyrocketing energy costs, it's very important now that we develop alternative methods of generating electricity. The Marian Medical Center Co-Generation Energy Plant system works by capturing toxic methane gas run-off from the Santa Maria Municipal Landfill and piping it to an energy plant recently built on the hospital campus where it is converted to clean electrical energy.

Piping gas from the landfill to power the hospital will significantly reduce methane emissions and offset the use of non-renewable resources, such as natural gas and oil. The energy plant will also result in significant energy and cost savings for the hospital. It will supply all but 50 kilowatts of the energy necessary to power the medical center and is expected to achieve an annual electrical cost savings of nearly \$350,000. Finally, the cogeneration project will provide benefits to the City of Santa Maria, which will be able to make use of and receive revenue for an otherwise unused, potentially toxic resource.

I am so proud that Marian Medical Center is one of only a handful of healthcare facilities in

the nation to be powered by co-generated energy. This project is the result of a unique partnership and I want to commend Marian Medical Center and the City of Santa Maria for serving as a role model for other organizations in our community.

RECOGNIZING THE SPECIAL OLYMPICS 40TH ANNIVERSARY

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 30, 2008

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 1279, "Recognizing the Special Olympics 40th anniversary". First, I would like to thank my distinguished colleague, LEE TERRY of Nebraska, for introducing this important piece of legislation. This resolution will recognize the significance of the Special Olympics in establish lasting competitive bonds and teaching the world that all people possess the same courage and profound joy in the face of athletic competition. Through its 40 years the Special Olympics has dedicated itself to empowering individuals with intellectual disabilities to become physically fit, productive, and respected members of society through sports training and competition. I strongly encourage my colleagues to support this act.

The Special Olympics currently serves over 2,500,000 people with intellectual disabilities in more than 200 programs in over 180 countries. The organization has over 700,000 volunteers and 500,000 coaches worldwide. Indeed, every four years the Special Olympics requires a massive undertaking of athletes, volunteers and coaches. Throughout all this the organization has stood true to its oath "Let me win, but if I cannot win, let me be brave in the attempt". Indeed, the bravery of the Special Olympics and its intellectually disabled athletes is inspiring, and well worth this commendation.

This bill recognizes not only the importance of an organization such as the Special Olympics, but also its effects. Children and adults with intellectual disabilities who participate in Special Olympics develop improved physical fitness and motor skills, greater self-confidence and a more positive self-image. These competitors grow not only physically, but mentally, and emotionally. In the process new powerful ties are made between individuals and between nations regardless of the barriers of language and geography.

This legislation will express the desire of Congress to recognize the tireless compassion of those volunteers and coaches working with the Special Olympics, as well as the unshakeable bravery of its athletes. Through its 40 years of service the Special Olympics has helped millions of intellectually disabled children and adults to find their true voice.

Whether it is through their 40 years of international competition, or their work regionally, where chapters such as Special Olympics Texas work to bring out both athleticism and joy from the intellectually disabled in 21 sports, this organization has shown a commitment to bringing out the best in both volunteer and competitor alike. To think that from a small summer day camp for intellectually challenged children and adults could evolve into a

world-wide organization, is a testament to the lasting vision of Eunice Kennedy Shriver, its founder, and the commitment of volunteers, such as the 40,000 from Texas, to this dream.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 50TH
ANNIVERSARY OF SPAAMFAA

HON. JAMES T. WALSH

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 31, 2008

Mr. WALSH of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 50th anniversary of the Society for the Preservation and Appreciation for Motorized Fire Apparatus in America (SPAAMFAA).

In 1958, SPAAMFAA was founded in Syracuse, New York by Dick Horstmann to serve as a way to preserve antique fire apparatus and promote an appreciation for fire service history. Since its conception the society has grown to include more than 3,000 members in over 50 chapters across the globe and it is still going strong today.

On behalf of the people of the 25th district of New York I congratulate Dick Horstmann and all the members of SPAAMFAA for a successful 50 years and wish them continued success in the future.

TRIBUTE TO GEORGE F. ROZELLE

HON. KEVIN BRADY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 31, 2008

Mr. BRADY of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of George F. Rozelle III. Mr. Rozelle recently left this earth and joined his Heavenly Father.

A native of Fort Worth, Texas, Mr. Rozelle was a proud Texan and Longhorn fan even when life took him to other parts of the country. After growing up in Arlington and attending Arlington High School he went on to graduate from the University of Texas at Arlington. The business degree he earned at UT—Arlington served him well as he quickly started his career with the Junior Chamber of Commerce and began to climb the Chamber ladder.

After moving to Arizona and marrying Marty, he joined the Fiesta Bowl Committee in 1979. He played a critical role in turning the Fiesta Bowl into one of the premier sporting events in the world; he served on the Board of Directors for six years.

Mr. Rozelle's lifelong passion was serving others and his community. Besides his time with the Fiesta Bowl, he was the President of the Arizona Club, Executive Director of the Arizona chapter of the American Roads and Transportation Builder's Association and spent time with the Arizona Corporation Commis-

sion. Mr. Rozelle was best known for his smile, easy going sense of humor, and his ability to make everyone feel comfortable. His friends and family will also miss his skill in the kitchen; a true gourmet, he was written up in the Arizona Republic for his ability and participation in a local gourmet cooking group.

George is survived by his loving and faithful wife of 31 years, Dr. Martha Rozelle, their

daughters, Deborah and Vicki; son George; granddaughters Brooke, Janessa, Joni, Julie, Katy; and grandsons, Chris and Braydn.

Madam Speaker, I thank the House of Representatives and America for joining me in honoring the life of George F. Rozelle III and offering our prayers and condolences to his family and friends.

McCUTCHEON HIGH SCHOOL SOFTBALL TEAM—INDIANA STATE CHAMPIONS

HON. STEVE BUYER

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 31, 2008

Mr. BUYER. Madam Speaker, on Tuesday, June 10, 2008 the McCutcheon High School Softball team won the Indiana 4A softball state title. The Mavericks of McCutcheon narrowly defeated Franklin Central High School 2–1.

This was McCutcheon's first state championship in any girls sport though this year marked their third state finals and second championship game in four years.

This victory did not come easy for McCutcheon. Mother Nature intervened in their path to the championship. On Friday, June 6, 2008 lightning forced the semifinal game to be postponed. The next day, rain washed the game out. Finally, on Sunday they were able to start their semifinal game against LaPorte only to have it suspended after 4 innings. When the game was suspended, the Mavs had the lead.

Due to the weather, the Lady Mavs were forced to play a doubleheader on Tuesday. They finished their semifinal game against LaPorte, and then carried that momentum into the State Championship game against Franklin Central.

It is difficult to play a doubleheader under any circumstances, much less a championship atmosphere, but McCutcheon was up for the challenge. They were trailing in the bottom of the fourth inning when junior Tristan Wilcox knocked in the tying run with an RBI single, and then Maggie Tull scored the go-ahead run.

Pitcher Tori Collins was able to secure the victory by holding Franklin Central off to 5 hits and struck out 11 batters the whole game. These young ladies showed amazing determination against adversity and drive. After three years of almost achieving the ultimate victory, the Mavs achieved their ultimate goal.

I would like to extend my congratulations to the McCutcheon High School softball team and coaching staff:

Seniors: Tori Collins, Kristen Garza, Kendra Julian and Maggie Tull. Juniors: Maggie House, Brittany Keller, Megan Millikan, Angel Neal, Kelsey Rummel, Kaylee Smith, Meg Teller and Tristan Wilcox. Sophomores: Sarah Copley, Megan Gray and Stephanie Martin. Freshmen: Cassie Leuck and Dani Owens. Head Coach: Jim Bates. Assistant Coaches: Dan Bowsher, Larry Clark, Kayla Doyle, Kathryn Madary and Sarah Haggerty.

CONGRATULATING ARMSTRONG
ATLANTIC STATE UNIVERSITY'S
PIRATES

HON. JACK KINGSTON

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 31, 2008

Mr. KINGSTON. Madam Speaker, today I rise along with the city of Savannah in congratulating the Armstrong Atlantic State University's men's and women's tennis teams. Both squads were named National Champions in the 2008 NCAA Division II Tennis Tournament held on May 17th in Houston, Texas.

It is rare for one university to obtain two national titles in the same season much less the same sport, but the Pirates managed to accomplish this feat. Brigham Young University was the last school to achieve such success in 2003.

The Lady Pirates beat Lynn University of Boca Raton, Florida, to achieve their fourth National Championship. The undefeated Men's team swept Barry University of Miami Shores, Florida, earning the University its first ever NCAA title in Men's athletics.

Both teams are coached by Simon Earnshaw.

I urge my colleagues to join me in congratulating the Armstrong Atlantic State University's Men and Women's Tennis Teams for their remarkable accomplishments, and Go Pirates!

Women's 2007–2008 Roster:

Martina Beckmann, Sophomore, Bonn, Germany; Johanna Dahlback, Senior, Hasselby, Sweden; Sofia Haggstrom, Senior, Taby, Sweden; Alisa Kagukina, Sophomore, Nikolayev, Ukraine; Gabriella Kovacs, Sophomore, Szazhalombatta, Hungary; Alida Mueller-Wehlau, Freshman, Flensburg, Germany; Iuliia Stupak, Senior, Kiev, Ukraine.

Assistant Coach—David Secker, Volunteer Assistant Coach—Zsafia Golopencza.

Men's 2007–2008 Roster:

Rafael Array, Freshman, Las Palmas de Gran Canaria, Spain; Christian Bergh, Sophomore, Oslo, Norway; Paul Bishop, Junior, Whitwell, England; Robert Jendelund, Senior, Huddinge, Sweden; Tim Johannsen, Freshman, Hohenlockstedt, Germany; Kevin Sijmons, Junior, Beligneux, France; Davor Zink, Senior, Santiago, Chile.

Assistant Coach—David Secker.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. ANDER CRENSHAW

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 31, 2008

Mr. CRENSHAW. Madam Speaker, I rise today to submit documentation consistent with the new Republican Earmark Standards.

Requesting Member: Congressman ANDER CRENSHAW

Bill Number: H.R. 6599—Military Construction, Veterans Affairs and Related Agencies Appropriations Act For Fiscal Year 2009

Account: Military Construction, Navy
Legal Name of Receiving Entity: Naval Air Station Jacksonville

Address of Receiving Entity: Jacksonville, Florida

Description of Request: I have secured \$12,890,000 in funding in H.R. 6599 in the

Military Construction, Navy account for Child Development Center project at Naval Air Station Jacksonville, Florida.

Project will construct a Child Development Center (CDC) for 302 children ages 6 weeks to 6 years for full-day, part-day, and hourly care that are currently housed in substandard buildings and inadequate temporary trailers.

The existing child care facility accommodates approximately 246 children. Another 84 children are on an excess demand waiting list. Unborn infants projected list totals 46. Current facilities provide only a fraction of the space required for child care.

Additional space is required to reduce the waiting list of military dependents seeking child care services at NAS Jacksonville.

Naval Air Station Jacksonville is a strategic base for the Navy. This project was programmed by the Navy to receive funding in Fiscal Year 2009.

Military Construction projects are always 100 percent funded by the U.S. Federal government so there is no opportunity for matching funds.

Requesting Member: Congressman ANDER CRENSHAW

Bill Number: H.R. 6599—Military Construction, Veterans Affairs and Related Agencies Appropriations Act For Fiscal Year 2009

Account: Military Construction, Navy

Legal Name of Receiving Entity: Naval Station Mayport

Address of Receiving Entity: Mayport, Florida

Description of Request: I have secured \$14,900,000 in funding in H.R. 6599 in the Military Construction, Navy account for an Alpha Wharf Improvement project at Naval Station Mayport, Florida.

Upgrade 900' of steel sheet pile bulkhead by driving a new steel sheet pile wall in front of the existing bulkhead, replace concrete pile cap, provide compacted select backfill material in areas of failure behind the bulkhead and between the new bulkhead and existing; replace the concrete encasement of sheet pile and concrete fendering panels; demolish and provide new asphalt wharf deck paving; demolish and reconstruct electrical distribution structure and relocate transformers and switchgear to new facility; install new primary electrical transformer, switchgear and CMU substation enclosure with HVAC for 4160V ships power, install new concrete shore power igloos to support 4160V ships power distribution; install new high security steel reinforced sliding vehicle gate, pedestrian turnstile access facility, wire rope active vehicle barrier and concrete filled, steel pipe passive vehicle bollards; cathodic protection system; concrete retaining wall. The project will demolish concrete pile cap and fendering face, demolish concrete and 5800 SY of asphalt wharf deck paving.

Naval Station Mayport is a strategic base for the Navy. This project was programmed to receive funding in Fiscal Year 2009.

Military Construction projects are always 100% funded by the U.S. Federal government so there is no opportunity for matching funds

CELEBRATING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF BEN'S CHILI BOWL

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 31, 2008

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, fifty years ago, on August 22, 1958, newlyweds Virginia and Ben Ali opened what is regarded now as a culinary landmark in Washington, D.C., Ben's Chili Bowl. The Ali family encountered numerous hardships on the way to establishing this neighborhood restaurant as a cultural symbol of camaraderie, tolerance and endurance. Ben's Chili Bowl became famous by consistently providing quality food for half a century such as their famous chili, half-smoke sausages, hamburgers and milkshakes. Over the years, the menu has expanded to include vegetarian options and a full breakfast. Celebrities such as Bill Cosby and Denzel Washington have visited the establishment, raising its national profile.

Ben's Chili Bowl is now one of the most successful, longest-operating African-American owned businesses in America. The restaurant is expanding with Ben's II opening next door to their longtime establishment along with a restaurant located in the Washington Nationals' new stadium. Further, a book commemorating the 50th anniversary of Ben's Chili Bowl will be released in August 2008.

Ben and Virginia Ali were inducted into the District of Columbia Hall of Fame in 1991, and while they have retired, their sons Kamal and Nizam are successfully carrying the family's business into the future. Congratulations to Ben, Virginia, Kamal and Nizam Ali for their family's work ethic, dedication and commitment to making Ben's Chili Bowl an American symbol of small business success for the past 50 years.

UNITED STATES OLYMPIC COMMITTEE PARALYMPIC PROGRAM ACT OF 2008

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 29, 2008

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 4255, the "United States Olympic Committee Paralympic Program Act of 2008." First, I would like to thank my distinguished colleague, BOB FILNER of California, for introducing this important legislation. This bill will give a grant to the USOC for the planning, developing, management and implementation of a Paralympic program for physically disabled veterans and members of the United States Armed Forces. I strongly encourage my colleagues to support this act.

There are currently over 2.9 million disabled veterans. The wars in Iraq and Afghanistan have contributed to a 25 percent rise in this number since 2001. Many are struggling to rehabilitate, to cope, and to regain their purpose. We must staunchly support our soldiers and veterans by giving them the opportunity to again represent our country with pride.

It may be impossible to ever fully repay the services that the many brave men and women

of the United States Armed Forces have given for our country, but it is critical that we do what we can to support those that were injured and disabled in our defense. H.R. 4255 will help to provide the many physically disabled veterans and servicemembers with an outreach program of encouragement and support that will allow them to represent their country as athletes and ambassadors of goodwill.

Upon enactment of the act, the Secretary of Veteran Affairs will be authorized to make a grant to the U.S. Olympic Committee, USOC, to plan, develop, manage, and implement the Paralympic Program for veterans and members of the Armed Forces. The bill directs the USOC to use the grant to plan, develop, manage, and implement the Paralympic Program for veterans and members of the Armed Forces.

The Paralympic Program that this bill establishes will benefit the millions of disabled veterans and members of the Armed Forces. This bill will allow many servicemembers to experience the pride of representing their Nation, and will provide many more with the outreach and support network necessary to rehabilitate and regain their strength.

At the time of the 2000 census there were 1.75 million veterans living in Texas. Many from Houston and Texas' 18th have served. It is in memory of their service that I ask my colleagues to support this bill, giving our disabled veterans and servicemembers a chance to represent our Nation through their competitive spirits.

A TRIBUTE TO THE LIFE OF ABRAHAM SHEINGOLD

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 31, 2008

Mr. COSTA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the life of a special man, Abraham Sheingold of Monterey, California. Abraham recently passed away at the age of 91 years old. He leaves behind his loving wife of 66 years, Sylvia, his son Larry and his daughter Janet.

Mr. Sheingold was born on February 17, 1917 in New York City. He earned his bachelor of arts and masters degree from the City College of New York. Abe joined the faculty of the Naval Postgraduate School in 1946, migrating with the school to Monterey when it was moved there from Annapolis in 1951. He was a professor of electronics, department chair and dean of academic admissions until his retirement in 1986.

Abe was a gifted teacher. His command of the English language coupled with his gentle manner and sense of humor made him a favorite with students and prompted frequent invitations to speak at Navy School functions, both during his tenure at the school and after his retirement. His knowledge of subject matter was evident in the textbook he wrote. These accomplishments contributed to his receiving the honor of Distinguished Professor.

Abe continued his involvement in the Naval Postgraduate School after his retirement through his service on the board of the Naval School Foundation, where he set up scholarship funds and honoraria for faculty members. In

addition, he helped establish Congregation Beth Israel on the Monterey Peninsula during the early fifties. He was an active member of the congregation, serving several terms as its president.

Abe loved to travel. He and his wife, Sylvia, took trips throughout the United States and traveled to Europe, Asia, Israel, Australia, New Zealand, Mexico and Canada. The couple moved to Sacramento 2 years ago to be near their children. He is remembered by his family and friends from around the country and the residents and caregivers at Sunrise Assisted Living in Sacramento.

It goes without saying that Mr. Abraham Sheingold was an honorable man with a commitment to his family, friends and community that will forever live in the lives of the people he so graciously touched. My heart goes out to Abraham's wife and children. I am honored and humbled to join his family in celebrating the life of this amazing man who will never be forgotten.

HONORING CHIEF DEPUTY U.S.
MARSHAL JOHN DUKE BUTLER

HON. CHARLES A. GONZALEZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 31, 2008

Mr. GONZALEZ. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor John Duke Butler, Chief Deputy United States Marshal for the Western District of Texas, as he enters the beginning stage of his retirement. Mr. Butler's lifelong commitment to public service, demonstrated by his 32-year career in Federal law enforcement, is worthy of much praise and recognition.

Mr. Butler began his career in May of 1976 when he became Deputy U.S. Marshal in Minnesota. Over time, he held various Federal law enforcement roles and in 1995 became the Chief Deputy U.S. Marshal for the Western District of Texas. He served here until his retirement in July of 2008.

Throughout his career, his commitment to his community stretched beyond Federal law enforcement, as he was an active member of various volunteer associations, including local chapters of the Federal Bureau of Investigation National Academy Associates for 25 years.

Mr. Butler's admirable lifelong commitment to public service and Federal law enforcement has set a great example for each and every community in which he has resided. I am proud to call him a constituent, and on behalf of my colleagues here in Congress, thank Mr. Butler and his family, including his wife Shannon and their children Juliette and Cecilia, for his lifelong service, community involvement, and commitment to justice and law enforcement.

PSORIASIS ACT

HON. DAVID WU

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 31, 2008

Mr. WU. Madam Speaker, I rise today to bring attention to the serious, debilitating,

chronic diseases of psoriasis and psoriatic arthritis, and to urge you to support H.R. 1188, the Psoriasis and Psoriatic Arthritis Research, Cure, and Care Act for 2007—important bipartisan legislation that I have introduced with my colleague from Pennsylvania, Mr. GERLACH.

This legislation would be the first ever legislative action to fill important gaps in psoriasis and psoriatic arthritis data collection and research, and is an important step in providing relief to the as many as 7.5 million Americans that the National Institutes of Health estimates suffer from these noncontagious, genetic autoimmune diseases.

Psoriasis is widely misunderstood, minimized, and undertreated. In addition to the pain, itching, and bleeding caused by psoriasis, many affected individuals also experience social discrimination and stigma. Of serious concern is that people with psoriasis are at elevated risk for myriad co-morbidities, including but not limited to, heart disease, diabetes, obesity, and mental health conditions. As such, psoriasis and psoriatic arthritis impose significant burdens on individuals and society; psoriasis alone is estimated to cost the Nation 56 million hours of lost work and between \$2 billion and \$3 billion annually.

Also, I wish to take a moment to recognize that August is National Psoriasis Awareness Month and commend the National Psoriasis Foundation, headquartered in my district, for its annual efforts surrounding National Psoriasis Awareness Month. Moreover, I thank the foundation leaders and staff for working tirelessly each day to help our Nation make progress toward a cure and to ensure that people with psoriasis and psoriatic arthritis have access to the care they need and deserve.

On average, each of us has 17,000 constituents with psoriasis. As most of us will be at home frequently this fall, I encourage my colleagues to meet with affected constituents, learn more about psoriasis and psoriatic arthritis, and work to reduce the misconceptions surrounding these conditions. I further urge you to join with me and the other 82 cosponsors in supporting people living with psoriasis by cosponsoring H.R. 1188.

CELEBRATING THE WORK OF
MADAM ANNIE B. DANIELS

HON. ROBERT C. "BOBBY" SCOTT

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 31, 2008

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the life and work of a treasured citizen of the Commonwealth of Virginia, Madam Annie B. Daniels. The year 2008 marks the 50th year Madam Daniels has operated her business on Chestnut Avenue in Newport News. In recognition of both this anniversary and her many civic accomplishments, I would like to say a few words about this remarkable woman.

Annie B. Daniels was born in Grove Hill, Alabama. At an early age, Madam Daniels had the desire to become a hairdresser, having been inspired by her great aunt Lady Bell Pugh, a local hairdresser. Madam Daniels began her formal beautician training at the Barnett Institute in Grove Hill and continued at the Freeman Beauty School of Savannah,

Georgia. She moved to Newport News, Virginia, and enrolled in the Spratley Beauty College. Upon graduation, she worked in privately owned salons until she opened her singularly owned and operated beauty parlor on 1309 30th Street in 1948.

Although the ability to operate her own salon was empowering, Madam Daniels was unsatisfied with her first business and in 1958 she established the Madam Daniels' Salon at 2901 Chestnut Avenue. A year later she added an educational component to the salon and the Madam Daniels' School of Beauty Culture was born. Starting with just four students and a basic course of study, the school has grown tremendously in both enrollment and curriculum. Madam Daniels' School of Beauty Culture is a fixture of the southeastern Newport News community, and its graduates have gone on to make their mark in the beauty industry around the world.

Hand in hand with her entrepreneurial work, Madam Daniels has been an important advocate for civil rights and social justice in Virginia. She was active in the Civil Rights Movement in Virginia, becoming the first fully paid female life member of the Newport News branch of the NAACP. For over a decade she chaired the local life membership committee, and through her efforts to increase life memberships, the branch was nationally recognized.

Madam Daniels's civic engagement has been recognized by the City of Newport News, the NAACP, Hampton University, the Urban League of Hampton Roads, the Peninsula Chapter of 100 Black Men of America, and the Virginia General Assembly. Her advice and counsel are actively sought by local mayors, city council members, and state and national representatives, including myself. I congratulate Madam Daniels on her 50 years as a successful entrepreneur and for her 50 years of commitment and service to her community, state, and country.

SECRETARY ROBERT GATES' REMARKS AT THE U.S. GLOBAL LEADERSHIP CAMPAIGN TRIBUTE DINNER

HON. HOWARD L. BERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 31, 2008

Mr. BERMAN. Madam Speaker, on July 15, the Secretary of Defense, Robert M. Gates, was honored at the annual Tribute Dinner of the U.S. Global Leadership Campaign, USGLC, for his leadership in supporting our Government's foreign affairs budget. The USGLC has been an important organization supporting adequate funding levels for the conduct of our country's foreign affairs and international assistance programs. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice introduced Secretary Gates and acknowledged his contributions.

In his remarks, Secretary Gates strongly advocated for a robust civilian capacity within the U.S. Government: "When it comes to America's engagement with the rest of the world, it is important that the military is—and is clearly seen to be—in a supporting role to civilian agencies." In order to further U.S. national security, Secretary Gates argued that our civilian institutions of diplomacy and development

must be adequately staffed and properly funded. It is a message that Secretary Gates has been giving to the American people and to our nation's leadership here in Washington.

I wholeheartedly agree with Secretary Gates' thoughtful statement and welcome his support for rebuilding the US civilian diplomatic and development capacity. Over the last four months, I have held a number of hearings of the House Foreign Affairs Committee on reforming American foreign assistance programs and rebuilding our civilian capacity. We will be having another hearing on this issue in September.

Madam Speaker, the next Congress and the next Administration will have to take on the necessary, but difficult task of reforming our foreign assistance programs, and equally important, improving the diplomatic and development functions within our government. I look forward to this job that lies ahead of us.

Madam Speaker, I ask that the full text of Secretary Gates' remarks to the U.S. Global Leadership Campaign be placed in *The Record*, and I urge my colleagues to give careful attention to the Secretary's thoughtful speech.

AMERICA'S VOICE FOR SECURITY, PROSPERITY, AND HUMANITARIAN VALUES—REMARKS BY SECRETARY OF DEFENSE ROBERT M. GATES AT USGLC TRIBUTE DINNER, JULY 15, 2008

Thank you very much for the introductions. Thank you Condi Rice for the kind words, and above all, for your principled and visionary leadership of the Department of State.

One of the reasons I have rarely been invited to lecture in political science departments—including at Texas A&M—is because faculty correctly suspect that I would tell the students that what their textbooks say about government does not describe the reality I have experienced in working for seven presidents. Organization charts, institutions, statistics, structures, regulations, policies, committees, and all the rest—the bureaucracy, if you will—are the necessary precondition for effective government. But whether or not it really works depends upon the people and their relationships. For significant periods since I entered government 42 years ago, the Secretary of State and Secretary of Defense were not on speaking terms. The fact that Condi and I actually get along means that our respective bureaucracies understand that trying to provoke us to fight with one another is not career-enhancing. Such efforts still occur, of course. After all, this is Washington. But the bureaucratic battles are a good deal more covert.

Of course, the human side of government is always a source of both humor and embarrassment. Will Rogers once said, "I don't make jokes. I just watch the government and report the facts." And the conduct of diplomacy, where—as Secretary Rice can attest—protocol and propriety are so very important, provides an especially fertile ground for amusement.

For example, there was the time that President Nixon met with Israeli Prime Minister Golda Meir, shortly after Nixon had appointed Henry Kissinger as Secretary of State. With Golda Meir in that meeting was her very erudite foreign minister, Abba Eban, a graduate of Cambridge. At one point in the meeting, Nixon turned to Golda Meir and said, "Just think, we now both have Jewish foreign ministers." And without missing a beat Golda Meir said, "Yes, but mine speaks English."

Then there was the time that President Nixon visited Italy and had a meeting with the Pope. Kissinger and Nixon had along

with them Secretary of Defense Mel Laird, but they decided that Laird as, in effect, secretary of war shouldn't be invited to a meeting with the Pope. So, Nixon the next morning went in for his private audience with the Pope, and the other Americans waited outside for the general audience. And who should come striding down the hall of the papal apartments but Mel Laird smoking an enormous cigar, he had decided he wanted in on the meeting. Kissinger was beside himself, but finally said, "Well, Mel, at least extinguish the cigar." And so Laird stubbed out his cigar and put it in his pocket.

The rest of the American party a few minutes later went in to their meeting with the Pope, everyone took a seat. A couple of minutes into the Pope's remarks, Kissinger heard this little patting sound going on, he was in the second row with Laird on the end, there was a wisp of smoke coming out of Laird's pocket. Everything seemed under control. A couple of minutes later, Kissinger heard this loud slapping noise. He looked over smoke was billowing out of Laird's pocket. The Secretary of Defense was on fire. Now the rest of the delegation heard this slapping noise, and they thought they were being cued to applaud the Pope. And so they did. And Henry later told us, "God only knows what his Holiness thought, seeing the American secretary of defense immolating himself, and the entire American party applauding the fact."

I am honored to receive this award, and I consider it a privilege to be associated with the United States Global Leadership Campaign. It is a truly remarkable collection of "strange bedfellows"—from Save the Children to Caterpillar, from Catholic Relief Services to AIPAC, and even Boeing and Northrop Grumman. This organization has been a prescient, and often lonely, advocate for the importance of diplomacy and international development to America's vital national interests—and I commend you for that.

Though my views on these subjects have become better known through recent speeches, in many ways they originated and were reinforced by my prior experience in government during the Cold War. Looking back, it is clear that the strength of America's military forces and intelligence capabilities—along with the willingness to use them—held the Soviets at bay for more than four decades. But there was another side to that story and to that struggle. There was the Agency for International Development overseeing development and humanitarian assistance programs that improved—if not saved—the lives of millions of people from disease, starvation, and poverty. Our diplomats forged relationships and bonds of trust, and built up reservoirs of expertise and goodwill that proved invaluable over time. Countless people in foreign countries wandered into a United States Information Agency library, or heard from a visiting speaker and had their opinions about America transformed by learning about our history and culture and values. Others behind the Iron Curtain were inspired to resist by what they heard on Radio Free Europe and the Voice of America.

In all, these non-military efforts—these tools of persuasion and inspiration—were indispensable to the outcome of the defining ideological struggle of the 20th century. I believe that they are just as indispensable in the 21st century—and maybe more so.

Just last month I approved a new National Defense Strategy that calls upon us to "Tap the full strength of America and its people"—military and civilian, public and private—to deal with the challenges to our freedom, prosperity, and security around the globe.

In the campaign against terrorist networks and other extremists, we know that direct

military force will continue to have a role. But over the long term, we cannot kill or capture our way to victory. What the Pentagon calls "kinetic" operations should be subordinate to measures to promote participation in government, economic programs to spur development, and efforts to address the grievances that often lie at the heart of insurgencies and among the discontented from which the terrorists recruit. It will take the patient accumulation of quiet successes over time to discredit and defeat extremist movements and their ideology.

We also know that over the next 20 years and more certain pressures—population, resource, energy, climate, economic, and environmental—could combine with rapid cultural, social, and technological change to produce new sources of deprivation, rage, and instability. We face now, and will inevitably face in the future, rising powers discontented with the international status quo, possessing new wealth and ambition, and seeking new and more powerful weapons. But, overall, looking ahead, I believe the most persistent and potentially dangerous threats will come less from ambitious states, than failing ones that cannot meet the basic needs—much less the aspirations—of their people.

In my travels to foreign capitals, I have been struck by the eagerness of so many foreign governments to forge closer diplomatic and security ties with the United States—ranging from old enemies like Vietnam to new partners like India. Nonetheless, regard for the United States is low among the populations of many key nations—especially those of our moderate Muslim allies.

This is important because much of our national security strategy depends upon securing the cooperation of other nations, which will depend heavily on the extent to which our efforts abroad are viewed as legitimate by their publics. The solution is not to be found in some slick PR campaign or by trying to out-propagandize al-Qaeda, but rather through the steady accumulation of actions and results that build trust and credibility over time.

To do all these things, to truly harness the "full strength of America," as I said in the National Defense Strategy, requires having civilian institutions of diplomacy and development that are adequately staffed and properly funded. Due to the leadership of Secretary Rice and before her Secretary Powell, and with the continuing strong support of the President, we have made significant progress towards pulling ourselves out of the hole created not only by the steep cutbacks in the wake of the Cold War—but also by the lack of adequate resources for the State Department and the entire foreign affairs account going back decades.

Since 2001, international affairs spending has about doubled, State has begun hiring again, billions have been spent to fight AIDS and malaria in Africa, the Millennium Challenge Corporation is rewarding better governance in the developing world, and Secretary Rice has launched a program of transformational diplomacy to better posture the diplomatic corps for the realities of this century. The President's budget request this year, as Condi said, includes more than 1,100 new Foreign Service officers, as well as a response corps of civilian experts that can deploy on short notice. And, for the first time in a long time, I sense real bipartisan support in Congress for strengthening the civilian foreign affairs budget.

Shortfalls nonetheless remain. Much of the total increase in the international affairs budget has been taken up by security costs and offset by the declining dollar, leaving little left over for core diplomatic operations. These programs are not well understood or appreciated by the wider American

public, and do not have a ready-made political constituency that major weapons systems or public works projects enjoy. As a result, the slashing of the President's international affairs budget request has too often become an annual Washington ritual—right up there with the blooming of the cherry blossoms and the Redskins' opening game.

As someone who once led an agency with a thin domestic constituency, I am familiar with this dilemma. Since arriving at the Pentagon I've discovered a markedly different budget dynamic—not just in scale but the reception one gets on the Hill. Congress often asks the military services for lists of things that they need, but that the Defense Secretary and the President were too stingy to request. As you can imagine, this is one congressional tasking that prompts an immediate and enthusiastic response.

It has become clear that America's civilian institutions of diplomacy and development have been chronically undermanned and underfunded for far too long—relative to what we spend on the military, and more important, relative to the responsibilities and challenges our nation has around the world. I cannot pretend to know the right dollar amount—I know it's a good deal more than the one percent of the federal budget that it is right now. But the budgets we are talking about are relatively small compared to the rest of government, a steep increase of these capabilities is well within reach—as long as there is the political will and wisdom to do it.

But even as we agree that more resources are needed, I believe that there is more to this problem than how much money is in the 150 Account. The challenge we face is how best to integrate these tools of statecraft with the military, international partners, and the private sector.

Where our government has been able to bring America's civilian and the military assets together to support local partners, there have been incredibly promising results. One unheralded example, one you will not read about in the newspapers, is in the Philippines. There the U.S. Ambassador—Kristie Kenney—has overseen a campaign involving multiple agencies working closely together with their Philippine counterparts in a synchronized effort that has delegitimized and rolled back extremists in Mindanao. Having a strong, well-supported chief of mission has been crucial to success.

The vastly larger, more complex international effort in Afghanistan presents a different set of challenges. There are dozens of nations, hundreds of NGOs, universities, development banks, the United Nations, the European Union, NATO—all working to help a nation beset by crushing poverty, a bumper opium crop, and a ruthless and resilient insurgency. Getting all these different elements to coordinate operations and share best practices has been a colossal—and often all too often unsuccessful—undertaking. The appointment this spring of a UN special representative to coordinate civilian reconstruction in Afghanistan is an important step forward. And at the last NATO defense ministerial, I proposed a civilian-military planning cell for Regional Command South to bring unity to our efforts in that critically important part of the country. And I asked Kai Eide, when I met with him last week, to appoint a representative to participate in this cell.

Repeating an Afghanistan or an Iraq—forced regime change followed by nation-building under fire—probably is unlikely in the foreseeable future. What is likely though, even a certainty, is the need to work with and through local governments to avoid the next insurgency, to rescue the next failing state, or to head off the next humanitarian disaster.

Correspondingly, the overall posture and thinking of the United States armed forces has shifted—away from solely focusing on direct American military action, and towards new capabilities to shape the security environment in ways that obviate the need for military intervention in the future. This approach forms the basis of our near-term planning and influences the way we develop capabilities for the future. This perspective also informed the creation of Africa Command, with its unique interagency structure, a deputy commander who is an ambassador not a general, as well as Southern Command's new orientation and priorities in Latin America.

Overall, even outside Iraq and Afghanistan, the United States military has become more involved in a range of activities that in the past were perceived to be the exclusive province of civilian agencies and organizations. This has led to concern among many organizations—perhaps including many represented here tonight—about what's seen as a creeping “militarization” of some aspects of America's foreign policy.

This is not an entirely unreasonable sentiment. As a career CIA officer I watched with some dismay the increasing dominance of the defense 800 pound gorilla in the intelligence arena over the years. But that scenario can be avoided if—as is the case with the intelligence community today—there is the right leadership, adequate funding of civilian agencies, effective coordination on the ground, and a clear understanding of the authorities, roles, and understandings of military versus civilian efforts, and how they fit, or in some cases don't fit, together.

We know that at least in the early phases of any conflict, contingency, or natural disaster, the U.S. military—as has been the case throughout our history—will be responsible for security, reconstruction, and providing basic sustenance and public services. I make it a point to reinforce this message before military audiences, to ensure that the lessons learned and re-learned in recent years are not forgotten or again pushed to the margins. Building the security capacity of other nations through training and equipping programs has emerged as a core and enduring military requirement, though none of these programs go forward without the approval of the Secretary of State.

In recent years the lines separating war, peace, diplomacy, and development have become more blurred, and no longer fit the neat organizational charts of the 20th century. All the various elements and stakeholders working in the international arena—military and civilian, government and private—have learned to stretch outside their comfort zone to work together and achieve results.

For example, many humanitarian and international organizations have long prided themselves on not taking sides and avoiding any association with the military. But as we've seen in the vicious attacks on Doctors Without Borders in Afghanistan, and the U.N. Mission in Iraq, violent extremists care little about these distinctions.

To provide clearer rules of the road for our efforts, the Defense Department and “Inter-Action”—the umbrella organization for many U.S.-based NGOs—have, for the first time, jointly developed guidelines for how the military and NGOs should relate to one another in a hostile environment. The Pentagon has also refined its guidance for humanitarian assistance to ensure that military projects are aligned with wider U.S. foreign policy objectives and do not duplicate or replace the work of civilian organizations.

Broadly speaking, when it comes to America's engagement with the rest of the world, you probably don't hear this often from a

Secretary of Defense, it is important that the military is—and is clearly seen to be—in a supporting role to civilian agencies. Our diplomatic leaders—be they in ambassadors' suites or on the seventh floor of the State Department—must have the resources and political support needed to fully exercise their statutory responsibilities in leading American foreign policy.

The challenge facing our institutions is to adapt to new realities while preserving those core competencies and institutional traits that have made them so successful in the past. The Foreign Service is not the Foreign Legion, and the United States military should never be mistaken for the Peace Corps with guns. We will always need professional Foreign Service officers to conduct diplomacy in all its dimensions, to master local customs and culture, to negotiate treaties, and advance American interests and strengthen our international partnerships. And unless the fundamental nature of humankind and of nations radically changes, the need—and will to use—the full range of military capabilities to deter, and if necessary defeat, aggression from hostile states and forces will remain.

In closing, I am convinced, irrespective of what is reported in global opinion surveys, or recounted in the latest speculation about American decline, that around the world, men and women seeking freedom from despotism, want, and fear will continue to look to the United States for leadership.

As a nation, we have, over the last two centuries, made our share of mistakes. From time to time, we have strayed from our values; on occasion, we have become arrogant in our dealings with other countries. But we have always corrected our course. And that is why today, as throughout our history, this country remains the world's most powerful force for good—the ultimate protector of what Vaclav Havel once called “civilization's thin veneer.” A nation Abraham Lincoln described as mankind's “last, best hope.”

For any given cause or crisis, if America does not lead, then more often than not, what needs to be done simply won't get done. In the final analysis, our global responsibilities are not a burden on the people or on the soul of this nation. They are, rather, a blessing.

Thank you for this award and I salute you for all that you do—for America, and for humanity.

LEAD-SAFE HOUSING FOR KIDS ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 29, 2008

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 6309 the “Lead Safe Housing for Kids Act”. First, I would like to thank my distinguished colleague, KEITH ELLISON of Minnesota, for introducing this important legislation. This bill will amend the “Residential Lead-Based Paint Hazard Reduction Act of 1992” by setting the environmental intervention level for lead to 10 micrograms per deciliter. Its purpose is to enact stricter provisions concerning the hazards resulting from lead-based paint in households. I strongly encourage my colleagues to support this act.

The “Lead-Safe Housing for Kids Act” is important because of its potential to ensure

greater protection for children. Children are most at risk of suffering from the toxicity of lead paint. Lead is a dangerous substance, especially so for children under the age of six, who are only beginning the process of developing their bodies and brains. Lead paint can cause nervous system damage, loss of hearing, stunted growth, severe kidney damage, and can even disrupt the development of the brain and the faculty of cognition.

Lead-contaminated household dust, resulting from lead paint is the primary cause of lead poisoning in children throughout the United States. Though the number of children in the United States with dangerous levels of lead has dropped from 13.5 million in 1978, roughly 300,000 children still have unsafe blood lead levels that are in excess of 10 micrograms per deciliter. 300 thousand, a number equaling half of the population of Texas District 18, are currently at a distinct risk of suffering from lead poisoning. Indeed, this is a major problem.

Of the \$43.4 billion spent in the United States annually on pediatric environmental disease, a great majority goes to combating and treating childhood lead poisoning. It is because of this that we must act now in putting forth more stringent testing requirements to combat the grave danger posed by lead paint.

Upon enactment of the act, the HUD will have 90 days to comply with the new environmental intervention blood lead level of at or above 10 micrograms of per deciliter, the point at which the CDC has found cause for concern. This bill will save countless children from suffering from the myriad ailments that come hand in hand with lead paint.

The tragedies of these children and others have exposed the fundamental problem which this bill addresses. For too long there has been no clear federally mandated standard to indicate excess blood lead levels in households, or to require action. This bill will go far to ensure that the children of our Nation are able to enjoy good health, by making certain that all houses become lead safe.

Recently I amended H.R. 2352, the "School Safety Enhancement Act of 2007", which sought to enhance the safety of our elementary schools, secondary schools, and institutions of higher learning, by increasing the amount of money available for school safety. It is critical especially that we make funds available for poor communities, and specifically to require the creation of a tip hotline for school officials, parents, and students, to report the existence of hazards and chemicals. I also provided amendments that would require institutions to create a safety plan, dealing with potential terror, chemical, or otherwise hazardous situations. These concerns for the safety of children in schools are similar to those concerns that I have for the wellbeing of children in their homes. In both situations, I believe children should be free from the dangers presented by hazardous materials and situations, including the threat of lead paint.

As the safety of children should be critical to all Americans, I urge my colleagues to support this act to protect our Nation's children and our Nation's future from harm's way.

EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE UNITED NATIONS AFRICAN UNION MISSION IN DARFUR (UNAMID)

SPEECH OF

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 30, 2008

Ms. WOOLSEY. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H. Res. 1351. This resolution expresses the support for the United Nations African Union Mission in Darfur. It also calls upon United Nation Member States and the international community to contribute the resources necessary to ensure the success of the mission.

On July 8, 2008, seven U.N. peacekeepers were killed and an additional 22 were wounded while serving on the mission to bring peace and stability to the Darfur region of Sudan. This is only the latest in series of attacks on the peacekeepers. The severe lack of troops, police officers, and air transport limits the mission's effectiveness.

Despite the deployment of 26,000 peacekeepers, their efforts are constantly thwarted by the Sudanese government and rebels. Clearly, the success of the mission depends on additional contributions of U.N. Member Nations and the international community. Therefore, I ask Congress to condemn the attacks on the U.N. peacekeepers in Darfur and I ask that the Sudanese government ensure that those responsible are brought to justice.

We express our full commitment to the people of Darfur and call on all members of the international community to contribute the resources necessary to ensure the success of the United Nations African Union Mission in Darfur. We cannot in good conscience turn away from this troubled region. It deserves our full support and attention to bring a halt to the atrocities committed in this area of the world.

TRIBUTE TO NICK DONOFRIO

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 31, 2008

Ms. DELAURO. Madam Speaker, it is my great pleasure to pay special tribute to Connecticut resident Mr. Nick Donofrio who is retiring after more than 40 years in various leadership capacities at the IBM Corporation.

Nick joined IBM in 1967 and spent the early part of his career in integrated circuit and chip development, as a designer of logic and memory chips. He held numerous technical management positions and, later, executive positions in several of IBM's product divisions. He has led many of IBM's major development and manufacturing teams—from semiconductor and storage technologies, to microprocessors and personal computers, to IBM's entire family of servers.

Nick has always been a champion for innovation across IBM and its global ecosystem. He has been the leader of IBM's global technology strategy. In addition to his strategic business mission, Nick has led the development and retention of IBM's technical population and strives to enrich that community with a diversity of culture and thought.

Nick has been focused sharply on advancing education, employment and career opportunities for underrepresented minorities and women—all issues of great importance to me as well.

He served for many years on the Board of Directors for the National Action Council for Minorities in Engineering (NACME). He has served on the Board of Directors for INROADS, a non-profit organization focused on the training and development of talented minority youth for professional careers in business and industry, and he is co-chair of the New York Hall of Science. A fellow Italian-American, Nick was awarded the prestigious 2007 National Education and Leadership Award from the Sons of Italy Foundation.

He is the holder of seven technology patents and is a member of numerous technical and science honor societies. In 2002, Nick was recognized by Europe's Institution of Electrical Engineers with the Mensforth International Gold Medal for outstanding contributions to the advancement of manufacturing engineering. In 2003, he was named Industry Week magazine's Technology Leader of the Year, the University of Arizona's Technical Executive of the Year, and was presented with the Rodney D. Chipp Memorial Award by the Society of Women Engineers for his outstanding contributions to the advancement of women in the engineering field. In 2005, Nick was elected a member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, he was presented with Syracuse University's highest alumni honor—the George Arents Pioneer Medal, and he was honored by CNBC with its Overall Technology Leadership Award.

Madam Speaker, please join me in congratulating Nick Donofrio as he begins a new, exciting chapter in his life.

TELL CITY SESQUICENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

HON. BARON P. HILL

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 31, 2008

Mr. HILL. Madam Speaker, 2008 marks the 150th anniversary of the founding of Tell City, in Perry County, Indiana. Nestled on the Ohio River and surrounded by the natural beauty of the Hoosier National Forest, the city's 7,500 citizens personify a warm and welcoming demeanor and help define the term "Hoosier Hospitality."

The Town's ceremonial observance of this anniversary will be held beginning Saturday, August 2nd continuing through August 9th, 2008. Organized to coincide with the city's annual Schweizerfest, itself a Hoosier treasure developed in 1959 after the city's centennial celebration, a number of celebratory events have been planned including musical performances, historical tours, steamboat river cruises, a city picnic, as well as a parade and trolley tours. I look forward to celebrating Tell City's Sesquicentennial with its residents and attending some of these events during the festival.

