

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