

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

### DUNCAN HUNTER NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2009

SPEECH OF

**HON. MARK UDALL**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 24, 2008*

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, as a Member of the House Armed Services Committee, I rise in support of this important legislation.

I applaud Chairman SKELTON for his leadership in guiding this bill to the floor today. He and Ranking Member HUNTER have done a tremendous job, and they have been ably supported by the expert staff of our committee. We passed the Defense Authorization bill in the House over four months ago—but there was concern that the Senate wouldn't pass its bill before Congress adjourned for the year.

Fortunately, the Senate acted last week, and we're able to move ahead today to complete this important annual task. Chairman SKELTON and Ranking Member HUNTER and their staff were not about to let this be the first Defense Authorization bill in 42 years not to become law. They worked very hard to reconcile the House and Senate legislation, and I commend them for the outcome. I expect the Senate to follow our lead and send this bill to the President for his signature.

This bill rightly focuses on our military's readiness needs. After more than five years at war, both the active duty and reserve forces are stretched to their limits. The bill will provide what's needed to respond, including funds to address equipment shortages for the active duty and reserve forces, improve the quality of our military barracks, maintain ammunition, and expand training opportunities, among other important readiness needs. The bill also improves the quality of life for our forces and their families by including a 3.9 percent pay raise for all service members, preserving important health benefits by prohibiting fee increases in TRICARE and the TRICARE pharmacy program, and including new preventive health care initiatives.

With regard to Colorado provisions, I am pleased that the bill includes language requiring the Secretary of Defense to maintain redundant facilities and equipment—along with the staff necessary to ensure continuity of operations—at Cheyenne Mountain Air Force Station until the Secretary can certify that security measures have been instituted to bring the consolidated command center for NORTHCOM/NORAD at Peterson AFB into full compliance with Protection Level One requirements. Currently, the Secretary has waived compliance to allow Peterson to meet these requirements—defined as resulting in “the greatest possible deterrence against hostile acts” and providing “the maximum means to achieve detection, interception and defeat of a hostile force before it is able to seize, damage or destroy resources”—though Peter-

son AFB does not yet meet this level of protection. Such a waiver would not be permitted to meet the requirement under this legislation.

It is important that the House and the Senate have recognized that Northern Command's decision to relocate the nation's air and space defense command from Cheyenne Mountain to the new NORTHCOM/NORAD command center at Peterson AFB was flawed, particularly without fully analyzing the full range of threats. The Government Accountability Office in its recent report highlighted the lack of a comprehensive threat analysis, and the Department of Defense (DOD) finally concurred that a thorough analysis still needs to be completed. While that study is ongoing—and certainly while Peterson AFB cannot yet comply with protection level requirements for the highest level of threats—redundant operations should be maintained at Cheyenne Mountain.

I'm also pleased that the bill increases overall military construction project authorization at the Pueblo Chemical Depot by \$223 million, raising the five-year-old authorization cap that had forced the Assembled Chemical Weapons Alternative (ACWA) program and its main contractor Bechtel to cancel some work earlier this year and would have resulted in layoffs if it had not been increased. Although Congress appropriated sufficient funds last year, ACWA did not have Congressional permission to spend the funds until this cap was raised.

Finally, the bill includes language that prohibits DOD from transporting away from the Pueblo Chemical Depot in the next six months the hazardous wastes left after chemical treatment of mustard agent. This is based on legislation I introduced with Rep. JOHN SALAZAR earlier this year, and sends an important message to the Department of Defense.

There is no question that the ACWA program has been poorly managed for years. But I believe the people of Pueblo shouldn't have to pay for DOD's mistakes. Pueblo needs the jobs that the biotreatment process will provide, and the community deserves the certainty that clean-up will be completed in a timely fashion. I am disappointed that the final language is not as strong as the language I helped pass in the House, but it is still an important step forward. I will continue to work to ensure the secondary wastes are not transported off-site.

The Pueblo Chemical Depot holds 2,611 tons of liquid mustard agent and is part of the DOD's ACWA program, which is responsible for destroying the chemical weapons stored at Pueblo and at the Blue Grass Army Depot in Kentucky. The Chemical Weapons Convention, ratified by Congress in 1997, requires these munitions to be destroyed by 2012. Because of schedule delays, management problems, and funding shortfalls for the ACWA program, the DOD has said that the U.S. will not meet the Chemical Weapons Convention treaty deadline.

Last year, Congress mandated that DOD complete all chemical weapons destruction activities by 2017. The DOD has suggested that a 2017 deadline at Pueblo cannot be reached if wastes are treated on-site. DOD is again

studying whether to transport these wastes for treatment off-site, despite approved plans to treat the wastes at the Pueblo Chemical Depot, and despite the fact that construction of an on-site biotreatment facility has already begun. In addition, studies have shown that shipping these wastes would not yield benefits. The community of Pueblo and the Colorado Citizens' Advisory Commission, established by law to represent community interests, have repeatedly expressed their preference for treating the wastes on-site.

The bill also authorizes \$474 million for military construction projects at Fort Carson, as well as \$65 million for construction at the Pueblo Chemical Depot, \$4.9 million for land acquisition at Peterson AFB, \$18 million for Colorado National Guard readiness centers in Denver and Grand Junction, \$3 million for a satellite pharmacy and \$4.2 million for Alert Crew Headquarters at Buckley Air Force Base, and \$18 million to upgrade academic facilities at the U.S. Air Force Academy.

Mr. Speaker, the bill we are considering today does an excellent job of balancing the need to sustain our current warfighting abilities with the need to prepare for the next threat to our national security. It is critical that we are able to meet the operational demands of today even as we continue to prepare our men and women in uniform to be the best trained and equipped force in the world.

This is a good bill, a carefully drafted and bipartisan bill, and I urge its passage.

### PROVIDING FOR AGREEMENT BY HOUSE WITH AMENDMENT TO SENATE AMENDMENT TO H.R. 2095, RAIL SAFETY IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 2008

SPEECH OF

**HON. GRACE F. NAPOLITANO**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 24, 2008*

Mrs. NAPOLITANO. Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 2095, the Federal Railroad Safety Improvement Act and Amtrak Reauthorization bill. I congratulate Chairman OBERSTAR, Chairwoman BROWN, Ranking Member MICA, and Ranking Member SHUSTER for their bipartisan work on this bill.

H.R. 2095 is vital legislation for my district which has 160 trains traveling through it every day, 90 on the Union Pacific line and 70 on the Burlington Northern Santa Fe line. These trains carry approximately 14,000 containers every day, with many of them holding hazardous materials. This train traffic is expected to triple by 2020, which will mean a train every 10 minutes.

From October 2004 to May 2005, five derailments occurred in or near my district. These derailments damaged homes and businesses, threatened public safety and caused anxiety for those who lived and worked along the railroad.

• 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.

H.R. 2095 will take major steps to prevent derailments by improving track safety and grade crossing safety, increasing whistle-blower protections, setting hours of service requirements, and strongly enforcing rail safety violations.

The rail safety section of the bill includes 3 provisions that I offered through amendments in Committee and on the House floor.

The first provision would create strict training standards for all railroad employee inspectors. Railroad inspectors have expressed frustration over their lack of training curriculum. They claim that most training is on the job and from coworkers. This provision creates strong training, testing, and skills evaluation measures to ensure that inspectors are able to address critical safety defects that contribute to derailments and accidents.

The second provision would fund Operation Lifesaver for \$7 million over the next 4 years. Operation Lifesaver is a rail safety awareness program that provides public service announcements, school presentations, brochures and materials, and support for public awareness campaigns. The goal of this public education program is to end collisions, deaths, and injuries at highway-rail grade crossings and on railroad rights-of-way. The program is supported by a wide range of partners including Federal, State and local government agencies, highway safety organizations, law enforcement, and the Nation's railroads. The provision will also create a pilot program for sustained outreach in high risk areas, as defined by number of accidents and population density near the tracks.

The third provision would prohibit the Federal Government from allowing train safety inspections in Mexico from satisfying U.S. safety requirements. Railroad companies have tried multiple times to receive waivers from the Federal Government from having to perform safety inspections of trains that cross the border. Safety inspections in Mexico are much different than those performed on our side of the border and we must make sure U.S. rail safety laws are being followed.

H.R. 2095 also includes a major provision regarding the implementation of Positive Train Control (PTC) systems that is vital to ensuring that accidents such as the recent Metrolink tragedy never happen again. The bill requires all major railroads and passenger railroads to implement PTC by December 31, 2015. PTC systems have the ability to stop trains automatically before accidents occur by using switch position indicators, track integrity technology, GPS systems, and other technology. The bill also includes a grant program to assist the railroads in deploying PTC systems.

I am concerned that an important provision regarding State regulation was not included in this final bill. The State regulation provision would have ensured the original intent of Congress to give States regulatory authority to address local safety hazards.

The provision is necessary because Federal Appellate Courts have preempted every attempt by the States to implement rail safety provisions where the FRA has not acted. This was not the original intent of Congress. The Federal Railroad Safety Act as passed in 1970 says, "The States will retain the authority to regulate individual local problems where necessary to eliminate or reduce essentially local railroad safety hazards."

States and local communities cannot rely on the limited FRA resources to address their

safety concerns. States must be allowed to regulate the railroad in order to protect their property and their citizens. I hope this important safety issue will be addressed in the next Congress.

I also support the Amtrak and passenger rail section of H.R. 2095 which makes a dramatic investment in our passenger rail system that will provide jobs, strengthen the economy, and improve the environment.

The bill creates a new State Grant Program that provides \$380 million per year for intercity passenger rail. This is desperately needed in California as it has 3 of the top 5 busiest rail corridors in the U.S. These corridors include Pacific Surfliner from San Diego through Los Angeles to San Luis Obispo, the Capitol Corridor from San Francisco through Sacramento to Auburn, and the San Joaquin Corridors from Bakersfield to Oakland and Sacramento.

The bill will greatly assist the Sunset Limited, which travels through my district, by alleviating "choke points" with congestion grants and a new process for mediating disputes with freight railroads at the Surface Transportation Board (STB). It also provides funding for a High Speed Rail System which California has been working on.

The passenger rail section includes a provision I authored regarding compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and the raising of station platforms. L.A. Metrolink and many other commuter railroads have fully complied with ADA rules by putting ramps and lifts in all of their stations so the disabled community can safely and easily board the trains. DOT has proposed making a rule that would require all railroad stations to fully raise their platforms to the floor level of the trains entering the station. The problem is that most passenger rail stations are serviced by multiple railroad companies with different train sets. Raising the platform could create major vertical and horizontal gaps between the trains and the platform. This would make it harder for the disabled community to safely and efficiently enter and exit trains. The provision I authored requires Amtrak to study how raising station platforms will affect the safe and efficient boarding of trains for all passengers.

Madam Speaker, I strongly support passage of H.R. 2095, this very important railroad safety and passenger rail bill. I thank the Chairman for shepherding this bill through the legislative process.

#### ELDER ABUSE VICTIMS ACT OF 2008

SPEECH OF

**HON. RAHM EMANUEL**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, September 22, 2008*

Mr. EMANUEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 5352, the Elder Abuse Victims Act of 2008.

This bipartisan legislation increases prosecutions by providing technical, investigative, coordination, and victim assistance resources to law enforcement to support elder justice cases. Additionally, it also provides grants for training, technical assistance, policy development, multidisciplinary coordination and other types of support to local prosecutors handling elder justice—related cases.

Elder abuse is a silent but widespread problem: reports reveal that 500,000 to 5 million senior Americans will be victims of some form of abuse every year, causing illness, suffering, and premature death. In my home state of Illinois, reports to the Illinois Elder Abuse and Neglect Program increased by 48% between 1997 and 2005.

Few pressing social issues have been as systematically ignored as elder abuse. Over the past 25 years, Congress passed comprehensive bills to address child abuse and crimes against women, yet there is not one full-time Federal employee working on elder abuse in the entire Federal Government.

A comparison of federal money spent to fight abuse and neglect shows that less than 2 percent of federal dollars spent on abuse and neglect goes toward elder abuse. In addition, no federal law has yet been enacted that adequately and comprehensively addresses the issues of elder abuse, neglect, and exploitation.

Since my election to Congress, I have been working with my colleagues Rep. PETER KING and Senators JOHN BREAU, ORRIN HATCH and BLANCHE LINCOLN to pass the Elder Justice Act to protect vulnerable seniors. I am glad the bill before us, the Elder Abuse Victims Act includes many of the crucial law enforcement provisions of the Elder Justice Act. This bill is the first step to understanding—and therefore eradicating—elder abuse.

Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague from Pennsylvania for including these crucial provisions in his legislation and I urge my colleagues to join me in voting for H.R. 5352, the Elder Abuse Victims Act.

PAUL WELLSTONE AND PETE DOMENICI MENTAL HEALTH PARITY AND ADDICTION EQUITY ACT OF 2008

SPEECH OF

**HON. BETTY McCOLLUM**

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 23, 2008*

Ms. McCOLLUM of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 6983, the Paul Wellstone Mental Health and Addiction Equity Act. It is long past time that the 54 million Americans suffering from mental illness have access to the care they need, and we cannot afford another day to go by.

This legislation is named in tribute to the late Minnesota Senator Paul Wellstone whose work on this issue was groundbreaking. I also rise to thank my colleague from Minnesota, Congressman JIM RAMSTAD, for his courage in sharing his experience with substance abuse and his hard work on this legislation. Without his dedication and perseverance, we would not be at this critical moment.

We have all been affected in some way—ourselves, a family member, a friend, or colleague—by mental health or substance abuse. This is an issue I hear about in my district a lot and I thank my constituents who have been willing to share their stories to make change.

The current system is unfair and inadequate. People should not have to forego essential treatment because of cost when care could mean improvements to their quality of life and productivity. Parents should not end

up with an emergency room bill they cannot pay because they rushed their child to the hospital after a suicide attempt. Our service men and women returning from Iraq should not be handed a 1-800 number to treat a mental illness.

Passing this bill is both morally and economically right because delay not only affects individuals and families, but it also affects schools, businesses, and our communities. I urge my colleagues to join me in voting for this important bill. Today we can finally make mental health parity a reality.

TRIBUTE TO SUE BOSTON

**HON. TOM LATHAM**

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 25, 2008*

Mr. LATHAM. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Sue Boston of Marshalltown, Iowa as the recipient of the Governor's Volunteer Award for her time spent volunteering in the Marshalltown Community School District.

The Governor's Volunteer Award program was established to honor and recognize volunteers for the commitment, service and time that they contribute to Iowa's government agencies and nonprofit organizations. Sue has volunteered with the Marshalltown Community School District for 20 years, contributing her time and talents to improving the lives of area students and the community as a whole.

I consider it a great honor to represent Sue Boston in the United States Congress, and I wish her the best as she continues to provide a positive impact on young people and her community in the years to come.

CONSOLIDATED SECURITY, DISASTER ASSISTANCE, AND CONTINUING APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2009

SPEECH OF

**HON. BOB ETHERIDGE**

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 24, 2008*

Mr. ETHERIDGE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 2638, the Consolidated Security, Disaster Assistance, and Continuing Appropriations Act for 2009. This bill provides vital funding for our national security needs by including regular appropriations for the Department of Homeland Security, the Department of Defense, and the Department of Veterans Affairs. It also provides continuing funding for the regular operations of other areas of the Federal Government to prevent any interruption in vital services for our citizens.

As a veteran of the U.S. Army, I am proud that this bill keeps our commitments to our troops and their families, those who are serving in Iraq, Afghanistan, and other areas around the world and those who have served our Nation honorably in this war or previous times of strife.

H.R. 2638 provides \$487.7 billion for our military needs. It addresses equipment shortfalls for our troops, improves training, and ensures that our military men and women, and their families, receive first class medical care.

The bill increases military pay by 3.9 percent, rejects the President's attempts to increase TRICARE fees, and continues our commitment to the well-being of our soldiers. It provides critical support to the people who support our troops, making \$2.8 billion available for family advocacy, education, and daycare. It improves barracks and military hospitals with a \$734 million increase over the President's request, ensuring our soldiers have quality facilities when they serve our Nation.

Like the House-passed Military Construction and Veterans Affairs Appropriations Act, H.R. 6599, this bill makes veterans a top priority. It includes a total of \$47.6 billion for the Department of Veterans Affairs, more than 10 percent over last year's appropriation. \$41 billion supports the Veterans Health Administration (VHA) and Veterans Medical Services, which expects to serve more than 5.8 million patients next year. To improve access to care for our veterans, particularly in rural areas without a VHA facility, the bill provides \$200 million for fee-based providers where VHA services are not available. This bill also helps our soldiers returning today from Iraq and Afghanistan, increasing funding for traumatic brain injury and post traumatic stress disorder treatment, as well as supporting prosthetics and new prosthetic technology.

As the Representative of Fort Bragg, one of the largest United States Army bases in the country, I am pleased that this bill addresses the needs of our military installations. H.R. 2638 includes \$25 billion for military construction. With a commitment of \$8.8 billion, this bill addresses the costs of implementing the Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC), which is bringing unprecedented growth to Fort Bragg.

As a Member of the House Committee on Homeland Security, I am pleased that this bill makes investments in our security needs while cutting funding for low priority and poorly managed programs. It also demands long-needed oversight for contracting and procurement to ensure taxpayer funds are well spent. Homeland security begins with hometown security, and this bill provides \$4.2 billion, nearly twice the funding requested by the President, for first responders who provide the first line of defense against disaster, whether natural or man-made. It provides funding for a record number of border patrol agents and other Customs and Border Protection (CBP) officers, enhancing our ability to enforce our laws and keep our borders secure. The bill pays for 4,361 new CBP personnel and 1,400 more detention beds for Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), and adds \$1 billion for ICE's enforcement efforts and \$775 million for border security fencing and technology. Overall it includes nearly \$40 billion in funding to keep Americans secure and ensure that our Nation is prepared for every emergency.

H.R. 2638 provides additional money for Community Development Block Grants, Social Services Block Grants, and disaster relief to address the emerging needs of communities responding to recent natural disasters. It also provides an additional \$2.5 billion over last year for Pell Grants to prevent cuts that were facing college students in the middle of the year.

This is not a perfect bill, and compromises needed to be made in order to ensure our Nation's vital priorities can be addressed. I am disappointed that H.R. 2638 does not include any restrictions on offshore drilling, ending 25

years of Congressional protection for our beaches and shorelines, and allowing oil rigs to be built just three miles from our coast. I am disappointed that this bill does not include a balanced energy strategy, like that in the House-passed H.R. 6899, the Comprehensive American Energy Security and Consumer Protection Act, to give states control over their coastlines and target drilling and exploration in the Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) beyond 50 miles of our coastlines. I am disappointed that this bill does not significantly address our desperate need for school construction and modernization, as our schools are bursting at the seams and our economy could use the new jobs it would create. I am disappointed that in this time of financial crisis, this bill does not address state shortfalls for Medicaid and other pressing needs. I look forward to working to address these shortfalls when the 111th Congress takes up appropriations for the rest of FY2009 in the new year.

I support H.R. 2638, the Consolidated Security, Disaster Assistance, and Continuing Appropriations Act for 2009, and I urge my colleagues to join me in voting for its passage.

RECOGNIZING THE HONORABLE BUD CRAMER AND THE HONORABLE TERRY EVERETT ON THEIR RETIREMENT FROM CONGRESS

SPEECH OF

**HON. JO BONNER**

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 24, 2008*

Mr. BONNER. Mr. Speaker, I respectfully request to include the accompanying articles in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD to supplement my remarks which were entered during the Special Order in honor of two Members of the Alabama Delegation who are retiring.

[From The Montgomery Advertiser, August 5, 2008]

CONGRESSMAN GARNERS PRAISE FOR LOCAL SUPPORT

(By Cosby Woodruff)

Congressman Terry Everett's support for Maxwell Air Force Base during his 16 years in Washington is one reason the River Region benefits from the base's \$1.6 billion annual impact, said the head of the Montgomery Area Chamber of Commerce.

Chamber President Randy George said Everett's impact on the area goes far beyond Maxwell, but any discussion of the congressman's legacy must start with the military.

"You can't take that away from him," George said. "He has been a major player on Maxwell."

George said Maxwell is one of Montgomery's biggest economic engines, but the base contributes to the region in ways that can't be measured in dollars and cents.

"The societal impact to our area is at least as important," George said. "It makes us cosmopolitan."

Everett, who is retiring after eight terms in Congress, spoke to the chamber for the last time as a congressman Monday at its Eggs & Issues breakfast series.

His speech focused more on national politics than on local economics, but he did say sectors of Alabama's economy are poised for growth—and he pointed to the space industry as one area that could have an impact in years to come.

"We have never had a national discussion about what space means to our economy," he said. "Space is a \$19 billion global industry growing at 22 percent a year."

He suggested the industry's impact on Alabama is limited only by the workers the state can supply.

"We need more young people interested in space, engineering and math," he said.

George pointed out Everett's contributions to the area that go beyond his commitment to the military.

"Downtown, he helped us get the money," George said, of the construction boom and renovations going on in Montgomery. "Much of that money came from federal grants that he has been very supportive of. He has been an advocate for the expansion of the airport."

Everett said he has supported the state's agriculture industry, what he called its biggest economic factor, in Congress.

He said he made sure those interests were protected in the recent farm bill.

George said the congressman has been a friend to the chamber and area businesses.

"Terry has been very responsive to the business community," he said. "We think he has done a great job."

TRIBUTE TO DR. STEVEN J.  
DeTERESA

HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 25, 2008*

Mr. SKELTON. Madam Speaker, it has come to my attention that Dr. Steven J. DeTeresa will soon complete his detail to the Committee on Armed Services of the United States House of Representatives.

Dr. DeTeresa was detailed from the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory (LLNL) to the Committee on June 1, 2005. He received his Bachelor of Science and Master of Engineering in Biomedical Engineering from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute and his Master of Science and Ph.D. in Polymer Science and Engineering from the University of Massachusetts. Dr. DeTeresa worked as visiting scientist for the Institute Donegani in Novara and the University of Naples, Italy; as a research fellow for the University of Massachusetts; and in various research and project management positions at LLNL for the past 20 years.

Dr. DeTeresa has over thirty-five years experience in leadership positions and in conducting independent research and development projects for defense and commercial applications of materials. He is an expert in the mechanics of materials, structure-mechanical property relationships, fundamental aspects of aging and long-term behavior, process science, and failure analysis and modeling.

Dr. DeTeresa has made great contributions to the work of our committee, the Armed Forces of the United States, and the American people during the past three years. Dr. DeTeresa came to work for Congress voluntarily to help his country during a time of war. During his time here, he has been a scientific and technical advisor to the Chairman and to the Committee on Armed Services. He has conducted critically important work for the country on force protection issues such as ve-

hicle and body armor, counter-IED or improvised explosive device technologies, and persistent surveillance technologies. He also has been an essential member of our Oversight and Investigations Subcommittee Staff.

On behalf of the House of Representatives and the Armed Services Committee, let me personally thank Dr. DeTeresa for his service to the Nation and to the men and women of our Armed Services. I wish the best for him, his wife Patti, and their children Catherine and Peter.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. CHARLES A. GONZALEZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 25, 2008*

Mr. GONZALEZ. Madam Speaker, due to important business in my district, I was unable to be in Washington, DC, on September 22 and the morning of September 23.

Had I been present, I would have cast the following votes:

Monday, September 23, 2008—

Yes, H.R. 6685—To authorize the Secretary of the Interior to provide an annual grant to facilitate an iron working training program for Native Americans (Rep. LYNCH—Natural Resources).

Yes, H.R. 1907—Coastal and Estuarine Land Conservation Program Act (Rep. SAXTON—Natural Resources).

Yes, H.R. 6853—Nationwide Mortgage Fraud Task Force Act of 2008 (Rep. MEEK—Judiciary).

Tuesday, September 23, 2008—

Yes, Motion on Ordering the Previous Question on the Rule for H.R. 5244—The Credit Cardholders' Bill of Rights Act of 2008 (H. Res. 1476).

Yes, H. Res. 1476—Rule providing for consideration of H.R. 5244—The Credit Cardholders' Bill of Rights Act of 2008.

Yes, S.J. Res. 45—Great Lakes-St. Lawrence River Basin Water Resources Compact (Sen. LEVIN—Judiciary) Suspension bill.

TRIBUTE TO THE WINNEBAGO  
SCOUT RESERVATION

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 25, 2008*

Mr. LATHAM. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Winnebago Scout Reservation on its 50th anniversary. The Winnebago Scout Reservation is located near Marble Rock, Iowa and serves over 4,500 people per year.

In 1954, the need for scouting programs exceeded the capacity of the 25 acre campsite, Camp Roosevelt, in Ventura, Iowa. The Winnebago Boy Scout Council decided to build a new camp with three sites being considered. With the promotion of the Marble Rock location by the local scout leader and Executive board member, Arnold Staudt, the 450 acre lo-

cation in the Marble Rock area was selected as the new camp site.

The Winnebago Scout Reservation hosts many programs including Cub Scouts, Polar Bear Hunt, Spring Fling, Shooting Sports Weekend, and PALS. The camp also allows other public groups to reserve the grounds for their use.

Over the last 50 years, the Winnebago Scout Reservation has thrived at meeting the needs of area scouts and the surrounding community. I congratulate the Winnebago Scout Reservation on this historic anniversary. It is an honor to represent each scout member and the council staff in the United States Congress, and I wish the Winnebago Scout Reservation an equally storied future.

TRIBUTE TO CONGRESSMAN LOUIS  
STOKES ON THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY  
OF HIS ELECTION TO CONGRESS

HON. JESSE L. JACKSON, JR.

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 25, 2008*

Mr. JACKSON of Illinois. I rise today to pay tribute to an extraordinary man, former Congressman Louis Stokes on the 40th anniversary of his election to the U.S. House of Representatives.

The Congressman's achievements and legacy continue to be celebrated through scholarship programs, building designations and many other initiatives that bear his name. In 1998, Howard University recognized Congressman Stokes with its designation of the Louis Stokes Health Services Library. On September 28, 2008, colleagues and friends will commemorate this important occasion at this state-of-the-art research facility on the University's campus in Washington, DC.

Congressman Stokes' historic election in 1968 marked the beginning of 30 years of distinguished service to the state of Ohio and the nation. His leadership as a founding member of the Congressional Black Caucus; a member of the powerful House Appropriations Committee; his chairmanship on the Select Committee on Assassinations; chair of the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence; chair of the House Ethics Committee; service on the Iran Contra panel; and the legislative proposals that he successfully authored throughout his tenure in Congress, earned Chairman Stokes the respect of his constituents and the admiration of his colleagues on both sides of the aisle.

I have had the privilege of following in Congressman Stokes' footsteps with my service on the House Appropriations Committee, specifically the Subcommittee on Labor, Health, and Human Services, and Education. On the Labor, Health and Education Subcommittee, Congressman Stokes drafted the blueprint to end health disparities. Congressman Stokes' pioneering efforts as the first African-American to serve on the Appropriations Committee can be seen today in JIM CLYBURN, CAROLYN CHEEKS-KILPATRICK, CHAKA FATTAH, SANFORD BISHOP, BARBARA LEE, and me.

Congressman Stokes, I congratulate you and thank you for your leadership.

RECOGNIZING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF ALLENWORTH, CALIFORNIA

**HON. DEVIN NUNES**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 25, 2008*

Mr. NUNES. Madam Speaker, I rise today with great pride to recognize the 100th Anniversary of Allensworth—a small town in Tulare County, California, founded, financed and governed by African Americans. The town was created in 1908 by Col. Allen Allensworth, a visionary man with an extraordinary life.

Allen Allensworth was born a slave in Louisville, Kentucky, in 1842. At the age of 12, he was sold for trying to learn to read and write. He was taken to New Orleans and bought by a slaveholder to become a jockey.

When the Civil War started and Union forces neared Louisville, Allensworth seized the opportunity to gain his freedom by joining the Navy. Prior to being discharged, he had achieved the rank of first class petty officer. In 1871, he was ordained as a Baptist minister and entered the Baptist Theological Institute at Nashville. While serving at the Union Baptist Church in Cincinnati, he learned of the need for African American chaplains in the armed services and got an appointment as Chaplain of the 24th Infantry.

At the time of the Civil War, Allensworth saw many African Americans move west to escape discrimination. With four other men with a similar vision, he decided to establish a place where African Americans could live and thrive without oppression. On June 30, 1908, they formed the California Colony Home Promoting Association.

The town of Allensworth began with 20 acres in southwest Tulare County, and later grew to more than 80 acres. By 1914, the little town boasted 200 inhabitants.

That same year Allensworth became its own voting precinct, as well as its own judicial district. Tragically, Col. Allensworth was killed on September 14, 1914, when he was hit by a motorcycle while getting off a streetcar in Monrovia. After a funeral at the Second Baptist Church in Los Angeles, he was buried with full military honors.

Over the years, the population dwindled in the small town. In 1970, there was an effort to save the town as an historic monument and park dedicated to the memory of Col. Allensworth and the achievements and contributions of African Americans to the history of California.

In 1974, California State Parks purchased land within the historical town site of Allensworth, and it became Colonel Allensworth State Historic Park. A collection of restored early 20th-century buildings—including the Colonel's house, historic schoolhouse, Baptist church, and library—sit within the park.

Today, I ask that my colleagues join me in celebrating the rich history of Allensworth and its lasting legacy as an inspirational art of the State of California.

EARMARK DECLARATION

**HON. JO ANN EMERSON**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 25, 2008*

Mrs. JO ANN EMERSON. Madam Speaker, in accordance with the February 2008 New Republican Earmark Standards Guidance, I submit the following:

Requesting Member: Congresswoman JO ANN EMERSON.

Bill Number: H.R. 2638.

Account: RDTE,N 14 0602782N Mine and Expedition Warfare Applied Research.

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Missouri University of Science and Technology.

Address of Requesting Entity: 1870 Miner Circle, Rolla, MO 65409.

Description of Request: Provide an earmark of \$2,000,000 for Detection and Neutralization of Electronically Initiated Improvised Explosive Devices. It is my understanding that this funding will provide \$200,000 for Navy administrative costs, \$900,000 for instrumentation development, research and administrative costs with Missouri S&T partner General Dynamics, \$160,000 for faculty salary, \$80,000 for a technician, \$135,000 for graduate students, \$200,000 for equipment (including: instrumentation to develop a fieldable prototype to rapidly detect electronics associated IEDs, instrumentation to develop a fieldable prototype to neutralize electronics associated with IEDs, downmixing receivers, amplifiers, general lab supplies), \$235,000 for overhead.

Requesting Member: Congresswoman JO ANN EMERSON.

Bill Number: H.R. 2638.

Account: RDTE, A 28 0602787A Medical Technology.

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Missouri University of Science and Technology.

Address of Requesting Entity: 1870 Miner Circle, Rolla, MO 65409.

Description of Request: Provide an earmark of \$800,000 for Consortium for Bone and Tissue Repair and Regeneration. It is my understanding that Missouri University of Science and Technology and the University of Missouri—Kansas City would use \$175,000 in funding for major equipment purchases including a digital x-ray machine; \$625,000 for research personnel and supplies.

Requesting Member: Congresswoman JO ANN EMERSON.

Bill Number: H.R. 2638.

Account: Air Force RDT&E, Line 23, Electronic Combat Technology, PE 0603270F.

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Brewer Science, Inc.

Address of Requesting Entity: 2401 Brewer Drive, Rolla, MO 65401.

Description of Request: Provide an earmark of \$1,600,000 to develop Three-dimensional microstructures. Approximately, \$1,120,000 (70 percent) is for engineering, design and simulation work required to develop new 3-D microdevice manufacturing techniques for the microelectronics industry, where two-dimensional device fabrication is the norm; \$160,000 (10 percent) for outside engineering support; \$320,000 (20 percent) for materials and supplies necessary for the conduct of this development effort and for the construction of 3-D devices.

Requesting Member: Congresswoman JO ANN EMERSON.

Bill Number: H.R. 2638.

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Battelle Memorial Institute, Fort Leonard Wood Operations.

Address of Requesting Entity: 571 VFW Memorial Drive, Ste. 5, St. Robert, MO 65584.

Account: OSD—Joint Ground Robotics Enterprise, RDT&E, Defense-wide, Line 40 PE 06030711D8Z Joint Robotics/Autonomous Systems.

Description of Request: Provide an earmark of \$800,000 in the FY 09 Defense Budget to complete the prototyping and demonstration of a modeling, simulation and analysis capability for autonomous behaviors of robotic systems in an operational environment. Approximately, \$128,000 [or 16 percent] is for improvement of systems within the Maneuver Support Battle Laboratory; \$672,000 [or 84 percent] for two development teams working in the Government's Laboratory to develop the necessary applications and interfaces as well as the development of the Demonstration.

CONSOLIDATED SECURITY, DISASTER ASSISTANCE, AND CONTINUING APPROPRIATIONS ACT OF 2009

SPEECH OF

**HON. MARK UDALL**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 24, 2008*

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I will vote for this appropriations measure—partly because of what it includes, but primarily because I have concluded it would be irresponsible and a dereliction of duty to do otherwise.

Nonetheless, I must express my unhappiness with the way in which the legislation was developed, especially the decision to accede to the Bush Administration's insistence that it not include anything that would impede their desire to rush toward full-scale commercial development of oil shale.

By this insistence, the White House has shown it is quite ready to disregard our Western Slope communities and put Colorado's water supplies at risk. They were prepared to shut down the entire Federal Government—at a moment when our economy is in crisis—rather than accept a careful, responsible approach to full-scale oil shale development. Such 'my way or the highway' tactics are deplorable, and while some may be tempted to respond in kind, I cannot in good conscience adopt the same approach by voting against this legislation.

I am also very disappointed that far too many of the measure's provisions have never previously been considered by the House or even approved by the full Appropriations Committee, meaning that they never have been and never will be the subject of detailed debate or possible revision.

I do not think this is the way the House of Representatives should exercise its serious constitutional responsibility for deciding how to spend the taxpayers' money.

However, while both the process through which the measure was developed and the details of its provisions could have been better, it includes many provisions that deserve enactment.

For example, it includes \$910 million to defray firefighting costs and emergency fire-prevention efforts, and to help recover lands devastated by recent fires.

This has been one of the worst wildfire seasons on record, and while Colorado has not been as hard hit we have not been immune. Nationally, nearly 5 million acres have burned, costing over \$1.8 billion for Federal wildfire suppression activities, which is \$700 million above the average suppression cost.

So, it is appropriate that that measure includes a total of \$610 million for wildfire suppression activities, including sufficient funds to fully repay all agency operating and construction funds which were previously borrowed to support emergency suppression activities earlier this summer. This repayment will allow the Forest Service and the Interior Department to use contractors and staff to revive important projects which were delayed by the budget shortfalls earlier this year.

In addition, this legislation includes a total of \$175 million for urgently needed hazardous fuels reduction projects all over the Nation, including extensive areas in Colorado and other parts of the mountain west which are suffering unprecedented tree die-off from infestations of bark beetles and some other insects. Of this total, some \$125 million is for state and private activities and \$50 million for projects on national forests. Another \$100 million will be used for rehabilitation of burned areas, including \$75 million for the Forest service and \$25 million for the Interior Department, and another \$25 million is provided for firefighter retention.

Responding to the problems associated with insect infestations in Colorado's forests has been a high priority for me. I have worked with other members of our state's delegation on legislative proposals and have joined in efforts to secure increased funding for that purpose—so these parts of the bill are particularly welcome.

Further, as a member of the Armed Services Committee, I am also particularly glad to note that the FY09 Defense Department Appropriations bill included in this package puts our troops first.

It provides funds for necessary weapons and equipment and training, boosting funds particularly for the National Guard and Reserve; makes critical investments in the health of our troops, including \$300 million for traumatic brain injury and mental health; provides more than the president's request to improve army barracks and military hospitals; and compensates troops for every month their terms of service are involuntarily extended, also known as "stop loss." The bill also includes funding for important weapons systems and intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance needs.

This legislation also provides FY09 funding for Defense Department military construction, including \$474 million for military construction projects at Fort Carson, as well as \$65 million for construction at the Pueblo Chemical Depot, \$4.9 million for land acquisition at Peterson AFB, \$18 million for Colorado National Guard readiness centers in Denver and Grand Junction, \$3 million for a satellite pharmacy and \$4.2 million for Alert Crew Headquarters at Buckley Air Force Base, and \$18 million to upgrade academic facilities at the U.S. Air Force Academy.

Finally, this legislation includes FY09 funding for the Department of Veterans Affairs—

providing \$47.6 billion for veterans' medical care, claims processors, and facility improvements, including \$20 million for the new Fitzsimons VA hospital. The bill makes substantial increases in mental health and substance abuse programs, provides veterans with advanced prosthetics, provides additional resources for veterans who live in places where the VA does not offer sufficient services, increase the gas mileage reimbursement rate to 41.5 cents per mile, and improves access to care for veterans in rural areas.

In conclusion, I have decided the bill's merits—which include the fact that it will allow all federal agencies to continue their work until the next Congress can complete action on funding legislation for the remainder of this fiscal year—outweigh its defects, and I will vote for it.

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TRIBUTE TO DENNIS OLEJNICZAK  
AND GENE SCHULTZ

**HON. TOM LATHAM**

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 25, 2008*

Mr. LATHAM. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Gene Schultz of Lansing, Iowa and Dennis Olejniczak of Decorah, Iowa for their service and dedication to their schools' baseball teams.

Together, their record is astounding: more than 2,500 wins, 12 state championships and 24 tournament appearances in a combined 79 years of high school baseball. But what is more interesting and incredible is that Gene Schultz and Dennis Olejniczak coach at rival high schools 35 miles apart.

Although Iowa has multiple seasons of high school baseball, which is one of the reasons for the high numbers, it truly comes down to their coaching philosophies. North Fayette's Dan Hovden, said this of Schultz and Olejniczak, "They both have a high regard for the game. They put the team above themselves and obviously it shows up in the end."

I thank and congratulate both Gene Schultz and Dennis Olejniczak for their hard work and commitment to coaching high school baseball. It is a great honor to represent Gene and Dennis in the United States Congress, and I wish them the best.

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EARMARK DECLARATION

**HON. RALPH M. HALL**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 25, 2008*

Mr. HALL of Texas. Madam Speaker, pursuant to the Republican Leadership standards on earmarks, I am submitting the following information for publication in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD regarding earmarks I received as part of, H.R. 2638—The Consolidated Security, Disaster Assistance, and Continuing Appropriations Act, 2009.

A. Rivet Joint ISR Network Integration (0305207F 192 MANNED RECONNAISSANCE SYSTEMS.) The entity to receive funding for this project is L-3 Integrated Systems, located at 10001 Jack Finney Blvd., Greenville, TX 75402. The funding would be

used to provide networking upgrades that will enable it to fully collaborate with a variety of Intelligence Surveillance and Reconnaissance (ISR) nodes so that more effective projections of threat environments can be made.

B. PrePreg Thickness Variability Reduction Program (0603680F 29 MANUFACTURING TECHNOLOGY PROGRAM.) The entity to receive funding for this project is Cytec Engineered Materials, located at 4300 Jackson Street, Greenville, TX 78402. The funding would be used to reduce the variability of prepreg thickness to +/- 1 percent, which is a substantial improvement over even foreign prepreg capabilities. Reducing variation significantly complements and enhances the advancements expected to be made in the areas of tooling and manufacturing. These achievements are crucial for Cytec's military and commercial partners.

C. Stryker Common Active Protection System (APS) Radar (0603653A 62 ADVANCED TANK ARMAMENT SYSTEMS (ATAS).) The entity to receive funding for this project is Raytheon Network Centric Systems, located at 2501 West University, McKinney, TX 75070. APS is an externally mounted vehicle protection system that identifies, discriminates and intercepts RPGs, mortars, antitank guided missiles and artillery projectiles after they are launched toward a combat vehicle. The system consists of the Multi-Function Radio Frequency (MFRF) radar, launchers, fire control processors and countermeasures.

Please see attached for financial plan of each project. Neither I nor my spouse has any financial interest in these projects.

FINANCE PLAN

Requesting Member: Rep. RALPH M. HALL.

Bill Number: H.R. 2638.

Account: Air Force, RDT&E, Line 192, PE 0305207F, Manned Reconnaissance Systems.  
Project Name: Rivet Joint ISR Network Integration.

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: L-3 Communications Integrated Systems.

Address of Requesting Entity: 10001 Jack Finney Boulevard, Greenville, TX 75403.

Anticipated sources of funding for the duration of the project: Additional funding would be provided by the Air Force to procure this capability after successful demonstration of the developmental prototype, in their future years budget requests.

Percent and source of required matching funds: N/A, this program is providing a good or service to the Department of Defense.

Justification for use of federal taxpayer dollars: The RIVET JOINT will provide networking upgrades that will enable it to fully collaborate with a variety of Intelligence Surveillance and Reconnaissance (ISR) nodes so that more effective projections of threat environments can be made. Detailed analysis of RIVET JOINT operations shows that full integration of networked capabilities will result in a 25 percent improvement in critical Threat Analysis Measures of Effectiveness for priority dual-use commercial communication threat environments. The specific threats that will be addressed by this system upgrade are the highest priority threats to ongoing military operations.

Detailed finance plan: \$750,000 is for Non-Recurring Engineering Design and Development; \$750,000 is for Manufacture Design and Production of Networked Speech, Geo-Location, and Reach-back Processing and Data

Base Access Applications; and \$500,000 is for Labor, Materials, and System Installation and Integration on one Rivet Joint aircraft.

RECIPIENT REQUEST CERTIFICATION FORM

None of the funding requested will be used for a new building, program, or project that has been named for a sitting Member of Congress. If the building, program, or project is already named after a sitting Member of Congress, please state when that naming occurred.

None of the funding requested will be used to secure funds for other entities unless the use of funding is consistent with the specified purpose of the earmark.

For requests where the receiving entity is not a unit of federal, state or local government, or where the entity receiving the funding will not be providing support to a Federal, state, or local government, or will not be providing research, the requesting entity is to provide matching funds including in-kind contributions of 5 percent or more above statutory requirement.

Attachment of detailed finance plan must include: anticipated sources of the funding for the duration of the project; percent and source of required matching fund; and justification for use of federal taxpayer dollars.

Name of person certifying: Steven C. Speak.

Title of person certifying: President.

Project name: Prepreg Thickness Variability Reduction Program.

Legal name of entity making request: Cytec Engineered Materials.

Address: 4300 Jackson Street, Greenville, TX 78420.

RECIPIENT REQUEST CERTIFICATION FORM—DETAILED FINANCE PLAN

Project Name: Prepreg Thickness Variability Reduction Program.

Requested by Congressman RALPH HALL (TX-4).

Total Requested funding FY09: \$1.6 million.

Justification of the use of Federal funds: This program will reduce the variability of Carbon fiber prepreg, the raw material that provides the basis for strong durable, light-weight composite aircraft structures. It is predominantly used by the Air Force, Navy, Marine Corps and the airline industry to fabricate aircraft structures such as wing skins. A major impediment to assembling composite aircraft structural components is the dimensional mismatch of composite parts which may produce rough edges, overlays, or gaps between parts. Much of this mismatch is due to variations that occur in component manufacturing. Funding has been applied to efforts to reduce variation in component manufacturing by the Air Force and the prime contractors. Unfortunately, funds have not been directed towards efforts to reduce variation by refining the raw material—carbon fiber prepreg. Lower prepreg variation will avoid the purchase of costly precision machining equipment by program partners, estimated at \$80 million, to mitigate surface and component part deviations. Federal funding is justified in this effort to reducing the variability of prepreg to help the Joint Strike Fighter program and others meet the goal of reducing the overall variability of composite parts. This is vital to reduce the weight of aircraft, as well as to promote optimal stealth capabilities.

DETAILED BUDGET FOR VARIATION REDUCTION DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

Materials:

Resin and prepreg production, production trials, feedstock variations, customer shop trials, and packaging supplies: \$100K.

Deliverables:

(1) Develop and demonstrate the necessary equipment and processes for production.

(2) Document aerospace production control documents (PCD) for JSF Program technical approval and signature.

Labor:

Scientist, technicians, mechanics, testing personnel, and production operators: \$160K.

Deliverables:

(1) Direct the work to be done, optimize process, execute plan scale up work.

(2) Ensure best practice sharing of manufacturing engineering development.

Testing:

Fiber testing, production of composites, and testing of the composite coupons: \$1130K.

Deliverables:

(1) Generate meaningful composite material data, demonstrating alignment to heritage mechanical test data bases.

(2) Review data and correlate to end-use application.

Contract Administration: \$30K.

Overhead and Contract Management: \$100K.

Contingency/Miscellaneous Travel, part-time resources, contingent raw material needs: \$80K.

Total Budget: \$1600K.

STRYKER COMMON ACTIVE PROTECTION SYSTEM (APS) RADAR

Bill Number and Account: H.R. 2638, RDT&E, Army, Line 62.

Name and Address of Recipient: Raytheon Company, 2501 West University Drive, McKinney, TX, 75070.

Program Description/Use of FY09 Funding: Active Protection System (APS) is an externally mounted vehicle protection system that identifies, discriminates and intercepts rocket propelled grenades (RPGs), mortars, antitank guided missiles and artillery projectiles after they are launched toward a combat vehicle. The system consists of the Multi-Function Radio Frequency (MFRF) radar, launchers, fire control processors and countermeasures. In March, 2006, the Army competitively awarded a contract with two options for APS. Option A for the Short Range Countermeasure is in development and will integrate RPG protection into current combat vehicles, beginning with Stryker. Option B will address the longer range threats and is a sub-system to the Hit Avoidance Suite for the Future Combat Systems (FCS) fleet of Manned Ground Vehicles (MGV). In 2007, the Army accelerated the requirement for Stryker by designating it a critical component of Spin Out 2, the second increment of FCS technologies to be fielded to the Current Force in the 2010-2012 timeframe. Due to budget constraints, the FY09 President's budget request does not contain funding to support APS integration onto Stryker.

The additional FY09 funding of \$1.6M will allow ruggedization of the Environmental Control Unit (ECU) for tactical application (e.g., submergence) on Stryker, as well as software and hardware development for system command and control, including the man-machine interface.

Anticipated Sources of Funding: APS development is funded under the FCS MGV budget line, but there is no dedicated funding to sup-

port APS development for Stryker in FY08 or FY09. The Army originally requested funding in FY08 for Stryker APS but has since reallocated the funding to support power management and the other upgrades Stryker needs to accommodate FCS Spin Outs. Additional funding is anticipated through future years' budgets, but details of the 10-15 POM are unknown at this time.

Matching Funds: N/A.

Justification for Use of Taxpayer Dollars: This project aims to accelerate delivery of a validated military need intended to enhance protection of Army soldiers and vehicles. As a priority military initiative, this program will be funded through Federal expenditures.

INTRODUCTION OF THE ACT TO SAVE AMERICA'S FORESTS

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 25, 2008

Ms. ESHOO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to offer the Act to Save America's Forests.

Our forests are an extraordinary natural resource which must be preserved. Unfortunately, aggressive logging practices on Federal land have eliminated much of our Nation's remaining forests and their native biological diversity. This is a sensible bill to limit aggressive logging and protect our forests and our environment.

The Act to Save America's Forests bans clearcutting in all Federal forests. It also ends logging in the last virgin forests, roadless areas, and other core regions of the Federal forest system. The bill allows for limited and ecologically sustainable logging in lands that have already been logged outside of core forest areas.

An important provision of the bill transfers jurisdiction of the Giant Sequoia National Monument from the Forest Service to the Park Service to manage and protect this important ecological asset. The Forest Service has continued to allow logging of the sequoias, which is not acceptable, and the courts finally put a stop to this egregious practice. My constituent, Martin Litton, has fought tirelessly for decades to protect the magnificent giant sequoia trees and the congressional action proposed in the Act to Save America's Forests will ensure their long term protection.

This year, the bill includes a new provision for the Department of Interior to conduct environmental surveys to identify ecosystems not currently included in our national park system. These studies will identify needs to ensure that our national parks will preserve as much natural diversity as possible.

Preserving our forests not only ensures that we will maintain the natural beauty of our Nation, it will help mitigate climate change by reducing carbon emissions. Forests are an important carbon storage medium and the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change estimated that deforestation accounts for 20-25 percent of annual greenhouse gas emissions. In 2006, the Environmental Protection Agency estimated that forests in the U.S. absorbed enough carbon dioxide to offset 11 percent of our country's emissions. Logging reduces the capacity of our forests to absorb carbon dioxide from the atmosphere, so unless we act

now to prevent aggressive logging, we could lose 50–80 percent of our carbon storage capacity and reduce our ability to mitigate the effects of climate change.

The Act to Save America's Forests will ensure that future generations of Americans will inherit and enjoy our Nation's irreplaceable natural forest treasures.

I'm very proud to introduce this bipartisan bill with 70 cosponsors and I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to join me in supporting this important piece of legislation.

110TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE OLD  
PRINT SHOP

**HON. RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 25, 2008*

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize the 110th anniversary of the Old Print Shop, an American and New York landmark located at 150 Lexington Avenue in New York City.

The Old Print Shop celebrates 110 years under four generations of Newman family.

Its headquarters for almost 75 of those years has been on Lexington Avenue in an unpretentious brownstone with old wooden floors and antique display cases. The shop has been described as having Old World charm. At the helm are second and third generation Newman's who enjoy what has been the hallmark of the shop, buying and selling fine prints, maps, and books.

The Old Print Shop has supplied prints and paintings to many public and private art collections including the Library of Congress, the State Department, and the National Portrait Gallery. It strives to present a friendly and helpful atmosphere to both experts and beginning collectors. The comfortable interior encourages browsing through the thousands of prints, which are organized by subject, artist, and size. The shop has grown considerably since its humble beginnings as a portrait gallery and now carries a broad selection of American graphic arts from the 18th, 19th, 20th, and 21st centuries and a wide selection of antique maps. The Old Print Shop has also expanded by taking over the ground floor of the adjoining building at 152 Lexington Avenue, where the focus is on art reference, illustrated, fine art, and color plate books.

Following in the footsteps of his father, the late Harry Shaw Newman, his son, Kenneth M. Newman, helped to build many collections of American primitive art and to concentrate the attention of the public on American printmakers, especially Currier & Ives and other publishers from the 18th, 19th, 20th, and 21st centuries.

Robert K. Newman, Kenneth's elder son, and his younger son, Harry Shaw Newman, share in their father's knowledge and love of prints, paintings, and art history. In recent years, Robert K. Newman's son, Brian has joined the shop as fourth generation in the business.

Madam Speaker, I ask that the House recognize this remarkable family who have contributed so much toward the preservation and appreciation of American history through their business acumen at the Old Print Shop in

New York City and their associated gallery, the Old Print Gallery in Washington, DC.

TRIBUTE TO DAVE GUTZ

**HON. TOM LATHAM**

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 25, 2008*

Mr. LATHAM. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Dave Gutz, of Jefferson, Iowa who competed in the 100 yard dash and in golf at the 2008 U.S. Transplant Games in Pittsburgh, PA.

Four years ago, Dave Gutz found out that his only kidney, the other one was damaged at birth and was later removed, was failing and he was immediately put on dialysis for twenty-five months. A year later, Dave was placed on the transplant list and it took at least another eighteen months before a kidney was available. Last September he received the gift of life—the kidney he needed to survive.

Hosted by the National Kidney Foundation, the Transplant Games are an Olympic-style event for athletes who have received life-saving organ transplants. It provides the athletes an opportunity to celebrate that they survived and flourished. The Games have twelve different events and the athletes have the opportunity to win either a gold, silver, and bronze medal.

Dave Gutz's courage and perseverance is an inspiration to all of us. I am honored to represent Dave Gutz in the United States Congress and I know that my colleagues join me in congratulating him and wish him success in the future.

CONGRESSIONAL TRIBUTE  
HONORING RAYMOND RIVERA, JR.

**HON. CHARLES A. GONZALEZ**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 25, 2008*

Mr. GONZALEZ. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a constituent of mine, Mr. Raymond Rivera, Jr., who was recently awarded the "Regional Hero" award by the National Association of Letter Carriers.

Mr. Rivera, a member of the NALC's San Antonio Branch 421, was honored this past week by the NALC for rescuing two little girls who were being attacked by a pair of pit bulls in San Antonio. Heroically, he grabbed one of the pit bulls by the face as it was biting a child. With the help of another Good Samaritan, the two saved the children and restrained the animals for 45 minutes until authorities arrived. One child received more than 100 stitches after the accident, but without Mr. Rivera, the incident could have very well been catastrophic.

