

depends on the technological advancements made by future American innovators in a global marketplace.

The National Medal of Technology and Innovation honors America's leading innovators of technology products, processes and concepts. Mr. Cutler and the other winners deserve our heartfelt congratulations and thanks for inspiring future American innovation.

The 8th District of Washington, the district I represent, includes the headquarters of Microsoft, a corporation at the forefront of technological innovation and the push for educating our young people in the intricacies of science, technology and mathematics. No doubt Mr. Cutler, a senior technical fellow at Microsoft and an enduring figure in the world of technology and innovation, also recognizes the importance of educating our young people to compete in a global marketplace. Nothing can replace a world-class math and science education; an invaluable key to our Nation's economic success and our Nation's national security.

Once again, congratulations to Mr. Cutler for his prestigious honor. His work and the work of others like him inspire brilliant young minds around our country to do great things in math, science and technology. It is the job of this body and Americans everywhere to ensure those young minds have all the tools necessary to achieve greatness.

SELECT COMMITTEE ON THE VOTING IRREGULARITIES OF AUGUST 2, 2007

HON. WILLIAM D. DELAHUNT

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 11, 2008

Mr. DELAHUNT. Madam Speaker, Mr. PENCE and I submit for the RECORD the following statement on behalf of the Select Committee on the Voting Irregularities of August 2, 2007:

The Select Committee to Investigate the Voting Irregularities of August 2, 2007, was created by House Resolution 611 to investigate the circumstances surrounding the record vote on the motion to recommit on H.R. 3161. That resolution required that the Select Committee submit its final report not later than September 15, 2008. While the Select Committee will not be able to file its report by that date, we expect to file the report shortly thereafter.

WILLIAM D. DELAHUNT,
Chairman.
MIKE PENCE,
Ranking Republican Member.

HONORING THE LIFE OF GENE UPSHAW, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE NATIONAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE PLAYERS ASSOCIATION

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 11, 2008

Mr. CONYERS. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor the memory and accomplishments of Gene Upshaw, a tremendous athlete and upstanding individual who had a successful ca-

reer both on and off the football field. During his 16-year career as a National Football League player, he was an 11-time All-Pro offensive guard for the Oakland Raiders and was elected to the Pro Football Hall of Fame in 1987, his first year of eligibility. He played in 217 league games and appeared in six Pro Bowls. He was named Lineman of the Year in the AFC in 1973 and 1974. In 1977, he was voted top lineman in the NFL, and runner-up for that honor in 1980. Upshaw is the only player in NFL history to play with the same team in three Super Bowls in three different decades—in the 1960s, 1970s, and 1980s.

Not only did Upshaw have an outstanding career on the field, but he also had a distinguished career off the field serving 38 years with the NFL Players Association. Upshaw worked as a player representative and officer for 13 years. He served as alternate representative or player representative for the Raiders from 1970 to 1976 and was a member of the executive committee from 1976 through 1980 when he was elected president of the NFLPA, a post he held until 1983.

Upshaw served as Executive Director of the NFLPA from June 1983 up until his death on August 20, 2008. As the first African-American labor leader in a major sport, Upshaw was a forceful advocate on behalf of professional football players. During his tenure, Upshaw skillfully negotiated several collective bargaining agreements and extensions that have been credited with enhancing the rights and compensation of NFL players.

Upshaw's career was best summed up by his close friend Art Shell, who played next to him on Oakland's offensive line and in 1989 became the first African-American coach of the modern era when he took over the Raiders. "Gene was a true pioneer as one of the few African-American leaders of a major union. He was the equal of owners in negotiations and made the league a better place for all players. Playing alongside of Gene was an honor and a privilege. He was a pillar of strength and leadership for our great Raider teams."

I extend my heartfelt condolences and prayers to his wife, Terri, his three sons, Justin, Daniel, and Eugene, Jr., and the entire National Football League community.

THE 9/11 HEALTH AND COMPENSATION ACT

HON. JERROLD NADLER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 11, 2008

Mr. NADLER. Madam Speaker, on September 11, 2001, America and the world watched in horror as our Nation came under ruthless attack. At the World Trade Center and at the Pentagon, thousands were killed by the cowardly deeds of terrorists. We heard the stories of those heroic passengers aboard United Airlines Flight 93 who gave their lives so that they might save the lives of others by thwarting an attack on the United States Capitol.

In lower Manhattan, part of my congressional district, New York's finest and bravest rushed to the disaster site. In the days and weeks after, countless Americans would also come to New York to offer their assistance.

Nearly 3,000 people were killed at the World Trade Center, and countless others were wounded.

Since then, we have made tremendous progress in rebuilding. But we still have work left to do. One of our greatest national responsibilities right now is to aid those people who are still suffering from 9/11—our first responders and rescue workers, local area workers, residents, students, and others who have become sick from the environmental aftermath of 9/11.

When the buildings of the World Trade Center came crumbling down, nearly half a million pounds of lead, asbestos, glass fibers, steel, and concrete formed a massive cloud of toxic dust and smoke that blanketed parts of New York City and New Jersey. Fires burned for months, emitting a whole host of deadly substances. Scientists have said that this dust was as caustic as Drain-o, and that the air quality was worse than during the Kuwaiti oil fires.

From the beginning, we warned that the air wasn't safe and that our courageous first responders were not being afforded the proper protection from dangerous toxins as they were toiling on the pile to rebuild. We spent years working to try to convince public officials that the asbestos, fiberglass and other toxins had travelled far and settled into the interiors of residences, workplaces and schools, and that a proper testing and cleanup program was required to eliminate the health risks to area residents, workers and students. We demanded that the Federal Government acknowledge the fact, supported by a mountain of peer-reviewed research, that thousands of our Nation's citizens are today sick from 9/11 and that many more could become sick in the future. We explained to whoever would listen that our 9/11 heroes were struggling to pay health care costs because they could no longer work and no longer had health insurance, and we have argued vigorously that the Federal response to date has been dangerously limited, piecemeal and unstable.

Thankfully, we have achieved a much more widespread recognition of many of these problems. Now, 7 years after the attacks, it is imperative that Congress do what is right for our heroes and our living victims by passing H.R. 6594, the 9/11 Health and Compensation Act.

Though the devastating 9/11 attacks on the World Trade Center occurred within the bounds of my congressional district, we know that these were really attacks on our Nation as a whole—figuratively and literally. Every member in New York's downstate delegation represents hundreds, if not thousands, of people who live, work, attend school, or were otherwise present in the affected areas, and were exposed to a toxic brew of contamination. Indeed, every member in this House represents a State that has people in the World Trade Center Health Registry who were exposed and are concerned about their health.

And as this is unquestionably a national problem, it has always required a national response. But despite our sustained efforts to get the Administration to develop a comprehensive plan to deal with this growing public health problem that they themselves now finally acknowledge, the New York delegation has instead found itself, year after year, coming to Congress with its "hat in hand" to test its luck at the annual appropriations process. Thankfully, with the outstanding bipartisan