The history of Tell City is richly accentuated by the story of European immigrants that came to our country during the 19th Century. The story begins not in Indiana but in neighboring Cincinnati, Ohio. Cincinnati was a

major departure point for German immigrants hoping to settle further west, and in 1856 a group of investors paid \$15.00 per share to found the Swiss Colonization Society. Their desire was to locate and purchase land for a new community—and their search was exhaustive. The search included potential sites as far west as the Nebraska and Kansas prairie. The members of the Swiss Colonization Society finally agreed upon a 4,100 acre site between the Town of Troy and the City of Cannelton in Perry County, Indiana.

They created the new city from scratch, laying out more than 7,300 lots along wide streets named after leaders in science, education and the arts. The first 620 settlers arrived in May 1858 and within weeks more than eighty homes were either constructed or being built.

The first name proposed for the city was "Helvetia" after the early Latin name for Switzerland. However, out of a desire to fit the new country they had come to settle, they reconsidered and instead chose to honor their Swiss heritage by naming the city after William Tell, the legendary 14th century Swiss freedom fighter well-known for sparking the rebellion against the Hapsburg Emperors that led to the formation of the Swiss Confederation, a precursor to the modern day Switzerland.

The immigrants that settled in Tell City desired a community founded on the principles of free enterprise, hard work, and freedom. The community's founding mothers and fathers spoke mostly German and were born in Swiss cantons or the yet-to-be-unified Germany.

These settlers left behind political tensions and the economic perils of Europe for the promise offered in America.

Quickly developing sources of trade and commerce, these industrious men and women offered their fellow citizens the staples of the day through the milling of grain, brick making, and the production of clothing, food and beer. One of the earliest trades established in Tell City was that of woodworking and furniture building. That tradition continues today through businesses such as Tell City Chair, William Tell Woodworkers/Swiss Plywood, and Castlewood Corporation.

As Tell City grew, other industries and services also came to the emerging community, including attorneys, the first postmaster and a fire-fighting company. The first school was constructed in 1859 in a small, two story school house. While the lower level was used for teaching, the upstairs room was used as living space for the school's teacher.

Faith also played an important role in the growing community and remains a key component. The first church was a catholic church, built in the 1000 block of Main Street. While the original structure has long since been razed, St. Paul's Catholic Church continues that legacy and has been joined by ten other denominations throughout the city.

The Swiss Colonization Society continued to direct the city's development through its early years and functioned in large part as a municipal government until the new city could function independently. Over the course of its last several years, the Society deeded the remaining land not settled to the city and the community schools and on April 17, 1879 disbanded.

It wasn't until 1886, however, that the town elected August Schreiber as its first mayor. A native of Prussia, Schreiber came to America

in 1855 and entered the pharmacy business, founding Schreiber's Drug Store in Tell City. His term as Mayor lasted only two years. It wasn't until 1892 when Albert Fenn was elected to the position that a native born in Tell City became mayor. Fenn held many other public offices, including that of county auditor, city clerk, and city councilman. Fenn also played an important role in politics outside of Tell City, serving as a delegate in 1896 and as a sergeant-at-arms from 1900–1912 at the Democratic national conventions.

One of Albert Fenn's greatest legacies to Tell City is the City Hall. Conceived in 1895 by Fenn and others to lure the county seat to Tell City from neighboring Cannelton, the original intent was to construct the structure and then donate it to the County. This action set off a competition with the residents of Cannelton, who also began work to raise funds and construct a new structure for the county.

Cannelton completed its project first and provided the structure to the county without cost or the legal process of relocating the county seat. Tell City retained its building as the city hall, using the extra space in the structure for a myriad of civic and community functions, including use as school space. In what is perhaps the most ironic and controversial footnote to the story, Perry County did relocate its county seat to Tell City in 1994 to a new structure located on Payne Street.

Tell City played an important role for shipping during the 1880's. Early commerce and travel was easier along the Ohio River than via the rough roads that connected the city with other communities such as Paoli and Jasper, Indiana. As a result, Tell City developed one of the largest ports between Louisville, KY and Evansville, IN and in 1889, the Louisville and Evansville Mail line named a new boat Tell City in honor of the city's importance on the route. Comprising nearly 38 acres, the Tell City River Port continues the city's river heritage, specializing in the handling of bulk materials such as pig iron, coke, coal and woodchips for area manufacturers.

The river has also served to challenge the community. A victim of the 1937 Ohio River Flood, much of the community had to be restored or rebuilt. Ohio River Flood Markers are painted on the William Tell Woodcrafters Office Building on Seventh Street depicting the actual levels of the water during this and other floods. As with other communities following that historic flood, the Army Corps of Engineers constructed a flood wall to protect the citizenry from future flooding.

Tell City stands as Perry County's largest community and serves as the largest economic district in the county. To that end, the City recently completed a renovation of its downtown district with new landscaping, street lights, and bike racks. Bike lanes were also added throughout the four-block district.

An extensive network of recreational facilities has also been developed in the community to provide assorted athletic opportunities to the residents of the community. New walking trails and further developments of these facilities demonstrate the pride and dedication enjoyed by this community.

Above all else, the real treasure of Tell City is its citizens. Despite any challenges they may face, they continue to display a collective confidence and ingenuity that overcomes any problem and has allowed the city to flourish.

It is an honor and privilege to represent this community in Congress. I want to congratulate

Tell City on its Sesquicentennial, and look forward to seeing how this unique and wonderful city thrives for decades to come.

TRIBUTE TO LEADERS OF THE ENERGY EFFICIENCY CAUCUS

HON. JOE COURTNEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 31, 2008

Mr. COURTNEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend the leaders of the Energy Efficiency Caucus, Representatives MARK UDALL and ZACH WAMP, for spearheading the Congressional Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Expo. More than 50 businesses from around the country will demonstrate their sustainable energy technologies.

Energy efficiency must be the cornerstone of our energy policy because it affords our country the ability to decrease demand for oil and other energy sources, thus reducing our overall energy consumption and increasing our national security. Congress must enact incentives to make sure that these technologies flourish.

As I travel across Connecticut's Second Congressional District, I have seen first-hand the innovation that businesses, school districts and families are employing to reduce their energy costs and reduce energy emissions.

Earlier this week, I attended a House field hearing in Hartford, Connecticut, at which the leaders of General Electric and United Technologies Corporation, both headquartered in Connecticut, discussed their energy efficient technologies. These two companies, like the ones exhibiting at the EXPO, have developed a variety of products for all sectors of the economy. At the same time, these companies are also seeing their own energy consumption and costs lowered as they embrace energy efficient technologies internally.

I encourage my colleagues to stop by the EXPO in the Cannon Caucus Room on Thursday anytime between 9 a.m.–5 p.m. It is an opportunity to see innovation first-hand.

IN HONOR OF RICHLAND TOWNSHIP'S 175TH ANNIVERSARY AND THE FIRST ANNUAL RICHLAND COMMUNITY DAYS

HON. JOHN P. MURTHA

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 31, 2008

Mr. MURTHA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge Richland Township in Cambria County, Pennsylvania, as it celebrates its 175th Anniversary and to commend the township on its first annual Richland Community Days.

Madam Speaker, Richland's history dates back to the second half of the 18th Century when the area was still part of Bedford County. Some of the area's earliest settlers were the Adams family, which included Samuel, Rachel, and Solomon. Their legacy lives on through the various landmarks in the area that were named after the members of the family. Richland Township was officially formed in

1833 out of land from Conemaugh Township in the new Cambria County. The township was given the name of "Richland" because of the quality of its land.

Over the last 175 years, Richland Township has seen tremendous growth, and, in the last 2 decades in particular, has transformed itself into a hub of commercial, educational, retail, and high-tech opportunities. I'm proud of these accomplishments and I look forward to working to ensure continued growth and a brighter future for both Richland and our region.

The Richland Community Days are an extraordinary way for the citizens of Richland to recognize their township's history as well as to look forward to its future. Madam Speaker, I finish my remarks by congratulating Richland Township on its 175th Anniversary and to recognize the many volunteers who have worked hard to make the first annual Richland Community Days a success.

PROVIDING FOR PATENT AND TRADEMARK JUDICIAL APPOINTMENTS

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 29, 2008

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of S. 3295, to amend title 35, United States Code, and the Trademark Act of 1946 to provide that the Secretary of Commerce, in consultation with the Director of the United States Patent and Trademark Office, shall appoint administrative patent judges and administrative trademark judges. S. 3295 amends both the Patent Act and Lanham Act with regard to administrative judge appointments. I support the bill and I encourage my colleagues to do likewise.

S. 3295 proposes that the Secretary of Commerce, in consultation with the PTO Director, appoint administrative patent judges and administrative trademark judges. H.R. 6362 also states that the Secretary of Commerce may deem the appointment of an administrative patent judge or administrative trademark judge who previously held office pursuant to an appointment by the PTO Director to have taken effect on the date when the administrative patent judge or administrative trade judge was originally appointed by the PTO Director. Additionally, the bill creates a defense to a constitutional challenge of an administrative patent judge or administrative trademark judge appointment, declaring that the administrative patent judge or administrative trademark judge was acting as a de facto officer after being appointed by the PTO Director.

Before March 2000, administrative patent judges were appointed by the Secretary of Commerce. In November 1999, new legislation gave the appointment power to the director of the PTO. That legislation took effect on March 29, 2000. Since then 47 of the 74 administrative patent judges currently serving on the Board of Patent Appeals and Interferences were appointed by the director of PTO.

S. 3295 is necessary because it creates a defense to constitutional challenge of an administrative patent judge or administrative trademark judge's appointment. This bill was introduced in response to several challenges.

In those challenges, parties are contesting the validity of the Board of Patent Appeals and Interferences decisions based upon the alleged unconstitutionality of the appointment of certain administrative patent judges who participated in those decisions. The challengers argue that the director of the PTO does not have the power of appointment under Article 2 of the Constitution. If courts hold these appointments unconstitutional, the effects could be widespread, affecting potentially thousands of patents and patent applications. This situation alone would lead to a greater patent backlog. The PTO already faces what seems to be an insurmountable patent backlog.

Specifically, this challenge creates arguments for patent applicants whose patent application rejections were affirmed by the Board of Patent Appeals and Interferences, as well as a potential defense for patent litigants where the patent in suit resulted from the Board's overturning an examiner's final rejection. S. 3295 is necessary to preserve the integrity of the administrative patent judge and administrative trademark judge appointment system.

I support this Act and encourage my colleagues to support it also.

INTRODUCTION OF THE COM- PENSATION AND RESPECT FOR ENERGY WORKERS ACT "CARE ACT"

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 31, 2008

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Madam Speaker, today I am introducing a bill to improve the workings of the Energy Employees Occupational Illness Compensation Program Act (EEOICPA).

The bill, cosponsored by my Colorado colleague, Mr. Perlmutter, is entitled the Compensation and Respect for Energy Workers Act (or "CARE Act").

It is similar to legislation with that title introduced in the Senate by Senator SALAZAR, but unlike the Senate version it also includes a section that would amend the EEOICPA to expand the number of former workers at the Rocky Flats site in Colorado covered by the "special exposure cohort" provisions of that law. This part of the new bill is identical to section 3 of H.R. 904, which I introduced with Mr. PERLMUTTER last year.

The Energy Employees Occupational Illness Program Act (EEOICPA) was enacted to compensate American workers (and certain survivors) who put their health and life on the line to serve our Nation during the Cold War. Among them were thousands of Coloradans who worked at Rocky Flats as well as some other sites covered by the EEOICPA law. Many of them developed beryllium disease, cancer, or other ailments from being exposed to beryllium, radiation, or other hazards.

When I was first elected to Congress, I began working with colleagues in the House and Senate—on both sides of the aisle—to provide a measure of justice for them and those with similar problems who worked at other nuclear-weapons sites.

Before the Clinton Administration, the federal government had resisted paying claims

filed by injured workers. But, led by Bill Richardson as Secretary of Energy, the Clinton Administration took a different position and asked Congress to establish a compensation program.

That prompted me and other Members to introduce legislation to accomplish that objective. And I was among those who strongly supported the EEOICPA provisions that were finally enacted into law in 2000.

But the next year brought a new Administration that, regrettably, has not been as strong an advocate of the program as its predecessor. In fact, after the Bush Administration inherited this program, they have both mismanaged it and tried to undermine it. They seemed not to realize that this is not just about money, but about the honor of the United States.

With other supporters of the program, I have worked to get the Administration to improve its implementation—and I will continue to do so.

But I also have worked to correct problems with the EEOICPA law itself—and the bill I am introducing today is part of that ongoing effort.

While many people have received benefits under the Program, too many face incredible obstacles as they try to demonstrate that they qualify. More than 8 years after enactment, workers have died without receiving the healthcare or compensation they deserve. In fact, a combination of missing records and bureaucratic red tape has prevented many workers from accessing any compensation for their serious illnesses.

The CARE Act is designed to expand the category of individuals eligible for compensation, improve the procedures for providing compensation and transparency, and grant the Office of the Ombudsman greater authority to help workers.

Toward that end, the first 10 sections of the bill would:

Expand the list of cancers for which individuals are eligible to receive compensation—this would be done by amending the relevant part of another law, the Radiation Exposures Compensation Act (RECA) because EEOICPA adopts that law's list by reference.

Require the Department of Labor (DOL) to pay a claimant's estate should a claimant die after filing their claim but before receiving payment and leave no survivors.

Expand the duties of the Office of the EEOICPA Ombudsman to include the ability to provide information to claimants on benefits available under Part B.

Grant the Ombudsman the authority to contract for expert services to assist in the execution of its duties (e.g., individuals with expertise in health physics, medicine and toxicology).

Require DOL to provide the public with access to the "site exposure matrix" and any other databases or site profiles used to evaluate claims for compensation.

Expand the statute of limitations to 1 year to provide ample time for workers whose claims have been denied to file a petition in federal court.

Require any federal agency with jurisdiction over the program to provide information to claimants in easily understandable language and, if a claim is denied, provide claimants with a detailed, written explanation of all reasons for the denial and the additional documents, evidence, or information necessary to meet the burden of proof on appeal.

Require the Office the Office of Workers' Compensation Programs to directly pay service providers for personal care services and transportation to assist low-income claimants who cannot afford to cover the cost of necessary medical and transportation expenses and wait for reimbursement from the government.

Require claims examiners to provide written notice to claimants who file under either Part B or Part E of potential monetary or medical compensation for which they may be eligible.

Require DOL to provide a list of physicians qualified to perform medical and impairment screenings from independent medical associations and institutions of higher education.

Prohibit the Departments of Energy (DOE) and Labor from destroying original documents related to any DOE facility that might reasonably be expected to be used by workers in support of filing claims under EEOICPA.

And, section 11 of the bill would revise the part of the EEOICPA law that specifies which covered workers are part of what the law designates as the "Special Exposure Cohort."

The revision would extend this "special exposure cohort" status to Department of Energy employees, Department of Energy contractor employees, or atomic weapons employees—all terms defined by the current law—who worked at the Rocky Flats site, in Colorado, for at least 250 days prior to January 1, 2006.

The result would be to help provide the Act's benefits to any of those workers who contracted a radiation-linked cancer specified in the Act after beginning employment at Rocky Flats.

As the law now stands, before a Rocky Flats worker suffering from a covered cancer can receive benefits, it must be established that the cancer is as likely as not to have resulted from on-the-job exposure to radiation. That sounds like a reasonable requirement and it would be appropriate for Rocky Flats if we had adequate documentation of radiation exposures for the years when it was producing nuclear-weapons components as well as for the more recent time when DOE and its contractors have been working to clean it up and prepare it for closure.

However, in fact there were serious shortcomings in the monitoring of Rocky Flats workers' radiation exposures and in the necessary recordkeeping—to say nothing of the slowness of the current administrative process for making the required determinations concerning links between exposure and employment.

So there is a risk that a significant number of Rocky Flats workers who should be able to benefit from the Act will not obtain its benefits in a timely manner or will be denied them entirely.

The bill would prevent this miscarriage of justice, by recognizing that Rocky Flats workers have been plagued by the same kinds of administrative problems that entangled workers at some other locations—administrative problems that were addressed through inclusion in the Act of the provisions related to the "Special Exposure Cohort."

My understating of the need for this bill came from meeting with Rocky Flats workers and their representatives and by consulting experts. I have particularly benefited from the great experience and expertise of Dr. Robert Bistline. Dr. Bistline has served as Program Manager of the Energy Department's Over-

sight of Radiation Protection Program at the Rocky Flats field office and has few if any peers in terms of his understanding of the problems addressed by the bill. In particular, the bill reflects these aspects of Rocky Flats history:

Many worker exposures were unmonitored over the plant's history. For some estimated doses were assigned, and radiation exposures for many others are missing. As a result, there are at best incomplete records and many inaccuracies in the exposure records that do exist.

No lung counter for detecting and measuring plutonium and americium in the lungs existed at Rocky Flats until the late 1960's. Without this equipment the very insoluble oxide forms of plutonium cannot be detected and a large number of workers had inhalation exposures that went undetected and unmeasured.

Exposure to neutron radiation was not monitored until the late 1950's and most of those measurements through 1970 have been found to be in error. In some areas of the plant the neutron doses were as much as 2 to 10 times as great as the gamma doses received by workers but only gamma doses were recorded.

As a result of these and other shortcomings, some Rocky Flats workers have been denied compensation under the Act despite having worked with tons of plutonium and having known exposures leading to serious health effects.

Madam Speaker, since early in my tenure in Congress I have worked to make good on promises of a fairer deal for the nuclear-weapons workers who helped America win the Cold War. That was why enactment and improvement of the compensation Act has been one of my top priorities. I saw this as a very important matter for our country—and especially for many Coloradans because our State is home to the Rocky Flats site, which for decades was a key part of the nuclear-weapons complex.

Now the site's military mission has ended and the last of the Rocky Flats workers have completed the job of cleaning it up for closure. And just as they worked to take care of the site, we in Congress need to take care of them and the others who worked there in the past, and do a better job of taking care of those who have worked at other sites as well.

That was the purpose of the compensation act. I am very proud that I was able to help achieve its enactment, but I am also aware that it is not perfect. The bill being introduced today will not remedy all the shortcomings of the current law, but it will make it better.

A TRIBUTE TO THE LIFE OF SIDNEY HARVEY CRAIG

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 31, 2008

Mr. COSTA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the life of a special man, Sidney Harvey Craig of Santa Fe, California, who recently passed away at the age of 76 years old. He leaves behind his loving wife Jenny, 5 children and 13 grandchildren.

Mr. Craig, affectionately known as Sid, was born on March 22, 1932 in Vancouver, British Columbia and was raised in Alhambra, Cali-

fornia. After attending Mt. San Antonio College, Mr. Craig transferred to Fresno State College and graduated with a major in business and psychology. While at Fresno State he taught dance classes at the Arthur Murray dance studio. Upon graduating from Fresno State he joined the Arthur Murray dance studio and before long owned several franchises and served on its board of directors.

At the age of 22 years old he was stationed in San Diego serving in the U.S. Navy. During the same time he became friends with Hal King, who introduced him to horseracing. King would later become Sid's business partner, trainer and racing manager until he died in 1991. Sid's love for horses led to him owning a number of successful thoroughbreds. In 1995 Sid and his wife Jenny purchased a 237-acre thoroughbred horse-racing stable in Rancho Santa Fe. Several of their thoroughbreds raced in the Belmont Stakes and the Kentucky Derby, and one set a Del Mar track record for 1 1/4 mile.

After moving to Australia with his wife Jenny in 1982 they started Jenny Craig International, the successful weight-loss program which went public on the New York Stock Exchange after only two years. At the height of their careers, Sid and Jenny oversaw more than 650 Jenny Craig centers in the United States, Canada, Australia and New Zealand. Twenty-three years and 4 million dieters later, they eventually sold the Jenny Craig centers to Nestle.

In 1992 Mr. Craig returned to his alma mater and made a significant donation to the Fresno State School of Business, which was renamed in his honor to the Sid Craig School of Business. In 1993, Fresno State President John Welty also gave him an honorary degree of doctorate for his contributions to the university, his commitment to others and its students. And to this day, the community of Fresno credits Sid and Jenny Craig's generosity for helping the Sid Craig School of Business become one of the top 100 business schools in the country. Mr. Craig was known for his philanthropist style with business, his generosity and for his passion for horseracing.

Sid Craig will be remembered by many for his success in business, his generous philanthropy, and for his passion for horseracing. I am honored and humbled to join his family in celebrating the life of this amazing man. His presence will be missed in our community and by many others whose lives he so graciously touched.

TRIBUTE TO LOUISE L. FRANCESCONI ON HER RETIREMENT

HON. GABRIELLE GIFFORDS

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 31, 2008

Ms. GIFFORDS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute and great respect to Louise L. Francesconi, as she retires after 33 years of service to our great Nation as the President of Raytheon Missile Systems in Tucson, Arizona.

Ms. Francesconi is retiring from this position after leading the world's largest missile company, with sales of \$5B and nearly 13,000 employees, which for years has helped guarantee our Nation's security and interests worldwide. Her systems have been employed to protect

the lives of hundreds of thousands of soldiers, sailors, airmen and Marines around the world.

Louise began her remarkable career in 1975 in Canoga Park, CA, as a financial analyst with Hughes Missile Systems Company. In fact, she comes from a family of "missileers." Louise credits her father, Leo Langlois, an engineer with Hughes, for getting her into the business right after her graduation from Scripps College in Claremont, CA.

After joining Hughes, Louise began her meteoric rise through the company. Louise quickly became known and had the well-deserved reputation of being able to not only structure a win-win business deal, but also help the organization think through complex issues and challenges.

In 1993 and the years that followed, she became Vice President and Chief Financial Officer, Chief Operating Officer, President of Hughes Missile Systems Company and eventually, after the Hughes merger with Raytheon, President of Raytheon Missile Systems. Throughout her career, Louise has been known as an inspiring mentor, teacher and role model to all. Her mastery of business strategy enabled the Missile Company to grow over 100 percent in sales over the last 6 years rising to become southern Arizona's number one employer. Louise's dedication to the U.S. warfighter and our allies and friends around the world is legendary. From the Tomahawk Cruise Missile to the complex Missile Defense Systems that guard our homeland, she has provided for the collective defense of this great Nation.

Grounded by her strong love of family, to include her husband John, their children, her parents, in-laws and brother and sister, she has continued to provide strength and inspiration to her Raytheon family. Her long-lasting legacy will be her dedication to the people of Raytheon and her strong core values of inclusiveness, personal and professional ethics and leadership excellence.

I join with my colleagues on behalf of all the freedom loving people around the world to offer our heartfelt congratulations and thanks to a true American patriot. Louise has earned our respect and admiration as a champion for freedom and a role model for all.

APOLOGY

HON. JOHN D. DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 31, 2008

Mr. DINGELL. Madam Speaker, during floor debate on the legislation to regulate tobacco yesterday, I made some remarks that unfairly, and inaccurately, personalized the issue, and I am here today to apologize to my friend and colleague JOHN BOEHNER.

I have the utmost respect for his professional abilities, as well as great affection for him personally. I did not intend for my remarks to be taken in any way as personal criticism. As a friend, I just did not want to see anything bad happen to him or for his family to be burdened unnecessarily in any way. Those are matters that are distinct from any legitimate disagreement over matters of public policy, and while we have indeed had disagreements, we have also been able to work together on

many matters of importance. I hope that we will continue to do so.

Again, I hope Mr. BOEHNER will accept my apology.

TRIBUTE TO COLONEL ROBERT K. MORGAN

HON. BILL SHUSTER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 31, 2008

Mr. SHUSTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the late Colonel Robert K. Morgan, pilot of the B-17 Memphis Belle. Colonel Morgan served the United States of America in the Army Air Corp during World War II from 1941-1945 and the United States Air Force Reserve from 1945-1965. Colonel Morgan is being honored by the Kiwanis Club of Altoona on August 20, 2008, at which time his widow, Linda, will reflect upon the great adventures and accomplishments of her husband.

Colonel Morgan was a great serviceman who dedicated much of his life to serving our country. For his service, Colonel Morgan was awarded the distinguished Flying Cross with 2 Oak Leaf Clusters and the Air Medal with 10 Oak Leaf Clusters. On May 17, 1943 Colonel Morgan and his crew of the Memphis Belle became the first to complete twenty-five missions over Europe and return to the United States. Colonel Morgan's mission was made into a combat documentary, entitled "Memphis Belle," by Warner Brothers in 1990. Following the historic flight over Europe, Colonel Morgan and his crew departed England in June 1943 for the United States and began a thirty city public relations/war bond tour. Colonel Morgan's crew were recognized as heroes at every stop on their tour and thanked by the American public. Morgan went on to lead the first B-29 bombing raid on Tokyo in 1944, after which he served in the Air Force Reserve and retired as a full Colonel in 1965.

Colonel Morgan's heroic service and leadership in the Army Air Corps during World War II and the United States Air Force Reserve will forever be remembered. His service and dedication brought great pride to our nation, his family, and his community. Colonel Morgan's memory as an Army officer of the highest caliber will not be forgotten. His actions reflected great credit upon himself, his flight crew, and the United States Army. I would like to stand with the Kiwanis Club of Altoona to recognize the late Colonel Robert K. Morgan for all of his leadership and devotion to the United States of America.

Colonel Robert K. Morgan's wife, Linda, his family and friends, and the Kiwanis Club of Altoona are certainly proud of the Colonel's life of service and commitment to our country during a time of war both at home and abroad and it gives me great pleasure to honor his life and selfless service.

NO RECESS FOR CONGRESS

HON. JERRY MORAN

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 31, 2008

Mr. MORAN of Kansas. Madam Speaker, For years, this country has needed a national

energy policy that increases the supply of energy, promotes renewable and alternative fuels, and encourages conservation. Kansans deserve action and they need it now. Instead, we have a Democratic Congress blaming the Republican President and both parties trying to score political points in the November election.

After failing to convince my colleagues to stay and work, rather than take an August recess, I voted against Congress adjourning. Now is the time for Congress to adopt a plan to increase supplies and reduce demand. We should stay in Washington until this work is done. The price of gas at the pump, and the cost businesses and farmers face for fuel and fertilizer, tell me that it should not be business as usual in Washington, DC.

IN RECOGNITION OF ASBAREZ-ARMENIAN DAILY NEWSPAPER'S 100TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 31, 2008

Mr. SCHIFF. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 100th anniversary of the Asbarez-Armenian Daily Newspaper. Asbarez, which translates to 'arena' in English, was founded on August 14, 1908 in Fresno, California, by seven dedicated members of the Armenian-American community: Aslan Aslanian, Bedros Hagopian, Levon Hagopian, Abraham Seklemian, Hovanness Kabadayan, Avedis Tufenkjian and Arpaxat Setrakian.

Like its counterparts in other Diaspora communities, such as Hairenik in Boston and Aztag in Lebanon, Asbarez has chronicled the Armenian experience worldwide. Among other things, they have written about the dire conditions in the homeland under Imperial Russia and Ottoman Turkey, the calamity of the Armenian Genocide, the World Wars, the rise and fall of the first Republic, Soviet rule, the tragic 1988 earthquake, the Karabakh "Artsakh" liberation and the independence of the Republic of Armenia.

In the words of Edward Megerdichian, who worked at Asbarez from 1956-1963, "[Asbarez] was ninety percent voluntary, and everyone had a sense of ownership, a sense of community—that this is our paper and our lives are described in this paper."

During the 1970's Asbarez Publishing Company moved its operations from California's San Joaquin Valley to the Los Angeles basin. Since its inception, the circulation of the newspaper has grown from 1,200 copies to thousands; it has become a formidable bilingual daily newspaper and a dependable source for information in the online community.

It is my distinct honor to recognize Asbarez's unwavering commitment to inform and educate the public. I ask my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives to join me in congratulating Asbarez on their 100th anniversary.

INTRODUCTION OF THE "WHAT- EVER IT TAKES TO REBUILD ACT OF 2008"

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 31, 2008

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Madam Speaker, today I am reintroducing the "Whatever It Takes to Rebuild Act of 2008".

A disaster can leave the tax base of an affected community eroded, necessitating Federal assistance to pay for essential services. These essential services, including police, fire, and school personnel, are even more critical in the wake of a disaster. To aid communities, Congress created the Community Disaster Loan Program. While this program has worked with great success, there are two significant issues that need to be fixed. The first issue is that this assistance is delivered in the form of a loan and the second is that any loan is limited to \$5 million. Providing this aid as a loan can further delay the recovery of a local community and the \$5 million cap does not allow for adequate assistance for medium or large communities.

The "Whatever It Takes to Rebuild Act" would repeal the requirement that disaster affected communities repay the assistance they receive under the Community Disaster Loan Program. This legislation would permanently repeal the \$5 million cap on these loans, would make states eligible for this assistance, repeal the cap that limits loans to 25 percent of a municipality's operating expenses, and would provide this assistance as grants when a disaster has been declared an "Incident of National Significance" under the National Response plan. All of these provisions are aimed at giving the federal government the tools and flexibility we need to fully respond following a disaster.

This program was used most recently immediately following Hurricane Katrina in New Orleans. While it was able to provide significant benefits, repayment requirements have raised significant hurdles for many recipient communities. In the wake of a disaster, the government should give American communities the financial assistance they need to get back on their feet with no strings attached. That is why I am reintroducing the "Whatever It Takes to Rebuild Act."

INTRODUCTION OF TARGET PRACTICE AND MARKSMANSHIP TRAINING SUPPORT ACT

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 31, 2008

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Madam Speaker, today I am introducing a bill to facilitate the establishment of additional or expanded training ranges in certain States.

The bill, entitled the "Target Practice and Marksmanship Training Support Act," addresses a problem faced by many sportsmen and sportswomen and others in Colorado and some other States where population growth—and resulting public-safety concerns—has forced the Forest Service and other Federal

land-managing agencies to bar target shooting on some parts of their lands where that activity was previously allowed.

The result has been a serious reduction in the number of appropriate places for target shooting that are readily accessible, which unfortunately means that in some cases such shooting occurs in places that are not suitable for that purpose and where that activity can endanger public safety.

My new bill would respond to this problem by revising the Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration Act—often called the Pittman-Robertson Act—to give certain States temporary authority to use more of the Federal funds provided under that law for the establishment of new public target ranges or the enlargement or improvement of existing public target ranges. This authority would continue for ten fiscal years.

It would also make some other changes to that same law in order to help qualifying States work toward that goal.

The bill would apply to States where there has been at least a 2 percent growth in population since the most recent decennial census and where there has been a reduction in the acreage of Federal lands open to use for target practice and marksmanship training.

Also, to allay concerns by Federal land managers about potential liability related to allowing Federal land areas to be used for target practice and marksmanship training, the bill includes provisions to make clear that—(1) such a decision will be considered a discretionary function for purposes of the Federal Torts Claim Act; and (2) any potential liability of the United States for damages related to any activity at a public target range wholly or partially funded by the Federal government will be subject to the limits specified in the Federal Torts Claim Act.

And, finally, the bill includes a section expressing the sense of Congress that the Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management should cooperate with State and local authorities and other entities to carry out environmental remediation or other actions needed to allow target practice and marksmanship training to continue on lands managed by those Federal agencies.

Madam Speaker, this bill will not increase Federal spending and it does not require any State to use any of the funds it receives under the Pittman-Robertson funds for any new purpose. But it would provide eligible States additional flexibility regarding the use of those funds if they decide to use more of those funds for establishment of new public target ranges or improvement or expansion of existing ranges. For the benefit of our colleagues, here is an outline of the bill's provisions:

OUTLINE OF TARGET PRACTICE AND MARKSMANSHIP TRAINING SUPPORT ACT

This proposed bill would address both the funding and liability issues to make it easier for State wildlife departments to work with Federal land agencies on establishing and improving safe and convenient target practice and marksmanship training facilities.

WHAT THE PROPOSED BILL WOULD DO

Provides additional funding flexibility to states: The bill would amend the Pittman-Robertson Act to allow eligible States to increase the extent to which eligible States could use Federal funds they receive under that law to establish new, expanded, or improved shooting ranges (including acquisition of lands for that purpose).

—Eligible States would be those that have experienced at least 2 percent population growth since 2000 and have seen a reduction of the extent to which target practice and marksmanship training can take place on Federal lands within their borders.

—Eligible States could apply for up to 90 percent of the cost of acquiring land for and/or construction of new, expanded, or improved facilities (current law caps Federal share at 75 percent) and could retain the funds until expended (current law requires funds unused in the year received to be refunded to the Federal government).

—In addition, the bill would temporarily allow eligible States to use up to 10 percent of the Pittman-Robertson funds provided for wildlife management and conservation for acquiring land for and/or construction of new, expanded, or improved shooting ranges and to assist in cleanup or other steps needed to allow Federal lands to be used for target practice or marksmanship training. This provision would expire after 10 fiscal years.

Addresses liability concerns: The bill makes it clear that shooting ranges on Federal lands do not expose the Federal land agency to liability for injuries that may occur at these facilities.

Encourages Cooperation: The bill states sense of Congress that Federal land managers should cooperate with States, local government, and other entities in doing what's needed to permit Federal lands to remain available for public target practice and marksmanship training.

WHAT THE PROPOSED BILL WOULD NOT DO

Impose a mandate on States: The bill would provide an opportunity for eligible States to receive additional funds for specific purposes, but does not require any funds to be spent for those purposes.

Raise any Taxes: The bill would broaden the uses for Pittman-Robertson funds can be used, but does not increase the excise taxes from which such funds are derived.

MILITARY BATTLES WITH HIGH ENERGY PRICES

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 31, 2008

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, as Americans struggle with high gas prices our military is also facing skyrocketing energy costs. The vehicles needed to transport our military and take the fight to our enemies require extraordinary amounts of fuel.

This is a startling example of how rising energy prices directly affect our national security. It is another example of why Democrats must not adjourn for their five-week vacation without addressing this issue.

Between 1997 and 2007, ten years, military fuel costs grew from \$3 billion to \$11.4 billion, which is a 380 percent increase. Meanwhile, consumption of fuel by the military grew only 26 percent.

We need, and the American people are demanding, a comprehensive strategy that creates more American-made energy by drilling for oil and natural gas, building new refineries, investing in renewable energy, and promoting conservation. House Democrats should take a

bipartisan approach and bring the House Republican all-of-the-above energy bill to the floor for a vote. Let the American people's voices be heard.

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

HONORING MR. SAMUEL SNOW

HON. JIM McDERMOTT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 31, 2008

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Mr. Samuel Snow from Leesburg, Florida. Mr. Snow is a hero and a role model for every American, and especially African-Americans. At a time when most people would have rightly succumbed to anger and bitterness, Samuel Snow stood taller than us all.

Sixty-four years ago, Samuel and other African-American soldiers were accused and convicted of a crime they did not commit at Fort Lawton, in Seattle, one of the communities I represent. Last weekend, Assistant Secretary of the Army Ronald James came to Seattle to deliver an eloquent and heartfelt apology on behalf of the Army, and to honor the soldiers, including Samuel Snow, with honorable discharge plaques.

Mr. Snow's son, Ray, stood in for his father when Samuel was hospitalized unexpectedly. After the ceremony in which I was honored to participate, Ray Snow took the honorable discharge plaque to a Seattle hospital, where he showed it to his father and read Samuel the inscription. According to Ray, his father smiled broadly as he held the plaque. A few hours later, Samuel Snow died with his family at his side. His son Ray would say: "My dad has been standing in formation all these years waiting to have his name cleared. With the Army's honorable discharge he was at ease. He now has his discharge papers and he went home."

I am very proud to have had the honor and privilege of meeting and getting to know Samuel Snow, his family, and the families of the other soldiers whose fathers and grandfathers were falsely accused and convicted, and needlessly paid a heavy price for this racial injustice throughout their lives.

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., said: "An injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere. Samuel Snow lived to lead the fight against a racial injustice that is a stain on our nation's history."

Samuel Snow was a man full of courage and optimism who had a wonderful sense of humor and a deep well of courage and conviction. He knew what was right and just, and he died knowing that he had finally defeated the racial injustice that had tried, and failed, to strike him down.

Samuel Snow raised a wonderful family and he lived a quiet, humble life working as a janitor, not once complaining about what might have been in life had he not been unfairly deprived of his GI benefits.

Samuel Snow's life will inspire others to fight for what is right and just, and to never give up on the country he loved so much. I was privileged to stand in the company of a giant of a man and I am certain that Samuel Snow, an American hero, will not be forgotten.

TRIBUTE TO THE 345TH TACTICAL PSYCHOLOGICAL OPERATING COMPANY (AIRBORNE)

HON. SAM JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 31, 2008

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, as the 345th Tactical Psychological Operations Company (Airborne) prepares to deploy to Afghanistan, I ask the Congress to join me in commending the distinguished military company. To the brave men and women off to serve on the front lines, thank you. God bless you and I salute you.

245th PSYOP Co. was constituted into the regular Army on December 20, 1965. The unit deployed to Vietnam in February, 1966. The 245th was assigned to the 6th BN, 7th PSYOP Group. 245th elements supported the 1 CAV DIV, 101st ABN DIV, and was awarded a Meritorious Unit Citation and Vietnam Cross of Gallantry with Palm Device.

Deactivated in January 1968. The 245th was reconstituted on October 30, 1975 in the Army Reserve under the 90th ARCOM, 5th U.S. Army.

In 1980, the 245th supported the Cuban Refugee Resettlement Project at Ft. McCoy, WI. The 245th was placed under USACAPOC and U.S. Army Special Operations Command in 1990. December 27, 1990, 18 soldiers mobilized to support Operation Desert Shield.

Tactical PSYOP Teams conducted combat operations with elements of the 1st, 2nd Marine Divisions and the 5th Special Forces Group during Operation Desert Storm. 245th teams distinguished themselves at the Battle of Khafji, the liberation of Kuwait City, and with deception and surrender appeals in the Kuwaiti desert. Members earned Marine Combat Action Ribbons, Navy Meritorious Unit Commendations, and four Bronze Stars. The 245th also earned the Army Meritorious Unit Commendation.

September 16, 1994, a Tactical Detachment deployed to Haiti in support of Operation Uphold Democracy. Two soldiers supported a team of the 3rd Special Forces Group and the rest were with the 10th Mountain DIV. TPTs conducted civilian non-interference, civil information campaigns, and QRF operations.

In 1996, the 245th was redesignated the 345th Tactical PSYOP Co. (Airborne), 16th BN, 2nd PSYOP GRP. The unit conducted numerous training exercises at JRTC, NTC, and CMTC in Germany.

In 1997, the 345th was given the warning order to deploy to the Balkans for Operation Joint Guard. In 1998, the unit operated in war-torn Bosnia. The unit was primarily in the Multi-National Division North supporting the 3/2 Armored Cavalry Regiment. Other soldiers were in Sarajevo and Banja Luka. Teams conducted presence patrols in the Zone of Separation between the Serbs, Muslims, and Croats, civilian non-interference, civil information campaign, mine awareness, and passive intelligence gathering.

In 2000, a Tactical Detachment deployed to Kosovo to conduct missions, in support of Operation Joint Guardian. KFOR Teams ran similar missions as in Bosnia, with their 310th PSYOP Co. counterparts and the 82nd ABN DIV.

In the late 1990s through the early 2000s, the OPTEMPO of the unit steadily increased

with missions to Germany, Jordan, Oman, and Egypt. However, on September 11, 2001, the 345th prepared to defend freedom with the onset of the Global War on Terror.

In 2002, three Tactical Detachments and a Headquarters/PDD deployed with the 3rd Special Forces Group's 1st BN to Afghanistan for Operation Enduring Freedom. 345th Teams were spread throughout the country to work with 3rd, 19th, 20th, and 7th SF GRP ODAs, other government agencies, Afghan militias, and conventional soldiers to hunt hostile Taliban and Al Qaeda terrorists, conduct civilian non-interference, tactical deception, surrender appeals, special recon, mine awareness, sensitive site exploitation, and direct action in support of unconventional warfare. 345th soldiers were recognized with numerous awards. The unit has had soldiers continuously deployed to OEF since, where they continue to set the standard for special operations in austere environments.

With less than a year home, the 345th was given a warning order to prepare to deploy in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. From February to October 2004, the 345th was assigned responsibility for tactical PSYOP in Baghdad, Iraq supporting elements of the 1st Armored Division, 1st Cavalry Division, 10th Mountain Division, and numerous other special operations, foreign, and host nation forces. Teams conducted the full spectrum of military operations in urban terrain. From direct action raids, cordon and searches, and sonic deception to humanitarian assistance, 345th teams were involved in direct combat operations against anti-coalition forces, foreign terrorists, Al Sad's Mahdi Army militia, former Baathists, and other hostile forces. Six Purple Hearts were awarded and a multitude of other awards to individual soldiers and the unit. The 345th remains actively engaged in this theater, as well.

In 2006, reserve component PSYOP units were reassigned to the U.S. Army Reserve Command, though continue to train through the U.S. Army's JFK Special Warfare Center and School.

345th Soldiers have sent soldiers on every rotation in support of the Global War on Terror since 9-11. 345th soldiers have also been called to serve in small teams or as individuals in Romania, Korea, Japan, Ecuador, Germany, Italy, and Egypt with no sign of letting up. 345th soldiers continue to attend professional schools, training rotations, and prepare for future combat deployments.

RECOGNIZING THE OAKLAND COMPOSITE SQUADRON COLOR GUARD TEAM

HON. JOE KNOLLENBERG

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 31, 2008

Mr. KNOLLENBERG. Madam Speaker, I want to recognize the Oakland Composite Squadron Color Guard Team for their excellent performance at the National Cadet Competition last month. The members of the team have and continue to represent the Civil Air Patrol with honor, distinction, and professionalism.

The Civil Air Patrol, CAP, was established on December 1, 1947, as the all volunteer

auxiliary of the United States Air Force. Today there are more than 56,000 members in the 50 States, District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico. The membership of the CAP is comprised of cadets between the ages of 12 and 18, and senior members, who are 18 or older. The Michigan Wing of the CAP currently has 487 cadets and 740 senior members. The CAP has three missions; to run cadet programs to build character, leadership, patriotism, and honor; to promote aerospace education; and to serve as a primary resource for the U.S. Air Force Rescue Coordination Center.

The Oakland Composite Squadron, which is located in Waterford, Michigan, has 57 members, 29 of whom are cadets. Earlier this year, five of those cadets stepped forward to serve as members of the squadron's Color Guard Team. The team appears at public events like parades and veterans' ceremonies presenting and posting colors. They also participated in Color Guard competitions which require dedication, team work, and exceptional academic success.

After embarking on a rigorous training regimen that required physical and mental discipline, the Oakland Composite Squadron Color Guard went on to win first place overall at the Michigan Wing competition after sweeping all seven events on March 30. Then, on May 4, the team once again won first place overall at the Great Lakes Regional competition. They would go on to represent the entire region, consisting of Michigan, Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Kentucky, and Wisconsin in the National Cadet Competition on June 30. At the National Competition, the team took second place in the Academic Panel Quiz and tied for third place overall.

Madam Speaker, I wish to congratulate these cadets for their hard work and dedication. I am proud to represent these young men and women who have shown such character in competition. Theirs is a shining example of what we are all capable of achieving with dedication and hard work.

THE FUEL IMMIGRATION ENFORCEMENT ACT OF 2008

HON. HARRY E. MITCHELL

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 31, 2008

Mr. MITCHELL. Madam Speaker, Today I, along with Representatives CHRIS SHAYS and HEATH SHULER, introduced H.R. 6687, the Fuel Immigration Enforcement Act of 2008.

This bill would help ensure that Immigration and Customs Enforcement ("ICE") has the resources it needs to enforce our nation's immigration laws in the face of the rising cost of fuel.

Last year, ICE budgeted \$20 million for fuel expenses, but the rising price of gas forced them to spend more than \$40 million.

Even more alarming, it appears the \$20 million fuel budget was based on an assumption by the Department of Homeland Security that the price of gas was approximately \$1.62 per gallon.

The Fuel Immigration Enforcement Act would require the Department of Homeland Security to begin using realistic estimates for ICE's fuel expenses. Specifically, it would re-

quire the Department to calculate, on an annual basis, the cost of fuel expenses for all vehicles owned or operated by ICE according to gasoline prices reported by the U.S. Department of Energy's Energy Information Administration Gasoline and Diesel Fuel Update, and then report those calculations to Congress.

ICE is tasked with enforcing our nation's immigration laws, and is absolutely critical to the Phoenix metropolitan area as well as other metropolitan areas in the southwest where criminal aliens set up drop houses as way stations for drug, weapon and human smuggling operations. The Phoenix metro area in particular is estimated to have as many as 1000 such drop houses.

The House Appropriations Committee recently said, in no uncertain terms, that, "ICE should have no greater immigration enforcement priority than to remove violent, deportable criminal aliens from the United States." I couldn't agree more.

We need to ensure that ICE has the resources it needs to crack down on drop houses and other criminal alien enterprises. When ICE is unable to meet its responsibilities, it falls to local law enforcement to fill the gap. Our local law enforcement is already stretched thin, and I fear the burden will be even greater if ICE is forced to scale back its efforts due to an increase in the price of gas.

If we are serious about enforcing our nation's immigrations laws, we need to provide the resources necessary to get the job done. The Fuel Immigration Enforcement Act will help ensure that ICE has what it needs, in the face of rising fuel expenses.

I encourage my colleagues to support this bill.

RECOGNIZING THE 60TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE INTEGRATION OF THE ARMED FORCES

HON. KATHY CASTOR

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 31, 2008

Ms. CASTOR. Madam Speaker, I am pleased to recognize the 60th anniversary of the signing of Executive Order 9981, in which President Truman ordered the racial integration of the Armed Forces, declaring that, "there be equality of treatment and opportunity for all persons in the Armed Services without regard to race, color, religion or national origin."

While it is fitting that we celebrate the official 60-year anniversary, we should also recognize that African Americans have been fighting on behalf of our Nation from the American Revolutionary War to the current Global War on Terror. The sacrifices made and service given by African American soldiers to our country, even when our country failed to live up to its own promise of equality and justice for all, is a testament to their belief that hard work and faith would eventually allow them to become full partners in every facet of society, including our Armed Forces.

