

were lost in September. So far this year more than 750,000 American jobs have been lost. In September alone, more than 1.5 million Americans are working part-time jobs because they cannot find full-time work. The wages of American workers are stalled and with inflation at 5 percent it means most working Americans have effectively taken a pay cut. These are hard times for working families.

This report translates into real pain not just for Main Street, but for every family that sits around the kitchen table deciding how to make ends meet. We are seeing jobs at risk, credit frozen, business activity stalled, and the pensions and college funds of hard working Americans at risk. This is an economic crisis and the time for Congress to act is now.

On September 29th, the House failed to pass the economic rescue package. I voted for that bill and I have no regrets. As a result of the failure of that bill to pass, the stock market went into an immediate free-fall resulting in a \$1.2 trillion loss of value. That translated into seniors losing their retirement, workers losing their jobs, and confidence being lost in the American economic system which exacerbates the downward economic spiral.

What Congress is once again attempting to do today is pass an emergency package that will provide \$700 billion to the Treasury Department to buy mortgage-backed securities, sometimes referred to as "toxic paper," that is strangling the credit market for companies, small business, and families. This credit crisis is real and we are seeing it manifest itself in the inability of consumers with good credit to get auto loans, banks refusing to lend to banks, and municipalities unable to access financing for needed projects like roads, hospitals and water treatment plants. The entire credit system is frozen and it will require action by Congress to salvage our economy after years excess, abuse, and corruption by Wall Street.

The American people, seeing this rescue package with a \$700 billion price tag, should be angry. I am angry. My office has received thousands of calls from constituents who are furious, but anger should not be an excuse for inaction. Many of these calls, even the majority, have warned me of the evils of what they call a "socialist intervention." Many advocated that a better solution would be to keep government out of the crisis and let the market solve its own problem even if the outcome is a complete economic meltdown. In my estimation, such an argument is both irrational and irresponsible.

The bill before the House today is a critical first step towards stabilizing the economy and preventing financial disaster for millions small businesses, families and seniors. I support this rescue package because Democrats, Republicans, and the Secretary of the Treasury, along with the Chairman of the Federal Reserve, came together and worked tirelessly, putting politics aside, and put the people's needs first in addressing this serious crisis.

This bill provides \$700 billion to buy mortgage-backed securities. These are assets with value bundled with distressed assets that will be purchased by the government so they can be taken off the books of financial institutions, restoring confidence and trust in the institutions, and allowing for liquidity to return to the credit market. This is not an ideal solution, but it is not a giveaway either. This \$700 billion is a Federal investment that will buy assets that

possess value and many experts say taxpayers could break even or earn a profit in the end. In the meantime serious oversight, accountability, and government regulations have been added to protect the taxpayer. There is strong language to help homeowners in financial distress to prevent home foreclosure which again makes this bill very important and relevant to American families in trouble. Also, I am very pleased that prohibitions on golden parachutes for executives from companies benefiting from this legislation have been put in place.

Finally, this legislation is not the end of Congress's efforts to address the causes of this crisis, only the beginning. Next week I will participate in Oversight and Government Reform Committee hearings to explore the root causes of this economic disaster. Where there is identifiable malfeasance recommendations for criminal investigation and prosecution should be made to the Justice Department. Wall Street's high flyers whose excesses and corruption violated the law must be held accountable.

While this package is not perfect, it is Congress's best effort to address this economic crisis. A new provision in this bill that I support is a temporary increase for insured deposits under the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation from \$100,000 to \$250,000. This increase in deposit insurance is intended to allow for additional liquidity in lending and restore confidence for depositors that their money is safe.

There are other aspects of this bill that were added by the U.S. Senate which I strongly object to because they are giveaways to special interests. Tax breaks for special interests like NASCAR, the rum industry, and the manufacturers of children's arrows is an egregious abuse of the legislative process to pass out favors. These giveaways result in a \$107 billion reduction in revenues to the Federal Government meaning more deficit spending.

My preference would have been to strip these provisions from the bill. These pork barrel provisions, if absolutely necessary, should have been offset and paid for to eliminate deficit spending. The Senate's irresponsible inclusion of these earmark tax giveaways is an example of how the other body is out of touch with the needs of ordinary Americans.

This week, concluding with today's vote, the Congress—Democrats and Republicans—will take action not seen since the Great Depression to intervene to restore confidence in the markets. If successful the result will be to avoid dramatic and damaging pain for America's families of every income level and geographic location. Doing nothing to address this emergency situation would be a decision to condemn the U.S. economy and the American people to years of stagnation and hard times.

Following the passage of this bill and its signing into law, there must commence a new era of government responsibility, oversight, accountability, and, when necessary, regulation of the financial markets. The Reagan era of deregulation for markets and labeling government as the problem is over. We have seen how this philosophy has mutated into the grotesque excesses of Wall Street's elite and their massive concentration of wealth. It has infected our economy with a financial pathogen that is now destroying small businesses as well as the lives of families and the communities they live in.

The next Congress—the 111th Congress—will have a duty to institute unprecedented and tireless oversight of not only this rescue effort, but all the excess in the market place, from Wall Street to the pharmaceutical industry, and beyond. The Bush administration's abdication of its duty to regulate and its endless campaigns of misinformation on innumerable issues has eroded the trust American's once had in their Federal leaders. From the falsehoods that led this Nation to war in Iraq to the current corruption scandal in the Justice Department, this White House has destroyed the American people's confidence in government. This administration's failure to regulate Wall Street and protect taxpayers is just another example of misplaced priorities and a costly lack of leadership.

My vote for H.R. 1424 is a vote to protect the jobs, pensions, college accounts, and the savings of millions of hard working Americans. This important step must be followed with a new commitment to accountability and government oversight. I will be working to make sure this rescue package not only helps restore our economy, but returns every dollar we invest back to taxpayers.