San Antonio is grateful for everyday heroes such as Mr. Rivera who are setting great examples for the rest of our community. I'm pleased to recognize his actions and bravery of that day, and I'm honored to call him a constituent.

RECOGNIZING THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF GLOBAL STAFFING, INC., AND WESTMORELAND, INC.

**HON. MARK UDALL**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 25, 2008*

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Madam Speaker, I rise to congratulate Westmoreland/GTG JV, a venture of Global Staffing, Inc., and Westmoreland, Inc., on its recognition as a "Top 100 Veteran Owned Business in America" and a "Top 100 Disabled Owned Business in America" by Diversity Business Magazine. From what I have heard of Westmoreland/GTGS JV, a service-disabled, veteran-owned small business, this recognition is well deserved.

I'm told that for the 17 years that Global Staffing has operated in my district, it has provided quality service to commercial enterprises and government agencies. Global Staffing has provided gainful employment to thousands of my constituents and other citizens nationwide. I understand that Global Staffing has demonstrated good corporate citizenship, supporting the local community through scholarships for at-risk children, food drives for the homeless, and grants to domestic abuse support agencies.

Westmoreland, Inc. was founded by Dennis Westmoreland a service-disabled veteran of two tours in Vietnam, who has for many years given his time and energy to working with and supporting other veterans at VA hospitals in Colorado.

I congratulate the management and staff of Global Staffing and Westmoreland for this award and wish them continued success in the future.

WHEN, IN HEARTS AS FOUND

**HON. ZACH WAMP**

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 25, 2008*

Mr. WAMP. Madam Speaker, this poem was written to honor a great American patriot, Sue Downes of Claiborne County, Tennessee.

WHEN, IN HEARTS AS FOUND

When, In Hearts As Found! Such things as so astounds . . . When all else fails, as when courage comes to crest . . . when heard in ones heart such sounds! Beating . . . beating all in ones chest so now . . . Are but all those heroes, magnificent's who so wear that crown . . .

That crown worn of Hero so now . . . Who must so rebuild their lives, someway . . . somehow . . . Whose great hearts do so astound, as does so one so Susan Downes!

While, marching off to war . . . Leaving behind, all that she so loved and adored . . . But for her family and sweet country tis of thee, as was her burden bore . . . who could but ask for more?

With her two strong legs so lost . . . Is that not what heaven is for? Paying such a great price, such a cost . . . this her albatross . . . As she came home, and her courageously fine heart would not so be lost!

For in this war . . . Unlike, none before . . . women have all given so much more!

All at the ready . . . all out in front ever steady while on the hunt, for our freedom to so insure . . .

But, in life . . . There are new battles, and new wars . . . Only won by heart's of gold so fine and pure, that which so touch us all with their sacrifice all the more . . . Building day by day, passing heartache's way . . . lifting up her head . . . This Magnificent Force . . .

In Susan Downes . . . In what was lost, we so see in life . . . against all odds, what so can be found! When Courage Crests, as her faith does us so bless . . . when but the best of all heart's so astounds . . .

Could we, would we? Ever find the such strength to go off to war, then come back home and fight one more? To rebuild where none lies left, without arms or legs . . . not to cry or beg, to so touch our Lord!

Some people, are put upon this earth . . . So sent down from our Lord above, to but teach us all above faith's true fine worth! To Teach Us To Reach Us, To So Touch All Our Hearts . . . inside all of our souls here first!

Against all odds! When, all the chips are down . . . only where heart's of faith so found . . . In such courage now, do our hearts astound . . . all in Heroes like Sue Downes! In Hearts As Found!

Susan Downes was a gunner in Afghanistan. She is an F4 in The United States Army. She lost both her feet and part of her legs in an IED explosion. She is from Tazewell, Tennessee, is married to her husband Gabriel, and they have two wonderful children named Austin and Alexis.

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#### TRIBUTE TO LTG JOHN R. WOOD

##### HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 25, 2008

Mr. SKELTON. Madam Speaker, it has come to my attention that LTG John R. Wood is retiring from the U.S. Army.

Lieutenant General Wood graduated from the U.S. Military Academy at West Point in 1972. He has served in many posts, including as the platoon leader to the commanding general of the 2nd Infantry Division of the 8th U.S. Army—Republic of South Korea, as a National Security Fellow to the White House, and as a commander at the U.S. Joint Forces Command's Joint Experimentation Directorate.

Lieutenant General Wood has overseen the Joint Forces Command's missions on training, experimentation and integration for the U.S. military. Lieutenant General Wood is a highly decorated commander, earning the Bronze Star, Legion of Merit, the Meritorious Service Medal, and many others. The General also holds advanced degrees from the University of Chicago and the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College.

Madam Speaker, LTG John R. Wood is a valuable member of his community, but moreover, an honorable soldier. His dedication to the Armed Forces should certainly be noted. I know the Members of the House will join me in thanking Lieutenant General Wood for his service in the U.S. military, and in wishing him and his family nothing but the best in the many years to come.

#### INTRODUCTION OF H.R. 7063, THE U.S. AND THE WORLD EDUCATION ACT

##### HON. LORETTA SANCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 25, 2008

Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to urge my colleagues to support H.R. 7063, the U.S. and the World Education Act, which I introduced in the House this week.

This bill addresses the need to improve student awareness of and achievement in international education so they will be able to compete in an information age world that is constantly shrinking due to rapid technological advances.

This bill will create a grant program to fund international education professional development for elementary and secondary teachers, and related supplemental extracurricular activities for students. These activities could include Model U.N., geography bees, and foreign language clubs, among many others.

In addition, H.R. 7063 would establish an international education research repository containing scientifically valid education research, and promising and exemplary practices related to international education and foreign language education. This repository would be available to state and local educational agencies in order to continually improve their international education curriculum and teaching methods.

This bill supports improvements in the way international education is taught in the classroom, and encourages students and teachers to engage in life-long learning on the various topics involved in international education, such as foreign languages, geography, world history, international economics and international culture.

These days with just a simple computer mouse click, we can create personal or professional relationships with anyone around the world. In the workplace, American-based multinational corporations and small businesses are increasingly in need of employees with knowledge of foreign languages and cultures.

Future generations need to be equipped with a skill-set that will help them be successful and meet the demands of a global workforce. H.R. 7063, the U.S. and the World Education Act will help prepare our students and our country for the global economy of the future.

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#### TRIBUTE TO JOHN R. BLACKBURN, JR.

##### HON. BILL SHUSTER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 25, 2008

Mr. SHUSTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of John R. Blackburn, Jr., Chairman of the UPMC Bedford Memorial Board of Directors. Mr. Blackburn will be retiring after 53 years of service to the UPMC Bedford Memorial Hospital. During his tenure John, or Jack, as he prefers to be known, has served in multiple leadership roles and has been active in a variety of committees includ-

ing the Finance Committee and the Scholarship Committee. Jack helped form the Memorial Hospital of Bedford County Foundation, worked on the Spring House Estates project, and was a key player during the transition of the hospital to the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center.

Mr. Blackburn was born on December 19, 1922 and has been a life-long resident of Bedford County. After graduating from Bedford High School he enrolled and graduated from the prestigious Dartmouth College in New Hampshire. Jack served in the Army Air Corps for 3 years and was 1st Lieutenant in the Pacific Theatre during World War II. He was also one of the select few who flew the B-32 bomber in the Philippines during that conflict. After his military service Mr. Blackburn returned home and became a partner of Blackburn Russell, a grocery distributor in Bedford.

When Jack became a member of the Bedford Memorial Hospital Board of Directors in 1955 he was following a path paved by his father, John Blackburn, Sr., who has been one of the original Board members. Jack's service to the hospital was anything but in his father's shadow. He served on 12 different hospital committees administering everything from the Buildings and Grounds Committee to the Congestive Heart Failure Committee. He was elected Secretary of the Board in 1964 and served in that role until he was elected Vice-President in 1976. Ten years later Jack found himself elevated to the position of President of the Board of Directors. His position was re-titled in 1994 making him Chairman of the Board. After 22 years of leading the Board, and 53 years of service overall, Jack made the decision to step down and enjoy retirement.

Mr. Blackburn and his late wife, Elizabeth dedicated their lives to improving their community. Jack has been an active member and leader in the Bedford community for many years and is well respected. A life of servitude to one's community is something to be proud of. It is also not one that is easy to step away from, because in a man like Jack Blackburn, the desire to help others and the community is something that never truly disappears. I would like to wish Mr. Blackburn all the best in his future endeavors. It is my pleasure to honor Mr. Blackburn today for his many years of service to the Bedford Community, and I hold him up as a model example of good citizenship.

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#### TRIBUTE TO BOB AHRENS

##### HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 25, 2008

Mr. LATHAM. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize the retirement of a local Ogden, Iowa mechanic, Bob Ahrens and to express my appreciation for his dedication and commitment to his community.

For 41 years, Bob has been fixing cars for his friends, neighbors and strangers in the Ogden area. He is known for doing quality car repairs without costing a fortune to his customers. He also has performed many jobs on cars where he did not bother to collect the money owed to him. His long-time business

has been a staple holding the community's transportation needs together, and his services will be greatly missed.

Bob Ahrens selfless, hardworking Iowa mentality has set a lasting standard for the people of the Ogden community. I know that my colleagues in the United States Congress join me in commending Bob Ahrens for his service. I consider it an honor to represent Bob in Congress, and I wish him a long, happy and healthy retirement.

IN MEMORY OF PETTY OFFICER  
JOSHUA T. HARRIS

### HON. DUNCAN HUNTER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 25, 2008*

Mr. HUNTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to the life and memory of former Petty Officer First Class Joshua T. Harris, who was killed during combat operations in Afghanistan last week. Joshua was a native of Lexington, North Carolina, and was deployed to Afghanistan from an assignment at the Naval Special Warfare Development Group in Dam Neck, Virginia.

Joshua graduated from Lexington Senior High School where he distinguished himself as an outstanding linebacker earning both all-county and all-conference honors. He enrolled in Davison College in Davison, North Carolina, where he studied studio art before pursuing graduate studies in architecture at the University of North Carolina.

After enlisting in the Navy on August 23, 2000, Joshua attended Navy SEAL training in California.

Joshua Harris is survived by his mother Evelyn, his father Sam, his twin sister Mary-Maria Kirstin and his older brother, Sam Ranchor. He will always be remembered by his family and friends as a competitive athlete with a passion for art and design.

I would like to share with my colleagues a poem penned by Albert Carey Caswell in memory of Petty Officer First Class Joshua Harris, recognizing his heroism and sacrifice to America. The poem titled "Thou Art" reads as follows:

#### THOU ART

A thing of Beauty . . .  
A sheer work of art . . .  
Can only come but from deep inside one's heart . . .  
From only deep down inside one's soul . . .  
All in the brush strokes of a lifetime so . . .  
All on the canvass of a life behold . . .  
To all hearts and minds, and souls . . .  
A thing of faith and courage, so!  
A thing of beauty . . .  
A work of art . . .  
To warm all hearts as we grow old . . .  
As was your fine life Josh, so . . .  
All in courage's quote . . .  
All in the seeds of freedom you so sowed . . .  
As left behind, to all hearts which spoke . . .  
All upon your fine canvass of life as lies such hope . . .  
Which but means the very most . . .  
That so touches all of our hearts and souls . . .  
Is but your fine portrait of life, that which you so wrote!  
Painted, all there by your oh so magnificent heart of gold . . .  
All in this your Honor's Code . . .  
Is but left a fine reflection of your very soul!

Bringing Light!  
Bringing Hope!  
As in the darkest days of war you fought . . .  
Such a thing of beauty Joshua, as you Thou Art!  
Are but the colors of your heart . . .  
All in this your life's design!  
Reminds us all, how against all odds your courage climbed . . .  
As against the darkest of all evil's you so shined . . .  
All in your Seal of Honor burning bright . . .  
To win that day, that night!  
Shining, all in your most sacrificial light . . .  
Burning bold, burning bright . . . blessing all of us here this night!  
For Joshua, how so you lived and died . . .  
Brings such tears, even to The Angels eyes!  
As so surely, it was but Heaven Joshua you'd find!  
As we gaze upon this Masterpiece, all in the life you so left behind!  
Mount Up Seal . . . Your new battle has begun . . .  
It's your new war to be won!  
All as an Angel in The Army of Our Lord, my son!  
Now with wings of courage full . . .  
A thing of beauty . . .  
A work of art . . .  
Joshua, my most magnificent of all sons . . .  
You are Thou Art!  
Amen. . .

#### INTRODUCTION OF LEGISLATION THE PATIENT ADVOCATE ACT

### HON. ROBERT C. "BOBBY" SCOTT

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 25, 2008*

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Madam Speaker, access to quality, affordable health care is critical to the well being of our citizens. With 46 million uninsured, including 9 million children, and many more underinsured, we must focus on strengthening our existing system as we continue to work to assure that quality health care is available to all. The Patient Advocate Act will assist patients, particularly those with a chronic illness, in successfully meeting the challenges brought on by their illness.

Patients battling a life-threatening illness are generally ill-equipped to negotiate with insurance companies, hospitals and other medical providers. Advocates will be available to assist with job retention and other debt crisis matters, while the patients are dealing with the reality of their illness at the same time. The limited network of existing patient advocate programs have proven their value and cost effectiveness. It is in the best interest of the patient to have someone available to advocate on their behalf while suffering from chronic illness.

Madam Speaker, the Patient Advocate Act would establish a demonstration grant program for State, local, tribal and non-profit entities to develop and operate patient advocate programs. The programs will assist patients in resolving health insurance, job retention, debt crisis and other problems related to the patients' diagnosis and illness. Specific services include negotiating pre-authorization claims, expediting the appeals process on contested claims, resolving billing errors and other bill issues, resolving debt crises, brokering resources to supplement limits to insurance, gaining access to services for the uninsured,

and addressing other problems related to the patient's illness, at no cost to the patient. The grants will be made available to existing and new patient advocacy programs.

Madam Speaker, to ensure that patients facing serious illness are able to effectively address the major issues that confront them during their illness, it is vitally important that they have access to professional case management services. The Patient Advocate Act will provide communities with the ability to establish patient advocate programs to assist patients as they negotiate the challenges of serious illness. I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

#### TRIBUTE TO JERRY HOWELL

### HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 25, 2008*

Mr. LATHAM. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize the retirement of Jerry Howell, organist at the Maxwell Church of the Brethren and Loring United Methodist Church of Maxwell, Iowa, and to express my appreciation for his dedication and commitment to his church and community.

For the past 50 years, Jerry has contributed his time and talents to his church community. He began piano lessons at the age of 11. In 1958, the organist at Santiago Methodist Church in rural Mitchellville retired, and at the age of 14, Jerry was called up to the organ bench. In 1989, Jerry and his wife Opal transferred their church membership to Loring United Methodist Church in rural Maxwell, Iowa. The organist at Loring retired, and Jerry was back on the organ bench. For the past 10 years, he was the organist for both Loring and Maxwell Church of the Brethren.

It is estimated that in the past 50 years, Jerry has played for 2,700 Sunday morning services, 120 funerals and 25 weddings. Unfortunately, Jerry's career has been cut short with his diagnosis of age-related macular degeneration that has caused blurry vision that makes reading and playing the music difficult. Although he no longer plays the organ at church, the memories of Jerry's musical contributions live on, and he continues to be an active member of his community.

Beyond retiring from his service at church, Jerry also retired from his job as an accounting technician at the Iowa Department of Transportation a year and a half ago, and he has taken the opportunity to travel around the country while his vision remains strong enough. I consider it an honor to represent Jerry Howell in the United States Congress, and I wish him a long, happy and healthy retirement as he continues to serve his community and travel around the country.

#### RECOGNIZING THE HONORABLE RON LEWIS ON THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT

### HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 25, 2008*

Mr. BONNER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the distinguished career of the Honorable RON LEWIS for his service to the people

of Kentucky and the United States House of Representatives. Congressman LEWIS has represented the 2nd Congressional District of the state of Kentucky for the past 14 years.

RON was born and raised in South Shore, Kentucky. He graduated from McKell High School and worked his way through Morehead State University before transferring to the University of Kentucky, where he received a Bachelor of Arts in history and political science. Following graduation, he worked as a salesman and then taught at a business college in Louisiana. He returned to Morehead State and earned a Master of Arts in Higher Education and then attended Southern Baptist Seminary and became an ordained Baptist minister.

RON has long been an ardent supporter of our national defense. In 2005, he and the entire Kentucky delegation successfully fought the closing of Fort Knox, one of our nation's premier military installations employing nearly 9,000 personnel. Due in large part to RON's leadership during this most recent round of base realignment, Fort Knox was designated to remain open and to keep the majority of our nation's gold reserves.

From his post on the powerful Ways and Means Committee, RON has been a champion for farmers in his heartland district. He sponsored the Rural Communities Investment Act, which provides tax incentives to make interest income on farm real estate and certain rural housing loans exempt from federal taxation. He has also worked to develop alternative fuels made from crops grown in his district, sponsoring legislation to promote increased use of ethanol and biodiesel, made from corn and soybeans.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing a dedicated leader and friend to many in this body. I know his family, his wife, Kayi; his two children, Ronald Brent and Allison Faye; and his many friends and colleagues join me in honoring his accomplishments and extending thanks for his service over the years on behalf of the commonwealth of Kentucky and the United States of America.

RON will surely enjoy the well deserved time he now has to spend with his family and loved ones. I wish him the best of luck in all his future endeavors.

HONORING MISS ALLISON  
SCHMITT UPON HER ACHIEVEMENT OF THE BRONZE MEDAL  
IN THE 2008 SUMMER OLYMPICS

**HON. THADDEUS G. McCOTTER**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 25, 2008*

Mr. McCOTTER. Madam Speaker, today I rise to honor and acknowledge Miss Allison Schmitt upon her achievement of the Bronze Medal in the Women's 4x200 Meter Freestyle Relay in the 2008 Summer Olympics.

Allison Schmitt was born in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania on June 7, 1990. At the age of 9, she began her swimming career with the Plymouth Canton Cruiser in Canton, MI. Allison then went on to join the Ann Arbor Swim Club at the age of 12. During her high school career, Allison swam Varsity all four years she attended Canton High, and was also acknowledged by her team as the MVP all four years.

During her time at Canton High School, Allison was named All-State a total of eight times, two per year of attendance, and was named Michigan High School Swimmer of the Year in 2006. In her senior year, Allison was Canton High's Swim Team Captain. Allison is a ten time All-American athlete and holds two Michigan State High School records.

In December of 2007, Allison began training with Club Wolverine's High Performance Group, under Coach Bob Bowman. In January 2008, Allison graduated from Canton High School to train for the Olympic trials. On July 2, 2008, Allison made the USA Olympic team and subsequently achieved a national age group record in the 200 meter freestyle.

On August 14, 2008, the United States Women's 4x200 meter Freestyle Relay team consisting of Allison Schmitt, Natalie Coughlin, Caroline Burckle, and Katie Hoff broke the American record and swam the relay in 7:46.33, achieving a third place finish and a bronze medal.

Madam Speaker, today, I ask my colleagues to join me in wishing Allison every success as she attends the University of Georgia, where she will continue her swimming career during the fall of 2008; and in congratulating and thanking Miss Allison Schmitt upon her winning the bronze medal as a member of the United States Women's 4x200 Freestyle Relay Team for making us all so proud.

#### EARMARK DECLARATION

**HON. J. RANDY FORBES**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 25, 2008*

Mr. FORBES. Madam Speaker, consistent with Republican earmark standards, the following are detailed finance plans for each of my requested projects in H.R. 2638, the Consolidated Security, Disaster Assistance and Continuing Appropriations Act.

Requesting Member: Congressman J. RANDY FORBES.

Bill Number: H.R. 2638.

Account: Homeland Security.

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Chesterfield County, VA.

Address of Requesting Entity: 9901 Lori Road, Chesterfield, VA, 23832, USA.

Description of Request: Provide \$250,000 to enhance perimeter security at the Chesterfield, VA Emergency Operations Center to assure the safety of personnel during response efforts, as well as the protection of our emergency response critical infrastructure. The Emergency Operations Center (EOC) is a highly sensitive public safety agency. The function of the EOC is to provide information to public safety providers and citizens on a range of items to include criminal activity, terrorist activity or natural disasters. In the event of a terrorist or an individual(s) who may want to hinder or interrupt the public safety system in the County, the logical place to strike is the EOC. In order to mitigate the risk of sabotage or criminal activity, providing physical security to our facility is necessary.

Requesting Member: Congressman J. RANDY FORBES.

Bill Number: H.R. 2638.

Account: Military Construction, Navy.

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Norfolk Naval Shipyard.

Address of Requesting Entity: Norfolk Naval Shipyard, Portsmouth, VA, USA.

Description of Request: Provide \$9,990,000 to make Industrial Access Improvements at Main Gate 15 at the Norfolk Naval Shipyard. Mandatory vehicle access control at military installations is a Department of Defense (DoD) requirement per DoD Directives 5200.8 and 5200.8R. Based on a Staff Integrated Vulnerability Assessment conducted in October 2006, the entrance and guardhouse configuration at Gate 15 are inadequate for both industrial access and from a security/safety standpoint and require upgrading. This project provides for industrial access improvements of Gate 15 including the truck and private automobile inspection area, Pass Office Renovations and counter terrorism measures at Gate 15.

Requesting Member: Congressman J. RANDY FORBES.

Bill Number: H.R. 2638.

Account: Military Construction, Army National Guard.

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Fort Pickett.

Address of Requesting Entity: Fort Pickett, VA, USA.

Description of Request: Provides \$2,950,000 to be used to construct a Multipurpose Machine Gun Range for training purposes with a variety of firearms and weapons for the Virginia National Guard and other Army and Guard units along the East Coast. Full budget documentation is a part of the President's Fiscal Year 2009 Department of Defense budget request.

Requesting Member: Congressman J. RANDY FORBES.

Bill Number: H.R. 2638.

Account: Military Construction, Army.

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Fort Lee.  
Address of Requesting Entity: Fort Lee, VA, USA.

Description of Request: Provides \$90,000,00 to construct a standard-design training barracks complex for advanced initial training for Army soldiers. This project supports the increase in trainee requirements at Fort Lee as part of the increase in permanent end strength of the Army. The estimated and intended use is 1200 soldiers. All existing adequate facilities are being fully utilized to support current operations. If this project is not provided, there will not be sufficient adequate permanent facilities to support the Grow the Force initiative and soldiers will continue to work out of temporary and/or relocatable buildings which have limited operational capabilities and limited useful life expectancies. Full budget documentation is a part of the President's Fiscal Year 2009 Department of Defense budget request.

Requesting Member: Congressman J. RANDY FORBES.

Bill Number: H.R. 2638.

Account: Military Construction, Army.

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Fort Lee.  
Address of Requesting Entity: Fort Lee, VA, USA.

Description of Request: Provides \$10,300,000 to provide a dining facility to support an increase in the number of soldiers who will receive Advanced Individual Training at Fort Lee. This project supports the Grow the Force initiative. It will enable the Army to meet the greater training throughput requirement that will result from the increased size of the

Army. All existing adequate facilities are being fully utilized to support current operations as well as Army Modularity and Global Defense Posture Realignment (GDPR) initiatives. If this project is not provided, there will not be sufficient adequate dining facilities to support the training requirement as a result of the Grow the Force initiative. All physical security measures and antiterrorism protection measures are included. The Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Army (Installations and Housing) certifies that this project has been considered for joint use potential. Full budget documentation is a part of the President's Fiscal Year 2009 Department of Defense budget request.

Requesting Member: Congressman J. RANDY FORBES.

Bill Number: H.R. 2638.

Account: Research, Development, Test and Evaluation, Defense-Wide.

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Virginia Modeling, Analysis and Simulation Center.

Address of Requesting Entity: Virginia Modeling, Analysis and Simulation Center, 1030 University Blvd., Suffolk, VA 23435, USA.

Description of Request: Provide \$640,000 for research and development effort that will bring together the Modeling and Simulation community to define, implement, and utilize a set of standards that will guide the development of M&S capability for the foreseeable future. Standards will provide a more cost effective way to ensure simulation compatibility and reuse among the Services and the many types of simulations being developed to address their problems. This action provides funding for the Virginia Modeling, Analysis and Simulation Center at Old Dominion University to develop a set of modeling and simulation standards that will guide all aspects of DoD modeling and simulation design and development.

#### OFFICER RICKY ANTOINE

### HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 25, 2008*

Mr. POE. Madam Speaker, today I recognize Port Arthur police officer, Ricky Antoine for his commitment to law enforcement and traffic safety.

On August 21, 2008, Officer Antoine was awarded 2008 Traffic Officer of the Year by Texas Department of Transportation's Statewide Transportation Enhancement Program (STEP) that offers grants for police officers to target a specific area of enforcement during overtime. The Texas Department of Transportation acknowledged Officer Antoine for his "outstanding achievements and extraordinary efforts to save lives on Texas streets and highways." Being the first time a police department east of Houston has been recognized for its efforts, this is a great accomplishment for Officer Antoine and the Port Arthur Police Department.

Despite issuing traffic tickets not being pleasant for him and hearing many complaints, Officer Antoine has dedicated his service to enforcing the law. He has issued hundreds of traffic tickets in the two years he has served on the Department's traffic unit. He has even ticketed motorists driving 5 miles over the speed limit, which appears to be absurd to violators, but Officer Antoine sticks by the law to ensure traffic safety.

While Officer Antoine would rather not write traffic tickets, he follows the principle that drivers must take responsibility for their actions. Driving over the speed limit increases the risk of death in an automobile accident. Officer Antoine has devoted his career to limiting that risk for drivers by enforcing the speed limit to as many people possible.

Before Officer Antoine came onto the area stretching across Ninth Avenue, speed limits were almost always violated.

On behalf of the Second Congressional District of Texas, I congratulate Officer Rickey Antoine for his accomplishments and applaud his dedication to traffic safety and making Southeast Texas a better place to drive.

And that's just the way it is.

#### EARMARK DECLARATION

### HON. RALPH REGULA

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 25, 2008*

Mr. REGULA. Madam Speaker, in accordance with the Republican rules on earmarks, I wish to place these eight declarations in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD for earmarks secured in H.R. 2638—the Consolidated Security, Disaster Assistance, and Continuing Appropriations Act, 2009.

Requesting Member: Rep. RALPH REGULA (OH-16).

Bill Number: H.R. 2638.

Account: Research, Development, Test and Evaluation—Defense-Wide.

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Seaman Corporation.

Address of Requesting Entity: 1000 Venture Blvd, Wooster, OH 44691.

Description of Request: To provide an earmark of \$1.6 million to develop and test improved collapsible urethane fuel storage tanks. Specifically, the money will be spent on 16 tanks of varying sizes, rental and site preparation of two test locations, site operations, disposal and clean-up costs, and the rental cost of JP-8 fuel with which to carry out the testing.

A wide range of critical military, national security, and natural disaster response activities depend on collapsible storage tanks for fuel and water distribution. In recent years, the Government has purchased fuel tanks that have not consistently performed well. The development and testing of better manufacturing processes will ensure extended life and performance dependability to meet the increasing fundamental infrastructure needs of all branches of our military service and national security agencies.

Requesting Member: Rep. RALPH REGULA (OH-16).

Bill Number: H.R. 2638.

Account: Research, Development, Test and Evaluation—Army.

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Will-Burt Company.

Address of Requesting Entity: 169 Main St., Orrville, OH 44667.

Description of Request: To provide an earmark for \$2,400,000 to develop a rugged, telescoping, fast-erecting/retracting, and locking mast for use in elevating heavy payloads on ground vehicles. Often, mission requirements dictate a powered payload to be extended

from a vehicle in either the horizontal or vertical direction. LOS radio communications, for example, are significantly enhanced by elevating optical sensors and antennae above ground level. The development of this mast technology will significantly enhance mission flexibility, enable on-the-move engagement of urban and field targets above ground level, and enhance manned and unmanned ground vehicle survivability by allowing "ahead" vision/sensing of IEDs and enemy combatants.

Requesting Member: Rep. RALPH REGULA (OH-16).

Bill Number: H.R. 2638.

Account: Research, Development, Test and Evaluation—Army.

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: American Engineering & Manufacturing.

Address of Requesting Entity: 4622 French Creek Road, Sheffield, OH 44054.

Description of Request: To provide an earmark of \$2,400,000 for the Advanced Materials & Processes for Armament Structures, AMPAS. This is a public/private partnership that will leverage up to \$50,000,000 private and \$20,000,000 public investment with the goal of increasing the availability of low cost titanium for government and commercial manufacturing.

This program was initiated to provide significantly lighter components for military equipment resulting in ease of use and transport of equipment. This program implements research using native Ohio titanium production facilities for low-cost titanium products used in U.S. Army applications. The ability to successfully transfer commercial developed metal-forming technologies to Federal agencies is a key contributor to United States readiness and economic competitiveness. As the U.S. Army undertakes transformation implementation with lighter-weight equipment, the use of titanium in armament and ground vehicles is becoming more and more important.

Requesting Member: Rep. RALPH REGULA (OH-16).

Bill Number: H.R. 2638.

Account: Research, Development, Test and Evaluation—Army.

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Contained Energy, Inc.

Address of Requesting Entity: c/o Wright Fuel Cell Group, 1819 E. 101st St., Cleveland, OH 44106.

Description of Request: To provide an earmark of \$800,000 to continue work on developing advanced applications of direct carbon fuel cells. The Army spends \$1 billion annually on energy, of which \$750 million is energy for facilities. Further development of fuel cell technologies could significantly reduce the cost of energy for facilities, while simultaneously reducing Army reliance on fossil fuels and increasing the use of renewable energy.

Requesting Member: Rep. Ralph Regula (OH-16).

Bill Number: H.R. 2638.

Account: Research, Development, Test and Evaluation—Defense-Wide.

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: The University of Akron.

Address of Requesting Entity: 302 Buchtel Mall, Akron, OH 44325.

Description of Request: To provide an earmark of \$800,000 to establish the first undergraduate corrosion engineering program to offer corrosion-specific, accredited engineering degrees at the associate and baccalaureate

levels. Specifically, the money will be spent on curriculum development, student training, outreach and recruiting efforts, and establishing a corrosion testing and teaching laboratory.

The direct annual costs of corrosion for the Department of Defense are estimated to be more than \$20 billion. Preventing or slowing the forces of corrosion could result in enormous cost savings for not only the Department of Defense, but the government as a whole. Additionally, the debilitating effects of corrosion have been documented to have a significant impact on readiness and in-theater operability. A key factor in combating corrosion is the availability of an educated workforce that can integrate corrosion considerations at the earliest stages of the acquisition process. This project will develop appropriate curriculum that will result in a pipeline of qualified corrosion engineers.

Requesting Member: Rep. Ralph Regula (OH-16).

Bill Number: H.R. 2638.

Account: Research, Development, Test and Evaluation—Army.

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: The Defense Metals Technology Center.

Address of Requesting Entity: c/o Stark State College 6200 Frank Ave, NW North Canton, OH 44720.

Description of Request: To provide an earmark for \$3,000,000 to fund an industry-based consortium to serve the needs of the Department of Defense by facilitating research and development of innovative technology and products for the defense materials and manufacturing industry. Specifically, the money will be used for staffing, strategic metals research and development, technology insertion, industrial base risk analysis, local academic research grants, and cooperative educational work programs.

The Center will serve the current industry needs, capture the individual successes of each service, manage the needs of each service, and look broadly to the expansion of the strategic metals industrial base to serve both the military and commercial markets.

Requesting Member: Rep. Ralph Regula (OH-16).

Bill Number: H.R. 2638.

Account: Research, Development, Test and Evaluation—Army.

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Honeywell International.

Address of Requesting Entity: 101 Constitution Ave, NW Suite 500 West Washington, DC 20001.

Description of Request: To provide an earmark of \$800,000 to fund complete research, development, testing and evaluation of a redesigned Accessory Gear Box (AGB) for the CH-47F Chinook helicopter. The redesigned AGB will give the operator and maintainer of the CH-47F Chinook fleet a 200 percent improvement in AGB reliability, which is critical to mission readiness. The redesigned AGB will increase reliability, durability, and safety. In addition to the Army's CH-47F, the redesigned AGB will also be compatible with Special Operations MH-47s, the Air Force Combat Search and Rescue (CSAR-X) aircraft, and our allies' CH-47 helicopter fleets.

Requesting Member: Rep. Ralph Regula (OH-16).

Bill Number: H.R. 2638.

Account: Research, Development, Test and Evaluation—Army.

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Bosch RexRoth Corporation.

Address of Requesting Entity: 1700 Old Mansfield Road Wooster, OH 44691.

Description of Request: To provide an earmark of \$800,000 to address the needs of the U.S. military's tactical wheeled fleets to significantly reduce fuel consumption and improve vehicle performance and mobility. Specifically, the money will be spent 60 percent on salaries and labor, 20 percent on materials, and 20 percent on hybrid system and vehicle testing.

This research and development will produce advanced Hydraulic Hybrid Vehicle technology that will improve fuel economy by up to 60 percent for the tactical wheeled fleet, reduce the required logistics support footprint, and reduce maintenance and replacement costs due to a reduction in brake wear. The benefits to the U.S. military are many, including supporting the American warfighter, conserving energy, improving cost-effectiveness, and reducing the Department of Defense's dependence on fossil fuels and foreign oil.

DR. ED YOUNG

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 25, 2008*

Mr. POE. Madam Speaker, Jesus told the well-known parable of a shepherd who owned 100 sheep, Luke 15:3-7. When the shepherd discovered that one of his sheep was missing, he left the 99 secure and went back to find the lost one. The point is that every sheep is important. "The Lord is . . . not willing that any should perish", 2 Peter 3:9. Today, I am proud to honor long time shepherd, Dr. Ed Young, and his ministry as he celebrates 30 years with Second Baptist Church in Houston, Texas.

Dr. Young became the pastor of Second Baptist Church in 1978 and continues to minister today. Under Dr. Young's leadership in 1979, Second Baptist started its weekly broadcast of the church's worship services on local television station, Channel 39. The purpose of the weekly broadcast was to create interest in local residents and minister inside and outside of the church network.

Dr. Young was elected President of The Southern Baptist Convention in both 1992 and 1993. He has also authored a number of books, including *The Winning Walk: Outfitting for the Christian Adventure*, *The 10 Commandments of Parenting*, and *Total Heart Health*.

Dr. Young is host of the broadcast radio show, *The Winning Walk*, named after his first book. The *Winning Walk* television broadcast has also emerged. Both programs and the Internet outreach have produced national and international exposure.

Since his start, Second Baptist has grown from 2,000 members to more than 48,000 members in five different campuses. Dr. Young and Second Baptist's ministry has not only spread throughout Houston, but has reached people worldwide.

Dr. Ed Young was born on August 11, 1936 in Laurel Mississippi. He was inspired by his pastor's wife, Mrs. Gates, who led him to faith at the age of 12.

Dr. Young attended University of Alabama for half a semester before leaving. After being

challenged about his faith by a dorm-mate at the University, Dr. Young decided to seek out God's purpose in his life. He transferred to Christian University, Mississippi College, where he continued his education and prepared himself for his future ministry. He later attended Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary in Wake Forest, North Carolina and remained in the area, where he got his first pastoral experience. After ministering in North and South Carolina for a while, he and his wife, Jo Beth, moved to Houston, Texas.

On behalf of the Second Congressional District of Texas, I want to congratulate my long time friend Dr. Ed Young for his 30 years at Second Baptist Church and honor his ministries that have touched numbers of people worldwide.

And that's just the way it is.

IN HONOR OF FRED SHELDON,  
PRESIDENT OF THE NATIONAL  
RURAL WATER ASSOCIATION

HON. CATHY McMORRIS RODGERS

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 25, 2008*

Mrs. McMORRIS RODGERS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Mr. Fred Sheldon as he becomes the new President of the National Rural Water Association. Fred is to be commended for his dedication to keeping our water and environment clean and healthy.

Fred has served on the Executive Board of National Rural Water for 8 years. His commitment to serve America's communities has included several terms as Board President and Vice President of the association. He was also instrumental in the establishment of Evergreen Rural Water of Washington in 1994.

As a professional in the field, Fred is dedicated to helping ensure a safe drinking water supply for all of us to use and enjoy. I am sure that National Rural Water will be in excellent hands for the duration of Mr. Sheldon's 2-year tenure.

Madame Speaker, I invite my colleagues to join me in commending Fred for his excellent work stewarding our natural resources and in congratulating him as he starts his new position as President of the National Rural Water Association.

ON THE IMPORTANCE OF EXTENDING  
FOSTER CARE SERVICES  
THROUGH AGE 21

HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 25, 2008*

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Madam Speaker, the House and the Senate recently approved an important bill to make significant reforms to our child welfare system, including provisions to address the serious and urgent need to provide vital support to foster youth during their transition to independent adulthood. One provision of the bill in particular allows states to voluntarily extend foster care to age 21 from its current limit of 18 years of age. The President is expected to sign H.R.

6893, The Fostering Connections to Success and Increasing Adoptions Act of 2008, into law shortly. I am proud to have voted for this bill, sponsored by my good friend Rep. JIM McDERMOTT, and I look forward to its implementation and the benefits it will bring to young people struggling to overcome their difficult circumstances.

Recent research indicates that across the Nation more than 24,000 youth "age-out" of foster care each year. This figure represents an increase of 41 percent since 1998 in the number of young people who leave foster care without having found a permanent connection to a family or stable adult.

Thus, youth who turn 18 and are discharged from the system find themselves on their own, without the support that most adolescents rely upon as they transition from childhood to independent adulthood. Without that support, former foster youth are known to struggle. One in four will be incarcerated within a year of leaving the child welfare system. One in five will experience homelessness in that same year. Rates of mental health diagnoses are higher than in the general population, yet access to treatment and counseling is sporadic. Additionally, these youth have extremely low rates of educational attainment and thus are frequently unable to secure and sustain employment sufficient to meet their basic needs.

The same research that documents these overwhelming challenges, however, also shows the benefits of extending foster care to age 21. A large, ongoing, multi-State study conducted by Chapin Hall at the University of Chicago, indicates that when youth are allowed to remain in care beyond their 18th birthday, they fare significantly better than youth who cannot. Some States voluntarily extend the option to young adults who have been unable to secure a permanent connection, and when Chapin Hall compares their later life circumstances to those of youth who were turned out at 18, found that they achieved significantly higher levels of education, earned higher wages, waited longer to become pregnant and bear children, and they took increased advantage of available services.

The study's authors state clearly that their findings indicate that extending foster care services can support youth in developing into healthy, educated, productive, and independent citizens. By giving all States the option of continuing foster care services to age 21, the legislation Congress recently approved would allow States to continue vital support for their disconnected adolescent foster youth during a crucial life transition, increasing the likelihood that these youth will experience better ultimate outcomes.

As a long-time member and now chairman of the House Education and Labor Committee, I have dedicated many years to the effort of improving the lives of children in foster care and have had the opportunity to work with many different individuals and organizations along the way. Today I wanted to highlight one group in particular for its efforts as it relates directly to the bill we just approved.

The John Burton Foundation for Children Without Homes has played an invaluable role in identifying potential policy solutions to the documented difficulties of former foster youth. Under the leadership of California State Senator John Burton (retired), the foundation plays a critical role at the State and national levels

by bringing legislative attention to the needs of some of the Nation's most vulnerable young people. The foundation sponsors and advocates for legislation aimed at providing necessary ongoing support to youth who, by definition, the government has taken on the responsibility of parenting.

Through their advocacy to members of Congress and effective efforts to organize stakeholders in California, the John Burton Foundation has played an important role in ensuring that the extension of Federal funding to age 21 is included in this legislation. The evidence is solid and the conclusion is clear: Extending foster care services to age 21 to young adults raised in the child welfare system will support them in their effort to become healthy, independently functioning adults, and thereby honor the commitment made to them by the State and Federal governments.

Madam Speaker, I deeply appreciate the foundation's efforts and I deeply appreciate the work that my colleague, Rep. McDERMOTT, carried out in passing this legislation. Congress owes a great deal to children in foster care, and this legislation will be a very important step in that direction.

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#### SEATBELTS FOR INCREASED BUS SAFETY

**HON. TED POE**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 25, 2008*

Mr. POE. Madam Speaker, most of us are aware of the bus accidents that have been occurring around the country. Two years ago there was a fatal bus accident involving the Westbrook High School girls' soccer team in Beaumont, Texas. Just this year, there was an accident in Sherman, Texas, which involved several Vietnamese community members. Similar incidents occurred in Liberty, Missouri, Arlington, Virginia, New York City, and New Orleans, to name a few.

These tragic bus accidents demonstrate that school bus safety reform is an urgent issue. While school buses are among the safest mode of transportation, these re-occurring accidents are unacceptable. School buses need to be safer.

The widespread bus crashes have sparked a comeback in the idea of seatbelts in buses. Seatbelts raise the issue of whether they would increase bus safety.

According to the Texas Department of Transportation, Texas safety belt use has topped 90 percent, this being the third year in a row. The majority of people in Texas are wearing their seatbelts in cars and trucks. But few to no passengers are wearing their seatbelts in school buses. Currently, there is no Federal mandate on seatbelts in buses.

Every State, except New Hampshire, requires by law that car and truck drivers and passengers wear seatbelts. This is because seatbelts work—they increase a passenger's chance of survival in a crash. In short, seatbelts save lives.

If laws require passengers of cars and trucks to wear seatbelts, why are there no requirements for buses to even include seatbelts? In many States there are variations of "Click it or Ticket" policies that threaten motorists who don't wear seatbelts, yet no such

laws apply to the buses that carry our children and community members on a daily basis.

Certainly, buses are made very different from cars and trucks. For one, buses can carry many more passengers than any car. Some of these differences might lead one to believe that there should not be a mandate on seatbelts in buses. These differences have not stopped bus drivers from being required to wear seatbelts. So why not for school bus passengers as well?

Some claim that seatbelts may not be properly worn by passengers or cause injury. If anything, it shows that seatbelts should be made better. However, to completely disregard seatbelts as a safety precaution is absurd.

The answer appears to be that of common sense. While seatbelts are in no way a quick fix and there are many questions surrounding seatbelts in buses, they should be looked into as one of the very many necessary measures taken to ensure school bus safety.

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MR. JOHN DIEDERICH

**HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 25, 2008*

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Madam Speaker, it is with great respect and sincerity that I take this time to honor one of Northwest Indiana's most distinguished business and community leaders, Mr. John Diederich of Crown Point, Indiana. On Thursday, September 25, 2008, John will be honored by the Northwest Indiana Forum for his many years of service as a dedicated executive and his many contributions to the Northwest Indiana community. This extraordinary event will be taking place at Gamba's Ristorante in Merrillville, Indiana.

John Diederich has been a fixture in the banking industry in Northwest Indiana for the past thirty-four years. Following his collegiate studies, where he earned a degree in Accounting from Calumet College of Saint Joseph in Whiting, Indiana, and a degree in Finance from Saint Joseph's College in Rensselaer, Indiana, John entered the banking industry as a controller at Commercial Bank in Crown Point, Indiana. From there, he went on to serve as a commercial lender for Gainer Bank before being named its Division Manager for Commercial Lending in 1989. Mr. Diederich remained in this position until 1996, when he was named Manager of Private Banking and Investments for First Chicago NBD. Following a brief stint as Manager of Commercial Lending with Bank One, he was named Regional President of Bank One in 2000, and remained in that role with JPMorgan for the last eight years.

Throughout the years, John Diederich has become known just as much for his contributions to his community as to the banking industry. One of the most giving and selfless individuals I have ever had the pleasure of knowing, John has dedicated much of his time focusing on the development of the economy in Northwest Indiana, most notably as a past chairman of the Managing Board of Directors for the Northwest Indiana Forum and as a founding member and past president of the Regional Development Company. John has also volunteered much of his free time working with organizations that help children in his

community. He serves or has served in various capacities on the boards for numerous organizations, including: the Boys and Girls Club of Northwest Indiana, where he is a past chairman of the board, the Southlake YMCA, for which he is a past president, the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation, Trade Winds, the Crown Point Community Foundation, the Diocese of Gary, and the Crisis Center in Gary, Indiana, where he currently serves as its chairman of the board.

While John has always been committed to his work and has remained active in the Northwest Indiana community, his greatest enjoyment is the time spent with his beautiful family. He and his wife, Louise, have one daughter, Lisa, a graduate of Butler University, and one son, Brian, who currently attends the University of Dayton.

Madam Speaker, at this time, I ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in commending Mr. John Diederich as he is honored for his lifetime of service and dedication to the Northwest Indiana community. His years of service have touched and improved the lives of all whom he has served. His unselfish and lifelong dedication is worthy of the highest commendation, and I am proud to represent him in Congress.

IN RECOGNITION OF HILLSBOROUGH MAYOR CATHERINE "KITTY" MULLOOLY

**HON. JACKIE SPEIER**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 25, 2008*

Ms. SPEIER. Madam Speaker, this fall, one of California's most dedicated public servants will retire as Mayor of the Town of Hillsborough in the 12th Congressional District. The Honorable Catherine Mullooly, "Kitty" to all who know her, has been a beacon of light and volunteer extraordinaire since relocating from her native Wisconsin to our beloved Bay Area some forty-three years ago.

One year after graduating from the University of Wisconsin—Whitewater in 1964, Kitty came west with her new husband Doctor Thomas Mullooly, DDS, where she taught at San Francisco's St. Stephen's Elementary School prior to giving birth to her first child, Michelle. Two years later, their family was joined by son, Michael, and shortly thereafter the Mulloolys moved to Hillsborough where they have been ever since.

Kitty and Tom have brought smiles to peninsula residents for more than thirty years, through both dental healthcare and civic involvement. In fact, it is difficult to say "Mullooly" without smiling.

Kitty Mullooly's charitable work was recognized by her adopted hometown with Hillsborough's Community Care Award in 1985. She was further honored as 1989's Hillsborough Citizen of the Year. Three years later, Kitty was elected to the City Council, where she quickly impressed her peers with her hard-work and was re-elected for three subsequent terms.

During Ms. Mullooly's tenure in city government, she has been tapped to serve two terms as Mayor, including her current stint which began in 2006 and ends at the end of this year, when she will step down from her official

role in city leadership. But Madam Speaker, I know Mayor Mullooly, and I can assure you that she will not stray far from Town Hall. In fact, she lives just two doors away and I have a strong suspicion she will continue listening to her scanner so she can race with the firefighters she has helped her whole career to any call that goes out.

Kitty's commitment to our community has encompassed all aspects of daily life. She volunteered her skills for the Early Childhood Education/School Improvement Program, served on the Hillsborough Elementary School district Board of Trustees and the town's Recreation Commission and was the Chairwoman of our community's premiere charity event, the Hillsborough Concours d'Elegance. Regionally, Mayor Mullooly represents our community on the San Francisco Airport Community Roundtable, the San Mateo Area Emergency Services Council, and is a Board Member of Leadership San Mateo.

Now that Michelle and Michael are grown and married, Kitty and Tom have turned their attention to their grandchildren, Ashley and Christopher. Like your own, Madam Speaker, Kitty's grandchildren are fortunate to have a grandmother that will serve as an inspiration and role model for the rest of their lives.

Kitty is many things to me—my Mayor, my constituent and my friend. Any day spent with her is a good day. I have expressed my appreciation and admiration in private many times. A highlight of my short time in Congress is being able to do so in this most public of forums.

**EARMARK DECLARATION**

**HON. ROBERT E. LATTA**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 25, 2008*

Mr. LATTA. Madam Speaker, pursuant to the Republican Leadership standards on earmarks, I am submitting the following information for publication in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD regarding earmarks I received as part of H.R. 2638, The Consolidated Security, Disaster Assistance, and Continuing Appropriations Act, 2009. The following are the Department of Defense and Military Construction projects I have requested that have received funding approval:

Project Name: N-STEP Enabled Manufacturing Cell for Future Combat Systems.

Bill Number: H.R. 2638.

Account: RDTE, A.

Requesting Entity: Joint Systems Manufacturing Center/General Dynamics; 1161 Buckeye Road, Lima, Ohio 45804.

Project Description and Amount: Joint Systems Manufacturing Center-Lima (JSMC) has developed, designed, installed and implemented an N-STEP Enabled Reconfigurable Manufacturing Cell and has completed performance demonstration phases using automatic processes. To make the core equipment production ready for FCS, specific weld process development using the Friction Appurtenance Welder, FAW, must be completed. This funding request will provide for the necessary technical resources required to develop the weld machine parameters/specifications for support of vehicle production activities. \$2,400,000.

Project Name: Electronic Motion Actuation Systems.

Bill Number: H.R. 2638.

Account: RDTE, N.

Requesting Entity: Moog; FloTork Facility, 1701 North Main Street, P.O. Box 68, Orrville, Ohio 44667.

Project Description and Amount: The purpose of the project is to develop shipboard-qualified prototype electric actuators and demonstrate their satisfactory performance in shipboard applications. Successful completion of the technology will reduce shipboard personnel and reduce repair and maintenance costs. The Department of the Navy has repeatedly stated its desire for an all-electric ship. The target ship for this concept is the DDX which is due to hit the water in 2010. Environmental hazards associated with hydraulic systems will also be eliminated by moving to an electric actuator. \$800,000.

Project Name: Barracks, Camp Perry Training Site, Port Clinton, Ohio.

Bill Number: H.R. 2638.

Account: Department of Defense, Army National Guard.

Military Facility Address: Ohio National Guard, Camp Perry Training Site, 1000 Lawrence Road, Port Clinton, Ohio 43452.

Project Description and Amount: Provide \$2 million in P-341, unspecified minor military construction, funds pursuant to Title 10 U.S. Code 2805, to construct a new 80-bed barracks at the Ohio National Guard's Camp Perry Training Site, Port Clinton, OH. The request will increase the readiness of our servicemen and women in the Ohio National Guard and help them better prepare for the challenges they face both at home and abroad. \$2,000,000.

IN HONOR OF DR. SCOTT KENNEDY

**HON. SAM FARR**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 25, 2008*

Mr. FARR. Madam Speaker, I am proud today to rise to pay tribute to Dr. Scott Kennedy, a former mayor of Santa Cruz, CA. Dr. Kennedy has been named the 2008 recipient of the El-Hibri Charitable Peace Education Prize—which rightly recognizes his tireless, selfless and fearless promotion of peace and social justice in the Middle East and around the world.

It is with great pleasure that I call attention to Dr. Scott Kennedy's work to bring peace to the world over the course of his lifetime. He has been a Peace Educator for 40 years and was instrumental in pioneering educational delegations to conflict zones, now a widely practiced form of peace education. Scott has personally led more than three dozen delegations to the Middle East since 1979. He also helped establish Witness for Peace, which brought thousands of U.S. citizens to Nicaragua on short educational delegations.

Scott Kennedy co-founded the Resource Center for Nonviolence in Santa Cruz, CA, which is one of the most active community-based peace education centers in the Nation. The Center has been host to world-renowned international speakers, workshops, and programs focusing on the need for peaceful and just resolution of conflicts both locally and

globally, and I have been privileged to be a participant in these activities.

Scott has actively served on the board of many organizations that teach and exemplify peace and empowerment, including the Fellowship of Reconciliation, Middle East Witness, Refuser Solidarity Network, Middle East Advisory Committee of the American Friends Service Committee, Isla Vista Youth Project, Thomas Merton Unity (Nonviolence) Center, the Isla Vista People's Life Fund, California Youth Advocate Program, National Youth Advocate Program, and the Interfaith Peace-Builders.

Madam Speaker, true men of peace grace generations and, in my lifetime, I have witnessed Mohandas Gandhi, Martin Luther King, and Nelson Mandela. I am proud to commend Scott Kennedy as a true man of peace, and I am proud to call him my friend.

REMARKS IN RECOGNITION OF T.  
JACK FOSTER

**HON. JACKIE SPEIER**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 25, 2008*

Ms. SPEIER. Madam Speaker, this evening I salute one of the young pioneers of the 12th Congressional District. T. Jack Foster, Jr. in his 80th year, is being honored by the Rotary Club of Foster City on Saturday, September 27, 2008.

In 1960, after a successful career in Honolulu, Hawaii, where he constructed over 1500 single family homes, T. Jack Foster moved to San Mateo County to join his father, T. Jack Senior and brothers, J.R. and Richard, in planning and building a vital, safe and environmentally sound community that would become known as Foster City, California.

Foster City is now a successful bedroom, office and retail community of 30,000 full-time residents and an equal number of employees who commute to the many companies doing business there. A city like no other, it is built around a series of lagoons and canals that not only provide beautiful views, but enhance the city with a vast array of recreational opportunities.