The celebration of this anniversary also gives me an opportunity to recognize a trail-blazing African American woman from my hometown who was among the first five African American women in Tampa to join the Women's Army Auxiliary Corps back in 1942,

six years prior to the signing of the Executive Order. Mrs. Willie Mae Williams, who celebrated her 95th birthday this past November, proudly served her nation paving the way for others from her community, and women in particular, to follow in her steps.

In her recent interview with the Women Veterans Historical Project for the Library of Congress, Mrs. Williams gave a very candid and informative look at the experience she had in the military as a woman of color. At that time, women were not allowed to face combat, instead serving as cooks and laundry workers, who often had to go together in groups to take showers to ensure their safety, and who endured taunts from officers who opposed their participation, either on the basis of their gender or color, and in some instances both. While Mrs. Williams acknowledged that life in the service for women of color was "rough", she certainly views herself and others as role models for the women who came after. She observed, "We were good pioneers."

Indeed, the service of Mrs. Williams and other women like her has led to the growth in service of African American women and men throughout the years. Currently, 20 percent of the more than 1,754,900 service members who have fought in support of the ongoing Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom are minorities, evidence that the United States could not maintain an all-volunteer force without the service of and critical role played by minorities, including women.

Our Armed Forces have been served by some of the most brilliant African American leaders from Benjamin O. Davis Senior and Junior to Colin Powell as Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Today, minorities serve in senior leadership positions throughout the Armed Forces, as commissioned, warrant and non-commissioned officers. The advancement of these men and women is evidence that the integration of the Armed Forces not only enhanced the combat effectiveness of the military 60 years ago, but continues still to ensure that America has a diverse array of its best and brightest working to defend it.

I am pleased to commemorate this historic event, and salute all our brave men and women who have served us so well through the years.

IN HONOR OF SGT MARCO ROBLEDO

HON. JOHN BOOZMAN

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 31, 2008

Mr. BOOZMAN. Madam, Speaker, I rise today in honor of a great American hero, SGT Marco Robledo from the Third District of Arkansas.

Marco has selflessly served in the United States Army. The commitment he showed his fellow soldiers and his country is something we can all be proud of.

On May 26, 2007, Marco was injured in Iraq. He lost his left arm and his left leg, but he still has a strong spirit and he's made lasting impressions with me and with others who've had the opportunity to meet him.

In honor of his sacrifice Albert Casewell wrote the following poem:

RE . . . MARCO . . . BLE . . .

A TRIBUTE TO AN AMERICAN HERO

SGT Marco Robledo

The United States Army

1st platoon A.CO. 875th en bn

RE . . . MARCO . . . BLE . . .

Re . . . Marco . . . Ble . . .
 While, cheating death . . . one of America's
 very Best . . .
 One of America's very finest . . . who he has
 her our nation so blessed . . .
 A Hero who goes off to war . . .
 Upon, battlefields of honor . . . who but
 gives up his arm and leg for us, would
 bore . . .
 All so Freedom can endure, while standing
 alone at death's dark door . . .
 As he walked through The Valley of Death!
 Returning home, as there he lie right at the
 very edge . . .
 At the abyss, all the between life and death
 . . . with but only his fine courage
 left . . .
 And then!
 To rebuild, where non lies left . . . moment
 by moment, as he would etch . . .
 As most thought that he was left for dead,
 but not him . . . with his courage
 pledged . . .
 As Day in and out . . .
 While, all around him such pain and heart-
 ache was but his to tout . . .
 As against all odds, his fine heart would
 shout . . .
 It's not my time . . .
 Some way I'll find, my way back . . . with
 but my heart and soul, and mind . . .
 Just Amazing, in what his life is saying . . .
 Just Re . . . Marco . . . Ble . . . a soul
 which shines!
 Such a young heart . . .
 And yet, such a strong soul and mind . . .
 who has already lived two lifetimes of
 gold . . .
 As a Warrior and Hero first, then one of in-
 spiration . . . facing but the worst so
 bold . . .
 Put upon this earth . . .
 To but show mankind's great true fine
 worth . . .
 Our Lord's messenger to teach us, to reach
 us so deep down inside so first!
 In our times and in our lives . . .
 What is it that we have so strived?
 That's so Re . . . Marco . . . Ble . . . that so
 defines . . . as most have not lived such
 fine lives!

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 31, 2008

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Madam Speaker, on July 30, 2008, I missed rollcall vote No. 542, the Family Smoking Prevention and Tobacco Control Act and rollcall vote No. 543, H.R. 4040, the Conference Report for the Consumer Product Safety Commission Reform Act.

Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall votes Nos. 542 and 543.

TRIBUTE TO RETIRING GEN
RICHARD A. CODY

HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 31, 2008

Mr. SKELTON. Madam Speaker, let me take this opportunity to recognize the long and distinguished career of GEN Richard A. Cody who is retiring after serving our nation's military with distinction for 36 years.

General Cody was born in Montpelier, Vermont. He is a graduate from the United States Military Academy. General Cody's military education also includes the Command and General Staff College and the United States Army War College. General Cody is a Master Aviator with over 5,000 hours of flight time and is an Air Assault graduate.

General Cody has received numerous decorations and badges for his outstanding efforts in the United States Army. These decorations and badges include the Distinguished Service Medal, Defense Superior Service Medal, the Legion of Merit (with four Oak Leaf Clusters), the Distinguished Flying Cross, the Bronze Star Medal, the Meritorious Service Medal (with 4 Oak Leaf Clusters), the Air Medal (with numeral device "3"), the Army Commendation Medal (with 2 Oak Leaf Clusters), the Army Achievement Medal, the NATO medal, as well as various other service awards.

General Cody became the 31st Vice Chief of Staff, United States Army, on June 24, 2004. He and his wife are also very proud of their two sons, who both are serving as commissioned officers in the United States Army.

Madam Speaker, I know that Members of the House will join me in paying tribute to GEN Richard A. Cody for his exceptional commitment to his fellow soldiers, the United States Army, and the safety and security of America. As he prepares for the next stage in his life, I am certain that my colleagues will join in me in wishing General Cody, his wife, and their two sons all the best.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 4040,
CONSUMER PRODUCT SAFETY
IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 2008

SPEECH OF

HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 30, 2008

Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota. Madam Speaker, I rise today in strong support of the Consumer Product Safety Modernization Act (H.R. 4040) and to commend Chairman DINGELL and the conferees for their hard work on this important issue. In a recent letter to the conferees, I joined several other members in support of this bill and I am pleased that Congress is moving forward on this legislation that will help ensure the safety of America's children and consumers.

According to a leading consumer rights group, more than 45 million toys and children's products were recalled because of unsafe toxins and choking hazards in 2007. Data for 2008 shows that there have been 22 percent more recalls in the first half of this year as compared to the same period in 2007. Toy

safety, which has been called "last year's problem" by the toy industry, is still very much an urgent, current challenge. Congress must act to ensure that the products and toys our children are exposed to are free of toxins and hazards.

The Consumer Product Safety Modernization Act takes bold measures to enhance the safety of products available to our children. This legislation takes a strong stand against destructive oil industry interests by banning toxic phthalates in children's toys. Studies indicate that exposure to phthalates in childhood increases the risk of cancer as an adult. It mandates third-party testing and certification for certain children's toys and materials, which were previously voluntary. The bill also has new protections for whistleblowers that will help ensure consumer safety by making it easier for employees to alert the Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) about possible hazards before products reach the public.

Part of the toy safety problem has been the lack of capacity of the CPSC. The CPSC has been underfunded and inadequately equipped to ensure the safety of the products available to children. Staff levels at CPSC are currently less than half of 1980 levels. The Consumer Product Safety Modernization Act bolsters CPSC capacity by increasing funding and staffing for the agency, a significant step toward ensuring safety for our children. Also, by banning industry-sponsored travel by CPSC Commissioners and staff and restoring the five-member commission, the legislation prevents potential conflicts of interest that may jeopardize toy safety.

It is unacceptable for parents to have to worry about toys harming their children. The Consumer Product Safety Modernization Act is timely and targeted bipartisan legislation that takes significant steps to ensure that America's children are kept safe from harmful toxins in their toys. I urge my colleagues to support the Consumer Product Safety Modernization Act and give this bill my full support.

FAMILY SMOKING PREVENTION
AND TOBACCO CONTROL ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 30, 2008

Ms. DeLAURO. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 1108, the Family Smoking Prevention and Tobacco Control Act. This legislation would grant the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) long-needed authority to regulate the manufacture, sale, distribution and marketing of tobacco products.

As we all know, tobacco use contributes to the death of more than 400,000 Americans and costs the nation's health care system nearly \$100 billion each year. The most tragic part of this statistic is that virtually all of these deaths are preventable. It is alarming that preventable diseases such as emphysema, heart disease and cancer all can be attributed to the use of tobacco.

In addition to providing consumers with science-based information about tobacco products, granting FDA the authority to regulate tobacco will more importantly help protect

our children from using these products. Approximately 90 percent of all adult smokers began their habit while in their teens, or earlier, and two-thirds become regular, daily smokers before they reach the age of 19. According to the American Medical Association, each day, about 4,000 children try smoking a cigarette for the first time and another 1,000 become new, regular, daily smokers. This means that one-third of these children will die prematurely.

Despite their claims to the contrary, the tobacco companies continue to market their products aggressively toward children. This bill will give FDA the authority to impose marketing restrictions, labeling requirements, as well as to ban candy flavored tobacco products in order to prevent tobacco companies from addicting children to tobacco.

I am also pleased that the bill before us includes language that maintains the same role of the Appropriations Committee with regard to the fees in this bill that the Committee has with regard to other FDA user fees.

This bill has strong bipartisan support, and is endorsed by key groups including the American Cancer Society, the American Medical Association, the American Heart Association, the American Lung Association, and Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

OPTIONAL ELECTRONIC PAY STUBS FOR FEDERAL EMPLOYEES

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 29, 2008

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 6073, "To provide that Federal employees receiving their pay by electronic funds transfer shall be given the option of receiving their pay stubs electronically." First, I would like to thank my colleague, VIRGINIA FOXX of North Carolina, for introducing this important legislation. This bill will allow all Federal employees receiving their pay by electronic funds transfer to receive their pay stubs electronically. This will bring much needed reform to a system that has become less transparent due to the advent of electronic, online banking. I strongly encourage my colleagues to support this act.

H.R. 6073 is important because of the need to create a streamlined, direct pay system that is at the same time transparent with clear authentication, allowing the over 1 million Federal employees to be able to back up their electronic funds with electronic pay stubs. These pay stubs will provide a necessary, substantive back-up to ensure that the many employees using electronic funds transfer have the same access to a transparent financial record.

H.R. 6073, "To provide that Federal employees receiving their pay by electronic funds transfer shall be given the option of receiving their pay stubs electronically," is a fair, equitable step that will bring the Federal Government toward a clearer, more direct standard for all Federal employees using electronic funds transfer.

Upon enactment of the act, the Office of Personnel Management, OPM, would be re-

quired to provide Federal employees that receive their pay through electronic transfer with the option of also receiving their pay stubs electronically. The Congressional Budget Office estimates that implementation of this act will have no effect on the budget, and this act does not contain any intergovernmental or private sector mandates, and hence does not apply to local or State governments.

This bill will benefit the many thousands of Federal employees receiving their pay by electronic funds transfer by giving them the option to receive their pay stubs electronically. This option will provide greater authentication and transparency, without costing taxpayers, and without affecting private businesses, and State and local government.

This bipartisan bill will benefit the many Federal Government employees in Houston, Texas, and the Nation as a whole, while coming at no cost to the taxpayers of Texas' 18th. This simple reform should create an improved electronic pay system, benefiting countless Government employees.

IN HONOR OF ADRIAN MALDONADO

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 31, 2008

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of Adrian Maldonado on the occasion of his retirement as Director of the Office of Procurement and Diversity in Cuyahoga County. His vision, leadership and commitment to his work has had a profound impact on developing Cuyahoga County and on the Greater Cleveland community.

Adrian Maldonado began his career in public service twenty-seven years ago, when he was hired as a personnel interviewer at MetroHealth Medical Center in Cleveland, Ohio. Four years later, in 1985, he began working for the State of Ohio in the Department of Administrative Services as a minority business specialist. For fourteen years, he worked tirelessly with minority business entrepreneurs in my district, helping them secure contracts under Ohio's HB584 Minority Set-Aside program after almost eleven years, he is retiring from his position as the Director of Diversity and Procurement in Cuyahoga County.

Mr. Maldonado's leadership and vision as Director of the Office of Procurement and Diversity for Cuyahoga County changed the county immensely. He and his staff worked diligently to improve the county's purchasing operating system and its purchasing and operating procedures, leading the county to be recognized by Purchasing Magazine as one of country's top Big 20 Purchasers. Under his leadership, the Office of Procurement and Diversity created a small business enterprise program which assists small businesses in procuring county contracts. Since implementing this program, Cuyahoga County has consistently met or exceeded the 30% subcontracting goal for all county contracts.

Madam Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honor of Adrian Maldonado, and in recognition of his leadership, vision and dedication to his work and to the community.

TRIBUTE TO STEVEN MICHAEL WORLEY

HON. SHELLEY MOORE CAPITO

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 31, 2008

Mrs. CAPITO. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor the career and accomplishments of Steven Michael Worley of Cabin Creek, West Virginia.

For the more than 33 years, Michael Worley has been a leader of several personal and professional development opportunities across many states, including the great state of West Virginia. A graduate of West Virginia Institute of Technology in 1975 with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Civil Engineering, Michael began his career with the Relocations Branch of Engineering Division, where he worked on a variety of major reservoir and local protection projects in relocating public facilities from the construction work areas. Over the next 20 years, Michael's professional career consisted of working with Planning Division and serving as project manager for a variety of inland navigation, riverfront park, and nonstructural flood protection projects. Since 2001, Mike has served as the Chief of Planning Branch.

For all of his service, Michael has received numerous awards. He was selected as Ohio River Division Civilian of the Year in 1993 as well as Corps-wide Civilian of the Year in 1993. He was also honored with the J.W. Morris medallion. Michael received the National Performance Review, awarded to the Section 202 Non-structural Flood Proofing Team, from Vice President Al Gore. In 2004, he was named Special Emphasis Program Supervisor of the Year. These are just a few of the mentionable awards Michael has received for all his leadership and hard work.

He and his wife, Katie, have been married since 1975, and have raised two children, Erin Worley Haughey (married to Andy Haughey) and Ryan Worley. Katie is the Office Manager for Huntington Physical Therapy in Charleston. Erin Worley and her husband are owner/operators of four McDonald's franchises while Ryan Worley is owner of Epicenter Art Studio.

Michael represents the true calling of public service. It is an honor to work with such a distinguished citizen who has contributed so much to our great state. I'm proud to call Michael Worley a friend and a fellow West Virginian. I wish him all best in his retirement.

IN HONOR OF MS. MARGI PRUITT CEO OF THE DELMARVA PENIN- SULA CHAPTER OF THE AMER- ICAN RED CROSS

HON. MICHAEL N. CASTLE

OF DELAWARE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 31, 2008

Mr. CASTLE. Madam Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to recognize Ms. Margi Pruitt for her dedication and service to the American Red Cross. She will retire from her post as CEO of the Delmarva Peninsula Chapter of the American Red Cross in October after thirty five years of excellent work helping Americans in need.

Margi began working for the Delaware Chapter of the American Red Cross in 1973,

immediately after graduating from college. Following service to the American Red Cross in seven different states, Margi returned to the same branch—now known as the Delmarva Peninsula Chapter—and has remained there for the past twenty years. During this time, she has worked to orchestrate relief efforts for large disasters such as flooding in the Elsmere region of northern Delaware, several winter storms along the east coast, a tornado in Smyrna, Delaware, and most recently, substantial flooding in Kent and Sussex Counties following a series of severe thunderstorms. In addition, she led volunteers in the relief effort for victims of both Hurricane Andrew and Hurricane Katrina. Her dedication and compassion have helped the American Red Cross reach countless people affected by natural disasters in the Delmarva region and throughout the United States.

I, along with the rest of the Delaware Congressional delegation, have had the personal privilege of collaborating with Margi on several occasions, and we have witnessed her untiring dedication to strengthening the American Red Cross's presence in our state. Margi has worked to build strong partnerships with emergency management throughout the state of Delaware. Following the attacks on September 11, 2001, she was instrumental in launching a public awareness campaign to help those in the community better understand the assistance that is available to them through the American Red Cross.

I acknowledge and thank Ms. Margi Pruitt for her commitment to the American Red Cross. The entire State of Delaware has benefited from her innumerable contributions to help people manage the most difficult and trying of situations. I am confident that her kind and diligent presence, though it will be missed by her colleagues on the occasion of her retirement from the American Red Cross, will remain an active influence in our community.

TRIBUTE TO BOB OWENS

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 31, 2008

Mr. LATHAM. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Bob Owens of Jefferson, Iowa, on earning the Meritorious Achievement Award of 2008.

Bob Owens is a consul and charter member for the Greene County chapter of the Lincoln Highway Association. He is one of the original 43 members who met in 1992 in Ogden, Iowa, to recognize the National Lincoln Highway Association for the first time since 1915. Today, the national organization has over 1,900 members due in no small part to the dedication and commitment Bob has given to the organization.

I know that my colleagues in the United States Congress join me in commending Bob Owens for his leadership and dedication to representing Iowa in the Lincoln Highway Association. I consider it an honor to represent Bob and his family in Congress, and I wish him the best in his future endeavors.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 4040, CONSUMER PRODUCT SAFETY IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 2008

SPEECH OF

HON. JAMES R. LANGEVIN

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 30, 2008

Mr. LANGEVIN. Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of the Conference Report on H.R. 4040, the Consumer Product Safety Improvement Act. This measure will improve and reform the Nation's consumer product safety system by restructuring and increasing resources for the Consumer Product Safety Commission, which has long been underfunded and stretched too thin.

Unfortunately, this past year we learned the extent to which the CPSC had failed to protect the American consumer by the high volume of recalls, including children's toys and cribs. To help get this agency back on track, H.R. 4040 provides a comprehensive response to the toy safety crisis by creating the toughest lead standard in the world for children's products and helps ensure consumers know when products are recalled. This legislation also strengthens the currently underfunded and understaffed Consumer Product Safety Commission and significantly increases CPSC resources to hire additional staff and for laboratory renovations.

The Consumer Product Safety Improvement Act also creates new authority for the CPSC to immediately share information about dangerous products with the public and ensures State public health agencies are kept informed. Finally, the bill requires manufacturers to place distinguishing marks on products and packaging to aid in recalls of products.

I am confident that this bipartisan bill will take great strides in protecting consumers and children.

CONGRATULATING MYRA THOMPSON

HON. BILL FOSTER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 31, 2008

Mr. FOSTER. Madam Speaker, I am submitting this statement to offer congratulations to one of my constituents, Ms. Myra Thompson. Ms. Thompson, an exceptional graduate of Knox College in Galesburg, Illinois, recently received the prestigious Fulbright Award. This award gives Ms. Thompson the opportunity to travel to Moscow, Russia to continue her talented work in creative writing.

The Fulbright Program was established by Congress in 1946 and is sponsored by the U.S. State Department. Approximately 1,200 Fulbright fellowships are awarded each year to promising individuals who have proven themselves as leaders in their field in order that they may pursue their academic and cultural endeavors abroad. Since its inception, the Fulbright Program has provided avenues of academic exchange in more than 150 countries worldwide.

I offer my best wishes to Myra Thompson in her endeavors both here and abroad and look forward to seeing great work from her in the future.

HONORING THE REDWOOD CHAPTER OF THE SIERRA CLUB ON ITS 50TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 31, 2008

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Madam Speaker, together with my colleague LYNN WOOLSEY, I rise today to congratulate the more than 10,000 members of the Redwood Chapter of the Sierra Club on the occasion of its 50th anniversary. Named after Sequoia sempervirens, the Coastal Redwood, whose greatest forests are along the North Coast, the Chapter remains true to the visionary environmental ethic of Sierra Club founder, John Muir, striving daily to preserve and protect our lands, waters and wildlife.

The Redwood Chapter, founded in 1958, is one of the earliest regional entities of the Sierra Club. With six local Groups in nine Northwestern Counties, it is a potent force for the environment.

Over the years, the Redwood Chapter has marshaled grass roots forces to focus on forest preservation, protection of our spectacular coast, free-flowing rivers and verdant watersheds, sustainable growth management, endangered species protection, and the multifaceted challenge of global climate change. The Chapter played a strong supporting role in Sierra Club national initiatives to protect national environmental treasures like the Grand Canyon while safeguarding our water and air, and battling environmental rollbacks.

Within the Chapter's 25,000 square miles, it has been particularly effective, playing major roles in the creation of the Redwood National Park, design and construction of the Coastal Trail, designation of Federal wilderness areas, including the Yolla Bolly-Middle Eel, Snow Mountain, Yuki Sanhedrin, Cache Creek, King Range and Cedar Roughts Wildernesses; designation of numerous State and Federal designated Wild and Scenic Rivers, including portions of the Smith, Klamath, Gualala, Black Butte and Eel Rivers; preservation of the 7,400 acre Headwaters Forest; implementation of conservation management strategies on public lands; and development of recovery strategies for endangered and threatened species, including the marbled murrelet, the spotted owl and coastal salmon.

In recent years, legislative achievements include the passage of the Cache Creek Wild and Scenic Rivers Act (2005). I am especially grateful for the Redwood Chapter's support for my Coastal Wild Heritage Wilderness Act, which was enacted in 2006, and Congresswoman WOOLSEY's Gulf of the Farallones and Cordell Bank National Marine Sanctuaries Boundary Modification and Protection Act, which was passed by the House this year.

Members of the Redwood Chapter have also had a profound influence on local politics and policies, through its participation in initiatives to protect open space and agricultural lands, create trails and community separators, protect coastal forests, provide new low carbon transportation alternatives and promotion of smart growth management and climate protection.

The Club also has played a vital educational, service and recreational function.

Over the past half century thousands of people have participated in the Chapter's "Outings" programs, which includes over 6,000 hikes, nature walks, backpacking journeys, canoe trips within the Chapter and elsewhere in California, as well as hundreds of trail building projects and other service activities.

Madam Speaker, it is difficult to imagine what this area would be like without the Redwood Chapter's passionate resolve to protect the land and life that sustains us. What if there was no wilderness retreat in our coastal headlands? What if our cities were merged in endless sprawl? What if our pure rivers and streams were diverted, degraded and disrespected? We can be thankful that is not the case, and largely because the members of the Redwood Chapter have been such effective advocates for the environment.

So today, Congresswoman WOOLSEY and I congratulate the members of Redwood Chapter of the Sierra Club on their achievements in their first fifty years. And we look forward to the Chapter's continued active participation in public policy debates and to hearing their member's loud, clear, reasoned voice for a healthy, vibrant, natural world.

HONORING THE REDWOOD CHAPTER OF THE SIERRA CLUB ON ITS 50TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 31, 2008

Ms. WOOLSEY. Madam Speaker, together with my colleague MIKE THOMPSON, I rise today to congratulate the more than 10,000 members of the Redwood Chapter of the Sierra Club on the occasion of its 50th anniversary. Named after Sequoia sempervirens, the Coastal Redwood, whose greatest forests are along the North Coast, the Chapter remains true to the visionary environmental ethic of Sierra Club founder, John Muir, striving daily to preserve and protect our lands, waters and wildlife.

The Redwood Chapter, founded in 1958, is one of the earliest regional entities of the Sierra Club. With 6 local Groups in 9 Northwestern counties, it is a potent force for the environment.

Over the years, the Redwood Chapter has marshaled grass roots forces to focus on forest preservation, protection of our spectacular coast, free-flowing rivers and verdant watersheds, sustainable growth management, endangered species protection, and the multifaceted challenge of global climate change. The Chapter played a strong supporting role in Sierra Club national initiatives to protect national environmental treasures like the Grand Canyon while safeguarding our water and air, and battling environmental rollbacks.

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Butte and Eel Rivers; preservation of the 7,400 acre Headwaters Forest; implementation of conservation management strategies on public lands; and development of recovery strategies for endangered and threatened species, including the marbled murrelet, the spotted owl and coastal salmon.

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TRIBUTE TO THE BOONE HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS' TENNIS TEAM

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 31, 2008

Mr. LATHAM. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a great achievement by the Boone High School Girls' tennis team in Boone, Iowa. BHS won the 2008 Iowa Class 2-A State High School team championship.

The Toreadors completed a perfect season with a record of 15-0. In addition, senior MaryPat McMullan is the class 2-A Girls State Singles champion, and the Toreador doubles team of Maggi Schutte and Traci Moglestad is the Class 2-A third place doubles finisher. The example set by these young ladies and their coach, Shawn Latimer, demonstrates the

rewards of hard work, dedication and determination. They scored victories on the court and have positively represented their community and school off it as well. Their triumph is an honor that we all can admire and be proud of.

I am honored to represent the members of the BHS varsity girls' tennis team: MaryPat McMullan, Maggi Schutte, Traci Moglestad, Lindsay Greiner, Hannah Worall, Julia Stockhausen, Corinne Frei, Jorden Foster, Leah Redeker, Rachel Hinds, Emily Boehm, Audrey Reinken and their coach, Shawn Latimer in the United States Congress. I know that all of my colleagues in Congress join me in congratulating the Toreadors on their State championship and wishing all these young ladies continued success in their future endeavors.

HOUSING AND ECONOMIC RECOVERY ACT OF 2008

SPEECH OF

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 30, 2008

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, I strongly supported H.R. 3221, the American Housing Rescue and Foreclosure Prevention Act of 2008. Buried in the provisions of this bill, however, in section 3082, on page 680, is an expansion of the Gulf Opportunity Zone to two additional counties in Alabama. One of these counties is nearly 300 miles from the coast. This section doesn't have much to do with housing.

This expansion is designed to provide a subsidy for National Steel Car, a Canadian rail car manufacturer. This subsidy is unnecessary for two reasons. First, the plant is already under construction and will be operational by this time next year. Second, Alabama was under a contractual obligation to provide the subsidy itself if Congress did not.

The United States has a domestic rail car industry, with plants and facilities around the country. In fact, one borders my district, and it recently laid off over 100 employees because of the economic pressures on the industry. That company also has a facility in Alabama, but it won't benefit from this tax provision.

In Congress, we often talk about not picking winners, of letting the market make these decisions rather than the Congress, of leveling playing fields rather than tilting them. But here we picked a winner. We held a secret bidding process and a Canadian company won, despite the fact that they would have made this investment anyway. The longer we pursue this method of doling out tax breaks, the harder real reform will be.

The legislation I introduce today will ensure that these Alabama counties are able to benefit from the expanded GO Zone. The legislation also ensures, however, that taxes paid by the domestic rail car industry do not go to subsidizing their competitors and that we remove this rifleshot from the tax code.

TRIBUTE TO MS. ALMA ORTIZ

HON. SOLOMON P. ORTIZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 31, 2008

Mr. ORTIZ. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Ms. Alma Ortiz, a teacher of U.S. government and economics at Homer Hanna High School in Brownsville, TX.

Ms. Ortiz was selected to the House Fellows Program here in Washington, D.C., which provides an opportunity for teachers to learn more about government and improve their knowledge of Congress. Only twelve participants were selected from around the country.

Those teachers will then take their experiences and apply them to their lesson plans back home.

It is dedicated teachers like Ms. Ortiz who will ensure our students have a better understanding of government. She already has made a positive impact on her students, fellow teachers, and school administrators with her work ethic and enthusiasm.

It is important for our students to be engaged in the civic process. They are our future leaders and a key understanding of government, as well as an appreciation for history, is important for their success.

I congratulate Ms. Alma Ortiz on all her accomplishments.

FIRST ANNIVERSARY OF I-35W
BRIDGE COLLAPSE

HON. JAMES L. OBERSTAR

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 31, 2008

Mr. OBERSTAR. Madam Speaker, I rise to mark the first anniversary of a tragedy in my home state, a tragedy that touches all Americans. At 6:05 p.m. on August 1, 2007, the I-35W Bridge in Minneapolis, Minnesota, collapsed into the Mississippi River, killing 13 people. The eight-lane, steel truss bridge span, which was constructed in 1967, carried approximately 140,000 vehicles daily.

Within just six minutes of the bridge collapse, emergency personnel responded to the scene, risking their own health and safety to rescue victims and to provide care to the injured. Within three hours, first responders were able to complete the rescue of victims stranded on the bridge. The swift and heroic actions of the first responders that day saved countless lives and were critical in minimizing the potential for more loss of life.

I received the tragic news of the bridge collapse while standing on the floor of this House, managing the Water Resources Development Act. The Transportation Committee staff and I immediately began developing legislation to help the City of Minneapolis, the Twin Cities metropolitan area, and the State of Minnesota cope with the loss of a major transportation artery, and rebuild after the terrible tragedy. The Committee approved my legislation the following morning, and the House passed H.R. 3311, authorizing up to \$250 million to carry our emergency repairs and reconstruction of the bridge and \$5 million for transit needs less than 48 hours after the tragedy occurred. To date, a total of \$371 million in Fed-

eral funding has been provided for the cleanup and reconstruction of this crossing.

Construction of a replacement bridge on I-35W has moved swiftly. By late October, 2007, major work to replace the bridge had begun, and by mid-April of this year construction crews had reached the half-way point in the project. This week, crews will finish pouring the concrete on the final span of the new bridge as construction continues ahead of schedule. The new bridge is expected to open on December 24, 2008.

This tragedy demonstrates the need to make a commitment to invest in the maintenance, reconstruction, and replacement of our nation's surface transportation infrastructure. Many bridges, highways, overpasses, and transit facilities are being stretched to the limit of their design life and beyond.

Of the 599,766 bridges in the National Bridge Inventory, 25.4 percent of America's bridges—more than one in four—are structurally deficient or functionally obsolete. There are 72,524 structurally deficient bridges and 79,792 functionally obsolete bridges. According to the Department of Transportation ("DOT"), more than \$65 billion could be invested immediately in a cost-beneficial way to replace or otherwise address existing bridge deficiencies.

Of particular concern is the condition of bridges on the 162,000-mile National Highway System ("NHS"), which consists of the 46,747-mile Interstate System, the Strategic Highway Network for military mobilizations, and other major highways. While the NHS makes up only 4.1 percent of total U.S. mileage, it carries 45 percent of vehicle miles traveled. NHS bridges carry more than 70 percent of all traffic on bridges. Of the 116,172 bridges on the NHS, including more than 55,000 Interstate System bridges, 6,175 are structurally deficient. Almost one-half of these structurally deficient NHS bridges are bridges on the Interstate Highway System, which has 2,830 structurally deficient bridges. The DOT estimates the current NHS bridge investment backlog to be \$32.1 billion, including \$19.1 billion for the Interstate Highway System bridge backlog.

While bridges are a key component of our nation's infrastructure network, these figures highlight the failure to make necessary investments in our nation's transportation infrastructure network. America's intermodal transportation network serves as the backbone of our economic security and competitiveness, as well as our quality of life. It facilitates the safe movement of people and goods, linking our communities to each other and to the world. The U.S. transportation system has served as a model for developing an interconnected network. However, in recent years we have been losing ground.

Many aspects of America's transportation network are operating at or near capacity. The Texas Transportation Institute, in its 2007 Urban Mobility Report, reported that in 2005 wasted fuel and time translated into a total congestion cost—or tax on the nation's drivers—of \$78.2 billion—\$5.1 billion higher than a year earlier. This congestion translates into millions of vehicles stuck idling on American roadways. This undermines our nation's economic competitiveness, productivity and quality of life. It has also contributed to a significant increase in transportation's share of U.S. green-house gas emissions.

Advances in logistics have turned our nation's roadways into real-time warehouses

thanks to "just in time delivery", which builds greater efficiencies and cost savings into the system by allowing businesses to order parts and inventory stock in smaller batches. However, the increasing congestion on the nation's roadways threatens these efficiency gains. Truck transportation has increased its share of overall logistics costs for U.S. companies, reaching 77 percent of total logistics costs in 2007. Total logistics costs today account for 10.1 percent of the U.S. Gross Domestic Product in 2007, up from 9.9 percent in 2006.

With our nation's population expected to grow from approximately 300 million today to 420 million by 2050 and freight volumes expected to grow by 70 percent by 2020, future demands on our intermodal surface transportation network will require a bold new vision and approach to addressing the challenges of the 21st century, and a commitment to identifying the resources to carry out this new vision. Yet we continue to underinvest in infrastructure.

Earlier this year a Congressionally-chartered Commission—the National Surface Transportation Policy and Revenue Commission—identified a significant surface transportation investment gap, and called for an annual investment level of between \$225 and \$340 billion—by all levels of government and the private sector—over the next 50 years to upgrade all modes of surface transportation (highways, bridges, public transit, freight rail and intercity passenger rail) to a state of good repair. The current annual capital investment from all sources in all modes of transportation is \$85 billion.

We are now on the threshold of a transformational moment in the evolution of our surface transportation program. Next year, as Congress develops the next surface transportation legislation, we will face challenges in determining what the shape of our system should be and how best to finance it. This new era of transportation will challenge our imagination, our political will, and the tendency of all user groups to hunker down, think and act in insular ways—in self-interest, rather than in the common interest. We must begin now to rise above our differences, to find common ground in policies—and funding—that will best serve the nation's passenger and freight mobility and access needs in the 21st century.

Infrastructure is easily overlooked. It is always there, always functioning, always serving our needs. When infrastructure fails, though, as it did that day one year ago in Minneapolis, we are suddenly awakened to the fragility of our national transportation system. The collapse of this facility is a tragedy that policymakers and leaders around the country, and Americans in general, will not soon forget. The traveling public is looking to their government for solutions to ensure that such a tragedy will not happen again. We must take the lessons of the I-35W Bridge, and use them to create an accountable and reliable surface transportation program that guards the safety of all users.

It will be up to Congress and the next Administration to summon the political will necessary to create a surface transportation system that will serve as an engine of sustainable growth, underpinning and enhancing the greatest economy in the world, and ensuring the safety of American drivers.

We cannot walk away from this responsibility, and we can no longer afford to ignore it.

INTRODUCTION OF H.R. 1188—THE PSORIASIS AND PSORIATIC ARTHRITIS RESEARCH, CURE, AND CARE ACT OF 2007

HON. DAVID WU

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 31, 2008

Mr. WU. Madam Speaker, I would like to bring attention to the serious, debilitating, chronic diseases of psoriasis and psoriatic arthritis, and to urge you to support H.R. 1188, the Psoriasis and Psoriatic Arthritis Research, Cure, and Care Act for 2007—important bipartisan legislation that I have introduced with my colleague from Pennsylvania, Mr. GERLACH.

This legislation would be the first ever legislative action to fill important gaps in psoriasis and psoriatic arthritis data collection and research, and is an important step in providing relief to the as many as 7.5 million Americans that the National Institutes of Health estimates suffer from these non-contagious, genetic auto-immune diseases.

Psoriasis is widely misunderstood, minimized, and under-treated. In addition to the pain, itching, and bleeding caused by psoriasis, many affected individuals also experience social discrimination and stigma. Of serious concern is that people with psoriasis are at elevated risk for myriad co-morbidities, including but not limited to, heart disease, diabetes, obesity, and mental health conditions. As such, psoriasis and psoriatic arthritis impose significant burdens on individuals and society; psoriasis alone is estimated to cost the nation 56 million hours of lost work and between \$2 billion and \$3 billion annually.

Also, I wish to take a moment to recognize that August is National Psoriasis Awareness Month and commend the National Psoriasis Foundation, headquartered in my district, for its annual efforts surrounding National Psoriasis Awareness Month. Moreover, I thank the Foundation leaders and staff for working tirelessly each day to help our nation make progress toward a cure and to ensure that people with psoriasis and psoriatic arthritis have access to the care they need and deserve.

On average, each of us has 17,000 constituents with psoriasis. As most of us will be at-home frequently this fall, I encourage my colleagues to meet with affected constituents, learn more about psoriasis and psoriatic arthritis, and work to reduce the misconceptions surrounding these conditions. I further urge you to join with me and the other 82 cosponsors in supporting people living with psoriasis by cosponsoring H.R. 1188.

TRIBUTE TO ERICK JOHNSON

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 31, 2008

Mr. LATHAM. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Erick Johnson from Jefferson Iowa, on his retirement from the board of directors of the Hemophilia Federation of America.

The Hemophilia Federation of America is a national nonprofit organization that assists and

advocates for the bleeding disorders community and advocates for the removal of all barriers to both choice of treatment and quality of life. Erick and his wife Jill became involved with Hemophilia of Iowa in 1997 after their son Skylar was diagnosed with hemophilia. Erick became an independent member of the HFA board in 2000. He worked with the organization to start new programs and increase communication with the FDA, CDC and MASAC in order to bring HFA's concerns to the forefront.

I know that my colleagues in the United States Congress will join me in commending Erick Johnson for his leadership and dedication to representing the Hemophilia Federation of America. I consider it an honor to represent Erick, his wife Jill, and his son Skylar in the United States Congress, and I wish them the best in their future endeavors.

MICHELLE'S LAW

SPEECH OF

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 30, 2008

Mr. CONYERS. Madam Speaker, I rise to voice my strong support for H.R. 2851, Michelle's Law. This important legislation amends the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA), the Public Health Service Act, and the Internal Revenue Code to prohibit a group health plan from terminating coverage of a dependent child due to a medically necessary leave of absence from a post-secondary education institution.

Madam Speaker, few Americans can simply write a check to cover the cost of attending college. The average college student graduates with alarming amounts of debt, in fact, most undergraduate students graduate with close to \$20,000 in student loan debt. I find it unconscionable that, in a time of worsening financial burdens, we would also place the burden of costs associated with unexpected illness on the lives of our young students.

According to Harvard Medical School, the leading cause of bankruptcy in the United States is due to unpaid medical bills, most of which were filed while the individual or family had health insurance. My bill, H.R. 676, the United States National Health Insurance Act, creates a health care system where there is no such thing as medical debt, problems with credit, or filing for bankruptcy because of unpaid medical bills. Under H.R. 676, financial insecurity from fear of indebtedness from medical expenses will cease to exist.

Martin Luther King, Jr. stated that every human being requires four things to lead a happy and productive life: shelter, employment, education, and health. When a person has access to the aforementioned four requirements, a fifth, justice, holds them all together. When a student loses full-time status because of an illness and access to healthcare, a home and education become more difficult to maintain. However, with Michelle's Law, we can provide justice to college students and help them retain access to care so they can work towards the American dream.

Madam Speaker, instead of making it more difficult for the young men and women of our nation to achieve higher education, we should

be doing everything in our power to facilitate completion of their courses of study, especially when faced with hardships such as debilitating physical or mental illness. Please pass Michelle's Law, and help ensure that there is one less impediment to education and healthcare for our nation's hardworking college students.

IN HONOR OF THE 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE MEGASKILLS PROGRAM

HON. MICHAEL N. CASTLE

OF DELAWARE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 31, 2008

Mr. CASTLE. Madam Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to recognize the MegaSkills program on its program's 20th anniversary. The MegaSkills program helps parents and guardians assist their children in reaching their academic potential by providing a clear road map and guidelines to success.

The MegaSkills program was created in the 1988 by Dorothy Rich, a resident of Sussex County, DE. The program was started with the goal of teaching families how to help their children succeed. Based on the idea that family involvement is fundamental to learning, the program is designed to instruct families on how to instill habits and behaviors in their children that make up the "Never-ending Report Card" which includes confidence, motivation, effort, responsibility, caring, teamwork, and others.

When I served as Delaware's Governor, I had the privilege of visiting the town of Seaford to honor the teachers, students, and families who participated in one of the first MegaSkills programs. It was clear even then that MegaSkills had tapped into one of the secrets of early education: parents and guardians who are involved in their child's education at home ensure that they get the best education possible in the schools.

Over the years, the program has proven to be highly successful in early childhood education and is now used in over 4,000 rural and urban schools across the nation. Recently MegaSkills completed a new MegaSkills for Babies and Toddlers book to help parents ensure their children receive the best education possible. Furthermore, the program has been applied in various different languages to accommodate our diverse population.

MegaSkills has demonstrated its success in increasing time students spend with their parents, their motivation on homework, and performance on standardized tests and I acknowledge and commend the MegaSkills Program for 20 years of successful dedication to improving education throughout the United States. The creators and administrators of this program understand what we all need to understand in order to improve our education system: strong families yield strong students with a passion for academic excellence. I am confident the MegaSkills program will continue to expand and benefit educating families nationwide.

HONORING 100 YEARS OF THE VISITING NURSE SERVICE IN SOUTHERN WISCONSIN

HON. TAMMY BALDWIN

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 31, 2008

Ms. BALDWIN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the Visiting Nurse Service for its 100-year commitment to the improvement and expansion of patient medical care in southern Wisconsin. Since 1908, when the Attic Angel Association began working with a local nurse to procure in-home care for its residents, the Visiting Nurse Service has grown to become an integral component of the Wisconsin health care industry. As a section of the Home Health United health care agency, the Visiting Nurse Service now continues to facilitate independent living and enhance the quality of life for patients across 23 Wisconsin counties. By offering patients the option to cope with illness and work with medical professionals from the comfort of their own homes, the Visiting Nurse Service has truly enhanced our Nation's health care system.

The Visiting Nurse Service that operates in Wisconsin originated in Madison as an innovative, unique approach to health care. It all began when the Attic Angel Association, initially founded as a charitable service group, perceived a void in the health care system. By hiring Maud Reeder, the first visiting nurse in the area, Attic Angel found a way to improve the scope of existing medical services by initiating more convenient, personalized in-home care. The Attic Angel Association helped implement a change in Wisconsin's health care system that would extend far beyond the Madison area. Since its inception, the Visiting Nurse Service has operated with the simple goals of providing more accessible nursing services and offering charitable medical treatment.

Over the past century, the Visiting Nurse Service has enriched the lives of countless Wisconsinites. As America's health care practices have evolved and developed during the last hundred years, visiting nurses have continued to provide a dependable service, acting as a valuable constant in an ever-changing system. The enduring legacy speaks to the Visiting Nurse Service's remarkable ability to provide effective, professional health care and to adapt to a growing society. The Visiting Nurse Service has demonstrated a genuine commitment to addressing the specific, individual needs of its patients, and an impressive ability to respond to the needs of its community.

For their commitment to the people of Wisconsin and to the enrichment of their community through improved medical care, I congratulate the Visiting Nurse Service. The 100th anniversary of the organization's inception marks a truly extraordinary, well-deserved milestone.

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

TRIBUTE TO NELSON ELECTRIC

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 31, 2008

Mr. LATHAM. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Nelson Electric of Ames, Iowa, on celebrating its 100th anniversary and to express my appreciation for their commitment to providing an important service to Iowans in the Central Iowa area.

In 1908, Ben Nelson left his job at the Ames Municipal Power Plant and began his own business offering electrical contracting services. He contracted his first jobs by going up and down Main Street in Ames and building a reputation of good service at a fair price. His son Chuck joined the crew, and they worked together for 40 years, including persevering through the Great Depression. Chuck's sons, Paul and Jerry began working at the company in the 1960's and still manage the company today. Jerry's sons, Chris and Matt are now the fourth generation of the family to work at Nelson. Nelson Electric began working on wagons and carts but have kept up on the ever changing electric codes and work in the commercial/industrial design build sector of today, taking on residential and small business projects as well.

I commend Nelson Electric of Ames for providing quality and dedicated service to Iowans for over 100 years. It is an honor to represent the Nelson family and all the members of the Nelson Electric crew in the United States Congress, and I wish them continued success in serving their community.

BOUMEDIENE DECISION

HON. ELLEN O. TAUSCHER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 31, 2008

Mrs. TAUSCHER. Madam Speaker, I rise to state my strong concern that Congress should not take any steps to curtail the recent Supreme Court decision in *Boumediene et al., v. Bush*. In a 21 July speech, Attorney General Michael Mukasey called on Congress to create rules governing treatment of detainees' petitions for habeas corpus instead of simply following the rules developed as a result of lower court cases. Additionally Justice Department officials appearing this week before the Armed Services Committee on which I serve have called for Congress to step in and help curtail the form of the status review process for prisoners. Acting on these requests so soon after the Supreme Court's decision and before the Federal district courts have had a chance to address them is shortsighted and possibly damaging to the United States in the long term.

As you know in its 5-4 decision, the Supreme Court held that detainees who are being held at the U.S. Naval Station in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, are entitled to the habeas corpus privilege under the Suspension Clause of the U.S. Constitution, meaning that they can appeal the justification for their detention before a court. The Court also held that Section 7 of the Military Commissions Act of 2006 which limited judicial review of executive de-

terminations of the detainees' enemy combatant status, did not provide an adequate and effective substitute for habeas corpus and therefore acted as an unconstitutional suspension of the writ of habeas.

The decision itself was limited both in scope. It only applies to detainees held at Guantanamo and not elsewhere. The decision also does not prevent the administration from detaining suspected terrorists or interrogating them. It simply confers upon them the basic right to know why they have been detained.

Letting the Federal courts process pending habeas petitions is the right thing to do and demonstrates to the world that we have confidence in our American values and the integrity of our legal process. It also will make sure that Guantanamo only holds prisoners who are threats to the United States and allows us to release those who are innocent.

Among the matters that the courts must necessarily address is the credibility of the Combatant Status Review Tribunals or CSRTs. As you know, the CSRTs were created by the Pentagon in response to the 2004 Hamdi decision to review the determinations of enemy combatant status for every detainee at Guantanamo.

While the CSRTs were not the central concern of *Boumediene*, the Court made a number of critical observations that I hope the lower courts will address for the sake of our country's reputation and because of the strength of our values.

The Court found that the procedural protections afforded Guantanamo detainees "fall well short of the procedures and adversarial mechanisms that would eliminate the need for habeas corpus review."

The court listed additional deficiencies including constraints upon the detainee's ability to find and present evidence at the CSRT stage to challenge the government's case; the failure to provide a detainee with assistance of counsel; limiting the detainee's access to government records other than those that are unclassified, potentially resulting in a detainee being unaware of critical allegations relied upon by the government to order his detention; and the fact that the detainee's ability to confront a witnesses may be more theoretical than real given the minimal limitations on the admissibility of hearsay evidence.

The court found that there was "considerable risk of error in the tribunal's findings of fact." And that "given that the consequence of error may be detention for the duration of hostilities that may last a generation or more, this is a risk too serious to ignore."

As a Member who is deeply committed to ensuring we have the best process to prosecute and hold accountable every terrorist and release innocent civilians, I have very little confidence in the CSRT process that is currently in place.

As the Federal courts begin to process the habeas petitions before the government, I again urge my colleagues in Congress to not chill the process currently underway with the narrow legislative solutions the Bush Administration is asking for. I ask that we give our civilian legal system the time to address the new circumstances created by the Supreme Court and put in place a successful review process that the administration has so far failed to do.

HONORING MR. JOHN GREGORY
ROVEDA

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 31, 2008

Ms. LEE. Madam Speaker, I rise today with my colleague, Representative PETE STARK, to honor the extraordinary life of Mr. John Gregory Roveda of Alameda, California. A lifelong Bay Area resident and significant leader in our community, John passed away in his home on June 4, 2008.

Mr. Roveda was born February 19, 1938 in Richmond, California. He graduated from the esteemed St. Mary's College High School in Berkeley in 1955, and then went on to attend the University of San Francisco (USF). There he became a founding member of the Gamma Omicron chapter of Delta Sigma Pi, International Business Fraternity. John was also involved in the Army ROTC program at USF. In 1961, John graduated with a degree in Business Administration and went on to attend the New York Institute of Finance, where he completed coursework in stock exchange and brokerage office procedure, and worked as a stockbroker.

Upon returning to the Bay Area, John joined his family's business, United Beverage Distributors, Inc., located in Oakland, California. His grandfather, Joseph Roveda, founded the company in 1933, making John the third generation Roveda to become president of the family business.

In 1990 John was admitted to the California State Bar and began to practice law in Alameda. He periodically served as Judge Pro Tempore, and in 1997 was qualified as an attorney and counselor of the United States Supreme Court. In addition, he was a member of the Italian American Bar Association.

Mr. Roveda was extremely dedicated to his community, and to the successful growth of the Greater Bay Area.

He served as president of the Athenian-Nile Club as well as the Alameda Boys and Girls Club. He was a member of the Design Review Board and Planning Board for the city of Alameda and a committee member of the Bay Area Sports Hall of Fame. Mr. Roveda's involvement spans a long list of other organizations including the One-Hundred Club, Alameda Elks Lodge, the Rotary Club of Alameda, the Porsche Club of America, UNICO, and the Oakland Council of the Navy League.

A true Bay Area resident, Mr. Roveda had a lifelong love of the ocean and sailed in the Trans Pacific Yacht Race in 1975. He served as commodore of the Golden Gate Yacht Club and was a member of the Encinal Yacht Club. Mr. Roveda also participated in the Newport-to-Ensenada Yacht Race annually.

An energetic attorney, businessman, and family man, Mr. Roveda had an inexhaustible spirit and was widely known for his humor and joy for life in our community. Mr. Roveda will be sorely missed. However, we are thankful for the opportunities he gave us to come together and celebrate the hope and love in our lives.

John was a dedicated father, husband, and friend to many. Today, California's 9th and 13th Congressional Districts salute and honor Mr. John Gregory Roveda. We extend our deepest condolences to his family, especially

his wife of 28 years, Judith, his four children, Christine, Michelle, Jay, and John, his sons-in-law Matthew and Andrew, his nephew Stephen, and his granddaughters Hayley and Evelyn. His legacy will surely carry on through the lives of his loving family and friends. May his soul rest in peace.

TRIBUTE TO MORNING STAR
MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

HON. RAÚL M. GRIJALVA

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 31, 2008

Mr. GRIJALVA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Morning Star Missionary Baptist Church on celebrating 50 years in Tucson, AZ.

Morning Star Missionary Baptist Church was founded and organized by the Reverend Charlie Hunter, August 1958 in Tucson, Arizona, who served in this capacity until the 70s.

Morning Star became a steadfast church in the midst of Tucson's Southside. Members of the Hunter Family and others stood with Reverend Hunter including, Everline Hunter, Leroy Hunter, Sr., Beulah Hunter, Charles W. Hunter, Lorece Hunter, L.B. Hunter, George Hunter, Rosie Hunter, Sister Brown, Linnie Burns, Reverend and Sister Barnes, Orvie Thomas and Florence Hill in establishing the church's foundation.

In 1978, the church expanded its responsibility and established a Head Start center, helping to provide a strong foundation for the children in the community.

Over the last 50 years, Morning Star has worked to help those in need of counseling, resources, support, or the needs of the families of the community.

Morning Star has strived to be more than just a church, it has worked hard to make itself a community and home; a place where people can find help, love, and family in a time of need.

I commend the congregation and leadership at Morning Star Missionary Baptist Church for their work to ensure the successes over the last 50 years.

Morning Star is a testament to the very best in all of us.

THE MINNEAPOLIS INTERSTATE
35W BRIDGE COLLAPSE

HON. KEITH ELLISON

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 31, 2008

Mr. ELLISON. Madam Speaker, last August 1, 2007, at 6:05 p.m., the Interstate 35W Bridge in Minneapolis, Minnesota collapsed into the Mississippi River killing 13 people and injuring nearly 100 people. The 13 victims were mothers, fathers, children, workers, good people, each and all.

I ask my fellow colleagues to recognize a brief moment of silence to honor the victims and families of the tragic bridge collapse.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 4040,
CONSUMER PRODUCT SAFETY
IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 2008

SPEECH OF

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 30, 2008

Mr. CONYERS. Madam Speaker, today I rise in strong support of the conference report agreed to by House and Senate negotiators on H.R. 4040, "The Consumer Product Safety Improvement Act of 2008." The final version of this Act will institute long-needed reforms to the Consumer Product Safety Commission, require toys and infant products to be tested before they are sold, ban lead and 6 toxins categorized as "phthalates" in children's toys, and provide other critical safety improvements.

This bipartisan and bicameral compromise dramatically improves the House version of the bill and adopts the vast majority of the provisions found in the much stronger Senate bill. Such robust provisions are a prudent response to the regulatory embarrassment our nation suffered in 2007, when almost 30 million toys and 15 million child products were recalled because of safety concerns. By acting today, we will ensure that our nation's mothers and fathers will never have to suffer through another year filled with such terror and uncertainty.

I have long been a supporter of strengthening the Consumer Product Safety Commission, so that it can finally serve as the first line of citizen product safety defense. Over the past three months, I have joined with a coalition of my fellow Members on two separate occasions to advocate for the strong consumer protection provisions included in this legislation.

After today, the Consumer Product Safety Commission will cease to exist as a ghost regulator; starved of the resources, authority, and transparency that an effective regulator needs. With this bill, this long-running frustration of Congressional intent will finally end.

A vote for this conference report is a vote for industry accountability, regulatory integrity, and most importantly, child safety. I encourage my colleagues to support this conference report.

HONORING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SAUK COUNTY
HISTORICAL SOCIETY'S STEWARDSHIP OF THE MAN MOUND

HON. TAMMY BALDWIN

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 31, 2008

Ms. BALDWIN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the Sauk County Historical Society for 100 years of stewardship of the Man Mound. Built to resemble a human figure and measuring over 200 feet in length, the Man Mound is now believed to be our Nation's only remaining Native American effigy mound in the shape of a human. The Sauk County Historical Society has fought for over a century to protect the Man Mound, and the remarkable survival of this relic can be largely attributed to those efforts. The historical society's work on

behalf of the Man Mound serves as an ideal example of its dedication to local communities and to the enrichment of society through historical preservation.

The society's fight to preserve the Man Mound began in 1907, only a few years after H.E. Cole founded the organization. While surveying the Man Mound, Cole discovered that the structure would soon be completely demolished and then plowed as farmland, like almost 900 other Native American mounds in the area. Cole and the historical society took immediate action to save the Man Mound by leading a collaborative, community-oriented effort. The Sauk County Historical Society, in conjunction with the Wisconsin Archaeological Society and the Wisconsin Federation of Women's Clubs, raised enough money to purchase the Man Mound and protect it from cultivation and further destruction. The surrounding park was then dedicated in August of 1908.

The Sauk County Historical Society's commitment to the stewardship of this landmark demonstrates an impressive appreciation of the past and of history's value to modern society. The historical society truly recognizes the importance of using resources like the Man Mound to spread knowledge and educate our society. By preserving the Man Mound, the Sauk County Historical Society allows us to connect with the past and provides us with a tangible link to the Native Americans who preceded us as stewards of this land.

Even as we take this opportunity to look back in appreciation, the historical society is planning ahead for the future of the Man Mound and Man Mound Park. With support from the Wisconsin Archeological Society, the Wisconsin Archeological Survey, the Wisconsin Historical Society, the Ho-Chunk Nation, and the General Federation of Women's Clubs—Wisconsin, the Sauk County Historical Society is initiating a comprehensive study of the structure and working to ensure the future of this invaluable artifact.

For their commitment to the people of Wisconsin and to the enrichment of their community through historical conservation and preservation, I congratulate the Sauk County Historical Society. The 100th anniversary of the society's stewardship of the Man Mound marks a truly remarkable, well-deserved milestone.

THANKING BRADLEY DALE
MATTAN

HON. BILL FOSTER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 31, 2008

Mr. FOSTER. Madam Speaker, I am submitting this statement to offer gratitude to one of my constituents, Mr. Bradley Dale Mattan of Geneseo, Illinois. I am very pleased that Mr. Mattan has decided to serve as a Peace Corps Volunteer in Ecuador.

The Peace Corps was designed to encourage mutual understanding between Americans and other cultures of the world. For the past 47 years over 190,000 Americans have served as Peace Corps Volunteers in 139 countries.

In his statement upon signing the Order that established the Peace Corps, President John F. Kennedy said, "Our Peace Corps is not de-

signed as an instrument of diplomacy or propaganda or ideological conflict. It is designed to permit our people to exercise more fully their responsibilities in the great common cause of world development." I'd like to take this opportunity to thank Mr. Mattan for his dedication to this responsibility, and for helping to restore America's image in other parts of the world. Our country has truly been enriched by the experiences of the Peace Corps volunteers.

I offer my best wishes to Bradley Dale Mattan in his endeavors both here and abroad and look forward to seeing great work from him in the future.

INTRODUCTION OF THE TAKING RESPONSIBLE ACTION FOR COM- MUNITY SAFETY ACT

HON. JAMES L. OBERSTAR

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 31, 2008

Mr. OBERSTAR. Madam Speaker, today I join the gentlewoman from Illinois, Ms. BEAN, and 19 of our colleagues in introducing the Taking Responsible Action for Community Safety Act.

The bill will ensure that the Surface Transportation Board ("STB") has the legal authority and policy direction to deal with railroad mergers that have the potential to cause serious safety, environmental, and other quality of life problems for affected communities.

A recently filed merger application has called attention to the need for enhancing the authority of the STB.

The application was filed by the Canadian National Railway ("CN"), seeking the Board's approval to acquire control of the 198-mile Elgin, Joliet, and Eastern ("EJ&E") rail line.

Communities affected by the merger have alleged serious impacts from the new operations which are planned for the merged carrier. This acquisition could adversely impact more than 40 communities along the EJ&E line, and result in rail traffic increases of 15 to 24 trains per day. For example, in Barrington, Illinois, the number of freight trains will increase from 5 to 20. In Plainfield, Illinois, the CN train total will reach 42 per day.

The communities impacted by the proposed acquisition have raised significant concerns related to public safety, grade crossing safety, hazardous materials transportation safety, noise, and economic job loss. For example, the EJ&F line includes 133 grade level crossings that intersect with existing roadways. Increased traffic on the line may not only adversely impact motorist safety but emergency response time and vehicle access, a growing concern for many communities across the nation.

Under current law, the STB has very limited power to consider these concerns. The STB is now required to approve all mergers and consolidations between a Class I railroad (such as CN) and a Class II railroad (such as EJ&E) unless the Board finds that the merge is likely to cause a substantial lessening of competition, create a monopoly, or restrain trade in freight surface transportation in any region of the United States; and that the anticompetitive effects of the transaction outweigh the public interest in meeting significant transportation needs.

The STB does have authority to impose conditions to address community concerns on any approval of a merger between a Class I railroad and Class II railroad. However, the STB has decided to significantly limit the types of conditions it will impose. Under its regulations, the STB will not impose conditions that may "undermine or defeat" a transaction, even if those conditions are critical to ensuring the safety and health of communities.

The bill we are introducing today will enable the STB to thoroughly consider the public interest when evaluating a proposed railroad merger or consolidation which includes at least one Class I railroad.

Specifically, the bill requires the STB to consider, in a merger or consolidation proceeding, the safety and environmental effects of the proposed transaction, including the effects on local communities, such as public safety, grade crossing safety, hazardous materials transportation safety, emergency response time, noise, and socioeconomic impacts. It also requires the STB to consider the effects of the proposed transaction on intercity passenger rail and commuter rail.

The bill prohibits the STB from approving or authorizing a merger or consolidation if it finds that the transaction is inconsistent with the public interest because the transaction's impacts on safety and on the affected communities outweigh the transaction's transportation benefits. Further, the bill authorizes the STB to impose conditions to mitigate the effects of the transaction on local communities when such conditions are in the public interest.

With these new powers and policy directives, the STB will have greatly enhanced ability to protect local communities against the adverse effects of rail mergers. I urge my colleagues to support this important legislation.

EXTENDING MY DEEPEST GRATITUDE TO NOON ROTARY CLUB OF MUNCIE, INDIANA, A DEDICATED GROUP OF VOLUNTEERS WHO WENT OUT OF THEIR WAY TO HELP HOOSIERS IN NEED

HON. MIKE PENCE

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 31, 2008

Mr. PENCE. Madam Speaker, I rise to thank the Noon Rotary Club of Muncie, Indiana for their invaluable service to the residents of my hometown of Columbus, Indiana following catastrophic flooding that city experienced in early June.

An article published in the Columbus Republic on July 25, 2008 outlined the tremendous support this group provided:

Three Saturdays ago, carloads of Muncie Rotarians descended on Eastside Community Center, determined to help prepare and deliver meals to survivors and volunteers.

"They've been coming back ever since. 'This Muncie group is awesome,'" said Celeste Racette, a member of the Columbus Sunrise Rotary Club who worked with the Delaware County group in coordinating the volunteer effort. "They not only helped prepare and deliver meals but they have kept coming back and they even set the folks at Eastside up with Gleaner's Food Bank out of Indianapolis to deliver a week's supply of food."

They'll need it. Lenore Hollowell, who is coordinating the meal delivery program

Eastside initiated in the early hours of the flood recovery, said Thursday that the group is averaging 550 meal deliveries each day.

The article continues:

The Muncie group offered more than just helping hands.

The Rotarians who arrived on the first Saturday and immediately were sent to devastated areas with prepared meals were welcomed warmly but also given guidance for future visits.

"If people didn't want the lunches, they definitely wanted the water," Celeste said. "That need was discovered on their first trip. On the next trip the Muncie group brought down 40 cases of water, four coolers and endless bags of ice so that we could hand out cold bottled water along with the meals."

While the Muncie group was in Columbus, one of its members struck up a conversation with Lenore Hollowell about additional sources of food.

Gleaner's Food Bank in Indianapolis was mentioned and within the space of hours, e-mails were being traded back and forth setting up the delivery of a week's supplies.

"The delivery ran the gamut from eight cases of yams to two cases of mop handles . . . from three cases of chocolate chip cookies to four pallets of bottled water . . . there were even 1,200 prepared meals from Federal Emergency Management Agency."

The Noon Rotary Club of Muncie will likely make their final visit to Columbus on August 2. I want to extend my deepest gratitude to this dedicated group of volunteers who went out of their way to help Hoosiers in need.

KENDRICK PERKINS

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 31, 2008

Mr. POE. Madam Speaker, today I am proud to pay tribute to Kendrick Perkins, the former basketball standout at Clifton J. Ozen High school and the starting Center for the 2007–2008 NBA Champion Boston Celtics.

Kendrick was born in Nederland, Texas, in 1984. According to his grandmother, he played football and baseball as a young boy but would fall asleep at night holding a basketball. He attended Our Mother of Mercy Catholic School throughout elementary school and was one of the tallest altar boys they have ever seen. So tall, in fact, that they had to have a robe specially made for him. He continued to serve the church until his high school graduation, even while scouts and agents were vying for his services.

Perkins attended Ozen High School in Beaumont, Texas and left quite a legacy on the basketball court. He led the team to three Class 4A State Championship games in three years, winning the title as a sophomore in 2001. During that run, his Panthers were a combined 111–4. As a senior, the 6-foot-10 Kendrick averaged 27 points, 16 rebounds, and almost 8 blocked shots per game, easily making him one of the nation's top high school prospects.

After graduating from high school in 2003, a number of elite colleges recruited him and he was considered by some to be the best high school center in America. He was ranked

alongside LeBron James as the nation's top recruits, but so far advanced was his game that he spent that summer traveling to tryouts with a number of NBA teams. He was drafted in the first round of the NBA Draft with the 27th overall pick by the Memphis Grizzlies and immediately traded to the Boston Celtics, one of the most successful franchises in all sports.

Kendrick played a support role as the team's "enforcer" during his first few years in the league, earning a reputation as one of the tougher players on the team. He would eventually work his way up the depth chart to starting center. In 2007, the team made a number of off-season moves that would leave the Celtics as the favorite to win the title. The team had the best record in the league during the regular season and had home court advantage throughout the playoffs.

The playoffs were more difficult than they would have hoped. Their first two series both went to seven games but they were able to pull through. Kendrick and the Celtics beat former prep-rival LeBron James and his Cleveland Cavaliers in the Eastern Conference Finals to bring the Celtics to their first NBA Finals appearance since the 1985–86 season. Their opponents were the Los Angeles Lakers, facing each other in the Finals for a record 11th time. There was genuine buzz and excitement around the NBA for the first time in recent memory and Kendrick would have a chance to shine.

The first few games saw the Celtics dominate the series at home. The Lakers were able to win one when they returned to their home court and had a chance to win Game 4 before the Celtics made the biggest comeback in NBA Finals history to win the game. Perkins injured his shoulder and sat out Game 5. He was doubtful for Game 6 but showed the toughness that has come to define him and played through the pain to help the Celtics win their 17th overall championship. Perkins averaged 6 points and 6 rebounds to lead his team to the 2007–08 NBA Championship.

On behalf of the Second Congressional District of Texas, I applaud Kendrick Perkins on his outstanding achievements. He has been successful on and off the court, and I applaud his dedication to his community and to his team.

And that's just the way it is.

INTRODUCTION OF A BILL TO AUTHORIZE THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR, ACTING THROUGH THE COMMISSIONER OF RECLAMATION, TO DEVELOP WATER INFRASTRUCTURE IN THE RIO GRANDE BASIN, AND TO APPROVE THE SETTLEMENT OF THE WATER RIGHTS CLAIMS OF THE PUEBLOS OF NAMBE, POJOAQUE, SAN ILDEFONSO, TESUQUE, AND TAOS

HON. TOM UDALL

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 31, 2008

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Today I rise to introduce a bill to complete two major tribal water settlements in northern New Mexico, the

Aamodt and Abeyta settlements. Introduction of this bill represents a major milestone in the completion of these important settlements. Years of work and negotiation have gone into each of these, and I am pleased that the tribes, villages, cities, counties, acequias, and community groups involved were able to come to an agreement that is mutually beneficial.

New Mexico is a state rich with tradition and culture, where the water resources are scarce and precious. As is common in most of the arid west, this vital but limited commodity can foster conflict between communities and individuals, and in a state where the history is long and complex, disputes over water are equally complicated. But, despite the complications surrounding water tenure, New Mexicans are united in a common respect for this resource. From the pueblos and tribes of New Mexico, to the historic acequias and growing communities, water is fundamental to both survival and cultural traditions, and is respected as such. Both the Aamodt and Abeyta settlements are examples of communities and tribes coming together to resolve their differences and find a way to ensure that everyone has access to this precious and respected resource.

The bill being introduced today consists of two titles, the first outlining the Aamodt Settlement, and the second outlining the Abeyta Settlement.

The Aamodt title resolves the water claims of the Pueblos of Nambe, Pojoaque, San Ildefonso, and Tesuque, and the needs of the surrounding communities in Santa Fe County. The settlement is a result of long negotiations between the county and pueblos, and will result in the development of a mutually beneficial water infrastructure system. This system will ensure that the pueblos and surrounding communities have access to clean running water into the future. I applaud the efforts and success of these groups in coming to an agreement that both settles disputes and benefits each community.

The Abeyta title establishes the water claims of the Pueblo of Taos, the Taos Valley Acequia Association, the Village of El Prado, and the Town of Taos. These communities depend heavily on agriculture and irrigation for both traditional practices and subsistence. The settlement ensures water for both agricultural and domestic use, and facilitates the rehabilitation of irrigation infrastructure. Additionally, the Abeyta settlement helps to protect the quality of water in the watershed by protecting and recharging the wetlands areas of the Taos Pueblo's buffalo pasture. After years of negotiation, the parties involved in this important settlement have come to an agreement based on respect of cultural practices, and a commitment to live as good neighbors sharing a common resource.

It has been said that the wars of the future will be fought over access to water. In New Mexico, we are setting a different precedent—a precedent of respect and compromise, one that will help us move into the future with well established partnerships and a commitment to conserve and manage this vital resource to the benefit of all. I am honored to introduce this legislation today that will bring the pueblos and communities involved in the Aamodt and Abeyta one step closer to establishing a secure water future.

INTRODUCING THE STUDENT VOTER OPPORTUNITY TO ENCOURAGE REGISTRATION (STUDENT VOTER) ACT OF 2008

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 31, 2008

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Student Voter Opportunity To Encourage Registration Act of 2008, along with my colleague Representative STEVEN LATOURETTE. The foundation of America's democracy lies in broad participation and civic engagement. From the Civil Rights Amendments, to women's suffrage, to the abolition of the poll tax and finally the ratification of the Twenty-Sixth Amendment, this nation has embarked on a difficult but steady march toward becoming a more inclusive nation.

I believe that the Student VOTER Act is a continuation of that progress, because it provides a pathway to participation for America's youth.

The need for this bipartisan bill is clear. Despite a small rise in youth voting in the 2004 presidential election, young voters are far less likely to vote than older voters. In the 2004 presidential election, only 47 percent of 18–24 year old citizens voted, compared to 66 percent of citizens 25 and older. This marked the eighth straight presidential contest in which less than half of young Americans voted.

While there are a number of factors that contribute to this trend, one is clearly the fact many college students are first-time voters and often are unfamiliar with how to register. In some states, including my own state of Illinois, first-time voters must register in person in order to cast an absentee ballot. For students who attend college outside of their home state or who do not have access to transportation, those requirements present a tremendous burden that is costly and difficult to overcome.

The Student VOTER Act offers a straightforward solution: it requires colleges and universities that receive federal funds to register students. The Student VOTER Act does this by amending the National Voter Registration Act of 1993 to designate colleges and universities that receive federal funds as voter registration agencies.

This legislation will not present a substantial burden to our Nation's universities. In fact, many are already providing this service for students. For example, even before orientation begins, Brown University in Rhode Island provides its students with voter registration materials not only for Rhode Island, but also for each student's home state.

Unfortunately, too many colleges and universities have failed to follow Brown's lead. I am introducing this legislation today to spur more universities to make registration widely available to America's youngest voters.

I would also like to thank my friend Matthew Segal, the Executive Director of the Student Association for Voter Empowerment. This bill would not exist today were it not for his dedication to enhancing voter access for America's youth.

I urge all of my colleagues to cosponsor this important legislation.

IN HONOR OF THE DECATUR CENTRAL BASEBALL TEAM, 2008 INDIANA STATE CHAMPIONS

HON. ANDRÉ CARSON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 31, 2008

Mr. CARSON. Madam Speaker, today I rise to congratulate the Decatur Central High School baseball team. The Hawks were crowned Division 4A Indiana State Baseball Champions on June 14, 2008 at Indianapolis's Victory Field. Decatur Central captured the state title with a 7–3 victory over Fort Wayne's Homestead High School.

The boys worked tirelessly throughout the season and compiled an overall record of 29–7. This is the first state championship for a Decatur Central team.

This year's team was led by seniors Harmon Cooper, Zack Deakin, Anthony Eldridge, Adam Kirk, Shawn Mattingly, Jeff Pace, and Isaac Pruitt. Other members of the team include juniors Jake Gharst, Aaron Gregory, Andrew Kinnaird, Nate Kress, Pat Sharpe, Kenny Rackley, Nick Stoia, Taylor Tijerina and sophomores Eric Howell, Brent Ledford, Shane Muse, Ronnie Shelton, Austin Sprinkle and Zach Weldon. Top performers this year included Nick Stoia, who set a school record for runs batted in and Andrew Kinnaird, who set a school record for doubles.

This team's achievements would not have been possible without the support of their coaches and school officials. Head Coach Phil Webster, in his 23rd season of coaching at Decatur Central, and his staff served as excellent teachers and mentors to the young men they were charged with coaching. Additionally, all the Decatur Central fans, and in particular the always energetic student body, should be recognized for their enthusiasm and pride in their team.

The 2008 Decatur Central baseball team has secured a place in the storied history of Indiana high school sports. I offer my congratulations to the members of the team, the coaching staff, the school, and the greater Indianapolis community on their accomplishments throughout the season.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOHN M. McHUGH

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 31, 2008

Mr. McHUGH. Madam Speaker, I was on a leave of absence for a family medical situation on July 29, 2008, and I missed several rollcall votes. At this time, I wish to note that had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall No. 534, "yea" on rollcall No. 535, and "yea" on rollcall No. 536.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JERRY WELLER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 31, 2008

Mr. WELLER of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I rise today to enter into the RECORD votes I

would have cast had I been present for rollcall votes 534 through 536. I was absent on Tuesday, 29 July due to personal reasons.

If I were present I would have voted, "aye" on rollcall vote 534, "aye" on rollcall vote 535, and "aye" on rollcall vote 536.

THE DEFINITION OF HONESTY, INTEGRITY AND HONOR: CHAIRMAN CHARLES B. RANGEL AND PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. CAROLYN C. KILPATRICK

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 31, 2008

Ms. KILPATRICK. Madam Speaker, I rise in unequivocal, unapologetic, and unwavering support of one of the finest individuals who set the standard for statesmanship, excellence and principle in the U.S. House of Representatives, none other than the gentleman from the 15th Congressional District of New York, one of the founders of the Congressional Black Caucus, Chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee, Congressman CHARLES B. RANGEL. Congressman RANGEL, whom I am proud to count as not only one of my Congressional mentors, but also as a personal friend, has to take time from his schedule of, among other things, ensuring that all children have access to health care, ensuring that cigarettes are regulated, and that Congress figures out a way to pay for the education of the women and men who are fighting in Iraq and Afghanistan, to defend himself against a charge levied in a newspaper that questions his very integrity, dignity and honor.

I was unavoidably detained, and I did not vote on this motion. If I had been present, I would have voted "aye" in favor of the motion to table.

It is without a single scintilla of doubt these charges against the Chairman, charges registered by Chairman RANGEL himself with the House Ethics Committee, will arrive at one conclusion—the conclusion of innocence. Chairman RANGEL's record of almost four decades of service, of dedication, of devotion not only to his constituents, but of the integrity of the institution of Congress, has earned him the right to a fast and fair examination and I would add exoneration of these charges. Chairman RANGEL, along with my fellow Michigan colleague JOHN CONYERS, JR., is the remaining founders of the Congressional Black Caucus who serve with us today. For the remainder of the 110th Congress, Chairman RANGEL will have my personal support and assistance as he wages what will be a victorious fight against these charges.

What describes Chairman RANGEL? Here are a few: outstanding attorney. One of the finest politicians in the history of New York. Civil rights worker. Founder of the most influential political organization in the history of Congress. The first African American Chairman of the powerful Ways and Means Committee. Husband. Father. Colleague. And finally, friend.

As I continue to pray for Chairman RANGEL's continued good health, prosperity and fortune, I look forward to a fair and expeditious consideration of these charges by the House Ethics Committee. Chairman RANGEL's importance to this body, as the leader of the Ways and

Means Committee, is far, far too valuable to both Congress and the nation to waste toward dilatory efforts to ruin his good name and bring him down. I know that, based upon the merit of the case, that the Chairman will be exonerated, the Chairman's innocence will prevail, and he will continue to handle the people's business in the manner that has brought honor, dignity and respect to the U.S. House of Representatives.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. MICHAEL R. TURNER

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 31, 2008

Mr. TURNER. Madam Speaker, I submit the following earmark request:

1. Project—Security Forces Operations Facility.

Requesting Member: MICHAEL TURNER.

Bill Number: H.R. 6599.

Account: Air Force, Mil Con.

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Wright-Patterson Air Force Base.

Address of Requesting Entity: Dayton, OH.

Description of Request: \$14,000,000 is appropriated for a Security Forces Operations Facility in fiscal year 2009. The entity to receive funding for this project is Wright-Patterson Air Force Base located at Dayton, OH. The funding would be used to house the operations of the 88th Air Base Wing Security Forces Squadron (88 SFS), which provides security and police services for Wright-Patterson Air Force Base.

TRIBUTE TO BURT RUTAN

HON. KEVIN MCCARTHY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 31, 2008

Mr. MCCARTHY of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Elbert Leander "Burt" Rutan, a renowned aerospace engineer, who celebrated his 65th birthday on June 17, 2008.

Burt was born in Portland, Oregon, on June 17, 1943, though he was raised in Dinuba, California. As a young boy, Burt produced award-winning model airplane designs; a prodigy in the making. When Burt was sixteen, he obtained his pilot's license and went on to receive his aeronautical engineering degree from California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo. Soon after, the United States Air Force hired Burt as a civilian flight test engineer at Edwards Air Force Base in California.

Throughout the years, Burt has established himself as a leader in innovative aircraft design. With the start of his own private company, Rutan Aircraft Factory, based in Mojave, California, Burt began to market sleek, light, and efficient aircraft such as the VariEze, Quickie, and the Long-EZ; it was during this time that the concept for the Voyager was generated. Burt's passion for aeronautical engineering soon found him leading Scaled Composites, the world's most productive aerospace prototype development company. Some of the most innovative and successful aircraft

developed by Scaled Composites have been the Triumph jet for Beechcraft, the CM-44 UAV for California Microwave, the Scarab Model 324 drone for Teledyne Ryan Aeronautical, and the McDonnell Douglas DC-X single stage rocket structure. His designs utilized lightweight composite materials, rendering him with copious amounts of success and praise for his entrepreneurial skills and insightful knowledge on the subject to which he has dedicated his life.

One of Burt's most famous designs, the Voyager aircraft, piloted by Burt's brother, Dick Rutan, set a record-breaking flight around the world without stopping to refuel in 1981. Model 218 Proteus, a tandem-wing high-endurance aircraft designed by Burt, holds several altitude records. SpaceShipOne gained Burt significant recognition as it was the first privately-built, funded, and flown aircraft to enter space in June of 2004. This feat was acknowledged with the Ansari X Prize, while his team was honored with the 2004 Collier Trophy later that year, awarded to them by the National Aeronautic Association.

Today, SpaceShipOne, Burt and his team's spacecraft that launched men successfully into space, is displayed in the Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum's "Milestones of Flight" gallery in Washington D.C. Other prestigious awards given in recognition of Burt's aerospace expertise include the Chrysler Award for Innovation in Design, the British Gold Medal for Aeronautics, "Engineer of the Year" by Design News, the Presidential Citizens Medal presented by President Ronald Reagan, and the Lindbergh Award.

As Burt has soared through his creative and competitive career, he has been commended for his innovative efforts. His maverick aerospace expertise continues to be highly sought after. Today, Burt and his company, Scaled Composites, are currently engineering SpaceShipTwo for Virgin Galactic with the prospect of offering suborbital trips into space by 2009. Burt has never given up on his dreams and he continues "looking up, way up."

REMARKS ON THE OLYMPIC JOURNEY OF LEONEL MANZANO

HON. K. MICHAEL CONAWAY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 31, 2008

Mr. CONAWAY. Madam Speaker, a son of Burnett County, Texas is going to the Olympics. I rise today to congratulate Leonel Manzano on his outstanding achievement in making the U.S. Olympic Track and Field Team.

It seems Leonel was born to be an Olympian. His work ethic is legendary, his character is impeccable, and he can just flat out run. His dedication to his sport has earned him a spot to compete on the biggest stage in athletics and prove to everyone that a young man from a small corner of Texas can be the best in the world. It will be a joy to watch him represent my district, the State of Texas, and our entire country.

As Leonel travels to Beijing, he will go with the hope and prayers of the entire Texas Hill Country with him. His neighbors, family, coaches, and even competitors have all

helped forge him into the man he has become and we will all be watching in rapt attention when he steps into the blocks.

If I could remind Leonel of just two virtues that bring success, it would be to always fulfill your God given talents and never forget to be gracious under pressure. If he can manage these two feats, as he has done so well in the past, he will return home an Olympic hero.

It is my honor to represent Leonel, as well as his parents, Jesus and Maria Manzano, here in Washington. I share their pride in all that Leonel has accomplished. As he heads to Beijing, I wish him good luck and safe travels.

A TRIBUTE TO THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF MEDICAL MINORITY EDUCATORS, INC. 33RD ANNUAL CONFERENCE—SEPTEMBER 17-21, 2008

HON. G. K. BUTTERFIELD

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 31, 2008

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Madam Speaker, it is my great honor today to rise and recognize the National Association of Medical Minority Educators, Inc., also known as NAMME, for their years of support for health professionals from traditionally underrepresented and disadvantaged populations.

Established in 1975, NAMME aims to increase the presence of minority health care providers. To achieve this goal, the founding members of NAMME have worked tirelessly over the years to provide motivated students with access to education, training, and practice in the health care profession.

Since its inception, NAMME has strived to prepare students for success in health related fields including dentistry, optometry, public health, and veterinary medicine. The organization holds as its core values its ability to develop and sustain productive relationships and to produce action oriented programming for stakeholders. NAMME has established an extraordinary reputation of providing exceptional professional development opportunities for its members. NAMME is hopeful that these significant opportunities will ultimately translate to the reduction in health disparities among underserved populations. Madam Speaker, I commend NAMME for its vision and foresight in identifying this service which is so greatly needed in disadvantaged communities.

Today, with alumni across the country, NAMME stands as one of the leading organizations for providing the type of training and informational resources that will greatly benefit small communities. Programs are available that nurture and support individuals through all stages in their pursuit of a career in health care.

NAMME will hold its 33rd Annual Conference in Arlington, Virginia on September 17-21, 2008 where House Majority Whip, The Honorable JAMES E. CLYBURN will serve as the keynote presenter.

Madam Speaker and Distinguished Colleagues, I hope that you will join me today in honoring NAMME and the substantial contributions this organization has made to provide access to health care education for underrepresented and disadvantaged communities.

IN HONOR OF THE BEN DAVIS
BOYS' TRACK AND FIELD TEAM,
2008 INDIANA STATE CHAMPIONS

HON. ANDRÉ CARSON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 31, 2008

Mr. CARSON or Indiana. Madam Speaker, today I rise to offer my congratulations to the Ben Davis boys' track and field team. The Giants were crowned Indiana state track and field champions on May 31, 2008 at Indiana University in Bloomington, Indiana.

This is the first time that the Ben Davis boys' track and field team has captured the state championship although they have been state runner-up in 2000, 2002 and 2007. With this victory Ben Davis athletic teams have compiled one of Indiana's most impressive records, winning a total of 22 state championships since 1962.

This year's team was led by a strong class of 23 seniors. Rapheal Williams and LaVarus Williams, along with juniors Colin Hester and Matthew Terrell gave an impressive team performance at the championship meet by taking first place in the 4x100 meter relay. Matthew Terrell also achieved individual success, finishing first in the 200 meter dash and securing his place as the 2008 Ben Davis Varsity Points Leader.

This team's achievements would not have been possible without the support of a wide variety of coaches and school officials. Head Coach Mike Davidson, in his 17th season of coaching at Ben Davis, and his assistant coaching staff provided the players with guidance both on and off the track. Additionally, all the Ben Davis fans, and in particular the always energetic student body, should be recognized for their enthusiasm and pride in the team.

Today, I ask my colleagues to join me in offering congratulations to the members of the team, the coaching staff, the school, and the greater Indianapolis community on their accomplishments throughout the season.

TO HONOR WILLIAM ANTHONY
CARGILE

HON. NICK LAMPSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 31, 2008

Mr. LAMPSON. Madam Speaker, I am honored to stand here today to praise the distinguished service of Mr. William Anthony Cargile. Through his service as a Volunteer Firefighter in the Santa Fe Fire and Rescue, he has distinguished himself from his colleagues in a variety of ways. At the age of 14, Anthony (as he is known to his friends and colleagues) started his volunteer firefighting career as a junior fireman. Thirty years later he continues to serve his community not only as a volunteer firefighter but in a number of other roles as well.

Anthony's firefighting credentials are impressive. He holds an Advanced Firefighter Certification as well as a Level II Instructor's Certification from the State Fireman's and Fire Marshal's Association of Texas. Along with serving as President of the Gulf Coast Firemen's

Association from 1999 to 2000, he has served as the Training Commissioner for the Galveston Firefighter's Association from 2001–2003 and Coordinator of the Galveston County Field Day in 2003.

A fitting example of Anthony's character was his effort to establish an Honor Guard for the Santa Fe Fire and Rescue. Anthony did all the necessary research, received approval from his superiors and even designed and assembled the uniforms. Because of his tireless endeavor, he was able to successfully assemble the Honor Guard in 2004, which has performed admirably in a number of ceremonies. As another sign of Anthony's service to the firefighting community, he has received Fireman of the Year from the Santa Fe Fire and Rescue twice, in both 2000 and 2007, and was chosen as the Firefighter of the Year in 2008 by the State Firemen's and Fire Marshal's Association of Texas.

Consequently, it is not surprising that he was nominated for National Firefighter of the Year, an award given by the National Volunteer Fire Council.

Anthony is a model citizen and a true public servant. His actions have distinguished him in his community and the 22nd District of Texas is proud of its son.

IN RECOGNITION OF STEVE
THOMPSON

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 31, 2008

Mr. COSTA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the distinguished public service of Steve Thompson. After more than 30 years with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, he is retiring on August 2nd.

Steve Thompson served as the Director of the Service's California and Nevada Region. In this post he oversaw Service programs in California, Nevada and Klamath Basin that administered the Endangered Species Act and Migratory Bird Treaty Act, and managed 51 national wildlife refuges, and three national fish hatcheries.

Prior to coming to Sacramento, Thompson was based in Atlanta as the Regional Chief for the National Wildlife Refuge System in the Service's Southeast Region. Prior to serving in Atlanta, he spent three years as the Branch Chief for Resource Management for the National Wildlife Refuge System Headquarters in Washington, DC.

Thompson began his career with the Service as a wildlife biologist at Malheur National Wildlife Refuge in Burns, Oregon, moving on to the Puget Sound National Wildlife Refuge in Olympia, Washington, and Stillwater National Wildlife Refuge in Fallon, Nevada, before becoming refuge manager at Laguna Atascosa National Wildlife Refuge in Rio Hondo, Texas.

In 1994 Thompson was chosen as the first "Refuge Manager of the Year" by the National Audubon Society and the National Wildlife Refuge Association. In September 2007, he earned the Distinguished Executive Award, the highest Presidential Rank Award given to career Senior Executive Service employees.

Thompson, was born in Nevada and raised in both Nevada and California, where he graduated in 1976 from Humboldt State University

with a bachelor of science degree in wildlife management. He is a competitive swimmer, avid birdwatcher and hunter.

Throughout his career at the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Mr. Steve Thompson has been well known for his balanced, common sense approach. His partnership philosophy and demonstrated ability to work with diverse stakeholders will be missed. As he embarks on a new chapter in his life, I wish him continued success and good luck in all his future endeavors.

TRIBUTE TO DICK RUTAN

HON. KEVIN MCCARTHY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 31, 2008

Mr. MCCARTHY of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Richard Glenn "Dick" Rutan, an aerospace pioneer, as he celebrated his 70th birthday on July 1, 2008.

Dick was born in Loma Linda, California, on July 1, 1938. At a young age, Dick developed an avid interest in piloting. By the time he turned 16, Dick was earning both his driver's license and pilot certificate. Dick has always had a passionate thirst for learning, thereby leading him to join the Air Force Aviation Cadet Program at the age of 19 and later receiving a commission as a Lieutenant. Dick went on to obtain a Bachelor of Science Degree at the American Technological University through the Air Force Professional Education "Boot Strap" Program.

When the Vietnam War broke out, Dick established himself as a brave, highly competent, and rigorous leader. As a Tactical Air Command fighter pilot, Dick flew 324 combat missions, 105 of which were as a high-risk classified operation known as the MISTY's. The many achievements Dick accomplished while serving in the Air Force merited him the Silver Star, five Distinguished Flying Crosses, 16 Air Medals, and the Purple Heart.

After Dick's retirement, he joined forces with his brother, Burt Rutan, as the Production Manager and Chief Test Pilot for Rutan Aircraft Factory. He is widely recognized for his successes involving the world speed and distance records set in the Long-EZ, an airplane designed by Burt. To honor Dick's many achievements in record-setting flights, he was awarded the prestigious Louis Bleriot Medal by the Federation Aeronautique Internationale.

In 1981, Dick expanded his wings even further to found Voyager Aircraft, Incorporated and settle in the history books by completing the first-ever around-the-world, non-stop, non-refueled flight. Nine days, three minutes and forty-four seconds after Dick and his copilot Jeana Yeager took off, he landed at Edwards Air Force Base in California. The plane he piloted in this successful quest is now suspended in the Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum's "Milestones of Flight" gallery in Washington, D.C. President Ronald Reagan awarded Dick and his team with the Presidential Citizens Medal, four days after the team's outstanding feat.

Time and time again, Dick has delved into projects that allow him to expound upon his knowledge and share his expertise and adventures with others. These have included a sightseeing airplane trek to the North Pole, the

World Quest Project, and the Spirit of EAA Friendship World Tour. He established the Dick Rutan Scholarship Fund to assist youth in furthering their education and is actively involved in the Experimental Aircraft Association's Science, Math and Technology (S-M-T) program.

Today, Dick continues his quest of traveling the world by educating others through the accounts of his many adventures. He exudes dedicated passion, courage of conviction, and wisdom and he exemplifies the true marks of leadership. His distinguished achievements have gained him renowned recognition and respect, and I am pleased to wish him a happy birthday!

STEINHAGEN OIL COMPANY

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 31, 2008

Mr. POE. Madam Speaker, today I am proud to honor the Steinhagen Oil Company, for their commitment to community service has earned them the 2008 Spindletop Award for outstanding corporate citizenship.

The Steinhagen Oil Company is a third generation, family owned business that owns over 25 gasoline stations across Southeast Texas and supplies numerous others with unbranded fuel. E. Harvey Steinhagen founded the company and began selling fuel in the 1930's. They currently employ over 200 workers across the region.

The Steinhagen Family has a long history of community service. Mark Steinhagen served as Chairman of the Board of the Beaumont Chamber of Commerce from 1970–71 and encouraged a focus on economic development efforts. His son Roy is the current Chairman and Chief Operations Officer for the company. He helped raise \$2.6 million for the construction of a new Salvation Army building. Roy is currently the President of the Lamar University Foundation and is a member of the Texas State Bank advisory board of directors, the Jefferson Theatre Preservation Society, and the advisory board of trustees of Christus St. Elizabeth Hospital.

On behalf of the Second Congressional District of Texas, I applaud the Steinhagen Oil Company on its outstanding achievement. They have helped make our world a better place to live, and I applaud their unwavering service and dedication to the community.

71ST ANNUAL SOAP BOX DERBY

HON. TIM RYAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 31, 2008

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the winners and all the participants in the 71st annual All-American Soap Box Derby World Championship at Derby Downs in Akron, Ohio, on July 26, 2008.

A record 609 contestants from forty three states and three foreign countries competed at the legendary Derby Downs for the title of Champion. This race is held annually at Derby

Downs, which was created in 1936 by the Works Progress Administration (WPA) after Akron city leaders realized that a permanent track for the race was necessary. The racers, all between the ages of eight and seventeen, compete in six different divisions. All of the cars are powered only by gravity and built by the racers. The racers can reach speeds of thirty miles an hour and the races usually last less than thirty seconds and are decided by mere hundredths of seconds.

I am pleased to note that Elizabeth Underwood, 17, of Barberton, placed 3rd in the Masters division, Joe Puntal, 14, of Youngstown placed 3rd in the Super Stock division, and Johanna Barnowski, 11, of Cuyahoga Falls placed 1st in the Stock division.

Other Akron area racers who participated were Katie Atchison, Brett Chrisman, Dustin Chrisman, Emily Harmon, Tyler Shoff, Sarah Smith, Dennis VanFossen Jr., Cheyenne Wilt and Mary-Kate Wilt. Racers from the Youngstown area included Zachary Krohn of Austintown, Johanna Kuebler of Berlin Center, Julia Castner of Hubbard, Jenn Rodway of Boardman, and Jamie Berndt of Canfield.

I congratulate all the winners on their extraordinary success and commend all those who had a part of this great event.

IN RECOGNITION OF COLMA CITY MANAGER DIANE McGRATH

HON. JACKIE SPEIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 30, 2008

Ms. SPEIER. Madam Speaker, I would like to pay tribute this evening to a dedicated public servant, Diane McGrath, the City Manager of the Town of Colma.

Diane retires next month, capping a 36 year career in municipal government, which began in Breckenridge, Colorado. She moved to California in 1985 to serve Foster City as Deputy Executive Director of the Community Development Agency. After seventeen years in that post, she was hired by Colma as Deputy City Manager and impressed the City Council enough to be promoted, two years later, to City Manager.