Born July 21, 1928 in Norman, Oklahoma, Jack received a degree in Business Administration from the University of Oklahoma, where he was Editor of the Sooner Yearbook and inducted into Phi Eta Sigma and Beta Gamma Sigma honorary societies. After college, he served two years of active duty in the United States Air Force before launching his real estate career.

Jack and his lovely and vivacious wife, the former Patricia Chesnut, live in San Mateo. They have a daughter, Lee and two sons, T. Jack III and Mark. Their six creative and energetic grandchildren take after talented grandpa, who is an accomplished singer, actor and tap dancer who has entertained thousands by performing in many local theater productions.

Madam Speaker, Jack is a longtime friend and, on occasion, a gentle critic. He cares passionately about San Mateo County, its people, policies and environment. Jack has given back as much as he has received in his long and fruitful life. He has worked tirelessly to advance healthcare opportunities as Presi-

dent of the Comprehensive Health Planning Council of San Mateo County and first Chairman of the Health Network Consortium of San Mateo County. He has also served as Chairman of the San Mateo County Economic Development Association and is a past President of the Peninsula Community Foundation.

Jack and Pat were notably and appropriately honored as 2000 Volunteers of the Year by the Volunteer Center.

Madam Speaker, my district and our San Francisco Bay Area would be a different place without the vision and hard work of the Foster family. It gives me great joy to inform the rest of our nation of the lifetime of service of T. Jack Foster and his exceptional family. I wish him a very happy birthday and hopes for many, many more and bestow my congratulations on him for this latest honor.

IN COMMEMORATION OF THE  
NATIONAL DAY OF TAIWAN

**HON. DAVID WU**

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 25, 2008*

Mr. WU. Madam Speaker, I would like to offer my warmest wishes and congratulations to the people of Taiwan in commemoration of the National Day of the Republic of China (Taiwan), which is celebrated every year on October 10.

In March of this year, the people of Taiwan participated in Taiwan's fourth direct and democratic presidential election. The smooth and peaceful transition from one administration to another is a testament to Taiwan's continued dedication to the principles of democracy, human rights, and the rule of law. I commend the people of Taiwan for building a democratic, peaceful, and prosperous island.

For more than 50 years, the United States and Taiwan have fostered a close relationship, which has been of mutual political, economic, cultural, and strategic advantage. In celebration of this year's Double Tenth National Day, it is my hope that the United States, Taiwan, and the People's Republic of China can work together to promote enduring peace, stability, and prosperity in the Asia-Pacific region, especially in the Taiwan Strait.

CONGRESSMAN RAY LAHOOD'S  
DEDICATION TO PUBLIC SERVICE

**HON. NICK J. RAHALL II**

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 25, 2008*

Mr. RAHALL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize a dear friend and colleague, Congressman RAY LAHOOD. RAY has been a faithful servant to the people of the 18th District of Illinois since first being elected in 1994 to the 104th Congress. Before that he was a schoolteacher, a longtime community leader, member of the Illinois General Assembly and Chief of Staff for former U.S. House Minority Leader Robert Michel. Each of these opportunities furthered his dedication to serving the American people and eventually led him to serve as a Member of the U.S. House of Representatives.

RAY and I have worked closely together over the years on a number of issues, but one that has always been near to our hearts because of its importance to the United States, has been our work with the nation of Lebanon, the land of our ancestors. As Members of Congress who are deeply interested in Lebanon, the people of Lebanon, and the ability of Lebanon to rise above the turmoil and conflicts which have overtaken the country, we are able to view the recent election of the new Lebanese President as a strong signal to the world that progress and forward movement continues to be made in the Middle East.

RAY has always had a deep respect for the institution of Congress, a trait which can be attested to by any and all who have served with him over the years. While RAY has left many lasting legacies during his time here in the House of Representatives, for me his friendship will be one I continue to treasure the most as he, his wife Kathy and their family move on to this new chapter in their lives.

Although it seems that we as a Congress can't find ourselves in agreement on many things, one thing that is beyond dispute is that Ray has embodied the ideal of the civil servant who tirelessly has served the interests of the American people.

IN CELEBRATION OF THE FIFTH  
ANNIVERSARY OF ALMA VIA

**HON. JACKIE SPEIER**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 25, 2008*

Ms. SPEIER. Madam Speaker, among the most vulnerable in our society are those in our elder population.

That is why I have such profound respect and deep gratitude for the good work done by Alma Via of San Francisco. Alma Via is an assisted living and memory care community that services the senior community in the San Francisco Bay Area. They celebrate five excellent years of service this fall, on November 1, 2008.

Alma Via is a member of Elder Care Alliance, a nonprofit faith-based organization committed to serving and enriching the physical, emotional and spiritual well-being of older adults. Their sponsors, the Sisters of Mercy, Burlingame, and the Sierra Pacific Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America, bring a 130-year tradition of service to their communities and commitment to enhancing the quality of life for elders through creative programs and supportive services.

The Elder Care Alliance is composed of six communities in California and serves 700 elders. Their programs include special services for those with early to late stage dementia and without them, many of these older Americans would possibly not receive treatment. Their loving and professional communities are staffed by 620 dedicated staff members who provide daily care for residents in a manner that respects and celebrates the dignity and inherent worth of each person.

Madam Speaker, I can personally attest to the excellence and compassion of the Sisters of Mercy. Wherever they choose to serve, their mission always moves their community and the world forward. The good work provided by Alma Via and the Elder Care Alliance

is certainly no different. I ask you to join me in commending them for the important and necessary role they play in society by working tirelessly to help an expanding number of adults who desire to remain vital and active in their later years.

**EARMARK DECLARATION**

**HON. TED POE**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 25, 2008*

Mr. POE. Madam Speaker, pursuant to the Republican Leadership standards on earmarks, I am submitting the following information for publication in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD regarding earmarks I received as part of H.R. 2638, the Consolidated Security, Disaster Assistance, and Continuing Appropriations Act for FY09.

Account: Army, RDT&E, Army Missile Defense Systems Integration (Non-Space).

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Lamar University.

Address of Requesting Entity: 4400 MLK Blvd., P.O. Box 10009, Beaumont, TX 77710.

Description of Request: The Advanced Fuel Cell Research Program (AFC) at Lamar University is currently operating fuel cell test beds on behalf of U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command (USASMDC) that simulates power requirements and characterizes alternative power and storage capabilities for a wide variety of USASMDC systems. Critical need continues to exist for an efficient and clean advanced renewable energy source to meet urgent U.S. Army space and missile defense battlefield requirements. AFC continues to develop, test and validate advanced fuel cell technologies necessary to enable lightweight, power efficient, environmentally clean, and cost-effective renewable energy technology and products for Army space and missile defense systems including: sensors, radars, weapons, and communications. The FY09 request will leverage fuel cell technology achievements funded through previous DoD Appropriations bills by transitioning prototype lightweight fuel cells into Army renewable power products. UAV (unmanned aerial vehicle) prototypes integrated with the AFC-developed fuel cells will be flight-tested and demonstrated under field conditions to validate reliable, long duration, and quality power for missile defense situational awareness missions. The AFC's advanced hydride fuel cell will validate the UAV's unique long loitering time and stealth capabilities for critical extended endurance surveillance missions. Amount Received: \$3,000,000. These funds will be used to pay labor costs for 22 full time personnel, lab and test bed equipment and supplies, and facilities improvement.

Account: Department of Homeland Security, U.S. Coast Guard Bridge Replacement.

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Gulf Intra-coastal Canal Association.

Address of Requesting Entity: 2010 Butler Drive, Friendswood, TX 77546.

Description of Request: Galveston Causeway Railroad Bridge Replacement. Today, 21 thousand barges move 29 million tons of cargo worth \$10 billion through the Galveston Bridge each year. In 2001, after a lengthy review process, the bridge was declared a haz-

ard to navigation by the Coast Guard under the Truman Hobbs Act. The current estimated cost of replacement is almost \$68 million. This request is consistent with the intended and authorized purpose of the Department of Homeland Security, U.S. Coast Guard, under the Truman Hobbs Act. Amount Received: \$4,000,000. Under the Truman Hobbs Act, the federal government pays 90 percent of replacement cost and the bridge owner, Galveston County pays 10 percent.

**VETERANS' BENEFITS  
IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 2008**

SPEECH OF

**HON. BOB FILNER**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 24, 2008*

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

S. 3023, as amended, the Veterans' Benefits Improvement Act of 2008, reflects a Compromise Agreement reached by the House and Senate Committees on Veterans' Affairs (the Committees) on the following bills reported during the 110th Congress: H.R. 674; H.R. 3681, as amended; H.R. 3889, as amended; H.R. 4255, as amended; H.R. 5664, as amended; H.R. 5892, as amended; H.R. 6221, as amended; H.R. 6225, as amended, and H.R. 6832 (House Bills); S. 1315, as amended; and S. 3023, as amended (Senate Bills).

H.R. 674 passed the House on July 31, 2008; H.R. 3681, as amended, passed the House on May 20, 2008; H.R. 3889, as amended, passed the House on May 20, 2008; H.R. 4255, as amended, passed the House on July 31, 2008; H.R. 5664, as amended, passed the House on May 20, 2008; H.R. 5892, as amended, passed the House on July 30, 2008; H.R. 6221, as amended, passed the House on July 31, 2008; H.R. 6225, as amended, passed the House on July 31, 2008; H.R. 6832 passed the House on September 11, 2008; S. 1315, as amended, passed the Senate on April 24, 2008, and passed the House, as amended, on September 22, 2008; and S. 3023, as amended, passed the Senate on September 16, 2008.

The Committees have prepared the following explanation of S. 3023, as further amended, to reflect a Compromise Agreement between the Committees. Differences between the provisions contained in the Compromise Agreement and the related provisions of the House Bills and the Senate Bills are noted in this document, except for clerical corrections, conforming changes made necessary by the Compromise Agreement, and minor drafting, technical, and clarifying changes.

**TITLE I—COMPENSATION AND PENSION  
MATTERS**

**REGULATIONS ON CONTENTS OF NOTICE  
TO BE PROVIDED CLAIMANTS BY THE  
DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS  
REGARDING THE SUBSTANTIATION OF  
CLAIMS**

CURRENT LAW

Under current law, the Secretary has general authority to issue regulations.

SENATE BILL

Section 101 of S. 3023, as amended, would amend subsection (a) of section 5103 of title 38, United States Code, to add a new paragraph that would require the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to promulgate regulations specifying the content of notices required by the Veterans Claims Assistance Act (VCAA). The regulations required by S.

3023 would provide that the notice specify for each type of claim for benefits the general information and evidence required to substantiate the claim. The regulations would specify different content of the notices depending on the type of claim concerned, whether it be an original claim, a claim for reopening, or a claim for increase in benefits. The Senate bill would provide authority for additional or alternative content for notice if appropriate to the particular benefit or services sought under the claim. The regulations would also be required to include in the notice the time period within which such information and evidence must be submitted. The provision would be applicable only to notices which would be sent on or after the date the regulations are effective.

HOUSE BILL

The House Bills contain no comparable provision.

COMPROMISE AGREEMENT

Section 101 of the Compromise Agreement generally follows the Senate language.

The Committees note that the notice required by section 5103 applies to all types of applications for benefits and services. While the Committees recognize that veterans seeking service-connected compensation are most likely to receive VCAA notices, the Compromise Agreement specifically provides that the notice shall provide that the content of notices be appropriate to the type of benefits or services sought. The Committees intend that the Compromise Agreement would require a notice involving a pension claim to have different content than a notice concerning a clothing allowance or a claim for specially adapted housing.

The Committees emphasize that VCAA notices are required only in cases in which additional information or evidence is needed to substantiate the claim. If the information and evidence needed to substantiate the claim is submitted with the application or contained in the claims file, no VCAA notice is required. For example, claims for education, health care, housing, vocational rehabilitation, and burial benefits might contain sufficient information and evidence to substantiate the claim without the necessity of a VCAA notice.

In other respects, the Committees agree that Senate Report 110-148 contains a full explanation of the provision contained in the Compromise Agreement.

**JUDICIAL REVIEW OF ADOPTION AND  
REVISION BY THE SECRETARY OF VET-  
ERANS AFFAIRS OF THE SCHEDULE OF  
RATINGS FOR DISABILITIES OF VET-  
ERANS**

CURRENT LAW

Under current law, section 502 of title 38, judicial review of actions involving VA's rating schedule for disabilities is prohibited.

SENATE BILL

Section 102 of S. 3023, as amended, would authorize the United States Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit to review VA actions relating to the adoption or revision of the VA disability rating schedule in the same manner as other comparable actions of the Secretary are reviewed.

HOUSE BILL

The House Bills contain no comparable provision.

COMPROMISE AGREEMENT

Section 102 of the Compromise Agreement follows the Senate language.

CONFORMING AMENDMENT RELATING TO NON-Deductibility FROM VETERANS' DISABILITY COMPENSATION OF DISABILITY SEVERANCE PAY FOR DISABILITIES INCURRED BY MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES IN COMBAT ZONES

## CURRENT LAW

Section 1212 of title 10 stipulates the amount of severance pay available to members of the Armed Forces who separate due to a disability incurred in the line of duty. Section 1646 of the Wounded Warrior Act, title XVI of Public Law 110-181, amended section 1212 to adjust the computation of the amount of such severance pay and to eliminate the requirement that severance pay received by servicemembers for a disability incurred in a combat zone be deducted from VA compensation.

Section 1161 of title 38 stipulates that the deduction of disability severance pay from disability compensation shall be made at a monthly rate not in excess of the rate of compensation to which the individual would be entitled based on the individual's disability rating. Section 1161 makes reference to subsection 1212(c) of title 10. However, Public Law 110-181 did not include a conforming amendment to keep section 1161 consistent with the changes made to section 1212.

## SENATE BILL

Section 104 of S. 3023, as amended, would make a conforming amendment, so that section 1161 of title 38 will be consistent with section 1212 of title 10. The amendment would take effect on January 28, 2008, as if it had been included in the Wounded Warrior Act. As a result, the amended section 1161 of title 38 would reflect the change to section 1212 of title 10 eliminating the requirement that severance pay for a disability incurred in a combat zone be deducted from disability compensation from VA.

## HOUSE BILL

The House Bills contain no comparable provision.

## COMPROMISE AGREEMENT

Section 103 of the Compromise Agreement follows the Senate language.

REPORT ON PROGRESS OF THE SECRETARY OF VETERANS AFFAIRS IN ADDRESSING CAUSES FOR VARIANCES IN COMPENSATION PAYMENTS FOR VETERANS FOR SERVICE-CONNECTED DISABILITIES

## CURRENT LAW

There is no applicable provision in current law.

## SENATE BILL

Section 105 of S. 3023, as amended, would require VA to submit a report to Congress describing the Department's progress in addressing the causes for any unacceptable variances in compensation payments to veterans.

Section 105 would require VA to submit a report to the Committees on Veterans' Affairs of the Senate and the House of Representatives describing the Department's progress in addressing the causes of unacceptable variances in compensation payments to veterans for service-connected disabilities. The report would be due to the Committees not later than one year after the date of enactment of this section.

Section 105 would require the report to include three specific elements: (1) a description of the Veterans Benefits Administration's efforts to coordinate with the Veterans Health Administration (VHA) to improve the quality of disability examinations performed by VHA and contract clinicians,

including the use of standardized templates; (2) an assessment of the current personnel requirements at each regional office for each type of claims adjudication position; and (3) a description of the differences, if any, in current patterns of submittal rates for claims from various segments of the veterans population, including veterans from rural and highly rural areas, minority veterans, veterans who served in the National Guard or Reserve, and military retirees.

## HOUSE BILL

The House Bills contain no comparable provision.

## COMPROMISE AGREEMENT

Section 104 of the Compromise Agreement generally follows the Senate language. The Committees acknowledge that it is unreasonable to expect states to have exactly the same average compensation or percentage of veterans receiving compensation. In determining whether differences are unacceptable, the Committees expect that the Secretary would identify those that do not result from such basis demographic discrepancies.

EXTENSION OF TEMPORARY AUTHORITY FOR THE PERFORMANCE OF MEDICAL DISABILITY EXAMINATIONS BY CONTRACT PHYSICIANS

## CURRENT LAW

Public Law 104-275, the Veterans' Benefits Improvements Act of 1996, authorized VA to carry out a pilot program of contract disability examinations at ten VA regional offices using amounts available for payment of compensation and pensions. Public Law 108-183, the Veterans Benefits Act of 2003, provided additional authority to VA, on a time-limited basis, to contract for disability examinations using appropriated funds. This additional authority expires on December 31, 2009.

## SENATE BILL

Section 604 of S. 3023, as amended, would amend section 704(c) of the Veterans Benefits Act of 2003 (Public Law 108-183) by striking "December 31, 2009" and inserting "December 31, 2012." This would extend VA's authority, through December 31, 2012, to use appropriated funds for the purpose of contracting with non-VA providers to conduct disability examinations.

## HOUSE BILL

The House Bills contain no comparable provision.

## COMPROMISE AGREEMENT

Section 105 of the Compromise Agreement follows the Senate language except that the authority extends only until December 31, 2010.

ADDITION OF OSTEOPOROSIS TO DISABILITIES PRESUMED TO BE SERVICE-CONNECTED IN FORMER PRISONERS OF WAR WITH POST-TRAUMATIC STRESS DISORDER

## CURRENT LAW

Subsection 1112(b) of title 38 contains two lists of diseases that are presumed to be related to an individual's experience as a prisoner of war. The first presumptive list, in paragraph (2) of section 1112(b), requires no minimum internment period and includes diseases associated with mental trauma or acute physical trauma which could plausibly be caused by even a single day of captivity. The second presumptive list, found under paragraph (3) of section 1112(b), has a 30-day minimum internment requirement.

## SENATE BILL

Section 601 of S. 1315, as amended, would add osteoporosis in veterans whom the Secretary has previously determined have post-

traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), to the list of disabilities presumed to be service-connected in former prisoners of war found under paragraph (3) of section 1112(b) of title 38.

## HOUSE BILL

The House Bills contain no comparable provision.

## COMPROMISE AGREEMENT

Section 106 of the Compromise Agreement follows the Senate language.

TITLE II—MODERNIZATION OF DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS DISABILITY COMPENSATION SYSTEM

## SUBTITLE A—BENEFITS MATTERS

## AUTHORITY FOR TEMPORARY

## DISABILITY RATINGS

## CURRENT LAW

Under current law, the Secretary has, under the Secretary's general authority, issued regulations providing temporary ratings for veterans with unstabilized medical conditions who are recently discharged from active duty, hospitalized veterans, veterans undergoing convalescent care, and veterans who are discharged from active duty with a mental disorder that develops as the result of a highly stressful event.

## HOUSE BILL

Section 109 of H.R. 5892, as amended, would have provided VA with authority to issue partial ratings and to act in a more expeditious manner for claims presenting undisputed severe and very severe injuries and in turn provide compensation more quickly where the service-connection link is indisputable. VA currently possesses the ability to issue partial ratings, although this authority is not expressly stated in statute. H.R. 5892, as amended, would expressly grant VA that authority and require VA to issue a partial rating in the instances where a veteran has sustained severe injuries (50 percent or above) and very severe injuries (100 percent) that can be promptly rated, while deferring other conditions that may not be ready to rate. VA and the Department of Defense (DOD) have defined these conditions, and they include limb amputations, paralysis, traumatic brain injury (TBI), severe burns, blindness, deafness, along with other radical injuries.

The House bill also further clarified the language so that VA could rate the indisputable injuries based solely on the Department of Defense medical records, which would be extensive for these categories of injuries.

## SENATE BILL

The Senate Bills contain no comparable provision.

## COMPROMISE AGREEMENT

Section 211 of the Compromise Agreement would codify the various provisions for temporary ratings contained in current regulations. Specifically, the Committees intend to provide a specific statutory basis for the regulations currently found at sections 4.28, 4.29, 4.30 and 4.129 of title 38, Code of Federal Regulations.

In addition to the authority currently contained in regulations, the Compromise Agreement provides that veterans discharged or released from active duty within 365 days of application who have stabilized medical conditions would be eligible to receive a temporary rating under certain circumstances. In general, veterans with stabilized disabilities would be eligible to receive a temporary rating under conditions which are similar to those applied to veterans with unstabilized conditions when a total rating is not immediately assignable.

The Committees intend that, under this new authority, a veteran who has a stabilized condition, such as a healed amputation, but has one or more severe disabilities for which a total rating is not immediately assignable under the regular provisions of the rating schedule or on the basis of Individual Unemployability, could qualify for a temporary rating when employment was adversely impacted by such disabilities. The Compromise Agreement would permit such a veteran to be eligible to receive a temporary rating when such veteran has severe disabilities that result in substantially gainful employment not being feasible or advisable or the veteran has unhealed or incompletely healed wounds or injuries that make material impairment of employability likely. The Committees intend that, in considering eligibility for a temporary rating under this section, both stabilized and unstabilized conditions could be considered in determining the impact of such disabilities upon employment.

The rating assigned under these conditions would be as prescribed by the Secretary in regulations. The Committees note that, where current regulations are adequate to address the conditions for temporary ratings, as set forth in this section, the Secretary would not be required to issue new regulations.

#### SUBSTITUTION UPON DEATH OF CLAIMANT

##### CURRENT LAW

Currently, upon the death of a claimant with a claim or appeal pending adjudication at the time of death, the surviving spouse or other beneficiary is unable to take up the claim where it is in the process and must refile the claim separately as if submitting a new claim. Section 5121 of title 38 allows for survivors, in order of priority, to refile this new claim for accrued benefits.

##### HOUSE BILL

Section 111 of H.R. 5892, as amended, would provide that, in the event of the death of a veteran with a pending disability claim, an eligible dependent as identified under section 5121(a)(2) of title 38 would be authorized to substitute for the deceased claimant rather than being forced to re-file and restart the claim or appeal. This provision would also allow an eligible survivor to submit additional evidence for up to one year after the death of a veteran. This provision further stipulates that only one person may be treated as the claimant under this section. Additionally, if the person who would be eligible to be a claimant under this section certifies to the Secretary that he or she does not want to be treated as the claimant for such purposes, he or she may designate the person who could then be entitled to receive the benefits under this section. The effective date of this section would apply only to claims of veterans who die on or after the date of enactment.

##### SENATE BILL

The Senate bill contains no comparable provisions.

##### COMPROMISE AGREEMENT

Section 212 of the Compromise Agreement generally follows the House language. However, the Compromise Agreement stipulates that, not later than one year after the date of the death of the claimant, the individual who would be eligible to receive accrued benefits under section 5121(a) of title 38 must file a request to be substituted as the claimant for the purpose of processing the claim to completion. This is the same time period within which claimants for accrued benefits are required to file an application for accrued benefits must file such a claim under

current law. Under the Compromise Agreement, any person seeking substitution shall present evidence of the right to claim such status within the time period prescribed by the Secretary in regulations.

#### REPORT ON COMPENSATION OF VETERANS FOR LOSS OF EARNING CAPACITY AND QUALITY OF LIFE AND ON LONG-TERM TRANSITION PAYMENTS TO VETERANS UNDERGOING REHABILITATION FOR SERVICE-CONNECTED DISABILITIES

##### CURRENT LAW

Under chapter 11 of title 38, VA pays compensation to veterans who suffer disabilities as a result of an injury or disease incurred or aggravated in the line of duty during active duty. Section 1155 of title 38 requires VA to adopt and apply a schedule of disability ratings, which is used to determine the amount of compensation that will be provided. That schedule is based on the average impairment of earning capacity caused by a service-connected disability.

In July 2007, the President's Commission on Care for America's Returning Wounded Warriors recommended that Congress restructure VA disability payments to include transition payments and that VA update the rating schedule to reflect current injuries and the impact of disability on quality of life. In 2008, the Secretary entered into a contract to conduct studies on those issues. The studies examined the appropriate level of disability compensation to be paid to veterans to compensate for loss of earning capacity and loss of quality of life as a result of service-connected disabilities. The studies also examined the feasibility and appropriate level of long-term transition payments to veterans who are separated from the Armed Forces due to a disability while those veterans are undergoing a program of rehabilitation.

##### SENATE BILL

Section 106 of S. 3023, as amended, would require the Secretary to provide Congress with a report regarding the results of studies examining the appropriate compensation to be provided to veterans for loss of earning capacity and loss of quality of life caused by service-connected disabilities and examining long-term transition payments to veterans undergoing rehabilitation for service-connected disabilities.

Section 106 also would require the Secretary to submit to Congress a report including a comprehensive description of the findings and recommendations of those studies; a description of the actions proposed to be taken by the Secretary in light of those findings and recommendations, including a description of any proposed modifications to the VA disability rating schedule or to other regulations or policies; a schedule for the commencement and completion of any actions proposed to be taken; and a description of any legislative action required in order to authorize, facilitate, or enhance any of the proposed actions. That report would be due no later than 210 days after the date of enactment.

##### HOUSE BILL

Section 102(a) of H.R. 5892, as amended, would require the Secretary to conduct a study on adjusting the schedule for rating disabilities adopted and applied under section 1155 of title 38. It would require VA to complete the study within 180 days after the date of enactment and would require VA, within 60 days after completing the study, to submit to Congress a report on the study. Not later than 120 days after the Secretary submits the report, the Secretary would be required to submit a plan for readjusting the rating schedule.

##### COMPROMISE AGREEMENT

Section 213 of the Compromise Agreement generally follows the Senate language.

#### ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON DISABILITY COMPENSATION

##### CURRENT LAW

There is no applicable provision in current law.

##### HOUSE BILL

Section 102(d) of H.R. 5892, as amended, would require the Secretary to establish an 18-member Advisory Committee on Disability Compensation. The Committee would consist of individuals who have demonstrated civic or professional achievement and who have experience in the provision of disability compensation or have other relevant scientific or medical expertise. The Secretary would determine the terms of pay and service of such members, but their terms of service would not exceed two years. The Secretary would be authorized to reappoint members for subsequent terms.

Section 102 would require the Committee to be responsible for providing advice to the Secretary with respect to the maintenance and periodic adjustment of the rating schedule.

It would also require the Committee to submit annual reports to the Secretary and require the Secretary to submit reports and recommendations to the Committees on Veterans' Affairs of the House and Senate.

##### SENATE BILL

The Senate Bills contain no comparable provision.

##### COMPROMISE AGREEMENT

Section 214 of the Compromise Agreement contains the House provision with modifications. The Committees intend that this Committee provide medical and scientific advice to the Secretary concerning the maintenance and readjustment of the rating schedule. Therefore, the Compromise Agreement provides that membership be limited to individuals with experience with the provision of disability compensation by the Department or individuals who are leading medical or scientific experts in relevant fields. The Compromise Agreement extends the term of service of such members to four years and provides that the terms are to be staggered so as to provide for continuity of membership on the Committee. The Compromise Agreement provides that the Secretary shall appoint a Chair of the Committee.

The Compromise Agreement specifically provides that the Secretary shall ensure that appropriate personnel, funding, and other resources are provided to the Committee to carry out its responsibilities. The Compromise Agreement requires the Committee to submit biennial reports to the Secretary. The Compromise Agreement requires the Secretary to submit such biennial reports to the Committees on Veterans' Affairs of the Senate and House together with the recommendations of the Committee and the Secretary.

#### SUBTITLE B—ASSISTANCE AND PROCESSING MATTERS

#### PILOT PROGRAMS ON EXPEDITED TREATMENT OF FULLY DEVELOPED CLAIMS AND PROVISION OF CHECKLISTS TO INDIVIDUALS SUBMITTING CLAIMS

##### CURRENT LAW

Section 5103 of title 38 requires the Secretary to notify a claimant of the information and medical or lay evidence needed to substantiate the claimant's claim. Under section 5103A of title 38, the Secretary is required to assist the claimant by making reasonable efforts to obtain evidence necessary

to substantiate the claimant's claim. In claims for service-connection, this duty includes obtaining records held by any Federal department or agency and by providing a medical examination or opinion necessary to make a determination on the claim. VA is required to comply with these laws before issuing a decision on the claim.

## HOUSE BILL

Section 107(a) of H.R. 5892, as amended, would require the Secretary to provide for the expeditious treatment of any fully developed claim. A fully developed claim would be defined as a claim for which the claimant received assistance from a veterans service officer, a State or county veterans service officer, an agent, an attorney or for which the claimant submits with the claim an indication that the claimant does not want to submit any additional information and does not require assistance with respect to the claim. The claimant would certify in writing that no additional information is available or needed to be submitted in order for the claim to be adjudicated. The Secretary would be required to decide such claims within 90 days of submittal.

Section 107(b) of H.R. 5892, as amended, would require the Secretary to amend the notice required by section 5103 of title 38 to require the creation of a detailed checklist for claims for specific requests of additional information or evidence.

The checklist would be required to be developed within 180 days of enactment.

## SENATE BILL

The Senate Bills contain no comparable provision.

## COMPROMISE AGREEMENT

Section 221 of the Compromise Agreement accepts the House provision with an amendment that creates two pilot programs to test the effectiveness of providing expedited treatment of fully-developed claims and providing an additional checklist that includes information or evidence required to be submitted by the claimant to substantiate the claim. The pilot program on expedited treatment of fully developed claims would be carried out at 10 VA regional offices for a period of one year beginning 60 days after the date of enactment; the pilot program on the provision of checklists to individuals submitting claims would be carried out at four VA regional offices for a period of one year beginning 60 days after the date of enactment for original claims and for a period of three years beginning 60 days after the date of enactment for reopened claims and claims for increased disability ratings. The Secretary would be required to provide interim reports for each pilot authorized under this section and final reports would be due to Congress upon conclusion of the pilots.

The Compromise Agreement provides that such checklist be construed as an addendum to the notice require by section 5103 of title 38 and shall not be considered as part of the notice for purposes of reversal or remand of a decision of the Secretary. As such, the Committees stress that these checklists are intended to serve only as guidance for claimants and that any errors in these checklists should not be the basis for a remand of the claimant's claim.

The Committees expect that, in selecting locations for the pilot projects, the Secretary shall ensure that regional offices of various size and geographic location are included in the pilot projects. The Committees encourage the Secretary to locate the four pilot programs for the checklist at locations selected for the expedited claims pilot projects.

## OFFICE OF SURVIVORS ASSISTANCE

## CURRENT LAW

There is no relevant provision in current law.

## HOUSE BILL

Section 101 of H.R. 5892, as amended, would require VA to create an Office of Survivors Assistance (Office) within the Veterans Benefits Administration that would provide policy and program analysis and oversight regarding all benefits and services delivered by the VA to survivors of deceased veterans and servicemembers.

The Office would be responsible for ensuring that survivors and dependents of deceased veterans and deceased members of the Armed Forces have access to applicable benefits and services provided under title 38. The Office would also be responsible for regular and consistent monitoring of benefits delivery to survivors and dependents and ensuring that appropriate referrals are made with respect to various administrations within the VA.

The Office would act as a primary advisor to the Secretary on all matters related to the policies, programs, legislative issues, and other initiatives affecting such survivors and dependents.

The Secretary would be required to identify and include the activities of the Office in the annual report to Congress under section 529 of title 38.

In establishing the Office, the Secretary would have to seek guidance from interested stakeholders, including veterans service organizations and other service organizations.

The Secretary would be required to ensure that appropriate personnel, funding, and other resources are provided to the Office to carry out its responsibilities.

## SENATE BILL

The Senate Bills contain no comparable provisions.

## COMPROMISE AGREEMENT

Section 222 of the Compromise Agreement follows the House language with modifications. In the Compromise Agreement, the Office is established in the Department rather than in the Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA). The Committees expect that, by placing the Office under the Department, the full spectrum of VA benefits and services for survivors would be addressed.

The Compromise Agreement does not specify the duties of the office in the legislation. However, the Committees intend that the Office be responsible for ensuring that the surviving spouses, children and parents of deceased veterans, including deceased members of the Armed Forces, have access to applicable benefits and services under title 38. The Committees expect that programs carried out by the Department for such survivors will be conducted in a manner that is responsive to their specific needs. The Committees expect the Office to conduct regular and consistent monitoring of the delivery of benefits and services to this population. The Committees expect the Office to ensure that policies and procedures are such that such survivors will receive appropriate referrals to the relevant administrations and offices of the Department, so that such survivors may receive all of the benefits and services for which they are eligible.

## COMPTROLLER GENERAL REPORT ON ADEQUACY OF DEPENDENCY AND INDEMNITY COMPENSATION TO MAINTAIN SURVIVORS OF VETERANS WHO DIE FROM SERVICE-CONNECTED DISABILITIES

## CURRENT LAW

VA dependency and indemnity compensation (DIC) is a benefit that is paid to survivors of certain veterans. To be eligible, the veteran's death must have resulted from: a disease or injury incurred or aggravated in the line of duty or active duty for training; an injury incurred or aggravated in the line

of duty while on inactive duty training; or, a service-connected disability or a condition directly related to a service-connected disability.

DIC may also be paid to survivors of veterans who were totally disabled from service-connected conditions at the time of death, even if the death was not cause by their service-connected disabilities. To be eligible for the benefit under this circumstance, the veteran must have been rated totally disabled for the ten years preceding death; rated totally disabled from the date of military discharge and for at least five years immediately preceding death; or, a former prisoner of war who died after September 30, 1999, and who was rated totally disabled for at least one year immediately preceding death.

Surviving spouses of veterans who died on or after January 1, 1993, receive a basic rate, plus additional amounts for dependent children. Surviving spouses of veterans who died prior to January 1, 1993, receive an amount based on the deceased veteran's military pay grade, plus additional amounts for dependents.

## SENATE BILL

Section 807 of S. 1315, as amended, would require the Comptroller General to report on the adequacy of DIC to maintain survivors of veterans who die from service-connected disabilities. The Comptroller General would be required to submit, to the Committees on Veterans' Affairs of the Senate and House of Representatives, a report regarding the adequacy of the benefits to survivors in replacing the deceased veteran's income. The Comptroller General would be required to include a description of the current system of payment of DIC to survivors, including a statement of DIC rates; an assessment of the adequacy of DIC in replacing a deceased veteran's income; and any recommendations that the Comptroller General considers appropriate in order to improve or enhance the effects of DIC in replacing the deceased veteran's income. The Comptroller General would be required to submit the report not later than ten months after the date of enactment of the provision.

## HOUSE BILL

The House Bills contain no comparable provision.

## COMPROMISE AGREEMENT

Section 223 of the Compromise Agreement follows the Senate language.

## INDEPENDENT ASSESSMENT OF QUALITY ASSURANCE PROGRAM

## CURRENT LAW

Section 7731 of title 38 requires the Secretary to carry out a quality assurance program within the Veterans Benefits Administration. Under this provision, the Secretary has elected to carry out a separate quality assurance program, the Systematic Technical Accuracy Review (STAR), for measuring compensation and pension claims processing accuracy.

## HOUSE BILL

Section 106 of H.R. 5892, as amended, would require the Secretary to contract with an independent third-party entity for an annual quality assurance assessment. The assessment would measure a statistically valid sample of VBA employees and their work product to assess quality and accuracy. The provision would also require the production of automated categorizable data to help identify trends. Under this provision, the Secretary would be required to use information gathered through the annual assessment to develop an employee certification as found in section 105 of H.R. 5892, as amended.

## SENATE BILL

The Senate Bills contain no similar provision.

## COMPROMISE AGREEMENT

Section 224 of the Compromise Agreement follows the House bill with modifications. Under the Compromise Agreement, the Secretary would enter into a contract with an independent third-party entity to conduct a three-year assessment of the quality assurance program. The Committees intend that this provision would be applicable only to quality assurance programs involving the adjudication of claims for compensation and pension benefits. The Compromise Agreement does not include language from section 106 of H.R. 5892, as amended, which would have expressly required the Secretary to ensure the accuracy and consistency across different regional offices with the Department as an amendment to 7731, of title 38, United States Code. However, the Committees agree that the Secretary should strive to reduce variances in ratings for disability compensation between regional offices. The Committees note that section 104 of the Compromise Agreement requires a report from the Secretary in addressing unacceptable variances in compensation payments.

The Compromise Agreement also contains provisions from the House bill which would require the Secretary to retain, monitor, and store in an accessible format certain data with respect to claims for service-connected disability compensation. The Committee recognizes that sex and race data are not kept by the Department within the database utilized by the Veterans Benefits Administration at this time and, therefore, excluded those items from the data required to be collected.

In other respects, the Compromise Agreement generally follows the House bill. The Committees agree that House Report 110-789 contains a full explanation of the House provisions which were modified in the Compromise Agreement.

## CERTIFICATION AND TRAINING OF EMPLOYEES OF THE VETERANS BENEFITS ADMINISTRATION RESPONSIBLE FOR PROCESSING CLAIMS

## CURRENT LAW

The Secretary has general authority to manage and provide for certification of employees of the Department. There is no specific applicable provision in current law.

## HOUSE BILL

Section 105 of H.R. 5892, as amended, would require the Secretary to develop a certification examination to test appropriate VBA employees and managers who are responsible for processing claims for benefits. The Secretary would be required to develop such examinations in consultation with specified stakeholders. The Secretary would be directed to require such employees and managers to take a certification examination. The Secretary would be prohibited from satisfying the requirements of the bill through the use of any certification examination or program that exists as of the date of enactment of the bill.

The House provision would also require the Secretary to contract with an outside entity to conduct an evaluation of VBA's training and quality assurance programs within 180 days of enactment and provide the results of such evaluation to Congress.

## SENATE BILL

The Senate Bills contain no comparable provision.

## COMPROMISE AGREEMENT

Section 225 of the Compromise Agreement follows the House language with modifications. The Compromise Agreement would apply only to employees and managers who are responsible for processing claims for compensation and pension benefits. By using

the general term "compensation and pension" benefits, the Committees intend that the provision would apply to employees and managers responsible for processing claims for all monetary benefits paid to veterans and survivors, including DIC, death compensation, death pension and benefits paid to children under chapter 18 of title 38.

Under the Compromise Agreement, the Secretary is required to consult with examination development experts, interested stakeholders, and employee representatives and consider the data produced under section 7731(c)(3) of title 38 as added by section 224 of the bill.

The Compromise Agreement does not contain the prohibition on use of certification examinations or programs that currently exist as in H.R. 5892, as amended. However, the Compromise Agreement requires the Secretary to develop an updated certification examination no later than one year after the date of enactment of this bill and to begin using the updated examination within 90 days after the date on which development of the updated examination is complete.

The Compromise Agreement does not include the House provision requiring that VA contract for an evaluation. However, it does require the Comptroller General of the United States to evaluate the training programs administered for employees of the Veterans Benefits Administration and submit a report on the findings of the evaluation to the Committees.

## STUDY OF PERFORMANCE MEASURES FOR CERTAIN EMPLOYEES OF THE VETERANS BENEFITS ADMINISTRATION

## CURRENT LAW

There is no applicable provision in current law.

## HOUSE BILL

Section 103 of H.R. 5892, as amended, would require the Secretary to conduct a study of VBA's work credit system, which is used to measure the work production of VBA employees. This section of the House bill would require that the Secretary consider the advisability of implementing: performance standards and accountability measures; guidelines and procedures for the prompt processing of claims that are ready to rate upon submission; guidelines and procedures for the processing of such claims submitted by severely injured and very severely injured veterans; and requirements for assessments of claims processing at each regional office for the purposes of producing lessons learned and best practices. A report on the study would be required no later than 180 days after the Secretary submits to Congress the report; and the Secretary would be obligated to establish a new system for evaluating work production. This section of H.R. 5892, as amended, would prohibit the Secretary from awarding a work credit to any employee of the Department if the Secretary has not implemented a new system within the time specified.

Section 104 of H.R. 5892, as amended, would require the Secretary to conduct a study on the work management system of the Veterans Benefits Administration designed to improve accountability, quality, and accuracy and reducing the time for processing claims for benefits.

## SENATE BILL

The Senate Bills contain no comparable provision.

## COMPROMISE AGREEMENT

Section 226 of the Compromise Agreement generally follows the House language with modifications. Under the Compromise Agree-

ment, the Secretary would be required to conduct a study on the effectiveness of the current employee work credit system and the work management system of the Veterans Benefits Administration which is used to measure and manage the work production of employees of the Veterans Benefits Administration who handle claims for compensation and pension benefits. The Secretary would be required to report to Congress on the work credit system and work management system no later than October 31, 2009. The report would be required to identify the components required to implement an updated system for evaluating such VBA employees.

In addition, the Compromise Agreement requires that not later than 210 days after the date on which the Secretary submits to Congress the report required under this section, the Secretary shall establish an updated system, based upon the findings of the study, for evaluating the performance and accountability of VBA employees who are responsible for processing claims for compensation or pension benefits.

## REVIEW AND ENHANCEMENT OF USE OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY IN VETERANS BENEFITS ADMINISTRATION

## CURRENT LAW

There is no applicable provision in current law.

## HOUSE BILL

Section 110 of H.R. 5892, as amended, would require the Secretary to conduct a review, no later than one year after the date of enactment of this Act, on the use of information technology within the Veterans Benefits Administration. It also requires the Secretary to develop a comprehensive plan for use of such technology in processing claims for benefits so as to reduce subjectivity, avoidable remands, and regional office variances in disability ratings for specific disabilities.

The House bill would also require that the comprehensive plan include information technology upgrades including web portals, rules-based expert systems, and decision support software.

Under the House bill, a report on the progress of the review and plan would be due to Congress by no later than January 1, 2009.

## SENATE BILL

The Senate Bills contain no comparable provision.

## COMPROMISE AGREEMENT

Section 227 of the Compromise Agreement generally follows the House bill, except that it clarifies two of the comprehensive plan requirements contained in section 110 of H.R. 5892, as amended. The Compromise Agreement gives the Secretary the discretion to include the following elements, to the extent practicable: the ability for benefits' claimants to view applications online and compliance with security requirements as noted in section 227 (b)(3)(B)(ii) of the Compromise Agreement.

The Compromise Agreement also requires that the plan be developed, not later than one year after date of enactment.

The Compromise Agreement requires, no later than April 1, 2010, a report to Congress on the review and the comprehensive plan required under this section.

## STUDY AND REPORT ON IMPROVING ACCESS TO MEDICAL ADVICE

## CURRENT LAW

There is no applicable provision in current law.

## HOUSE BILL

Section 108 of H.R. 5892, as amended, would require the Secretary to conduct a study to

evaluate the need of the Veterans Benefits Administration to employ medical professionals who are not physicians, to act as a medical reference for employees of the Administration so that such employees may accurately assess medical evidence submitted in support of claims for benefits under laws administered by the Secretary. The House bill would prohibit any medical professionals of the Veterans Health Administration from being employed to rate any disability or evaluate any claim. It would require the Secretary to conduct a statistically significant survey of VBA employees to ascertain whether, how, and to what degree medical professionals could provide assistance to such employee.

Section 108 would also require the Secretary to submit to Congress a report, within 180 days of enactment of the bill, to evaluate the need to employ such medical professionals. If the Secretary hired medical professionals pursuant to this study, the House bill would require that all employees of all VBA regional offices have access to the medical professionals.

## SENATE BILL

The Senate Bills contain no comparable provision.

## COMPROMISE AGREEMENT

Section 228 of the Compromise Agreement generally follows the House language with modifications. The Compromise Agreement requires the Secretary to conduct a study to assess the feasibility and advisability of various mechanisms to improve communication between the Veterans Benefits Administration and the Veterans Health Administration when needed by Veterans Benefits Administration employees to carry out their duties. The study is also required to evaluate whether additional medical professionals are necessary to provide access to relevant Veterans Benefits Administration employees. The Compromise Agreement omits the requirement in the House bill for a statistically significant study of employees.

## TITLE III—LABOR AND EDUCATION MATTERS

## SUBTITLE A—LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT MATTERS

## REFORM OF USERRA COMPLAINT PROCESS

## CURRENT LAW

Chapter 43 of title 38 provides reemployment and employment rights to servicemembers, veterans, and those who seek to join a uniformed service through the Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act (USERRA). Individuals can privately enforce their rights by filing a complaint in federal or state court, or, in the case of a complaint against a federal employer, by submitting a complaint to the Merit Systems Protection Board (MSPB). In addition, individuals can request assistance from the federal government by filing a complaint with the Department of Labor's Veterans' Employment and Training Service (DOL VETS), which investigates and attempts to resolve complaints, and, if requested, will refer complaints for litigation. DOL VETS refers complaints against federal agencies to the Office of Special Counsel (OSC) and complaints against private sector employers and state and local governments to the Attorney General. The Special Counsel or Attorney General may represent individuals before the MSPB or in federal court, respectively.

## SENATE BILL

Section 302 of S. 3023, as amended, would create deadlines for DOL VETS, OSC, and the Attorney General to provide assistance to servicemembers who believe that their rights under USERRA have been violated.

Within 5 days of receiving a USERRA complaint, DOL VETS would be required to notify a complainant in writing about his or her rights to receive governmental assistance, including the right to request a referral and the relevant deadlines that the federal agencies must meet and within 90 days of receiving the complaint, DOL VETS would be required to complete its assistance and investigation and notify the complainant of the results and his or her rights, including the right to request a referral and the deadlines federal agencies must meet. Within 48 days after receiving a request for a referral, DOL would be required to refer a complaint to OSC or the Attorney General. Within 60 days of receiving a referral, OSC or the Attorney General would be required to determine whether to provide legal representation to the complainant and notify the complainant of that decision in writing.

## HOUSE BILL

The House Bills contain no comparable provision.

## COMPROMISE AGREEMENT

Section 311 of the Compromise Agreement follows the Senate language.

## MODIFICATION AND EXPANSION OF REPORTING REQUIREMENTS WITH RESPECT TO ENFORCEMENT OF USERRA

## CURRENT LAW

Under current law, the Secretary of Labor must file an annual report to Congress that includes the number of cases reviewed by DOL VETS and the Department of Defense Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve, the number of cases referred to OSC and the Attorney General, and the number of complaints filed by the Attorney General.

## SENATE BILL

Section 303 of S. 3023, as amended, would expand the reporting requirements regarding the federal government's enforcement of USERRA by requiring data on the number of individuals whose cases are reviewed by both the Department of Defense Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (DOD ESGR), DOL VETS, OSC, and the Attorney General that involve a disability-related issue, and the number of cases that involve a person with a service-connected disability. In addition, the Senate bill would change the date on which the report is required.

## HOUSE BILL

The House Bills contain no comparable provision.

## COMPROMISE AGREEMENT

Section 312 of the Compromise Agreement follows the Senate language.

## TRAINING FOR EXECUTIVE BRANCH HUMAN RESOURCES PERSONNEL ON EMPLOYMENT AND REEMPLOYMENT RIGHTS OF MEMBERS OF THE UNIFORMED SERVICES

## CURRENT LAW

There is no applicable provision in current law.

## SENATE BILL

Section 304 of S. 3023, as amended, would add a new section to chapter 43 of title 38 to require the head of each Federal executive agency to provide training for human resources personnel on the rights, benefits, and obligations of members of the Armed Forces under USERRA and the administration of USERRA by Federal executive agencies. It would require that the training be developed and provided in consultation with the Office of Personnel Management. The training would be provided as often as specified by the Director of the Office of Personnel Management in order to ensure that the human resources personnel are kept fully and currently informed about USERRA.

## HOUSE BILL

The House Bills contain no comparable provision.

## COMPROMISE AGREEMENT

Section 313 of the Compromise Agreement follows the Senate language.

## REPORT ON THE EMPLOYMENT NEEDS OF NATIVE AMERICAN VETERANS LIVING ON TRIBAL LANDS

## CURRENT LAW

There is no applicable provision in current law.

## SENATE BILL

Section 305 of S. 3023, as amended, would require a report by the Secretary of Labor on efforts to address the employment needs of Native American veterans living on tribal lands.

## HOUSE BILL

The House Bills contain no comparable provision.

## COMPROMISE AGREEMENT

Section 314 of the Compromise Agreement follows the Senate language.

## EQUITY POWERS

## CURRENT LAW

Under section 4323(e) of title 38 courts may, in an action brought against a State or private employer, use their full equity powers to vindicate the rights or benefits of individuals provided under USERRA.

## HOUSE BILL

Section 2 of H.R. 6225, as amended, would amend section 4323(e) of title 38 to require that, in USERRA actions brought against private or State employers, courts shall use their equity powers in any case in which the court determines it is appropriate.

## SENATE BILL

The Senate Bills contain no comparable provision.

## COMPROMISE AGREEMENT

Section 315 of the Compromise Agreement follows the House language.

## WAIVER OF RESIDENCY REQUIREMENT FOR DIRECTORS FOR VETERANS' EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING

## CURRENT LAW

Section 4103(a)(2) of title 38 requires that each State Director of Veterans' Employment and Training (SDVET) have been, at the time of appointment, a bona fide resident of the State for at least two years.

## SENATE BILL

Section 303 of S. 1315, as amended, would permit waiver of a residency requirement for SDVETs.

## HOUSE BILL

The House Bills contain no comparable provision.

## COMPROMISE AGREEMENT

Section 316 of the Compromise Agreement follows the Senate language.

## MODIFICATION OF SPECIAL UNEMPLOYMENT STUDY TO COVER VETERANS OF POST 9/11 GLOBAL OPERATIONS

## CURRENT LAW

Section 410A of title 38 requires the Secretary of Labor, through the Bureau of Labor Statistics, to submit a report every two years on the employment and unemployment experiences of Vietnam-era veterans, Vietnam-theater veterans, special disabled veterans, and recently separated veterans.

## SENATE BILL

Section 304 of S. 1315, as amended, would update this special unemployment study to focus on veterans of the Post-9/11 Global Operations period and require an annual report.

## HOUSE BILL

The House Bills contain no comparable provision.

## COMPROMISE AGREEMENT

Section 317 of the Compromise Agreement generally follows the Senate language, except that the report would be required to include veterans of the Vietnam era, as well as veterans of the Post-9/11 Global Operations period.

## SUBTITLE B—EDUCATION MATTERS

**MODIFICATION OF PERIOD OF ELIGIBILITY FOR SURVIVORS' AND DEPENDENTS' EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE OF CERTAIN SPOUSES OF INDIVIDUALS WITH SERVICE-CONNECTED DISABILITIES TOTAL AND PERMANENT IN NATURE**

## CURRENT LAW

Under the Survivors' and Dependents' Educational Assistance (DEA) program, VA provides up to 45 months of education benefits to certain children or spouses of military personnel. For instance, the spouse of a veteran or servicemember may be eligible for benefits if the veteran died, or is permanently and totally disabled, as the result of a service-connected disability or if the veteran died from any cause while a permanent and total service-connected disability was in existence.

The spouse generally must use these education benefits within ten years after the date on which the veteran dies or is found to be permanently and totally disabled. However, if the servicemember died while on active duty, the spouse may use the education benefits during the twenty-year period after the servicemember's death.

## SENATE BILL

Section 311 of S. 3023, as amended, would extend from ten years to twenty years the time within which the spouses of certain severely injured veterans have to use their DEA benefits. Specifically, the twenty-year period would be available to a spouse of a veteran who becomes permanently and totally disabled within three years after discharge from service, if the spouse remains married to the veteran.

## HOUSE BILL

The House Bills contain no comparable provision.

## COMPROMISE AGREEMENT

Section 321 of the Compromise Agreement follows the Senate language.

**REPEAL OF REQUIREMENT FOR REPORT TO THE SECRETARY OF VETERANS AFFAIRS ON PRIOR TRAINING**

## CURRENT LAW

Under current law, State approving agencies approve, for VA education benefits purposes, the application of educational institutions providing non-accredited courses if the institution and its courses meet certain criteria. Among these is the requirement that the institution maintain a written record of the previous education and training of the eligible person and what credit for that training has been given the individual. The institution must notify both VA and the eligible person regarding the amount of credit the school grants for previous training.

## SENATE BILL

Section 312 of S. 3023, as amended, would repeal the requirement that an educational institution providing non-accredited courses notify VA of the credit granted for prior training of certain individuals.

## HOUSE BILL

The House Bills contain no comparable provision.

## COMPROMISE AGREEMENT

Section 322 of the Compromise Agreement contains the Senate provision.

**MODIFICATION OF WAITING PERIOD BEFORE AFFIRMATION OF ENROLLMENT IN A CORRESPONDENCE COURSE**

## CURRENT LAW

Under current law, in the case of courses offered through correspondence, an enrollment agreement signed by a veteran, spouse, or surviving spouse will not be effective unless he or she, after ten days from the date of signing the agreement, submits a written and signed statement to VA affirming the enrollment agreement. In the event the individual at any time notifies the institution of his or her intention not to affirm the agreement, the institution, without imposing any penalty or charging any fee, shall promptly make a refund of all amounts paid.