During her tenure, Ms. McGrath and her staff oversaw the design and construction of a state-of-the-art public safety facility and community center, completed the reconstruction and beautification of Junipero Serra Boulevard and remodeled the Town Hall Council Chamber and rotunda. Most impressive is that all these projects were accomplished in an era of ever-tightening municipal budgets.

Ms. McGrath is a member of the International City Management Association and was President of Municipal Management Assistants of Northern California. She received a Bachelor of Arts degree from California State University, Long Beach and a Master of Arts from the University of Colorado.

Madam Speaker, Diane McGrath is a role model to anyone who aspires to a career in government. She handles her professional responsibilities with the unflappable grace that only the mother of 6 children and grandmother of 4 can pull off. A renaissance woman, Diane is a brilliant conversation partner, whether the subject is ballet, politics or Cal football.

While I wish Diane McGrath could continue in her job forever, she has earned her retire-

ment. Along with husband Fred Biagini, she will travel the world and spend more time with her large family. In addition, I am confident that she will continue to be a dynamic force in her community for many years to come.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOHN BARROW

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 31, 2008

Mr. BARROW. Madam Speaker, due to a death in my family, I was absent from the House of Representatives on Tuesday, July 29, and part of Wednesday, July 30, and missed several rollcall votes. Had I been present, I would have voted in the following manner: H.R. 6445—yes; H.R. 6604—yes; H. Res. 1370—yes; H.R. 5892—yes; H. Con. Res. 398—yes; H.R. 2192—yes; H.R. 6113—yes; and H.R. 2490—yes.

HOLLYWOOD CONSERVATISM

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 31, 2008

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, I would like to submit the following article published in The Washington Times newspaper on July 23, 2008. It outlines the prevalence of conservatism among actors and leaders in the film and entertainment industry. Moreover, it is encouraging to learn that support for our troops and traditional values are shared by Americans from all walks of life.

HOLLYWOOD'S CONSERVATIVE UNDERGROUND

(By Amy Fagan)

A group of politically conservative and centrist Hollywood figures organized by actor Gary Sinise and others has been meeting quietly in restaurants and private homes, forming a loose-knit network of entertainers who share common beliefs like supporting U.S. troops and traditional American values.

Some of those involved are taking more public steps to counter the entertainment industry's tilt toward liberalism and Democratic politics, such as campaigning for Republican Sen. John McCain or crafting projects to portray America in a more positive light.

The group, whose members call themselves "Friends of Abe" after Abraham Lincoln, was organized as an underground movement because of fears that prominent industry titans with outspoken liberal views would retaliate, said participants. They often were reluctant to name members of the group in interviews for fear it would hurt their careers.

"It's a growing movement, and word is getting out that there's many of us in this business . . .," said 1950s singer Pat Boone, one of the few conservatives to talk about the movement publicly. "If certain studio execs—hires and firers—learn that this is a movement and growing, and that some of these people that they hire are of this inclination, these people could be unemployed."

Friends of Abe has functioned like a support group, organizing informal gatherings where actors, producers, screenwriters, key grips and other industry types can share common values or discuss concerns like anti-

Americanism in Hollywood movies or the perception of industry bias against conservatives and Republicans.

The movement has grown over the past few years from gatherings of a few dozen to one last month that drew more than 600 to a billionaire's California estate, Mr. Boone said.

People familiar with the movement credited Mr. Sinise, whose roles range from the blockbuster movie "Forrest Gump" to the TV show "CSI: New York" for helping organize the movement.

Sinise spokeswoman Staci Wolfe said the actor was traveling with a band to entertain U.S. troops overseas and was unavailable for an interview. She would say only: "He is not registered with any political party."

Participants said Friends of Abe is not partisan, but rather functions as a support group where Republicans, Democrats and independents alike can discuss issues they care about. And the low-key gatherings at restaurants and homes have given conservatives a safe place to meet and express their views, they added.

"A Friend of Abe is someone who has reverence for those who serve in our military and believes that American liberal democracy is a unique success, different from others, and it's worthy of the respect of our popular culture . . . of Hollywood in particular," said screenwriter Lionel Chetwynd, who helped organize Friends of Abe luncheons when they began 4 years ago.

Mr. Chetwynd said Friends of Abe generally find themselves at odds with the rhetoric of their hard-left colleagues in Hollywood.

Craig Haffner, a producer who also attended the gatherings, said Friends of Abe is "not a political action group; people are gravitating to it because they love their country."

While the group is not organizing any political activities, some of its members are taking action into their own hands.

Actor Jon Voight, Mr. Boone, Mr. Chetwynd and Mr. Haffner have stepped forward and actively campaigned for Mr. McCain's presidential bid. Mr. Boone said he talked to McCain campaign staffers last week about how he and other stars can help. Supporters now are assembling a formal organization for Mr. McCain in Hollywood, a few of the leaders said.

Meanwhile, many want to produce more movie and theater projects with a positive American message and stronger emphasis on positive cultural values instead of films that paint America as "the great Satan," Mr. Boone said. Mr. Chetwynd said such efforts have been under way for several years, well before the Friends of Abe luncheons began.

Actor Kelsey Grammer, a Republican, is aware of the group but won't comment further, his publicist said.

David Horowitz, another Hollywood conservative and founder of the Los Angeles-based Center for the Study of Popular Culture, said the group is serving a good purpose but he worries its members won't be aggressive enough.

"There's a kind of . . . intellectual terror in this town. People are terrorized; they're afraid to say what they think. So what Gary is doing to provide aid and comfort to its victims is admirable, and I applaud him for it," he said. "But my concern is it's not going to be much more than that."

THE INTRODUCTION OF THE "MIDWEST SCHOOLS DISASTER RELIEF ACT"

HON. PHIL HARE

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 31, 2008

Mr. HARE. Madam Speaker, the Midwest has been hard-hit by record flooding in recent months, disrupting the lives of the farmers, homeowners, and families of my Illinois Congressional District. Flood damage to schools alone is expected to reach nearly \$100 million, and as a result some schools will not open in the fall. Those schools able to open their doors are desperately trying to get ready for the upcoming school year, but repairs and cleanup are ongoing.

Moreover, many schools will see an influx of flood-displaced students, while others will face financial challenges due to the loss of students and property values where the schools are located. I have heard from several regional superintendents in my district, particularly Mr. Ralph Grimm of West Central Community Unit School District No. 235 in Henderson County, with concerns that this situation will make it difficult for them to make ends meet in the coming school year.

To address short- and long-term needs, immediate education disaster assistance for flood-impacted schools is necessary to ensure that students continue to receive a quality education in the aftermath of this disaster. As such, I proudly introduce the Midwest Schools Disaster Relief Act.

Similarly to the assistance Congress approved after Hurricane Katrina, this bill would:

Authorize funds to restart school operations. These monies could be used on transportation assistance, to replace damaged textbooks and computers, rent temporary classroom sites, hire additional staff for counseling services, clean up school buildings, and other services and activities.

Authorize funds for schools to accommodate any displaced students they enroll.

Prohibit the loss of students due to displacement to count against schools when Federal funding is calculated for the next academic year.

Waive the Federal requirement that schools maintain their share of financial responsibility in providing education services.

Ensure the needs of homeless students displaced by flooding are met through the Education for Homeless Youth program.

The natural disasters of May and June 2008 have adversely affected the economy, agriculture, critical infrastructure, and school districts of the Midwest. As weather-damaged schools prepare to welcome students back in just a few short weeks, we simply cannot stand by and watch our children receive a lower-quality education solely because they live in an area where flooding or storms occurred.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in supporting this legislation.

WORLD WAR II MARINE GRADUATES HIGH SCHOOL

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 31, 2008

Mr. POE. Madam Speaker, James DeLeon is one this year's 2008 high school graduates. The difference is he is 83 years old.

He was born in Goliad, Texas, and when World War II broke out he dropped out of Ganado High School, lied about his age and joined the U.S. Marine Corps. His 16-year-old brother, Charlie, did the same thing a few weeks later.

James was part of the 6,000 Marines sent into battle at Guadalcanal in the South Pacific in 1942. There, they seized the island's airport and never relinquished it. He was also in the invasion of Okinawa—the site of one of the fiercest battles of World War II—where he remained until the end of the war. He had served 34 months in the Marine Corps.

Then, James returned to Texas and married his sweetheart, Susie Marie Elizondo; raised seven children and worked for 36 years at the Port Arthur, Texas, Texaco refining plant. Recently, his daughter Theresa located a lost letter from the Marines to Ganado High School dated 1947 stating that DeLeon met all the requirements to earn his diploma. She mailed it to the current principal and James was then honored with his own graduation ceremony.

James DeLeon is yet another successful member of the Greatest Generation that answered America's call in time of need.

And that's just the way it is.

THE DAILY 45: MIGUEL LEON-FREGOSO

HON. BOBBY L. RUSH

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 31, 2008

Mr. RUSH. Madam Speaker, everyday, 45 people, on average, are fatally shot in the United States.

I have another story of unnecessary violence. This time the location is in the city of San Diego. According to reports, 27-year-old Miguel Leon-Fregoso was with a group of friends at a bar early this morning when, upon leaving, he was involved in a verbal altercation outside. Minutes later a man shot Miguel in the face. Thus, in yet another quick, mindless instance—another young life has been taken.

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

HONORING THE LIFE OF ROBERT L. "BOB" CHANDLER

HON. TRAVIS W. CHILDERS

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 31, 2008

Mr. CHILDERS. Madam Speaker, I rise today with deep sadness to honor the passing of a great leader, colleague and dear friend,

Mr. Robert L. Chandler. Bob served his country well during two tours of duty in the Vietnam War and displayed great leadership for Yalobusha County having been elected Election Board Commissioner and as Chancery Clerk where I had the distinct honor and privilege of serving with him during his service as Chancery Clerk.

Bob was dutiful and diligent as he volunteered to serve his community as a fireman and reserve deputy sheriff. Bob was a devoted and loving husband, father and grandfather. He is survived by his wife, Mary, his daughter, Audrea and son, Bobby and grandchildren. Bob and family are members of Sylva Rena Baptist Church.

Madam Speaker, with distinct honor and pride, I, along with citizens of Yalobusha County, sadly mourn the death of such an inspirational leader as Bob Chandler. I want to personally thank him for his contributions and leadership. His memory will live on.

REMARKS IN RECOGNITION OF
BARRY WEISS

HON. JACKIE SPEIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 31, 2008

Ms. SPEIER. Madam Speaker, I would like to draw the attention of Congress to the passionate work and unparalleled leadership of Barry Weiss, who is retiring as Director of Parks and Recreation for the City of San Carlos.

Under Barry's leadership, his department received more than two dozen state and local awards for facility design, park planning, economic development and programming. Barry, himself, is the recipient of numerous honors, including the Statewide Citation Award, Presidential Award and Achievement Award from the California Park and Recreation Society, Distinguished Alumni Award from California State University at Hayward and Outstanding Youth Sports Leader from the National Alliance for Youth Sports.

Barry Weiss served as President of the California Park and Recreation Society in 2004–2005, where he shared his knowledge and expertise with others in his field on park planning and encouraging community involvement. Attesting to his success as a parks and recreation administrator, Barry is a highly sought-after lecturer on the subject, being invited to share his knowledge with professionals in Arizona, Washington, Michigan and all across California.

Barry received his Bachelors Degree in Recreation and a Lifetime Teaching Credential in Social Science from California State University, Hayward. He is also a graduate of the Pacific Revenue Sources Management School in San Diego, and the Inter-Governmental Management Training Program, based in St. Helena, California.

Madam Speaker, Barry Weiss is truly an innovator. He developed the first Parks Master Plan for San Carlos, built the first disabled-inclusive playground in San Mateo County with 70 percent of features being accessible to children of all abilities and limitations, and was among the first to document the societal gains attributed to park construction and recreation programs. Some of these benefits to society

include increased property values, reduced juvenile crime, increased academic performance and increased sales by downtown businesses.

Along with the citizens of San Carlos, I am disappointed to see Barry go, but I am grateful for his service, his dedication to his community and the positive impact he has made on society.

DON L. HANNI, JR. REMEMBERED

HON. TIM RYAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 31, 2008

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay respect and tribute to Attorney Don L. "Bull Moose" Hanni, Jr., who passed away July 16 at the age of 82.

A lifelong resident of the Mahoning Valley, Don Hanni was born August 25, 1925 on the East Side of Youngstown. A graduate of East High School, he received his bachelor's degree in social studies and history and his law degree from Youngstown College. Hanni was a U.S. Army veteran of World War II, having served in the Normandy invasion.

A prominent figure in the community, Hanni was known for his career in law as a defense trial lawyer, also serving as a municipal judge and as an assistant city prosecutor. A member of the Mahoning County Bar Association, Hanni was a powerful political force, serving as Chairman of the Mahoning County Democratic Party for 16 years.

A much respected and admired man, Hanni dedicated his life to the devotion and service of others and will long be remembered.

Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that an article from *The Vindicator* of July 17, 2008 be included in the RECORD.

RECALLING SKILL, WIT OF HANNI

(By William K. Alcorn)

YOUNGSTOWN.—Attorney Don L. Hanni Jr., who defined some of the best and worst in Youngstown law and politics during a career that spanned more than a half-century, died at his Coitsville home Wednesday morning.

As a lawyer, Hanni had a reputation as an accomplished student of the law and as a courtroom brawler who was faster on his feet than almost any opponent. As a politician, his own success at the ballot box was mixed, but as a Democratic Party chairman he made and broke more political careers than any chairman before him—or likely any that will follow him.

Friends and adversaries, sometimes one person being both, depending on the circumstances, talked about Hanni, 82, the lawyer, the politician and the man.

He was nicknamed "Bullmoose" by Julaine Gilmartin, the wife of his good friend Atty. Vincent Gilmartin. Mrs. Gilmartin said Hanni reminded her of a character, "General Bullmoose, in the 'Li'l Abner' cartoon, who was always telling everybody what to do, she said with a laugh.

"He always had the greatest stories. We're losing all the curmudgeons. It's the end of an era," she said.

"We were very dear friends," said Gilmartin, who had an office in the same building as Hanni at 219 W. Boardman St., after his 16-year stint as county prosecutor.

"He was a very honorable sort of person, very straightforward, very alert and kind-hearted," he added.

Gilmartin said he and Hanni faced each other numerous times as prosecutor and de-

fense attorney. "I found him to be very well-prepared, always knowledgeable about what we were doing, and aware of what the law required. He was a very good attorney," Gilmartin said.

One of Hanni's fiercest political foes over the years was William Binning, who was chairman of the Mahoning County Republican Party at the same time Hanni was head of the county Democratic Party.

Binning said sometimes their relationship was friendly, but they often were bitter enemies and had nasty fights.

"It depended on the issue of the day," said Binning, professor emeritus at Youngstown State University and former chairman of the school's political science department.

"One thing I would say, his word was always good with me. I had great respect for him because of that. He was one of the great colorful figures of the Mahoning Valley, and his passing is a great loss to the Valley," Binning said.

Another political foe with whom Hanni locked horns was Attorney Michael Morley, who replaced Hanni as county Democratic Party chairman in 1994.

"While Don and I had our political differences, we maintained a civil and cordial relationship over the years. I offer my condolences to his family. I visited him in the nursing home a couple of weeks ago and wished him well.

"We would see each other at events and he would call me chairman and I would call him chairman, and occasionally we would share a story," Morley said.

"Don Hanni and I were close friends. We used to have lunch on Fridays together and have a drink or two together," said R. Scott Krichbaum, a Mahoning County Common Pleas Court judge and a former defense lawyer.

"But he and I battled, too. We were great adversaries at one point. He was Democratic Party chairman and I was the Republican candidate for judge. We had to send the sheriff up to secure the ballots once the voting was done. It was a very close race," Judge Krichbaum said.

On the other hand, however, the judge said Hanni was "probably as good a trial lawyer as this area ever produced. He was absolutely brilliant in cross-examination. He was much more concerned with the facts than with the law. His method was very effective. He could pretty much take any case and give the defendant the best defense available.

"We respected each other as trial lawyers. It causes me a great deal of sorrow that I've lost him as a friend and as a colleague. His death is a tremendous loss to his family and the community," Judge Krichbaum said.

Former Senator Harry Meshel's relationship with Hanni went back to pre-college days when they used to frequent the Ritz Bar on Wilson Avenue on the East Side. They were both World War II veterans—Hanni in Europe and Meshel in the Pacific.

"We used to argue about who won the war," Meshel said with a laugh.

They were at Youngstown College and on its student council at the same time. Despite that relationship, they quarreled about politics from time to time. "He never hesitated to argue, even with his friends, and even ruled against them in court," Meshel said.

"The last time I visited him, not too many days ago, he was screaming about politics. He said, 'You got to run for mayor.' I said, 'I will if you'll be my law director,'" Meshel said.

"I think people would remember him for his sense of humor and sense of purpose, and his skill as a lawyer. He was highly respected in the legal profession. The judges will tell you he was prepared and clients got their money's worth," Meshel said.

"He was one of a kind. People don't know the things he did," said Joyce Kale Pesta, deputy director of Mahoning County Board of Elections and a longtime Hanni associate.

When he found out people who lived in the old Pick Ohio Hotel had no place to eat in downtown Youngstown, he fed them out of his office on Boardman Street. "Sometimes he would cook and sometimes I would cook," Pesta said.

"He always said 'Don't kick anybody when they're down, because you never know when you'll be down.' Even his worst enemies he'd stick up for when they were down. That's how [former county sheriff and U.S. Representative James] Traficant and he became friends after being enemies for many years," she said. He served in the Army during World War II and was with the Allied Forces who landed on Normandy beach on D-Day on June 6, 1944. He said it was horrific, but he never talked about it much, Pesta said.

The Rev. Lonnie Simon, pastor emeritus of New Bethel Baptist Church on Hillman Street, said Hanni was "Mr. Democrat in Youngstown as far as I was concerned."

"He was very well-liked in the black community, and I got along with him well," said the Rev. Mr. Simon, who, when he came to Youngstown in 1946, registered as a Republican.

Hanni was a mentor for Attorney Alan R. Kretzer in his early days and a client in a high-profile case when Hanni ran his car into the post office building in downtown Youngstown in 1985. Hanni was charged with driving under the influence; however, it was dismissed because of lack of evidence, but a charge of reckless operation was allowed to stand.

Kretzer said Hanni took that case and all cases seriously, but always had a sense of humor.

When they were considering how the case might go, Kretzer said Hanni told him that if he had to spend a few days in jail, at least he wouldn't have to listen to his telephone ring all day long.

Other local lawyers and government officials remembered Hanni as a widely respected giant in local legal and political circles.

Kathi McNabb Welsh, chief deputy Mahoning County clerk of courts, remembered well her days as an assistant county prosecutor in the 1990 murder trial of Christopher W. Magourias, who was defended by Hanni and Attorney J. Gerald Ingram and acquitted in the stabbing death of Kenmore Drake.

"It was quite a legal education for me to watch his mastery of the rules of evidence and his control of the courtroom," she said of Hanni.

"He will best be remembered as a great lawyer, a very zealous litigator, a person who really went out of his way to advocate his client's position and did a wonderful job of that," said Attorney Vincent Wloch, a magistrate in Mahoning County Probate Court.

"There was nobody better here locally with regard to cross-examination. He thought quick on his feet," said Wloch, who shared an office with Hanni from 1979 to 1985.

Wloch said he learned a great deal from his experience as co-counsel with Hanni in the defense of Steven T. Masters, whose 1980 murder trial lasted 10 weeks. Masters was convicted of killing his wife, Jodi, in what was then the longest criminal trial in Mahoning County history.

"He was just a Democratic giant in our field of politics," said Lisa Antonini, Mahoning County treasurer and Democratic Party chairwoman. Hanni's humor and ability to "get a message out on Democratic Party politics" will be missed, she said.

"What a historian. We'll miss him for that. He always taught me that you have to understand your history to move forward into the future. He never shied away from calling me when he thought I needed a history lesson," she recalled.

HONORING THE MEMORY OF THE HONORABLE ARTHUR GAMBLE, JR.

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 1, 2008

Mr. BONNER. Madam Speaker, the State of Alabama recently lost a man who made a profound impact on our State and Nation, and I rise today to honor the memory of Judge Arthur "Bud" Gamble, Jr.

History will remember Judge Gamble as the district attorney who prosecuted Ku Klux Klansman Collier Leroy Wilkins for the 1965 murder of Viola Liuzzo, a civil rights worker from Detroit who was gunned down in her car following the Selma-to-Montgomery voting rights march. Judge Gamble's memorable closing argument to the all-white jury led to a hung jury and the eventual federal conviction of the Klansman. Judge Gamble's contributions to the Civil Rights movement, his 23 years of service as circuit judge for Lowndes, Crenshaw, and Butler counties, and his dedicated service in World War II demonstrated he was a true American patriot.

Born on February 9, 1920, in Greenville, Alabama, Judge Gamble joined the Navy during World War II and flew patrol planes in the South Pacific. After the war, he returned to the University of Alabama and earned a Juris Doctor. He began practicing in his hometown and met Roberta Anne Peacock, whom he married in 1949. His love of law led him to serve in the Alabama Senate during the 1950s. He ran unopposed as the chief prosecutor in the circuit and served two terms.

Miraculously, Judge Gamble survived an assassination attempt in 1975 when his car was bombed. He retired almost two decades later in 1992, with much respect from the citizens of the three counties he had served for almost a quarter of a century.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in remembering a dedicated judge, community leader, and friend to many, as well as a wonderful husband and father. Judge Gamble will be dearly missed by his family—his wife, Roberta Gamble and their daughter, Reverend Eugenia Gamble—as well as the many countless friends he leaves behind.

Our thoughts and prayers are with them all during this difficult time.

MAURINE GRAY

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 1, 2008

Mr. POE. Madam Speaker, today I am proud to honor the lifetime of service given by Maurine Gray, longtime director of the Beaumont, Texas, Library. She spent almost 40 years serving the city and helped turn their public library system into one of the best in the State.

Enid Maurine Gray was born in Galveston, Texas, in 1943. An only child, she moved to Beaumont before her third birthday so her father could work as a family physician at a local refinery. After her high school graduation, she continued her education and received her BA from Northeast Louisiana State College and her Master's Degree in library science from North Texas State University.

She returned to Beaumont in 1966 to head the city's then fledgling library system. At the time, there were two libraries. Under her vision, the City of Beaumont established an additional four libraries, including a new main Library. Maurine was employed by the City of Beaumont from 1966 until her retirement in November of 2006. Never one to rest, she was hired back after retirement as a part-time consultant on projects including the expansion of Terrell Historical Library.

Numerous professional accolades were awarded to Maurine throughout her life. She was elected the secretary/treasurer of the American Library Association in 1972 during their annual convention. North Texas State named her a Distinguished Alumnus in 1980. In 1992, the Texas Municipal League named her the Library Director of the Year. She also received the Athena Award in 2005, which is presented to a woman for her professional achievements.

Maurine was the Library Director but she also wore many other hats. She worked with United Way, the Humane Society, the Beaumont Rotary Club where she once served as President, the Beaumont Civic Opera, and the Beaumont Heritage Society, to name a few. She was affiliated with the Texas Municipal Librarians Association, Junior Roundtable of Texas Library Association, and was a member of the Texas State Library Advisory Council.

Enid Maurine Gray passed away on June 21, 2008.

On behalf of the Second Congressional District of Texas, I applaud Maurine Gray on her lifetime of dedication and service to the community. She has made Southeast Texas a better place to live.

HONORING DREW BLACK'S SERVICE TO TENNESSEE'S SIXTH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

HON. BART GORDON

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 1, 2008

Mr. GORDON of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, today I rise to honor Drew Black for his service to Tennessee's Sixth Congressional District while working in my Washington, DC, office.

Drew's good nature, sense of humor and dance moves have made him a wonderful addition to the office. During his time here, his thorough research and hard work have helped me to better serve my constituents in Middle Tennessee.

Tuesday will be Drew's last day in the office before he returns to his home state of Indiana to begin an exciting job there. While Drew has enjoyed his time in the Nation's capital, his first love is the state of Indiana and, in particular, Hoosiers basketball.

My staff and I will miss Drew. He is a big guy with a big heart, which we have admired

as he has volunteered time each week to work one-on-one with a DC youth through Horton's Kids. And we have seen his big heart whenever he talks about his first boss on the Hill, the late Rep. Julia Carson, and we have admired his unwavering loyalty to her.

Drew, thank you for your help and dedication. I wish you all the best in the future.

TRIBUTE TO KATHERINE AND ELIZABETH GANT

HON. DENNIS MOORE

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 1, 2008

Mr. MOORE of Kansas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Katherine and Elizabeth Gant, residents of Kansas' Third Congressional District, who are retiring after 46 years as music educators in Leawood, Kansas.

In anticipation of a celebration honoring the Gant sisters that will take place on August 10, the Sun newspapers of Johnson County recently published an article detailing their accomplishments and plans for the future, which I am including with this CONGRESSIONAL RECORD statement. Having spent a lifetime composing children's music and teaching music to children, they will now focus on composing and promoting their own compositions.

Madam Speaker, I know that all House members join with us in paying tribute to Katherine and Elizabeth Gant, who are beloved by several generations of Johnson Countians for their dedicated and selfless work to bring music into the lives of our children.

GANT SISTERS STOP TEACHING TO FOCUS ON RECORDING

(By Kelli Bamforth)

After 46 years as music educators to countless children across the metro area, Elizabeth and Katherine Gant are hanging up their hats after the sale of their Leawood music school, 3658 W. 95th St.

But do not expect the sisters to retire. In many ways, their work is just beginning.

Elizabeth and Katherine will now focus on composing and promoting their original children's music beyond Kansas City.

"Schools and churches use our music but we knew we had to start aggressively marketing our music to get it out of Kansas City," Elizabeth said. "We want to get it all over America, but knew we couldn't teach and market simultaneously."

The sisters sold their school two months ago to Cindy See, a pianist with two daughters who are former students of the Gants.

"With the See family, (the school) will continue to be a family affair," Elizabeth said. "They just finished their summer session and will start back up in the fall."

A celebration honoring the Gant sisters will be held from 2 to 5 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 10, at Hallbrook Country Club, 11150 Overbrook Road.

Leawood Mayor Peggy Dunn will present a proclamation declaring "Gant Sisters Day" in the city and a children's choir will perform with school alumni.

"It all fell into place," Katherine said. "I thought (declaring Gant Sisters Day) was so sweet. Politicians and big important people get things named after them all the time, but for two sister educators. . . they keep telling us there are other things planned, but it's a surprise."

The sisters began what they call a "life-long love affair with music" when their mother inspired them as children.

"She taught us to sing with harmony," Elizabeth said. "She was a working mother but we never felt neglected."

Elizabeth and Katherine attended the Cincinnati Conservatory of Music, where they majored in opera and education. When Katherine graduated a year ahead of Elizabeth, Archie Jones, dean of the Conservatory of Music at the University of Missouri-Kansas City, asked Katherine to create a new and different children's music education program.

Elizabeth and Katherine began writing their own children's music and lyrics when they could not find anything suitable for children age 3 to 6 in their program.

"We started writing music to fit the needs of our classes," Elizabeth said. "We saw the need and we always loved children. We like to think we have our finger on the pulse of today's children, the dreams they dream. Our mom always told us the most important people in the world are children."

"We decided to write music for the child in all of us."

The program eventually moved to the Avila University campus for 10 years before being relocated to Leawood's Ranch Mart shopping center.

The sisters have recorded CDs and cassette tapes of their music, and eventually began writing children's books, adaptations of classic fairy tales such as "Pinocchio" and "Little Red Riding Hood."

"We write our own original music for each character," Elizabeth said.

One recording that already has reached audiences across the country is "America, I Love You!" Katherine and Elizabeth re-recorded the children's national anthem after the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks.

"That Sunday after 9/11, Katherine and I were at home watching television and Itzhak Perlman, a very talented violinist, was performing in New York near the site," Elizabeth said. "After he was done, he didn't know the camera was still on him, and he just started weeping. And it touched us. . . we knew we had to do something for the children."

Eleven years prior to Sept. 11, the sisters wrote and released the patriotic song, but re-recorded the tune with more than 400 children on the Pembroke Hill School campus. All proceeds from the recording go to two charities in New York for children whose parents lost their lives.

The video and CD have been distributed to all five branches of the military and every public television station in America.

But the music school remained their passion, the sisters said.

Business mostly came from word of mouth, Elizabeth said, and the sisters routinely taught children and grandchildren of former students.

"We've had a beautiful response to our music from children and parents alike," Elizabeth said. "When you put music and children together, beautiful things can happen. We've always had the feeling in our hearts that children and music should come together to bring about peace in the world."

Elizabeth and Katherine, both widowers, live together. Katherine said the past 46 years have been "a dream world of a perfect job."

"It's our passion," Katherine said.

"This wasn't just a whim or a passing fancy," Elizabeth said. "Music is like food, an ongoing necessity the world will always need. We're not trying to launch a rocket from a canoe but from the flagship of everything we've built for 46 years."

RECOGNIZING THE CEDAR STREET CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECT OF DENTON, TEXAS

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 1, 2008

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Cedar Street Capital Improvement Project in Denton, Texas. August 20, 2007 marked the beginning of this needed project.

The project was funded by Community Development Block Grants, or CDBGs, which were allocated to the City of Denton by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. These important Federal funds have been well utilized to benefit the people of the 26th District of Texas.

For more than 20 years, the City of Denton has set aside CDBG funds to repair and replace public facilities and services in older neighborhoods. The projects are designed to enhance both pedestrian and vehicle access to neighborhoods and downtown and to support basic services such as water and sewer.

The Cedar Street project replaced all water and sewer lines, many of which were over 50 years old. The project also widened sidewalks, making them ADA accessible for the first time in history. Roadside trees, benches, bike racks, and pedestrian amenities were also added. The estimated cost for the project is \$1.2 million, of which \$800,000 came from Community Development Block Grants. This project will help enhance mobility and aesthetics as well as upgrade utility lines on the west side of the Downtown Square.

Madam Speaker, it is an honor to rise today and recognize the outstanding improvements being made on Cedar Street, and I thank the Department of Housing and Urban Development for allocating the funds to make it possible. It is my privilege to represent the members of the Community Development Advisory Committee and everyone involved in these worthwhile projects in the 26th District of Texas.

CALLING ON CHINA TO END HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSES PRIOR TO THE OLYMPICS

SPEECH OF

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 30, 2008

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise to express my concerns with H. Res. 1370.

I certainly am supportive of many of the provisions of the bill. I am a friend of His Holiness the Dalai Lama, and I continue to voice my displeasure of the treatment of the Tibetan people by the government of the People's Republic of China. The human rights consequences that persist in Tibet have the potential to devastate Tibet and completely abolish any chance of peaceful reconciliation.

I also support efforts to hold repressive governments in Sudan and Burma accountable for their reprehensible treatment of their citizens. It is outrageous that these governments continue to prosper and enjoy support from other

governments, such as China, as they systematically dismantle the economic and physical security of their citizens and routinely violate universally accepted human rights principles.

However, this legislation continues a troubling pattern of addressing political and social issues in a cosmetic and superficial manner, while ignoring the devastating impact of our trade policies with China on the American economy and American families. The Economic Policy Institute recently released a report that asserted between 2001–2007, our trade deficit with China has more than tripled, from \$84 billion to \$262 billion. This trade deficit has led to a veritable hemorrhaging of jobs: the American economy has shed approximately 2.3 million jobs during that time span, the vast majority being manufacturing jobs.

Moreover, China continues its practice of currency manipulation, where the Yuan is pegged to the American dollar at a depressed and fixed rate. This distorts the prices of imports and exports, making American imports artificially high and Chinese exports low. China is currently one of the top two holders of U.S. Treasury bonds; the other is Japan.

Nonbinding saber rattling will not improve the human rights situation in China. We must get our priorities in order. If we take a hard look at the economic and financial policies that guide our relationship with China, we will realize that they continue to erode the American economy, attack the American family, and compromise our national security.

I will continue to advocate for the open channels of dialogue and discussions that will lead to real change and understanding, and I will reject demagoguery that has no real effect and serves no valuable purpose in our foreign policy.

PRINCIPLES FOR A NATIONAL STRATEGY

HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 31, 2008

Mr. SKELTON. Madam Speaker, I rise tonight to speak about how the United States can best advance its national interests by adopting a new strategy. In my prior speeches, I have asserted that we currently lack an effective strategy and that the next President should engage in a focused effort, in concert with Congress and the American people, to identify and adopt a new strategy early in his Administration. I have noted that we live in a time when the U.S. is the world's preeminent power, but also in a time when transnational events are increasingly significant and in which several large nations, and some entire regions of the world, are returning to prominence. All of this stresses the international system.

I have asserted that the U.S. should continue to accept the challenge of world leadership, serving as the world's indispensable nation, just as we have for the free world since the end of the Second World War; that we should fulfill this role not to seek or to maintain power for power's sake, but by earning the mantle of leadership. We should advance our national interests not at the expense of others, but wherever possible in cooperation with

them, as part of an international system that offers fairness and opportunity to all nations.

So, I advise the next President, whoever it may be, to embark upon a process modeled on President Eisenhower's Project Solarium in order to develop a new strategy for America. In Project Solarium, President Eisenhower selected three of our Nation's top strategic thinkers to gather teams to study, propose, and report back to him on a national security policy. Should our future President follow this model, I recommend that he judge those new proposals against a simple set of principles:

1. The first priority of the Federal Government is the protection of the U.S. homeland and its citizens.

2. The foundation for continued U.S. leadership is the strength of our economy and our commitment to our values and principles.

3. Do not let an outside power dominate Europe or the Western Pacific, and in addition maintain freedom of the seas.

4. U.S. world leadership should be earned by virtue of the esteem other nations hold for us, engendered by our productivity and moral leadership, and not through a self-justifying hegemony which views the peaceful rise of other nations as an inherent threat.

5. Insulate the Western Hemisphere from hostile outside powers with a collaborative approach.

6. Transnational events that can undermine States and challenge or dislocate large numbers of people—the AIDS pandemic, terrorism, and global climate change to give a few examples—should be addressed by international coalitions coordinating globally, using the full range of national power.

7. Our military strength serves as both a source of deterrence for would-be aggressors, and reassurance for our friends and allies, but military action is a last resort. When it is used—whether multilateral or unilateral—strict adherence to the essential strategic tenets propounded by Sun Tzu and Clausewitz is mandatory.

These principles do not in and of themselves define our strategy, for they leave many questions unanswered. What kind of international institutions, coalitions and alliances are essential? What red lines should trigger a certain U.S. response, even if it must be a unilateral response? How do we define what constitutes a fair opportunity to advance for those nations which perceive their current share of the world's resources as inadequate? And what transnational events require a concerted international response? These are judgments for the next President; he should make them with input from a wide variety of sources. I ask all of my colleagues and all of those who have listened to these speeches to take part in a dialogue to help forge a new national consensus on a clear cut strategy that fulfills our principles and helps us answer these hard questions, ultimately guiding us to policies that are wise and just.

CONGRATULATING MRS. AUTINE BUCHANAN ON THE OCCASION OF HER 104TH BIRTHDAY

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 1, 2008

Mr. BONNER. Madam Speaker, it is with great pride and pleasure that I rise to honor

Mrs. Autine Buchanan on the occasion of her 104th birthday.

Born in 1904, Mrs. Buchanan has witnessed much change in our Nation and world. The year she was born, the New York subway first opened and the teddy bear was first produced.

Mrs. Buchanan has lived through two world wars, and watched our nation develop into what it is today. She also witnessed the birth of many modern inventions—like the helicopter, penicillin, motion pictures, stainless steel, and even scotch tape. Through all this change, she has dedicated much of her life to feeding and caring for the needy.

Mrs. Buchanan has been a resident of Mobile and a member of the Fulton Road Baptist Church for 39 years. She is a proud mother, grandmother, and great grandmother. She is also a member of the LivingWell Health Center in Mobile.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Mrs. Autine Buchanan on the occasion of her 104th birthday. She is a friend to many throughout south Alabama, and I know her friends and family join me in wishing her a happy birthday.

WHERE OH WHERE HAS CONGRESS GONE?

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 1, 2008

Mr. POE. Madam Speaker, "Where oh where has Congress gone,

Where o where can they be?

With gas so high and this recess so long,

Where oh where can they be?"

Where oh where has Congress gone? Well Madam Speaker, they're not here, they've gotten out of Dodge. They have left the American people behind in a cloud of dust and high gasoline prices. Congress is on the run; it has not dealt with the energy crisis and not attempted to solve high gasoline prices. So it's sneaking out of town for five weeks-gone on vacation.

The American people won't be going on vacation, because they cannot afford gasoline to take a family trip. My 83 year old parents who are on fixed incomes can't even afford gasoline to go to church. So what is Congress' answer? Leave town in the darkness of the night?

The question Madam Speaker is why? Why don't they stick around and let us vote on taking care of America? For example, let's vote on offshore drilling—most Americans favor it. We are the representatives of America. Let's vote, up or down, on offshore drilling. It's an environmental myth that we cannot drill safely offshore. We need to drill in ANWAR. Why didn't Congress stick around and vote on drilling in ANWAR?

The American taxpayer shells out 425 million dollars a day to Saudi Arabia for crude oil. We pay this ransom because Congress won't take care of America. The United States is the only major power in the world that does not use its own natural resources. This is nonsense and rather than deal with this crisis Congress has turned its back on the American people—dispersed to parts unknown throughout the fruited plain and fled town. This is shameful conduct. The President should use his constitutional power and call for a special

session of this Congress to deal with energy. We should round up all those members of Congress that have fled the scene, bring them back and solve this energy crisis—specifically high gasoline prices.

"Where oh where has Congress gone,
Where o where can they be?
With gas so high and this recess so long,
Where oh where can they be?"
And that's just the way it is.

HONORING JULIE EUBANK

HON. BART GORDON

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 1, 2008

Mr. GORDON of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, today I rise to honor Julie Eubank, a Smyrna, Tennessee native who has served the people of Middle Tennessee as a trusted member of my staff for the past six years. Julie has worked with me in a number of capacities. She started as an intern in my Murfreesboro District office and then moved to Washington as my scheduler. Julie ultimately became my Press Secretary, where she has served for the past four years.

A Press Secretary has a position of great trust with a Member of Congress. They are responsible for keeping the lines of communications open between citizens and their representatives. Julie has done an exceptional job keeping the people of the 6th District informed on the many issues being debated in Congress.

As a graduate of Smyrna High School and Middle Tennessee State University, Julie brings a special knowledge of the 6th District to her job that has been invaluable to me. She has treated every media outlet, regardless of size, with the same level of attention and care.

Julie has been a source of levity when deadlines were tight, and her opinions are valued by my staff and me. She is leaving us next Thursday to head to Montana for the fall, and I know she will bring the same humor, professionalism, and talent to the "Treasure State" that she has shared with the people of the "Volunteer State." Julie is a good friend and advisor and we will miss her in Washington, but wish her well as she pursues this new challenge.

COMMENDING THE MEDAL OF HONOR HOST CITY PROGRAM IN GAINESVILLE, TEXAS

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 1, 2008

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend the Medal of Honor (MOH) Host City Program in Gainesville, Texas. The program was established in 2001 to recognize the contributions of MOH recipients. In order to honor their accomplishments, invitations are extended to former MOH recipients to visit Gainesville; all their expenses are covered during their stay. The city has hosted more than a dozen medal recipients since the program's inception.

The Medal of Honor is the highest award for valor that can be bestowed upon a member of

the United States Armed Forces for action against an enemy of the United States. The people of the United States will always be indebted to the recipients of the Medal of Honor for their courage, selflessness, and sacrifice.

The first MOH recipient to visit Gainesville was Colonel Don "Doc" Ballard, a Vietnam recipient. Impressed by that 2001 visit, Ballard has returned each successive year. Recipient Mike Thornton, another Gainesville guest, was generous enough to set up a college scholarship fund for the local high school. As the Gainesville program has gained momentum, an annual, three-day celebration was established around March 25th, Medal of Honor Day. MOH recipients have the opportunity to speak at local schools, play in the Host City golf tournament, and visit the city's historical Victorian homes.

Madam Speaker, it is truly an honor to rise today and commend this outstanding program. Its volunteers have shown great leadership and hospitality in hosting these honorable veterans. I am proud to represent the Medal of Honor Host City Program in the 26th District of Texas.

PAYCHECK FAIRNESS ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. CAROLYN C. KILPATRICK

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 31, 2008

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 1338) to amend the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 to provide more effective remedies to victims of discrimination in the payment of wages on the basis of sex, and for other purposes.

Ms. KILPATRICK. Mr. Chairman, in 2008, a year in which women have made unprecedented gains in public and private leadership—Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives; chairwomen of powerful committees and subcommittees; chief executive officers and chairwomen of Fortune 500 Companies, among many others—it is simply unforgivable and unacceptable that women, according to the U.S. Census Bureau, continue to make only 77 cents for every dollar earned by a man. Over a lifetime, this is anywhere from \$400,000 to more than \$2 million dollars that cannot be spent by a woman on food for her children, clothing for her grandparents, for decent housing for her and her family. In an era in heightened economic challenges, we should not, we cannot undervalue, underappreciate and marginalize the hard work that women do each and every day.

TRIBUTE TO JOHNSON COUNTY, KANSAS, FOR BEING RECOG- NIZED AS ONE OF THE BEST PLACES TO LIVE AND RAISE A FAMILY

HON. DENNIS MOORE

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 1, 2008

Mr. MOORE of Kansas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Johnson County,

Kansas, for being recognized by Forbes Magazine and CNN/Money as one of the best places to live and raise a family in the United States of America.

On June 30, 2008, Forbes ranked Johnson County as the third best place in the country to raise a family. Similarly, CNN/Money.com has called Overland Park, Kansas, a city of nearly 170,000 people located in Johnson County, the ninth best place to live in the U.S.

As a resident of Johnson County myself, I am particularly pleased that the county has earned such high praise. These media outlets have highlighted what my fellow Johnson County residents and I have known for years: great schools, affordable homes, and a growing economy have made Johnson County a great place to live.

Located in Northeast Kansas, in suburbs of Kansas City, Missouri, Johnson County is home to more than 500,000 people spread across 21 different municipalities. Six school districts enroll nearly 80,000 K–12 students each year. Major businesses, including Yellow Freight, Applebees Restaurants, and Sprint Nextel have been headquartered in the county. The strong schools and impressive job growth, along with affordable homes, short commutes, and the low cost of living led Forbes to rank Johnson County third out of more than 90 counties from across the U.S. that the magazine surveyed.

I'm proud to say that I have lived and worked in Johnson County for more than 30 years. I'm even more proud to have served the citizens of Johnson County, first as District Attorney for 12 years, on the Board of Trustees for Johnson County Community College for 7 years, and as their U.S. Representative for the past 9 years. I want to commend the many city and county officials, public service workers, business leaders, investors, and above all, the numerous parents and grandparents who have worked so hard to help make Johnson County the wonderful place that it is today.

IN RECOGNITION OF CHIRAG SHAH AND KORI LORICK

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 1, 2008

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, I am grateful for this opportunity to wish a fond farewell to two extraordinary members of South Carolina's Second Congressional District Staff—Chirag Shah and Kori Lorick.

Hailing from the great State of Wisconsin and son of Kamal and Jagruti Shah and brother of Chintan, Chirag was first an intern in the Second District office during college at the University of Wisconsin. We were fortunate that he chose to return to Capitol Hill and serve first as scheduler and then as legislative correspondent for the people of the Second Congressional District. Chirag will be heading to the University of Missouri for law school this fall.

A native of Lexington, South Carolina, and daughter of Mary Alice Lorick and Neville Lorick, Kori joined the second district staff at the beginning of this year as a staff assistant following graduation from the College of William and Mary. Her important work on behalf

of constituents visiting the United States Capitol and directing the day-to-day activities of the front office have been a very special part of helping our office better serve the constituents of the Second Congressional District. Kori will be joining the Federal Bureau of Investigation in August.

The people of the Second Congressional District of South Carolina have been well-served by Chirag and Kori. Their dedication, hard work, and good humor will be missed. We wish them both good health and happiness in their future endeavors.

TRIBUTE TO KARA LAWSON AND
DELANO THOMAS

HON. DORIS O. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 1, 2008

Ms. MATSUI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate and send the best wishes of California's fifth district to Kara Lawson and Delano Thomas, two of our country's elite athletes who will represent the United States in the 2008 Olympics in Beijing. Both Kara and Delano reside in Sacramento, California's fifth district. I hope that my colleagues will join me in wishing these two athletes, as well as all of our country's amazing Olympic talent, the absolute best of luck.

Kara is a star member of the Sacramento Monarchs WNBA team, a team which has seen its fair share of success. Lawson was a key member of the Monarch's 2005 championship team. She is widely known in the WNBA as one of the league's smartest players. In addition to her on court career, Lawson has been involved in sports broadcasting during the WNBA off-season, doing commentaries for men's and women's college basketball games and Sacramento Kings games. In fact, Kara was the first female to serve as a nationwide broadcast analyst for an NBA game. Kara is a continuing inspiration to Sacramento's young women and we are honored that she will represent not only the United States but Sacramento as well, next month in Beijing.

Delano Thomas has been a member of the U.S. volleyball team since May of 2005 and has proven himself as a team leader and points producing force. This well rounded athlete toyed, for a time, with the idea of playing football for the University of Hawaii, and got his start with volleyball, basketball and soccer at Sacramento's John F. Kennedy High School. He pursued collegiate volleyball to become a freshman All American and member of the U.S. junior national team. According to USA Volleyball, "Delano was the United States leading server at the Pan American Games in 2007 with an average of 0.56 aces per set. He was the fourth-leading U.S. scorer at the Pan American Games with a total of 42 points on 27 kills, six blocks and nine aces." I am confident that he will help to push the U.S. to another astounding medal count.

Madam Speaker, while controversy understandably surrounds this year's Olympic games, I applaud our athletes for their accomplishments, pure of political influence and for sheer enjoyment of their sport. I also know that Kara and Delano, along with all our outstanding athletes, will be model ambassadors of America's world leadership and our coun-

try's foundational philosophy in a country where such freedoms aren't as readily available.

I applaud both of these individuals for their hard work, dedication, athleticism and achieving their goals. I thank them for serving our country as ambassadors and shining examples of American unity. I call on my colleagues to share in recognizing Kara and Delano, and to wish all of our 2008 Olympians a safe, fun, and successful experience.

MARIN MORRISON OF SAMMAMISH

HON. DAVID G. REICHERT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 1, 2008

Mr. REICHERT. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of an extraordinary young woman from my District whose unyieldingly positive spirit in the face of a horrendous challenge is a true inspiration at any time, but especially leading up to the Summer Olympics in Beijing.

Marin Morrison, 17, of Sammamish, Washington, was one of the top swimmers in the country as a 14-year-old. She was just 1.5 seconds away from qualifying for the Olympic time trials. She received recruiting letters from some of the top schools in the country. She was a natural and earned medal after medal. However, fierce headaches and double vision turned her world upside down. An MRI revealed a tumor on her brain and doctors gave her 4 to 6 months to live. As a result of surgery in 2005, she was left partially paralyzed. She was forced to relearn some basics such as reading, writing and walking. It appeared her Olympic dreams were dashed.

Although she sometimes struggled mightily, she swam nearly every day. She refused to give up and started a new type of Olympic journey. She battled fatigue and her other physical ailments like a heavyweight boxer and never stopped fighting. Classmates at Eastlake High School, family, friends, former Olympians and countless others rallied around her. Then in April, Marin flew to Minnesota for the paralympic trials and earned a spot on the 37 member swim team, realizing her Olympic dream.

Marin's story is beyond inspiring. The circumstances she has overcome are truly humbling. She is a true American hero and we wish her all the best in Beijing and in the future.

THE ANIMAL DRUG USER FEE
AMENDMENTS OF 2008

SPEECH OF

HON. EDWARD J. MARKEY

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 30, 2008

Mr. MARKEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of inclusion in this legislation of a technical fix to an important provision in the Federal Drug Administration Amendments, FDAAA, that I authored with Congressman WAXMAN.

When the FDAAA was signed into law last September, it included a drafting error that

had the effect of exempting medical devices from the requirement in the FDAAA that adverse events occurring during clinical trials must be reported to the registry and results data bank created by the bill.

There is bipartisan agreement that this exemption resulted from a clerical error, not a deliberate change of policy. The data bank created by the bill is intended to provide patients with comprehensive information about clinical trials that are being conducted so they can consider enrolling in a trial and also learn about the benefits and problems associated with the drugs and medical devices that are being tested.

The drafting error has the effect of only requiring drug companies to report medical problems that surface during clinical trials, exempting device companies.

Everyone agrees that it was not the intent of Congress to exempt devices from reporting adverse events in their clinical trials. Both drug companies and device manufacturers were required to report to the database according to the agreement reached by Members on both sides of the aisle.

I am pleased that this legislation fixes this clerical error.

35W BRIDGE COLLAPSE DISASTER
MEMORIAL

HON. JIM RAMSTAD

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 1, 2008

Mr. RAMSTAD. Madam Speaker, I rise to take a moment to remember the tragic event that occurred 1 year ago today when an eight-lane bridge on Highway 35-W in downtown Minneapolis collapsed and took the lives of 13 people.

No Minnesotan will ever forget the night of August 1st. No Minnesotan will ever forget the horrifying image of the school bus, barely hanging onto the edge of a piece of concrete. We all wondered how many children were on the bus and how they could be rescued.

But all those children made it off the bus to safety, thanks to the kindness of strangers. And that is what people will remember the most—the brave first responders and ordinary men and women who risked their lives to save others.

Madam Speaker, our thoughts and prayers are still with the victims and their families, and we must do everything possible to assure a tragedy like this will never happen again.

Minnesota has done a lot this year to improve the quality of its infrastructure. I am proud to say that after a year of hard work and dedication, the bridge is expected to reopen in 2 months, ahead of schedule.

Madam Speaker, my deepest gratitude goes to my colleagues who responded so quickly during Minnesota's time of need, and to every person who responded to this disaster, saving lives, caring for the injured, comforting victims and their families and making our bridge whole again.

TRIBUTE TO THOMAS MORE
PREPARATORY

HON. JERRY MORAN

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 1, 2008

Mr. MORAN of Kansas. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Thomas More Preparatory—Marian and their centennial celebration. Located in my hometown of Hays, Kansas, Thomas More Prep recently concluded a 3 day festival commemorating 100 years of educational service. I stand before you in celebration of this remarkable milestone.

TMP, as it is known in Northwest Kansas, has served as a pillar of faith-based learning for generations. Founded by Capuchin Priests in 1908 as Hays Catholic College, the school featured a combination high school and junior college curriculum and would become a vibrant military academy with an active Junior ROTC program. The school would evolve into St. Joseph's Military Academy.

St. Joseph's Military academy was not alone in forming the foundation of what would become TMP-M. Girl's Catholic High School, the female counterpart to the Academy, was founded in 1918. As was the case with St. Joseph's, the school moved several times before it settled and was renamed Marian High School.

The name Thomas More Prep was coined in 1970. In 1981, Marian High School and Thomas More Preparatory merged to form the school that is being recognized today. Madam Speaker, I emphasize the history of this fine institution in an effort to illustrate the dedication and sacrifice exhibited by those charged with its continuation. To administrate and fund a parochial school on the plains of Kansas for one hundred years is no small feat. Admiration is due to Fathers Henry Kluepfel and Eugene Beckner who founded what would become St. Joseph's Military Academy in 1908 as well as Sister M. Reminga Neder, and Fr. Dominic Schuster who founded what would become Marian High school in 1918. Through their perseverance and leadership, an institution was established that would reach a global student body.

As an institution serving many international borders through the years, TMP-M has created a worldwide network of faithful alumni committed to the advancement of the school. The alumni of this educational system have much to be proud of. Each individual associated with TMP-M's rich history has contributed to the overall identity that the school enjoys. It is through their generosity that the school continues to provide the services necessary to continue the long tradition of academic excellence.

Admiration and thanks are also due to Ms. Jean Ross, current president of the school, Mr. Denis Coakley, principal and headmaster, and Mr. Gene Flax, assistant principal of student affairs. Through their faithful leadership, TMP-M has a bright future to coincide with their storied past. I ask God to continue to show his grace on this institution and I pray for its ongoing success.

I ask you, Madam Speaker, to join me in congratulating Thomas More Prep.—Marian on 100 years of service to its students, alumni and the greater northwest Kansas community.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 4137,
HIGHER EDUCATION OPPOR-
TUNITY ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. VERNON J. EHLERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 31, 2008

Mr. EHLERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to support the conference report on the Higher Education Opportunity Act. As a conferee on this bill, I am very pleased that we have a final bill before us. I want to thank Chairman MILLER and Ranking Member MCKEON for all their hard work on this bill, and I especially thank them for including provisions that are very important to people in Michigan.

Higher education is vitally important for students entering the workforce and for the global competitiveness of this country. This bill will ensure students have better access to higher education, and that they have received a high quality educational experience when they receive their degree. Now that a college degree is the bare minimum requirement for so many jobs, the need for better access is stronger than ever.

Let me comment on some specific provisions in the bill.

In 2007, Representative BLUMENAUER and I joined together to introduce the Higher Education Sustainability Act (H.R. 3637). I commend Representative BLUMENAUER for his leadership in "greening" colleges and universities, and I am grateful that he allowed me to partner with him on an issue that is so dear to my heart. I am very pleased that provisions of our bill have been included in the conference report, especially now when energy prices and shortages are on everyone's mind.

Simply put, sustainability is meeting the needs of the present generation without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their needs. As population growth, urban development and growing energy use place stress on our ecosystem, it is imperative that we develop innovative and successful sustainable operations and programs.

Colleges and universities are in a unique position to foster new knowledge, evaluate policies and discover new technologies to address sustainability. Sustainable operations and programs on university campuses include water and energy conservation, recycling, and academic programs such as engineering courses that encourage innovative product designs, e.g., alternative fuels for cars, other new energy sources, and new types of packaging that use fewer natural materials.

The conference report contains two key sustainability provisions. First, it convenes a Summit on Sustainability with higher education experts working in the area of sustainable operations and programs. The Federal Government and university and business leaders are encouraged to identify best practices in sustainability by promoting current efforts, enhancing research and identifying opportunities for partnerships to expand sustainable operations and academic programs. Also, it authorizes the Sustainability Grant Program. The Secretary of Education, in consultation with the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, is authorized to award grants to colleges and universities to establish sustainability research programs, such as developing

new alternative energy sources. It also allows schools to implement sustainability practices on campus.

The conference report also contains an important study of distance education. It requires the Secretary of Education to contract with the National Research Council of the National Academy of Sciences to conduct a scientifically valid study of the quality of distance education, as compared to traditional, campus-based education. With so many students using distance education and a huge Federal investment in helping students attend college, it is critical that we effectively evaluate new modes of instruction to ensure that our students are receiving a topnotch education.

Finally, the conference report contains an array of provisions related to science, technology, engineering and math, collectively "STEM", education. Notably, it includes the National STEM Database to allow students with an interest in the STEM fields to more easily find financial aid. Also, it authorizes important loan forgiveness for college graduates pursuing careers in the STEM fields, and it authorizes the Mathematics and Science Scholars Program to award scholarships to students pursuing STEM majors. Now, more than ever, we must increase the size of our STEM workforce to maintain our competitiveness and national security.

In closing, I support this conference report since it helps students and makes many overdue improvements to the Higher Education Act. I urge all Members to vote in support of it.

COMMEMORATING JACK C. BINION
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL'S RIBBON
CUTTING CEREMONY

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 1, 2008

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Birdville Independent School District upon the construction of an outstanding new educational facility in Richland Hills, Texas. This new building is an exciting step forward for the school district, and the ribbon-cutting ceremony for Jack C. Binion Elementary is planned for August 21, 2008.

Binion Elementary is capably headed by Principal Paul Anderson and Assistant Principal Hilda Hager. The school welcomes students from pre-kindergarten through fifth grade, and has a total enrollment of over 500 students. Binion's mascot is the Bobcat, and their colors are maroon and white.

Binion Elementary is the newest facility for the Birdville Independent School District, which consists of 32 schools and over 22,000 students. Binion was founded in 1954 as Glenview Elementary. The first year the school opened, construction on the cafeteria wasn't completed until November. For the first few months of classes, food had to be brought in from another school each day. The first Principal was Mr. Jack C. Binion, and his leadership was instrumental in getting the school off to an excellent start. In 2003, Glenview was renamed Jack C. Binion Elementary School.

In the fall of 2006, voters approved the construction of a new campus for the elementary school. In summer of 2007, construction

began, and the building is scheduled to be completed in time for the ribbon-cutting ceremony.

Madam Speaker, it is truly an honor to rise today to compliment the Birdville Independent School District's administration for its leadership in directing the construction of an impressive new campus for Jack C. Binion Elementary. I am proud to represent its students, teachers, and the Richland Hills community in the 26th District of Texas.

TRIBUTE TO BORRE WINCKEL

HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 1, 2008

Mr. CALVERT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to an individual whose dedication and contributions to the community of Riverside County, CA are exceptional. Riverside has been fortunate to have dynamic and dedicated community leaders who willingly and unselfishly give their time and talent and make their communities a better place to live and work. Borre Winckel is one of these individuals. Borre is retiring as the Executive Director of the Building Industry Association, BIA, for Riverside County.

Born in the Netherlands, Borre arrived in the U.S. in 1977 following his family's acquisition of property in Temecula, CA. Borre was educated at Boston University and received joint degrees in Print Journalism and Public Communication. After graduation, Borre joined Chase Manhattan Bank's New York City Head Office as a Press Spokesman and Speechwriter for the Office of the Chairman. Chase decided Borre was better suited for banking and placed him in their prestigious corporate finance credit training program in Wall Street.

Following Wall Street, Borre's mixed-use land development activities led him to join the Riverside County BIA Chapter, which he has run as its Executive Director since 1996. The County's volume of building permit activity—highest in the State of California—places him center stage on many growth and development related issues. Under his leadership, Riverside County BIA became the region's leading private sector participant in major transportation planning and funding projects; air and water quality issues; endangered species conservation planning and residential green building programs. Borre is frequently quoted in the major media and is a sought after as a conference speaker.

Some of the BIA accomplishments under Borre include: membership at the Riverside Chapter flourished, tripling in size to over 700 members; in coordination with city and county officials, the BIA helped develop the Riverside County Integrated Project, RCIP, a three year planning effort to simultaneously prepare environmental, transportation, housing and development guidelines for future population growth; and worked with officials and outside groups to establish the Multi-Species Habitat Conservation Plan, MSHCP. In 2007, Borre convinced the County Board of Supervisors to initiate a streamlining strike force to speed up the entitlement and permitting process. As a result, County entitlement and permitting processes are already more fluid and predictable.

Borre is a resident of San Juan Capistrano and is married to Kay Sutton-Nagel. They

have three children, Emilie, Sophie and George, Jr. Borre's tireless passion for the community of Riverside County has contributed immensely to the betterment of the Inland Empire. I am proud to call Borre a fellow community member, American and friend. I know that many community members are grateful for his service and salute him as he retires.

RECOGNITION OF THE 60TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE AIR FORCE OFFICE OF SPECIAL INVESTIGATIONS

HON. SILVESTRE REYES

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 1, 2008

Mr. REYES. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the Air Force Office of Special Investigations, or the AFOSI.

Today, August 1, 2008, OSI celebrates its 60th anniversary as the investigative arm of the United States Air Force. At the suggestion of Congress in 1948, AFOSI was established as the consolidated and centralized investigative service for the United States Air Force by then-Secretary of the Air Force Stuart Symington. Since its inception, AFOSI has served to ensure a capability for independent and objective criminal investigations. Through the years, AFOSI's mission has evolved in many ways to meet the changing needs of the Air Force. As a direct result, it has matured into a highly effective war fighting unit while maintaining the standards of a greatly respected federal law enforcement agency. Its goal today, as it was 60 years ago, is to provide the world's best investigative service to the world's best Air Force.

AFOSI has played a central role in the history of the Air Force. It was the AFOSI commander in Korea who first alerted the Far East Air Forces headquarters in Tokyo of the North Korean invasion in June 1950. During the early to mid-1960s, AFOSI units were deployed to Vietnam and quickly proved their mettle in support of air base defense by gathering early warning threat information on sabotage and surprise attacks. As terrorism became more prevalent in the 1970s, AFOSI responded with investigative tools and programs that enhanced the protection of Air Force people and resources. In 1978, AFOSI became the first organization in the federal government to establish a computer crime program. AFOSI's counterintelligence efforts contributed to victory in the Cold War by identifying and neutralizing foreign intelligence operations targeting the United States Air Force. When the Pentagon felt the impact of cyber-threats in the 1990s, it tapped AFOSI to run the Defense Department's computer forensic training and laboratory programs.

In recent years, AFOSI has answered the call to help protect an air and space force that is committed to going anywhere in the world, at any time. Its response to the 9/11 terrorist attacks and contributions to subsequent combat operations in Afghanistan and Iraq, as well as support to worldwide humanitarian assistance missions, continue to highlight AFOSI as a force multiplier providing for the safety and security of our armed forces anywhere in the world.

Although AFOSI has evolved and adapted to today's needs, there has never been a

change in the fundamental nature of the organization: it is an independent, high performance investigative agency, and indispensable to the Air Force. Today's AFOSI is made up of approximately 3,200 people operating across the globe, virtually anywhere you would find our Air Force's interests or resources.

With a legacy of service, integrity and excellence behind them, the members of this office march on today in the footsteps of the many men and women who have served in the AFOSI, including one of our honorable colleagues, Senator ARLEN SPECTER.

Madam Speaker, it is with a great deal of pride that the AFOSI celebrates its 60th anniversary. In a time of unprecedented change and challenge, AFOSI continues to rise to the occasion by answering the call of the United States Air Force, the Department of Defense, and our great Nation.

SUPPORTING THE GOALS AND IDEALS OF THE APPLE CRUNCH AND THE NATION'S DOMESTIC APPLE INDUSTRY

SPEECH OF

HON. JOHN M. McHUGH

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 29, 2008

Mr. McHUGH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today as a proud cosponsor of H. Res. 1143, which expresses support for the goals and ideals of the Apple Crunch and National Apple Month, which will be celebrated in October. Additionally, this measure promotes the importance of making healthy food choices, which apples certainly are, particularly when choosing snacks. As my constituents know, there is no better snack on a beautiful fall day in Upstate New York than a McIntosh apple.

We have all heard the old adage of 'an apple a day keeps the doctor away.' In fact, recent studies have reinforced the nutritional and health benefits of apples. These studies have indicated that eating apples may help to prevent Alzheimer's disease as well as certain types of cancer and heart disease. Additional studies have found that apple consumption may help to reduce coughing and perhaps even childhood asthma.

In addition to promoting good health, this resolution also recognizes the importance of our Nation's apple industry. The apple has long played an integral part in New York State's economy and history, particularly in Clinton County which I have the privilege of representing. Specifically, by 1850, over 500 varieties of apples had already originated in New York State, and of particular pride, the world famous McIntosh apple was first propagated and planted in the Champlain Valley in 1835. Additionally, in 1969 the Acey Mac apple variety, known for being sweet, tart, and juicy, evolved in Peru, New York, which is located in Clinton County.

Today, New York State is home to roughly 694 commercial apple growers and produces about 25 million bushels each year, which makes it our nation's second leading producer. Moreover, Clinton County is one of the State's most productive counties.

Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the importance of apples to our health and economy. Accordingly, I am proud to be a cosponsor of H. Res. 1143.

PRESIDENTIAL COMMISSION TO
STUDY THE CULTURE AND GLO-
RIFICATION OF VIOLENCE IN
AMERICA ACT

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 1, 2008

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Presidential Commission to Study the Culture and Glorification of Violence in America Act. This bill will establish a commission tasked with not only studying the culture of violence in our country, but also the factors that contribute to this culture and the actions that can be taken to mitigate its effects.

Members of this Commission will determine what connections exist between violence and access to firearms, psychological stress, and economic despair. They will further examine what role schools can play in preventing violence and propose possible solutions to address the glorification of violence in the United States.

Madam Speaker, we have become a society that places violence and aggression above hard work and acts of kindness. Sadly, children today admire gangsters instead of teachers. They would rather be thugs and drug lords than doctors and philanthropists. They measure the strength of their character by the size of their gun and not by their generosity toward others.

The American Academy of Pediatrics has found that prolonged exposure to violence in the media can increase acceptance of violence as an appropriate means of solving problems. It can glamorize weapons as sources of personal power and can contribute to aggressive behavior. It is, therefore no surprise that in 2005 alone, there were over 1.8 million serious violent crimes in America and almost 420,000 firearm-related incidents. In that same year, the Federal Government spent \$35.4 billion on criminal justice and local governments spent nearly three times that amount. Worst of all however, teens and young adults experience the highest rates of violent crime.

It is clear that we must make an effort to raise our children to recognize that violence is nothing more than the physical manifestation of fear and desperation. However, our society's glorification of violence has become so ingrained in our culture that it has become seemingly impossible to reverse.

Madam Speaker, it is our collective responsibility to create a society that values respect toward our fellow citizens. This legislation is simply a small step toward addressing what has become a destructive parasite upon the future of our country. By learning how the media and society promote violence and examining ways in which we can address this most pressing dilemma, it is my hope that we can stem the tide of violence and crime in America so that subsequent generations can live in a more peaceful nation.

I ask for my colleagues' support and urge the swift consideration of this bill.

PAYCHECK FAIRNESS ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 31, 2008

The House In Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 1338) to amend the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 to provide more effective remedies to victims of discrimination in the payment of wages on the basis of sex, and for other purposes.

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Chairman, I rise today in support of H.R. 1338, the Paycheck Fairness Act.

As its name suggests, this bill is about fairness. As a nation, we have made great strides in promoting fairness in the workplace since the Equal Pay Act was passed in 1963. Unfortunately, I do not think the language of that bill adequately addresses the problem of gender-based wage discrimination. In particular, the language of the Equal Pay Act offers little remedy for women who are not being paid equal wages for doing equal work.

The statistics describe precisely why this legislation is needed. Despite representing nearly half of the American workforce, and despite countless examples of professional women who have ascended to the highest levels of any given field, the U.S. Census Bureau estimates women still earn only 77 cents for every dollar earned by a man.

This bill would require that employers, in justifying unequal pay, provide evidence-based reasoning that such pay discrepancies are job-related and necessary for their business. It would help end the secret discrimination of unequal pay by prohibiting employers from retaliating against employees who share salary information with their coworkers. And this bill would dissuade employers from practicing gender-based pay discrimination by allowing women to sue for compensatory and punitive damages—the same sanctions that already apply to discrimination based on race, disability or age.

There are also some amendments that I think are important to prevent unscrupulous people from unfairly taking advantage of the provisions in this bill. As I said, this bill is about fairness, so I support the amendment from the gentle lady from Arizona, Ms. GIFFORDS, which would clarify that a plaintiff would have to show intent to recover any punitive damages. I also support the amendment of another good friend from Arizona and a fellow supporter of earmark reform, Mr. FLAKE, which would prohibit any funds authorized under this bill from being used for Congressional earmarks.

Women have long proven their equal measure of talent and capacity in every corner of the professional world. It's long overdue that they be compensated equally as well, so I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

RECOGNIZING CHARLES E. SMITH
UPON HIS INSTALLATION AS
PASTOR OF BEREA BAPTIST
CHURCH

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 1, 2008

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, I rise before you today to recognize The Reverend Charles E. Smith, who will be installed as Pastor at Berea Baptist Church in Fort Worth, Texas.

Pastor Smith is a native of Texas and a longtime resident of Fort Worth, where he has raised his family. He and wife Lawsha Smith have six children. Smith graduated from the Southern Bible Institute in Dallas in 1984, and prior to that completed a Bachelor of Science degree in architecture at the University of Texas at Arlington. In the nearly 25 years since the completion of his theological training, Smith has served in various capacities in Baptist churches throughout North Texas, the most recent being his role as Associate Minister at Berea.

The multiple leadership and service awards that have been bestowed upon Pastor Smith testify to the fact that this is a man who is dedicated to excellence in serving his community. In addition to his service in a religious capacity, he has also positively contributed to his community as a Campus Learning Coordinator and Chancellor's Leadership Committee member at Tarrant County College.

Madam Speaker, I commend Pastor Smith for his longstanding service to Fort Worth and to the members of the Baptist congregations whom he has so capably served. It is an honor to represent Pastor Charles Smith and Berea Baptist Church in the 26th Congressional District of Texas.

THE LOSS OF PHIL RUHLE, SR.

HON. JAMES R. LANGEVIN

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 1, 2008

Mr. LANGEVIN. Madam Speaker, it is with profound sorrow that I rise to recognize the loss of an important local figure, Captain Phil Ruhle, Sr., affectionately known to so many as Captain Phil. A resident of North Kingstown, Rhode Island, Captain Phil was lost at sea on July 23rd when his fishing boat capsized off the New Jersey shore. I join his family and the people of Rhode Island in mourning this great loss.

An experienced fisherman who spent the majority of his life fishing the Atlantic Ocean, Captain Phil was deeply devoted to his career, and his passion for responsible fishing was unparalleled. Born in Oceanside, NY, he moved to Rhode Island early in life. He hails from a long line of fishermen, including his grandfather, father and brother, and his son has followed in his footsteps. Throughout his life, Captain Phil was tested many times. Twice before, he was aboard a fishing vessel that sank. However, despite those setbacks, he continued to persevere and pursue his passion in life.

Captain Phil will be remembered as one who strongly advocated for those in his field,

applying his vast knowledge and determination to serve as a key voice for the fishing industry. Most notably, he worked with fishermen and researchers to develop the "Eliminator" trawl, designed to catch haddock while reducing bycatch of cod and flounder, permitting a faster recovery of depleted stocks and benefiting the entire industry. I had the opportunity to see the trawl first-hand just a few weeks ago on a visit to Galilee, Rhode Island. While there, I also had the pleasure of discussing a variety of policy matters with the Captain's son, Phil, Jr. I know his dad would have been proud of his deep knowledge and commitment to the issues that impact their industry.

Captain Phil engaged deeply in policy matters, representing Rhode Island on the New England Fisheries Management Council. He was a familiar face in my office, frequently visiting and calling to keep us apprised of the most recent developments in fisheries policy and regulations. I appreciated his advice and his counsel, and he will be deeply missed.

Captain Phil is survived by his mother, Gloria, his wife, Donna, his children Phil Jr., Roger, and Alicia, and seven grandchildren. May we keep his loved ones in our thoughts and prayers as they endure this difficult period.

With this loss, we are reminded that fishing is an important but dangerous profession. I ask that we all remember the sacrifices that have been made and that we pray for the safe return of all those away at sea.

34TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE DIVISION OF CYPRUS

HON. DORIS O. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 1, 2008

Ms. MATSUI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to remember the unfortunate division of the island nation of Cyprus that began 34 years ago this July.

On July 20, 1974, Turkey dispatched thousands of armed forces to the island of Cyprus. As a result of this action, Cyprus remains divided to this day. 43,000 Turkish troops still occupy a significant portion of the island nation, which is enough for one Turkish soldier per each Turkish Cypriot. The presence of these troops is in spite of the clear preference for a peaceful and mutually acceptable solution demonstrated by all inhabitants of Cyprus. Nonetheless, there are positive indications for the island's future.

The willingness of both Greek- and Turkish-Cypriot leaders to pursue reunification talks is heartening. We in the U.S. Congress were pleased to see that last Friday, July 25, leaders of the Greek-Cypriot and Turkish-Cypriot communities jointly announced that they have decided to start full-fledged Cyprus settlement negotiations on September 3, 2008, under the good offices mission of the U.N. Secretary-General.

It is essential that these talks result in the reunification of Cyprus as a bicomunal and bizonal federation that respects human rights and fundamental freedoms for all Cypriots. The removal of Turkish forces will allow this process to go forward.

I join with other proponents of a peaceful solution on Cyprus in supporting the recent

steps taken by the divided nation's leaders. However, an acceptable political solution will only be possible if the international community continues to press for more substantive reconciliatory actions in the future. While the United Nations has passed numerous resolutions condemning the division of Cyprus, Turkey continues to maintain more troops on the island than the United States has in Afghanistan. This is a clear indication that more must be done by the international community to make clear that the militarization of Cyprus is unacceptable.

As the more than 13 million incident-free crossings of the line dividing the Turkish-Cypriot and Greek-Cypriot portions of the island attest, the people of Cyprus are hungry for a peaceful reconciliation of their island. So am I. The goal of the United States and of the international community must be the withdrawal of Turkish troops from Cyprus, the institution of democratic institutions and practices there, and the peaceful resolution to this decades-old dispute in a manner that respects the human and democratic rights of all the people who call Cyprus their home.

As we move into the 35th year since the division of Cyprus, I urge my colleagues to remember the tragic events of the past on this small island nation. At the same time, I pledge to the people of Cyprus that the United States stands with them in their quest for an expeditious and peaceful solution to the division of their home island.

TRIBUTE TO THE SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA REGION OF THE CHRISTIAN METHODIST CHURCH

HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 1, 2008

Mr. CALVERT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to a church whose dedication and contributions to the community of southern California are exceptional. Southern California is fortunate to have dedicated religious organizations that willingly and unselfishly give their time to make their communities a better place to live, work and worship. From August 24, 2008 to August 27, 2008 Amos Temple Christian Methodist Episcopal, C.M.E., Church in Riverside, led by Pastor Julio A. Andujo, will serve as host for the 2008 Episcopal District of the Christian Methodist Church Conference.

The Conference will take place at the Riverside Convention Center in Riverside, California. The Right Reverend Bishop Henry M. Williamson, Sr., Presiding Prelate of the 9th Episcopal District of the C.M.E. Church will convene the annual conference.

The Christian Methodist Episcopal Church came into existence following the issuance of the historic Emancipation Proclamation, which signaled the movement from slavery to freedom, and gave former slaves the dignity and honor to worship in their own church.

On December 16, 1870, in Jackson, Tennessee, 41 delegates from the Colored Annual Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church South organized their own separate and independent religious organization, chose a name for their Church and met all the requirements of the American Methodism.

The C.M.E. Church successfully met the challenges of providing higher education by establishing such historically African-American colleges as Lane College, Jackson, Tennessee, 1882; Paine College, Augusta, Georgia, 1882; Texas College, Tyler, Texas, 1884; Miles College, Birmingham, Alabama, 1905; and the Phillips School of Theology, 1958, Atlanta, Georgia.

Through the years the C.M.E. has shown a remarkable sensitivity to the spirit of changing times as evidenced by the 1954 resolution by the General Conference to change the name from the "Colored Methodist Episcopal" to the "Christian Methodist Episcopal Church."

The C.M.E. Church has continuously shown a commitment to higher education, civic pride and spiritual leadership. Under Bishop Williamson's leadership, the 9th Episcopal District has embraced his "One Church One School Community Partnership Program" which involves churches and schools in partnership to teach young people to value life and learning.

The Christian Methodist Church is truly a pillar in the community of Riverside, California and throughout the state and country. I commend the members and leadership of the C.M.E. for their dedication to worship, to their neighbors and to the Christian way of life.

RECOGNIZING THE FINANCIAL SERVICES ROUNDTABLE'S COMMUNITY SERVICE 2008 INITIATIVE

HON. DENNIS MOORE

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 1, 2008

Mr. MOORE of Kansas. Madam Speaker, I rise in recognition of Community Service 2008 (CS08), an initiative being spearheaded by Financial Services Roundtable and its member companies to harness volunteerism in the financial services sector and improve the communities in which we all live and work.

CS08 companies will complete 1,000 community service projects between July 1 and September 30, in all 50 states with over 28,000 volunteers. In Overland Park, which I represent, a CS08 event was just completed with AXA Equitable in which employees teamed up with KVC Behavioral HealthCare to sponsor a historical tour to youth being treated there.

This expansive effort would not be possible without the strong leadership of CS08 co-chairs Richard K. Davis, Chairman, President, and CEO of U.S. Bancorp, and Don J. McGrath, Chairman and CEO of Banc West Corporation.

Now in its seventh year, the timely focus of CS08 is on financial education, and increasing visibility of financial education programs in communities. This is in addition to member companies' community service projects via blood drives, building homes, neighborhood cleanups, or even outreach to children, like in Overland Park. Roundtable member companies know that the possibilities for community improvement are vast.

I am also proud to recognize our CS08 Honorary Congressional Host Committee. 141 Members of Congress have volunteered to sponsor CS08 and I know I speak for all of the participants in thanking my colleagues in the

House and Senate for their leadership. Congratulations to all who are working to make CS08 a huge success.

CHIEF DAN PACKER: IN
MEMORIAM

HON. DAVID G. REICHERT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 1, 2008

Mr. REICHERT. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of Chief Dan Packer, the former Chief of East Pierce Fire and Rescue who gave the ultimate sacrifice in the line of duty Saturday, July 26, 2008, in Northern California.

Packer, the only chief of the East Pierce district and the past president of Washington Fire Chiefs, arrived in Northern California on June 25, 2008, to assist in the Panther Creek fire as a Division Supervisor. He was called to duty by the U.S. Forest Service and immediately leaped at the opportunity to serve and protect in another community.

Chief Packer began his career as a firefighter in Burien, Washington, in 1981. In 1995, he took over as the fire chief of Bonney Lake, Washington, and transformed the department of six firefighters into East Pierce Fire and Rescue. The district now serves nearly 75,000 people in the areas of Bonney Lake, Sumner, Lake Tapps, South Prairie and Wilkeson; about 142 square miles total. Aside from his duties as a day-to-day leader at East Pierce Fire and Rescue, Chief Packer argued patiently, eloquently and reasonably before the State Legislature in order to make the people he served in Pierce County safer.

During a time of reflection such as this, many phrases continue to appear while describing the kind of servant Chief Packer was. I read Chief Packer was "a firefighter's fire chief," a "visionary leader," and a "great and exceptional man." The residents of East Pierce County have lost a wonderful leader and I grieve with you. To the fire personnel who worked under and alongside Chief Packer: I understand your pain. I have experienced losing a partner in the line of duty.

Most of all Madam Speaker, we grieve with the family of Chief Packer. He was a son, a husband, father and grandfather; his sacrifice was also their sacrifice and their loss. But they can live with the comfort in his spirit and the hope that his spirit lives on to inspire others with his true heroism and willingness to serve to protect all of us. That is the spirit of a first responder and the memory of Chief Packer we must always honor and never forget.

INTRODUCTION OF THE WORKER
SAVINGS ACCOUNT ACT

HON. JOHN M. McHUGH

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 1, 2008

Mr. McHUGH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce legislation, the Worker Savings Account Act of 2008, which is designed to help Americans should they become unemployed.

American workers today are less likely to spend their careers with a single employer,

particularly as United States companies face increasing global competition. These forces—technological advances, increased trade, lower transportation costs, and enhanced communications—have greatly facilitated the movement of jobs offshore, including both services and high-skilled sectors. Corporations have sought to streamline their operations through technological innovations, outsourcing, layoffs, and moving to lower-cost locations. Not surprisingly, the total number of U.S. manufacturing jobs has fallen by 1.8 million since November 2001, from 15.8 million to 14 million.

The loss of employment is not limited to those impacted by the global economy, but is something virtually every worker could experience. In fact, 19 million Americans were laid off or discharged from their employment in 2006. A 2005 Government Accountability Office (GAO) report found that 85 percent of American workers born between 1957 and 1964 were unemployed at least once between 1979 and 2002.

There are a variety of benefits that may be available to Americans to help them during times of unemployment. These include those provided through the Unemployment Compensation (UC), Trade Adjustment Act (TAA), Alternative Trade Adjustment Act (ATAA), Disaster Unemployment Assistance (DUA), and the Workforce Investment Act (WIA) programs.

For example, the UC program is the cornerstone of the government's efforts to assist unemployed workers with their continued income needs. Established in 1935, the UC program provides critical support to covered workers who become involuntarily unemployed. In December 2007, approximately 2.7 million unemployed workers received UC benefits in a given week.

The average weekly UC recipient currently gets \$281 and monies are usually available for up to 26 weeks, although this Congress recently enacted legislation with my support to temporarily provide an additional 13 weeks. In fiscal year 2007, the average regular UC benefit duration was 15 weeks or almost four months. When one considers rising costs, particularly for gasoline and food, it is not surprising that some estimates indicate that about 42 million Americans are living paycheck to paycheck. It is clear that many of our citizens are not well prepared for periods of unemployment. This is particularly evident when one notes that financial planners often advise people to build up three to six months in emergency savings to cover necessities such as monthly mortgage and car payments, utilities, insurance, food, home maintenance, and health care.

The Worker Savings Account Act is designed to help Americans enhance their personal safety nets. The measure would allow people to establish Worker Savings Accounts (WSAs) to supplement the benefits they might otherwise receive while unemployed including assistance received through the UC, TAA, ATAA, DUA, and WIA programs. Moreover, the Act clearly states that a person's decision to have a WSA shall in no way diminish their entitlement to receive those payments.

Like traditional Individual Retirement Accounts (IRAs), WSAs would have an annual contribution limit of \$5,000, indexed to inflation. However, employers would be able to provide matching contributions of up to \$5,000 annually. Contributions to WSAs would be permitted until the account owner actually elects

to take Social Security retirement benefits. At that time, a WSA account owner could choose to roll over their WSA funds into a 401(k) or IRA; alternatively, the WSA funds could be withdrawn without penalty but subject to taxation. Prior to a WSA account owner's decision to take Social Security payments, WSA funds could be withdrawn without penalty and tax-free as long as the owner lost their employment through no fault of their own or they had become disabled.

To encourage lower-income Americans to take advantage of the opportunity to contribute to WSAs, the Worker Savings Account Act would provide a refundable tax credit of up to \$1,000 for eligible individuals. This tax credit would be indexed to inflation and recipients could receive up to \$5,000 over the course of their career.

Madam Speaker, while this legislation would help every American build or enhance their personal safety net, it would be particularly helpful to my constituents. To illustrate, in June 2008, five of the 11 counties I represent in Northern and Central New York had unemployment figures that exceeded the national and state rates. Accordingly, I ask my colleagues to join with me as I work to enact the Worker Savings Account Act of 2008.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 4040,
CONSUMER PRODUCT SAFETY
IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 2008

SPEECH OF

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 30, 2008

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to express my support of H.R. 4040, the Consumer Product Safety Committee, CPSC, Reform Act, introduced by Representative BOBBY L. RUSH on November 1, 2007.

The passage and enactment of the CPSC Reform Act is necessary to ensure our children's safety from unsafe products that threaten their health and well-being. Unfortunately, the year of 2007 is known as a Year of Recall, with one million toys recalled from the American market. The danger that these recalled toys posed to our children is frightening. Children suffered the threat of unnecessary deaths and injuries from contact with contaminated and poisoned toys and products. Lead, phthalate and other dangerous chemicals are widely used in products, creating a health threat for our young children and their parents.

This threat can be and must be prevented. By demanding that toy manufacturers stop using deadly chemicals and ensuring safety with legislative and governmental assistance, we can save our kids. The American government has the ability to protect our children and prevent future tragedies. The CPSC Reform Act proposes a strengthening of the authority of the Government to act to ensure safety of American citizens.

I strongly support the Reform Act. The enactment of this important bill shall not be delayed. With the holiday season coming soon, a new flow of toys and products will arrive and we need to have greater assurance of their safety. The legislation can prevent the risk, protecting our vulnerable children. We must act now, refusing any hazardous chemicals in products of our children.

SUMMARY AS OF MARCH 6, 2008—PASSED
SENATE AMENDED

CPSC Reform Act—(Sec. 3) Amends the Consumer Product Safety Act to authorize appropriations: (1) to carry out the Act and any other provision of law the Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) is authorized or directed to carry out; (2) for the office of Inspector General; (3) to make capital improvements to the research, development, and testing facility of the CPSC; and (4) for research into safety issues related to the use of nanotechnology in consumer products.

(Sec. 4) Requires the CPSC, subject to the availability of appropriations, to increase by at least 500 the number of its full-time employees and by at least 50 the number of its port-of-entry and overseas production facility inspectors. Requires the CPSC to develop and implement a professional career development program. Requires the CPSC to develop standards for training product safety inspectors and technical staff employed by the CPSC.

(Sec. 5) Urges the President to nominate members to fill any vacancy in CPSC membership as expeditiously as practicable. Removes a provision limiting the funding for the number of CPSC Commissioners to no more than three.

(Sec. 6) Adds CPSC annual, semiannual, and other regular periodic reports to the list of reports required to be submitted indefinitely under the Federal Reports Elimination and Sunset Act of 1995.

(Sec. 7) Modifies provisions concerning the public disclosure of information regarding a consumer product where disclosure will permit the public to ascertain readily the identity of the manufacturer or private labeler, including decreasing some waiting periods before the CPSC may disclose information and providing for expedited court actions.

Requires the CPSC to maintain on its website a publicly available, searchable database that includes any reports received by the CPSC of injuries, illness, death, or risk of such injury, illness, or death related to the use of consumer products received by the CPSC from consumers, government agencies, and nongovernmental sources other than information provided to the CPSC by manufacturers, private labelers, or retailers. Allows inclusion in the database of comments by manufacturers, labelers, or retailers.

(Sec. 8) Modifies procedures for promulgating consumer product safety rules under the Consumer Product Safety Act or the Flammable Fabrics Act or regulations under the Federal Hazardous Substances Act. Allows, under the Consumer Product Safety Act, submission of an existing standard or portion of a standard as a proposed consumer product safety standard.

Removes provisions providing that an action for judicial review of a flammability standard or regulation survives any change in the persons occupying the office of CPSC commissioner or any vacancy in such office.

(Sec. 9) Expands the authority of the CPSC to prohibit the stockpiling of a product (for the purpose of circumventing a consumer product safety rule) to which a consumer product safety rule applies.

(Sec. 10) Requires third party laboratory testing (and related certification) of certain products for use by, or care of, a child seven or younger that are subject to a consumer product safety standard or a rule.

Requires, if an advertisement, label, or package contains a reference to a consumer product safety standard, that there be a statement regarding whether the product meets all requirements of that standard.

Requires the CPSC, with regard to consumer products in general and children's

products in particular, to: (1) establish protocols and standards regarding certification or continuing guarantees of compliance; and (2) provide for accreditation of the third party laboratories. Prohibits importation of children's products lacking certification.

Authorizes the CPSC, by rule, to extend to other consumer products (or to classes or categories of consumer products) a requirement that a product's manufacturer subject to a consumer product safety standard certify that the product conforms to the standard or is not a banned hazardous product.

Allows the CPSC, in establishing standards for such third party laboratories, to consider standards and protocols by independent standard-setting organizations. Requires that the final standard for certification incorporate the most current scientific and technological standards and techniques.

(Sec. 11) Amends the Federal Hazardous Substances Act to require, when a product's packaging or retail display must include a choking warning (as with balloons, small balls, or marbles), that associated advertising that provides a direct means of purchase (including on Internet sites or in catalogs or other distributed materials) also bear the warning. Treats that requirement as a consumer product safety standard.

Requires the manufacturer of a children's product or other consumer product to place distinguishing marks on the product or its packaging that will enable the ultimate purchaser to ascertain the manufacturer, production time period, and cohort of production.

(Sec. 12) Requires each manufacturer of a consumer product or other product or substance over which the CPSC has jurisdiction under any Act (except for motor vehicle equipment) to notify the CPSC of certain substantial product hazards. (Current law requires such notification only regarding a consumer product, but makes no reference to other products or substances over which the CPSC has jurisdiction.)

(Sec. 13) Modifies requirements regarding action plans of manufacturers, distributors, or retailers to deal with products that present a substantial hazard.

(Sec. 14) Requires manufacturers and their subcontractors, importers, retailers, or distributors of a product or substance to identify each other upon CPSC request.

(Sec. 15) Makes it unlawful to sell, offer for sale, manufacture, distribute, or import any product or substance regulated under any Act enforced by the CPSC that is not in conformity with an applicable consumer product safety standard, is subject to voluntary corrective action, is subject to an order issued under provisions relating to imminent hazards or substantial product standards, or has been designated a banned hazardous substance under the Federal Hazardous Substances Act.

Authorizes the CPSC, notwithstanding any other provision of law, to prohibit the export of a product or substance that is: (1) not in conformity with applicable CPSC requirements and does not violate applicable safety standards established by the importing country; (2) subject to an order issued under provisions relating to imminent hazards or substantial product standards, or has been designated a banned hazardous substance under the Federal Hazardous Substances Act; or (3) subject to voluntary corrective action taken by the manufacturer, subject to exception.

Prohibits selling, offering for sale, distributing, or importing any consumer product bearing a registered safety certification mark owned by an accredited conformity assessment body if use of the mark is (or should have been) known to be unauthorized. Prohibits exercising or attempting to exercise undue influence on a third party laboratory.

(Sec. 16) Increases the maximum civil penalties under the Consumer Product Safety Act, the Federal Hazardous Substances Act, and the Flammable Fabrics Act. Requires a finding of aggravated circumstances in order to impose a civil penalty over \$10 million. Modifies criminal penalties under those Acts. Adds mitigation of undue adverse economic impacts on small businesses to the factors to be considered in determining the amount of civil penalties.

(Sec. 17) Prohibits changing, by rule or regulation (or by reference in any preamble, statement of policy, executive branch statements, or other matter associated with the publication of any such rule or regulation), provisions of the Consumer Product Safety Act, the Federal Hazardous Substances Act, the Flammable Fabrics Act, and the Poison Packaging Prevention Act of 1970 that establish the extent to which those Acts preempt or otherwise affect any other federal, state, or local law, any rule or regulation, or any state cause of action.

(Sec. 18) Authorizes the CPSC to make certain information obtained by the CPSC available to any federal, state, local, or foreign government agency, provided there is an agreement that the information will be maintained in confidence and used only for law enforcement or consumer protection.

(Sec. 19) Authorizes the CPSC, by rule, to require the posting of an escrow, proof of insurance, or security by manufacturers, distributors, or persons who have committed multiple significant violations of any CPSC-enforced Act in an amount sufficient to cover recall or holding and destruction costs.

(Sec. 20) Allows states to bring actions to enforce any Act enforced by the CPSC, except during the pendency of an action brought by the CPSC. Regulates the use of information by private counsel retained to assist a state.

(Sec. 21) Creates protections for public and private sector whistle-blowers. Allows a court to grant all relief necessary to make the employee whole, including injunctive relief, compensatory damages, reinstatement, back pay (with interest), compensation for any special damages, litigation costs, expert witness fees, and reasonable attorney fees.

(Sec. 22) Treats any children's product designed or intended for use by, or care of, a child seven or younger that contains lead over a specified level as a banned hazardous substance under the Federal Hazardous Substances Act. Excludes components that are not accessible to a child and will not become physically exposed through normal and reasonably foreseeable product use and abuse. Prohibits considering paint, coatings, or electroplating to be a barrier that would render lead in the substrate inaccessible to a child. Allows the CPSC to exclude lead crystal.

Requires the CPSC, if it determines it is not feasible for electronic devices, including batteries, to comply with that requirement, to issue standards and establish a schedule for full compliance. Allows the CPSC to establish more stringent levels than those specified in this Act.

Lowers the lead threshold at which paint becomes a banned hazardous product.

(Sec. 23) Requires the CPSC to study the feasibility of establishing a measurement standard based on a units-of-mass-per-area standard that is statistically comparable to the parts-per-million measurement standard now used in laboratory analysis.

(Sec. 24) Requires the Government Accountability Office (GAO) to study disparities in the risks and incidence of preventable injuries and deaths among minority children related to products intended for use by children. Requires a report to the Committee on

Energy and Commerce of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate. Authorizes appropriations.