## SENATE BILL

Section 313 of S. 3023, as amended, would decrease to five days the waiting period before affirmation of enrollment in a correspondence course may be finalized for purposes of receiving educational assistance from VA.

## HOUSE BILL

The House Bills contain no comparable provision.

## COMPROMISE AGREEMENT

Section 323 of the Compromise Agreement follows the Senate language.

**CHANGE OF PROGRAMS OF EDUCATION AT THE SAME EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTION**

## CURRENT LAW

Under current law, a student who desires to initiate a program of education must submit an application to VA in the form prescribed by the Department. If the student decides a different program is more advantageous to his or her needs, that individual may change his or her program of study once. However, additional changes require VA to determine that the change is suitable to the individual's interests and abilities. It is rare for VA to deny a change of program, especially if the student is continuing in an approved program at the same school.

## SENATE BILL

Section 314 of S. 3023, as amended, would repeal the requirement that an individual notify VA when the individual changes educational programs but remains enrolled at the same educational institution.

## HOUSE BILL

The House Bills contain no comparable provision.

## COMPROMISE AGREEMENT

Section 324 of the Compromise Agreement follows the Senate language.

**REPEAL OF CERTIFICATION REQUIREMENT WITH RESPECT TO APPLICATIONS FOR APPROVAL OF SELF-EMPLOYMENT ON-JOB TRAINING**

## CURRENT LAW

Under current law, all provisions of title 38 that apply to VA's other on-job training (OJT) programs (except the requirement that a training program has to be for at least six months) apply to franchise-ownership OJT, including the requirement that the trainee earn wages that are increased on an incremental basis.

## SENATE BILL

Section 315 of S. 3023, as amended, would exempt on-the-job training programs from the requirement to provide participants with wages if the training program is offered in connection with the purchase of a franchise.

## HOUSE BILL

The House Bills contain no comparable provision.

## COMPROMISE AGREEMENT

Section 325 of the Compromise Agreement follows the Senate language.

**COORDINATION OF APPROVAL ACTIVITIES IN THE ADMINISTRATION OF EDUCATION BENEFITS**

## CURRENT LAW

Under chapter 36 of title 38 VA contracts for the services of State approving agencies (SAAs) for the purpose of approving programs of education at institutions of higher learning, apprenticeship programs, on-job training programs, and other programs that are located within each SAA's State of jurisdiction. Generally SAA approval of these programs is required before beneficiaries may use their educational assistance benefits to pay for them. The Departments of Education and Labor also assess education and training programs for various purposes, primarily for awarding student aid and providing apprenticeship assistance.

## SENATE BILL

Section 301 of S. 1315, as amended, would amend section 3673 of title 38 to require VA to take appropriate actions to ensure the coordination of approval activities performed by SAAs and approval activities performed by the Department of Labor, the Department of Education, and other entities in order to reduce overlap and improve efficiency in the performance of those activities.

## HOUSE BILL

The House Bills have no comparable provision.

## COMPROMISE AGREEMENT

Section 326 of the Compromise Agreement follows the Senate language.

## SUBTITLE C—VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION MATTERS

**WAIVER OF 24-MONTH LIMITATION ON PROGRAM OF INDEPENDENT LIVING SERVICES AND ASSISTANCE FOR VETERANS WITH A SEVERE DISABILITY INCURRED IN THE POST-9/11 GLOBAL OPERATIONS PERIOD**

## CURRENT LAW

Under chapter 31 of title 38 VA may provide services to certain veterans with service-connected disabilities to help them achieve maximum independence in daily living. Under section 3105 of title 38 the general rule is that no more than 24 months of these services may be provided to a veteran. However, under section 3105(d) of title 38 the period may be extended if "the Secretary determines that a longer period is necessary and likely to result in a substantial increase in a veteran's level of independence in daily living."

## SENATE BILL

Section 301 of S. 3023, as amended, would amend section 3105(d) of title 38 to allow VA, without having to make such a determination, to extend the 24-month cap on independent living services for any veteran who served on active duty during the Post-9/11 Global Operations period and incurred or aggravated a severe disability during that service.

## HOUSE BILL

The House Bills contain no comparable provision.

## COMPROMISE AGREEMENT

Section 331 of the Compromise Agreement follows the Senate language.

**INCREASE IN CAP OF NUMBER OF VETERANS PARTICIPATING IN INDEPENDENT LIVING PROGRAM**

## CURRENT LAW

Section 3120(e) of title 38 authorizes VA to initiate a program of independent living services for no more than 2,500 service-connected disabled veterans in each fiscal year.

## SENATE BILL

The Senate Bills contains no comparable provision.

## HOUSE BILL

Section 301 of H.R. 6832 increases to 2,600 the number of veterans who may initiate a program of independent living services in any fiscal year.

## COMPROMISE AGREEMENT

Section 332 of the Compromise Agreement follows the House language.

## REPORT ON MEASURES TO ASSIST AND ENCOURAGE VETERANS IN COMPLETING VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION

## CURRENT LAW

Under chapter 31 of title 38, VA provides vocational rehabilitation and employment services to veterans with service-connected disabilities. In its July 2007 report, the President's Commission on Care for America's Returning Wounded Warriors found that, "of the 65,000 who apply for [VA's Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment program] each year, at most 10,000 of all ages complete the employment track in the program each year." The Commission also found that "the effectiveness of various vocational rehabilitation programs is not well established, and the VA should undertake an effort to determine which have the greatest long-term success." In addition, the Commission recommended that "VA should develop financial incentives that would encourage completion" of vocational rehabilitation.

## SENATE BILL

Section 306 of S. 3023, as amended, would require VA to conduct a study that would identify the various factors that may prevent or preclude veterans from successfully completing their vocational rehabilitation plans. It would also require identification of actions that the Secretary may take to address such factors. Not later than 270 days after beginning the study, VA would be required to submit to the Committees on Veterans' Affairs of the Senate and House of Representatives a report including the findings of the study and any recommendations on actions that should be taken in light of that study.

## HOUSE BILL

The House Bills contain no comparable provision.

## COMPROMISE AGREEMENT

Section 333 of the Compromise Agreement generally follows the Senate language, except that it includes language to specify that the study is required only to the extent that it does not duplicate elements of a VA study or report released during the one-year period after the date of enactment.

## LONGITUDINAL STUDY OF DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION PROGRAMS

## CURRENT LAW

Under chapter 31 of title 38 VA provides vocational rehabilitation and employment services for certain veterans with service-connected disabilities. VA currently collects data that does not accurately demonstrate the long-term results of participation in, or completion of, VA's vocational rehabilitation and employment program. Typically, VA knows how long a veteran spends in the various phases in long-term training and the costs related to that participation. However, VA does not collect data on earnings, promotions, and other long-term employment-related data following completion of the program. VA also does not collect data on those who may qualify for the program but do not complete the track of the program appropriate to their situation.

## HOUSE BILL

Section 1 of H.R. 3889 would require VA, subject to the availability of appropriated

funds, to conduct a longitudinal study, over a period of at least 20 years, of a statistically valid sample of certain groups of individuals who participate in VA's vocational rehabilitation and employment program. The groups of individuals would include those who begin participating in the vocational rehabilitation program during fiscal year 2009, those individuals who begin participating in such a program during fiscal year 2011, and those individuals who begin participating in such a program during fiscal year 2014.

By not later than July 1 of each year covered by the study, the Secretary would be required to submit to the Committees on Veterans' Affairs of the Senate and House of Representatives a report on the study during the preceding year. The Secretary would be required to include in the report any data necessary to determine the long-term outcomes of the individuals participating in the program. In addition, each report would be required to contain (1) the number of individuals participating in vocational rehabilitation programs who suspended participation in such a program during the year covered by the report; (2) the average number of months such individuals served on active duty; (3) the distribution of disability ratings of such individuals; (4) the types of other benefits administered by the Secretary received by such individuals; (5) the types of social security benefits received by such individuals; (6) any unemployment benefits received by such individuals; (7) the average number of months such individuals were employed during the year covered by the report; (8) the average annual starting and ending salaries of such individuals who were employed during the year covered by the report; (9) the number of such individuals enrolled in an institution of higher learning; (10) the average number of academic credit hours, degrees, and certificates obtained by such individuals during the year covered by the report; (11) the average number of visits such individuals made to VA medical facilities during the year covered by the report; (12) the average number of visits such individuals made to non-VA medical facilities during the year covered by the report; (13) the average annual income of such individuals; (14) the average total household income of such individuals for the year covered by the report; (15) the percentage of such individuals who own their principal residences; and (16) the average number of dependents of each such veteran.

## SENATE BILL

The Senate Bills contain no comparable provision.

## COMPROMISE AGREEMENT

Section 334 of the Compromise Agreement generally follows the House language, except that study participants would be selected from those individuals who begin participating in VA's vocational rehabilitation program during fiscal years 2010, 2012, and 2014.

## TITLE IV—INSURANCE MATTERS

## REPORT ON INCLUSION OF SEVERE AND ACUTE POST-TRAUMATIC STRESS DISORDER AMONG CONDITIONS COVERED BY TRAUMATIC INJURY PROTECTION COVERAGE UNDER SERVICEMEMBERS' GROUP LIFE INSURANCE

## CURRENT LAW

Section 1980A of title 38 provides traumatic injury protection coverage under the Servicemembers Group Life Insurance (SGLI) program. Traumatic Servicemembers Group Life Insurance (TSGLI) provides coverage against qualifying losses incurred as a result of a traumatic injury event. In the event of a loss, VA will pay between \$25,000 and \$100,000 depending on the severity of the qualifying loss. At present, active duty and

reserve component servicemembers with any amount of SGLI coverage are automatically covered under TSGLI. A premium (currently \$1 monthly) is collected from covered members to meet peacetime program expenses; the DOD is required to fund TSGLI program costs associated with the extra hazards of military service.

Subsection (b)(1) of section 1980A lists some qualifying losses for which injured servicemembers are covered under TSGLI, including, among others, complete loss of vision, complete loss of hearing, amputation of a hand or foot and the inability to carry out the activities of daily living resulting from injury to the brain. PTSD is not currently among the conditions classified as qualifying a loss.

## SENATE BILL

Section 501 of S. 3023, as amended, would require VA, in consultation with the Department of Defense, to submit a report to Congress assessing the feasibility of and advisability of including severe and acute PTSD among the conditions covered by TSGLI. The report would be due to the Committees not later than 180 days after enactment of this bill.

## HOUSE BILL

The House Bills contain no comparable provision.

## COMPROMISE AGREEMENT

Section 401 of the Compromise Agreement follows the Senate language.

## TREATMENT OF STILLBORN CHILDREN AS INSURABLE DEPENDENTS UNDER SERVICEMEMBERS' GROUP LIFE INSURANCE

## CURRENT LAW

In 2001, section 4 of the Veterans' Survivor Benefits Improvements Act of 2001, Public Law 107-14, established a program of family insurance coverage under SGLI through which an SGLI-insured member's insurable dependents could also be insured. Section 1965(10) of title 38 defines insurable dependents as the member's spouse, and the member's child. Section 101(4)(A) of title 38 defines the term child as a person who is unmarried and under the age of 18 years; who became permanently incapable of self support before attaining the age of 18; or a dependent over the age of 18 that is pursuing education or training at an approved institution. Dependents over the age of 18 are considered a child until they complete their education, or until they reach the age of 23. Under current law, stillborn children are not eligible for coverage as insurable dependents under SGLI.

## SENATE BILL

Section 502 of S. 3023, as amended, would amend section 1965(10) of title 38, so as to cover a servicemember's "stillborn child," as an insurable dependent under the SGLI program. The Committees expect VA to issue regulations that would define the term in a manner consistent with the 1992 recommended reporting requirements of the Model State Vital Statistics Act and Regulations as drafted by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's National Center for Health Statistics. The Model Act recommends a state reporting requirement of fetal deaths involving fetuses weighing 350 grams or more, if the weight is unknown, or 20 or more completed weeks of gestation, calculated from the date the last normal menstrual began to the date of delivery.

## HOUSE BILL

The House Bills contain no comparable provision.

## COMPROMISE AGREEMENT

Section 402 of the Compromise Agreement follows the Senate language.

## OTHER ENHANCEMENTS OF SERVICE-MEMBERS' GROUP LIFE INSURANCE COVERAGE

## CURRENT LAW

SGLI is a VA-supervised life insurance program that provides group coverage for members on active duty in the uniformed services (Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, and Coast Guard), members of the Commissioned Corps of the United States Public Health Service and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Reserve and National Guard members, Reserve Officer Training Corps members engaged in authorized training, service academy cadets and midshipmen, Ready Reserve and Retired Reserve members, and Individual Ready Reserve members who are subject to involuntary recall to active duty service. VA purchases a group policy on behalf of participating members from a commercial provider. Since the inception of the SGLI program in 1965, The Prudential Insurance Company of America has been the provider. VA's FY 2009 budget submission projects that 2,342,000 individuals will be covered under SGLI in FY 2009.

Full coverage under SGLI is provided automatically at the maximum coverage amount when an individual begins covered service. Partial coverage at prorated premium rates is available for Reserve and National Guard members for active and inactive duty training periods. To be covered in an amount less than the maximum, or to decline coverage altogether, a member must make a written election to that effect. Coverage amounts may be reduced in multiples of \$10,000. A member may also name, at any time, one or more beneficiaries of his or her choice. Decisions concerning coverage amounts and designation of beneficiaries are made at the sole discretion of members insured under SGLI.

The Veterans' Insurance Act of 1974, Public Law 93-289, established a new program of post-separation insurance known as Veterans Group Life Insurance (VGLI). Like SGLI, VGLI is supervised by VA but administered by Prudential. VGLI provides for the post-service conversion of SGLI to a renewable term policy of insurance. Persons eligible for full-time coverage include former servicemembers who were insured full-time under SGLI and who were released from active duty or the Reserves, Ready Reservists who have part-time SGLI coverage and who incur certain disabilities during periods of active or inactive duty training, and members of the Individual Ready Reserve and Inactive National Guard. Like SGLI, VGLI is issued in multiples of \$10,000 up to the maximum coverage amount, but in no case can VGLI coverage exceed the amount of SGLI coverage a member had in force at the time of separation from active duty service or the Reserves.

## SENATE BILL

Section 503 of S. 3023, as amended, includes numerous amendments to SGLI.

Subsection (a) of section 503 would extend full-time and family SGLI coverage to Individual Ready Reservists (IRRs), those individuals referred to in section 1965(5)(C) of title 38. This group of individuals volunteer for assignment to a mobilization category in the Individual Ready Reserve, as defined in section 12304(i)(1) of title 10. The Veterans' Survivor Benefits Improvement Act of 2001, Public Law 107-14, provided SGLI coverage for Ready Reservists, referred to in section 1965(5)(B), but not to IRRs.

Subsection (b) of section 503 would provide that a dependent's SGLI coverage would terminate 120 days after the date of the member's separation or release from service, rather than 120 days after the member's SGLI terminates.

Subsection (c) of section 503 would clarify that VA has the authority to set premiums for SGLI coverage for the spouses of Ready Reservists based on the spouse's age.

Subsection (d) of section 503 would clarify that any person guilty of mutiny, treason, spying, or desertion, or who, because of conscientious objections, refuses to perform service in the Armed Forces or refuses to wear the uniform of the Armed Forces, forfeits all rights to VGLI.

## HOUSE BILL

The House Bills contain no comparable provision.

## COMPROMISE AGREEMENT

Section 403 of the Compromise Agreement follows the Senate language.

## ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS OF SERVICE DISABLED VETERANS' INSURANCE

## CURRENT LAW

Under current law, the administrative costs of the Service-Disabled Veterans Insurance program are paid for by the Government from VA's General Operating Expenses account.

## SENATE BILL

Section 102 of S. 1315 would allow administrative costs for the S-DVI program to be paid for by premiums, as is done with all other National Service Life Insurance sub-funds. This would allow administrative costs to be provided from Veterans Insurance and Indemnities and not General Operating Expenses in Function 700 of the Budget of the United States Government.

## HOUSE BILL

The House Bills contain no comparable provision.

## COMPROMISE AGREEMENT

Section 404 of the Compromise Agreement follows the Senate language.

TITLE V—HOUSING MATTERS  
TEMPORARY INCREASE IN MAXIMUM LOAN GUARANTY AMOUNT FOR CERTAIN HOUSING LOANS GUARANTEED BY SECRETARY OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

## CURRENT LAW

Section 3703 of title 38 stipulates the maximum loan guaranty amounts that VA will provide to veterans under its home loan guaranty program. Public Law 108-454 increased VA's maximum guaranty amount to 25 percent of the Freddie Mac conforming loan limit determined under section 305(a)(2) of the Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation Act for a single family residence, as adjusted for the year involved. The Economic Stimulus Act of 2008 (Stimulus Act), Public Law 110-185, temporarily reset the maximum limits on home loans that the Federal Housing Administration (FHA) may insure and that Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac may purchase on the secondary market to 125 percent of metropolitan-area median home prices, but did so without reference to the VA home loan program. This had the effect of raising the Fannie Mae, Freddie Mac, and FHA limits to nearly \$730,000, in the highest cost areas, while leaving the then-VA limit of \$417,000 in place.

On July 30, 2008, the Housing and Economic Recovery Act of 2008 was signed into law as Public Law 110-289. That law provided a temporary increase in the maximum guaranty amount for VA loans originated from July 30, 2008, through December 31, 2008, to the same level as provided in the Stimulus Act.

## SENATE BILL

Section 201 of S. 3023, as amended, in a freestanding provision, would apply the temporary increase in the maximum guaranty amount, enacted in Public Law 110-289, until December 31, 2011.

## HOUSE BILL

Section 203 of H.R. 6832 would amend section 2201 of Public Law 110-289 by striking "December 31, 2008" and inserting "December 31, 2011".

## COMPROMISE AGREEMENT

Section 501 of the Compromise Agreement follows the Senate language.

## REPORT ON IMPACT OF MORTGAGE FORECLOSURES ON VETERANS

## CURRENT LAW

There is no applicable provision in current law.

## SENATE BILL

Section 205 of S. 3023, as amended, would require VA to report on the impact of the mortgage foreclosure crisis on veterans and the adequacy of existing mechanisms available to help veterans. The report would have to include four specific elements: (1) a general assessment of the income of veterans who have recently separated from the Armed Forces; (2) an assessment of the effects of the length of the disability adjudication process on the capacity of veterans to maintain adequate or suitable housing; (3) a description of the extent to which the provisions of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act currently protect veterans from mortgage foreclosure; and (4) a description and assessment of the adequacy of the VA home loan guaranty program in preventing foreclosure for recently separated veterans. The report would be due to the Committees on Veterans' Affairs of the Senate and the House of Representatives no later than December 31, 2009.

## HOUSE BILL

The House Bills contain no comparable provisions.

## COMPROMISE AGREEMENT

Section 502 of the Compromise Agreement follows the Senate language.

## REQUIREMENT FOR REGULAR UPDATES TO HANDBOOK FOR DESIGN FURNISHED TO VETERANS ELIGIBLE FOR SPECIALLY ADAPTED HOUSING ASSISTANCE BY SECRETARY OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

## CURRENT LAW

Section 2103 of title 38 authorizes VA to provide, without cost, model plans and specifications of suitable housing units to disabled veterans eligible for specially adapted housing under chapter 21 of title 38. Pursuant to this authority, the VA published, in April 1978, Pamphlet 26-13, "Handbook for Design: Specially Adapted Housing."

HOUSE BILL 1212 SECTION 1 OF H.R. 5664 WOULD AMEND SECTION 2103 OF TITLE 38 TO DIRECT THE SECRETARY TO UPDATE AT LEAST ONCE EVERY SIX YEARS THE PLANS AND SPECIFICATIONS FOR SPECIALLY ADAPTED HOUSING FURNISHED TO VETERANS BY VA. 189 SENATE BILL 1212 THE SENATE BILLS CONTAIN NO COMPARABLE PROVISION. 189 COMPROMISE AGREEMENT

Section 503 of the Compromise Agreement follows the House language.

## ENHANCEMENT OF REFINANCING OF HOME LOANS BY VETERANS

## CURRENT LAW

Under section 3703(a)(1)(A)(i)(IV) of title 38, the maximum VA home loan guaranty limit for most loans in excess of \$144,000 is equal to 25 percent of the Freddie Mac conforming loan limit for a single family home. Public Law 110-289 set this value at approximately \$182,437 through the end of 2008. This means lenders making loans up to \$729,750 will receive at least a 25 percent guaranty, which is typically required to place the loan on the secondary market. Under current law, this does not include regular refinance loans.

Section 3703(a)(1)(B) of title 38 limits to \$36,000 the guaranty that can be used for a regular refinance loan. This restriction means a regular refinance over \$144,000 will result in a lender not receiving 25 percent backing from VA. In this situation, the lender is less likely to make the loan to the veteran. This situation essentially precludes a veteran from being able to refinance his or her existing FHA or conventional loan into a VA guaranteed loan if the loan is greater than \$144,000.

Under section 3710(b)(8) of title 38, VA is also precluded from refinancing a loan if the homeowner does not have at least ten percent equity in his or her home.

## SENATE BILL

Section 202 of S. 3023, as amended, would increase the maximum guaranty limit for refinance loans to the same level as conventional loans, which is 25 percent of the Freddie Mac conforming loan limit for single family home. It would also increase the percentage of an existing loan that VA will refinance under the VA home loan program from 90 percent to 95 percent.

## HOUSE BILL

Section 302 of H.R. 6832 contains identical language as the Senate bill with respect to increasing the maximum guaranty limit for refinance loans. In addition, section 302 would increase the percentage of an existing loan that VA will refinance from 90 percent to 100 percent.

## COMPROMISE AGREEMENT

Section 504 of the Compromise Agreement includes the language pertaining to the increase in the maximum guaranty limit for refinance loans that appears in both the House and the Senate bills and follows the House language with respect to the equity requirement.

## EXTENSION OF CERTAIN VETERANS HOME LOAN GUARANTY PROGRAMS

## CURRENT LAW

Section 3707 of title 38 authorizes VA to conduct a demonstration project that offers guaranties of adjustable rate mortgages (ARMs), loans with interest rates that change, and "hybrid" adjustable rate mortgages (hybrid ARMs), loans that carry a fixed rate of interest for an initial period followed by annual interest rate adjustments thereafter. VA currently has authority to continue these demonstration projects through the end of fiscal year 2008.

## SENATE BILL

Section 203(a) of S. 3023, as amended, would amend section 3707 of title 38 to extend VA's ARM and hybrid ARM programs through fiscal year 2012.

## HOUSE BILL

Section 208 of H.R. 6832 contains identical language.

## COMPROMISE AGREEMENT

Section 505 of the Compromise Agreement includes this language.

## TITLE VI—COURT MATTERS

## TEMPORARY INCREASE IN NUMBER OF AUTHORIZED JUDGES OF THE UNITED STATES COURT OF APPEALS FOR VETERANS CLAIMS

## CURRENT LAW

Under current law, section 7253(a) of title 38, the United States Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims (CAVC) is limited to seven active judges.

## SENATE BILL

Section 401 of S. 3023, as amended, would temporarily increase the number of active judges on the CAVC from seven to nine, effective December 31, 2009. Effective January 1, 2013, no appointment could be made to Court if that appointment would result in there being more judges of the Court than the authorized number of judges of the Court specified in current law.

## HOUSE BILL

The House Bills contain no comparable provision.

## COMPROMISE AGREEMENT

Section 601 of the Compromise Agreement follows the Senate language. It is the Committees' expectation that the next Administration will begin vetting candidates for the additional judgeships as soon as practicable so that by the effective date of this provision, December 31, 2009, Congress might begin considering nominations to the Court.

## PROTECTION OF PRIVACY AND SECURITY CONCERNS IN COURT RECORDS

## CURRENT LAW

Current law, section 7268(a) of title 38, provides that "all decisions of the Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims and all briefs, motions, documents, and exhibits received by the Court . . . shall be public records open to the inspection of the public." Section 7268(b)(1) provides that "[t]he Court may make any provision which is necessary to prevent the disclosure of confidential information, including a provision that any such document or information be placed under seal to be opened only as directed by the Court."

## SENATE BILL

Section 402 of S. 3023, as amended, would amend section 7268 of title 38, so as to require the Court to prescribe rules, in accordance with section 7264(a) of title 38, to protect privacy and security concerns relating to the filing of documents, and the public availability of such documents, that are retained by CAVC or filed electronically. The rules prescribed by the Court would be required to be consistent, to the extent practicable, with rules that address privacy and security issues throughout the Federal courts.

## HOUSE BILL

The House Bills contain no comparable provisions.

## COMPROMISE AGREEMENT

Section 602 of the Compromise Agreement follows the Senate language.

## RECALL OF RETIRED JUDGES OF THE UNITED STATES COURT OF APPEALS FOR VETERANS CLAIMS

## CURRENT LAW

Under section 7257 of title 38, retiring CAVC judges make an election whether to be recall eligible. If a judge chooses to be recall eligible, the Chief Judge of the CAVC has the authority to involuntarily recall that judge for up to 90 days per calendar year or, with the consent of the judge, to recall the judge for up to 180 days per calendar year. Under section 7296 of title 38, a recall-eligible retired judge receives annual pay equal to the annual salary of an active judge (pay-of-the-office) and that salary level is not impacted by how much recall service is performed during a year.

## SENATE BILL

Section 403 of S. 3023, as amended, would modify the authorities for the recall of retired judges and the retirement pay structure. This section would repeal the 180-day limit on how many days per calendar year a recall-eligible retired judge may voluntarily serve in recall status. In addition, for judges appointed on or after the date of enactment, it would create a three-tiered retirement pay structure. Specifically, pay-of-the-office would be reserved for judges who are actively serving, either as a judge of the Court or as a retired judge serving in recall status. When not serving in recall status, a recall-eligible retired judge would receive the rate of pay applicable to that judge as of the date the judge retired, as increased by periodic cost-of-living adjustments. A retired judge who is not recall eligible would receive the rate of pay applicable to that judge at the time of

retirement. Finally, section 403 would exempt current and future recall-eligible retired judges from involuntary recall once they have served an aggregate of five years of recall service.

## HOUSE BILL

The House Bills contain no comparable provision.

## COMPROMISE AGREEMENT

Section 603 of the Compromise Agreement follows the Senate language.

## ANNUAL REPORTS ON WORKLOAD OF THE UNITED STATES COURT OF APPEALS FOR VETERANS CLAIMS

## CURRENT LAW

Chapter 72 of title 38 establishes the organization, jurisdiction, and procedures governing the CAVC. That chapter does not require the Court to provide Congress with annual reports on its workload.

## SENATE BILL

Section 404 of S. 3023, as amended, would add a section to chapter 72 to establish an annual reporting requirement for the CAVC. The CAVC would be required to submit to the Committees on Veterans' Affairs of the Senate and House of Representatives an annual report summarizing the workload of the Court.

The information required to be in the report would include the number of appeals, petitions, and applications for fees under the Equal Access to Justice Act (EAJA) filed with the Court. It would also include the total number of dispositions by the Court as a whole, by the Clerk of the Court, by a single judge, by multi-judge panels, and by the full Court and the number of each type of disposition by the Court, including settlement, affirmation, remand, vacation, dismissal, reversal, grant, and denial. In addition, the required information would include the median time from filing an appeal to disposition by the Court as a whole, by the Clerk of the Court, by a single judge, or by multiple judges; the median time from the filing of a petition to disposition by the Court; the median time from filing an EAJA application to disposition by the Court; and the median time from completion of the briefing requirements by the parties to disposition by the Court. The report would also include the number of oral arguments held by the Court; the number of cases appealed to the United States Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit; the number and status of appeals, petitions, and EAJA applications pending at the end of the fiscal year; the number of cases pending for more than 18 months at the end of the fiscal year; and a summary of any service performed by recalled retired judges during the fiscal year. In addition, the Court would be required to provide an assessment of the workload of each judge of the Court, including consideration of the time required of each judge for disposition of each type of case, the number of cases reviewed by the Court, and the average workload of other Federal judges.

## HOUSE BILL

Section 201 of H.R. 5892, as amended, would add a section to chapter 72 to establish an annual reporting requirement for the CAVC. The CAVC would be required to submit to the Committees on Veterans' Affairs of the Senate and House of Representatives an annual report summarizing the workload of the Court. The information required to be reported would include the number of appeals filed; the number of petitions filed; the number EAJA applications filed; the number and type of dispositions; the median time from filing to disposition; the number of oral arguments; the number and status of pending appeals, petitions, and EAJA applications; a summary of any service performed by recalled retired judges; and the number of cases pending longer than 18 months.

## COMPROMISE AGREEMENT

Section 604 of the Compromise Agreement follows the Senate language.

ADDITIONAL DISCRETION IN IMPOSITION OF PRACTICE AND REGISTRATION FEES  
CURRENT LAW

Under section 7285 of title 38, the CAVC is authorized to impose a periodic registration fee on individuals admitted to practice before the Court. The maximum amount of any such fee is capped at \$30 per year. That amount is significantly lower than other Federal courts generally charge. The Court is also authorized to impose a registration fee on the individuals participating in the Court's judicial conference.

## SENATE BILL

Section 502 of S. 1315, as amended, would strike the \$30 cap on the amount of registration fees that may be charged to individuals admitted to practice before the Court. It also would clarify that any registration fee charged by the Court, either for those admitted to practice before the Court or those participating in the judicial conference, must be reasonable.

## HOUSE BILL

The House Bills contain no comparable provision.

## COMPROMISE AGREEMENT

Section 605 of the Compromise Agreement follows the Senate language.

TITLE VII—ASSISTANCE TO UNITED STATES PARALYMPIC INTEGRATED ADAPTIVE SPORTS PROGRAM  
DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS PROVISION OF ASSISTANCE TO UNITED STATES PARALYMPICS, INC. AND DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS OFFICE OF NATIONAL VETERANS SPORTS PROGRAMS AND SPECIAL EVENTS

## CURRENT LAW

Section 521 of title 38 authorizes the Secretary to assist certain organizations in providing recreational activities which would further the rehabilitation of disabled veterans.

## HOUSE BILL

Section 3 of H.R. 4255, as amended, would authorize the Secretary to provide assistance to the Paralympic Program of the United States Olympic Committee (USOC).

Section 4 of H.R. 4255, as amended, would establish the Department of Veterans Affairs Office of National Veterans Sports Programs and Special Events.

## SENATE BILL

The Senate Bills contain no comparable provision.

## COMPROMISE AGREEMENT

Title VII of the Compromise Agreement generally follows the House language. It makes the authority to provide assistance to the Paralympic Program of the USOC a four-year pilot program instead of a permanent program and makes it clear that the agreement entered into is between VA and United States Paralympics, Inc. The Compromise Agreement makes it clear that the United States Paralympics, Inc., shall continue to seek private sponsorship and donors. It further provides for the Comptroller General of the United States to provide a report to the Congress after three years.

## TITLE VIII—OTHER MATTERS

AUTHORITY FOR SUSPENSION OR TERMINATION OF CLAIMS OF THE UNITED STATES AGAINST INDIVIDUALS WHO DIED WHILE SERVING ON ACTIVE DUTY IN THE ARMED FORCES

## CURRENT LAW

In January 2008, VA disclosed that, in an attempt to collect debts owed to VA, the De-

partment had contacted the estates of twenty-two servicemembers who died while serving in either Operation Enduring Freedom or Operation Iraqi Freedom. Under the relevant law in effect at that time, section 5302 of title 38, any veteran or active duty servicemember indebted to VA due to the overpayment or erroneous payment of benefits was able to apply for a waiver from VA so as to remove the obligation to pay the debt. However, under that law, VA was required to notify the beneficiary, or his or her estate if the beneficiary was deceased, when an outstanding debt arose and to provide information on the right to apply for a waiver.

In an attempt to address this situation, the Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2008, Public Law 110-252, included a provision that added a new section 5302A to title 38, which prohibits VA from collecting all or any part of a debt owed to VA by a servicemember or veteran who dies as the result of an injury incurred or aggravated in the line of duty while serving in a theater of combat operations in a war or in combat against a hostile force during a period of hostilities after September 11, 2001. The Secretary is required to determine that termination of collection is in the best interest of the United States.

## SENATE BILL

Section 601 of S. 3023, as amended, would amend section 3711 of title 31 so as to grant VA discretionary authority to suspend or terminate the collection of debts owed to it by individuals who die while serving on active duty in the Armed Forces. The authority to suspend collection would cover all individuals who die while serving on active duty as a member of the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, or Coast Guard during a period when the Coast Guard is operating as a service in the Navy.

Section 601 of S. 3023, as amended, also includes a freestanding provision that would permit VA to provide an equitable refund to any estate from which it collected a debt that it otherwise would have waived had this provision been in effect at the time. VA would have the discretion to determine in which cases, if any, the use of this authority would be appropriate.

## HOUSE BILL

The House Bills contain no comparable provision.

## COMPROMISE AGREEMENT

Section 801 of the Compromise Agreement follows the Senate language.

THREE-YEAR EXTENSION OF AUTHORITY TO CARRY OUT INCOME VERIFICATION

## CURRENT LAW

Section 6103(1)(7)(D)(viii) of title 26 authorizes the release of certain income information by the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) or the Social Security Administration (SSA) to VA for the purposes of verifying the incomes of applicants for VA needs-based benefits, including pensions for wartime veterans and compensation for Individual Unemployability. Section 5317(g) of title 38 provides VA with temporary authority to obtain and use this information in order to ensure that those receiving benefits under these income-programs are not earning a greater annual income than the law permits. This temporary authority will expire on September 30, 2008.

## SENATE BILL

Section 603 of S. 3023, as amended, would extend VA's authority to obtain income information from the IRS or the SSA until September 30, 2011.

## HOUSE BILL

Section 206 of H.R. 6832 would extend VA's authority to obtain income verification from the IRS or the SSA until September 30, 2010.

## COMPROMISE AGREEMENT

Section 802 of the Compromise Agreement follows the Senate language.

MAINTENANCE, MANAGEMENT, AND AVAILABILITY FOR RESEARCH OF ASSETS OF AIR FORCE HEALTH STUDY

## CURRENT LAW

Legislation enacted as section 714 of the John Warner National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2007, Public Law 109-364, authorized the Air Force to transfer custody of the data and biological specimens to the Medical Follow-Up Agency (MFUA). There is no provision in current law for the maintenance and management of the assets authorized to be transferred.

## SENATE BILL

Section 805 of S. 1315, as amended, would ensure that the assets from the Air Force Health Study (AFHS) transferred to the MFUA are maintained, managed and made available to researchers. In order to ensure that sufficient funds are made available for this purpose, funding in the amount of \$1,200,000 would be made available from VA accounts available for Medical and Prosthetic Research in each fiscal year from 2008 through 2011. In addition, funding from the same source would be provided in the amount of \$250,000 for each year to conduct additional research using the assets of the AFHS. Finally a report would be provided to the Congress by March 31, 2011, concerning the feasibility and advisability of conducting additional research using these assets or disposing of them.

In the late 1970's, Congress urged the DOD to conduct an epidemiologic study of veterans of "Operation Ranch Hand," the military units responsible for aerial spraying of herbicides during the Vietnam War. In response, the AFHS was initiated in 1982 to examine the effects of herbicide exposure and health, mortality, and reproductive outcomes in veterans of Operation Ranch Hand. The study is noteworthy for the amount of data and biological specimens collected. It cost over \$143 million and was concluded in 2006.

The Senate bill would require VA to provide funding during fiscal years 2008 through 2011 for the purposes recommended by IOM in the Disposition of the AFHS report.

## HOUSE BILL

The House Bills contain no comparable provision.

## COMPROMISE AGREEMENT

Section 803 of the Compromise Agreement follows the Senate language.

NATIONAL ACADEMIES STUDY ON RISK OF DEVELOPING MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS AS A RESULT OF CERTAIN SERVICE IN THE PERSIAN GULF WAR AND POST-9/11 GLOBAL OPERATIONS THEATERS

## CURRENT LAW

Under current law, veterans gain eligibility for disability benefits by demonstrating a link between their disability and their active military, naval, or air service. To establish such a link, the veteran must show, generally, that his or her disability resulted from an injury or disease that was incurred or aggravated during the time of military service.

In addition to disabilities that can be directly linked to service, certain diagnosed diseases are presumed, as a matter of law, to be service-connected if they manifest under conditions specified by statute. For example, section 1112, title 38, provides a presumption for certain chronic diseases if manifested to a degree of disability of 10 percent or more within one year of separation from service, for certain tropical diseases if manifested to

a degree of disability of 10 percent or more, generally, within one year of separation from service, and for active tuberculosis or Hansen's disease if manifested to a degree of disability of 10 percent or more within three years of separation from service.

In 1962, Public Law 87-645 extended the period of time after separation from service that a diagnosis of multiple sclerosis may be presumed to be service-connected from three to seven years for veterans with wartime service.

## SENATE BILL

Section 806 of S. 1315, as amended, would require VA to enter into a contract with the IOM to conduct a comprehensive epidemiological study to identify any increased risk of developing multiple sclerosis, and other diagnosed neurological diseases, as a result of service in the Southwest Asia theater of operations or in the Post 9/11 Global Operations theaters. The Southwest Asia theater of operations is defined in section 3.3317 of title 38, Code of Federal Regulations. The Post 9/11 Global Operations theater is defined as Afghanistan, Iraq, or any other theater for which the Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal is awarded for service.

The mandated study would examine the incidence and prevalence of diagnosed neurological diseases, including multiple sclerosis, Parkinson's disease, and brain cancers, as well as central nervous system abnormalities, in members of the Armed Forces who served during the Persian Gulf War period and Post-9/11 Global Operations period. The study would also collect information on possible risk factors, such as exposure to pesticides and other toxic substances. IOM would be required to submit a final report to VA and the appropriate committees of Congress by December 31, 2012.

## HOUSE BILL

The House Bills contain no comparable provision.

## COMPROMISE AGREEMENT

Section 804 of the Compromise Agreement generally follows the Senate language.

## TERMINATION OR SUSPENSION OF CONTRACTS FOR CELLULAR TELEPHONE SERVICE FOR CERTAIN SERVICEMEMBERS

## CURRENT LAW

The Servicemembers Civil Relief Act (SCRA), currently found in the appendix to title 50, beginning at section 501, is intended to provide for the temporary suspension of judicial and administrative proceedings and transactions that may adversely affect the civil rights of servicemembers during their military service. Title III of the SCRA extends the right to terminate real property leases to active duty servicemembers on deployment orders of at least 90 days. It also allows for the termination of automobile leases for use by servicemembers and their dependents on military orders outside the continental United States for a period of 180 days or more.

## SENATE BILL

Section 804 of S. 1315, as amended, would expand the SCRA to allow for the termination or suspension, upon request, of the cellular telephone contracts of servicemembers deployed outside the United States.

## HOUSE BILL

Section 4 of H.R. 6225, as amended, would extend the SCRA protections to enable servicemembers with deployment orders to terminate or suspend service contracts without fee or penalty for such services as cellular phones, utilities, cable television, or Internet access.

## COMPROMISE AGREEMENT

Section 805 of the Compromise Agreement generally follows the Senate language, ex-

cept that it also includes a provision allowing servicemembers to suspend or terminate cellular phone contracts if they receive orders for a permanent change of duty station.

## CONTRACTING GOALS AND PREFERENCES FOR VETERAN-OWNED SMALL BUSINESS CONCERNS

## CURRENT LAW

Sections 502 and 503 of Public Law 109-461, the Veterans Benefits, Health Care, and Information Technology Act of 2006, require VA to provide certain contracting preferences to small businesses owned by veterans and service-disabled veterans.

## HOUSE BILL

Section 2 of H.R. 6221, as amended, would amend section 8127 of title 38 to require the Secretary to include in each contract the Secretary enters with an agent acting on VA's behalf for the acquisition of goods and services a provision that requires the agent to comply with the contracting goals and preferences for small business concerns owned or controlled by veterans set forth in sections 502 and 503 of Public Law 109-461.

## SENATE BILL

The Senate Bills contain no comparable provision.

## COMPROMISE AGREEMENT

Section 806 of the Compromise Agreement generally follows the House language except that it would apply, to the maximum extent feasible, only to contracts entered into after December 31, 2008.

## PENALTIES FOR VIOLATION OF INTEREST RATE LIMITATION UNDER SERVICEMEMBERS CIVIL RELIEF ACT

## CURRENT LAW

The SCRA provides that penalties under title 18 may be imposed against anyone who knowingly takes part in or attempts to violate certain applicable protections.

## HOUSE BILL

Section 5 of H.R. 6225 would amend section 207 of the SCRA by placing a fine of \$5,000 and \$10,000 on any individual or organization, respectively, who knowingly violates certain SCRA rights of a servicemember. It would further provide for attorney fees and treble damages in certain cases.

## SENATE BILL

The Senate Bills contain no comparable provision.

## COMPROMISE AGREEMENT

Section 807 of the Compromise Agreement follows the House language to add penalties in section 207 of the SCRA.

## FIVE-YEAR EXTENSION OF SUNSET PROVISION FOR ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON MINORITY VETERANS

## CURRENT LAW

Section 544 of title 38 required the Secretary to establish an Advisory Committee on Minority Veterans. Under section 544(e) of title 38, the Committee will cease to exist on December 31, 2009.

## HOUSE BILL

Section 1 of H.R. 674 would repeal the sunset date on the Advisory Committee on Minority Veterans.

## SENATE BILL

The Senate Bills contain no comparable provision.

## COMPROMISE AGREEMENT

Section 808 of the Compromise Agreement would extend the sunset date on the Advisory Committee on Minority Veterans for five years from the current date of expiration, until December 31, 2014.

## AUTHORITY OF SECRETARY OF VETERANS AFFAIRS TO ADVERTISE TO PROMOTE AWARENESS OF BENEFITS UNDER LAWS ADMINISTERED BY THE SECRETARY

## CURRENT LAW

The Anti-Deficiency Act, section 1341 of title 5, prohibits the use of appropriated funds for publicity or propaganda purposes. Section 404 of Public Law 110-161, the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2008, reinforced this prohibition stating:

No part of any funds appropriated in this Act shall be used by an agency of the executive branch, other than for normal and recognized executive-legislative relationships, for publicity or propaganda purposes, and for the preparation, distribution or use of any kit, pamphlet, booklet, publication, radio, television, or film presentation designed to support or defeat legislation pending before Congress, except in presentation to Congress itself.

Although executive branch departments and agencies are prohibited from using appropriated funds to engage in "publicity or propaganda," there is no such prohibition against disseminating information about current benefits, policies, and activities. Military recruiting advertising campaigns are a primary example of an acceptable use of appropriated funds.

## HOUSE BILL

Section 2 of H.R. 3681 would add a new section 532 to title 38 authorizing the Secretary to advertise in national media to promote awareness of benefits under laws administered by the Secretary.

## SENATE BILL

The Senate Bills contain no comparable provision.

## COMPROMISE AGREEMENT

Section 809 of the Compromise Agreement follows the House language.

## MEMORIAL HEADSTONES AND MARKERS FOR DECEASED REMARRIED SURVIVING SPOUSES OF VETERANS

## CURRENT LAW

Section 2306(b)(4)(B) of title 38 authorizes VA to furnish an appropriate memorial headstone or marker to commemorate eligible individuals whose remains are unavailable. Individuals currently eligible for memorial headstones or markers include a veteran's surviving spouse, which is defined to include "an unremarried surviving spouse whose subsequent remarriage was terminated by death or divorce." Thus, a surviving spouse who remarried after the veteran's death is not eligible for a memorial headstone or marker unless the remarriage was terminated by death or divorce before the surviving spouse died. However, a surviving spouse who remarried after the veteran's death is eligible for burial in a VA national cemetery without regard to whether any subsequent remarriage ended.

## SENATE BILL

Section 602 of S. 3023, as amended, would extend eligibility for memorial headstones or markers to a deceased veteran's remarried surviving spouse, without regard to whether any subsequent remarriage ended.

## HOUSE BILL

The House Bills contain no comparable provision.

## COMPROMISE AGREEMENT

Section 810 of the Compromise Agreement follows the Senate language.

## CREDIT CARDHOLDERS' BILL OF RIGHTS ACT OF 2008

SPEECH OF

**HON. TODD TIAHRT**

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 23, 2008*

Mr. TIAHRT. Madam Speaker, over the past week, our Nation's financial flame has begun to smolder under the reckless decisions of several large investment banking firms whose assets were tied into mortgaged-back securities. The result—there is a credit squeeze and depending upon what this Congress decides to do in the coming weeks, credit could become scarce and thousands of Americans who rely on credit as a bridge over life's troubled waters could be left out in the cold.

I am concerned about unfair and deceptive credit card practices and support efforts to protect consumers. I don't think a bill that will result in higher interest rates for consumers is a good idea, however.

In 2005, I voted for, and Congress passed, the "Bankruptcy Abuse Prevention Act" to help consumers get control of their debt. This bill also stipulated that open-end credit plans, such as credit cards, are required to include a minimum payment warning on the billing statement, indicating the length of time it can take to pay off a given balance. The warning includes a toll-free number the account holder can call to receive an estimate of the time it would take to repay his/her balance if only minimum payments were to be made. These common sense reforms, which President Bush signed into law, are already helping consumers improve their financial standing.

Furthermore, the Federal Reserve, Office of Thrift Supervision, and National Credit Union Administration are currently finalizing regulations to prohibit unfair and deceptive credit card practices and make disclosures more transparent. The proposed regulations, which are expected to be finalized in December, address a number of goals of this current bill. Those proposed regulations eliminate universal default, prohibit double-cycle billing, require advance notice of rate increases, and rein in over-the-limit fees. Regulations are better suited to addressing these problems than legislation because they can be adapted more readily to changes in market conditions. The proposed regulations are the result of extensive research and consumer input, have received extensive public comment, and should be finalized without legislation.

As drafted, the bill will increase costs and reduce access to credit for millions of Americans while eliminating low-rate credit options that will hurt individuals and small businesses alike. It does so by, among other things, limiting the ability of card companies to manage risk, as well as by dictating the terms under which credit card loans must be repaid. These requirements will force card companies to increase the cost of credit to all consumers to compensate for the added risk, and to eliminate attractive low-cost offers because they will no longer be able to generate a reasonable rate of return.

The result, Americans will be paying more for their credit cards and have less access to low-cost alternatives, such as zero percent balance transfer offers. Millions of small businesses that rely on personal credit cards to assist in their operations will likewise be hurt.

For these reasons, I cannot support this bill and instead vote in favor of our Nation's consumers.

## IN RECOGNITION OF THE 30TH ANNIVERSARY OF AMERICAN CITIZENS ABROAD

**HON. JOE WILSON**

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 26, 2008*

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, this year marks the 30th anniversary of American Citizens Abroad, ACA—an organization dedicated to representing the interests of American citizens living outside the United States. As co-chair of the Americans Abroad Caucus, I am proud to congratulate this organization for reaching this important milestone.

American citizens living abroad are not only citizens of the United States, they are also our ambassadors to the world. They live and serve in diverse communities. They foster greater understanding and greater economic partnerships between our Nation and others.

In their capacity as an advocacy group for Americans living abroad, ACA informs and educates lawmakers in Washington on the interests of these citizens. Whether in the field of taxation or voting rights, the ACA helps to promote and clarify the unique concerns and issues that impact Americans living abroad.

I am pleased to congratulate American Citizens Abroad on three decades of success.

## CORYDON BICENTENNIAL CELEBRATION—CEDAR GLADE

**HON. BARON P. HILL**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 26, 2008*

Mr. HILL. Madam Speaker, earlier this year, I made remarks with regard to the Celebration of the Bicentennial of Corydon, Indiana, the county seat of Harrison County 19 miles west of Louisville. Noting the rich history of this community, it was a privilege for me to share with my fellow members and the Nation my affection for this community, and I have appreciated being involved with their Bicentennial Celebration.

On October 5, the town of Corydon will again gather to celebrate its history at a classic Ice Cream Social at one of the community's most historic sites, Cedar Glade. Cedar Glade is one of the oldest homes in Corydon—and certainly one of the most beautiful. It was built in 1808 by Jacob Kintner and his wife Agnes—the same year Corydon became a town. Over its two centuries, just three families—Kintner, McGrain and now Bennett—have owned Cedar Glade.

The name Cedar Glade stems from the rows of cedar trees Jacob Kintner planted on the property—those trees accentuating the many native cedars found in the area, and especially on the hillsides along Indian Creek, which runs through Corydon.

No one seems to know exactly from where Jacob Kintner came—or the source of the wealth he possessed when he arrived in Corydon. In fact, it is not known exactly when

Kintner arrived in frontier Indiana—but he was definitely one of the first to do so.

The land on which Kintner built Cedar Glade was entered into the property rolls in his name in 1808, the year he built the house, and the year the town of Corydon was laid out. At that time there were only a few dwellings in the town—and certainly none as large or stately as Kintner's Cedar Glade. Speculation is that Kintner came from Virginia, where records record his marriage to Agnes Crist. The couple's Corydon home is architecturally similar to those of the time in Virginia.

Cedar Glade had Corydon's first water works, with Mr. Kintner laying pipe from springs behind the home to supply ever-flowing clear and cool spring water to the house, barns and his tan yard across the road. Few homes anywhere in those early days would have had such a system.

During the Civil War, in July 1863, Confederate General John Hunt Morgan crossed the Ohio River and launched a raid into the North. After the brief Battle of Corydon south of the town, Morgan set up a siege to persuade the town and its Home Guard to surrender by lobbing artillery shots over Corydon. While many of those cannonballs landed in the yard of Cedar Glade, none actually struck the house.

Luck also saw this property through tight spots during normal, everyday occurrences. While in the ownership of the McGrain family, a potentially disastrous fire could have destroyed the home. While burning corn cobs in the fireplace, a flaming log jumped out and landed on the wood floor. The problem was noticed in time and the flames were extinguished before fire could envelop the house. However, a section of the wood floor was badly scarred. When Bud and Betty Bennett, the present owners, refurbished the home, that part of the floor was purposely not refinished—leaving the history evident and visible within the home.

One of the Kintner sons, Peter Shipley Kintner, lived a far-flung life of ease, often traveling abroad. After Jacob Kintner's death, Peter—the world traveler—"traded" Cedar Glade in 1849 to Thomas McGrain, Sr. for a business building on Main Street in Louisville. McGrain moved from Louisville to Corydon—and young Peter Kintner moved to Paris, France. When Peter died, his remains were shipped back to Corydon and he was buried in the family plot on Cedar Hill. Of course, this was before the age of refrigeration and embalming, and Peter's body was shipped across the Atlantic in alcohol.

Life went on at Cedar Glade with the McGrain family in a style similar to the Kintners. The McGrains had 12 children, and the home was a hub of social activity. After the death of Thomas McGrain, Sr., his wife Matilda McGrain married Corydon attorney John Q. Gresham, who became a Union general in the Civil War and later served as a judge. He went on to become Postmaster General and Secretary of the Treasury in the cabinet of President Chester A. Arthur, and finally Secretary of State under President Grover Cleveland. All the while—and for more than 100 years—Cedar Glade was the McGrain family home.

Today, Cedar Glade is the home of Bud and Betty Bennett, and the family seat of son Larry Bennett and daughter Pam Bennett Martin—all prominent in historic preservation and the civic affairs of Corydon and Harrison County. In

fact, Bud Bennett is currently the President of the Main Street Corydon Board of Directors and has been active in Rotary and other community organizations since moving to the town in 1960. Throughout this time, his wife Betty has been the anchor of the family, often pushing Bud and their children to give to their community.

Betty, Bud, and Larry purchased the home in 1999 and conducted an extensive renovation updating it to modern standards and adding a new rear bedroom suite to the home. The process required two contractors—one adding the addition and another updating the main house. Particular attention was paid to preserving the structure's historic value. After more than 3 months of diligent, backbreaking work it was completed.

I am grateful to the Bennetts for preserving this treasure in Corydon, and the community is richer for Cedar Glade's history and contribution to the Corydon landscape. In recognition of Cedar Glade's Bicentennial, as well as that of Corydon, I want to again congratulate its citizens and wish them well at the October 5 event. I look forward to seeing how this unique and wonderful town develops for decades to come.

HONORING THE 100 YEARS OF CONTRIBUTIONS OF THE CHURCH AND SCHOOL OF THE HOLY NAME OF JESUS OF BEECH GROVE, IN

**HON. ANDRÉ CARSON**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 26, 2008*

Mr. CARSON of Indiana. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the Church and School of the Holy Name of Jesus for the countless contributions it has made to our city, and to recognize the parish on its 100-year anniversary.

The Church of the Holy Name of Jesus was founded in 1908 to serve parishioners in the city of Beech Grove, IN. Today, in its 100th year, the Holy Name of Jesus continues its commitment to service. The Holy Name of Jesus has provided education to hundreds of students who have gone through its schools and to thousands of individuals who have been ministered to within its walls. The past 100 years have seen many physical changes to this church but its commitment to its parishioners and the surrounding community has remained constant.

For these reasons I thank the Church of the Holy Name of Jesus for its devoted service to our great city, and congratulate the parish on the 100-year anniversary.

HONORING JACKSON CHARLES LEGGETT

**HON. SAM GRAVES**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 26, 2008*

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Jackson Charles Leggett of Kansas City, Missouri. Jackson is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by

taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 1261, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Jackson has been very active with his troop, participating in many Scout activities. Over the many years Jackson has been involved with Scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Jackson Charles Leggett for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

HONORING MRS. BERNICE METZGER

**HON. FRED UPTON**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 26, 2008*

Mr. UPTON. Madam Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to honor Mrs. Bernice Metzger, Michigan's Outstanding Older Worker for 2008.

Bernice is 74 years old, but has never let her age stop her from contributing to her community. Twenty years ago, at an age where most workers are eyeing retirement, Bernice embarked on a new career as a clerk at St. Joseph County Courthouse. As if that wasn't enough, she also works in the Treasurer's Office, the Register of Deeds, Probate Office, Circuit Court Judge's Office, Animal Control, Land Resource, and the Michigan State University Extension, and also serves as Deputy Clerk for Nottawa Township.

In addition to her professional duties, Bernice also finds time to volunteer with the Lions Club and the VFW of Sturgis, and has been recognized as a member of the Eastern Star. A mother of four, with four grandchildren and three great grandchildren, Bernice is a devoted mother, grandmother, and family woman. Her dedication to her family and her exemplary and outstanding service to St. Joseph County has made her an example of inspiration to her coworkers and friends.

I would like to extend my congratulations to Mrs. Bernice Metzger for all of her hard work and selflessness, which has made her Michigan's Outstanding Older Worker for 2008.

TRIBUTE TO ST. GEORGE'S HELLENIC BENEFIT SOCIETY

**HON. JAMES P. MCGOVERN**

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 26, 2008*

Mr. MCGOVERN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the St. George's Hellenic Benefit Society of Tsamantas in Worcester, Massachusetts, for its generous contributions to communities both in the United States and Greece. The Society is a not-for-profit fraternal organization that seeks to promote and preserve Greek heritage and culture in America and is celebrating its centenary in October of 2008.

For the past 100 years, the St. George's Society has helped friends and neighbors in

Worcester, MA, and Tsamantas, Greece in a variety of ways. Some examples include building a school in the village of Tsamantas in the 1930s, offering financial support for a development workshop held at Tsamantas in September 2005 to help its declining economy, and funding scholarships for the grandchildren and great-grandchildren of the original immigrants in America. The St. George's Society is active in promoting education in the immigrant community through its generosity and involvement in the teaching of Greek Heritage, especially focusing on the contributions Greeks have made in the United States.

The St. George's Society will celebrate its founding through a series of events and activities to be held on Sunday, October 11, 2008. The goal of these events is to recognize and honor the contributions made by Greek immigrants and Greek-Americans throughout the United States and the world. The first event will take place at the Worcester Art Museum and seeks to educate the greater Worcester community about the social and philanthropic contributions made, both in Europe and the United States, by Greek immigrants—including those who founded the Society. A commemorative symposium will then take place at St. Spyridon Greek Orthodox Church in Worcester to discuss history, and is meant especially to remind the children and grandchildren of immigrants about the importance of preserving their heritage and participating in community service. The third event of the day, an interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary academic conference on immigration to be held at Hellenic College in Brookline, MA, aims to bring together specialists from a variety of disciplines to examine issues of identity and belonging, and the relationship between the past and the present in the context of cultural globalization. The conference will make a significant contribution to public understanding about the identity and culture of diasporic societies and inspire future research in this area.

Madam Speaker, I commend this wonderful group for its dedication to the Worcester and international community in promoting education and giving financial aid to students, for supporting research and promoting public works. I congratulate the St. George's Society for the centennial celebration of its founding. I ask all of my colleagues join me in paying tribute to this fine example of community involvement.

HONORING THE RETIREMENT OF COL LINDA EBLING

**HON. KATHY CASTOR**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 26, 2008*

Ms. CASTOR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor COL Linda Ebling for her 22-year career in the United States Air Force as a Medical Service Corps officer. Her direct support of medical planning efforts for the United States Air Force Medical Service has greatly enhanced medical capabilities needed for success in the war.

Colonel Ebling was born in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. She obtained a Bachelors of Arts from Thiel College in Chemistry in 1975, and a Bachelors of Health Science from Hahnemann Medical College and Hospital in 1977.

She earned a Masters of Public Health at the University of Pittsburgh in 1985 and continued on as a distinguished graduate from military and health programs such as Health Services Administration, Squadron Officer School, Contingency Wartime Planning, and Joint Medical Planning. She also attended programs such as the Air Command and Staff College, Air War College, and Interagency Institute for Healthcare Executives at George Washington University.

Throughout her career, Colonel Ebling enhanced medical services in the U.S. military by working in numerous positions of medical services, support, management, operations, and planning. She is currently the Director of Medical Readiness for the Office of the Surgeon General, Headquarters United States Air Force at Bolling Air Force Base and the Pentagon, Washington, DC. Prior to serving with the Air Staff, she worked as Commander of the 86th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron at Ramstein Air Base, Germany, from 2004 through 2006. During this assignment, she also served as Commander to 332nd Expeditionary Medical Support Squadron and Administrator to the 332nd Expeditionary Medical Group, deploying to the Air Force Theater Hospital at Balad Air Base, Iraq.

Prior to entering the Air Force, Colonel Ebling engaged in clinical practice as a Certified Physician Assistant from 1977–1986, working in Family Medicine Clinics in rural Pennsylvania, Industrial Medicine at the United States Steel Corporation, and Internal Medicine Services at the University of Pittsburgh. She also volunteered for medical mission work in rural areas of Haiti during 1984 and 1985. In 1986, Colonel Ebling received a direct commission to the Air Force as a Medical Service Corps Officer. She has served at Air Staff, MAJCOM, MacDill Air Force Base, and in various chief administrative and operational assignments, including AFSOC, AFMOA, 16th Operations Group, and joint special operations.

To recognize Colonel Ebling's extensive experience and powerful influence on medical support to the United States Air Force, she has received numerous awards. She is the recipient of the Air Force Meritorious Service Medal (6 OLC), the Air Force Achievement Medal (2 OLC), and the Air Force Commendation Medal. She is also the recipient of the Joint Service Achievement Medal, Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal (OLC), Humanitarian Service Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, Air & Space Campaign Medal, and Iraqi Campaign Medal. She is also a member of Delta Omega, Omicron Chapter, a national society of academic excellence and leadership in public health, and was inducted into Thiel College's Athletic Hall of Fame. Due to her profound commitment and hard work, the United States Air Forces in Europe (USAFE) recognized her as the Medical Readiness Officer of the Year in 1988. She also earned the Air Force Special Operations Command (AFSOC) Commitment to Service Award in 1999, and the Air Combat Command (ACC) Commitment to Service Award in 2001.

Madam Speaker, COL Linda Ebling is a woman of the highest regard who has dedicated her life to the medical support and operations our brave men and women need out on the battlefield and when they return home. I am sure that I join many others in applauding

her significant contribution to the Air Force Medical Services throughout her 22-year career.

INTRODUCTION OF A BILL TO  
AMEND PUBLIC LAW 106-392 TO  
EXTEND THE AUTHORIZATIONS  
FOR THE UPPER COLORADO AND  
SAN JUAN RIVER BASIN ENDAN-  
GERED FISH RECOVERY PRO-  
GRAMS

**HON. TOM UDALL**

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 26, 2008*

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Madam Speaker, I am pleased to introduce a bill today that will extend authorization of the Upper Colorado and San Juan River Basin fish recovery programs. I am pleased to be joined in doing so by Representatives MARK UDALL, JOHN SALAZAR, JIM MATHESON, MARILYN MUSGRAVE, DIANA DEGETTE, and HEATHER WILSON.

The Upper Colorado River Endangered Fish Recovery Program and the San Juan River Basin Recovery Implementation Program were established under cooperative agreements as multiagency partnerships in 1988 and 1992, respectively.

This bill will allow the continuation of two already very successful programs. Established in 1988 and 1992, the Upper Colorado River Endangered Fish Recovery Program and the San Juan River Basin Recovery Implementation Program are run as partnerships between water users. These partners include the States of Colorado, New Mexico, Utah, and Wyoming; Bureau of Reclamation; U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; Western Area Power Administration, Bureau of Land Management; National Park Service; Bureau of Indian Affairs; Southern Ute Indian Tribe; Ute Mountain Ute Tribe; Jicarilla Apache Nation; Navajo Nation; environmental organizations; water users; and power customers. The cooperation and compromise that emerges from the union of such diverse parties has been key to the past success of these programs, and to the preservation of western fish species.

State, tribal, and community partnerships have allowed these fish recovery programs to succeed without compromising the rights and wellbeing of surrounding communities and water users. Recovery programs have actually helped 1,600 Federal, tribal, and non-Federal water projects meet Endangered Species Act, ESA, compliance in their consumption of three million acre-feet of San Juan and Colorado River basin water per year. Passage of this bill would help ensure the recovery of endangered fish and the continued compliance of water users to ESA standards. Water and fish habitat, so scarce in the arid West, can only properly be managed through the kind of cooperation and coordination that is made possible by the Endangered Fish Recovery Programs Improvement Act.

Upper Colorado and San Juan River basin recovery programs focus on four fish species, including humpback chub, bonytail, Colorado pikeminnow, and razorback sucker. Successful restoration projects have included the construction of fish passages, fish screens, hatcheries, flood plain and instream habitat, and even a reservoir to provide flow augmentation.

These facilities, costing approximately \$100 million to date, will require rehabilitation and replacement into the future as the natural impact of floods and debris wears on them. Extended authorization and increased funding, as included in this bill, will allow for continued upkeep of these facilities, and completion of other habitat preservation projects.

With bills such as this, we are clearing a sound path for addressing our future water scarcity issues. Through the programs authorized in this bill, western water users are able to gain access to this vital resource while not compromising the habitat and survival of the species who share that water.

HONORING SEAN CHARLES  
DOBBINS

**HON. SAM GRAVES**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 26, 2008*

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Sean Charles Dobbins of Kansas City, Missouri. Sean is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 1271, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Sean has been very active with his troop, participating in many Scout activities. Over the many years Sean has been involved with Scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Sean Charles Dobbins for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

HONORING THE LIFE AND ACCOM-  
PLISHMENTS OF JOHN "JACK"  
PATRICK GILLESPIE

**HON. JOE BARTON**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 26, 2008*

Mr. BARTON of Texas. Madam Speaker, today, I rise today to honor the life and accomplishments of the late Jack Gillespie. This American, immigrant, veteran, and patriot passed away on April 17th, 2008. Today would have been his 87th birthday and, in his honor, I would like to submit for the record the eulogy his son Ed read at his funeral on April 22nd of this year.

In November 1929, young John Patrick Gillespie—called Sean at the time—left his home by the Eanybeg stream at the base of Carnaween Mountain to head into Donegal Town with his mother and brothers and sisters.

He was beginning a journey to a new life in a wonderful place where he would find happiness, achieve glory, and eventually discover waiting for him there the woman he was meant to be one with.

By the time he came to be called "Jack" in his new country, he had figured out what success in America required.

He may have read some tips on board the *Littia*, the steamer on which he spent two

weeks crossing from Ireland to Ellis Island. Many of the boats that sailed that route posted in their galleys a notice with the heading, "Advice to Irish Emigrants."

The posting included these words: "In America, a man's success must altogether rest with himself—it will depend on his industry, sobriety, diligence and virtue . . . and he may rationally expect to raise himself in the world by his labour."

People who met Jack Gillespie quickly realized that their friend or coworker or fellow soldier was extremely diligent, very industrious, generally virtuous and—most of the time sober. And he certainly wasn't afraid of labor.

His high school sweetheart Conny Carroll noticed something else about him—something other pretty lasses tended to notice too. He was a strikingly handsome man.

She wrote to him regularly during the war, and clipped newspaper articles on the progress of the 28th Infantry—the famed and feared "bloody buckets"—and kept the clips in a scrap book.

Sergeant John Patrick Gillespie fought for the cause of freedom. He fought for the honor of his country. And though he never fought for the sake of glory, at war's end he was draped in it.

After landing in France, his Company L was among the first to confront the hedgerows that made a patchwork of the French countryside. His commanding officers spent days hunkered down trying to figure out how to advance over the thick, eight-foot-high lines of brush that separated them from an enemy whose size and strength they had no way of knowing.

Eventually a frustrated, impatient Sergeant Gillespie carved toeholds into the knotted hedgerow and told his lieutenant to listen for him after he went over the top.

When this fearless soldier dropped to the ground on the other side, he began firing his weapon to find—nobody firing back. Sixty years later, when asked what he did to get his Bronze Star, he laughingly said, "Nothing, really."

Of course, it wasn't for nothing. Nor was his subsequent Silver Star for Valor in Combat, earned saving a wounded platoon mate, or the Purple Heart for the bullets that ripped through both his legs in the Hurtgen Forest.

He was a successful salesman and a savvy entrepreneur willing to take risks—but calculated ones. He said he never took a chance in business unless he assessed better-than-60 percent odds for success. And he won a lot more often than he lost.

He was an opinion leader in his community. Bobby Kennedy was once asked how his brother Jack won the Democratic nomination in 1960. He said that when other campaigns went in to organize a town, they'd ask, "Who's the Mayor?" or "Who's the county party chairman," or "who's the Chamber of Commerce President?" And he always asked, "Who's the man to see?"

For a long time in this community, Jack Gillespie was the man to see.

What he cared most about was his family—his wife and children.

He was a devoted husband. As a father, he was a disciplinarian who gave the greatest gift you can give your children: unconditional love.

And sage advice. If Jack Gillespie said "that's a good house," you should buy it. If he said "you can't trust that guy," you couldn't. If he said "you ought to marry that girl," you ought to.

Because of the guidance and advice he gave to me, I have been able to give guidance and advice to Congressmen, Senators, governors, Supreme Court Justices, prime ministers and, yes, the President of the United States of America.

Remarkable men and women, all. Yet I never felt intimidated in their presence.

You see, the most remarkable man I've ever known lies before us here today.

John Patrick Gillespie has left home again—on a journey to a new life in a wonderful place, where he will find happiness and achieve eternal glory. And waiting for him there, the woman he was meant to be one with.

Farewell, poor immigrant.

Farewell, successful businessman.

Farewell, brave soldier.

Farewell, loving husband, son, brother, uncle, grandfather, and friend.

Farewell, Dad.

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### HONORING THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE GRAND COULEE DAM

#### HON. CATHY McMORRIS RODGERS

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 26, 2008*

Mrs. McMORRIS RODGERS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 75th Anniversary of the building of Grand Coulee Dam.

If you have ever visited Grand Coulee Dam you know just how impressive of a structure it is. It is the largest concrete structure in the United States with enough concrete to build a sidewalk around the world—twice. During the summer, you can learn the history of the Columbia River by watching a laser light show displayed on the dam.

Although Grand Coulee Dam initially helped us win World War II it continues to play a critical role in the national and economic security of the United States by providing vital electric power and water to grow our food.

The Pacific Northwest serves as an example of good energy policy. You can't get any better than clean, renewable hydropower. As the Ranking Republican on the Water and Power Subcommittee, I am working hard to tell the good news story about hydropower.

That is why I was so pleased to see the Today Show highlighting Grand Coulee Dam and the positive impact it has had in the Pacific Northwest and more specifically Spokane.

Hydroelectric dams across the West and especially in Washington State have provided us with an abundant supply of clean, affordable, and renewable energy. In fact, dams provide nearly two-thirds of our state's electricity. These dams have kept the Pacific Northwest's "carbon footprint" at half that of the rest of the Nation. Removal of the four lower Snake River dams would add 5.4 million tons of CO<sub>2</sub> to the atmosphere each year and it would take three nuclear, six coal-fired, or 14 gas fired power plants to replace their electricity generation.

At a time of growing energy demand, it makes no sense to throw this energy source away. I am committed, as we move forward with the debate on global climate change, and how to reduce our carbon emissions, that hydropower be recognized for the important role it has played in the Pacific Northwest.

In addition, the water provided from the Columbia Basin Project, supplies more than 500,000 acres of farmland and helps make Washington second only to California in the number of crops grown totaling more than 250 different commodities.

TRIBUTE TO PAT O'BRIEN, GENERAL MANAGER OF THE EAST BAY REGIONAL PARK DISTRICT

#### HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 26, 2008*

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to join with my colleagues ELLEN TAUSCHER, BARBARA LEE, PETE STARK, and JERRY MCNERNEY in honoring Pat O'Brien for his many accomplishments and contributions to the East Bay Regional Park District, a world-class system of parks and trails throughout Alameda and Contra Costa counties in the San Francisco Bay Area.

Pat O'Brien has provided remarkable leadership as the General Manager of the East Bay Regional Park District, and our congressional districts have been greatly enhanced by his two decades of service. On the 20th anniversary of his leadership there, it is our great privilege to pay tribute to his work in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

His service to public parks and recreation in California began at the Southgate Recreation and Park District in the Sacramento area. Due to his innovative ideas and pioneering work at Southgate, he was hired as the East Bay Regional Park District's General Manager. Over the next 20 years, Pat has accomplished more than many could in a lifetime of service.

Under his leadership, the Park District has acquired over 32,000 acres of new parklands, and has added 17 parks and more than 100 miles of regional trails. The East Bay Regional Park District today includes 98,000 acres and 65 parks, a remarkable achievement in protecting and providing open space access to the citizens of one of the densely developed regions of the country. And while expanding to ensure that all of our communities are served, Pat O'Brien and the East Bay Regional Park District have built strong relationships throughout the region so that their important projects and initiatives have widespread support.

The East Bay Regional Park District during Pat O'Brien's tenure has been a wise steward not only over the parks, trails, and natural and cultural resources of the East Bay Area, but of the taxpayers' money as well. The Park District has brought in more than \$75 million in matching funds, and they have worked through ballot measures and assessment districts to provide stable funding for their good work.

Pat O'Brien's public service is an example to us all, and we are lucky to have his vision and his commitment in the East Bay. We have all benefitted by his leadership, and on behalf of all of our constituents, it is an honor to recognize Pat O'Brien on the occasion of his 20th anniversary as General Manager of the East Bay Regional Park District.

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### RECOGNIZING THE JERSEY CITY FIRE DEPARTMENT

#### HON. STEVEN R. ROTHMAN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 26, 2008*

Mr. ROTHMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize and congratulate the Jersey City

Fire Department on receiving the U.S. Department of Defense Employer Support Freedom Award.

From their beginnings in 1829 through today, the Jersey City Fire Department's primary focus has been on protecting and supporting the community. This is readily apparent in how they treat their employees, particularly those who have chosen to serve in the U.S. military Reserves. Fire Captain Leonard DiStaso has been working for the department since 1997 in addition to serving in the Marine Corps Reserve. In the past 5 years, Captain DiStaso has been deployed to Iraq twice and both times the Jersey City Fire Department was there to support him and his family:

The Jersey City Fire Department went above and beyond the call of duty to make sure that Captain DiStaso was able to keep in contact with his family, while the department made sure to take care of them at home. His coworkers at the fire department stayed in touch with his family and helped them with snow shoveling and other necessities. In addition, the Jersey City Fire Department also raised thousands of dollars to buy phone cards for him and his fellow Marines in Iraq, as well as for wounded Marines at the National Naval Medical Center in Bethesda, Maryland. In fact, they even gave Christmas gifts to the families of all the Marines in his unit.

I commend the Jersey City Fire Department for their commitment to the community and their employees. This group of dedicated individuals is exceedingly deserving of the Department of Defense Employer Support Freedom Award, which recognizes employers who provide exceptional support to employees serving in the National Guard or Reserve. This is the U.S. Government's highest recognition for efforts made in the civilian lives of America's citizen-servicemembers, which make up roughly half of the Nation's Armed Forces.

I am so proud to represent the men and women of the Jersey City Fire Department and hope every Member of Congress will join me in recognizing them for their outstanding commitment to the community.

**HONORING MINEOLA HIGH SCHOOL  
FOR TAKING PART IN NATIONAL  
SERVICE LEARNING CHALLENGE  
WEEK**

**HON. CAROLYN MCCARTHY**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 26, 2008*

Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise in honor of the young men and women from Mineola High School taking part in National Service Learning Challenge Week. For over 10 years, all 9th grade students from Mineola High School have taken part in an interdisciplinary project sponsored by the English and Living Environment curriculums.

On October 8th, under the supervision and guidance of their teachers and New York City Parks Department employees, students will visit Queens' Alley Pond Park as part of a tree planting and forest reclamation project. During their park visit, students will not only add to the beauty of the park by planting trees, but they will also learn of the park's vast history and ecosystem. In learning of the park's indig-

enous plants, students will come to understand the vast and complicated dynamics non-native plants can have on their environment.

The growing strength, interest, and funding for service programs in the area has enabled a wider range of students to participate. For the first time, Mineola's "Life Skills" students, who are developmentally and physically challenged, will be going to Alley Pond. Their experience will no doubt make the event more complete and fulfilling for all those involved.

As a conscientious citizen and ardent environmental advocate, I am proud to recognize the students of Mineola High School and commend events much like National Service Learning Challenge Week for broadening the education of our Nation's youth. Mineola High School, as a recipient of a Learn and Serve America K-12 Grant, is currently enjoying its 25th year participating in the Mineola Student Service Center and Service Learning Program. Mineola has, and continues to be, a nationwide model for exemplary volunteerism and service.

It is the continued strong will and selfless determination of the students of Mineola that make me proud to call the town my home, and I am immensely grateful to the men and women whose hard work make such great events happen. I ask my colleagues to join me in expressing the gratitude of the U.S. Congress for the extensive contributions to education these individuals have made through this program.

**CONGRATULATING MR. ARNOLD  
ROMALDINI FOR BEING SE-  
LECTED AS PERSON OF THE  
YEAR**

**HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 26, 2008*

Mr. KANJORSKI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to ask you and my esteemed colleagues in the House of Representatives to pay tribute to Mr. Arnold Romaldini, who was chosen by the Italian American Association of Luzerne County to be their 2008 "Person of the Year" to be honored at their annual Columbus Day observance.

Born in the Hilldale section of Plains Township, Luzerne County, Pennsylvania, Mr. Romaldini is a son of the late Sante and Elia Benzi Romaldini and a stepson of Ubaldo Mosca. He has two sisters, Thelma Stella and Adelia James. He also had two brothers, Carlo and Eugene, both of whom are deceased.

Mr. Romaldini had five children from his first marriage to the late Joan Urban, of Duryea, and seven grandchildren. He is currently married to Elena DeSimone of Naples, Italy, and has two stepchildren and several stepgrandchildren.

Mr. Romaldini attended public schools in Plains Township and graduated from Jenkins Township High School. He attended Wilkes College and graduated from the Kingston Vocational School, specializing in automotive technology. He worked at several local car dealerships before accepting a management position at an out of state business.

He subsequently went into business for himself with an associate and operated a multi-faceted repair shop which he later built into

three automobile franchises as well as other business ventures. At the height of his business career, he employed approximately 50 people with a payroll in excess of \$1 million. He traveled extensively throughout North America and Europe attending auto industry seminars.

Still a member of the National Automobile Dealers Association and the American Imported Auto Dealers Association, he was area District Dealer representative for numerous automobile manufacturers. He is a long standing member of the New York Auto Dealers Association and was a founding member and chairman of the Nissan Advertising Association of New York. He has been retired since selling his business in 1996.

He is a proud and active member of the Italian American Association of Luzerne County.

Madam Speaker, please join me in congratulating Mr. Romaldini. His determination to become a leading businessman has enriched the lives of all he has employed and all with whom he has been associated over many years. Moreover, his contributions to his family and his community has been extraordinary and an inspiration to all who know him.

**EARMARK DECLARATION**

**HON. GREG WALDEN**

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 26, 2008*

Mr. WALDEN of Oregon. Madam Speaker, consistent with the House Republican leadership's policy on earmarks, to the best of my knowledge the request I have detailed below (1) is not directed to an entity or program that will be named after a sitting Member of Congress; and (2) is not intended to be used by an entity to secure funds for other entities unless the use of funding is consistent with the specified purpose of the earmark. As required by earmark standards adopted by the House Republican Conference, I submit the following information on a project I requested and was included in H.R. 2638, The Consolidated Security, Disaster Assistance, and Continuing Appropriations Act, 2009.

Account: Research, Development, Test, and Evaluation—Defense-Wide.

Legal Name of Requesting Entities: Oregon Institute of Technology; Portland State University; University of Oregon; Worksystems, Inc. (a non-profit Workforce Development Board established by the 1998 Workforce Investment Act and recognized by the U.S. Department of Labor).

Address of Requesting Entities: Oregon Institute of Technology, 3201 Campus Drive, Klamath Falls, OR 97601; Portland State University, 2121 SW Fourth Avenue, Unitus Building, 6th Floor, Portland, OR 97027; University of Oregon, Charles H. Lundquist College of Business, 1208 University of Oregon, Eugene, OR 97403; and Worksystems, Inc., 111 SW Fifth Avenue, Suite 1150, Portland, OR 97204.

Description of Project: The Northwest Manufacturing Initiative confirms that it will use this funding for supporting applied engineering and sustainable supply innovation and research, workforce training programs and outreach and training for youth and young adults in order to increase the Northwest region's supply of

skilled, work-ready employees. In order to carry out the previously stated objectives, Northwest Manufacturing Initiative has provided the following budget and funding breakdown for the \$1,600,000 provided for the project in H.R. 2638: \$600,000 for Portland State University; \$250,000 for the University of Oregon; \$250,000 for the Oregon Institute of Technology; \$360,000 for workforce training and skills integration; \$40,000 for youth and young adult outreach; and \$100,000 for Defense Logistics Agency estimated processing fee.

Account: Research, Development, Test, and Evaluation—Army.

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: University of Oregon.

Address of Requesting Entity: Attn: Rich Linton, Vice President for Research, University of Oregon, 203 Johnson Hall, Eugene, OR 97403.

Description of Project: The University of Oregon confirms that this funding will be used for the Brain, Biology and Machine Applied Research initiative's (BBMI) applied research phase and will focus primarily on research and development related to neurorehabilitation. In particular, the University of Oregon confirms that BBMI will investigate neuroplasticity aimed at developing, evaluating and optimizing a new generation of intervention techniques for assisted and prosthetic devices and integration. In order to carry out the previously stated objectives, the University of Oregon has provided the following budget and funding breakdown for the \$1,600,000 provided for the project in H.R. 2638: \$460,000 for equipment; \$1,050,000 for research; and \$90,000 for public outreach/education.

Account: Army National Guard.

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Oregon Military Department.

Address of Requesting Entity: Oregon Military Department, Attn: Installations Division, 1776 Militia Way, P.O. Box 14350, Salem, OR 97309-5047.

Project Location: The Dalles, Oregon.

Description of Project: H.R. 2638 appropriates \$682,000 for design of The Dalles Readiness Center (Armory), a 35,355-square-foot facility to support administrative and training functions for Company A(-) of the 3-116 Rifle Cavalry, with adequate classroom and administrative space for training and operations for homeland security, antiterrorism, and force protection. The Oregon Military Department has stated that all of the \$682,000 appropriated funds will go towards design of The Dalles Readiness Center.

Account: Research, Development, Test, and Evaluation—Army.

Legal Name of Requesting Entities: Oregon State University (on behalf of the Oregon Nanoscience and Microtechnology Institute (ONAMI)), a collaboration between the University of Oregon, Oregon State University, and Portland State University).

Address of Requesting Entities: Attn: John M. Cassady, Vice President for Research, Oregon State University, 314 Rogers Hall, Corvallis, OR 97331.

Description of Project: The requesting entity confirms that this funding will be used by the Oregon Nanoscience and Microtechnology Institute (ONAMI) Miniature Tactical Energy Systems Development project. It will be used for research and development to miniaturize a wide range of important tactical energy sys-

tems including soldier power systems and advanced cooling units for forward deployed operations. In order to carry out the previously stated objectives, ONAMI has provided the following budget and funding breakdown for the \$2,400,000 provided for the project in H.R. 2638: \$1,020,000 for equipment; \$1,255,000 for research; and \$125,000 for industry and community outreach.

Account: Air Force; Research, Development, Test, & Evaluation.

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: University of Oregon (on behalf of the Oregon Nanoscience and Microtechnology Institute (ONAMI) which consists of the University of Oregon, Oregon State University, and Portland State University).

Address of Requesting Entity: Attn: Rich Linton, Vice President for Research, 203 Johnson Hall, University of Oregon, Eugene, OR 97403.

Description of Project: H.R. 2638 has appropriated \$4,000,000 for the Oregon Nanoscience and Microtechnology Institute (ONAMI) Safer Nanomaterials and Nanomanufacturing Initiative. In order to carry out the objectives of this project, ONAMI has provided the following budget and funding breakdown for the \$4,000,000 provided for the project in H.R. 2638: \$1,200,000 for equipment; \$2,200,000 for research; \$400,000 for industry and community outreach; and \$200,000 for industry collaboration.

The ONAMI Safer Nanomaterials and Nanomanufacturing Initiative develops inherently safer and greener nanomaterials and nanomanufacturing methods, which directly impact the military's need for high performance materials that do not emit unintended wastestreams or material hazards. Three general areas of activity included within the Initiative are: (1) rational design of safer and greener materials based upon unique properties found at the nanoscale, (2) systematic assessment of the biological impacts of engineered nanomaterials, and (3) development of technology for high volume manufacturing and application of high-performance nanomaterials. Examples of nanomaterials and manufacturing of importance for military technology include nanoelectronics and nanophotonics, thermoelectric coolers, medical diagnostics and therapeutics, drinking water purification and environmental monitoring & remediation systems.

The ONAMI Safer Nanomaterials and Safer Nanomanufacturing Initiative cost share includes: state funding of approximately \$2.23 million for research activities; private funding of over \$2 million (cash and in-kind) from Hewlett-Packard, Invitrogen, FEI, and companies involved in related research efforts; and peer-reviewed federal awards and competitive awards from foundations, including the Keck Foundation, worth several million dollars.

Account: Research, Development, Test, and Evaluation—Navy.

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Portland State University (on behalf of the Oregon Nanoscience and Microtechnology Institute (ONAMI)), a collaboration between the University of Oregon, Oregon State University, and Portland State University).

Address of Requesting Entity: John Caruthers, Portland State University, 1719 SW 10th Ave., Portland, OR 97201.

Description of Project: The requesting entity confirms that this funding will be used by the

Oregon Nanoscience and Microtechnology Institute (ONAMI) Nanoelectronics and Nanometrology Initiative. This funding will be used for supporting collaborative research with the Western Institute for Nanoelectronics, Pacific Northwest National Laboratory, and Oregon Health and Science University (OHSU) to generate new applications such as nanoelectronic devices to address the end of Moore's Law scaling, advanced solar cells, nanoscale chemical imaging for catalysis improvements in areas such as bioremediation and ethanol production, nanoscale biosensors for point-of-care health management, and biological cell imaging and measurement capabilities. In order to carry out the previously stated objectives, ONAMI has provided the following budget and funding breakdown for the \$4,000,000 provided for the project in H.R. 2638: \$1,200,000 for equipment; \$2,525,000 for research; and \$275,000 for industry and community outreach.

#### EARMARK DECLARATION

### HON. DON YOUNG

OF ALASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 26, 2008*

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Madam Speaker, I submit the following:

Bill Number: H.R. 2638, Air Force, RDT&E, Line 221, PE# 0708611F (Support Systems Development).

Legal name and address of entity receiving earmark: Biomass Energy Systems, Inc., 100 Overlook Center, 2nd Floor, Princeton, NJ 08540.

Description of how the money will be spent and why the use of federal taxpayer funding is justified: This project is underway to introduce alternative energy sources based on locally available resources for the USDOD and in Alaska. The Air Force, APTO, Eielson AFB and BESI have forged an alliance to create an alternative energy source program to be implemented in Alaska. The program consists of three phases. First, an integrated waste to energy system consisting of waste gasification, gas cleanup, and a gas engine to convert waste-based fuel gas to electricity will be demonstrated using wood waste and other locally generated wastes will be located at Eielson AFB in Fairbanks, AK. After the testing is complete and any modifications are identified, the gasification system will be relocated to a local village, to demonstrate the system in a typical local setting as a backup source of power. After testing the system under local conditions is completed, the system will be integrated in parallel with the existing petroleum-based system. Initially the system will operate as backup for the existing system with a gradual change over to a primary role. This provides a practical model of sustainable renewable energy for the USDOD facilities, as well as the Alaskan villages.

Description of matching funds: BESI is currently under contract to the U.S. Air Force, APTO to deliver a final design for a 1MW system for Eielson Air Force Base in Alaska.

This is a Congressionally funded project from FY 07 and the contract is worth \$848,040.00.

Appropriated Amount: \$2,400,000.

Project Name: Eielson Air Force Base Alternative Energy Source Program.

Detailed Finance Plan:

Item	Cost
Equipment Gasifier and Genset .....	\$1,430,000
Instrumentation and Controls .....	330,000
Construction & Installation .....	200,000
Shakedown .....	200,000
Project Management .....	240,000
Total .....	\$2,400,000

Bill Number: H.R. 2638, Army, RDT &E, 999 Classified Programs.

Legal name and address of entity receiving earmark: Army Battle Command Battle Laboratory, Mr. Jason Denno, Deputy Director, Ft. Huachuca AZ 85613.

Description of how the money will be spent and why the use of federal taxpayer funding is justified: (BRAMA-E) is a critical decision and training aid for commanders and operators to use in support of military operations on urbanized terrain (MOUT). BRAMA is an integrated collection, planning, and course of action system. It integrates existing U.S. Army developed blast modeling software with a state of the art 4D (Lat, Long, Alt, and Time) visualization front end. It is used by the Army to simulate blast analysis and vulnerability assessments.

BRAMA provides decision support for anti-terrorism/force protection (AT/FP) and critical infrastructure protection (CIP). BRAMA is a royalty-free tool and requires minimal training. It leverages previous U.S. Army and U.S. Air Force—force/facility protection R&D efforts. Starting in 2007, the BRAMA capability—along with training—has been provided to active duty Army, Homeland Security and National Guard representatives from 7 states. The U.S. Army CONOPS for Force Protection highlights the need for a Capabilities Based Assessment (CBA) tool. Additionally, user feedback post-delivery on BRAMA specifically asks for enhancements on the speed at which facility data can be generated and visualized. Research conducted by the Army in 2006 and 2007 has identified a candidate commercial technology that can be integrated into the BRAMA baseline to meet the CONOPS and speed up the collection process.

BRAMA has demonstrated its usefulness to commanders, planners, and security forces by employing full-dimensional display technology to visualize, analyze and remediate blast effects generated by DoD-approved blast models. BRAMA-E will extend that capability by simplifying the ease of use and helping the Army meet its goal to field a unit level Capabilities Based Assessment (CBA) tool.

Description of matching funds: Not Applicable.

Appropriated Amount: \$800,000.

Project Name: Blast and Damage Assessment Risk Analysis and Mitigation Application—Enhancements (BRAMA-E).

Funding Source: Army, RDT &E, 999 Classified Programs.

Bill Number: H.R. 2638, Army, RDT&E, Line 6, PE # 0602120A.

Legal name and address of entity receiving earmark: Alkan Shelters, LLC, 1701 S. Cushman St., Fairbanks, AK 99701.

Description of how the money will be spent and why the use of federal taxpayer funding is justified: In an effort to support the needs of the Special Operations Community with regard

to establishing remote area communications and intelligence, Alkan has designed a C4 module capable for use on the smaller ATV platforms. The module design incorporates the latest in satellite communications, UAV & IR camera surveillance and military mesh network antenna systems. It will provide a means by which to gather field intelligence and transmit this data back to the tactical operations center. This project funding would be used to build a military ATV vehicle and C4 module and has already received \$500,000 in funding from SOCOM.

Description of matching funds: This project has received \$500,000 in funding from SOCOM.

Appropriated Amount: \$1,200,000.

Project Name: Command and Control, Communications and Computers (C4) module.

Detailed Finance Plan:

ATV .....	\$300,000
Shelter .....	300,000
C4 Components .....	200,000
Engineering .....	400,000
Total .....	\$1,200,000

Bill Number: H.R. 2638, Operation and Maintenance, Air Force, 04 Administration and Servicewide Activities 0421 Civil Air Patrol.

Legal name and address of entity receiving earmark: Alaska Wing, Civil Air Patrol, United States Air Force Auxiliary, P.O. Box 6014, Elmendorf Air Force Base, AK 99506-6014.

Description of how the money will be spent and why the use of federal taxpayer funding is justified: Requested funds would provide Infra-Red (IR) technology that would be mounted to select aircraft to enhance our capability in Search and Rescue (SAR), Homeland Security, and Disaster related missions. Five aircraft strategically located throughout Alaska would provide enhanced coverage for the aforementioned missions.

Description of matching funds: N/A.

Appropriated Amount: \$800,000.

Project Name: Alaska Civil Air Patrol Strategic Upgrades and Training.

Funding Source: Operation and Maintenance, Air Force, 04 Administration and Servicewide Activities 0421 Civil Air Patrol.

Detailed Finance Plan:

EVS Equipment, Installation, and needed aircraft modifications—\$450,000.

Training Related Expenses—\$150,000—\$200,000.

Estimated Modification(s) to Individual Squadron Facilities to Maintain Storage, Security, and Maintenance of the Technology—\$100,000—\$200,000.

Bill Number: H.R. 2638.

Legal name and address of entity receiving earmark: Alaska National Guard, Alaska Department of Military & Veterans Affairs, PO Box 5800 Camp Denali, Fort Richardson, AK 99505-5800.

Description of how the money will be spent and why the use of federal taxpayer funding is justified: The Alaska National Guard is undergoing a significant organizational transformation from its "Cold War first line of defense" to an integral component of today's military that is trained and ready to fight the Global War on Terrorism. As such, it is imperative that we have contemporary training and logistics facilities for our soldiers as they re-

turn from Kuwait, Iraq, and Afghanistan. This new readiness center will serve as a modern regional training and logistics hub to prepare service members throughout western Alaska for their new mission. Thank you for your support on this matter.

Description of matching funds: The State of Alaska has appropriated all necessary state funds for this project.

Appropriated Amount: \$16,000,000.

Project Name: Bethel Armory Readiness Center.

Funding Source: Department of Defense, Air National Guard.

Detailed Finance Plan: Funds will be used for construction costs. The land for the project has been acquired, all environmental documentation is complete and without issue and the site has been prepared, at state cost, and is ready for construction; and the design is 95% complete.

Bill Number: H.R. 2638, Army, RDT&E, 999 Classified Programs.

Legal name and address of entity receiving earmark: Battle Command Battle Lab, Mr. Jason Denno, Deputy Director, Fort Huachuca, AZ 85613.

Description of how the money will be spent and why the use of federal taxpayer funding is justified: The Constant Look system is a prototype biometric sensing capability developed for the U.S. Army to support MOUT (military operations in urbanized terrain). Its unique standoff capability gives users an ability to support surveillance and special operations remotely. User comments from several demonstration tests included requests for enhancements to improve usability and extend the capability of the system in terms of what can be collected. The Constant Look Operational Support Environment (CLOSE) will provide that additional functionality by leveraging several proven off-the-shelf technologies—a standoff digital collection system and additional digital signal processing (DSP) to extract other types of biometric signatures.

The U.S. Army's ISR Battle Command Battle Lab at Fort Huachuca (BCBL-H) responding to user requests—has developed and tested a stand-off biometric sensor system that allows traditional and special operations units to conduct surveillance and identify potential hostiles from a safe distance with a low probability of detection. To date, the majority of the effort on Constant Look has focused on the core collection system technology and the user interface has not kept pace with available commercial technology. CLOSE will remedy that by leveraging millions of dollars in commercial investment and integrating that investment into the Constant Look baseline.

CLOSE will provide CL users with a rapid capability to collect and model surveillance target facilities, including ingress and egress, from the same standoff range as the CL collection system itself. Secondly it will extend the DSP capability resident within the CL baseline to extract other types of Indications and Warning (I&W) data.

Description of matching funds: Not Applicable.

Appropriated Amount: \$1,600,000.

Project Name: Constant Look Operational Support Environment (CLOSE).

Funding Source: Army, RDT&E, 999 Classified Programs.

IN HONOR OF ARCHER RAYMOND  
MORGAN, JR.

**HON. ELTON GALLEGLY**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 26, 2008*

Mr. GALLEGLY. Madam Speaker, I rise in honor of Simi Valley Police Department Sergeant Archer Raymond Morgan, Jr., who will retire October 12 after 33 years of dedicated and exceptional service to the department and the city it serves.

Simi Valley, California, has been my home for more than 40 years. When I was first elected to the City Council, Simi Valley's public safety was entrusted to the Simi Valley Community Safety Agency. Officers rode in white cars and wore light blue uniform shirts. It was an intentionally low-key and, some might say, casual approach to law enforcement.

Not long after my election to the council, I became the city's first elected mayor. Soon thereafter, we transformed the Simi Valley Community Safety Agency into the Simi Valley Police Department. White patrol cars became traditional black and whites. Community safety officers became trained and professional police officers and dressed the part.

Arch Morgan was an integral part of that transformation into a professional police force. I have done several ride-alongs with Arch over the years—in both white cars and black and whites. He is a professional's professional and one of the most liked and respected members of the department.

Arch worked patrol for the first 5 years with the department. He also served as the department's Court Officer, field training officer, and on the department's Driving Under the Influence Team (DUI). In 1980, he was promoted to sergeant. As a sergeant, Arch worked in Patrol, Patrol Support, Youth Services, Inspection & Planning, and the Special Enforcement Detail. For the past 11½ years, he has supervised the Field Training Office Program.

Prior to his law enforcement career, Arch was a Medical Corpsman for the U.S. Army National Guard. He earned his associate of arts with a Police Science major from Moorpark College.

Sergeant Archer Raymond Morgan, Jr., epitomizes the professionalism of the Police Department he has served for more than 3 decades and on which he has left a visible possible mark.

Madam Speaker, I know my colleagues join me in thanking Arch Morgan for his dedication to the Simi Valley Police Department and the people it serves, and in wishing him well in a long and fruitful retirement.

TRIBUTE TO CARRIE CONLEY

**HON. JOHN SHIMKUS**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 26, 2008*

Mr. SHIMKUS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the admirable accomplishment of kidney transplant recipient, Carrie Conley. Mrs. Conley won two gold and two silver medals at the U.S. Transplant Games.

In a brief statement Conley says, "I attend the games to promote organ donation and to

honor my donor family, which I met in 2004 at the Louisville games." Mrs. Conley received her kidney failure gradually from polycystic kidney disease. She won gold medals in swimming and golf, and her silver medals in the 5K race and track and field.

The U.S. Transplant Games encourage athletes of all ages who have received transplants to participate in this admirable and charitable event. Carrie Conley is an inspiration to transplant recipients of all ages, and I admire her greatly for her benevolent efforts.

HONORING ZACHARY RAYMOND  
BUKATY

**HON. SAM GRAVES**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 26, 2008*

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Zachary Raymond Bukaty of Grain Valley, Missouri. Zachary is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 1332, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Zachary has been very active with his troop, participating in many Scout activities. Over the many years Zachary has been involved with Scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Zachary Raymond Bukaty for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

TRIBUTE TO JEAN HINES

**HON. KENNY C. HULSHOF**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 26, 2008*

Mr. HULSHOF. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a special woman who has more than left her mark on Missouri. Jean Hines, of Sullivan, has been named by Experience Works, provider of job training and employment opportunities for older Americans, as the Outstanding Older Worker from the State of Missouri. Experience Works serves over 20,000 older workers and local communities.

Ms. Hines is a resident of the Ninth Congressional District. She works as a machinist; specifically, she works in finishing operations for the Cardin Machine Shop, which makes precision machine parts for the aerospace industry for companies such as Boeing and Lockheed.

Experience Works began in the summer of 1963 when President John F. Kennedy decided to make poverty reduction a focus of his anticipated 1964 reelection campaign. Shortly thereafter, President Lyndon B. Johnson, looking to help heal a shocked Nation after President Kennedy's assassination, took the advice of several national leaders and declared war on poverty.

On October 5, 1965, President Johnson signed the Nelson Amendment to the Eco-

omic Opportunity Act, which funded the "green thumb" project of the National Farmers Union. Soon after, Green Thumb, Inc. (now Experience Works) became the first nonprofit organization whose sole function was to help provide jobs for disadvantaged rural Americans.

While the Economic Opportunity Act stalled in Congress, Lady Bird Johnson helped press the initiative forward. A proposal suggested taking "the 'green thumbs' of poor, older, and retired farmers and put them to work to beautify our highways." The First Lady said that "an opportunity is presented here to provide [older farmers] with useful employment for which they are fully qualified, and at the same time, to beautify highways for the benefit of all our people."

Over time, that program went from beautification projects in four States to a major Federal workforce initiative known as the Senior Community Service Employment Program (SCSEP), which today provides training, employment, and community service opportunities to thousands of seniors across the country.

I believe this program is an effective tool, which helps to strengthen families, communities, and our Nation by providing older workers with opportunities to learn, work, and serve others. Many of Missouri's seniors have benefited from this program.

Ms. Hines will be honored this week in Washington, DC, during National Older Workers Week. Today I want to shine a spotlight on not only Ms. Hines' achievements, but also on the vital role that older workers play in our Nation's economy. Ms. Hines' tireless commitment to her work has helped break down the barriers to hiring, training, and retaining older workers. Indeed, she is a role model for other older workers and employers. She has shown that much can be achieved and attained after the traditional retirement age. For these reasons, I am privileged to stand before this body and congratulate Ms. Hines on her receipt of this prestigious award. It is much-deserved.

HONORING MARINE CORPORAL  
BRADLEY J. WALKER

**HON. DAVID DAVIS**

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 26, 2008*

Mr. DAVID DAVIS of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, I rise today to bring to the attention of the House of Representatives the story of Marine Corporal Bradley J. Walker of White Pine, Tennessee.

Corporal Walker, a proud American and proud Marine, was injured when his Humvee vehicle was hit by an improvised explosive device in Haditha, Iraq in November of 2006. As a result of his injuries, Corporal Walker had both legs amputated at the knees. Since that time, Corporal Walker has been an inspiration to all of us as he has taken to his recuperation with the same drive and determination that was the hallmark of his service with the Marine Corps.

As has always been the case, the community of White Pine rallied to the cause of Walker's family in the true "Volunteer State" spirit by transforming their home to meet Corporal Walker's new needs as well as honoring him

with a parade and a declaration of "Brad Walker Day."

Corporal Walker has been an inspiration to many others as well. Recently, I had a discussion with Bert Caswell, a member of the Capitol Guide Service. Bert had met Brad at Walter Reed Medical Center and was truly moved by his story. That inspiration led Bert to write a poem that honors Corporal Walker. I enjoyed having the opportunity to read this poem and wanted to share this with the House of Representatives:

WALKING TALL

(By Albert Carey Caswell)

There's a calm before the storm . . .  
Upon, battlefields of honor in hearts as worn . . .  
All in souls of honor, as into the darkness their hearts of courage move on . . . where magnificence is born . . .  
And when that battle is done . . .  
Fine Men and Women of honor lie face down, living but their last most brilliant suns!  
And then there are those ones, left behind with new battles begun . . . without arms and legs our sons . . .  
As somehow their heart's must get up and walk again . . .  
All in their pain and heartache, as their most splendid souls must somehow begin . . .  
Telling them to get up and walk, as these inner voices of faith and courage so much has taught in the end!  
Taught us all about the walk, the walk of life . . .  
All in the kinds of battles we so chose to fight, all in these our darkest days of night . . .  
All between dark and light, life and death . . . good and evil . . . as comes this battle, this their fine fight . . .  
Is but their walk so burning bright . . .  
Is but their walk of life, which brings such light . . . to everyone there so in sight . . .  
Are all those steps they take, watching them . . . as all of our hearts so begin to break, all on this night . . .  
And now upon this day, so seen . . .  
Is but a fine United States Marine, Corporal Bradley J. Walker of Tennessee . . .  
Who went off to war, who gave up his two fine legs all for our country tis of thee . . .  
While, there in the face of death . . .  
As he looked down to see no legs left, when he began his most heroic quest . . .  
But, cheating death . . . as he began to walk . . . step by step . . . as his faith our world would bless . . .  
As Brad, stands even taller on this day . . .  
All in what his heart has now so conveyed, all in those new steps he has so made . . .  
For Marines can do, and a heart of courage full can so teach so much too . . . all in courage's way!  
All in our walk o life . . .  
Will we walk tall, and with our souls so burn bright? Doing what is right!  
As comes this night, Walking Tall . . . Corporal Bradley Walker this valiant knight . . .  
Brad, The Toast of Tennessee . . .  
One damn fine United States Marine . . .  
And if I ever have a son, I but hope and pray he'd be like this one . . . Walking Tall like Bradley!

In honor of Corporal Bradley J. Walker, D Co., 4th Combat Engineer Battalion of White Pine Tennessee.

Madam Speaker, this is a fitting tribute to a fine young man who has sacrificed so much for his country, and I hope that the House will join me in honoring Corporal Walker for his service and thanking Bert Caswell for his tribute to this young man's service and sacrifice.

TRIBUTE TO LIMA COMPANY

HON. DAVID L. HOBSON

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 26, 2008

Mr. HOBSON. Madam Speaker, I request to submit this tribute in honor of the Lima Company of the 3rd Battalion, 25th Marine Regiment based in my congressional district. The piece was written by Albert Caswell.

Rest! Rest our fine sons . . . Your war is now over . . . Your battle's begun . . . There's Company in Heaven . . . There's a new force to be found . . . There's a new band of 23 brothers, of so renown . . .

There's a new winged force of Angels, warriors in the Army of our Lord now . . . There's 22 Magnificent Marines and a Corpsman, who are all out in front, moving so forth out on the prowl . . .

Heading in a divine direction, to do a battle for our Lord . . . to fight the darkness, as it's the light they so ensure! The ones who so lived and so died for each other, in the darkest times of war . . . as where their great burdens bore. Who have now come back as Angels, in this the greatest of all force . . . listen on the wind, you'll hear their voices.

Once but our bravest and brightest, who were all once champions of right . . . there our United States Marines . . . Who were the finest of all sons our nation has seen, who so bravely left all their loved ones to do what must be done! While, strength in honor was but their most magnificent of themes, but willing to die for us and give up all their dreams.

Moments on this earth are but all we so have, to make a difference, to crush hearts . . . all in our shortest of life paths. To grab hearts, from the beginning, where we so start, to stare right into the face of death with but only your fine hearts.

But for the greater good, as only they could . . . There's Company in Heaven . . . it's getting crowded up here! As the Lord our Father, welcomes these fine warriors in all of his tears!

And if I ever have a son, I but hope and pray and so wish . . . that he could but be like all of these fine ones!

Yeah, There's Company in Heaven . . . New Angels up here! Ready for this new battle which appears!

And when there comes a gentle rain . . . your sons' tears of love shall wash down upon you to so ease all of your pain . . . Until, one day up in Heaven . . . you will all so meet again! And you won't have to cry no more . . . FAOY.

LIST OF THE LIMA COMPANY FALLEN

Lance Corporal Timothy M. Bell, Jr.; Lance Corporal Eric J. Bernholtz; Corporal Dustin A. Derga; Lance Corporal Nicholas B. Erdy; Lance Corporal Wesley G. Davids; Sergeant David N. Wimberg; Lance Corporal Michael J. Cifuentes; Lance Corporal Christopher J. Dyer; Lance Corporal Jonathan W. Grant; Sergeant David Kenneth J. Kreuter; Lance Corporal Jourdan L. Grez; Private First Class Christopher R. Dixon.

Lance Corporal Christopher P. Lyons; Staff Sergeant Anthony L. Goodwin; Petty Officer 3rd Class Travis Youngblood; Sergeant Jus-

tin F. Hoffman; Staff Sergeant Kendall H. Ivy II; Lance Corporal Nicholas William B. Bloem; Corporal Andre L. Williams; Lance Corporal Grant B. Fraser; Lance Corporal Aaron H. Reed; Lance Corporal Edward A. Schroeder II; Lance Corporal William B. Wightman.