(Sec. 25) Amends the Poison Prevention Packaging Act of 1970 to prohibit constraining provisions relating to household substance special packaging to protect children to require a cost-benefit analysis in connection with the establishment of a standard.

(Sec. 26) Requires the CPSC's Inspector General to conduct reviews and audits of implementation of the Consumer Product Safety Act by the CPSC and report annually to the CPSC, the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, and the House of Representatives Committee on Energy and Commerce.

Requires the Inspector General to review CPSC employee complaints about failures of other employees to properly enforce rules or regulations of any Act enforced by the CPSC and the process by which corrective action plans are negotiated with such employees and report to the CPSC and such committees.

Requires the Inspector General to review whether, and to what extent, there have been unauthorized and unlawful disclosures of information by CPSC Members, officers, or employees to CPSC-regulated persons that are not authorized to receive such information and report to the CPSC and such committees.

(Sec. 27) Requires the CPSC to establish and maintain: (1) on its home page a direct link to the CPSC's Office of Inspector General; and (2) on the home page of its Inspector General website a mechanism by which individuals may anonymously report cases of waste, fraud, or abuse regarding the CPSC.

(Sec. 28) Establishes, as a consumer product safety rule, a requirement that each portable gasoline container conform to the child-resistance requirements in a specified standard issued by ASTM International.

(Sec. 29) Considers a specified ASTM-International standard on toy safety to be a consumer product safety rule.

(Sec. 30) Requires the CPSC, notwithstanding any other provision of law, to establish as a mandatory consumer product safety standard a specified American National Standard for four-wheeled all-terrain vehicles developed by the Specialty Vehicle Institute of America. Makes it unlawful for any manufacturer or distributor to import or distribute any new all-terrain vehicle unless: (1) the vehicle complies with the standard, is subject to an all-terrain vehicle action plan, and bears a label certifying such compliance and certain other information; and (2) the manufacturer or distributor is in compliance with the action plan.

Prohibits the importation of new three-wheeled all-terrain vehicles until a mandatory consumer product safety rule applicable to three-wheeled all-terrain vehicles is in effect.

Requires the Comptroller General to study the utility, recreational, and other benefits of certain all-terrain vehicles and the costs associated with accidents and injuries involving all-terrain vehicles.

(Sec. 31) Requires, notwithstanding specified provisions of the Consumer Product Safety Improvement Act of 1990 or any amendment by the American National Standards Institute and Underwriters Laboratories of specified standards, that all automatic residential garage door operators that directly drive the door in the closing direction include an external secondary entrapment protection device that does not require contact with a person or object for the garage door to reverse. Provides for an exception, requires the CPSC to review and if necessary revise its standard, and eliminates

the exception if the revised standard adopts the requirement of the first sentence of this paragraph.

(Sec. 32) Sets a deadline for the CPSC to issue a final rule in a specified proceeding relating to portable generators.

Requires the CPSC to report to the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation regarding charcoal briquettes.

(Sec. 33) Sets a deadline for the CPSC to issue a final rule mandating general safety standards for cigarette lighters in specified proceedings.

(Sec. 34) Danny Keysar Child Product Safety Notification Act—Requires the CPSC to assess the effectiveness of any voluntary consumer product safety standards for durable products for children under five years of age and promulgate consumer product safety rules that are the same or more stringent than the voluntary standards. Makes it unlawful for any commercial user (including, but not limited to hotels, motels, or similar transient lodging facilities and day care centers) to manufacture, sell, lease, or otherwise place in the stream of commerce any new or used crib, including a portable crib and a crib-pen, that is not in compliance with the mandatory rule.

Requires the CPSC to promulgate final consumer product safety rules that require manufacturers of durable products for children under five years to: (1) provide consumers with postage-paid consumer registration forms with each such product and maintain the submitted information in order to improve recall effectiveness; and (2) permanently label the product with information about the manufacturer and product.

Requires the CPSC to study, and report to Congress on, the effectiveness of such rules in facilitating product recalls.

Allows a manufacturer of such durable products to use a recall notification technology in lieu of such registration forms if the CPSC finds that the technology is at least as effective as the forms. Requires the CPSC to review recall notification technology and report to Congress.

(Sec. 35) Repeals provisions allowing the CPSC to regulate a product under the Consumer Product Safety Act (if the product has a risk of injury which could be reduced to a sufficient extent by action under the under the Federal Hazardous Substances Act, the Poison Prevention Packaging Act of 1970, or the Flammable Fabrics Act) only if the CPSC by rule finds that it is in the public interest to do so.

(Sec. 36) Requires the CPSC to enter into a memorandum of understanding with the Secretary of Homeland Security for the assignment by the Commission of at least one full-time equivalent personnel to work at the National Targeting Center of the U.S. Customs and Border Protection to identify products intended for importation that pose a high risk to consumer safety. Allows the CPSC to waive that requirement if it determines that the assignment would not improve effectiveness in identifying such products before importation.

(Sec. 37) Requires the CPSC to develop a risk assessment methodology for identification of shipments of consumer products that are intended for import and would be refused admission under specified provisions of the Consumer Product Safety Act, including, as far as practicable, using the International Trade Data System (ITDS) to evaluate and assess information before shipments enter U.S. customs territory. Authorizes appropriations.

(Sec. 38) Requires the CPSC to publish a list of product defects that constitute a substantial product hazard.

Replaces provisions requiring the exportation (or, on application, destruction) of im-

ports refused admission with provisions requiring the Secretary of Homeland Security to destroy any product refused admission unless the product is exported within a specified period after refusal.

Requires (currently, allows) the CPSC, by rule, to condition importation of a consumer product on the manufacturer's compliance with certain inspection and record keeping requirements.

Requires (currently, allows) the CPSC to provide information to other federal agencies with which it is cooperating under an existing permanent surveillance program to prevent the entry of unsafe consumer products.

Prohibits constraining this section to prevent the Secretary of Homeland Security from prohibiting entry or directing the destruction or export of a consumer product under any other provision of law.

Replaces all references to the Secretary of the Treasury in provisions relating to imported products with references to the Secretary of Homeland Security.

(Sec. 39) Requires the CPSC to: (1) establish and maintain a database with information about violations of consumer product safety rules, including related statements by manufacturers or suppliers; and (2) make the database available on a real-time basis to the Commissioner responsible for the U.S. Customs and Border Protection of the Department of Homeland Security to be used to determine whether a container being imported contains consumer products that are in violation of a consumer product safety standard and whether action should be taken under imported products provisions. Prohibits other disclosure of the information, except for law enforcement or national security. Prohibits the CPSC and the Commissioner responsible for the U.S. Customs and Border Protection of the Department of Homeland Security from imposing a civil or criminal penalty solely on the basis of information from the database. Authorizes appropriations.

(Sec. 40) Treats any children's toy or child care article that contains any combination of specified phthalates as a banned hazardous substance under the Federal Hazardous Substances Act. Prohibits certain alternatives to those phthalates. Allows certain related state or local laws.

(Sec. 41) Requires the CPSC to establish a standard for equestrian helmets.

(Sec. 42) Authorizes the CPSC, if it finds that a product presents a substantial hazard, and that certain actions under existing provisions are in the public interest, to order a manufacturer, distributor, or retailer to distribute notice of the actions to the public. Specifies the required contents of the notice. Allows the CPSC to require that a notice be distributed in a language other than English if the CPSC determines that doing so is necessary to adequately protect the public.

Requires the CPSC to make certain information available to the public as the information becomes available to the CPSC, including progress reports and incident updates, statistics regarding injuries and deaths, and certain communications from consumers to the CPSC.

(Sec. 43) Requires the Comptroller General to: (1) assess the effectiveness of the authorities and provisions of the Consumer Product Safety Act in preventing unsafe consumer products from entering U.S. customs territory; (2) develop a plan to improve effectiveness; and (3) report to Congress regarding inspection of foreign manufacturing plants by the CPSC and requiring foreign manufacturers to consent to the jurisdiction of U.S. courts regarding CPSC enforcement actions.

(Sec. 44) Bans importation of toys manufactured by companies that have shown a

persistent pattern substantial product hazards or that present a risk of injury to the public of such a magnitude that the CPSC has determined that a permanent ban on all toys manufactured by such company is equitably justified. Requires a related annual report to Congress.

(Sec. 45) Requires the CPSC to conduct a study on the use of formaldehyde in the manufacture of textile and apparel articles, or in any component of such articles, to identify any risks to consumers.

ON THE BIRTH OF SARAH LILIAN PHILIPS

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 1, 2008

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, I am happy to congratulate my friend Sunny Philips and her husband Jay Philips of Columbia, SC on the birth of their daughter Sarah Lilian Philips. Sarah Lilian Philips was born on July 31, 2008, weighing 6 pounds and 3 ounces. She has been born into a loving home where she will be raised by parents who are devoted to her well-being and bright future. I am particularly happy to share my birthday with Sarah Lilian Philips.

I am so excited for this new addition to the Philips family. On behalf of my wife Roxanne, and our entire family, we want to wish Sunny, Jay, Sarah Lilian and her three sisters Rigby, Maddy, and Nettie good health and happiness.

THE CONSUMER ENERGY RELIEF ACT OF 2008

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 1, 2008

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Madam Speaker, today I rise to introduce H.R. 6653, the Consumer Energy Relief Act. This legislation will provide Americans short- and long-term relief from rising energy costs by implementing a comprehensive strategy to reduce America's oil dependence while also driving down the price of gasoline.

In January 2001, when President Bush took office, the price of oil was \$30 per barrel, and the average price for a gallon of gasoline was about \$1.50. After 7½ years of energy policies spearheaded by President Bush, Vice President CHENEY, two oil men in their own right, and their friends in the oil industry, oil companies in the United States are earning record profits, the cost per barrel of oil has spiked to \$134 and Americans are spending at least \$3.96 on a gallon of gasoline.

Energy costs this high place a tremendous burden on the American people at a time when our economy is already on the verge of recession. The Consumer Relief Act takes important steps to reduce gas prices, eliminate our dependence on oil for fuel, and provide real relief to the American people by addressing the root causes of the spike in energy costs.

First, it will impose tighter regulations on excessive speculation. While the speculation market is a necessary function of America's

economy, the deregulation of the market under the Bush administration has allowed the oil and gas market to be manipulated. Experts have testified that excessive speculation may be responsible for inflating prices by as much as \$20 to \$60 more per barrel. By regulating the speculation market, this bill will restore stability to international commodity trading and protect the American people from exorbitant gas prices.

Secondly, this bill will grant the Federal Trade Commission the authority to investigate and punish companies that artificially inflate the price of energy. The need for this provision is clear. An investigation of 1,000 gas stations in New Jersey resulted in tickets for 350 violations of gasoline price gouging-related offenses. Among the citations issued were: 62 violations for the pump not accurately metering, or measuring, fuel, 46 violations for per-gallon prices being different on each side of the pump, 37 violations for fuel grades (octane rating labels) not posted, 26 violations for inaccurate octane ratings, 19 violations for inaccurate total sale price calculation and 14 violations for multiple price changes in a 24-hour period. This investigation is indicative of what is occurring all over the country. Price gouging has become an epidemic.

Lastly, H.R. 6653 addresses the causes of our Nation's energy crisis by infusing a major investment in the research and development of renewable energy as well as providing financial assistance for the purchase of energy efficient appliances and vehicles. This investment will provide immediate relief to Americans by helping reduce their energy costs in the short-term by providing financial assistance for the purchase of efficient appliances and vehicles, and in the long-term by reducing our Nation's dependence on foreign oil by injecting much needed capital for the development of alternative energy.

The Consumer Energy Relief Act pays for this investment by establishing a windfall profits tax on oil companies who have benefited from President Bush's policies that protect the profit margins of oil companies over the tight budgets of hard-working Americans. Just today we learned that ExxonMobil is projected to earn a record \$52 billion this year and that the five largest oil companies in the United States are expected \$168 million.

Madam Speaker, American families and businesses are reeling from record prices—the result of 7 years of missed opportunities and an energy policy this White House has literally allowed the oil industry to write. Their policy is working for only one group: the oil companies which are earning record profits while Americans are paying record prices. The failure to diversify our energy sources with bold investments in renewable energy and more efficient technology, leaves us dangerously dependent on foreign oil, and hurts our economy and American families. The Consumer Energy Relief Act sets the United States on a different course, and I urge my colleagues to support it.

MOTION TO ADJOURN

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 1, 2008

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Madam Speaker, I must oppose this motion to adjourn, because

I think the House should continue trying to pass legislation to improve our national energy policies.

Regrettably, so far our repeated efforts to do that have been thwarted by the refusal of our friends on the other side of the aisle to support any of the proposals that have been considered.

They seem ready to put a perceived political advantage over working on a bipartisan basis to achieve results.

Otherwise, I cannot explain their recent votes on energy legislation.

Looking back, we see that a majority of Congressional Republicans have time and again voted against sensible energy legislation.

They have voted against renewable energy, against the first new vehicle efficiency standards in 32 years—saving \$1,000 in fuel costs per car per year—and against reducing transit fares for commuter rail and buses.

They have voted against expedited drilling in Alaska's National Petroleum Reserve and against adding a due-diligence requirement that could stimulate expedited exploration and development on other Federal lands already leased for that purpose.

They also voted against releasing 10 percent of the record amounts of oil stored in the Strategic Petroleum Reserve (to be replaced with heavy oil that is better suited for that storage), even though that addition to the supplies on the market could ease gas prices.

And, finally, too many of our Republican colleagues opposed better regulation of the commodity markets, to reduce the ability of speculators to artificially increase the price of oil, even though the bill had been approved in the Agriculture Committee by voice vote and was supported by the committee's ranking Republican member.

So, I certainly understand why many of our colleagues are prepared to give up for now and adjourn today in order to begin the normal August district work period.

But I think we owe it to our constituents and to the country to stay here at least for now, and to continue working on energy legislation. And for that reason, I cannot vote for this motion to adjourn.

STATEMENT IN HONOR OF LEE KLING

HON. RUSS CARNAHAN

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 1, 2008

Mr. CARNAHAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the outstanding contributions made by fellow Missourian, Lee Kling, an individual who placed the needs of country above his own.

Like many great Americans, Lee did not stand steadfastly by; instead, he insisted on getting involved. He saw his plight not in terms of one or a few, but as one shared by many.

Sadly, we have lost a great American in Lee Kling.

He was a man who invested in his community and family, and always found the time to give.

No job was too little or big for Lee. Whether at the center of Presidential politics, involved in efforts to save military bases, or rebuilding

our state highway system, he was proven in advancing the best of any cause that might come his way.

He took on all comers with a positive attitude, and fought back against unwanted turns of life.

Because of him, and his principled approach to business, building a better community was always possible.

It is with great thanks to Lee that we are all left with such great civic pride.

I am grateful for his example, and I honor his life and achievements that serve as a great example for us all.

RECOGNIZING WIRELESS BROADBAND COMPANY ON THEIR GRAND OPENING AND RIBBON CUTTING

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 1, 2008

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, I stand before you today to recognize Wireless Broadband Company for their far-sighted provision of high speed Internet services to rural areas.

Wireless Broadband Company is a pioneer in the high speed Internet industry as they are reaching customers that larger companies have deemed unprofitable. This company has earned my respect for remembering that rural communities should not be left behind in the Information Age. Farmers, ranchers, lake-area inhabitants, and other country dwellers now have immediate access to online communities and knowledge databases thanks to the innovation and concern of this company. Wireless Broadband Company will be opening their third office and continues to expand their service capacity to rural areas.

Madam Speaker, I commend the management and employees of Wireless Broadband Company for the positive professional contribution they have made to rural communities, notably constituents within the 26th District of Texas. I warmly congratulate Wireless Broadband Company upon the opening of their third store and wish them continued business growth.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JAMES R. LANGEVIN

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 1, 2008

Mr. LANGEVIN. Madam Speaker, on July 22, 2008, I was unavoidably detained and unable to be in the Chamber for a rollcall vote. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall No. 512, the Aviation Safety Enhancement Act of 2008.

CONDEMNING THE PERSECUTION OF BAHAI'S IN IRAN

SPEECH OF

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 30, 2008

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, the Baha'i faith emphasizes unity within the human race. The Baha'i teachings are built on the values of peace and unification.

Although the history of the Baha'i faith is a turbulent one, they have maintained unity within their own faith. Their faith teaches that unity manifests a global community that is complete with social and economic equality, the elimination of prejudice, education for all, collective security and the elimination of extreme poverty and wealth.

With these values in mind this body should be attentive to the ways in which we can bring about the unification of the human race and instill world peace. Affirming strong support for religious freedom for all people throughout the world and working to ensure this freedom is maintained at all times for all people is important. Our religious freedom is an inherent right, a human right and must be protected. It must be said, however, that the act of condemning is not the best way to bring about these important goals.

In the spirit of honoring the Baha'i faith we should work to bring about the peace and unification that ends egregious persecution. The United States should engage Iran in high-level diplomatic negotiations. Engaging Iran diplomatically honors the spirit of unity that is central to the Baha'i faith and brings us closer to peace.

INTRODUCTION OF THE MEDICARE IMAGINE DISCLOSURE SUNSHINE ACT

HON. CAROLYN MCCARTHY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 1, 2008

Mrs. MCCARTHY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce companion legislation to S. 3343, the Medicare Imagine Disclosure Sunshine Act of 2008. This legislation would require physicians, at the time certain imaging procedures are ordered, to inform the patient of any ownership interest the physician may have in those imaging services and provide the patient with a list of other, local imaging providers.

This legislation is based on recommendations by both the Medicare Payment Advisory Commission (MedPAC) and the Government Accountability Office (GAO).

The Medicare Imaging Disclosure Sunshine Act will provide beneficiaries more transparency and disclosure of potential conflicts of interest when physicians write referrals for imaging services while also providing beneficiaries with the consumer-friendly option to choose when and where they seek an imaging procedure.

Madam Speaker, I believe this legislation takes an important step toward a more transparent referral procedure, and in the coming weeks I plan to continue to work on this legis-

lation with the committees of jurisdiction and stakeholders and revise it so that it achieves the best possible balance for physicians, beneficiaries, and the health of the Medicare system.

TRIBUTE TO THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE MONTVILLE POLISH CLUB

HON. JOE COURTNEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 1, 2008

Mr. COURTNEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and celebrate the 75th anniversary of the Montville Polish Club. On August 30, 2008, the club will commemorate 75 years of history with a night of celebration including traditional pierogi, kielbasa, and kapusta and Polish dancing.

In the midst of the Great Depression, John J. Smith, Sam Onuparik and John Emilyta, conceived the idea for a regional Polish-American club to help connect and empower citizens of Polish descent in Montville, Connecticut and surrounding communities. In 1932, with the help of Walter Walenczyk, these men were able to garner support from 33 additional members of the community. In October of that year, the Montville Polish Club convened their first meeting in the Papyis Hall in Uncasville, Connecticut.

In a time of great financial uncertainty, the Montville Polish Club offered hope and opportunity through continuity for members of the Polish community in eastern Connecticut. For newly arrived Polish immigrants, the club offered opportunities to acclimate to American life, providing English lessons, assistance with employment, and fellowship. For established Polish-American families, the club offered opportunity to preserve native cultures and traditions.

Today, the club remains an integral part of the eastern Connecticut community, hosting picnics, plays, parties, and dances. The club has also proven a civic leader, sponsoring countless youth organizations.

Madam Speaker, 75 years ago the Montville Polish Club was founded by a few Polish men with great hopes of bringing their community together. Today, with over 500 members, the club's continuity remains as strong as ever. I ask my colleagues to join with me and my constituents in recognizing and celebrating the Montville Polish Club's 75th anniversary.

APOLOGIZING FOR THE ENSLAVEMENT AND RACIAL SEGREGATION OF AFRICAN-AMERICANS

SPEECH OF

HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 29, 2008

Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H. Res. 194, a resolution that apologizes for the enslavement and racial segregation of African-Americans.

It may be unimaginable today, but for more than 240 years, until 1865, in the 13 original colonies and the United States, there were

men, women, and children forced to labor in bondage and bought and sold as property. It is a dark and shameful historic truth that this Nation must acknowledge and seek to remedy. Those who were enslaved and those who owned slaves have all passed away long ago. Yet, the historic legacy and pain of slavery is a reality we continue to struggle with as a nation.

As slavery evolved into racial segregation, a new pain and hardship was inflicted upon African-Americans. While far less severe than slavery, it was no less degrading and demoralizing. This is also a painful historical legacy we have rejected as a nation. Still, this legacy took place in my lifetime and should be remembered, reflected upon, and aggressively attacked when it reemerges "officially" in our cities, neighborhoods and schools.

This resolution is courageous and correct. I commend Mr. COHEN, its author, because it is meaningful for the U.S. House of Representatives to make this public apology. As a former social studies teacher, I taught my students that we cannot change history, but we must learn from history and use its lessons to make the future better for all mankind. Respect, tolerance and the elimination of prejudice and racism are actions we can take as individuals and as a society today.

We have an opportunity today and every day, as lawmakers here in Congress and as citizens across this country, to recommit ourselves to seek an end to racial inequality and injustice, and to seek greater unity among all Americans. To keep moving forward towards racial equality in America requires recognizing past injustice and to this end, I urge my colleagues to support this resolution.

AMERICAN HOUSING RESCUE AND FORECLOSURE PREVENTION ACT OF 2008

HON. TODD TIAHRT

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 1, 2008

Mr. TIAHRT. Madam Speaker, owning a home is an essential component of the American dream, and an accomplishment that millions of Americans aspire to and take pride in. In recent months, however, the housing market has entered a slump. The effort to provide a way for all Americans to own their own homes brought a sharp increase in the usage of subprime and exotic mortgages, which proved to be more than the market could handle. We now find ourselves grappling with decisions on how best to "fix" the problems that have arisen in the housing market and in our economy.

However, a potential \$300 billion Government handout, such as what has been proposed in this legislation, is not the answer. Congress has been given a real opportunity to reform Government Sponsored Enterprises, GSEs, and eliminate the threat to the housing market. Unfortunately, however, the authors of this legislation have chosen to reject real reforms and instead only include ridiculous amounts of bailout spending. By extending an unlimited line of credit to Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac until 2009, we are placing American taxpayers at risk by absorbing the losses of these for-profit institutions. The bill further

institutes a tax on the very GSEs that we are being asked to prop up, and allows that money—an estimated \$9 billion over 10 years—to be given to supposed "housing and development" groups that have been shown to participate in illegal and unethical activities, such as widespread voter fraud. The Congressional Budget Office, CBO, has estimated that the expected value of the Federal budgetary cost from enacting this proposal would be \$25 billion over fiscal years 2009 and 2010, but that this figure could rise into the hundreds of billions of dollars. I believe this legislation will further exacerbate our nation's rising deficit and further weaken our already "weak dollar."

While there is no doubt the housing slump must be addressed, I am concerned by the precedent of using taxpayer dollars to bail out fraudulent lenders and, in some cases, irresponsible borrowers. Congress can enact responsible, market-based legislation to address our housing needs. I fully support FHA and GSE reform measures, yet I cannot support a massive bailout to irresponsible lending practices and market speculators. For these reasons, I voted against H.R. 3221.

I remain committed to supporting measures that provide the necessary relief to families who have been victimized without burdening taxpayers for the irresponsibility of others. Therefore, I have given my support to two alternative bills introduced before the House of Representatives that precisely address the needs of homeowners in a responsible and fair way.

First, H.R. 5974, the Housing Opportunity for All Americans Act of 2008, addresses the housing slump in a responsible way. For instance, this bill does not include \$300 billion in funding to the Federal Housing Authority. Instead of providing a massive bailout to irresponsible lenders and borrowers, this legislation creates a market incentive approach to the housing slump. The market approach includes a one-time tax credit for homebuyers of 10 percent of the home's purchase price, up to \$10,000, for 1 year after the enactment of the bill. Also, under this legislation, taxpayers who are nonresident aliens, those who flip a home within the 1 year period, or people who sell a house to a relative simply for the credit, would not be eligible. Furthermore, mortgages which exceed the maximum original principal obligation of a mortgage Freddie Mac will purchase would not qualify.

Second, the Homeownership Protection and Housing Market Stabilization Act of 2008, H.R. 5857, is a more responsible approach to addressing the current issues facing the housing market and the underlying causes of the problem. The bill includes provisions to directly protect homebuyers and owners, such as housing counseling, improved disclosure practices, fraud combating and prevention measures, and encouragement to rework loans instead of foreclosing. It also aims to help prevent lenders from falling into the same habits that have recently developed in the industry by providing liability protection for helping troubled borrowers, requiring escrow accounts for subprime borrowers, and reforming appraisal practices for prospective homebuyers. In addition, this legislation contains provisions similar to those that have passed this House with my support: FHA modernization and improved regulation of GSEs, including Fannie Mae, Freddie Mac, and the Federal Home Loan Banks.

These alternative bills provide the integrity of the appraisal process and strengthen mortgage fraud prevention efforts that will help bring stability to the current housing market. These bills together represent a viable alternative, offering an appropriate response to a serious problem without burdening taxpayers for the irresponsibility of others. I hope this body has the chance to consider these important provisions in the immediate future.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 4137, HIGHER EDUCATION OPPORTUNITY ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. RUSH D. HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 31, 2008

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 4137) to amend and extend the Higher Education Act of 1965, and for other purposes.

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Chairman, I would like to commend Chairman MILLER and Mr. McKEON for producing a strong piece of legislation. The Higher Education Opportunity Act does what the name suggests. It expands affordability and access to college education for the broadest range of Americans. It expands Pell Grants, the basis of financial aid, and I'm pleased to say it allows Pell Grants to be used year round and for certificate programs and part-time students, something I have been working on for a long time.

This Act will help bring transparency and accountability to student loan programs by requiring institutions of higher education and lenders to adopt strict codes of conduct, and protects students from aggressive marketing practices by lenders. It will provide students with full information about their borrowing options when taking out loans, and help promote financial literacy for students and their parents.

This legislation will help streamline the Free Application for Federal Student Aid, FAFSA, and encourage the Department of Education to coordinate with the IRS to use information that the Government already has. It as well expands the access for low-income families to student aid with an easy to use two-page FAFSA-EZ form. Additionally, the bill strengthens the TRIO and GEAR UP college readiness programs for first-generation and low-income students.

One of the complaints I hear most from students and their parents is about the ever-increasing cost of college textbooks. This bill will help make textbook costs more manageable by ensuring students know the price of textbooks in advance so they can plan for the expense. And it requires colleges and faculty members to have access to the textbook costs when making selections for their courses.

The bill also builds on our work to restore the full benefits of the GI Bill to our Nation's veterans, by creating a new scholarship program for active duty military personnel and family members. It also establishes support centers to help veterans succeed in college and ensures fairness for veterans in student aid decisions.

I am pleased that this bill will help colleges recruit, retain, and graduate students with disabilities. The legislation will also help colleges

improve their facilities and educational materials for these students. Further, it will establish a national center to provide support services and best practices to colleges to best serve students with disabilities and their families.

The legislation also responds to the tragedy at Virginia Tech by helping colleges to develop and implement state-of-the-art emergency systems and campus safety plans. Following a recommendation from college campus safety directors, the bill creates a National Center for Campus Safety to work in collaboration with the COPS program.

The bill also contains provisions, which I wrote into the measure, to strengthen our workforce and our Nation's competitiveness.

The bill would implement my initiative to provide loan forgiveness for STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, or Math) employees who work in those fields. My initiative also establishes a loan forgiveness program for foreign language specialists who work as teachers or Government employees.

The legislation creates a Deputy Assistant Secretary for International and Foreign Language Education in the Department of Education. Based on legislation that I wrote, the executive-level officer would provide leadership in directing efforts aimed at international and foreign language education.

The measure establishes a program that I championed, the Science and Technology Advanced Foreign Language Grants program, to award funding to institutions of higher education to create programs that encourage students to develop foreign language proficiency as well as science and technological knowledge.

Based on my work, the bill develops the Mathematics & Science Scholars Program to grants and loan forgiveness to math and science students who commit to 5 consecutive years of service in a math or science field after graduation.

Included in the bill is my legislation to establish a National STEM Database to provide students with information on financial assistance for postsecondary and graduate programs in science, technology, engineering and mathematics. This important database will help capable students who are interested in STEM careers find scholarships to support their studies.

I am pleased that the measure includes the "Preparing Teachers for Digital Age Learners" program to help teacher candidates effectively integrate technology in the classroom. The program, which I advocated for, would work with teaching candidates on how they can bring modern digital tools in the classroom.

Additionally, the bill incorporates my legislation, the Nursing School Capacity Act, which requires the Institute of Medicine to explore the constraints that the Nation's schools of nursing face and propose short and long term solutions to address the nursing crisis.

Finally, based on my efforts the bill improves The "Child Care Access Means Parents in Schools" Program to empower small and community colleges to provide child care to working mothers so they can attend school.

Each of these provisions and the many more contained in the final Act will have positive impacts on our Nation and I am pleased that they soon will be implemented into law.

ENERGY COSTS

HON. HENRY E. BROWN, JR.

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 1, 2008

Mr. BROWN of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, today the House leaves on its 5 week vacation just like we do every year. Generally we are joined by millions of American families as they get out of town before the start of the school year, but this year things are different. While we are still leaving Washington, more of these families than ever before are staying home, prevented from visiting places like the beaches and historic sites in my district because of rising energy costs. But we aren't doing anything about it.

And when school starts up again, students are going to see activities cut back because their school districts are having to move money from these important programs just to keep running their school buses. High energy costs are having a dramatic impact on every part of our society. But Congress is failing to address them.

Today, news came out that American employers shed some 51,000 jobs last month, and for so many companies, the burden of high energy prices are behind so many of these job losses. From steel mills to fertilizer plants and delivery services, I could list countless businesses that use energy not only to keep the lights on but as the fuel for getting their job done. And record high energy prices are fighting their best efforts to grow our economy. But we can't even have a vote on accessing more American energy.

Madam Speaker, I want to take a moment to highlight some of these businesses being impacted by today's high energy prices. I represent a coastal district where many of my constituents make their living on the water. The heart of my district are its shrimpers, tour boat operators, recreational and commercial fishermen.

However, many of these hard-working residents of coastal South Carolina cannot even afford to take their boats on the water anymore because of all-time record high prices for fuel. Shrimpers must catch 700 pounds a day just to fuel their boats—I can assure you, this is not a small catch.

Before Speaker PELOSI "saves the planet" here in Washington, DC, perhaps she can come down to Charleston or McClellanville in South Carolina and explain to the these hard-working men and women why she is refusing to schedule a vote to increase domestic energy production and lower the cost of their diesel fuel to allow them to get back on the water. Their struggles are not a hoax.

Madam Speaker, we currently depend on foreign and in many cases unfriendly nations for over 60 percent of our Nation's energy needs. This is a serious national security concern for my constituents in coastal South Carolina that is only getting worse. It is sad to see that every other country in the world views its energy resources as a strategic asset; in the United States we have come to view ours as an environmental liability.

Madam Speaker, this week I was proud to join with a group of Republicans and Democrats to introduce legislation that was written together that would allow us to start domestic energy production while also investing in many

types of renewable energy. When will we get a vote on the bipartisan National Environment, Conservation and Energy Independence Act or any of the other pieces of legislation that offer an "all of the above" solution to our energy crisis?

While we may leave Washington today, we cannot leave our responsibility to address this issue for the American people.

HANNAH WARFIELD AND JENNY BARRINGER

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 1, 2008

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize two members of one of my Colorado offices, Hannah Warfield and Jenny Barringer.

These two are world-class athletes, from my alma mater, the University of Colorado, who recently competed in the U.S. Olympic track and field trials in Eugene, Oregon.

I want to start off by saying a few words about Hannah, a native of Sydney, Montana who competed in the Women's javelin competition.

Her work ethic is extraordinary.

Despite the rigors of a working a full time job, and recently graduating from the University of Colorado, she maintained a training schedule that would begin at 5 a.m. in the morning and would humble even the most dedicated among us.

This work ethic propelled her to become the 2007 NCAA Women's Big Twelve Champion in the Javelin event.

A distinction not achieved by a University of Colorado athlete in 20 years.

She is one of the most pleasant, organized and courteous individuals I have ever had the opportunity to meet.

Although, Hannah came just short of making it to Beijing, words cannot express the amount of pride and inspiration she brought to our office and our community with her dedication to the pursuit of her dreams.

Hannah's positive attitude and tenacity should serve as inspiration to all of us.

Next, I would like to take a moment to speak about Jenny Barringer, from Oviedo, Florida, who competed in the women's 3,000m steeplechase event.

Jenny is a true pioneer in the sport, which is making its inaugural appearance at the 2008 games.

She recently shattered the American record in the women's steeplechase with a time of 9:22.73.

If that were not enough, she maintains a 3.7 GPA, serves as a sign language interpreter, volunteers with the Ronald McDonald House, Habitat for Humanity, and the local adopt-a-road program.

I can attest that Coloradans will be watching with immense pride in the coming weeks as Jenny goes for the gold in the Beijing.

What impresses me most about Hannah and Jenny is that for as great as their athletic ability, they're ever better people.

Active in their communities, great students combined with a desire to go above and beyond what is expected, they serve as a positive example of what can be achieved with hard work and a positive attitude.

As a father of three extraordinary women myself, all of whom are athletes, I can attest Hannah and Jenny represent the pride that every parent who drops their kids off at an athletic practice or attends one of their competitions feels.

It is an amazing honor to see two of our own in Colorado rise to this level, especially knowing it could not have happened to two better people.

Hannah Warfield and Jenny Barringer embody the best our country could hope for in the next generation of Americans.

I am privileged for the opportunity to have come to know these two remarkable individuals.

I would like to close by saying go USA, and go Jenny in the 2008 Beijing Olympics.

TRIBUTE TO CAPTAIN PHIL RUHLE

HON. PATRICK J. KENNEDY

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 1, 2008

Mr. KENNEDY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to express my sympathies to a wonderful Rhode Island family who has lost a devoted loved one: Captain Phil Ruhle of North Kingstown, Rhode Island.

Captain Ruhle was a life-long professional fisherman and the captain of the *Sea Breeze* that capsized off the coast of New Jersey last Wednesday night. He was the center of 5 generations of fishermen, including his grandfather, his father, his brother, his son, and grandson.

In recent years, Captain Ruhle took an active role in work to improve industry conditions for fishermen. He was even awarded NOAA's Environmental Hero Award in 2003 for his "tireless efforts to preserve and protect our Nation's environment." Captain Ruhle was instrumental in developing the innovative "Eliminator" net, which will benefit fishermen and our environment for generations.

Captain Ruhle was valued as an intelligent and passionate advocate and adviser for fishermen across the country. His presence, especially his familiar voice, will be missed by his fellow fishermen, by Federal fishing regulators and by all who cared about the future of the fishing industry.

I share in the sorrow at the loss of Captain Ruhle with his wife Donna, his mother Gloria, his children Phil, Jr., Roger and Alicia, all his grandchildren and his many friends and colleagues. While this is a sad time for all of us, we take solace in knowing that Captain Ruhle lived his life to the fullest and left behind him a world which, because of his life, was kinder, more passionate and more generous.

ENOUGH IS ENOUGH: OUR SENIORS AND PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES DESERVE A RELIABLE, AFFORDABLE AND UNIVERSAL RX BENEFIT UNDER MEDICARE!

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 1, 2008

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, the insurance and pharmaceutical industry-friendly

Medicare Part D drug benefit is, as predicted, costing taxpayers billions of unnecessary dollars, restricting access to needed pharmaceuticals, and providing windfall profits for the pharmaceutical companies. Last week, the Oversight and Government Reform Committee released an analysis that showed that pharmaceuticals covered under Part D cost 30 percent more than pharmaceuticals provided through Medicaid. Medicaid's program is administered by the Federal Government while Medicare Part D uses private insurance companies. As you know, it also provides no authority to negotiate prices, no other meaningful cost mechanisms, and a paltry benefit for far too many enrollees to boot.

A report by the Center for Economic and Policy Research showed that a benefit administered by Medicare would save enough money to fully cover prescription drug costs between 2006 and 2013 and still have \$40 billion left over.

For our seniors and for our children and grandchildren's future security, I urge you to reaffirm your support for one of the most successful social programs in our Nation's history by calling for a comprehensive and meaningful prescription drug benefit under Medicare, and one which addresses the outrageously high prices of prescription drugs paid by American consumers.

I have introduced a bill that will replace the current plan with a benefit that provides seniors and people with disabilities with the drugs they need with no co-pay, no premium and no deductible. Every person would receive the same voluntary benefit, regardless of income or geographical location, just like traditional Medicare.

How can the plan provide such a strong benefit without busting the budget? By including provisions that seriously address the outrageously high prices Americans are forced to pay for prescription drugs.

First, the plan will include strong, loophole-free language to allow American pharmacists, wholesalers and distributors to purchase FDA-approved prescription drugs at lower prices abroad. With strong reimportation language like that included in this plan, all Americans—not just seniors—could save 30–70 percent on the price of prescription drugs without any Government subsidy.

Second, the bill also allows Medicare to negotiate on behalf of all Medicare beneficiaries, something prohibited under the current Republican program, which could achieve discounts comparable to the significant discounts received by the Veterans Administration.

Finally, the plan would ensure that when taxpayers foot the bill for research and development of a prescription drug, the pharmaceutical industry must offer that drug at a fair and reasonable price. Such a requirement has passed the House by a wide bipartisan majority in the past, only to be stripped out by the pharmaceutical industry in conference committee. Today, the taxpayer-funded National Institutes of Health continues to spend tens of billions of dollars a year on research and development of medicines. Most often, this R&D is then handed over to the pharmaceutical industry, whose member companies charge Americans any price they want for the final product. If we change this absurd system, we would ensure that new medicines would be affordable in the years ahead.

As the current crisis makes all too clear, the time has come to support a comprehensive

prescription drug benefit for seniors and people with disabilities that does not coddle the health insurance or pharmaceutical industries.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MICHAEL R. TURNER

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 1, 2008

Mr. TURNER. Madam Speaker, on rollcall No. 556 and 557, I was not present. On 556 I would have voted "no," and on 557, I would have voted "yes."

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TIM MURPHY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 1, 2008

Mr. MURPHY of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, on rollcall No. 557, H.R. 6633, the Employee Verification Amendment Act of 2008, had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

PAYCHECK FAIRNESS ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. RUSH D. HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 31, 2008

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 1338) to amend the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 to provide more effective remedies to victims of discrimination in the payment of wages on the basis of sex, and for other purposes.

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Chairman, I rise today as a co-sponsor of H.R. 1338, the Paycheck Fairness Act.

Last week, I had the honor of participating in a portrait unveiling ceremony for former New Jersey Representative Mary Norton, who was the chair of the Labor Committee 70 years ago and a tireless advocate for equal pay. Under her leadership Congress passed 1938 Fair Labor Standards Act that established the 40-hour workweek, outlawed child labor and established a minimum wage of 25 cents per hour. I think of her today when I say that while we have made significant progress since the Equal Pay Act of 1963, the fight for equality in the workplace is far from over. According to the U.S. Census Bureau, women still earn only 77 percent as much as men on average. These statistics are worse for women of color; African-American women earn only 71.7 cents and Latinas only 58.5 cents for every dollar earned by their male counterparts.

Unfortunately, this wage gap only increases over time and has lasting effects on the lives of our working women. While women 1 year out of college earn 80 percent of what their male peers make, by the time women are 10 years out of college they are making only 69 percent of what men do. Furthermore, after a lifetime of receiving lower wages, older women are less likely than older men to receive pension income, and when they do they receive

only half of the benefits that men receive. It is then sad, but unsurprising, that women represent 70 percent of older adults living in poverty.

Mary Norton understood that the wage gap is not just a women's issue—it is a family issue. When women earn less for equal work, families are forced to do more with less. Affording all of life's expenses is challenging enough—it shouldn't be made harder as a result of women being shortchanged on payday.

I believe that there is more that can and should be done to level the playing field and provide fair opportunities for women in education and the workplace. I would like to commend my colleague from Connecticut, Representative ROSA DELAURO, for introducing H.R. 1338, the Paycheck Fairness Act. This bill would strengthen the Equal Pay Act and close loopholes that allow employers to avoid responsibility for discriminatory pay and prohibit employers from retaliating against employees who discuss salary information with their co-workers. It would also create a training program to strengthen women's negotiation skills and establish additional avenues for women to seek equal pay in the workplace.

This legislation is long overdue and I urge my colleagues to support it.

INTRODUCTION OF A RESOLUTION TO RECOGNIZE THE US 36 CORRIDOR PROJECT

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 1, 2008

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Madam Speaker, today I am introducing a resolution to recognize the benefits of the United States Route 36, US 36, Corridor project plan, and to commend the cooperative effort of several communities located along the US 36 Corridor between Denver and Boulder in developing the project.

The Colorado communities along the US 36 Corridor, including Westminster, Louisville, Superior, Broomfield, Denver, and Boulder, are experiencing a tremendous period of expansion. While this growth is very positive and certainly welcome, it has also outpaced the growth of its transportation infrastructure, leading to heavy traffic delays and sometimes dangerous road conditions.

In response to these conditions, the US 36 Mayors and Commissioners Coalition, MCC, a coalition of officials representing the communities along the US 36 Corridor, in coordination with the Colorado Department of Transportation, CDOT, and a coalition of local businesses known as 36 Commuting Solutions, developed the US 36 Corridor project plan.

The US 36 Corridor project is a national model for congestion mitigation, combining bus rapid transit lanes, high-occupancy vehicle lanes and safe bicycling lanes with traditional auto traffic lanes. The project ranked among the highest congestion mitigation proposals submitted under the Department of Transportation's Urban Partnership Agreement Program, and a record of decision is expected to be issued next year that will allow for its construction to commence.

Madam Speaker, I think the cooperation and ingenuity that was demonstrated in putting the

US 36 Corridor project together, as well as the project's benefits, deserve recognition from Congress, as this resolution does.

INTRODUCTION OF THE LEGISLATIVE BRANCH PERSONNEL APPEALS PROCEDURAL CONSOLIDATION ACT

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 1, 2008

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, today I am introducing the Legislative Branch Personnel Appeals Procedural Consolidation Act of 2008 to bring the GAO in line with other legislative branch agencies and to address an important issue of equal rights at Government Accountability Office, GAO, after extensive consultation with all concerned. Over the past year my office has worked closely with the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform to resolve serious employee wage and discrimination disputes at the GAO. African Americans, and older employees who have been disproportionately affected by these disputes and have complained that discrimination cases at GAO must be heard internally, the only grievance system where Federal employee charges of discrimination are processed and determined within a Federal agency without any independent review. This bill resolves this unique conflict of interest and due process issue that allows GAO to render the final administrative decisions on discrimination, labor and other issues against the GAO with the agency head appointing all the decision-makers in the process and no review by any disinterested or third-party agency official.

The wage disputes and complaints about the grievance system began when the GAO implemented dramatic and controversial pay-for-performance revisions to classify and pay its employees. The Comptroller General assured GAO employees that the annual COLAs that Congress votes for all federal employees would not be affected. However, many employees, including a disproportionate number of African Americans, did not receive their COLAs for FY06 and FY07, though all had ratings of "meets expectations" or above.

Consequently, GAO employees filed formal race and age discrimination complaints against the Comptroller General with the Personnel Appeals Board, PAB, which hears all such complaints. The PAB members are appointed by the Comptroller General to decide not only discrimination cases based on race, sex, age and religion, but also cases involving violations of labor, and of civil service or merit system rights. All other Federal and legislative branch employees carry employee complaints to independent agencies.

It was the excellent work of Chairman DANNY K. DAVIS and the Federal Workforce subcommittee, whose hearings uncovered the discriminatory effects of the pay system and negotiated back-COLA payments for all GAO employees. An independent assessment by the Ivy Group, hired by GAO after the watchdog organization, Blacks In Government, recommended a study of discrimination at the GAO, showed that there are many race-based disparities in ratings, promotions and other employment practices between African Amer-

ican and Caucasian analysts at the GAO. For example, having a PhD has a statistically significant positive effect for Caucasian analysts, but has no effect for African American analysts, and Caucasian analysts receive a ratings benefit from being assigned to lead roles on projects, contrasted with African American analysts, who show no statistically significant effect of being assigned to such roles.

This bill provides for independent review of complaints by transferring jurisdiction to the OOC, which handles such matters for all other legislative branch employees. The OOC represents the most recent bipartisan thinking and action of Congress concerning equal treatment for employees of the legislative branch. Because of the small case loads generated by legislative branch agencies, the OOC is able to handle the broadest enforcement mandate of any executive or legislative agency and currently enforces 12 different employee protection laws and is the only employee protection agency required by statute to continuously review new laws and incorporate them into its own jurisdiction.

The bill does not assign responsibilities to an agency beyond its expertise and does not put additional responsibility on the congressional leadership to make appointments. The OOC has indicated the feasibility of its participation and offered evidence that the statute that established the OOC contemplates granting additional authority to the OOC of the kind we seek.

I hope all my colleagues join me in assuring equal rights to GAO employees.

INTRODUCTION OF THE VIRGINIA OCS BILL

HON. BOB GOODLATTE

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 1, 2008

Mr. GOODLATTE. Madam Speaker, each week, folks across Virginia and the Nation are confronted with the rising cost of energy, from the cost at the pump to soaring electric bills. Energy is vital to every sector of our economy, including homes, small businesses and industries. When energy supplies are tight, families and businesses are severely impacted by the resulting increase in energy costs.

While the majority has succeeded in strangling any efforts to tap into traditional energy resources in America, our Nation's citizens have suffered. They have suffered with skyrocketing gas and food prices, and they have suffered from the fear that we are ever dependent on foreign, and sometimes hostile, sources of oil.

While the leadership of the majority in Congress can't seem to get its act together to solve this problem for the Nation, as a representative of the people of Virginia, I cannot stand by and simply watch this spectacle. The time for action is now.