HONORING MATTHEW AARON GATES

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 26, 2008

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Matthew Aaron Gates of Platte City, Missouri. Matthew is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 1351, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Matthew has been very active with his troop, participating in many Scout activities. Over the many years Matthew has been involved with Scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Matthew Aaron Gates for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

INTRODUCTION OF INDEPENDENCE AT HOME ACT

HON. EDWARD J. MARKEY

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 26, 2008

Mr. MARKEY. Madam Speaker, I rise to introduce the Independence at Home Act. I am pleased to introduce this important legislation today with my colleagues in the House, Representatives CHRIS SMITH (R-NJ) and RAHM EMANUEL (D-IL), and my colleagues in the Senate, Senators RON WYDEN (D-OR), BARBARA MIKULSKI (D-MD), BENJAMIN CARDIN (D-MD) and SHELDON WHITEHOUSE (D-RI).

Our legislation is designed to improve the quality of care received by a particularly vulnerable portion of the Medicare population—beneficiaries with multiple chronic and debilitating diseases, including Alzheimer's, Parkinson's, ALS, diabetes and other conditions. Medicare beneficiaries with multiple chronic conditions account for a disproportionate share of Medicare spending compared to their representation in the overall Medicare population. Specifically, CMS reports that each year, 10 percent of the Medicare population accounts for two-thirds of all Medicare fee-for-service program payments. Because this population sees an average of 13 physicians and fills about 50 prescriptions per year, beneficiaries with multiple chronic conditions often receive disjointed care from health providers, including conflicting information and multiple diagnoses for the same symptoms.

The Independence at Home Act addresses the critical needs of these patients, for whom coordinated care has the greatest potential to achieve positive results. Through the creation

of a 3-year demonstration project in 26 states, our legislation provides for patient-centered health care directed by physicians and nurse practitioners working as part of a team of caregivers qualified to deliver quality health services for this specific Medicare patient group. The Independence at Home program is designed to fund better health care and improved health care technology through savings it achieves, using an innovative health care delivery model to permit the growing number of Medicare beneficiaries with multiple chronic conditions to remain as independent as possible for as long as possible and to receive care in a setting that is preferred by the beneficiary involved and the family of such beneficiary.

In addition to delivering holistic, preventive care that enables patients to remain in their own homes, the Independence at Home demonstration projects hold providers accountable for quality outcomes, patient satisfaction, and a mandatory minimum 5 percent savings on an annual basis compared to Medicare costs that would have been incurred if the beneficiary had not participated in the demonstration project. Our bill generates these savings by providing comprehensive and coordinated care to the highest cost Medicare beneficiaries with multiple chronic conditions, reducing duplicative and unnecessary services and avoiding unnecessary hospitalizations and emergency room visits. As demonstrated by the Veterans Administration and many other existing programs, the Independence at Home Act has the potential both to promote quality, effective care and significantly reduce costs.

Our bill has been endorsed by the American Academy of Home Care Physicians; AARP; the American Academy of Nurse Practitioners; the National Family Caregivers Association; the Family Caregiver Alliance/National Center on Caregiving; the American Association of Homes and Services for the Aging; the Maryland-National Capital Home Care Association; the Visiting Nurse Associations of America, and Intel Corp.

I look forward to working with my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to move this important legislation.

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#### REAL SEX ED WEEK

### HON. RUSH D. HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 26, 2008*

Mr. HOLT. Madam Speaker, our government has spent \$1.5 billion in what is a failed policy for our Nation's children. Our investment in abstinence-only education has failed in giving our teenagers the medically accurate, life-saving information about birth control and sexually transmitted infections they need to make informed decisions. According to the Centers for Disease Control, one out of every four teenage girls in the United States is infected with a sexually transmitted disease and 40 percent of women will get pregnant before they reach 20 years of age. The facts confirm what many of us here in Congress have been saying for years, abstinence-only programs do not work.

This is a public health concern and we must reject funding for abstinence-only programs they are ideologically driven and are wishful

thinking. Citizens in my district are demanding comprehensive sex education to keep our youth healthy and safe. A majority of voters in nearly every demographic category strongly support comprehensive sex education and want public schools to teach it, including 78 percent of Catholics.

Congress must put an end to ineffective programs that only cover abstinence until marriage and start putting our money where it works: into comprehensive sex education. Our next generation is depending on us for accurate, lifesaving information, and it's time we gave it to them.

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#### IN HONOR OF JOHN LAIRD

### HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 26, 2008*

Mr. FARR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the service of a truly remarkable public servant. Assemblymember John Laird, who has represented the coastal portions of Santa Cruz and Monterey Counties in the California legislature for the last 6 years, will leave the legislature at the end of this current term as a result of term limits. I know I speak for the whole House, particularly my colleagues from the California delegation, in extending our gratitude and admiration to John for his Assembly service.

In 2002, John was first elected to represent the 27th Assembly District, which I represented during my tenure in the Assembly. His constituents, including me, returned him to the Assembly in 2004 and 2006 by overwhelming margins. Once in office, John quickly gained a reputation as a quick study of complex policy matters and a member who works with just about anybody in the Capitol. At the start of his second term in 2004, Mr. Laird joined the Assembly leadership team as chair of the Budget Committee, a position to which he won reappointment to in December 2006. As budget Chair, John was a key figure in working with the Governor and other legislative leaders in crafting the State's annual budget. Sometimes those other parties went along with John and the budget came in on time. Other times, those other parties departed from John's lead and delayed the budget's adoption. In each of these budgets, John left his stamp on the lives of Californians by fighting for reduced community college fees, K-12 education, and funding for transportation, park maintenance and foster care.

During Mr. Laird's tenure, he authored a wide range of bills that were signed into law—to establish the landmark Sierra Nevada Conservancy, restore community college health services, and to expand and clarify State civil rights protections. In the 2006 session, he successfully authored bills to provide new protections for sea otters, help build a new veterans cemetery at the former Fort Ord, provide pay increases for park rangers and fish and game wardens, and support local affordable housing trusts.

Raised in Vallejo and educated in Vallejo public schools, Mr. Laird's parents both were educators. They bequeathed to John a deep respect for public service and a passion for the Chicago Cubs. He graduated from UCSC's Adlai Stevenson College. He served on the

congressional district staff of Congressman Jerome Waldie, was an analyst for the Santa Cruz County Administrative Officer, and was Executive Director of the Santa Cruz AIDS Project.

In 1981, Mr. Laird was elected to a seat on the Santa Cruz City Council where he served until 1990. He was elected by the City Council to one-year mayor's terms in 1983 and 1987, becoming one of the first openly gay mayors in the United States. He served as an elected member of the Cabrillo College Board of Trustees from 1994 to his election to the Assembly in 2002. Thanks to the recent landmark decision by the California Supreme Court, John was able to marry his longtime partner John Flores.

Madam Speaker, I can think of no better argument against California's legislative term limits than John's leadership and record. On behalf of the House, I want to wish John and his husband every happiness and urge him to continue his great record of service.

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#### TRIBUTE TO KEITH CASON

### HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 26, 2008*

Mr. SHIMKUS. Madam Speaker, I rise to mourn the passing of a great American. Keith Cason was an example of a true American family man. He grew up in Fairmont City and moved to the Caseyville area to raise his family. He always had a smile on his face and always set a good example of what we strive to be. He was full of life and energy and enjoyed attending church on Sundays with his father.

Tragically, Keith was lost in an automobile accident in St. Louis on July 15 of this year. My thoughts and prayers are with his wife Mary, his sons Ryan and Craig, his sisters Kena and Karen, his father Charles and all those who mourn at this time for Keith. He devoted his life to his family and his country, and he left a positive mark on both. He will be dearly missed by all who had the privilege to know him.

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#### HONORING JOSEPH JOHN McLAIN

### HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 26, 2008*

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Joseph John McLain of Platte City, Missouri. Joseph is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 1351, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Joseph has been very active with his troop, participating in many Scout activities. Over the many years Joseph has been involved with Scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Joseph John McLain for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

## MISSISSIPPI FLOODS

**HON. KENNY C. HULSHOF**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 26, 2008*

Mr. HULSHOF. Madam Speaker, when standing at the tops of the levees overlooking the Mississippi River, the mind's eye can still recall the army of sandbags atop the dirt and sand. You can still remember the smell of diesel fumes from the drainage pumps sending water out over the levee walls this summer. Thankfully, after the waters rose and fell, the sun shines again in my district. The floods are by no means forgotten. Winfield even today is still recovering from levee breaks, and LaGrange, Clarksville and Louisiana are still disposing of debris left behind throughout their towns. However, the signs of water lines against levees and unprotected structures mean lives are moving toward normalcy. After weeks of fighting floodwaters this summer, Jeff McReynolds gets to see his wife and baby at night, and Mark Campbell eats meals at home. In short, Northeast Missouri is beginning to recognize normal again.

Growing up in the shadow of Mississippi River levees, I know the stress and anguish a flood brings. I also know that those who sandbag levees to save their neighbor's home or farm are some of the biggest heroes we have in Missouri. So, with that said, let me now honor Canton Emergency Services Director Jeff McReynolds; Hannibal's Emergency Services Director John Hark; LaGrange City Administrator Mark Campbell; Alexandria Mayor Bob Davis; West Quincy's Roger Sutter and Norman Haerr; Louisiana Mayor Don Giltner; LaGrange City Administrator Mark Campbell; Lewis County Emergency Manager David Keith; Des Moines River Drainage District Chairman John Winkleman; Louisiana City Administrator Bob Jenne; Pike County Emergency Manager Al Murry; Marion County Drainage District Commissioner Brent Hoerr; South River Drainage District Commissioner David Bleigh; Gregory Landing Drainage District Commissioner Kent Leftwich; and Clarksville Mayor JoAnne Smiley for leading the efforts to protect their hometowns. I also thank Colonel Setliff and Colonel Sinkler of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. And, finally, I thank every citizen, National Guard soldier and government official that helped saved our towns. These men and women are all true heroes.

There is also sadness in Missouri, for not all of our levees along the Mississippi River held. In addition to the tragic flooding in Iowa and Illinois, many areas of Lincoln County saw levees breached, and the air filled with news choppers that captured images of the flooding. This flooding has a profound effect on everyone who lives or works near the river because once you lose a crop or are forced to rebuild a house, you will always be able to empathize with those who find water where a home or farm should be.

And just as friends, neighbors and perfect strangers helped shore up Clarksville, Canton and West Quincy's levees, we Missourians helped Iowans, Illinoisans and our brothers and sisters elsewhere in Missouri rebuild their lives this summer and now into this fall. Communities up and down the Mississippi River have exhausted themselves and their resources to fight this flood.

To truly honor their service, we must continue to ensure that FEMA and our other federal agencies and resources are committed to the cause of recovery from this and future disasters. We will remain diligent in this effort, for to do otherwise would cheapen the work that the thousands of volunteers in my district and elsewhere in Missouri put forward on this effort. I could not look JoAnne Smiley and all our other volunteers and coordinators in the face without making this commitment, for this is what their commitment deserves and requires.

## 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FIRST VERTICAL ASCENT OF EL CAPITAN

**HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 26, 2008*

Mr. RADANOVICH. Madam Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize the 50th anniversary of the first vertical ascent of Yosemite's El Capitan. Standing at 3,593 feet above the Yosemite Valley floor, El Capitan is the largest granite monolith in the world. Since it was named by the Mariposa Battalion in 1851, this natural wonder has lured travelers and climbers from all over the world.

The natural beauty and wonders of Yosemite National Park have inspired countless travelers and have earned Yosemite its reputation as the "crown jewel" of the National Park System. It was this very majesty that compelled Wayne Merry, George Whitmore and Warren J. Harding to fearlessly ascend the seemingly impassable face of El Capitan and become legends amongst the climbing community.

Over a strenuous period of 47 days, this team of climbers courageously charted the Nose Route vertically over the face of El Capitan. Lacking many of the technological developments available in current climbing gear, these men relied heavily on aid climbing with nothing more than fixed rope, pitons and expansion bolts to facilitate their ascent. Finally, on November 12, 1958, they conquered the summit of El Capitan, effectively raising the standards of climbing throughout the world.

I am proud to recognize the accomplishment of Wayne Merry, George Whitmore and Warren J. Harding on the occasion of their endeavor's 50th anniversary. Thousands of climbers have since used the very same route to reach El Capitan's summit and vista. I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing the 50th anniversary of this achievement and honoring the brave men of the original climbing team.

## HONORING JUDY PARK

**HON. FRANK R. WOLF**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 26, 2008*

Mr. WOLF. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Ms. Judy Park on the occasion of her retirement after 40 years of dedicated service to the National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association, NARFE, and the 4.6 million Federal workers and annuitants it represents.

Judy began her career at NARFE, then known as the National Association of Retired Civil Employees, in 1968 when newly elected president Thomas G. Walters asked her to join him in starting a legislative presence. Only 4 years out of college, Judy wasted no time. Early victories included granting survivor benefits to second spouses of retirees, extending survivor benefits to spouses in postretirement marriages, making retirees eligible to participate in the Federal Employee Health Benefits Program open season, restoring full annuities to retirees at the death of a survivor, and increasing the Government share of health premiums.

In 1976, Judy became the first legislative director for NARFE and began hiring a staff. In the 1980s, Judy coordinated a major NARFE effort that resulted in the crafting of the Federal Employees Retirement System, FERS, after Federal employees were required to be universally covered by Social Security.

Perhaps the biggest legislative accomplishment of her career was the repeal of the Medicare Catastrophic Protection Act of 1988, because everybody said the repeal would never happen. Judy saw that the new law placed an unjust surtax on all retirees, especially Federal retirees. NARFE worked with the Military Officers Association of America and ultimately put together a 38-organization Coalition for Affordable Health Care that continues to work together today.

Judy has dedicated her life to ensuring that Federal employees and retirees are treated fairly and with respect—an incredible recognition of the important work civil servants perform given that she is not a Federal retiree herself. During her 40-year career, Judy has met with six U.S. Presidents and scores of congressional Members; she has worked with a dozen NARFE presidents; and she has seen the NARFE membership double in size.

Perhaps a former employee describes Judy best when she says that Judy "embodies the words 'trust, leadership and grace.'" It has been my pleasure to work with Judy on issues of importance to Federal employees and retirees and I ask that you join me in applauding Judy Park for her excellent service to protecting the rights of Federal employees and retirees. I congratulate Judy in her retirement and wish her the best in her future endeavors.

## HONORING ARCHIE MANINA ON HIS RETIREMENT AS DIRECTOR OF THE OGEMAW COUNTY VETERANS AFFAIRS OFFICE AFTER 26 YEARS

**HON. BART STUPAK**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 26, 2008*

Mr. STUPAK. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize Archie Manina of Rose City, MI. Mr. Manina has served as director of the Ogemaw County Veterans Affairs Office for 26 years will be retiring effective November 30. In recognition of his quarter-century of service, I ask that you, Madam Speaker, and the entire U.S. House of Representatives join me in honoring Archie Manina on this momentous occasion.

Mr. Manina was born in Rose City, Michigan and spent the early years of his life living on a rural farm in Gratiot County, MI. For a time,

he attended a one-room country school and then a parochial school in Alma, MI. In the summer of 1956, his family moved to the small farming community of Ithaca, MI. Mr. Manina went on to graduate from Ithaca High School in 1965 and attend Central Michigan University to study secondary teaching. He worked as a harness horse groom and horse trainer during his summers while in college, a hobby that has stuck with Mr. Manina throughout his life. In June 1969 he graduated with a degree in secondary education and was simultaneously commissioned a second lieutenant in the U.S. Army.

In July 1969 Lieutenant Manina went on active duty and after completing the Infantry Officer Basic Course and Airborne School he was assigned to the 82nd Airborne Division at Fort Bragg, NC. He was reassigned to Vietnam and served there until May 1971 as a platoon leader and intelligence officer. For his service, Lieutenant Manina was awarded the Bronze Star Medal, Combat Infantryman's Badge, and Basic Parachutist's Badge.

Upon release from the Army, Mr. Manina trained harness horses for a year prior to entering graduate school at Central Michigan University in August 1972. He graduated with a special education certificate in June 1973 and soon after received a master's degree in special education. On August 4, 1973, he married Susan Hashbarger and they soon moved to La Grange, IN, where Mr. Manina taught at Lakeland High School. Archie and Sue were blessed with two sons.

In 1975, Archie and Sue Manina moved back to Michigan, where Archie worked in Roscommon, MI, as teacher for severely mentally impaired students. In June 1979, he left the education field and became the assistant to the administrator of Ogemaw Valley Medical Facility in Rose City until January 1984. In June 1983, Archie Manina became the director of Veterans Affairs in Ogemaw County, a position he still holds today.

As a U.S. Army veteran himself, Archie Manina has been a tireless advocate for Ogemaw County's veterans these past 26 years and has distinguished himself as a true leader in the community. Mr. Manina has worked for more than a quarter century to help honor the commitment our Nation has made to our veterans. For this, I know he has the gratitude of Ogemaw County's veterans and the entire Ogemaw County community.

Madam Speaker, Archie Manina is a humble man who has worked hard to recognize his fellow veterans for their achievements, while never seeking recognition for his own. I ask that you and the entire U.S. House of Representatives join me in thanking and saluting Mr. Archie Manina for his 26 years of service with the Ogemaw County Veterans Affairs Office and wishing him well on his retirement.

TRIBUTE TO MR. JOHN ROTH AND  
MS. MARY TOMPKY

**HON. JOHN P. MURTHA**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 26, 2008*

Mr. MURTHA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the hard work of two great Americans, Mr. John Roth and Ms. Mary Tompkey. These two dedicated civil servants have been

the glue in the resource management community of the Department of Defense since the start of the War on Terror. They have been tremendous assets in assisting the staff of the Defense Subcommittee in their review of the defense budget and have worked tirelessly in the service of their country.

Madam Speaker, Mr. Roth is the Deputy Comptroller (Program/Budget) within the Office of the Undersecretary of Defense (Comptroller). As such, he is responsible for all aspects of the Department of Defense budget's preparation, defense, and execution. The FY 2009 budget alone totaled \$515 billion in over 50 appropriations and accounts in addition to \$70 billion to support operations for the War on Terror. Before taking his current position in 2001, Mr. Roth was the Deputy Director for Investment with the Office of the Undersecretary of Defense (Comptroller).

Mr. Roth entered civil service as a trainee in the Department of the Navy's Centralized Financial Management Training Program. He has completed tours of duty at the Norfolk Naval Supply Center, the Naval Data Automation Command, and the Office of the Secretary of Defense (OSD). He started in the Defense Comptroller's office as a budget analyst in 1984 and has, over the years, reviewed a wide variety of weapon system programs across all Defense components.

Madam Speaker, since 2005 Ms. Tompkey has been the Assistant Deputy Director of the Program Budget Office of the Under Secretary of Defense (OSD) Comptroller. In this position she has helped to lead during a time of significant organizational change and has assisted the Under Secretary Comptroller during noteworthy periods of transition.

From 2002 to 2005, Ms. Tompkey worked as Director of Operations and Personnel in the Office of the Under Secretary of Defense (OSD) Comptroller and was previously the Deputy Director for Military Construction and Classified Activities, Under Secretary of Defense (OSD) Comptroller. She has also worked as an Associate Director for Investment, a Budget Analyst for the Directorate for Plans and Systems, a Budget Analyst for the Directorate for Operations and Personnel, and a Budget Analyst in the Department of the Air Force where she started in 1975.

Together, these two have been instrumental in the formulation and passage of all of the Department of Defense Appropriations bills and War Supplemental Appropriations bills since the War on Terror began in 2002.

Madam Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge the hard work and selfless service of these two outstanding individuals. On behalf of the United States Congress, I say "thank you" for their over fifty years of combined service and experience, for their dedication to the Department of Defense, and for their work on behalf of our brave men and women in uniform. I would like to conclude my remarks by saying that I look forward to working with them for many more years.

AMERICA CAN LEARN FROM THE  
EXPERIENCE OF ZAKA SEARCH  
AND RESCUE

**HON. DAN BURTON**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 26, 2008*

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Madam Speaker, in the aftermath of September 11th, we have made huge strides in expanding and updating our Nation's emergency preparedness and response capabilities. As a whole, our communities are better prepared than ever before. However, like with everything else, more can be done and we cannot lull ourselves into believing that we have all the answers; especially considering that we do not know what the next terrorist attack may look like. The old military adage is that you go into the next war with your army prepared for the last war; and I believe that philosophy applies to our Nation's emergency response system. I believe that our first responders have worked hard to anticipate and train for a future crisis but what will we do if those experts become the victims? It is not hard to imagine a scenario where terrorists attack police, firefighters and other emergency responders in order to sow more chaos and confusion. If our frontline responders go down are others prepared to step up and handle the crisis?

I believe that we should look to the efforts of ZAKA Rescue and Recovery, an Israeli volunteer organization dedicated to helping victims of terrorist attacks, accidents or natural disasters for guidance. I think we can all agree that the threat of terrorist attacks and missile strikes are an everyday worry for the people of Israel; and ZAKA volunteers are often the first to arrive on the scene when tragedy strikes working seamlessly with Israel's police and emergency responders. At the core of ZAKA's mission is the belief in the preservation of human dignity when disaster strikes. ZAKA volunteers provide first aid and rescue services, aid in the identification of the victims of terrorism, accidents and other disasters, and where necessary ensure that the deceased receive a proper Jewish burial. ZAKA first aid materials and supplies and volunteers are prepositioned in practically every Israeli community; along with special motor scooters ready to take them to the scene of any accident or terrorist attack day or night.

ZAKA has gained international recognition by expanding their rescue and recovery work around the world to include the United States. In the aftermath of the deadly Indian Ocean earthquake and tsunami in 2004, ZAKA teams were on the ground and worked side-by-side with the host nations and other international rescue and recovery teams to help identify victims. ZAKA has also helped return victims of plane crashes in Russia and Namibia as well as help rescue and preserve sacred Jewish Torahs in New Orleans after Hurricane Katrina. Last year alone, ZAKA volunteers participated in more than 18,000 life-saving or search-and-rescue incidents, and I believe that ZAKA has a level of emergency preparedness and response expertise that we here in the United States could benefit from. That's why I truly believe America's first responders and our communities could benefit from ZAKA's expertise and vice versa. ZAKA's dedication to

"saving those who can be saved, and honoring those who cannot" should be commended and I am proud to stand up and recognize their good works.

Our Nation's first responders are dedicated and, in my opinion, the best in the business. I commend all of America's first responders and the countless volunteer organizations who came to the rescue of their fellow citizens following September 11th, Hurricanes Katrina, Rita and Ike, and who joined in the international relief efforts to aid the victims of the 2004 tsunami. Simply put, international relief organizations, like ZAKA and the Red Cross, are critical backstop players in search-and-rescue and recovery efforts, and I hope my colleagues will take the opportunity to research and learn about ZAKA's story and capabilities.

#### TRIBUTE TO CENTRALIA, ILLINOIS

### HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 26, 2008*

Mr. SHIMKUS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a great city in Southern Illinois that has earned a great honor.

Centralia, Illinois, was recently named a 2008 Governor's Home Town Award winner for its Centralia Clean Community Campaign, a community cleanup program. This year, roughly one in eight members of the community participated in some facet of the community cleanup, which included such events as curbside pickup, school neighborhood cleanups and liberty garden planting.

I want to congratulate the citizens of Centralia not only on earning this recognition, but also on their civic mindedness and their willingness to take the time to show their pride in their community by helping to keep it clean. I especially want to acknowledge Bev Virobik, coordinator for Clean & Green and Keep Centralia Beautiful for her organization's efforts in leading this project. Centralia's efforts are truly a model for other communities to follow in expressing their civic pride.

#### HONORING MAJOR GENERAL RITA ARAGON

### HON. MARY FALLIN

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 26, 2008*

Ms. FALLIN. Madam Speaker, today I rise to commend and congratulate retired Major General Rita Aragon, who has been named Woman of the Year by the Journal Record business newspaper in Oklahoma City.

Rita Aragon's story is an inspiration to all women. As a single mother working as a public school teacher, she joined the Oklahoma Air National Guard more than 30 years ago. In 1989 she became the first unit commander in the Guard, and by 2003 she had risen to the rank of Brigadier General. As a Major General she served on active duty as assistant to the commander of air education and training and later as assistant to the chief of Staff Manpower and Personnel in the Pentagon. Since her retirement she has returned to education as director of advance programs at the Col-

lege of Continuing Education at the University of Oklahoma.

Throughout her career, Rita Aragon has given her time and talent to many community organizations and served on the boards of many of those groups. During Oklahoma's response to the 1995 federal building bombing in Oklahoma City she helped lead the military contingent at ground zero. I am honored to recognize Rita Aragon's life of service to her nation, state and city.

#### TRIBUTE TO DR. JERILYN MCINTYRE, PRESIDENT OF CENTRAL WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY

### HON. DOC HASTINGS

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 26, 2008*

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Madam Speaker, I wish to speak today to pay tribute to Dr. Jerilyn McIntyre, the President of Central Washington University (CWU). Dr. McIntyre, who is the first female to serve as President of CWU, will retire at the end of this year after completing eight years of exceptional service to the students, faculty, and community of Central Washington University.

Since her appointment, CWU has experienced a period of incomparable growth and development. In fact, enrollment has increased by 27 percent. Dr. McIntyre has inspired academic advancement and diversity through the implementation of several initiatives. Specifically, the Performing Arts and Presidential Speaker Series, started in 2002, brings nationally renowned speakers and artists to CWU's campuses; providing unique opportunities for students to learn about various ideas, art and cultures. Dr. McIntyre has also encouraged excellence and ingenuity through the Spheres of Distinction initiative, which supports innovative and resourceful approaches to academic, student and campus life.

To complement the growing student body, Dr. McIntyre worked to transform the University's campuses into the state-of-the-art facilities we see today. In fact, the extensive renovation and restoration of both residential campus and academic facilities under Dr. McIntyre's tenure have been recognized with national architectural awards. CWU's University Centers in Lynnwood, Des Moines, Steilacoom, Wenatchee, Moses Lake, and Yakima have also benefited from renovation projects, providing a modern and exciting atmosphere that stimulates student life and academic discovery.

In addition to her role as President of the university, Dr. McIntyre has continued to regularly teach courses at CWU. Sharing her instructional talents and knowledge of communications studies clearly illustrates her enthusiasm and desire to directly contribute to her student's academic success.

Dr. McIntyre earned her Bachelor of Arts in History and Master of Arts in Journalism at Stanford University, and received her Ph.D. in History and Communication from the University of Washington. She is the author of numerous articles and papers on communication history, journalism ethics, and higher education issues.

Dr. McIntyre provided exemplary service to our state and the Central Washington Univer-

sity community throughout her eight years at CWU. I am honored that I had the opportunity to work with Jerilyn, and I commend her for her achievements and dedication to expanding the educational opportunities at the university. Undoubtedly Dr. McIntyre's contributions have made a remarkable and positive impression on the lives and academic opportunities of countless students.

I am also pleased to hear that Jerilyn and her husband David will be retiring in Ellensburg. It is great to know that they will remain constituents of mine and a part of the Ellensburg community. Finally, I would like to thank Dr. McIntyre for her service at CWU, and wish her the very best in all of her future endeavors.

#### RECOGNIZING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF MURPHY, TX

### HON. SAM JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 26, 2008*

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, I want to recognize the city of Murphy, TX, which is celebrating its 50th anniversary this week. This city's rich history and enduring perseverance serves as a shining example of the mettle of all Texans.

The first settlers of Murphy arrived in 1846, establishing a village which later became known as a shipping point for area farmers and stock raisers.

However, it wasn't until 1888 that it received the name it is known by today when William Murphy donated the right of way used to build a railroad line through the center of what would become the town.

Although Murphy's borders enclose only 3.8 square miles, the population has quadrupled since the last U.S. census.

Murphy is known for its close-knit community, family values, and friendly faces. With a rich history of country living and community building activities, Murphy prides itself on promoting the well-being of its residents of all ages.

This fast-growing city boasts over 14,000 residents, comprised largely of families. Popular D Magazine has ranked Murphy as one of the premiere Dallas suburbs to live. Ebby Halliday, a local real estate company, notes that "Murphy offers a small town environment with 'big city' convenience. . . . This town is ideal for families looking for the best of both worlds."

I congratulate the good people of Murphy on its 50th anniversary and wish the residents many more years of prosperity.

#### INCREASING SCHOOL'S OPPORTUNITIES FOR SUCCESS ACT OF 2008

### HON. STEVE BUYER

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 26, 2008*

Mr. BUYER. Madam Speaker, today I introduce the Increasing School's Opportunities for Success Act to make two important changes to "No Child Left Behind."

After meeting with local educators and principals I was inspired to reform "No Child Left Behind" to better meet the needs of both educators and students. This bill will allow high schools to stay competitive with graduation rates as well as give them a chance to have better annual assessment scores by allowing limited English proficient, LEP, students have more time to learn English before being tested.

Currently, when a student with disabilities does not graduate in the standard number of years (3 or 4 years), they are misrepresented as a dropout against that school's graduation rate even though the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, IDEA, allows students with disabilities to stay in school until their 22nd birthday. Adding the provision outlined in my bill to ESEA would align it with IDEA, standardizing the statutes.

Current law allows limited English proficient, LEP, students to wait until they have been in the United States for 3 years before being tested for English fluency. This bill simply extends that period of time to 5 years. By doing so, LEP students will have more time to become proficient in English before being tested and therefore reflected in the school's annual assessment.

Education is the basis for success and "No Child Left Behind" is focused on ensuring that our children receive a quality education—the necessary foundation for a successful life. My bill offers two minor but substantive changes to current law that will help our schools, students, faculty and staff to better our education system. I ask for your support and the support of my colleagues to pass this important legislation.

TRIBUTE TO ST. JOHN'S UNITED  
CHURCH OF CHRIST

**HON. JOHN SHIMKUS**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 26, 2008*

Mr. SHIMKUS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor St. John's United Church of Christ in Breese, Illinois. For 150 years, St. John's has been one of its community's cornerstones. Before a frame church was built in the summer of 1858, services were held in the homes of settlers and led by the people themselves. In 1859, the Rev. Christepher Starck was called as the first resident pastor. A parsonage was built in 1861 and the church's membership continued to grow.

Throughout its 150-year history, St. John's UCC in Breese, Illinois has served both its local community and the world. St. John's works with House of Manna, a local food pantry, and runs a vacation bible school for local children. St. John's members prepare meals for local seniors and send care packages to servicemen and women in Iraq. As an active contributor to the wider outreach of the United Church of Christ, St. John's gives to meritorious national and international organizations.

St. John's also embodies the spirit of neighborliness: with its active involvement in yearly ecumenical services; in its close working relationship with a local catholic church; and when it gives freely of space and time to local community organizations.

I join with my fellow Representatives to congratulate St. John's on 150 years of faith, service, and neighborliness.

TRIBUTE TO MAYOR TOM ROWLAND  
OF CLEVELAND, TENNESSEE

**HON. ZACH WAMP**

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 26, 2008*

Mr. WAMP. Madam Speaker, today I rise to honor Mayor Tom Rowland of Cleveland, Tennessee, which is in my district. On Monday, September 8, 2008, at 3:05 p.m. Tom Rowland made history. He became the longest-serving mayor in the city of Cleveland's history with 17 years of service. He was elected Mayor of the City of Cleveland in 1991 and is currently serving his fifth term. His dedication and hard work have made Cleveland home to 11 Fortune 500 manufacturing companies as well as increasing the tourism economy tenfold.

Tom has served the City of Cleveland in many capacities with integrity and distinction, including: past president of the Tennessee Municipal League; selected Mayor of the Year, 2004 by the Tennessee Municipal League; member of two standing committees of the United States Conference of Mayors; past president of the East Tennessee Mayors Association; vice chairman of the Tennessee Advisory Commission on Intergovernmental Relations, the highest position you can hold and not be on the state legislature; cochairman of the Tennessee-Virginia AmTrak initiative; executive committee member of Southeast Tennessee Development District; on the Cleveland Utility Board and Cleveland/Bradley Chamber of Commerce Economic Development Council; member of the Tennessee State Rail Advisory Commission; and past Chairman of the Tennessee Vocational Rehabilitation Board.

Tom is a veteran of the United States Air Force, having retired recently as a Colonel from the Tennessee State Guard. He is the founder of Cleveland 100, an organization that assists surviving family members of officers, firemen and emergency personnel killed in the line of duty. He spearheaded a project to build Tennessee's first memorial to fallen police, fire and rescue personnel. The Emergency Services Memorial was dedicated in May of 2000. Tom is the only Mayor in Tennessee serving on the Homeland Security Council.

And if that isn't enough, Tom and his wonderful wife, Sandra, founded the Empty Stocking Fund, an annual drive that provides Christmas gifts each year to foster children in this community. In 2006 they consolidated the fund in cooperation with the Creating Christmas Memories Foundation.

Madam Speaker, Tom actually lived in many cities before settling in Cleveland in 1964. He was born in Florida, but his father worked for a hotel chain. The chain would buy new properties and it was his dad's job to move to those places and get the business up and going. The family moved about every 2 years. Tom came to Cleveland to work for WCLE radio station, of which he eventually became co-owner. In 1991, when a long-time member of the city commission retired, Tom was

tapped to fill out the unexpired term of 6 months. When the sitting mayor decided not to run for reelection, he encouraged Tom to seek the promotion. Madam Speaker, the rest, as they say, is history.

The City of Cleveland is very fortunate to have a man of this caliber at its helm. So today, I congratulate my friend, Mayor Tom Rowland, for this historic accomplishment.

THE FEDERAL AGENCY PROGRAM  
REALIGNMENT AND CLOSURE ACT

**HON. JOHN SULLIVAN**

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 26, 2008*

Mr. SULLIVAN. Madam Speaker, I rise to announce that yesterday I introduced H.R. 7071, the Federal Agency Program Realignment and Closure Act of 2008, legislation that will change the way Washington does business once and for all.

It is clear that the Federal Government is bogged down with rampant spending, continually growing entitlement programs, an ever increasing annual budget and a Federal deficit that economists predict will hit \$500 billion by 2010. When the U.S. Military needed reform and more efficient spending, Congress and the Department of Defense employed the Base Realignment and Closure Commission, BRAC, to evaluate military needs and spending saving taxpayers untold billions of dollars. If it is good enough to reform our Nation's military, it is good enough to be applied to the entire Federal Government.

I introduced this bill to apply the proven BRAC model to all Federal agencies and programs. This commission will consist of 17 bipartisan members, including both public and private sector officials, providing an objective, non-partisan, and independent review and analysis of all Federal agencies and programs. The commission will target agencies and programs that perform a duplicative function, would perform better at the State level or in the private sector and create a list of recommended realignments and closures. Congress will then have an up or down vote on the commission's recommendations. All saved funds will be used solely for deficit reduction meaning it cannot be used to fund new government programs.

Spending in Washington, DC, is completely out of control. I believe that if we are going to keep putting new spending and programs on the table, then we absolutely must have a mechanism to take old things off of the table. The American people understand that if you spend too much of your budget this month you cut back the next month and they expect their government to work the same way. My legislation will help drain the swamp in Washington and put the Federal Government back to work for the people.

TRIBUTE TO W. STUART  
SYMINGTON III

**HON. C.A. DUTCH RUPPERSBERGER**

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 26, 2008*

Mr. RUPPERSBERGER. Madam Speaker, I rise before you today to honor the memory of

W. Stuart Symington III, the Nation's first Secretary of the Air Force.

W. Stuart Symington was born in 1901 in Massachusetts. After graduating from Baltimore City College in 1918, Symington enlisted in the Army as a private and at age 17 became one of the Army's youngest second lieutenants. After World War I, Symington entered Yale University and graduated in 1923.

In 1938, after several years in the iron and electric manufacturing businesses, Symington accepted the presidency of Emerson Electric Company. During World War II, Symington transformed Emerson Electric into the world's largest builder of airplane gun turrets.

Symington resigned from Emerson Electric in 1945 to join the administration of President Harry S. Truman. When the Office of the Secretary of the Air Force was first created in 1947, Symington became the first Secretary of the Air Force. During his tenure, Symington worked hard to give the new United States Air Force (which had previously been part of the Army) respect, championing the United States Air Force Academy, and the success of the Berlin Airlift.

He served as Secretary of the Air Force from September 18, 1947 to April 24, 1950, after which Symington ran for and served four consecutive terms as a Senator from Missouri.

Madam Speaker, I ask that you join with me today to honor the memory of W. Stuart Symington, III. It is with great pride that I congratulate a fellow Baltimore City College graduate on his significant contributions to the United States Air Force and the Nation.

#### EARMARK DECLARATION

### HON. CHARLES W. "CHIP" PICKERING

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 26, 2008

Mr. PICKERING. Madam Speaker, consistent with House Republican Earmark Standards, I submit the following earmark disclosure and certification information for seven project requests I made included within the text of H.R. 2638, the "The Consolidated Security, Disaster Assistance, and Continuing Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2009."

Requesting Member: Congressman CHIP PICKERING.

Bill Number: FY 09 Defense Appropriations Bill.

Project: Regional Counter Drug Training Academy.

Project Amount: \$2.5 million.

Account: 01 Operating Forces Drug Interdiction and Counter-Drug Activities.

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Regional Counterdrug Training Academy.

Address of Requesting Entity: 219 Fuller Road, NAS Meridian, Mississippi 39309.

Description of Request: NGB identified an FY2009 unfunded requirement of \$24.2M for Counterdrug Schools. Funding for NGB Counterdrug Schools is essential. Current Counterdrug (CD) Schools funding status impacts their ability to support DoD and Law Enforcement/Community Based Organization training and CNNTF support. Inconsistent funding has prevented CD schools from developing long-term training plans to maximize their capabilities. In FY2006, non-availability of funds forced one of the five Counterdrug

schools to shut down. Failure to correct this unacceptable trend will increase the Nation's ability to field an adequate number of law enforcement professionals dedicated to combating drug trafficking at the national, state, and local levels. With appropriate funding, CD Schools will also be better positioned to provide counter narcotics-based training programs critical to domestic law enforcement against Narcoterrorism.

The RCTA Meridian budget has shown little growth since FY2000, yet the costs associated with training law enforcement officers have increased by approximately 20%. The requested funding would restore training opportunities to the FY2000 level of approximately 5000 students per year.

Requesting Member: Congressman CHIP PICKERING.

Bill Number: FY 09 Military Construction/Veterans Affairs Appropriations Bill.

Project: Fitness Center Addition.

Project Amount: \$6.34 million.

Account: Military Construction; Navy & Marine Corps.

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Naval Air Station, Meridian.

Address of Requesting Entity: 255 Rosenbaum Avenue, Meridian, Mississippi 39309.

Description of Request: This project would add to the existing fitness facilities in order to ease overcrowding. It will also upgrade mechanical and electrical systems, reduce maintenance costs, and provide space for military water survival training.

The Fitness Center is required to support 4078 active duty and reserve military, DoD and Contract personnel. The existing fitness facilities are incapable of meeting the present DoD Fitness Standards. Additionally, some of the facilities such as the gymnasium have significant roof leaks which contribute to maintenance, mold, and mildew problems.

Requesting Member: Congressman CHIP PICKERING.

Bill Number: FY 09 Defense Appropriations Bill.

Project: MQ-5B Hunter Tactical Unmanned Aircraft (UAS).

Project Amount: \$5 million.

Account: Op;A Other Procurement, Army; Tactical Unmanned Aerial Sys (Tuas)Mip.

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: UAS Project Office, Redstone Arsenal, PM Tactical Concepts, UAS Project Office, SFAS-AV-UAS.

Address of Requesting Entity: Redstone Arsenal, AL.

Description of Request: The MQ-5B Hunter units provide Army Warfighters with real-time Reconnaissance, Surveillance and Target Acquisition (RSTA) and Strike (Armed Reconnaissance) employing the Viper Strike munition.

The Hunter has now flown approximately 60,000 flight hours and nearly 30,000 hours in the OIF theater. The system has proven a proactive platform in winning the IED fight by providing "eyes" over the U.S. Army's main supply routes in OIF. Demand for the MQ-5B Hunter's day/night and Strike capability will remain high even as overall troop levels in a theater of action draw down.

Funding will (1) provide four new production or eight retrofit MQ-5B Air Vehicles to replace 'A' configuration Air Vehicles deployed with the 1st Armor Div Combat Aviation Brigade in Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF) and (2) support

another unit scheduled for employment in Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF).

Requesting Member: Congressman CHIP PICKERING.

Bill Number: FY 09 Defense Appropriations Bill.

Project: Simultaneous Field Radiation Technology (SFRT).

Project Amount: \$2.3 million.

Account: RDT & E, Defense-Wide; Advanced Concept Technology Demonstrations.

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: U.S. Navy, Space and Naval Warfare Systems Command.

Address of Requesting Entity: U.S. Navy, Space and Naval Warfare Systems Command, North Charleston, South Carolina 29419.

Description of Request: Early research of Simultaneous Field Radiation Technology (SFRT) has provided initial findings that strongly indicate the potential for significant improvement over conventional antenna technology. Research conducted in 2006, and validated by SPAWAR, resulted in the transitioning of SFRT from a pure theoretical model and conceptual prototype. Preliminary tests with the National Guard and Coast Guard have generated a keen interest within DoD for assessment of SFRT in a multi-dimensional operations environment of networked manned and unmanned tactical and wireless systems.

The FY09 request is intended to provide the means to incorporate the technology baseline of SFRT with emerging technology as a new generation of advancements could significantly reduce antenna size and weight, minimize the negative effects of required antenna vertical polarity, and measurably enhance the performance of robots and unattended ground sensors.

Requesting Member: Congressman CHIP PICKERING.

Bill Number: FY 09 Defense Appropriations Bill.

Project: Silicon Carbide Power Electronics for More Electric Aircraft (MEA).

Project Amount: \$3.2 million.

Account: RDT & E, Air Force.

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Air Force Research Laboratory, Propulsion Directorate AFRL/PRPE.

Address of Requesting Entity: Air Force Research Laboratory, Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio 45433.

Description of Request: The Joint Strike Fighter Program has documented that Silicon Carbide (SiC) power electronics technology reduces weight and expense in technology for the MEA program. This technology is a key to the Air Force's high-temperature power electronics planning, as presented in the Air Force's planning chart. This project provides a strong base of funding to develop the core SiC high-temperature power electronics needed for the high-temperature engine and flight actuators on JSF and other platforms. SiC based power electronics have been identified as a critical technology to achieve high-speed Mach 2 and Mach 4 aircraft where temperatures required can be up to 350 degrees Celsius, twice the capability of conventional power technologies. This capability will enable improvements in the More Electric Aircraft program and provide substantial benefits for Long Range Strike aircraft programs, ensuring that the United States is able to protect itself quickly, and with improved safety for the war fighter.

Requesting Member: Congressman CHIP PICKERING.

Bill Number: FY 09 Defense Appropriations Bill.

Project: F/A-18 Expand 4/5 Upgrade for USMC.

Project Amount: \$7.6 million.

Account: Aircraft Procurement, Navy; F-18 Series.

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Naval Air Systems Command.

Address of Requesting Entity: Patuxent River, Maryland 20670

Description of Request: FY09 funding will provide radar upgrades for 15 Marine Corps APG-73-equipped F/A-18s. Expand 4/5 allows for very high resolution radar maps to provide long range, all weather target recognition and precise target coordinate generation needed for precision weapons employment.

Requesting Member: Congressman CHIP PICKERING.

Bill Number: FY 09 Defense Appropriations Bill.

Project: Silicon Carbide Electronics Material Producibility Initiative.

Project Amount: \$4.8 million.

Account: RDT & E, Air Force.

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Air Force Research Laboratory—Materials and Manufacturing Directorate Survivability & Sensor Materials Division (AFRL/MLPS).

Address of Requesting Entity: Wright Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio 45433

Description of Request: FY09 funding will enable significant reductions in the size and weight of a vast number of military electronic platforms and dramatically improve capabilities and performance at significantly lower costs. The program will accelerate semiconductor technology integration and development of a domestic second source of production capacity for silicon carbide (SiC) based materials and devices. These devices are required for high performance and high frequency power components for critical next-generation Department of Defense (DoD) systems. These systems include solid state power substations (SSPS) for future all-electric warships with Integrated Power Systems (IPS); hybrid electric military vehicles (HMMWV); high power naval surface radars for DD(X) and CG(X); and airborne radars for F22, F35, tactical UAVs, AWACS, JSTARS, and TPS-75.

H.R. 6983: THE PAUL WELLSTONE AND PETE DOMENICI MENTAL HEALTH PARITY AND ADDICTION EQUITY ACT OF 2008

SPEECH OF

**HON. GEORGE MILLER**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 23, 2008*

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the Paul Wellstone and Pete Domenici Mental Health Parity and Addiction Equity Act of 2008.

Over the years, there have been numerous hearings in DC and around the country at which individuals and their family members testified about the need for parity in the treatment of mental health and addiction conditions.

The final bill being considered today will eliminate most if not all of the abuses that

families across the country have testified about. The following are examples of many of the major inequities that the bill is designed to eliminate:

**Emergency Care:**

Dr. Gerry Clancy described seeking prior authorization for a suicidal patient. Wanting to confirm that this was a serious suicide attempt, the health plan reviewer asked whether the patient had a plan to take his own life. Dr. Clancy answered that the patient planned to shoot himself. He said the reviewer then went farther and said, "Does that person have a gun?" and Dr. Clancy answered "yes." Dr. Clancy said he could not believe the next question: "does the person have bullets?"

No family in America should have to face having to justify why a suicide attempt is a real medical emergency. The final bill would require plans to have the same requirements for prior authorization, terms and financial limitations, co-pays, deductibles and day and visit limits on emergency benefits for mental health and addiction treatment services as the plan has on medical and surgical emergency services covered under the plan.

**Medical Necessity:**

Michael Noonan, the father of a college-enrolled daughter who suffered from chemical dependence, testified about the struggle his family faced to access inpatient addiction treatment for his daughter. After his daughter encountered a series of escalating problems and relapses, her clinician recommended inpatient rehabilitation for her alcohol dependence. He contacted his insurance company and was told that his contract included a benefit for inpatient rehabilitation for substance use disorders with a \$200 deductible and 30 day coverage. In spite of confirming these benefits with his managed behavioral health care company, the authorization of his daughters' inpatient care was suspended after only five days of care. Mr. Noonan endured repeated denials, took out a home equity loan of \$23,000 to pay for treatments while processing appeals, and requested the assistance of his congressional representative in order to secure payment for the treatment of his daughter. His experience was echoed in the testimony of many others, like Xavier Ascanio, whose daughter Samantha was hospitalized for an eating disorder. "During the inpatient stay, the insurance company doled out pre-approval two or three days at a time. Imagine that hanging over you, both as a parent and as a patient."

Under the final bill, health plans are required to disclose upon request the criteria for medical necessity determinations and the reason for any denial made under the plan with respect to mental health and substance use disorder benefits to the participant or beneficiary.

**Out of Network:**

Xavier Ascanio testified how difficult it was to find a qualified provider in-network to treat his daughter for an eating disorder. He said that after dealing with a parade of providers who were not helpful, they finally found some who were knowledgeable and could really help. Unfortunately, the providers were not on any insurance company's PPO list.

Ms. Melinda Lemos-Jackson whose young son was diagnosed with an autism spectrum disorder when he was 3 years of age testified, "Would you go to an internist for a heart condition or would you go to a cardiologist? I have placed the calls to the clinicians, who upon interview, don't meet my son's needs, I

have tried some of the in-network clinicians who clearly are not suitable. I've sometimes spoken to highly regarded folks who are actually on the list, only to find out that their practices are closed or they can't take a child like my son at this time, so we get the services our son needs and we learn to bring our checkbook and our Visa. Our health insurance is not accepted."

What Mr. Ascanio and Ms. Lemos-Jackson described are "phantom networks." "Phantom networks" are networks offered by plans that lack an acceptable number and array of providers that offer real options for help or hope for people with mental illness or addiction.

Ensuring equitable access to out-of-network benefits for mental health and addiction benefits is critical for making sure patients receive the care they need. A February 2007 RAND Corporation study looked at one health plan and found only 11.8% of patients accessing mental health benefits under the plan received care out-of-network. Moreover, a December 2007 study in Health Affairs on parity in the FEHBP found that parity legislation that does not extend parity to out-of-network benefits may have the unintended consequence of decreasing access to mental health and addiction treatment services altogether.

The final bill requires health plans to have the same terms and financial limitations on out-of-network benefits for mental health and addiction treatment services as the plan has on medical and surgical services covered under the plan. Plans must provide out-of-network benefits for mental health and substance use disorders in exactly the same manner as out-of-network medical and surgical benefits provided under the plan in order to be in compliance with this Act.

**Wellness Plans:**

Wellness plans can include information about diet, exercise, stress management and other forms of chronic disease management tools, but they are no substitute for mental health and addiction benefits. Increasingly, we have seen employee assistance programs that provide drug and alcohol treatment move to providing family counseling, stress management and other extremely helpful resources—but they are not a substitute for addiction treatment.

The final bill would prohibit a plan from changing its benefit design to a "wellness plan" to avoid compliance with the parity requirements of this Act.

The Diagnostic and Statistical Manual DSM:

Kitty Westin, the President of the Eating Disorder Coalition, spoke movingly about the need for full diagnostic coverage of mental illnesses. Anna Westin, Kitty's daughter, died at the age of 21 due to lack of access to care for her severe eating disorder. Despite having the "Cadillac" of insurance policies, Anna was repeatedly denied the treatment she needed. Eating disorders, like other diagnoses affecting children and youth, are often singled out for denial, a form of discrimination that led to the strong push in this legislation to require insurers to use the widely-accepted Diagnostic and Statistical Manual (DSM), rather than allowing plans to pick and choose diagnostic coverage based on cost or bias.

The DSM is a diagnostic manual developed by the American Psychiatric Association, through an open process involving more than 1,000 national and international mental health researchers and clinicians. It is used by virtually all private insurance companies, along

with Medicaid, OPM for the Federal Employees Health Benefit Program, Tricare, and Medicare, which all require DSM criteria for the submission of claims. All NIH grant submissions, FDA drug indications for treatment, and legal indications for mental competency require the use of DSM codes and guidelines.

Despite this status as a recognized authority, the DSM itself became the focal point for many heated debates during the parity negotiations, launched by opponents of parity. However, in the end, language to require the DSM as the basis for coverage was not included in this bill. The final bill requires the Government Accountability Office (GAO) to monitor and report to Congress on the extent to which health plans comply with the requirements of this Act to provide meaningful parity to the millions of families who experience mental health or substance abuse conditions.

#### EARMARK DECLARATION

### HON. DOUG LAMBORN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 26, 2008*

Mr. LAMBORN. Madam Speaker, pursuant to the Republican Leadership standards on earmarks, I am submitting the following information for publication in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD regarding earmarks I received as part of H.R. 2638, Consolidated Security, Disaster Assistance, and Continuing Appropriations Act, 2009.

Requesting Member: Congressman DOUG LAMBORN, CO-05.

Bill Number: H.R. 2638.

Account: 3600F RDT & E, Air Force, Line 13, PE 0602601F.

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Aeroflex.

Address of Requesting Entity: 4350 Centennial Blvd. Colorado Blvd, Colorado Springs, CO 80907.

Description of Request: \$1.6 million is included in this bill for Radiation Hardened Non-Volatile Memory. This request is intended to aide in the development of radiation hardened non-volatile memory technology to be used in a variety of applications, principally satellites.

Requesting Member: Congressman DOUG LAMBORN, CO-05.

Bill Number: H.R. 2638.

Account: RDTE, AF.

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Goodrich Corporation.

Address of Requesting Entity: 1275 North Newport Road, Colorado Springs, CO 80916.

Description of Request: \$5.6 million is included in this bill to fund ACES 5 ejection-seat development and testing for the Air Force-variant F-35 to enable insertion into F-35 LRIP to leverage the most capable and safest ejection seat ever developed and ensure that the U.S. preserves the domestic capability to produce vital life saving ejection seat systems for the Air Force.

Requesting Member: Congressman DOUG LAMBORN, CO-05.

Bill Number: H.R. 2638.

Account: RDT&E.

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Analytical Graphics, Inc.

Address of Requesting Entity: 7150 Campus Drive, Suite 260, Colorado Springs, CO.

Description of Request: \$800,000 is included in this bill to incorporate space object

data, improve navigation accuracy prediction (including jamming and weapons modeling), and integrate electronic warfare (EW) analysis into a common operational environment for Army support teams. The user friendly interface will couple real time data integration with currently deployed and supported data feeds, including imagery, terrain, GPS status, electronic warfare environment, and terrestrial weather.