Virginians understand that a major component in lessening energy costs is to produce more energy. In fact the topic of energy production on Virginia's Outer Continental Shelf, OCS, has received serious discussion by the Virginia General Assembly. I believe that Virginia should have every tool available to access its energy supplies. Unfortunately, a congressional moratorium on exploration of the

OCS prevents the Commonwealth from having every tool available to address rising energy costs.

Therefore, I rise to introduce legislation to allow Virginia to request oil and natural gas exploration activities off its coast. Should these exploration activities prove fruitful, then the legislation would allow Virginia to petition for drilling for these precious resources. This bill does not mandate that Virginia explore or drill off its coast. It simply removes the Federal Government's longstanding barriers to these activities. The final decision of whether to explore or drill is placed squarely where it should be—in the hands of the people of Virginia, through their State legislature and Governor.

This legislation is not a cure all, and it does not fix the problem all across the country. However, Virginia's two Senators, one from each political party, have introduced similar legislation over in the Senate, and this is promising. In order to demonstrate how broad the support is for allowing States to decide this issue for themselves, I would encourage Members from all States to introduce similar legislation until a threshold of support is achieved that breaks the Democrat leadership's logjam on this issue and allows the will of the American people to be heard.

HONORING BROTHER W.L. BAKER
AS HE CELEBRATES HIS 100TH
BIRTHDAY

HON. JIM COOPER

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 1, 2008

Mr. COOPER. Madam Speaker, today I rise to honor Brother W.L. Baker, a fine citizen and leader in Wilson County, Tennessee, on the occasion of his 100th birthday, August 3, 2008.

Brother Baker has served God as a Baptist minister for more than 80 years, preaching to all in earshot and ministering to all in need. In recent years, in his so-called retirement, Brother Baker has actively served several congregations across Wilson County. Even today, he is an associate pastor at Calvary Baptist Church and has been honored as the oldest living graduate of Cumberland University.

Madam Speaker, it gives me great pride to represent someone as selfless, as dedicated to God and fellow man, and as full of life as Brother W.L. Baker. In his actions, he serves as a role model for Americans everywhere and for all of us in the 110th Congress. We are a better people because of his 100 years among us. I ask you to join me in wishing him heartfelt congratulations on his birthday; may he have many more years of peace, gratitude and prosperity.

HONORING DR. HERBERT R. FISCHER
FOR 37 YEARS OF ACHIEVEMENTS
IN EDUCATION

HON. JERRY LEWIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 1, 2008

Mr. LEWIS of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a dear friend and

true leader in my community, Dr. Herbert R. Fischer, who is retiring after 37 years of dedication to educational development and public service throughout the Inland Empire.

After 27 years as a classroom teacher, principal, and district administrator in the San Bernardino City Unified School District and as superintendent of the Colton Joint Unified School District, Dr. Fischer was chosen to be the San Bernardino County Superintendent of Schools, a position he held for 10 years.

The San Bernardino County Superintendent of Schools office provides support to the 33 K–12 districts and roughly 425,000 students attending more than 500 schools in the county. The County Schools office also provides business and financial curriculum and instruction, personnel, credentials, and management information support to school districts county-wide.

Our district is privileged to have many fine educational professionals dedicated to improve the overall well-being of their students. Dr. Fischer is no exception and has taken his love for educational development even further. Under Dr. Fischer's leadership, the County Superintendent of Schools office has improved the State Academic performance index for 7 consecutive years. He has expanded many school safety programs through the Law Enforcement Education Partnership and the Countywide Gangs and Drugs Task Force. Dr. Fischer is also a founder of three regional P–16 Councils that work to eliminate the achievement gap by creating a comprehensive system for all levels of education.

Dr. Fischer's forward thinking has made San Bernardino a model for excellence in community service. In particular, he is credited with developing and implementing Alliance for Education initiative, which has over 1,200 business, labor, community and faith-based partners working with public schools to improve the college, career and labor readiness of students.

Throughout his career in education, Dr. Fischer worked with colleagues, students and parents, to increase college going rates, reduce student drop-out rates, and provide greater Internet and technology access to students and teachers. He also established programs to provide quality curriculums for all students and offer parents more educational choices. Dr. Fischer's hard work and dedication to the future success of our young people is truly appreciated.

Madam Speaker, please join me in congratulating Dr. Fischer for his many accomplishments and thanking him for making our community a leader in educational and professional advancement. The valuable contributions he has made throughout his career will be remembered for years to come.

INTRODUCING THE HEALTH CARE
FOR WOMEN RESOLUTION

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 1, 2008

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Madam Speaker, I rise to introduce the Health Care for Women Resolution of 2008 with my colleague in the Senate, Senator DEBBIE STABENOW. As we move towards enacting comprehensive Universal

Health Care we cannot leave out the important and unique health care issues of women. Women are often responsible for safeguarding the care for their families and they must be a central part of every universal health care debate.

I believe that the Health Care for Women Resolution recognizes the numerous of women as health care decision makers, caregivers and providers and requires that lawmakers acknowledge their needs during health care reform conversations.

We know that women face exceptional challenges and have a very personal stake in fixing our broken health care system. It is unacceptable that more women are uninsured and pay more for health care than their male counterparts. This resolution calls on Congress to take notice of these obstacles and make significant gains in solving these problems.

This resolution asks Congress to pass legislation within 18 months that provides health care for women and health care for all. I am all too familiar with how tough it is to provide care for our families. As a mother, grandmother and member of Congress, I will fight to make sure that women play a central part in every health care discussion.

The need for this resolution is clear. More than 17 million non-elderly women were uninsured in 2006, an increase of 1.2 million women since 2004. Women also pay 68 percent more than men for out-of-pocket medical costs, largely because of their reproductive health needs. Thirteen percent of all pregnant women are uninsured making them less likely to seek prenatal care and more likely to experience an adverse outcome after giving birth or pregnancy-related mortality.

Older women are particularly at risk. They often receive care through their husband and can become uninsured if their husband dies or loses private insurance by becoming eligible for Medicare. Because they have less disposable income, older women also have trouble paying growing out-of-pocket costs for the care they need. Moreover many older women have periodically left the workforce to raise families or care for aging family members they tend to have lower Social Security and pension benefits required to help them with increasing chronic care conditions.

Any health care discussions must also take into account the barriers women of color face in accessing quality care. Hispanic and Native American women and children are 3 times and African Americans nearly twice as likely to be uninsured than non-Hispanic whites.

I along with 32 of my colleagues in both the House and Senate agree, it is time to start acknowledging women in all efforts that we make to solve our nation's growing health care crisis.

I urge all of my colleagues to cosponsor this important legislation.

PAYCHECK FAIRNESS ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 31, 2008

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 1338) to amend

the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 to provide more effective remedies to victims of discrimination in the payment of wages on the basis of sex, and for other purposes.

Ms. McCOLLUM of Minnesota. Mr. Chairman, I rise today in strong support of the Paycheck Fairness Act (H.R. 1338). This is a historic day in the fight for equal rights for women, and I would like to thank Speaker PELOSI, Congresswoman DELAUNO, and Chairman MILLER for their leadership in this issue.

Women have made great strides in the American workplace during the last quarter century. Women are now more likely to have advanced degrees, own businesses, and make up nearly half the workforce. When Congresswoman NANCY PELOSI was sworn in as Speaker of the House, women and young girls were inspired to know that there is no job a woman in this country cannot do. As we send our young female graduates into the workforce we must ensure that they receive equal pay for equal work.

Although the wage gap has narrowed since the passage of the landmark Equal Pay Act in 1963, gender-based wage discrimination remains a problem for women in the workforce. It is unacceptable that women continue to earn just 77 cents for every dollar earned by men, and pay disparity can be even worse for minority women. This wage disparity will cost women anywhere from \$400,000 to \$2 million over a lifetime in lost wages. Furthermore, the wage disparity grows wider as women age and threatens their economic security, retirement, and quality of life.

The Paycheck Fairness Act will make commonsense reforms to strengthen the Equal Pay Act and close the loopholes that have allowed employers to avoid responsibility for discriminatory pay. It would require employers seeking to justify unequal pay to bear the burden of proving that their actions are justified, and allow women to sue for punitive damages. This bill would also prohibit employers from retaliating against employees who share salary information with their co-workers. Finally, it would create a training program to help women strengthen their negotiation skills, and require the Department of Labor to work with employers to eliminate pay disparities by enhancing outreach and training efforts.

The Paycheck Fairness Act recognizes that equal pay is not only an issue of fairness for women, but also one of fairness for working families. In these tough economic times, this bill could make all the difference for working families to make ends meet in their everyday lives. Through these efforts we can help give families the resources they need to give their children a better future. Pay equity should not be a benefit that needs to be bargained for, it is a promise that the Government must ensure.

I urge my colleagues to rise in support of this bill to ensure economic security for women and their families. Through this legislation we can ensure a better future for our daughters, granddaughters, and generations to come.

HONORING MR. THOMAS LIZIK OF
INCARNATION CATHOLIC SCHOOL
ON HIS RETIREMENT

HON. DANIEL LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 1, 2008

Mr. LIPINSKI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor an outstanding educator in my district, Thomas Lizik. This past June, Mr. Lizik retired from the Archdiocese of Chicago school system after 40 years of distinguished service and leadership. His remarkable contributions to his students, colleagues, and the entire community will always be remembered and his presence will be sorely missed. I would like to extend my appreciation to Mr. Lizik for his decades of dedicated service.

After receiving a degree in business administration from DePaul University in 1968, Mr. Lizik began his teaching career at Visitation Catholic School in Chicago, IL. He continued on to teach at St. Ann Catholic School in Chicago, St. Denis School in Chicago, and Incarnation School in Palos Heights. Mr. Lizik's awareness of the importance of family, friends, integrity, and career is the foundation of his professional success, and has led his colleagues and students to hold him in the highest regard.

Mr. Lizik's tireless work has earned him numerous awards, including the "Outstanding Teacher Award" from St. Ignatius College Prep and the "Most Influential Teacher Award" from De La Salle High School and Queen of Peace High School. In 2002, he was nominated for the Golden Apple Award for Excellence in Teaching. In addition to these special awards, he has also been featured in "Who's Who Among American Teachers" and has served as a distinguished member of the Illinois Council of Teachers of Mathematics.

Today, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Mr. Thomas Lizik as an outstanding educator, and recognize his tireless efforts to educate and develop generations of confident, responsible, and well-educated students. He has done nothing less than an extraordinary job in preparing future generations for their challenges ahead. I thank and congratulate Thomas for his service and dedication and wish him a happy, healthy, and fulfilling retirement.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LAMAR SMITH

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 1, 2008

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Madam Speaker, yesterday the House voted on a motion to censure the gentleman from New York, Mr. RANGEL.

Members had no advance notice of the vote, and I did not familiarize myself with the substance of the motion as much as I would have liked.

If the vote were taken again, I would vote present rather than "aye."

COMMEMORATING THE 1-YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF THE I-35W
BRIDGE COLLAPSE

HON. JOHN KLINE

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 1, 2008

Mr. KLINE of Minnesota. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the anniversary of a tragedy still fresh in the minds of many Minnesotans.

Just 1 year ago today, thousands of men, women and families were on their way home from work and school when calamity struck. Without warning, the bridge that so many of us took for granted on our daily commutes failed, causing physical and emotional pain that lingers even today.

But this anniversary is not entirely solemn. Today we also recall the heroic actions of the men and women who came to the aid of those injured in the collapse.

The first emergency personnel on the scene responded without hesitation, risking their health and safety to rescue victims and provide medical care to the injured. In the weeks and months following the collapse, scores of ordinary people became extraordinary citizens by rushing to the aid of those in need.

Madam Speaker, on this somber occasion, as we remember the victims of this collapse and their families, we also celebrate the selfless service of the heroes who came to their rescue. Our thoughts and prayers remain with all who were affected.

HONORING EDWARD DAY COHOTA,
JOSEPH L. PIERCE, AND OTHER
VETERANS OF ASIAN AND PACIFIC
ISLANDER DESCENT WHO
FOUGHT IN THE UNITED STATES
CIVIL WAR

SPEECH OF

HON. DAVID WU

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 30, 2008

Mr. WU. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 415, a resolution to honor and recognize veterans of Asian and Pacific Islander descent who fought valiantly in the United States Civil War.

Historical research indicates that more than 250 soldiers of Asian and Pacific Islander descent served in both the Union and Confederate forces during the Civil War. Mr. Edward Day Cohota and Mr. Joseph L. Pierce, both of Chinese descent, are the most documented and researched of these veterans.

Mr. Cohota enlisted in the 23rd Regiment, Massachusetts Volunteer Infantry, in 1864 and fought courageously in the Battle of Drury's Bluff, where other soldiers reported that he had seven bullet holes in his coat but was not wounded. Mr. Cohota continued to serve in the U.S. Army for a total of 30 years.

Mr. Pierce enlisted in the 14th Regiment, Connecticut Volunteer Infantry, in 1862 and fought in his first battle at Antietam. He further distinguished himself in the Battle of Gettysburg, and bravely volunteered for a perilous attack on Bliss Farm during the day of Pickett's charge.

Remarkably, despite the fact that many people of Asian and Pacific Islander descent were not allowed to naturalize during this period, a disproportionately high percentage enlisted to fight on both sides of the Civil War. After the war, however, scores of these soldiers and sailors were unjustly denied their due recognition and benefits.

H. Res. 415 is a long overdue expression of appreciation for the loyal service of the Civil War veterans of Asian and Pacific Islander heritage. The United States House of Representatives stands to recognize their contributions to our Nation's history and to speak against the injustices done to them despite their patriotism and honorable service.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE RETIREMENT OF MAJOR GENERAL JEFFREY R. REIMER, UNITED STATES AIR FORCE

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 1, 2008

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor MG Jeffrey Reimer as he retires from the United States Air Force after 34 years of service.

A 1974 graduate of the University of Florida, Major General Reimer held a variety of important assignments in his 34 years of service. As the top graduate from his pilot training program class, he initially served as an F-4C Wild Weasel pilot. Assigned to the Air Training Command, he was the top graduate from T-37 instructor training and the Instructor Pilot of the Year. He has effectively served the Nation in numerous positions within the test and acquisition community. He was an F-16 acceptance test pilot and was selected to attend the Air Force Institute of Technology and USAF Test Pilot School. As a distinguished graduate of the school, he served as an instructor and continued his experimental test pilot duties at the F-16 Combined Test Force.

Major General Reimer served in the Office of the Secretary of Defense as a military staff assistant for developmental testing of aircraft and air-to-air missiles. His later assignments include: Program manager for the MC-130H Combat Talon and program director of special programs for the Air-to-Air Joint System Program Office. He has commanded the 4953rd Test Squadron, Air Force Security Assistance Center, and the Air Armament Center. In his most recent assignment, Major General Reimer served as the Air Force Program Executive Officer for the F-22. He saved the taxpayers \$411 million using a multi-year contract to purchase 60 F-22 aircraft.

On a personal note, I had the pleasure of working very closely with Major General Reimer when he was Commander of the Air Armament Center at Eglin Air Force Base. Together, we worked through test facility closure and test wing consolidation issues. He provided strong leadership and candid assessments to Air Force officials which were necessary to effectively accomplish the mission.

Madam Speaker, few can match the dedication and professionalism of MG Jeffrey Reimer. He is a man of honor and a man of principle. In his 34 years of service, he has touched the lives of many and our Nation is

stronger because of his dedicated service. On behalf of the United States Congress, I wish to thank MG Jeffrey Reimer for his years of dedicated service. Vicki and I wish him and his family our best wishes for success and happiness in the future.

A TRIBUTE TO THE LIFE OF
DONALD RAY TOW

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 1, 2008

Mr. COSTA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the life of Donald Ray Tow of Selma, California, who recently passed away at the age of 74. He leaves behind the love of his life of 44 years, Marie, along with 4 children, 13 grandchildren and 7 great-grandchildren.

Mr. Tow was born on June 2, 1934, in Checotah, Oklahoma, but was raised in the Central Valley. As a teenager Don moved from Bakersfield to Selma, California, and graduated from Selma High School in 1952. Upon graduation from Selma High School he attended Reedley College prior to joining the U.S. Air Force in 1953. While in the Air Force Don proudly served his country in Korea.

After returning from Korea he continued his education at Fresno State College, where he received his master's degree in education. His first job was at Eric White Elementary in Selma, California, as a sixth grade teacher. After teaching for 13 years he went on to become a principal at Washington School in Kingsburg, California. In 1990, he moved on to Roosevelt Junior High, also as a principal.

He was devoted to his community, serving on the Selma Unified School Board, the Selma City Council, and most recently as mayor of the city of Selma. Mr. Tow not only had a passion for education but also for sports and especially for baseball. His huge interest in sports drew him to coaching in the Selma Little League. One of his favorite pastimes was family outings to Morro Bay, and Dinkey Creek, and watching his grandchildren at their sporting events.

It goes without saying that Mr. Donald Ray "Don" Tow was an honorable man with a commitment to family, friends and the community that will forever live in the lives of the people he so graciously touched. His passion for family, education, and his community will be remembered by all who knew him. I am honored and humbled to join his family in celebrating the life of this amazing man who will never be forgotten.

TRIBUTE TO RACHEL JAGODA
BRUNETTE

HON. BART GORDON

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 1, 2008

Mr. GORDON of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize a talented individual who has been a dedicated member of our committee staff—Rachel Jagoda Brunette.

Rachel came to the committee at the beginning of the 109th Congress as a staff assistant

for the Republican majority. Her talent was quickly recognized, and she was soon promoted to professional staff for the research subcommittee. As a staffer for that subcommittee, she handled math and science education issues.

At the start of this Congress, the committee offered positions to several staffers of former Chairman Boehlert and we were fortunate that Rachel accepted our offer. She moved to the Subcommittee on Technology and Innovation and deftly transitioned to a broad portfolio of technology issues, from Homeland Security science and technology to surface transportation research and development.

Her bachelor's degree in physics from Georgetown University and a master's in political management from the George Washington University were an excellent foundation for navigating the nexus between science and policy. Rachel also came to the committee with experience in this area, having worked at the Federation of American Scientists, the American Society for Engineering Education, and the American National Standards Institute.

With intellectual curiosity and an appreciation for scientific knowledge, Rachel spent countless hours absorbing technical details and navigating the political and bureaucratic contexts of her issues. Rachel recognizes how science and technology can help communities meet their needs on the ground.

Rachel performed valuable legislative and oversight duties for the committee. These legislative efforts included H.R. 5161, the Green Transportation Infrastructure Research and Technology Transfer Act and H.R. 3877, the Mine Communications Technology Innovation Act. Her oversight contributions included border security technologies and research and development for energy savings in transportation systems.

Rachel has spent over 3 years working on the Hill and over 9 years in Washington. She is heading to Portland, and our loss is Oregon's gain. She has been a wonderful asset to this committee and will be missed by both Members and staff. I want to thank her for her service to the committee and the science community at large, and I wish her—and her growing family—all the best.

FAMILY SMOKING PREVENTION
AND TOBACCO CONTROL ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. VIRGINIA FOXX

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 30, 2008

Ms. FOXX. Madam Speaker, I strongly oppose this 190-page bill, hastily offered under suspension of the rules, which establishes a new Federal authority for the regulation of the tobacco industry. This legislation adds another layer of bureaucracy to the already overburdened Food and Drug Administration, and another layer of regulation to American consumers' lives.

This bill includes more than \$5 billion in new tax increases on tobacco companies and gives sweeping control of the tobacco market to the FDA. Chairman DINGELL, discussing the recent salmonella outbreak, was recently quoted in the Wall Street Journal as saying that "there's a total inability of the FDA to

carry out its mission." This isn't the first Democrat to raise questions about the effectiveness of the FDA. Thus, it is highly hypocritical of them to extend the agency's regulatory authority to a multi-billion dollar industry of which the FDA has no expertise.

Furthermore, as FDA Commissioner Andrew von Eschenbach testified before the House Energy and Commerce Committee in October 2007, the FDA is an agency intended to promote and protect the public health. In the Commissioner's opinion, requiring the FDA to "approve" tobacco products as a result of this bill would dramatically change the agency's focus. Mr. von Eschenbach stated, "Associating any agency whose mission is to promote public health with the approval of inherently dangerous products would undermine its mission and likely have perverse incentive effects."

While establishing FDA authority to regulate tobacco products, this bill would also retain the FTC's Federal authority to regulate tobacco advertising and circulation. It would provide only limited pre-emption of State laws, allowing more rigid State restrictions on tobacco advertising. These multiple layers of regulation will impose undue bureaucratic and logistical hardships on tobacco manufacturers. It is important to remember that the sale of tobacco, according to current law and expressly reinforced in this bill, is legal in the United States and can be credited with hundreds of thousands of jobs across the country.

As Department of Health and Human Services Secretary Leavitt noted, this legislation could also be viewed by foreign governments as a hostile trade action. Many of the clove and other flavored cigarettes that are banned under this bill are manufactured in foreign countries. However, this bill expressly permits production of menthol cigarettes. This could lead Indonesia or other foreign governments to file complaints at the World Trade Organization claiming discrimination against their products. Ultimately, retaliatory measures could be taken against American-made products, which could lead to unnecessary trade disputes with a negative effect on economic growth.

Finally, this legislation would have little impact on overall tobacco use. If this bill is enacted, the Congressional Budget Office has estimated that smoking by adults would decline only by 2 percent after 10 years. This marginal reduction does not warrant this legislation's significant intrusion on free speech rights and expansion of government-run regulatory bureaucracy. Therefore, I strongly oppose this bill and urge my colleagues to vote against it.

THE DELAWARE TRIBE OF INDIANS JUDGMENT FUNDS DISTRIBUTION SETTLEMENT ACT

HON. JOHN SULLIVAN

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 1, 2008

Mr. SULLIVAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce H.R. 6786, the Delaware Tribe of Indians Judgment Funds Distribution Settlement Act.

The Delaware Tribe was the first tribe to sign a treaty with the fledgling United States in

1778, playing an important role in winning the Revolutionary War, and was called the "Grandfather Tribe" by other tribes in and around the Delaware River valley. The Tribe was forced inexorably westward by the Colonies and then the United States from its aboriginal area further west and eventually into Cherokee territory in Oklahoma.

The Tribe was recognized by the United States throughout the 20th century until it was terminated by the Department of the Interior in 1979. The Department rescinded that decision in 1996, and the Tribe was recognized from 1996 until 2004 when a Tenth Circuit Court decision ended the Tribe's Federal recognition. The United States Solicitor General stated to the United States Supreme Court that the Tenth Circuit decision to end status of the tribe resulted in the need for Congress to address this issue.

This legislation restores the rightful Federal recognition of the Delaware Tribe of Indians but also incorporates mechanisms for the Delaware Tribe of Indians and the Cherokee Nation to resolve issues between them in Eastern Oklahoma amicably. I am pleased to see not only Delaware restoration but also accord and cooperation between the two tribes.

HONORING BORDENTOWN LITTLE LEAGUE

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 1, 2008

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, I rise to offer my heartfelt support and congratulations to the Bordentown Little League All-Stars who on Wednesday, won the New Jersey State Championship tournament and the right to now advance to the regional championship. Powered by some big bats—that turned in 17 hits and 4 home runs—the Bordentown Little League's 11/12 year old team easily defeated Pequannock 14 to 3 to win the State Championship. By winning the New Jersey title, the team now moves onto Bristol, Connecticut, to participate in the Mid-Atlantic Regional Tournament where they will take on Haverstraw, the New York State Champions. The A. Bartlett Giamatti Little League Leadership Training Center in Bristol, Connecticut, is hosting the Mid-Atlantic and New England tournaments.

I especially want to recognize Manager Pat Welsh and Coach Dave Revay for their outstanding efforts developing this championship team. And of course, congratulations go out to the guys on the field who hustled throughout the season to win the New Jersey State Championship—Tommy "T-Walt" Walters, Zachary "Zack" Gakeler, Ryan "Shinny" Shinn, Patrick "Otrick" Welsh, Cole "ColeTrain" Clauser, Tyler "Ty" Revay, Clarke "Clarkey" Laba, Nick "Hammer" Callahan, Edward "Eddie" Holmes, and the teams three Austin's—Austin "Goke" Goeke, Austin "Charzar" Chaszar, and Austin "Big Pappi" Papp.

Gratitude also has to be given to the Bordentown community for their spirit and the continuing support they offered which helped make fielding this outstanding team possible. Community leaders—Mayor George A. Chidley, Deputy Mayor Bruce Hill, Committeeman William J. Morelli, Committeeman Robert

Delaney, and Committeeman Mark Roselli from Bordentown Township; and Mayor John William Collom III, Deputy Mayor James Lynch, and Commissioner John Wehrman from the city of Bordentown have to be recognized and thanked for making this State Championship possible.

As the Bordentown Little League All-Stars now move onto the Regional Championship, we join with family and friends in the entire Bordentown and Burlington County communities to wish them good luck.

TRIBUTE TO STAN SMOYER

HON. RUSH D. HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 1, 2008

Mr. HOLT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Stanley C. Smoyer for his years of extraordinary leadership in the family planning movement in the United States, his devoted service to Planned Parenthood Association of the Mercer Area in New Jersey, and for his extraordinary generosity to his community.

For over 50 years, Stan Smoyer has been a champion of women's reproductive rights. As former assistant general counsel for Johnson & Johnson, he was involved in reproductive rights litigation in the 1960s. Of particular note was his involvement in *Griswold v Connecticut*, the 1965 landmark case in which the Supreme Court of the United States ruled that the Constitution protected a right to privacy and that access to contraception could not be prohibited. In 1995, he and his late wife, Barbara, were awarded Planned Parenthood's highest honor, the Sanger Circle Award, in recognition of their outstanding service and loyalty to Planned Parenthood and to the cause of reproductive rights.

As a board member of Planned Parenthood I am particularly grateful to him for his years of participation. As Vice Chairman for Principal Gifts of Planned Parenthood's 1991 capital campaign, Stan Smoyer demonstrated his commitment to the issues by helping the agency raise millions of dollars. In 2006, Stan Smoyer was recruited once again to help Planned Parenthood, this time as Honorary Co-Chair of Stand with Us: The Campaign for Responsible Choices. Thanks to his generosity, the capital campaign is well on its way to reaching its goal.

Stan Smoyer has also been a benefactor of both Phillips Academy in Andover, Massachusetts and Dartmouth University in New Hampshire. His most recent gift to Phillips Academy renovated and improved the soccer field, where his sons used to play. The field, now known as Smoyer Family Field, is named in honor of Mr. Smoyer's sons, David, class of '59 and William, class of '63, who was killed in Vietnam in 1968.

A 1934 graduate of Dartmouth, Stan Smoyer has made a commitment to his alma mater for a new intercollegiate soccer facility. He has also been a donor to the school's History Department programs and to other scholarship and athletic endeavors.

Stanley C. Smoyer's devotion to the causes and initiatives that he believes in makes him an outstanding friend, neighbor and community benefactor. He is worthy of our admiration and gratitude and continues to serve as a

model for other philanthropists and volunteers who think of others and care about where our society is headed.

It is with pride and pleasure I recognize Stanley C. Smoyer here today and ask my colleagues to join me in thanking him for his dedicated and generous service to Planned Parenthood, his community of Princeton, the schools he has chosen to support, and for teaching us all the lesson of giving and caring.

H. RES. 1355, SUPPORT DISABILITY PRIDE DAY

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 1, 2008

Ms. McCOLLUM of Minnesota. Madam Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H. Res. 1355, a resolution to support the goals and ideals of Disability Pride Day.

Over 18 years ago Congress passed the Americans with Disabilities Act into law to end discrimination against and provide equal opportunities for people living with disabilities. It was a historic and proud day for the United States. The significant contributions to American life, our economy and every aspect of our society by people with disabilities deserve to be recognized and honored. While great strides have been made to ensure all rights for people living with disabilities are respected, we must always celebrate the victories and act with vigilance and determination to protect, defend and advance those rights.

This resolution expresses support for Disability Pride Day, and acknowledges the efforts of Chicago's 5th Annual Disability Pride Parade organizers for raising awareness for the needs of those with disabilities. It also urges public officials and the general public to support and encourage understanding of persons with disabilities.

We need to help support and encourage understanding of persons with disabilities in schools, the workforce, and in our communities. It is unacceptable that only one-third of Americans with disabilities are employed and people with disabilities are three times more likely to live in poverty. I believe all Americans should have the opportunity to achieve economic independence, which is why I support efforts to improve employment programs for individuals with disabilities. I also believe every child deserves a quality and affordable education, and we must ensure that our schools are adequately funded to promise a fair education for all children with disabilities. I support full funding the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, IDEA, which is why I introduced the Achieving Our IDEA Act, H.R. 1896. This bill will help ensure that the Federal Government contributes 40 percent to the cost of educating children with special needs.

This year Congress also took action to ensure the rights of those with disabilities. The ADA Amendments Act, of which I was a co-sponsor, passed the House with overwhelming support on June 25, 2008. This bill protects individuals from employment discrimination in the workplace for those who can and want to work, and restores the original intent of Congress. All Americans should be able to live and work in their communities without fear of being discriminated against.

All people have the right to be active, contributing members of our society and fully engaged citizens. I will continue to support efforts to improve the quality of life for individuals with disabilities.

I urge my colleagues to support this resolution and celebrate Disability Pride Day.

SUPPORTING NATIONAL NIGHT OUT

SPEECH OF

HON. BOBBY L. RUSH

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 29, 2008

Mr. RUSH. Mr. Speaker, I would like to voice my full and enthusiastic support for H. Res. 1324. With violence on the rise in many communities, including my home district of Chicago, I have committed myself to raising the issue of gun violence within the U.S. Congress. We must effectively address this issue and begin to repair the devastation that it has caused for countless families, communities, and neighborhoods.

Since February, I have been speaking of the "Daily 45s", the number of casualties the Department of Justice reports that our Nation suffers every day due to gun violence. Though the number of gun shot fatalities that Americans endure here in our own communities dwarfs the number of daily casualties our troops suffer in two war zones combined, in Iraq and Afghanistan, it saddens and frustrates me that this issue is not being discussed more here in Congress.

As a country, we are not doing enough to address this deadly issue. That is why I proudly support H. Res. 1324, which asks the President to focus appropriate attention on neighborhood crime prevention and community policing, and to coordinate Federal efforts to participate in National Night Out on the first Tuesday in August.

Additionally, like my Communities in Action Neighborhood Defense and Opportunity (CAN DO) bill, which I will soon be introducing, H. Res. 1324 provides Federal support to assist local efforts in addressing the issue of violence. This bill assists community watch groups by supporting local officials in an effort to promote community safety and help secure our homeland.

It is past time for Americans of all races, classes, and geographic locations to come together and put an end to the senseless violence that is gripping our Nation. H. Res. 1324 goes a long way in bringing this deadly subject into the light and forcing all of us to deal with this devastating problem. I urge all of my colleagues to support this measure as well.

SUNSET MEMORIAL

HON. TRENT FRANKS

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 1, 2008

Mr. FRANKS of Arizona. Madam Speaker, I stand once again before this House with yet another Sunset Memorial.

It is August 1, 2008 in the land of the free and the home of the brave, and before the

sun set today in America, almost 4,000 more defenseless unborn children were killed by abortion on demand. That's just today, Mr. Speaker. That's more than the number of innocent lives lost on September 11 in this country, only it happens every day.

It has now been exactly 12,975 days since the tragedy called Roe v. Wade was first handed down. Since then, the very foundation of this Nation has been stained by the blood of almost 50 million of its own children. Some of them, Mr. Speaker, cried and screamed as they died, but because it was amniotic fluid passing over the vocal cords instead of air, we couldn't hear them.

All of them had at least four things in common. First, they were each just little babies who had done nothing wrong to anyone, and each one of them died a nameless and lonely death. And each one of their mothers, whether she realizes it or not, will never be quite the same. And all the gifts that these children might have brought to humanity are now lost forever. Yet even in the glare of such tragedy, this generation still clings to a blind, invincible ignorance while history repeats itself and our own silent genocide mercilessly annihilates the most helpless of all victims, those yet unborn.

Madam Speaker, perhaps it's time for those of us in this Chamber to remind ourselves of why we are really all here. Thomas Jefferson said, "The care of human life and its happiness and not its destruction is the chief and only object of good government." The phrase in the 14th Amendment capsulizes our entire Constitution. It says, "No State shall deprive any person of life, liberty or property without due process of law." Mr. Speaker, protecting the lives of our innocent citizens and their constitutional rights is why we are all here.

The bedrock foundation of this Republic is the clarion declaration of the self-evident truth that all human beings are created equal and endowed by their Creator with the unalienable rights of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. Every conflict and battle our Nation has ever faced can be traced to our commitment to this core, self-evident truth.

It has made us the beacon of hope for the entire world. Madam Speaker, it is who we are.

And yet today another day has passed, and we in this body have failed again to honor that foundational commitment. We have failed our sworn oath and our God-given responsibility as we broke faith with nearly 4,000 more innocent American babies who died today without the protection we should have given them.

So, Madam Speaker, let me conclude this Sunset Memorial in the hope that perhaps someone new who heard it tonight will finally embrace the truth that abortion really does kill little babies; that it hurts mothers in ways that we can never express; and that 12,975 days spent killing nearly 50 million unborn children in America is enough; and that it is time that we stood up together again, and remembered that we are the same America that rejected human slavery and marched into Europe to arrest the Nazi Holocaust; and we are still courageous and compassionate enough to find a better way for mothers and their unborn babies than abortion on demand.

Madam Speaker, as we consider the plight of unborn America tonight, may we each remind ourselves that our own days in this sunshine of life are also numbered and that all too soon each one of us will walk from these Chambers for the very last time.

And if it should be that this Congress is allowed to convene on yet another day to come, may that be the day when we finally hear the cries of innocent unborn children. May that be the day when we find the humanity, the courage, and the will to embrace together our human and our constitutional duty to protect these, the least of our tiny, little American brothers and sisters from this murderous scourge upon our Nation called abortion on demand.

It is August 1, 2008, 12,975 days since Roe versus Wade first stained the foundation of this Nation with the blood of its own children; this in the land of the free and the home of the brave.

HONORING BOB O'CONNELL

HON. MARCY KAPTUR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 1, 2008

Ms. KAPTUR. Madam Speaker, today, I would like to recognize the legacy contributions of a great father, grandfather, athlete, teacher, and coach Mr. Bob O'Connell of Toledo, Ohio. Recently, Bob was acknowledged by a wonderful story published in the Toledo Blade tracing his many accomplishments. Our entire community applauds him for his life's achievements, and thanks him.

Bob has taught and mentored thousands and thousands of young athletes across our community in his chosen sport of tennis. For 21 years, he coached students at Rogers and Ottawa Hills High Schools during the regular school year and summer. Truly, he has been a teacher's teacher and a coaches' coach and has been recognized in the Ohio High School Tennis Coaches Hall of Fame. Bob also taught history and worked to develop his students as well-rounded persons who are both academically and physically fit. I can personally attest to his skill and patience having been one of his many students so many years ago. Bob taught not just the skills of tennis and endurance, but also what it meant to be a good sport. He held his racket with distinction, kept focus, and airily breezed across the court with an ease that demonstrated this indeed was his sport.

Bob raised another generation of O'Connell's who follow in his footsteps, his son Kevin, Sr., was the No. 1 singles player for 3 years at St. Francis and earned a scholarship to college as a result. Now his children, Kevin Jr. achieved rank as an All-City League first team player all 4 years as a high school and Kelly O'Connell was the No. 1 singles player at St. Ursula for 3 years.

It is hard to place an adequate value on a man who has played such a significant father-figure role not just to his family but to our community, using his teaching and coaching abilities to rear the next generation. I feel personally honored to have been coached by Bob O'Connell and recognize his extraordinary accomplishments as an American who gave so much of himself, so quietly and effectively, to the next generation. He is the kind of man that deserves admiration for he exemplifies what it means to be a man for others. May he and his family enjoy many years together and may he and they know how truly our community expresses its gratitude to him. Onward.

RECOGNIZING EVONIK DEGUSSA INDUSTRIES IN MOBILE, ALABAMA ON 35 YEARS OF SERVICE IN ALABAMA

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 1, 2008

Mr. BONNER. Madam Speaker, today I rise to honor Evonik Degussa Industries located in Mobile, Alabama, on 35 years of business and service to our community.

Founded as Degussa, the 160 acre site in Mobile was established 35 years ago. Last year, the German chemical company was purchased by Evonik Industries AG and is now operating as Evonik Degussa Industries. With 44,000 employees in over 100 countries around the world, Evonik Industries is the global market leader in specialty chemicals and presently maintains several locations in the United States, Canada and Mexico.

The Mobile plant manufactures a range of products from hydrogen peroxide to a binding agent used in more than 250 products ranging from ketchup to paint. The \$1.2 billion complex is the company's largest facility outside of Europe with approximately 700 employees. The Mobile plant has announced several new projects just in the last year. In October, Evonik Degussa announced it is adding a new biodiesel project, which will add production of a specialty chemical used to make alternative fuels. Once fully operational, the new plant will have the annual capacity to produce 60,000 metric tons of alloxides, a catalyst for biodiesel production.

Evonik Degussa is also adding a \$10 million expansion which will allow for the production of ROHACELL, which is high-tech foam used in a wide-range of products including airplane wings and skis. Earlier this year, Evonik Degussa announced it is considering a \$65 million expansion to make a chemical for chicken feed.

Evonik Degussa not only creates essentials for everyday use, but the employees and the management team strive to make a positive impact on the citizens of Mobile County through heavy community involvement. The company supports numerous local causes through its "Essential to the Community" donation program and gives more than \$100,000 each year to the arts, schools, and charitable organizations. In 2006, the Mobile plant donated \$115,000 to community activities. These contributions included \$55,000 to Mobile civic organizations, \$40,000 to educational activities, \$10,500 to the arts, and \$1,700 to environmental groups.

It is evident Evonik Degussa is passionate about serving the Mobile community, and this dedication deserves recognition. Evonik Degussa exemplifies the spirit of volunteerism and serves as an outstanding corporate citizen of Alabama. Furthermore, their dedication to improving the lives of their fellow citizens sets them apart from many other companies. Evonik Degussa remains a strong supporter of our community and is a wonderful corporate role model.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating both the employees and management team at Evonik Degussa Industries for 35 years of operations in the Mobile area. I know the employees, their friends, fam-

ilies, and members of the community join with me in praising Evonik Degussa Industries for their many accomplishments. I extend my thanks for their continued service to the Mobile, Alabama business community, the First Congressional District, and the state of Alabama.

60TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FOUNDING OF THE STATE OF ISRAEL

HON. RICK LARSEN

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 1, 2008

Mr. LARSEN of Washington. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the nation of Israel and her people on the recent 60th Anniversary of the founding of the state of Israel. The United States stood with Israel in 1948 as it took the first steps forward as a new nation and we proudly stand with her today.

The United States and Israel are bound together by a shared history and shared values. We share thriving, pluralistic democracies that allow for—and encourage—open political discourse and opposition. Both countries are governed by the rule of law and share fundamental freedoms such as the freedom of speech and religion. And our economies share an entrepreneurial spirit which gives those from all walks of life the opportunity to succeed.

The United States has no better ally and friend in the Middle East than Israel. Both peoples strive to live in peace and protect our communities from those who would do us harm. The United States stands with Israel against any threats to the security and existence of your country, and we stand with you as you strive to secure a peaceful and lasting relationship with your neighbors.

Madam Speaker, as we join with Israel to celebrate 60 years as an independent and free state, now is the time for the United States to reaffirm our support for our ally and friend. Thank you.

TRIBUTE TO AUGUSTINE OLIVENCIA

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 1, 2008

Mr. HIGGINS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the many personal and professional accomplishments of Augustine Olivencia. Mr. Olivencia, known by one and all as "Chito," is a true leader for all western New Yorkers.

Professionally, Chito has served for many years as Superintendent of Ellicott Creek Park in the town of Tonawanda, and his service in that role has been exemplary. But Chito has truly made his mark as a dedicated activist within his beloved Hispanic community. In fact, for public officials living throughout western New York, many conversations with Chito both begin and end with a playful but serious reminder that the Hispanic community remains a growing constituency in western New York, and that collectively the community remains a force with which to be reckoned.

Chito serves as Chairman of the Board at the Augustine "Pucho" Olivencia Community Center in Buffalo. Named for Chito's late father, the Olivencia Center works to provide the community with educational and recreational services and preserve the culture of this proud community. Every year, Chito chairs the Community Center's Annual Greased Pole Festival, a weekend of events. In addition, each January Chito hosts the annual Three Kings Day celebration to educate and entertain children from the throughout the community and beyond.

In addition, Chito serves as President of *Nosotros*, the largest Hispanic political organization in western New York, which owns the *Fiesta Latina* show that airs in the evenings on WHLD-AM. Chito has also volunteered his time to the renowned Sts. Columba-Brigid Roman Catholic Church by hosting masses for a year after a fire destroyed the Church in 2006.

Chito's desire to learn about other cultures is vast. In June 2004, Chito was the local Project Interchange Designee by the American Jewish Committee Buffalo-Niagara Chapter. In that capacity, Chito traveled to Israel as part of the cultural exchange program. During the trip, he met with civic and political leaders in Israel, briefing members of the local AJC chapter upon his return.

Lastly, I cannot end this speech without a few words about Chito's long career in Democratic politics. Chito has been a Democratic Committeeman in Erie County for longer than many current committee members have been alive, and his allegiance to the Democratic Party is legendary. From elections to the Buffalo School Board to Congress and the White House, Chito's commitment to the political process and to enhancing suffrage throughout the Hispanic community has been remarkable.

Madam Speaker, I ask you to join me in honoring Chito Olivencia for all that he has done for the western New York community, and join me in celebrating his retirement from active service in Erie County government.

HONORING SAND CREEK
TELEPHONE COMPANY

HON. TIMOTHY WALBERG

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 1, 2008

Mr. WALBERG. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Sand Creek Telephone Company of Adrian, Michigan on the celebration of its one hundredth anniversary. Despite its small start, this company has flourished and remains an independent telephone service provider faithfully serving the people of south central Michigan.

In 1908, the Sand Creek Telephone Company began doing business with one switchboard and operator in the back of the Tuttle family's grocery store. Started by local farmers and business owners, the telephone company was created to serve the rural areas south of the city of Adrian. The original stockholders needed telephone service to check the weather, market prices, train schedules, and to order or sell goods. Purchased in 1912, its first telephones were old-fashioned, rectangular, wall-mounted wooden box telephones with a side crank and a Bakelite receiver. These telephones were used up until 1957 when the company upgraded to an automatic dial system.

In 1912, the Sand Creek Telephone Company moved from the Tuttle grocery store to a house on a property called Lot Six, which provided a central location within the town. From here, the company continued to experience enormous growth. By 1928, 270 households were serviced by Sand Creek Telephone Company and its lines connected to areas as far away as Lyons, Ohio. The massive web of wires that draped above the town were evidence of the rapid expansion of the company during this time. As Sand Creek Telephone Company changed hands over the years, the Board of Directors continued to hire families to run the company. Many times the husband did the maintenance and business work while the wife ran the switchboard. Children of the operating family also helped out when needed.

With technological advances came changes for the Sand Creek Telephone Company. In 1957, the company upgraded its system to Automatic Dial Operation. Customers received a letter detailing how calling procedures would change. New equipment from Stromberg-Carlson was purchased to support the new direct dial technology. The old wooden telephones were collected and replaced with updated ones. Switchboard operators were no longer needed; however, business was still conducted at the Lot Six location until 1995.

The last twenty years brought more change for Sand Creek Telephone Company than throughout the previous eighty years. The company has prevailed in the struggle to keep up with ever-advancing technology. By 1990, it was able to provide cellular phone service to customers and in 1995 the company installed its first fiber-optic cable and was officially ready for the Internet age. By this time, the company had over nine hundred subscribers. In 1996, the company became Sand Creek Communications Company and expanded to its current location on the southeast corner of West Gorman Road and Sand Creek Highway.

Sand Creek Telephone Company, a valued communications provider, has long been a source of pride in the Adrian community. In the old days, customers often stopped in to

pay their bills in person and catch up on town news or gossip. One couple even decided to get married while they were sitting on the wooden plank in the front office. Although the company has changed with technological advances, it continues to be a part of the community that gave it a start, never forgetting its original purpose—connecting neighbor with neighbor.

Madam Speaker, today I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Sand Creek Telephone Company for its one hundred years of service to the rural areas of south central Michigan. From one hundred subscribers in the beginning to over eleven hundred today, Sand Creek Telephone Company remains a treasured small-town success. May others know of my high regard for its esteemed service, as well as my best wishes for the future.

HONORING A GENUINE HEROINE,
IRENA SENDLER, WHO RISKED
HER LIFE FOR THOUSANDS

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 1, 2008

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today because every so often, an everyday person of not-so-everyday valor risks personal injury and livelihood—to little fanfare—for the good of humanity. Today, we provide that deserved fanfare to one of those unsung heroes, Irena Sendler, a woman of such rock-steady courage that she fearlessly saved lives in the face of Nazi opposition. The protection of even one life is immeasurably valuable, but Ms. Sendler rescued over 2,500 of them, mostly Jewish children languishing in Poland's Warsaw ghetto during the Holocaust. Ms. Sendler died this past May at 98, but that giving spirit remains a shining exemplar of what humanity can accomplish, of what we all aspire to emulate.

Such selflessness is not easy. She was arrested, tortured, and sentenced to death by the Gestapo for her heroic acts, ferrying children from run-down ghettos that had left them vulnerable to disease, execution, and deportation to concentration camps. She escaped from prison and continued to do her good—and remarkably dangerous—works. These are the glowing stories that, buried in the overwhelmingly horrific and dark period in history that was the Holocaust, remind us that although there can be unspeakable evil, we are always capable of combating it with good.

Her death is a loss of a compassionate and awe-inspiring human being for this world, but her story is immortal. May it continue to warm our hearts and edify our lives.