Requesting Member: Congressman DOUG LAMBORN, CO-05.

Bill Number: H.R. 2638.

Account: Research, Development, Test & Evaluation, Air Force.

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Finmeccanica of North America.

Address of Requesting Entity: 1625 I Street, NW., Floor 12, Washington, DC 20006.

Description of Request: \$800,000 is included in this budget to demonstrate and qualify in a cold climate an innovative, energy efficient, alternative power technology, on an energy intensive Air Force installation. Utilizing tactical or readily available fuels, this first phase of qualifying will place a next generation power generator in a military environment while showcasing all the benefits (monetary, environmental, and technical) this technology can provide within various scenarios, such as "Silent Camp" or "Islanding".

Requesting Member: Congressman DOUG LAMBORN, CO-05.

Bill Number: H.R. 2638.

Account: Research, Development, Evaluation, & Test, DW.

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Northrop Grumman Corporation.

Address of Requesting Entity: 1000 Wilson Blvd, Suite 2300 Arlington, VA 22209.

Description of Request: \$10 million is included in this budget for Missile Defense Integration & Operations Center (MDIOC) modeling and simulation. This ensures early Warfighter involvement and realistic BMDS operational concepts for the fielded system that will protect U.S. Homeland, our Allies, and U.S. troops from the threat of ballistic missile attack.

#### RECOGNIZING THE HONORABLE CHIP PICKERING ON THE OCCA- SION OF HIS RETIREMENT

### HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 26, 2008*

Mr. BONNER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the distinguished career of the Honorable CHARLES "CHIP" WILLIS PICKERING, JR. for his service to the people of Mississippi and United States House of Representatives. Congressman PICKERING has represented the 3rd Congressional District of the state of Mississippi for the past 12 years.

A native of Laurel, Mississippi, CHIP received a bachelor's degree in business administration from the University of Mississippi and a master's degree in business administration from Baylor University.

Before joining Congress, CHIP served as a Southern Baptist missionary in the communist region of Budapest, Hungary. Upon returning to the country, former President George H. W. Bush appointed him to the United States De-

partment of Agriculture as a liaison to bring reform to the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe.

Upon his return to the United States, CHIP went to work for the people of Mississippi as a staffer of former Mississippi Senator Trent Lott, where he served for nearly four years. At the age of 33, he ran as the Republican candidate for Mississippi's 3rd District in 1996.

Chip has taken the lead in passing FEMA and contracting reform legislation in the wake of 2005's Hurricane Katrina. As a member of the House Energy and Commerce Committee, Chip has been an influential leader on issues such as telecommunications and technology concerning Mississippi's future.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing a dedicated leader and friend to many in this body. I know his family, his five sons, Will, Ross, Jackson, Asher, and Harper; his many friends and colleagues join me in praising his accomplishments and extending thanks for his service over the years on behalf of the state of Mississippi and the United States of America.

CHIP will surely enjoy the well deserved time he now has to spend with his family and loved ones. I wish him the best of luck in all his future endeavors.

#### IN RECOGNITION OF AIDS AWARENESS HISTORY MONTH

### HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 26, 2008*

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, as we move into the month of October, I want to take a moment to recognize October as AIDS Awareness History Month. AIDS Awareness month provides an opportunity to focus on the fact that HIV/AIDS is a formidable problem across the country. The 2008 AIDS Awareness Month occurs at a time when we have learned that we are struggling in the fight against AIDS. In early August, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, CDC, released new statistics showing a 40 percent increase over previous estimates of new cases of HIV. The report found that that 53 percent of new HIV infections in 2006 were among gay and bisexual men, with almost one-third, 31 percent of new infections being among heterosexuals, which previous studies have shown have the greatest effect on African American women.

HIV/AIDS is a public health problem in our country and an emergency situation within the African American community. African Americans make up 13 percent of the United States population, but they account for 49 percent of the estimated AIDS cases diagnosed since the epidemic began. Since the beginning of the epidemic, African Americans have accounted for 42 percent of the estimated 950,000 AIDS cases diagnosed in the 50 states and the District of Columbia. Not only are African Americans more likely to get AIDS, they are more likely to die from it, with more than half of all AIDS-related deaths being among African Americans. The statistics in Illinois resemble those nationally. African Americans aged 13-24 have the highest average annual HIV rates. African American males aged 13-24 had an average annual HIV rate was 2.5 times higher than the rate in White males, and almost 4

times higher than the rate in Hispanic men. In Chicago, African American women represent 75 percent of all women living with HIV/AIDS, yet they account for only 37 percent of the general female population aged 13 and over. This disparity is unacceptable. HIV / AIDS is plaguing and destroying African American communities, robbing our community of its fathers, mothers, brothers, and sisters.

We must do more to address this problem. We must increase funding for both prevention and treatment. We cannot rely on the failed policies of this administration to ignore strategies proven to decrease risky behavior and lower transmission rates and embrace strategies that do nothing. We must emphasize prevention, not restrict the CDC's prevention budget by 19 percent. We must support the Minority HIV/AIDS Initiative and expand Ryan White. This is a public health problem that mandates a comprehensive, intensive public health strategic response. I commend the City of Chicago's Department of Public Health, the State of Illinois Department of Public Health, and all of the organizations who actively are working to put at least a dent in this problem. I try to do my part to focus attention on this public health problem. A few weeks ago, I chaired an AIDS walk in Chicago that raised money for awareness and the fight for the cure. I also helped launch the "Quality of Life" Illinois Lottery game called Red Ribbon Cash. Proceeds gathered from the game will fund grants to public and private entities with HIV/AIDS prevention programs in Illinois. In terms of promoting prevention, I myself, have been publicly tested multiple times to convince the African-American community of the importance of being tested. America has within it the resources to address this issue; our political leadership must take action to do so. My fellow colleagues and I and all Americans need to do much more about this problem.

HONORING NORMA FISHER-DOIRON

**HON. JOE COURTNEY**

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 26, 2008*

Mr. COURTNEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize an outstanding educator from my district, Norma Fisher-Doiron, Principal of Southeast Elementary School in Mansfield, Connecticut. This year, Norma has been recognized by the National Association of Elementary School Principals (NAESP) with the 2008 National Distinguished Principals award.

Since 1984, the National Distinguished Principals Program has recognized educators from communities across this nation and abroad who are committed to academic excellence. To be eligible for this award, educators must incorporate of communal and parental involvement in student curriculum. Educators must also display the use of tailored educational programs that facilitate academic success for all students.

For 15 years, Norma has served as the Principal of Southeast Elementary School in Mansfield Center, Connecticut. Although the Southeast Elementary School community is widespread, Norma was successful in reaching out to all comers of the area to win sup-

port from parents and community leaders to reinforce personal and academic success from Southeast Elementary students.

During her tenure, Norma has also prioritized with her students character building—including appreciation and respect of others—a positive attitude, and coping skills.

On October 16th and 17th, Norma will join 61 other honorees from across this nation and abroad, in Washington, D.C. to celebrate this recognition. While in Washington, the honorees will participate in a U.S. Department of State reception and a White House briefing.

Madam Speaker, the success of our education systems relies on the strength and passion of our academic leaders. Norma has exemplified these characteristics, and I remain confident that she will continue to contribute to successes in our public education system. I ask my colleagues to join with me and my constituents in recognizing Norma's contributions and celebrating her award.

TRIBUTE TO PRINCIPIA COLLEGE  
SOLAR CAR

**HON. JOHN SHIMKUS**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 26, 2008*

Mr. SHIMKUS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Principia College Solar Car Team. Since 1995, students and advisors have worked on perfecting their solar car model. This year, they came very close to that goal by finishing second in the 2008 North American Solar Challenge.

The Challenge is a 2,400-mile race from Plano, Texas to Calgary, Alberta, Canada. This year, fifteen cars began the race; only five finished. Principia College is a small liberal arts college in Elmhurst, Illinois that does not even have an engineering program. The Principia solar car team beat out much larger schools to finish second in the exhausting ten day event.

On the second to last day of the race, Principia's car experienced electrical trouble and stalled for seventy-five minutes. The team electricians were able to remedy the problem and put the car back on the road. Advisor Joe Ritter and his team remained calm throughout the race, especially during the electrical complications.

The pioneering spirit of the young people on the Principia College Solar Car Team deserves recognition and thanks. These students are the ones who will carry our country forward. I stand with my colleagues today to honor the Principia College Solar Car Team for an outstanding second place finish in the North American Solar Challenge.

HONORING THE RETIREMENT OF  
REPRESENTATIVE MIKE McNULTY

SPEECH OF

**HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, September 22, 2008*

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, today we recognize and salute the contribution

of MIKE McNULTY as he prepares to retire as one of our best.

Since I arrived in the House, I have been proud to stand with MIKE, as he fights for New York's working families.

He has carried on his family's tradition of public service since 1969 when he first won office—at age 22—as Green Island Town Supervisor. Elected to Congress in 1988, he has distinguished himself as a member of this House over the past 20 years, fighting for the needs of his Albany-based district.

As Chair of the Social Security Subcommittee of the Ways and Means Committee, he has protected Social Security from misguided attempts to privatize it, putting the retirement of millions at risk.

I'm glad to have had the honor to serve with MIKE McNULTY, and wish him a long and happy retirement away from the House.

HONORING REPRESENTATIVES  
RAY LAHOOD AND JERRY WELLER

**HON. PHIL HARE**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 26, 2008*

Mr. HARE. Madam Speaker, I rise to congratulate two of my distinguished Illinois colleagues—Congressman RAY LaHOOD of Peoria and Congressman JERRY WELLER of Joliet on their retirement from the House of Representatives at the end of this term. Both men provided outstanding service to our state and Nation during their 14 years in Congress.

Congressman LaHOOD and I represent neighboring districts in Illinois. I've known RAY for over 25 years. He is a man I deeply admire and respect. During my short time in Congress, the two of us have cooperated on a number of joint projects important to our districts. We have fought to bring jobs back to our region and improve Central Illinois' broken transportation infrastructure.

Early in his career, RAY earned the respect of both Democrats and Republicans for his willingness to work across the aisle. During times of intense partisanship, RAY remained an unapologetic moderate who placed the needs of his district and our Nation above any political party. As Speaker Pro Tempore, RAY often presided over some of the fiercest debates on the House floor with prudence and evenhandedness.

On a personal note, I will never forget the kindness RAY showed to my predecessor—Congressman Lane Evans—as he fought his battle with Parkinson's disease. I was proud to join with RAY to pass legislation naming a Rock Island post office in Lane's honor.

Congressman WELLER served the 11th District of Illinois with distinction. In addition to his work on international affairs, he advocated raising the minimum wage and sought to increase retirement and disability pay for combat-wounded veterans. I respect Congressman WELLER's commitment to standing up for what he believes in and wish him well in retirement.

Both men will be missed.

RECOGNIZING THE HONORABLE  
TOM DAVIS ON THE OCCASION  
OF HIS RETIREMENT

**HON. JO BONNER**

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 26, 2008*

Mr. BONNER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the distinguished career of the Honorable THOMAS M. DAVIS for his service to the people of Virginia and the United States House of Representatives. Congressman DAVIS has represented the 11th Congressional District of the state of Virginia for the past 13 years.

Born in Minot, North Dakota, TOM moved to Fairfax County, Virginia, at an early age. He graduated from the United States Capitol Page School as president of his class and went on to Amherst College where he graduated with a degree in political science. TOM earned his Juris Doctor from the University of Virginia and attended Officer Candidate School, serving on active duty in the U.S. Army. He spent eight years serving in the Virginia National Guard and the U.S. Army Reserve.

Before his election to Congress, TOM became the chief elected official of Fairfax County, Virginia, the nation's 11th most populous municipality with the second largest county budget in the United States. While serving as the chairman of the board of supervisors, Fairfax County was recognized as the best financially managed county in the Nation.

Upon his election to the United States House of Representatives in 1995, TOM was put in control of the House Government Reform and Oversight Committee's Subcommittee on the District of Columbia, marking the first time a freshman had been appointed as a chairman in over 40 years.

TOM is well known for his advocacy on behalf of federal employees and contractors as well as his support of students in the District of Columbia. He was the integral force behind the passage of the D.C. College Access Act, allowing high school graduates in the District to attend public colleges in Maryland and Virginia at in-state tuition rates.

TOM is also known as a strong supporter of political and ethics reform in the House, while still fighting for issues most important to Virginia's 11th District. He was instrumental in gaining funding for the construction of the new Woodrow Wilson Bridge, designed to ease chronic gridlock in northern Virginia. He has also been an ardent supporter for advancements in information technology, which is critical to northern Virginia's high tech community.

In addition to serving as the Chairman of the National Republican Congressional Committee from 1998 to 2002 and chairing the House Government Reform and Oversight Committee during the 108th Congress, TOM'S crusade against government waste concentrated on monitoring federal contracts of large dollar amounts.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing a dedicated leader and friend to many in this body. I know his family, his wife, Jeannemarie Devolites; his three children; his four stepchildren; and his many friends and colleagues join me in praising his accomplishments and extending thanks for his service over the years on behalf of the com-

monwealth of Virginia and the United States of America.

TOM will surely enjoy the well deserved time he now has to spend with his family and loved ones. I wish him the best of luck in all his future endeavors.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE BRUCE  
McCANDLESS COLORADO STATE  
VETERANS NURSING HOME

**HON. DOUG LAMBORN**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 26, 2008*

Mr. LAMBORN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the recent accomplishments of the Bruce McCandless Colorado State Veterans Nursing Home. This superior performing facility is the recipient of the highly coveted American Health Care Association and National Center for Assisted Living's (AHCA/NCAL) Quality Award and is the Nation's first state veterans nursing home accepted into the Eden Alternative Registry. The Eden Alternative Registry is a grass roots non-profit organization whose core value centers on a holistic belief of quality care and empowerment of the aging.

For over 32 years, the Bruce McCandless Colorado State Veterans Nursing Home has been providing 24-hour, skilled nursing care to veterans and their families, and I am proud to commend them on their well-deserved achievements. Their superiority is exhibited not only by being one of four long-term care facility award recipients in Colorado, but as one of only 312 long-term care facilities in the United States to have qualified for the AHCA/NCAL Step I award.

These prestigious accomplishments exemplify the Bruce McCandless Colorado State Veterans Nursing Home's commitment to providing the very best of care to some of our Nation's finest—our veterans. Their continuous strive to meet the needs of their residents clearly demonstrates a strong commitment to continuous quality improvement and I am pleased to have this facility within both my district and the great state of Colorado.

THE DAILY 45: A LONELY DEATH  
IN SAN FRANCISCO

**HON. BOBBY L. RUSH**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 26, 2008*

Mr. RUSH. Madam Speaker, the Department of Justice tells us that, everyday, 45 people, on average, are fatally shot in the United States. Far too often, while our culture is caught up in the exciting history of our nation's political season right now or the blessed peace that some of us enjoy from living life to its fullest, there are dozens of people, each and every day, who lose their life abruptly and in silence at the hands of a gun-wielding assailant.

Such was the case, last night, on the streets of San Francisco. Twenty-four-year old Donovan Mumphy, of Pinole, just outside of San Francisco, was shot and killed by an unknown assailant in the parking lot of an apartment

complex. Witnesses said Mumphy was approached by someone who demanded cash and fled after the shooting.

I extend my condolences to Mr. Mumphy's family and continue to pray for an end to this senseless violence. Americans of conscious must come together to stop the senseless death of "The Daily 45." When will we say 'enough is enough, stop the killing.'

EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR  
DEMOCRACY IN KAZAKHSTAN

**HON. G.K. BUTTERFIELD**

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 26, 2008*

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Madam Speaker, I rise today before you to draw attention to an issue which concerns our continued efforts to establish democratic principles around the world. The recent conflict between Russia and Georgia has highlighted the acute need for the U.S. to maintain and strengthen its resolve to support and strengthen the former Soviet Republic countries.

Kazakhstan is among these countries and it is an important partner in many ways. Kazakhstan is a key energy-producing ally where a large number of U.S. corporations are doing business as part of the global effort to meet our domestic energy needs.

While I certainly appreciate that Kazakhstan has worked closely with the U.S. on matters of nonproliferation, I have become increasingly concerned by reports indicating that Kazakhstan's governmental system lacks the basic rights of democracy: elections are neither free or fair; political opposition faces physical danger; there are few independent media outlets; the wide-scale corruption which has begun to affect major U.S. companies doing business in Kazakhstan; and, there is no respect for human rights, religious freedom, freedom of speech or economic liberalization.

Last year's election in Kazakhstan was far from democratic. Kazakh President Nursultan Nazarbayev's reelection in 2005 with 91 percent of the vote prompted widespread complaints of vote fraud. The Nur-Otan party which supports President Nazarbayev won all 98 contested seats in the country's parliamentary election last August. Pledges to institute overhauls have failed to move forward according to recent reports by the U.S. Department of State and Freedom House.

In fact, a number of opposition parties have decided to boycott Kazakhstan's upcoming Senate elections with one of the opposition parties stating that "we do not intend to give a veneer of 'competition' to a forthcoming farce and to become a pseudo democratic entourage".

As part of an agreement that allows Kazakhstan to ascend to the Chairmanship of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), a multilateral organization devoted to European Security, Kazakhstan pledged to implement an opposition party law and other reform measures by the end of this year. To date, little has been achieved and opposition parties assert that they are not consulted with on formulating an opposition party law.

I applaud my distinguished colleagues Chairman ALCEE HASTINGS of Florida and Co-

Chairman Senator BEN CARDIN of Maryland for holding a hearing hosted by the Helsinki Commission on July 22, 2008, titled "Promises to Keep: Kazakhstan's 2010 OSCE Chairmanship". In maintaining the Commission's monitoring duties, the hearing focused on allegations of corruption, human rights abuses and religious intolerance in Kazakhstan. This was the second in a series of hearings during which my colleagues questioned the selection of Kazakhstan as the next leader of the OSCE and its commitment to reform measures. Kazakhstan's Chairmanship has been a controversial issue as many human rights groups and lawmakers have cited a poor human rights record and lack of democratic reform in Kazakhstan. Assistant Secretary of State Richard Boucher testified that political and economic overhauls are needed in Kazakhstan, adding "That is the only way to get away from corruption".

A month prior to this hearing, Chairman HASTINGS and Co-Chairman CARDIN led a bipartisan delegation to Kazakhstan in order to attend the OSCE's 17th Annual Session, which took place in Astana, Kazakhstan's capital city. Additionally, Members of the delegation met with President Nursultan Nazarbayev, Prime Minister Karim Masimov and Secretary of State Kanat Saudabayev.

Clearly Members of the Commission remain concerned not only by the promises made to establish democratic reform by year's end, but also by "very serious allegations" of corruption in the oil-rich nation which could further complicate its relations with the U.S. and the West, as well as human rights abuses, human trafficking, freedom of religion, freedom of the press and rigged elections. When democracy fails that spills over into every other walk of life and the people of Kazakhstan are the ones who suffer.

I know my colleagues in the U.S. Congress share my concern and I encourage our collective support of the Helsinki Commission in calling on the government of Kazakhstan to uphold its commitment to establish democratic reforms as it has promised to do.

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#### TRIBUTE TO HILLCREST ORCHARD

### HON. GREG WALDEN

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 26, 2008*

Mr. WALDEN of Oregon. Madam Speaker, I rise today to share my pride in an exceptional family agricultural operation that is celebrating 100 years of quality, excellence, and responsible citizenship: the Parsons family and their Hillcrest Orchard in the heart of the Rogue Valley in southern Oregon. The Rogue Valley is known worldwide for its natural scenic beauty, its productive land, its ideal climate, and its coveted outdoor lifestyle. Hillcrest Orchard is in harmony with, and takes its inspiration from, the unique attributes of the Rogue Valley.

Hillcrest Orchard has been proudly operated by the Parsons family since its founding on July 13, 1908 by Reginald H Parsons and Maude Bemis Parsons. One of the oldest continuously-owned family orchards in the Rogue Valley, Hillcrest has long grown some of the region's finest fruit and produce. Four genera-

tions have worked tirelessly to maintain a high standard of quality and to operate always in ways responsible to the environment. Philanthropy and service to the community have been hallmarks of the Parsons family throughout Hillcrest's 100 year history.

Eleven grandchildren of Reginald and Maude are shareholders of Hillcrest: John Day, Hugh Brady, Judson Parsons, George Parsons, Reg Parsons, Geoffrey Tootell, Nancy McDonald, Diana Parsons, Natalie Oliver, Alice Petrich, and Cynthia Parsons. Currently, a fourth generation is involved in Hillcrest and the plan is for members of that generation to assume active management and further the well-established tradition of excellence and service.

As you can imagine, Madam Speaker, over the last 100 years, there have been many challenges in conducting successful orchard operations, but the Parsons family never let economic or natural disasters deter them. During the Depression and World War II, the family retained their employees and kept the fruit trees in healthy condition. By 1938, Reginald Parsons had gradually removed all of the apple trees and replaced them with pears, since the latter were more profitable. As the older pear trees declined in production, workers replaced them with new stock. Today, some of the orchard's earliest pear trees remain standing, producing Hillcrest's famous "century pears."

Not only has the Parsons family preserved their rich agricultural legacy, but also, through their stewardship, 11 buildings on the property of Hillcrest Orchard are now listed in the National Register of Historic Places. My colleagues, I have spent much time at Hillcrest Orchard and I can attest that it is truly a jewel in a very beautiful part of the country. It is a beautiful and welcoming place to visit, and their products are second to none. Hillcrest Orchard today remains very true to its century-old proud heritage of quality and innovation. What was once on the outskirts of Medford, Oregon is now surrounded by residential and commercial development, yet Hillcrest continues to operate in environmentally sound ways that makes it a model neighbor to the community. Hillcrest Orchard is dedicated to conserving the land for the health of the community and for future generations.

The most recent development at Hillcrest is the award-winning Roxy Ann Winery, featuring a charming tasting room, well-groomed grounds, musical entertainment, and social events. The planting of Hillcrest's vineyard began in 1997 with Merlot and Cabernet grapes. Hillcrest has expanded its selection of varietals along with acreage. Currently, 14 commercial varieties are grown at Roxy Ann's vineyards, including Bordeaux and Rhone grapes that flourish in the Rogue River Valley's warm climate and have thrived in similar climates and soils in Europe for hundreds of years. Local shallow clay soils help the vines concentrate the flavors in the fruit rather than producing huge vines. The viticulture and wine-making team at Roxy Ann is constantly evaluating varieties suited to this unique site.

Madam Speaker and colleagues, I take great pride in the last century of the Parsons' family dedication to excellence at Hillcrest Orchard, and I ask you to join me in congratulating them for this significant feat and wishing

them well as they enter their second century of exemplary business and service to the Rogue Valley. They have the tradition and the family dedication to make the next 100 years even more productive than the last. The Parsons family represents what is great about American agriculture and American families, and they will continue to give their customers and their community the very best.

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#### TRIBUTE TO ALAN LOESSY

### HON. BILL SHUSTER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 26, 2008*

Mr. SHUSTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the career and mark the retirement of Alan Loessy from the Letterkenny Army Depot in Franklin County, Pennsylvania. Alan Loessy began his 33 year long career in public service as a field representative in Franklin County for Congressman BUD SHUSTER. His exemplary work for the people of the 9th Congressional District made him a perfect candidate to join the outstanding team at the Letterkenny Army Depot and in May 1989 he joined the Letterkenny staff as a personnel management specialist.

In his capacity at Letterkenny, Mr. Loessy worked on behalf of the thousands of employees entering or departing civil service from Letterkenny and its many tenant activities. It was a job that required dedication, extreme patience, and a complete understanding of the Depot's position in the family of Department of Defense facilities as the installation downsized. Alan's support to those many individuals during the transition will long be remembered.

In July 1995 Alan was assigned as a public affairs specialist and became the Letterkenny Public Affairs Officer. He worked to convey the message of the contributions the men and women of Letterkenny made to the defense of the nation. He was the public face of the depot to the media and worked cooperatively with print and television reporters to leave a positive and lasting impression of the good work being done inside the depot fence line.

In 2002 Mr. Loessy was one of the founding members of Opportunity 05, a local group that helped build the case for Letterkenny's continued growth under 2005 Base Realignment and Closing round. The success of that effort was celebrated by many but none more so than Alan who played a key role behind the scenes.

Throughout his long career, Alan Loessy personified dedication, commitment and excellence to the people employed by Letterkenny and the corps of civilian employees in the Department of Defense. I know first hand how hard he worked with my own staff to promote the mission of the Letterkenny Army Depot. While Alan will be missed by everyone, his retirement brings new opportunities for him to follow. I along with the entire Shuster family wish him the best of luck in his future endeavors and congratulate Alan Loessy for a job well done.

THE DAILY 45: PATRICK

**HON. BOBBY L. RUSH**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 26, 2008*

Mr. RUSH. Madam Speaker, everyday, 45 people, on average, are fatally shot in the United States.

Patrick McDonald, a Philadelphia police officer pursuing an armed suspect September 23 was fatally shot. He is the fourth city officer to die in the line of duty in 11 months. The suspect was killed. An automatic weapon was recovered at the scene. Too many people have access to automatic weapons and we are all touched by the death of a police officer, killed in the line of duty.

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.'

## CRIMINAL SKETCH ARTIST—LOIS GIBSON

**HON. TED POE**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 26, 2008*

Mr. POE. Madam Speaker, Lois Gibson has made the Guinness Book of World Records as "The World's Most Successful Forensic Artist." Her sketches of perpetrators have been instrumental in assisting the police to catch over 1,062 criminals. She has recently written a book with renowned author, Deanie Francis Mills, about her experience being a criminal sketch artist and the profession's value to society. This Houston resident has made a name for herself in law enforcement all across the country and has done so for twenty-five years.

An alumna of the University of Texas at Austin, Gibson has put her Bachelor of Fine Arts degree to great use. A naturally artistic person, she decided to take the FBI Academy Forensic Artist Course to become a qualified criminal sketch artist. When Gibson was younger, she was sexually assaulted by a serial rapist and murderer. Perhaps it was this experience that most inspired Gibson to enter into the service of catching criminals and helping those in need. The memory of her traumatic incident definitely stays with Gibson but rather than letting it get her down, she uses it to inspire her work every single day.

Ms. Gibson's status as a past victim, allows her to truly and deeply sympathize with those that she works with. After an upsetting situation, those affected often have issues rehashing the situation and having to again envision the assailant's face, but Ms. Gibson allows them to get past this. Gibson can communicate well with these people because she understands where they are coming from, being a victim herself. Thus, victims are more likely to open up to Gibson and she makes it easier for them to focus and give her an accurate depiction of their attacker.

Despite the profession of criminal sketching having many talented and trained artists, there is a limited amount of full-time sketch artists in the country. It took Ms. Gibson, herself, some time to persuade the Houston Police Department of her merit. The HPD had never used

an artist before and they believed the role Gibson proposed seemed superfluous. When the department finally agreed to let her work, Gibson was soon identified as a valuable asset to the law enforcement team and some police officers began to wonder how they had ever operated efficiently without her.

About thirty percent of Gibson's sketches catch their intended offenders when finger prints are around ten percent effective. It is findings like these that make the question of, why more police departments do not embrace the importance of having a full-time sketch artist, more profound. Still, Gibson's work has not gone unnoticed, as she has won numerous awards for stopping ruthless criminals and bringing justice to the blameless victims.

I commend this remarkable American on her twenty-five year devotion to public service, and thank her for doing work that has made our country a safer place to live in.

And that's just the way it is.

## TRIBUTE TO ROSEMARY'S CIRCLE

**HON. JOHN SHIMKUS**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 26, 2008*

Mr. SHIMKUS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the members of Rosemary's Circle for 75 years of service to the Nashville, Illinois community. In 1933, a Sunday school class was formed at the United Methodist Church in Nashville, Illinois. These 30 students aimed to complete charitable work in their community. Some of the group's activities have included: Christmas fruit trays for shut-ins, fundraising for school activities and Children's homes, funeral dinners for church families, and quilt donations to the local EMT.

From its inception until 2003, the class was named after its first teacher, Jennifer Bennett. In 2003, the longtime president of the "Jennifer Class" passed away, and its members decided to rename the group in her honor. Known now as Rosemary's Circle, this group of dedicated women continued to serve the people of Nashville, Illinois for seventy-five years.

In recent years, membership in Rosemary's Circle has dwindled due to the aging of its members. In July of 2008, the group, upon conferring with its namesake's descendents, decided to disband and made a final donation to the Methodist Children's Home. Although Rosemary's circle is no longer active, the generosity of its members will not soon be forgotten. I join with my fellow representatives today in honoring the members—past and present—of Rosemary's Circle for many years of community service.

## DEMANDING ACCOUNTABILITY IN THE FINANCIAL BAILOUT PACKAGE

**HON. MARK STEVEN KIRK**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 26, 2008*

Mr. KIRK. Madam Speaker, in July we bailed out entities with well-paid executives including Daniel Mudd, President and Chief Fi-

ancial Officer at Fannie Mae (\$11.5 million), and Richard Syron, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer at Freddie Mac (\$18.3 million). Recent press reports show that a number of chairmen/CEOs were highly compensated before their companies began failing including Bear Stearns CEO, Alan Schwartz (\$35 million), Lehman Brothers CEO Richard Fuld (\$40 million) and AIG's Martin Sullivan (\$47 million).

Federal regulators rightly blocked planned golden parachutes for the failed leaders of Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac, we should now set that precedent into law—if you get a taxpayer bailout, you lose your job and your parachute.

Today, I am introducing legislation that will ensure that no taxpayer dollars can be used for executive compensation or a golden parachute for any senior officer of a company that received credit or direct assistance bailout. My bill also grants Treasury Secretary Paulson the authority to terminate senior officers of any entity seeking a bailout from the taxpayer.

Given the dire economic warnings, Democrats and Republicans must pull together to save jobs and strengthen the economy for working Americans. But this must be a bailout with consequences, including a prohibition on any taxpayer dollars used for senior officer salaries or golden parachutes and the termination of senior officers of companies receiving aid.

## CONGRATULATING TAIWAN ON ITS NATIONAL DAY

**HON. G.K. BUTTERFIELD**

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 26, 2008*

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Madam Speaker, people in the Republic of China will be celebrating their National Day this October 10. Taiwan is one of our largest trading partners and has worked very hard in reducing its trade surplus with us year after year. A democracy, Taiwan shares many economic, social and cultural values with us. We know for a fact that Taiwanese tourists choose the United States as their first destination, when traveling outside of Asia. We know Taiwan has more than 30,000 and students studying in the United States. A majority of their cabinet secretaries were educated in the United States and have advanced U.S. degrees.

Their newly elected Present is a Harvard-educated attorney. Taiwan's ties to us are many and our mutual relations seem to have dramatically improved with the recent appointment of their top Washington envoy: Ambassador Jason Yuan. Ambassador Yuan is one of the most distinguished diplomats from Taiwan and knows Washington well.

I am happy to learn that Taiwan has recently improved its relations with the Chinese mainland as well. There have been visits by Taiwan leaders to the mainland and vice versa. Both sides are engaged in productive discussions over the reduction of tension in the Taiwan Strait and the improvement of ties. They are building mutual trust and confidence in their bilateral relations, nurturing a long-lasting amity.

Congratulations to Taiwan and the Taiwanese people.

HONORING GIRARD BASTIEN

**HON. JOE COURTNEY**

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 26, 2008*

Mr. COURTNEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and celebrate the career of Girard Bastien, an outstanding member of our eastern Connecticut community. After six decades of service in the Baltic Fire Department, in Baltic, Connecticut, Girard will commemorate his retirement with family and friends on October 25, 2008 with a celebratory dinner.

As a veteran of World War II and the Korean War, Girard's commitment to public service began early in life. In August 1948, between service in WWII and the Korean War, Girard joined the Baltic Fire Department and launched a lifelong career that would span six decades. During his career, Girard achieved the rank of Deputy Chief, was a member of the New London County Fire Chiefs' Association, and served as the Sprague Tree Warden between 1954 and 1990. Additionally, Girard was the head of the Baltic Fire Department kitchen and orchestrated weekly bingo event in recent years.

Support from his wife of 62 years, Jeanette, as well as his sons, Dennis and Edward have made his career a long and fruitful one.

Madam Speaker, Girard's lifetime of public service has and will continue to inspire our eastern Connecticut community, and I ask my colleagues to join with me and my constituents in recognizing and celebrating this service.

HONORING GERALD A. EHINGER  
ON BEING NAMED OGEMAW  
COUNTY'S VETERAN OF THE  
YEAR

**HON. BART STUPAK**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 26, 2008*

Mr. STUPAK. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize Gerald A. Ehinger of West Branch, Michigan. Mr. Ehinger has been named Ogemaw County's Veteran of the Year, and I ask that you, Madam Speaker, and the entire U.S. House of Representatives, join me in honoring him on this momentous occasion.

Born in West Branch, Michigan on February 9, 1927 to Anthony and Elizabeth Ehinger, Gerald Ehinger grew up in a large family with six brothers and three sisters. He attended and graduated in 1943 from St. Joseph Catholic High School of West Branch. After graduation Mr. Ehinger held several different jobs until he joined the U.S. Army.

In November of 1945, he enlisted in the U.S. Army and attended basic training at Camp Crowder, Missouri. Following graduation, he was assigned to the 972nd Signal Service Battalion, stationed at Konehe Naval Air Base in Hawaii. He served there for one year installing and repairing communication lines throughout the island. In February 1947, he was honorably discharged and returned back to his hometown of West Branch, Michigan.

From 1947 until his retirement in 1983, he worked for Consumers Power Company as a service lineman, working the last 25 years as

a lineman supervisor. On May 12, 1956 he married his wife of 52 years, Joan. Together they have four wonderful children, three daughters and a son: Geri Marie, Katherine, Susan and John. Gerald and Joan are also the proud grandparents of six.

Since he left the Army, Mr. Ehinger has been involved in numerous civic and veterans organizations, including: the American Legion Post 103, of which he is a lifetime member of more than 50 years; the Knights of Columbus and the National Rifle Association. Mr. Ehinger has also served on the Board of Directors of Ogemaw County's Emergency Assistance Program and as President of the Spring Creek Hunt Club.

Gerald Ehinger is being honored as Ogemaw County's Veteran of the Year this Veteran's Day by the Ogemaw County Veterans Alliance. In accepting the award, Mr. Ehinger wrote, "I accept this award knowing that many other veterans are more deserving of it than I am and do so wish to thank each and everyone for this honor." Himself a U.S. Army veteran, Mr. Ehinger has been an advocate for the veterans of Ogemaw County and a distinguished leader within the community.

Madam Speaker, Mr. Ehinger selflessly served his country and has advocated for his fellow veterans ever since. I ask that you and the entire U.S. House of Representatives join with me in honoring Gerald Ehinger as he receives the Veteran of the Year award from the Ogemaw County Veterans Alliance.

CONGRATULATING DR. JOSEPH M.  
LOMBARDO UPON HIS SELECTION  
FOR LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT  
AWARD

**HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 26, 2008*

Mr. KANJORSKI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to ask you and my esteemed colleagues in the House of Representatives to pay tribute to Dr. Joseph M. Lombardo, of Pittston, Luzerne County, Pennsylvania, who was chosen by the Italian American Association of Luzerne County to receive its 2008 "Lifetime Achievement Award." I can think of no one more deserving of this great honor.

Born in the city of Pittston, Pennsylvania, Dr. Lombardo is a son of the late Michael and Louise Ross Lombardo. He has a sister, Colette, and a brother, Michael. He has been married to Mary Elizabeth Smith Lombardo for 45 years. They are the parents of eight children: Michael, Joseph, James, John (deceased), Lisa, Francis, Michelle and Robert. The couple also has 13 grandchildren.

Dr. Lombardo was class president and a summa cum laude graduate of Pittston High School in 1956. He graduated with honors from Scranton University with a bachelor's degree in biology. He graduated from Stritch School of Medicine in Chicago, Illinois, in 1964. He served his internship at Wilkes-Barre General Hospital from 1964 to 1965.

Dr. Lombardo served in the United States Army from 1965 to 1966 at the rank of Captain. He served for 30 years in the inactive reserve at the rank of Colonel. He received a commendation from President Richard Nixon and Gov. Milton Schapp for meritorious serv-

ice during the Vietnam conflict. He served as medical director for Selective Service Board No. 97 until the end of the military draft. He was a consultant for the U. S. Military at AFES Induction Center, Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania. He was medical director for the Blood Plasma Unit in Wilkes-Barre; medical director for Social Security, Wilkes-Barre, from 1974 to 1988 and medical director, Wesley Village, 1976 to 1996.

Dr. Lombardo started his medical practice in greater Pittston 40 years ago. He was medical director for Heritage House and Hampton House. He has been the sports doctor for Pittston Area High School for 40 years. He instituted the Department of Family Practice at Wilkes-Barre General Hospital from 1985 to 1987. He was a member of the Hospital Board from 1985 to 1987. He was a board member of Retreat State Hospital from 1972 to 1976; a board member of Luzerne County Community College from 1981 to the present, the longest serving member of that board and he is a member of the Wilkes Hahnemann Board that secured a 6 year medical program and served as clinical instructor at Loyola Medical College and Hahnemann Medical School.

Dr. Lombardo was elected to Wilkes-Barre General Hospital Hall of Fame for Meritorious Service to the hospital and staff. He was also elected to the Luzerne County Sports Hall of Fame for the Sam Falcone Lifetime Award along with Dr. Nicholas Ruggiero and Dr. Charles Myers. He started the Anthracosilicosis Clinic at Wilkes-Barre General Hospital and served pro bono at that clinic for 15 years. He was the first full-time emergency room doctor at Wilkes-Barre General Hospital along with Dr. Pat DeGennaro. He served 15 years at Charity Clinic of Wilkes-Barre General Hospital and 5 years as physician for the Pittston Blood Drive. He is also a former Rotarian.

Madam Speaker, please join me in congratulating Dr. Lombardo on the occasion of this auspicious honor. His devotion and commitment to the community in which he was born and raised has been extraordinary and is an inspiration to others. He is truly deserving of this special award.

EARMARK DECLARATION

**HON. FRED UPTON**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 26, 2008*

Mr. UPTON. Madam Speaker, I submit the following: Pursuant to the Republican Leadership standards on earmarks, I am submitting the following information for publication in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD regarding earmarks I received as part of H.R. 2638, the Continuing Resolution for Fiscal Year 2009.

1. Advanced Drivetrains for Enhanced Mobility and Safety.

Department: Defense.

Account: Research, Development, Test and Evaluation—Army.

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Eaton Corporation.

Address of Requesting Entity: 19218 B Drive South, Marshall, MI 49068.

Description of Request: This request is to provide funding for the final phase of an ongoing three phase program between Eaton

and the US Army. Eaton Corporation, which produces truck components in Galesburg, Michigan, has successfully worked with the Army over the past several years to develop specialized torque-modifying differentials for the HUMVEE to improve the vehicle safety. Phase I and II of the project was structured to first adapt commercial Eaton side-to-side torque modifying differentials to HUMVEES. These programs have proven very successful in quantitatively demonstrating improved vehicle safety by increasing mobility and stability on rough terrain and drastically reducing vehicle rollovers. Prototype systems will be delivered to the Army for additional testing in May 2008. Military-hardened systems will be subsequently designed.

The third and final phase of the program is to develop a front-to-rear transfer case to modulate the driving torque between the front and rear axles. In conjunction with the side-to-side system developed in Phases I and II, this will provide the soldier with the ultimate system for HUMVEE stability and mobility through complete 4x4 active torque management.

Amount: \$1,600,000.

Financial Breakdown:

Allocation of Funds

15% = \$240,000—Model hardware function and vehicle maneuvers.

25% = \$400,000—Materials-modifications to transfer case and addition of differential.

10% = \$160,000—Preliminary Bench test and vehicle functional tests.

50% = \$800,000—Labor-Design/procure hardware, develop preliminary controls software.

Justification for the use of taxpayer dollars: This program addresses a key military need for tactical wheeled vehicle stability and mobility. The technology will greatly improve soldier safety and survivability and mission effectiveness. Eaton Automotive is a commercial company serving non-military customers. Taxpayer dollars are requested for this program to adapt Eaton commercial technology to military vehicles.

2. Advanced Digital Hydraulic Hybrid Drive Systems.

Department: Defense.

Account: Research, Development, Test and Evaluation—Army.

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Eaton Corporation.

Address of Requesting Entity: 26201 Northwestern Highway, Southfield, MI.

Description of Request: The objective of this project is to develop and demonstrate a hybrid hydraulic drive system on military 4x4 vehicles. This compact drive system will enable vehicles to be operated more safely and effectively on even the harshest terrains, and also save a substantial amount of fuel. Having seen firsthand the challenges vehicles currently face with respect to immobilization, rollover or forced-slow speeds due to weight, the value of such a system is very apparent. The additional weight of important armor results in increased problems with maneuverability, so the reduced weight of the new hybrid system. In addition to reducing the weight of the drive system, this project will also increase fuel efficiency by roughly 60 percent. The increased fuel efficiency will provide clear logistical benefits by increasing vehicle range and decreasing vehicle re-fueling requirements. This is not at the expense of vehicle performance, however, as the reduced weight will actually add to vehicle traction and performance.

Amount: \$2,000,000.

Financial Breakdown:

Allocation of Funds

20% = \$400,000—Advanced component testing—Full Authority Pump Motor demonstration.

20% = \$400,000—System Testing—Lab scale test for insertion advanced technologies.

10% = \$200,000—Materials—Full Authority Pump Motor & Next Generation Accumulators.

50% = \$1,000,000—Labor—Design to develop a retrofit system, Next generation accumulators proof of concept, Develop detailed vehicle model, Develop supervisory control architecture, Develop preliminary controls software.

Justification for the use of taxpayer dollars: This project will dramatically increase fuel efficiency in military vehicles, and hence, provide logistical benefits as well as preserve fuel. The new hybrid system will also reduce vehicle weight, which will add to vehicle performance and allow for vehicles to carry increased armor or supplies.

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### TAIWAN DESERVES PARTICIPATION

**HON. TED POE**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 26, 2008*

Mr. POE. Madam Speaker, it has come to my attention that on August 14, seventeen of Republic of China's diplomatic allies requested that the United Nations General Assembly include a supplementary item in the agenda of the 63rd session to "examine the fundamental rights of the 23 million people of the Republic of China (Taiwan) to participate meaningfully in the activities of the United Nations specialized agencies."

I join my colleagues on the Hill in voicing my support for Taiwan's request. Taiwan has been denied participation in the conferences, mechanisms and conventions of the United Nations and the specialized agencies since 1971, thereby creating a major breach in the operations of the United Nations system. This has been a gross injustice that needs to be corrected. Taiwanese people deserve a voice in the UN specialized agencies for a number of reasons. Taiwan's population is larger than two thirds of the UN member states. Taiwan has a vibrant economy. Taiwan is a democracy. Taiwan wants to provide a positive feedback to the international community. Taiwan's meaningful participation in the specialized agencies would help promote peace and cooperation in the Asia-Pacific region.

Madam Speaker, the tension cross the Taiwan straits has been eased since May 2008, and leaders of Taiwan and the People's Republic have shown a willingness to settle their dispute. This thawing of relations has been warmly welcomed by the international community. It is my hope that the PRC will favorably respond to Taiwan's request with goodwill and flexibility. Only by allowing Taiwan to participate meaningfully in the specialized agencies can the UN principle of universality be fulfilled and regional peace and prosperity be ensured.

GREAT LAKES-ST. LAWRENCE RIVER BASIN WATER RESOURCES COMPACT

SPEECH OF

**HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, September 22, 2008*

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to support S.J. Res. 45, the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence River Basin Water Resources Compact. This bill will help protect the Great Lakes by ensuring that water taken from the Great Lakes does not exceed the rate the lakes can be naturally replenished.

Lake Michigan is, without question, the most treasured resource to residents in States that border it and is our "Grand Canyon," something in which we take enormous pride. In addition to its sentimental value, the Great Lakes, including Lake Michigan, serve as an important resource, providing 20 percent of all the surface water in the world. Despite their size the Great Lakes are a fragile resource. Only 1 percent of the water in the Great Lakes gets replenished by snow and rainwater every year.

As a result, the Great Lakes have been put in jeopardy by efforts to divert large portions of water from the Great Lake basin to support business efforts throughout the midwest and Canada. The Compact will prohibit new or increased Great Lakes basin diversions to outside the region, except under special circumstances to provide public drinking water. It will also require all Great Lakes States to develop water resource inventories and efficiency programs, and give public notice of large proposed new water uses. Finally, it will establish uniform standards across the Great Lake States for evaluating new in-basin uses of Great Lakes water. These all are good practices of stewardship of the Great Lakes, and will allow us to preserve the Lakes, while at the same time exercising intelligent use of it as a natural resource.

The Great Lakes Compact has been approved by the Governors and State legislators of all eight Great Lake States, the U.S. Senate and the Bush administration. I believe that it is vital that the House joins them in supporting the Compact. Doing so will protect the people and environment of the Great Lakes by ensuring that the uses of its resources are done in a deliberate and consensual manner between the Great Lakes States.

Again, Mr. Speaker, I urge adoption of the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence River Basin Water Resources Compact.

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PAUL WELLSTONE AND PETE DOMENICI MENTAL HEALTH PARITY AND ADDICTION EQUITY ACT OF 2008

SPEECH OF

**HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 23, 2008*

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 6983, the Paul Wellstone and Pete Domenici Mental Health Parity and Addiction Equity Act. I stand with

millions of families, caregivers, healthcare professionals, and individuals in gratitude to this Congress, led by chief sponsor, Representative PATRICK KENNEDY, who have joined forces in a bipartisan manner to help those suffering from mental illness. Today, we tell Americans from all walks of life that we understand that mental illness is just like any physical illness, we understand the difficulties you have been facing, and we are here to end discrimination against patients seeking treatment for mental illnesses.

One out of every five adults in the United States suffers from mental or substance abuse disorders, which according to the Wall Street Journal, cost our economy \$550 billion last year. Of course, treating mental illness is not about dollars and cents. It's about lives which are ruined and lives which are lost. Last year one, more than 30,000 Americans committed suicide from untreated depression and 150,000 Americans died as the direct result of chemical addiction. When people are not properly treated, or not treated at all, our Nation as a whole suffers.

H.R. 6983 permanently reauthorizes and expands the Mental Health Parity Act of 1996 to provide for equity in the coverage of mental and substance use disorders compared to medical and surgical disorders. The legislation ensures that group health plans do not charge higher copayments, coinsurance, deductibles, and impose maximum out-of-pocket limits and lower day and visit limits on mental health and addiction care than for medical and surgical benefits. As under current law, the Department of Health and Human Services, the Department of Labor, and the Internal Revenue Service may penalize health plans for discriminatory practices under the bill and individuals may bring a private right of action to receive covered benefits.

Discrimination on all counts must be eliminated in this country. This bill takes a giant step in the right direction. I am grateful to our leadership for moving this bill which is sure to help millions of Americans.

PAUL WELLSTONE AND PETE DOMENICI MENTAL HEALTH PARITY AND ADDICTION EQUITY ACT OF 2008

SPEECH OF

**HON. GEORGE MILLER**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 23, 2008*

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of the Paul Wellstone-Pete Domenici Mental Health Parity and Addiction Equity Act.

This important bipartisan piece of legislation would not have been possible without the vigorous advocacy of the late Senator Paul Wellstone and the continued dedication and commitment of Senator Wellstone's family.

In addition, I want to thank Congressmen KENNEDY and RAMSTAD as well as Senators KENNEDY and DOMENICI. Without their tireless efforts, this bill would not be before us today.

Mental illness and substance abuse affects millions of families across this country.

Without treatment, those suffering from mental illness and substance abuse often struggle to hold a job or make ends meet.

Today, approximately 44 million Americans suffer from mental illness, but only one-third receive treatment.

A key component of this problem is that private health insurers generally provide less coverage for mental illnesses and substance abuse than for other medical conditions.

A 2002 Kaiser Family Foundation study found that, while 98 percent of workers with employer-sponsored health insurance had coverage for mental health care, 74 percent of those workers were subject to annual outpatient visit limits, and 64 percent were subject to annual inpatient daily limits.

H.R. 6983 amends the Employer Retirement Income Security Act (ERISA) to prohibit employer group health plans from imposing mental health or substance abuse treatment limitations, financial requirements, or out-of-network coverage limitations unless comparable limitations requirements are imposed upon medical-surgical benefits.

The out of network coverage provisions are particularly important.

Under this provision, if a health plan permits individuals to go to an emergency room for a medical condition without prior authorization; or an out-of-network hospital or treatment center at network rates for a medical condition, then the plan must apply the same rules to an individual suffering from a mental illness or substance disorder.

In addition, the bill does not require group health plans to provide any mental health or substance abuse coverage.

However, if the group health plan does offer mental health and/or substance abuse benefits, there must be equity between mental health and/or substance abuse coverage and all comparable medical and surgical benefits that the plan covers.

As a result, more Americans will be able to access affordable mental health and substance abuse benefits.

Nothing in H.R. 6983 is intended to preempt stronger state mental health and substance abuse parity laws.

The Committee on Education and Labor has analyzed each state's mental health and substance abuse law; it is our understanding and intent that this legislation will not preempt any of these laws.

In other words, a state law that may contain broader or more favorable mental health and/or substance abuse benefit requirements will not be preempted.

Finally, this bill directs the Department of Labor to provide information and assistance to individuals, employers, and states in order to help them comply with the requirements of this law.

H.R. 6983 enjoys broad, bipartisan support.

And, I would particularly like to recognize the dedication and commitment of Paul Wellstone's family to getting this bill passed. We know how important this issue was to Paul and it is in his memory that we take this vote today.

I urge all of my colleagues to join me in voting for the Paul Wellstone/Pete Domenici Mental Health Parity and Addiction Equity Act.

It is time to end the stigma and provide fair coverage to those in need.

RECOGNIZING THE HONORABLE BUD CRAMER AND THE HONORABLE TERRY EVERETT ON THEIR RETIREMENT FROM CONGRESS

SPEECH OF

**HON. IKE SKELTON**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 24, 2008*

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, let me take this means to add my tribute to two fine Alabama Congressmen, BUD CRAMER and TERRY EVERETT. Through the years, I have had the pleasure of working with these outstanding lawmakers. They have been friends to me both personally and professionally. They have exhibited the best of this institution—looking after the interests of the people they represent and ensuring our Nation has a strong economy, strong foreign policy, and strong national security.

They, like I, represent rural areas of our country. There are few of us serving in Congress who have the privilege of representing predominantly small town America. Typically, we rural Congressmen and women bond together on rural matters, working across party lines to ensure the interests of rural America are best represented in the laws we make in Washington. Both BUD and TERRY have worked on behalf of rural people, not only in Alabama but across our country.

BUD and TERRY have also worked for a strong national defense. I have worked with TERRY on the Armed Services Committee, and I have always been honored by his commitment to our men and women in uniform. BUD, too, has been a stalwart supporter of our troops and of the NASA community in Northern Alabama.

While I am sad to see BUD and TERRY leave the House, the institution has been strengthened by their service. I hope they enjoy the next chapter in their lives.

BULLETPROOF VEST PARTNERSHIP GRANT ACT OF 2008

SPEECH OF

**HON. MARK UDALL**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 25, 2008*

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Madam Speaker, as a proud cosponsor of this bill I urge its approval by the House.

The bill will extend through fiscal year 2012 the highly successful grant program for armor vests for law enforcement officers.

The program was originally established in 1998 through enactment of legislation sponsored by Colorado's Senator Ben Nighthorse Campbell. Since then, over 11,900 jurisdictions have participated in the program, with \$173 million in Federal funds committed to support the purchase of an estimated 450,000 vests.

For example, in fiscal year 2007, 60 separate jurisdictions in Colorado received more than \$352,000 to assist with the purchase of 1,883 vests.

And while of course the most vests were purchased by the largest law enforcement

agencies—570 by the city and county of Denver, 344 by the State of Colorado, 131 by Adams County and 45 by El Paso County—the program also assisted many smaller agencies as well, including those in Hinsdale County, Moffat County, Federal Heights, Glenwood Springs, and Durango.

Police officers from across our State have told me the program has been a great success, improving the safety and security of American law enforcement officers and better enabling them to do their job. And while President Bush's budgets have repeatedly neglected to request the full funding authorized for the program, Congress has stepped up and recognized its importance and appropriated the funds needed to keep it strong.

Bulletproof vests are expensive but essential. No officer should be without one and they should be basic equipment made available to officers when we ask them to perform dangerous jobs. If we can afford to pay for training and equipment for Iraqi police—and we indeed are paying for that—I think we can afford to help pay for bulletproof vests for the officers who protect Americans here at home.

So, Madam Speaker, I urge approval of this bill, to renew and extend the authorization for this very important program.

#### HEALTH CARE SAFETY NET ACT OF 2008

SPEECH OF

#### HON. BOB ETHERIDGE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 25, 2008*

Mr. ETHERIDGE. Madam Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 1343, Health Centers Renewal Act of 2008. This bill fulfills America's promise to its citizens by protecting access to high quality health care.

Health Centers Renewal Act of 2008 will continue Congress's commitment to our Nation's 1,200 community health centers that provide high quality, affordable primary health care to more the 18 million Americans in over 7,000 communities nationwide. Numerous studies have shown that health centers are particularly effective because they remove barriers to care and deliver services in a manner adapted to the patients of individual communities. Health centers improve outcomes and mitigate health disparities, resulting in better health care for their patients and savings for the health care system. In fact, there is evidence that people who get most of their primary care from a health center have 41 percent lower overall health care costs than others, saving Federal taxpayers \$10 to \$17 billion in 2007 alone. The Community Health Centers program has been consistently rated as one of the most effective programs in the Department of Health and Human Services by the Office of Management and Budget.

Madam Speaker, H.R. 1343 will ensure that the millions of Americans who rely on health care centers continue to have access to high quality and affordable health services.

I urge my colleagues to join me in voting for H.R. 1343.

#### TRAVEL PROMOTION ACT OF 2008

SPEECH OF

#### HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 25, 2008*

Mr. FARR. Madam Speaker, as co-chair of the Congressional Travel and Tourism Caucus and an original co-sponsor of this bill, I am pleased to see The Travel Promotion Act (H.R. 3232) pass the House of Representatives.

This legislation will re-establish the United States as a premier destination for foreign travelers. Since September 11, the United States has seen a decline of more than 46 million overseas travelers costing our economy \$140 billion. This bill will put us back on track.

H.R. 3232 creates a nonprofit corporation to promote the United States to international visitors—this is a public-private partnership with no cost to the American taxpayer. With the current level of the dollar, the United States is a travel bargain and that message needs to get out.

Nearly every developed nation in the world spends millions of dollars to attract visitors, an investment that pays big dividends. Overseas visitors stay longer and spend more. The United States is missing out on a large share of the global tourism market, and we will continue to lose out without this sensible investment.

Another benefit of this bill is the increased person-to-person contact that we will enjoy. At a time when our image abroad is tarnished, this is an opportunity to use our communities to serve as diplomats to the world. There are no better ambassadors than the American people.

I want to thank Congressman BILL DELAHUNT and Congressman ROY BLUNT and for their leadership on this bill,

Additionally, I would like to thank my co-chair on the Congressional Travel & Tourism Caucus, Congressman JON PORTER of Nevada, It has been my pleasure to work with him on his legislation and on many other travel-related issues. His tireless efforts for the travel community and the caucus are truly admirable.

#### CALLING CARD CONSUMER PROTECTION ACT

SPEECH OF

#### HON. MARY BONO MACK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 25, 2008*

Mrs. BONO MACK. Madam Speaker, I would like to express my opposition to the Calling Card Consumer Protection Act, H.R. 3402.

Madam Speaker, I rise in opposition to H.R. 3402, the Calling Card Consumer Protection Act. This bill—while well-intentioned—would only add to an increase in regulatory confusion because it sets up a system where lateral government organizations will not only be enforcing laws but also issuing their own interpretations of those laws. This is inefficient and it will breed confusion and conflict.

How can we reasonably expect multiple governmental organizations, in this instance the Federal Communications Commission and the Federal Trade Commission, to agree on the meaning of a particular statute when members of those individual commissions can't seem to agree among themselves? The truth is we can't and that is why the FCC and FTC dual authority provision should be corrected.

Finally, I recognize that State attorneys general can play a role in enforcing a Federal statute. However, empowering multiple entities with this authority will only force American businesses to spend valuable resources fighting litigation rather than investing in infrastructure, jobs, and consumer services.

Madam Speaker for these reasons I ask that my colleagues oppose H.R. 3402.

#### EFFECTIVE CHILD PORNOGRAPHY PROSECUTION ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

#### HON. JUDY BIGGERT

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 25, 2008*

Mrs. BIGGERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my strong support for H.R. 4120, the Effective Child Pornography Prosecution Act. I am very pleased to be the lead Republican cosponsor, and I thank the gentlewoman from Kansas for all of her hard work on this legislation that will close an unacceptable loophole in the Federal criminal code.

Last year, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 10th Circuit overturned a lower court's decision in *U.S. v. Schaefer* and freed a defendant who had been convicted of receiving and possessing child pornography. The case was not overturned for lack of evidence, but rather because the prosecution failed to prove that images downloaded from the Internet moved across State lines in "interstate commerce."

The judges who decided this case pointed out that the use of the phrase "in commerce" instead of "affecting commerce" in the law signaled Congress' intent to limit Federal jurisdiction in the prosecution of child pornographers. As co-chair of the Missing and Exploited Children's Caucus, I can assure you, Mr. Speaker, nothing could be further from the truth. We in Congress know the horrible consequences that result from the sexual exploitation of children used to create these images. We also take very seriously our duty to do everything in our power to protect children, punish predators and deter future acts of abuse.

That is why the bill we are considering today deserves our full support. It will close the loophole in current law by replacing the phrase "in commerce" with the phrase "affecting commerce" in the child pornography statute.

I also was pleased that the Senate chose to include additional provisions making it easier to prosecute those who willfully access child pornography on the Internet. These changes will give prosecutors the tools they need to ensure that predators who use the Internet to transmit or access child pornography end up behind bars, where they belong.

I would like to take this opportunity to again thank the gentlewoman from Kansas, my good friend, NANCY BOYDA, for introducing this legislation. I also would like to thank the National

Center for Missing and Exploited Children for their assistance and counsel in drafting the bill. Mr. Speaker, as a mother of four and grandmother of seven, I know there is nothing more important than safeguarding our children from predators. We must not allow those who sexually exploit children to avoid prosecution because of a technicality.

I urge all my colleagues to support H.R. 4120 and send this important bill to the White House for the President's signature.

**CONSOLIDATED SECURITY, DISASTER ASSISTANCE, AND CONTINUING APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2009**

SPEECH OF

**HON. TODD TIAHRT**

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 24, 2008*

Mr. TIAHRT. Mr. Speaker, this continuing resolution spending bill contained needed funding provisions, many of which I support. In fact, three separate Appropriations bills—Defense, Homeland Security, and Military Construction—Veterans Affairs are included in the Continuing Resolution (CR) package. The insertion of these individual bills within the CR will ensure the safety and security of our Nation, maintain the commitment of Congress to our men and women in uniform, and provide for the needs of our veterans through the next fiscal year.

Despite the needed funding to our troops and veterans, the Democrat leadership decided to take political advantage of this spending bill and slipped in several inappropriate spending measures. This legislation includes unjustified spending measures that should have had the opportunity to be considered through the normal legislative process, and not tacked onto a massive, catch-all Appropriations bill.

One of these unjustified spending measures includes a \$25 billion bailout of the auto industry of which \$7.5 billion is appropriated in the bill. First in line were Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac then Bear Stearns, and now a bailout to the auto manufacturing industry—Mr. Speaker, where does it end?

We must address the core economic problems that hold back workers from better paying jobs and that stifle businesses from being successful. The best and most responsible approach Congress can take is to continue to pursue policies designed to get our economy growing again. After September 11, 2001, our Nation's general aviation and airline manufacturing industry greatly suffered. Congress had a choice, to throw millions of dollars at the aviation industry or take a market based approach and allow accelerated depreciation of its products. The Republican majority chose to pass a jobs and economic growth bill that included depreciation and expensing provisions, which according to manufacturers, have resulted in back orders until 2012–2013. This is just one example of a market based solution to an economic crisis.

This is the type of policy that should guide this Congress in dealing with the failings of the auto industry, the housing industry, and so on. I cannot support a bill that attempts to undercut the integrity of our Nation's free market in-

frastructure through a \$25 billion bailout of the auto industry.

**THE TRINITY VALLEY EXPOSITION  
100TH ANNIVERSARY**

**HON. TED POE**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 26, 2008*

Mr. POE. Madam Speaker, today, I am proud to recognize the Trinity Valley Exposition on its 100th anniversary this October. The TVE has been a fixture in southeast Texas that brings fun and culture together for a great yearly event. Additionally, outside of the celebration in the autumn, TVE is active in the community and invests in the youth of our great State.

The TVE is a charitable organization located in Liberty, Texas. The main groups benefitting from the works of the TVE are the young people residing in the counties of Liberty and Chambers. Over the past few years, the TVE has contributed thousands of dollars in scholarships to those students who are going to be attending post-secondary institutions. For example, in 2004, the TVE gave \$30,000 in scholarships to students in the area.

The TVE owns 60 acres of land, a covered arena, an exposition hall, and a pavilion. Various functions occur in these places throughout the year. People are allowed to rent these facilities, giving members of the community a chance to convene and offering anyone a great place to have ceremonies, celebrations, and get-togethers.

The TVE is a volunteer organization that relies on its helpers to be effective, especially, every fall when the TVE hosts a county fair. This is a tradition that attracts people from many places, near and far, to gather for the festivities. There is no gate charge, all events are free, and the entire public is invited.

This time, for the 100-year anniversary, the event is extra special with numerous contests engaging participants in kind-spirited competition. The contests include: quilting, baking, scarecrow, kiddie tractor pull, and salsa. Also, this year, favorite TVE memory is a contest, calling people to recollect special experiences of times past. In addition to these events, the TVE asks the children to participate in a coloring contest or in playing one of many games available. There will be live family entertainment, a magician, hotdogs, and rice. The grand event closes with a fireworks display to usher out a truly meaningful milestone.

The TVE is a tradition that brings the community together and calls to mind many of the things that identify us as Texans. Therefore, I am happy to draw attention to the Trinity Valley Exposition on its 100th year of operation.

**VETERANS APPRECIATION CELEBRATION LEADING UP TO VETERANS DAY**

**HON. TIM MAHONEY**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 26, 2008*

Mr. MAHONEY of Florida. Madam Speaker, beginning November 1st, 2008 Charlotte

County will begin a Veterans Appreciation Celebration leading up to Veterans Day. This celebration will honor the Veterans in our area who have bravely served our country. It is my honor to recognize and thank the Veterans who made this day possible and the community leaders who helped to put this wonderful celebration together. Events included in this 18-day celebration are:

A Homeless Stand Down on November 1st, 2008, being hosted by the Charlotte County Homeless Coalition and the Charlotte County Veterans Service Office. The stand down will attempt to increase the community's awareness of homeless veterans and bring a variety of social service providers together to help these veterans. During the stand down, showers, haircuts, food and clothing will be provided for homeless veterans, as well as medical and counseling services.

A Purple Heart Memorial Dedication Ceremony to honor all branches of service on Tamiami Trail and Cochran Blvd in Port Charlotte, Florida. This ceremony will take place on November 2nd, 2008.

A Veterans Day Parade on Saturday, November 8th, 2008 in Punta Gorda, Florida.

Veterans Day Celebrations throughout the community on November 11th, 2008.

An Army/Navy youth football game at Franz Ross Park on November 16th, 2008.

A Veterans Appreciation Dinner hosted by the Disabled American Veterans on November 17th, 2008 in Punta Gorda, Florida.

Without the service of our great Veterans, we would not be able to enjoy the freedoms we do today. On behalf of Florida's 16th Congressional District, I applaud Charlotte County in their efforts to honor these men and women who so bravely served our country.

**PLANNED PARENTHOOD'S SEX ED  
WEEK OF ACTION**

**HON. ZOE LOFGREN**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 26, 2008*

Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today at a time when our country is facing grave concerns over the economy, yet this administration has supported \$1.3 billion on ineffective abstinence-only programs.

The CDC has just reported that more than 1 in 4 girls are infected with a sexually transmitted infection. It is clear that teens do not have access to full information about how to lead safe and healthy lives. This reaffirms what people in my home state of California already know: abstinence-only programs do not work.

I am proud to be from the first state that has rejected wasteful Title V abstinence-only funding. California leads the Nation in its effort to prevent unintended pregnancy through access to family planning, comprehensive sex education, public funding of family planning services and laws and policies protecting access to reproductive health care.

We must expand access to these services. This is why I support the outreach and community programs of the Planned Parenthood of Mar Monte. They provide comprehensive sex education programs through community outreach to high school students, parenting

and pregnant teen mothers and train young males in responsible decision making.

This week, Planned Parenthood affiliates around the country are sponsoring grassroots events to raise awareness about the need for comprehensive sex education. A majority of voters strongly support comprehensive sex education and want public schools to teach it to keep our youth healthy and safe.

These parents are just looking to Congress to eliminate funding for dangerous abstinence only programs and instead fund comprehensive sex education programs.

A TRIBUTE TO THE LATINO COMMUNITY IN HONOR OF HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH

**HON. LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 26, 2008*

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Madam Speaker, in observance of Hispanic Heritage Month, I rise today to pay tribute to the growing, enterprising and dynamic Latino community.

Today, you need only look at recent statistics to recognize the growing influence of the Latino community.

This year, the Latino population has grown to more than 45 million people in the United States. By 2050, the Latino population is projected to go up to 132 million, constituting 30 percent of the Nation's population.

Economically, Latinos own more than 1.6 million businesses in the country, generating \$222 billion in revenue at a growth rate that is triple the national average. In addition, by 2010, the purchasing power of the Latino community is projected to skyrocket from 600 billion to a trillion dollars. Clearly, this proven work ethic and an entrepreneurial spirit will enable Latino businesses and workers to play an even bigger role in sustaining and strengthening our Nation's economy in years to come.

Politically, Latinos are making significant gains, especially as representation in elected offices at all levels of government continues to increase. Currently, according to the National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials, more than 6,000 Latinos are providing leadership in elected and appointed offices throughout the country.

While I am very proud of the many Latino leaders who are standing up for their communities by assuming important positions of leadership, we must keep working to increase our representation. According to a new report compiled by the University of Denver, the number of Latinos holding public office is disproportionately low given that the Latino population is the largest minority group. The report states, "Very few Latinos have ever been appointed to serve in high-ranking posts or cabinet positions. No Latino has ever been appointed to the Supreme Court. Only during the last twenty years have Latino leaders begun to occupy cabinet positions . . . A handful of Latinos have held such positions . . . Still, the participation of Latinos in the administration is below what should be expected relative to the population."

Without question, the commitment of Latino leaders to equity in this country has inspired all of us to do the work that we do with heart and compassion. I am inspired by the words

of the late Chicana author, Gloria Anzaldúa, who wrote, "The possibilities are numerous once we decide to act and not react."

On May 1, 2006, Latinos came out by the millions and took to the streets stating, "Today we march, tomorrow we vote." They kept their promise and in the November 2006 election, the country saw the largest turnout of Latino voters for a midterm election. This November, with the growing population and increased numbers of registered voters, the Latino community will have a vital role in selecting the new president of the United States. According to the University of Denver report, 93 percent of Latino registered voters plan to vote in the upcoming election.

With increasing political clout in the halls of State legislatures and in the voting booth, Latinos will continue to be agents of social and political change in this country.

For example, since the start of the 110th Congress under the leadership of the new Democratic majority, Congress has passed key legislation that directly benefits the Latino community. Congress authorized Recovery Rebates that went out to 130 American households—including many Latino households—to help revitalize the economy. Congress increased in the minimum wage, directly benefiting 2.3 million Latinos over the next several years. Congress increased unemployment benefits at a crucial time when the Latino unemployment rate was at 8 percent. More recently, Congress reauthorized the Higher Education Act, an important piece of legislation that will help many Latino students pursue a higher education.

Under Democratic leadership, Congress has made strides in addressing the needs of Latino families. But we must not rest. This election cycle provides all of us in the Latino community with a critical opportunity to move our agenda forward. With responsive representation in all levels of government including the Executive Branch, the Latino community can better use its leverage to make progress on key priorities. These priorities include increased access to high quality education, greater access to quality health care and comprehensive immigration reform.

As we observe Hispanic Heritage Month, I ask my colleagues to please join me in recognizing the growing political empowerment and activism in the Latino community. Now more than ever, we must work together, organize, and, above all, vote, to make our voices heard this November.

TRIBUTE TO ST. BONIFACE CATHOLIC CHURCH

**HON. TOM LATHAM**

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 26, 2008*

Mr. LATHAM. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate St. Boniface Catholic Church of Garner, Iowa, on celebrating their 125th anniversary as a congregation.

The history of Catholicism in the Garner community dates back to the time neighboring priests of Charles City, Mason City, and Algona would come together once a month to celebrate Mass and administer the Sacraments in homes and in the public school. On December 21, 1883 the deed for the land,

which was purchased for \$100 in 1882, was recorded. Father Hanley was appointed pastor of Clarion, Hampton, and Garner and had the church erected. It was the first Catholic Church in Garner and Mass was celebrated in the church in August of 1883.

In 1924, a purchase of two more lots gave St. Boniface ownership of the entire block and the rectory was moved to this location. In 1940, a new church was constructed for an estimated cost of \$37,000. While growing as a congregation, St. Boniface Church saw many liturgical changes take place over the years but the community always came together and remained steadfast and united.

St. Boniface Catholic Church is dedicated to benefitting the lives of those in Garner, and for this I offer my utmost congratulations and thanks on a prosperous history. It is an honor to represent all the parishioners of St. Boniface Catholic Church and the current pastor Reverend Henry Huber in the United States Congress, and I wish them continued success, grace, peace and celebration as a community.

IN HONOR OF VOCALESSSENCE  
SEPTEMBER 26, 2008

**HON. BETTY McCOLLUM**

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 26, 2008*

Ms. McCOLLUM of Minnesota. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor VocalEssence in honor of its 40th season. On September 14, 2008, VocalEssence kicked off its anniversary year with a community concert celebration featuring Garrison Keillor.

During its distinguished history under the direction of the internationally renowned director Philip Brunelle, VocalEssence has become one of the largest and most prestigious choral organizations in the country. Founded by Brunelle in 1969 as the Plymouth Music Series, the choral organization became VocalEssence in 1992, and has steadily grown in reputation along with Mr. Brunelle. Mr. Brunelle himself is an institution in the choral music community, and an outstanding artist. VocalEssence has earned praise for its innovation among the music community by working to spotlight lesser known compositions from all time periods, as well as the work of contemporary composers. By 1991 the organization enjoyed international recording success, as well as international recognition as a leader in choral music performance.

VocalEssence has been actively involved in community engagement in the Twin Cities through programs such as WITNESS, an initiative that honors and celebrates the contributions of African Americans to our cultural heritage. Through concerts and recordings featuring African American composers and artists and educational outreach designed to inform students of the historical role of African Americans in our culture, WITNESS has enriched our community and the musical world, reaching more than 115,000 students in more than 55 schools in the Twin Cities area.

VocalEssence has brought great distinction to the Twin Cities arts community, earning numerous recognition and awards from the American Society of Composers, Authors, and Publishers, as well as the Margaret Hillis Achievement Award for Choral Excellence, an

outstanding achievement and an unparalleled honor in the choral music community.

Madam Speaker, it is my great pleasure to honor VocalEssence, and to celebrate the 40 years it has enriched the culture of the Twin Cities.

IN RECOGNITION OF FRANK W.  
BUCKLES

**HON. JOE WILSON**

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 26, 2008*

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize Frank W. Buckles. Mr. Buckles, at the age of 107, is the last known remaining veteran of World War I.

Having joined the Army at the age of 16, Mr. Buckles fought bravely for his Nation in World War I. During the Second World War, as a civilian he was imprisoned by the Japanese and spent 39 months in captivity.

The freedoms we enjoy today and the prosperity our nation has enjoyed throughout its history are due in large part to the sacrifice and courage of men and women like Mr. Buckles. As the son of a World War II veteran and a former member of the National Guard and Reserve myself, I know firsthand and am grateful for the tremendous legacy of patriotism shared by our military. I am the proud to be the father of four sons who serve in our nation's military, including two sons who served in Iraq.

In honor of his sacrifice and dedication to his country, Frank Buckles was recognized by President George W. Bush earlier this year during a ceremony honoring World War I veterans. On September 24th, the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry, Southern Jurisdiction honored Mr. Buckles by bestowing upon him the Scottish Rite honor and rank of Knight Commander of the Court of Honour. As a fellow mason, I am proud of the tradition of brotherhood and dedication to freedom that masons embody.

I congratulate and thank Frank Buckles for his service to our Nation.

TRIBUTE TO THE TEXAS AIR NA-  
TIONAL GUARD 147TH RECON-  
NAISSANCE WING

**HON. NICK LAMPSON**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 26, 2008*

Mr. LAMPSON. Madam Speaker, I am privileged to recognize the men and women of the Texas Air National Guard 147th Reconnaissance Wing of Houston, Texas for their outstanding service to the community in helping 5,943 constituents in the aftermath of Hurricane Ike.

Forty-two members of the Texas Air National Guard 147th Reconnaissance Wing were tasked with providing support for the congressional mobile office in a variety of ways; including traffic control, translation assistance, security, technical support, parking and bus operations. Commander Col. McNeely and Vice Commander Col. Horn provided excellent leadership in the recovery ef-

forts along with Lt. Col. Cooper, Lt. Col. Allinson, and Lt. Col. Garner.

In addition to supporting the operation and function of the congressional mobile office, these service members immediately transitioned into supporting units for the FEMA Disaster Recovery Center at Ellington Field where they have continued to serve thousands of individuals.

It is my distinct honor to recognize the remarkable efforts of the Texas Air National Guard 147th Reconnaissance Wing for their outstanding service to their community and country. Southeast Texas is grateful for the efforts and leadership provided by the commanders, senior enlisted leaders, and guard members, and I am proud of their noble service to the victims of Hurricane Ike.

The following members of the 147th Reconnaissance Wing joined in the recovery efforts: SMSgt Glenn Boutte, SMSgt Richard Williamson, MSgt Mali Cornitius, MSgt Howard Williams, MSgt Rodolfo Robles, MSgt Patrick Hurley, TSgt Andres Cabrera, TSgt Leanne Bates, TSgt Terry Matheson, TSgt Joel Agtang, TSgt Burdette Deyo, TSgt Lex Paxton, TSgt Hugo Torres, TSgt Nathan Kelley, TSgt Sonya Bond, SSgt Klaus Riel, SSgt Nakeia Mitchell, SSgt Stacie Sandoval, SSgt Kevin White, SSgt Lindsey-Lumpkin, SSgt Erin Calhoun, SSgt Kevin Dupree, SSgt Marshall Nettles, SSgt Vanessa Chase, SSgt Carlton Newkirk, SSgt Efen Almario, SrA Carlos Suazo, SrA Jana Phillips, SrA Tameka McCray, SrA James Kyaw, SrA Juan Rosales, SrA Winnett Knox, SrA Clifton Smith, SrA Jessica Mosley, SrA Justin Gaskill, SrA Francisco Mendez, A1C David Hartmann, A1C Isaac Saldivar, A1C Bronson Woods, A1C Shuan Guthrie and A1C Michael Tran.

CONGRATULATING LOVING  
CHOICES PREGNANCY CENTERS  
OF NORTHWEST ARKANSAS

**HON. JOHN BOOZMAN**

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 26, 2008*

Mr. BOOZMAN. Madam Speaker, I would like to congratulate Loving Choices Pregnancy Centers of Northwest Arkansas. The centers provide critical services for women who are faced with life changing decisions.

Employees in the Rogers and Fayetteville centers have a difficult task counseling and educating one thousand women annually on the choices they have. Their job is made easier with the help of 30 volunteers who collectively spend more than one thousand hours serving the needs of women in a reproductive health crisis. Offering a listening ear, helping expectant mothers prepare for their baby and using their sewing skills are just a handful of services volunteers provide.

In recognition of their efforts, Loving Choices Pregnancy Centers of Northwest Arkansas received the 'President's Volunteer Services Award.' This honor is given to Americans who demonstrate their commitment to volunteerism and inspire others to do follow their example.

I am thankful Northwest Arkansas residents are so willing to help their neighbors in need and share their time and resources to benefit the greater good of the community. Volunteers

are a critical component of ensuring the continued success of Loving Choices Pregnancy Centers of Northwest Arkansas.

TRIBUTE TO RAYL ROBBINS

**HON. TOM LATHAM**

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 26, 2008*

Mr. LATHAM. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Rayl Robbins of Huxley, Iowa for his service at the Wesley Community Hospice.

Rayl is the hospice chaplain at Wesley Community Hospice, where he is able to incorporate his love for music at work. A self-taught musician, he sometimes plays on his guitar and sings hymns to some of the clients. He hopes to help others find peace in the midst of the chaos in their lives. Rayl's commitment to his job and his clients has earned him admiration, trust and friendship from the staff and from those residing in the hospice. Great service goes a long way, and I am honored to see fellow Iowans like Rayl providing service second to none.

I know that my colleagues in the United States Congress join me in commending Rayl Robbins for his service at Wesley Community Hospice. I consider it an honor to represent him Congress, and I wish him the best.

TRIBUTE TO MRS. URSULA  
VILLERE

**HON. STEVE SCALISE**

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 26, 2008*

Mr. SCALISE. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Mrs. Ursula Villere who will be 90 years old on November 30, 2008. She was born and raised in New Orleans, Louisiana, and has lived in Metairie, Louisiana, since 1955. Mrs. Villere had seven children: five boys and two girls. Six out of the seven still live in Louisiana and one daughter moved to Texas after Hurricane Katrina. She also has 14 grandchildren: 12 boys and two girls; and six great-grandchildren: two boys and four girls. Mrs. Villere graduated from Dominican High School and Dominican College with a B.S. in education. Mrs. Villere taught school both in New Orleans and Jefferson Parish. She retired from Jefferson Parish School System in 1980. She is still an active member of KKI Sorority, Lakeshore Golden Age Club at Lakeshore playground, and is a parishioner of St. Angela Merri Church.

IN HONOR OF REPRESENTATIVE  
JOSEPH E. MIRO AND JOANNE  
MIRO

**HON. MICHAEL N. CASTLE**

OF DELAWARE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 26, 2008*

Mr. CASTLE. Madam Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to recognize Delaware State Representative Joseph E. Miro and his wife, Joanne. On October 17, the

Delaware Latin American Community Center will honor Joe and Joanne for their contributions to the Delaware community at their Annual Grand Ball, *Una Noche en España*.

Joe's life in public service began following his 1970 graduation from Lincoln University when he accepted a position teaching in the Wilmington School District in Wilmington, Delaware. He continued teaching in the Christina School District until his retirement in 2001. In 1975, he earned a masters degree from West Chester University and completed post-graduate degree work at the University of Delaware. Joe's career in politics began in 1992 when he was elected to the New Castle County Council, serving until his election to the Delaware House of Representatives in 1998. As a member of Delaware's General Assembly, Joe has been a strong advocate of an increased focus on improving education statewide and nationwide, joining such associations as the Delaware State Education Association and the Association of Teachers of Foreign Language.

Likewise, Joanne has dedicated herself toward improving education for our youth in Delaware and across America. Her undergraduate and graduate degrees from the University of Delaware and background in education and school counseling have served her well in numerous influential leadership positions, including serving as vice president of the College of Education, Human Services and Public Policy at the University of Delaware and as president of the Delaware School Counselors Association and the Delaware Counseling Association. Joanne also served as a board member of the National Association for the Education of Homeless Children and Youth. Joanne currently serves as an education associate for school improvement with the Delaware Department of Education.

In addition, Joe and Joanne have been very active members in the Hispanic community. Joe currently serves as the President of the National Hispanic Caucus of State Legislators and as a member of the Governor's Advisory Council on Hispanic Affairs. From 1994 to 2002, Joe was a board member of the Latin American Community Center in Delaware. Joanne continues to lend her support to Joe's efforts in representing the interests of Latinos in Delaware and throughout the United States.

I acknowledge and thank Representative Joe and Joanne Miro for their service to the State of Delaware and our country. I am confident that they will remain active and enthusiastic advocates for these causes that are so dear to their hearts.

HONORING SHERIFF RICHARD  
ROTH

**HON. ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 26, 2008*

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Madam Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to offer my highest commendations to Sheriff Richard Roth and to thank him for the nearly twenty years of service that he has selflessly dedicated to Monroe County.

It is a testament to the greatness of our nation that a native of Minneapolis, Minnesota can find his calling in the Law Enforcement

community of Florida and work his way up from a radio dispatcher to the Sheriff of Monroe County.

Sheriff Roth has committed himself wholly and unwaveringly to the safety of our community. Throughout his career, he has sought to further his expertise in law enforcement with a degree in Police Administration from Florida Keys Community College, as well as successfully completing courses at the National Sheriff's Academy and the prestigious FBI National Academy for police executives all so that he may better serve our community.

As Sheriff, his efforts to boost community involvement have resulted in nearly 140 Crime Watch groups in Monroe County and recognition at the State and National level for its accomplishments; not the least of which is reducing crime in Monroe County by fifty percent during his tenure as Sheriff.

His service to his country in the United States Navy and to his community in the Monroe County Sheriff's Department have benefited us all, and I know that I sleep soundly at night knowing that Sheriff Richard Roth is watching over all of our neighbors.

IN HONOR OF COMMISSIONER  
CYNTHIA WHITE

**HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 26, 2008*

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Denton County Commissioner Cynthia White and her years of service to Denton County and the North Texas region.

Cynthia White began her career in public service as a Constituent Liaison for U.S. Congressman Dick Arme. She then began a distinguished career in local government serving on the City of Lewisville Planning and Zoning Commission as well as the Board of Adjustment. In 1992 Commissioner White was elected to the Lewisville City Council where she served as Mayor Pro-Tem from 1994 to 1995. She was elected Commissioner in Denton County in 2000 where she has since worked hard for the people of Precinct 1 and beyond.

Commissioner White has become known as a leader on transportation issues for her region. Her dedication has helped pave the way for numerous projects in Precinct 1 from safety improvements along Highway 377 to providing needed funding for FM 423 to partnering with local cities to secure funding for improvements on FM 2181. When the Lewisville Lake Bridge/FM 720 concept stalled, Commissioner White brought concerned parties back to the table to get the project moving again. Thanks to her efforts, that bridge is now being constructed and will soon help provide needed relief to traffic congestion. The Commissioner has served as the Chair of the Regional Transportation Council, a board member of the Dallas Regional Mobility Coalition, and has spoken on transportation to audiences throughout the state, including the Texas Senate.

Commissioner White's public service goes far beyond government. She has volunteered with organizations such as the United Way, the Boys and Girls Club, the Denton Benefit League, the American Heart Association, and the Salvation Army of Denton Advisory Board.

In addition to this, she remains an active member of her church, a certified personal trainer and promoter for health and fitness issues, and often performs as a musician in the community.

It is with great honor that I recognize Commissioner Cynthia White for her years of hard work and dedication given to the citizens of Denton County and North Texas region. I am proud to represent her in Washington. Her service sets a standard of devotion and true leadership, one that will never be forgotten.

TRIBUTE TO HONOR FLIGHT

**HON. CHRISTOPHER SHAYS**

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 26, 2008*

Mr. SHAYS. Madam Speaker, I pay tribute today to Honor Flight for its dedication to our World War II Veterans.

In Connecticut, we have been blessed by the vision of Christopher Coutu, Founder of American Warrior. This organization is dedicated to bringing World War II Veterans from Connecticut to Washington, DC to see their monument erected for their service to our country during its darkest hour. Mr. Coutu created American Warrior with the ideas of Honor Flight in mind and has helped many Veterans see this important memorial for the first time.

Honor Flight has done this for many Veterans around the country. Their dedication has given so much back to the generation that defended us and sacrificed so much to keep their fellow Americans safe.

We cannot do enough for our Veterans in exchange for what they gave us, but we can honor them and give them opportunities to be thanked by a grateful nation. I stand in awe of Honor Flight, American Warrior for giving our World War II Veterans the opportunity to see their memorial erected in their honor.

RECOGNIZING THE CAREER AND  
SERVICE OF REPRESENTATIVE  
RAY LAHOOD

**HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 26, 2008*

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge my friend and colleague Representative RAY LAHOOD, who is retiring from the House after 14 years of service to the 18th District of Illinois.

I have had the pleasure of working with RAY LAHOOD on many issues of importance to our State. We have not always agreed on every policy issue, but we have always been able to discuss our differences with respect and good will and we have always been able to work together to promote the interests of Illinois. His common sense and sense of fairness are recognized and valued not just within the Illinois delegation, but within the entire House of Representatives.

A member of the House Appropriations Committee, RAY LAHOOD has been a strong advocate of Illinois farmers and rural communities. When the Republicans were in the majority, he was often called on to chair the

House, not only because of his knowledge of procedures but because of his ability to maintain order in a calm and fair fashion.

Representative LAHOOD has a long and distinguished record of serving his district, from his leadership in establishing the Abraham Lincoln President Library and Museum in Springfield to his work to spur economic growth while protecting the environment. A teacher by training, he has worked to preserve and improve the Library of Congress—our Nation's preeminent library.

I will miss RAY LAHOOD and, like his constituents, I wish him all the best and thank him for his years of public service.

#### AN ALTERNATIVE TO THE PAULSON PLAN

#### HON. VIRGINIA FOXX

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 26, 2008*

Ms. FOXX. Madam Speaker, I submit the following for the RECORD:

BRANCH BANKING & TRUST CO.,

*Winston-Salem, NC, September 26, 2008.*

Hon. VIRGINIA FOXX,

*House of Representatives, Cannon House Office Building, Washington DC.*

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE FOXX: Unfortunately, while under normal circumstances there would be a free market solution, given the publicity and psychological mindset which has been created. Congress not acting is extraordinarily risky. Therefore, an alternative to the Paulson Plan must be developed. A much more effective, far less expensive solution to the financial crisis than the Treasury Secretary presented is outlined below.

It is important to recognize that the fundamental problem is in the real estate market. We have built too many houses, built too expensive houses, built houses in the wrong places, etc. We have an excess of housing inventory. Problems in the mortgage market which are causing the problems in capitals markets are being created by the problems in the real estate market. House prices in many areas have been out of line with peoples income and rental alternatives. In the long term, the price of houses is determined by production costs, people's incomes (affordability) and the relative cost of rental alternatives. Based on these factors, the price of houses in the United States on average need to fall approximately 30% from the peak of the market to sell the unsold inventory. (The numbers used here are rough approximations and vary significantly by individual market, but they make the point.) We have effectively wasted \$600 billion on housing which should have been put to more productive uses such as technological investment, education, agricultural advancement, etc. Without Freddie Mac and Fannie Mae and the affordable housing program (sub prime), we could never have made a misallocation of capital of this magnitude.

However, the mistakes have been made and we have to live with them. Housing prices nationally have already fallen approximately 20%. The good/bad news is approximately \$500 billion of the projected \$600 billion in losses have already been taken by financial institutions, and substantial capital raised to cover some of the losses. House prices need to fall another 10% or approximately \$100 billion to clear the market. Ironically, if the market knew that housing prices were going to fall exactly 10%, the

market would stabilize. Uncertainty about the bottom of the market is what is creating the disruption in the capital markets.

The goal is to cut the effective economic cost to the buyer without cutting the price to the seller which will solve the problem in the housing market. Congress can approve a house purchase income tax credit equal to 10% of the cost of the house with some maximum (such as \$40,000). This will cut the effective economic cost to the buyer without cutting the price to the seller. The tax credit would be available to anybody and would be a true tax credit in the sense that you would still get the interest deduction. The government would be sponsoring a "fire sale" of houses. The tax credit would only apply to existing house inventory, i.e. new houses which were completed or under construction as of September 1, 2008 and existing houses which could be proven to be on the market as of September 1, 2008. The tax credit would be available for a limited time, for example until June 30, 2009. In order to motivate rapid sales activity. Congress would approve a fixed amount of tax credit and make it available on a first come, first serve basis. For example, the amount of the tax credit could be \$100 billion to the first purchasers of houses. This would force individuals to act quickly. The goal is to entice people to make real estate investments who otherwise would not and clear the housing inventory.

Let me give you some concrete examples. There is a house on the road which I travel to work that has been on the market for \$200,000. I am not interested in purchasing at that price. However, a 10% tax credit of \$20,000 makes the effective cost of the house to me \$180,000. At that cost, I would be willing to purchase the house. In addition, the tax credit makes it an even better deal since I personally hate to pay taxes.

Tom, who owns the home, wants to sell his house so he can buy a new home that is a few blocks away. If he can sell his house for \$200,000, he would have enough equity to buy his new house. (He sells for \$200,000 and yet the house cost me \$180,000.)

I already have a house and do not need to have a second house to live in, so this house would be an investment for me because I think house prices will ultimately appreciate, particularly off of the 10% reduced cost base. I would be motivated to rent the house because having an empty house is not productive. I would rent it based on the \$180,000 price or less because any rental income would be better than none. I may rent it to Fred and his family who are moving out of a falling-down mobile home which would improve the quality of their life. Tom would have a better house for himself and his family. Fred would have a better house for himself and his family, and I would have a good investment. The realtor who sold both houses would have more income to pay for her house and the builder would be out from under a financial bind. The bank that financed the new house would have less risk and more capital. Having an empty house is not only a waste of capital, it reduces the standard of living.

Here is another concrete example. Janet and Jim who live in the northeast have long coveted a vacation/retirement house in Florida. With this once in a life time buying opportunity covered by the housing tax credit, and given that house prices in Florida have already fallen significantly, Janet and Jim would be motivated to buy that dream vacation/retirement home in Florida and they can afford to do it at this reduced price. Because they are not ready to retire, they may put the house they have purchased up for rent for vacationers and/or for individuals living in Florida at a lower rental rate based on the cost and the fact that any rental in-

come is better than no income. Again, this would be a good situation in that Janet and Jim would be happy, the builder would be better off financially, the bank that financed the house would be better off financially, the realtor in Florida who sold the house would be able to make her house payments and the renters or vacationers would have a better quality of life.

This program can all be accomplished for \$100 to \$150 billion and solves the real estate problem and with it the capital markets problem. While expensive, this program is dramatically less expensive than Paulson's \$700 billion dollar program.

Our program would be a huge economic stimulus far more effective than sending people \$100 checks so that they can eat out an extra meal. Rich people would benefit from the tax credit (this is not an egalitarian measure), but the country as a whole would tremendously benefit. All homeowners would benefit because this would stabilize housing values nationally. The interesting fact is that there are less than a million extra houses for 300 million people in American. The incentive does not have to impact the decision making of many families to have a significant impact on the U.S. economy.

To understand the problem in a broader context, it is appropriate to reflect on it from a very basic perspective. My early career in the bank was devoted to financing farmers. An interesting thing happens in agricultural markets, farmers have to guess what to produce based on what they expect the price to be in the fall. Hedging helps but production can not be totally hedged. In the spring, many farmers think that soybean prices will be high in the fall so they grow a lot of soybeans. The weather is very good and soybeans production is good and soybean prices fall because there are so many soybeans. This is an economic miscalculation, and it is an unavoidable calculation because as human beings we are not omniscient. The fact that farmers would have been better off growing more sun flower seeds and fewer soybeans is not known before the process starts. The soybean market corrects almost immediately. The reason this happens is that soybean farmers have an interesting dilemma; they have soybeans which they have to do something with because they can not eat them all themselves. They can sell the soybeans or store them. If they choose to store them they have the cost of storage, the risk of physical damage and the risk that the price will be even lower in the spring. That is a risk some farmers assume and others don't, but the market quickly clears all the soybeans that are for sale, and the people that store them are making a rational economic decision based on the facts. They are at risk if the decision is wrong so they are more likely to sell.

In theory the housing market should work in the same way, i.e., housing prices should have quickly fallen 30% and we should be through the market correction, particularly given that the housing market has been in a correction for over 2 years. Unfortunately, we have factors that prevent the natural free market correction process from working effectively in the housing market. One factor is human psychology in that people tend to make less rational decisions in regards to their home because of the emotional attachment (which farmers do not have for soybeans). There is probably not much we can do about this fact.

The other factor is structural and it reflects on who is taking the risk. Let me give you an example. You make a loan to James who is someone you know, but not a close friend. James is buying a \$200,000 house and he is willing to put \$10,000 down and you loan

him \$190,000. You think you are safe with your investment because you think house prices always go up.

Then some unfortunate events occur. James develops a drinking problem, loses his job and can not pay his mortgage home payment. Simultaneously, to your and James' surprise, the price of houses have fallen and the home that James owns that you have financed is now only worth \$180,000. James has lost his total investment and has nothing else to lose at this point. You have lost \$10,000 but you are highly motivated to get the house sold or rented. Since James can not lose any more, he immediately appeals to the legal system and declares bankruptcy and puts the house in foreclosure. In many states like Florida, James can delay the liquidation of his house for 12 months, and effectively live in the house free, while continuing to drink and not go back to work. The combination of the judicial system and "do-gooders" keep the housing market from correcting thereby causing additional losses. However, this means that Alfred, who is hardworking and honest, and would like to rent or buy the house from you, continues to live with his family in a mobile home at risk of a hurricane, while James, the alcoholic, gets to live in a nice house. In other words, the legal system acts as an impediment to normal market correction process which happens every few minutes in agricultural commodity markets. The commodity prices are constantly adjusting reflecting expectations for the values of different products and services based on imperfect human knowledge.

By the way, the reason Bernanke and Paulson can not see the solution is they are making a fundamental epistemological (thinking) error. Bernanke is thinking from economic theory and Paulson is thinking from a capital market theoretical perspective. To solve the problem, we have to deal with the real physical world, i.e., the fact that there is a physical inventory of houses that needs to be cleared and we must grasp what motivates real individuals (not theoretical collectives) to act.

A carefully designed housing tax credit and ending Fair Value accounting (as currently implemented) will fix the real estate markets, capital markets and the economy. This program will likely actually increase tax revenue by stimulating the economy by increasing taxable income. There is likely to be a net gain to the government.

I hope you will give this issue serious consideration.

Sincerely,

JOHN ALLISON.

IN HONOR OF MARY CARPENTER

**HON. MICHAEL N. CASTLE**

OF DELAWARE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 26, 2008*

Mr. CASTLE. Madam Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to recognize Mary Carpenter for her 50 years of support to the Pilot School in Wilmington, Delaware. As the principal founder of the Pilot School, Mary has seen her dream blossom into a reality: an innovative, individualized learning facility that has impacted the lives of countless children and their parents in the Delaware Valley area.

The Pilot School serves to provide a learning environment for children who need individ-

ualized, therapeutic attention to build basic academic and social skills. In 1957, the Pilot School began as a class of five young boys and two teachers who met at the Christ Church Sunday School in Greenville, Delaware. One of these students was Keith Carpenter, Mary's fourth child. Mary's vision for a school that could meet her son's learning needs inspired four other parents, who supported Mary in realizing this vision. The groundbreaking teaching of these instructors proved so successful, the teachers, parents, and Mary recognized that this "pilot" program must become an established, ongoing school. Pilot has grown into a teacher-designed facility with 50 staff members educating approximately 160 students ages 5 to 14 each year.

Today, Mary serves on the Board of Trustees to the Pilot School, helping to set school policy, manage finances, raise financial support for tuition aid, and oversee maintenance to the school's facility. As such, she serves on the Financial Aid Committee and the Executive Committee. While she remains heavily involved in the overall workings of Pilot, Mary still reaches out to the teachers and parents of Pilot students as a person who understands the challenges that face those who seek to properly intervene for children with language-based learning difficulties. If she hears of a need, Mary meets that need, often sending supplies, materials, and thoughtful gifts to teachers for their classrooms.

I acknowledge and thank Mary Carpenter for her many years of service and numerous contributions to the Pilot School and education in the State of Delaware. I am confident that she will remain an influential part of the Pilot School for many years to come.

#### EARMARK DECLARATION

**HON. JIM GERLACH**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 26, 2008*

Mr. GERLACH. Madam Speaker, pursuant to the Republican caucus standards on earmarks, I am submitting the following information for publication in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD regarding earmarks included at my request in H.R. 2638, Consolidated Security, Disaster Assistance, and Continuing Appropriations Act, 2009.

Department of Defense Appropriations.

Account: Operation and Maintenance.

Defense Wide: Collegiate Consortium for Workforce and Economic Development, 4747 South Broad Street, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania—\$800,000 for the Delaware Valley Continuing Education Initiative for National Guard and Reserve. The funding would be used to provide job-skills training and continuing education to Veterans, National Guard and Reserve personnel returning from Iraq and Afghanistan. Military and civilian personnel displaced by the closure of the Willow Grove Naval Air Station will also be eligible for education and job-training services.

Bentley Systems, Inc., 685 Stockton Drive, Exton, Pennsylvania—\$1 million for U.S. Navy Mobile Condition Assessment System Pilot for Commander, Navy Region Mid-Atlantic

(CNRMA). The funding would be used to develop and test the U.S. Navy Mobile Condition Assessment System Pilot; a mobile condition assessment system that could quickly assess damage and infrastructure recovery needs to improve response time to natural disaster or terrorist attack.

Account: Research Development Test and Evaluation.

Defense Wide: Morphotek Inc., 210 Welsh Pool Road, Exton, Pennsylvania—\$1.6 million for Mismatch Repair Derived Antibody Medicines to Treat Staphylococcus-derived bio-weapons. The funding would be used to develop antidotes against staphylococcus-based bio-weapons. Previous work has resulted in the discovery of potent lead drugs that, with supplemental funding, will advance to pre-clinical studies required as part of a package required to file an Investigational New Drug (IND) application for proof-of-concept in human trials.

Army: Global Seating Systems LLC, 150 Gordon Drive, Exton, Pennsylvania—\$3 million for the Next Generation Protective Seat. The funding would be used to continue improving military seating systems to protect U.S. troops on the battlefield. Focus would be on improving mine blast/IED blast mitigation technology, occupant crash protection, weight reduction, platform integration, troop seat development, gunner seat development and improved fire protection.

Thomas Jefferson University Hospital, 925 Chestnut Street, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania—\$1.6 million for the Center of Cardiac Surgery Robotic Computerized Telemenuation as part of a comprehensive approach to advanced heart care. The funding would be used to add a new Program for Advanced Heart Care at Thomas Jefferson University Hospital. The center would concentrate on use of robotics in open-heart procedures through the implementation of a DaVinci Robot System, and improvements in patient care, length of hospital stay and overall cost.

Rajant Corporation, 400 East King Street, Malvern, Pennsylvania—\$4 million for Portable Emergency Broadband System. The funding would be used on developing the second generation system with an effort to quadruple the data communications capabilities of the current system, add options for military and public-service radio frequencies, and transparently bridge to existing public, private and government communication systems.

Air Force: Johnson—Matthey Fuel Cells, Inc., 435 Devon Park Drive, Wayne, Pennsylvania—\$1 million for Affordable Lightweight Power Supply Development. The funding would be used to complete the development and testing of a lyotropic LCP micro-composite fuel cell membrane. This would allow the Air Force to have a membrane electrode assembly for its fuel cells that will operate at temperatures up to 120 C.

Analytical Graphics Inc., Valley Creek Corporate Center, Building 220, Suite 100, Exton, Pennsylvania—\$2.8 million for COTS Technology for Situational Space Awareness. The funding would be used to develop responses to threats to our space-based assets—these include Anti-Satellite (ASAT) weapons and the risks to U.S. satellites from space debris as a result of ASAT deployments.

RECOGNIZING THE LIFE OF CONGRESSWOMAN STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES

### HON. PETE SESSIONS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 26, 2008*

Mr. SESSIONS. Madam Speaker, today I rise to recognize the life of my good friend and co-chair of the Capital Fraternal Caucus, Stephanie Tubbs Jones. Stephanie and I shared a passion to help ensure a secure future for fraternities and sororities on campuses all across the country. Together, we worked to form and mature the Capital Fraternal Caucus to be an organization to celebrate Greek Life both as an undergraduate and throughout post-collegiate years.

Stephanie dedicated her life to ensuring that every young person had the opportunity for a college education. As a member of the Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Stephanie understood first-hand the life-long friendships that fraternities and sororities foster in young people during their undergraduate years. It was these friendships which fostered mutual respect and collaboration of ideas. I am so honored to have shared this friendship with Stephanie and to have enjoyed our bonds of Greek Life as co-chairs of the Capital Fraternal Caucus.

As the first African-American Chairman of the Capital Fraternal Caucus, Stephanie used her position to champion the Greek cause and quickly became a favorite member of interns working on Capital Hill who are affiliated with Greek organizations. While always lending a helping hand to students in Washington, Stephanie never forgot about the hundreds of thousands of students on every college campus. Through her dedicated work, she helped to pass the College Housing and Infrastructure Act. This leadership was recognized by the North-American Interfraternity Conference who presented her with the NIC's Silver Medal. This is one of the Conference's highest honors which recognizes significant leadership for causes that advance the highest ideals of fraternalism.

In honor of her dedication and enthusiastic work, the North-American Interfraternity Conference is naming a summer program for young people in Washington DC after her. The "Stephanie Tubbs Jones Memorial Legislative Fellowship" will afford outstanding student leaders from fraternity and sorority chapters throughout the country to work with legislative leaders on Capitol Hill to help preserve the rich undergraduate traditions represented by the communities on campuses across the Na-

tion. I look forward to meeting the next generation of leaders which Stephanie's legacy will bring to Washington.

A wonderful example of the type of person our public school system produces, Stephanie went on to attend Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland, Ohio. Following her graduation from college she began her career in public service by earning a degree in Social Work. This passion for helping others led her to pursue a law degree from Case Western Reserve School of Law in 1974. Ultimately, Stephanie was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives in 1998 and served the 11th Congressional District of Ohio until her untimely and unfortunate death in August of this year.

During her time as a Congresswoman, Stephanie never lost her zeal for public service nor her passion to help young people. She constantly sought to improve public schools and ensure that every American student had the best possible education. Stephanie was a well-respected member of this Congress and her presence will surely be missed.

### PAYING TRIBUTE TO BETHANY JENEA PUPELLO SMITH

### HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 26, 2008*

Mr. PORTER. Madam Speaker, it is my distinct pleasure to rise today to honor Bethany Jenea Pupello Smith, 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 the life and memory of Bethany Jenea Pupello Smith who passed away on Saturday, September 20, 2008.

Bethany was raised in Boulder City, Nevada and was a bright and compassionate young girl. She was a senior at Boulder City High School and was a gifted student and athlete. At Boulder City High School, Bethany excelled and had a 3.5 GPA and was in line to receive an Advanced Diploma and Millennium Scholarship. Bethany was also a gifted writer, whose dream was to become a journalist and whose other interests included business, advertising and marketing.

Bethany also had a number of extra-curricular activities. She participated in Girl Scouts as well as figure skating and gymnastics. Bethany was active in the Distributive Education Clubs of America (DECA) as well as the Future Business Leaders of America

(FBLA). She was also a founding member of the Young Women's Republican Club of Boulder City and a proud American.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to honor Bethany Jenea Pupello Smith. Her exemplary academic record and commitment to her community and country are inspiring. My thoughts and prayers are with her and her family, but I commend them on raising an impressive young woman who chose to dedicate herself to making our community a better place.

### THOMASVILLE FIRE DEPARTMENT CELEBRATES 100 YEARS OF SERVICE

### HON. HOWARD COBLE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 26, 2008*

Mr. COBLE. Madam Speaker, on behalf of the citizens of the Sixth District of North Carolina, we wish to recognize and commend the Thomasville Fire Department as it prepares for its 100th anniversary, which is to be celebrated on October 4, 2008. This celebration will honor every firefighter, current and retired, who has served at the department.

Among those being honored include the oldest retiree, Ronald Rayman Meyers, who worked from August 5, 1967, to December 31, 2005, and the youngest firefighter, Bradley Crafford, who joined in May of 2008. The October 4 celebration will be a commencement to Fire Prevention Week from October 5–11, 2008.

Established after a damaging fire in 1890 that wiped out nearly every business on East Main Street, the first department was officially organized in 1908, naming C.C. Hooks as the first Fire Chief. The first permanent station was established in 1922 on East Guilford Street.

Today there are a total of four stations (Pilot, Hasty, Thomasville, and Fairgrove), two engine companies, two ladder companies, and one squad unit, and a workforce of 61 employees who remain committed to protecting and educating the people throughout the community.

It is quite an achievement to render 100 years of service in any endeavor, and for the Thomasville Fire Department to do it while protecting and serving its community is all the more impressive. Again, on behalf of the citizens of the Sixth District, we are proud to recognize this great accomplishment.