AMERICA'S TABLE: A THANKSGIVING READER CELEBRATING OUR DIVERSE ROOTS AND SHARED VALUES

HON. JOHN LEWIS

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 19, 2008

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Madam Speaker, as we celebrate Thanksgiving, a uniquely American holiday, I rise today to remind this Congress that we are all one people, one family, one America. We all come from different backgrounds, but in millions of homes across the country, our celebrations look very much the same. We will gather around our dinner tables with family and friends giving thanks. This day is a reminder that we are all together in this American experiment, that we should celebrate our diversity, but also recognize our shared values.

I commend to every family the publication called America's Table: A Thanksgiving Reader. The pamphlet is short and simple, and it is meant to be read at the Thanksgiving meal or as people contemplate the meaning of Thanksgiving. This booklet tells the story of American people by sharing profiles of men and women of diverse backgrounds. I am honored to be one of the people profiled in this year's publication.

The American Jewish Committee began publishing America's Table annually on the Thanksgiving after the 9/11 disaster. They partner with ten human relations organizations, including the NAACP, the National Urban League, and the National Council of La Raza to distribute this wonderful pamphlet.

We all have our stories of how we came to this great land. We must use this opportunity to celebrate our differences and our oneness as Americans. I submit a copy of this year's America's Table for the RECORD, and I hope and pray that Americans will continue to use it as a way to help build the Beloved Community, a nation at peace with itself.

AMERICA'S TABLE

A Thanksgiving Reader

CELEBRATING OUR DIVERSE ROOTS AND SHARED VALUES

You are holding the eighth annual edition of America's Table.

As in past years, the brief narrative on the white pages is intended to be read aloud at the Thanksgiving meal. It helps us express gratitude for living in a nation where each of us, regardless of background, is entitled to a place at the table.

The facing pages contain profiles of eight accomplished Americans. These profiles can be read at the Thanksgiving meal or whenever you have time. Five of the profiled individuals arrived in America recently. Another is descended from slaves. All are deeply engaged in helping America fully achieve the promise of opportunity and mutual respect.

By reading America's Table on Thanksgiving, we add new meaning to our most beloved and universal holiday as a time to celebrate our diverse roots and shared values. In some homes, a leader designates the parts to be read. At other gatherings, people simply go around the table, switching readers at each sentence, paragraph, or page. Do whatever feels right for you and your family and friends.

And enjoy a warm and peaceful holiday.
November 2008

Adams Costa Spencer Lind Tanaka Carney
Schultz Pucinski Leibowitz McLaren
Gonzales Szymankiewicz Giannini Humphreys
Zimmer Poulos Tinley Kahn Trugglio
Singh Sandbuig Jackson Kogovsek Smith Rivera
Acosta Demetrios Nemeč Schwartz
Nwaguru Rosenbaum Kimura Peck Teters
Foulks Koproski

WE ARE EACH ON A JOURNEY

These are the names of the generations that came to America.

They reveal individual lives that represent the story of our nation.

These are the names of the generations that built America.

They recall our parents and grandparents and mirror ourselves.

These are the names of the generations that will care for America.

They remind us why we gather at this Thanksgiving table.

Calderon Lew Durlay Branovan Sharma
Hassan Montalto Paterson Jordan Cheng
Gioia Noriega Ellison Josephs Kassab Phillips
Pun Letona Linares Brooks Gilchrist
Mineta Levine Patel Tsosie Yuo Meghani
Verdeja Aoun Parens Al-Suwaij Morris Rangel
Hong Lafley Nganji Ahuja Totenberg
Lewis Shamim Padron

Chung-Wha Hong "We were watching the presidential debates with Jimmy Carter, and I remember my mother saying, 'He's going to be the president and he does the dishes'"

Growing up in South Korea, Chung-Wha Hong gained her impressions of the United States from black-and-white TV.

AMERICA IS HEAVEN FOR WOMEN AND CHILDREN

Hong was eleven when the family arrived in St. Louis, in 1977. Local people were welcoming, she recalls, but the schools offered no programs for students like Hong who spoke no English. "I went to school and slept all day."

Her immigrant experience and the influence of her parents, both religious leaders and social reformers, shaped her career choice. After graduation from the University of Pennsylvania, Hong returned briefly to Korea, where young activists inspired her.

Back in the United States, she worked in Washington, D.C., for Korean and Asian organizations before moving to New York to engage at the grassroots level "on work that flows from my identity as a Korean-American immigrant."

As head of the New York Immigration Coalition, Hong now helps immigrants of all backgrounds cope with what she describes as a convergence of issues facing new arrivals, including: poverty, lack of English language skills, and limited access to government services. These challenges, says Hong, are compounded by anti-immigrant sentiment.

"Part of my job is to challenge people that this is not what this country is about, to tap into people's better instincts of generosity and justice."

The insightful questions of our children, innocently asked, compel us to reconnect with our past.

When our families came to America.

How they got here.

What they found.

Why they came.

At every table the answers are different, but much the same.

Many of us were immigrants and refugees from all regions of the world, fleeing the afflictions of poverty and oppression.

Drawn by the promise of a better life, we chose America and she took us into safe harbor.

Not every journey was easy.

The first arrivals sometimes shunned those who followed.

Not every journey was voluntary.

The first African slaves landed in Jamestown a year before the Pilgrims settled in Plymouth.

Not every journey was righteous.

Native Americans were devastated by a new nation's need to conquer, cultivate, and build.

A.G. Lafley knows something about diversity.

On his father's side, Lafley is descended from a French Canadian man who migrated to New England in the 1850s and married a Native American woman. A few decades later, his mother's family arrived in Boston from County Cork, Ireland.

"My mother was adamant about understanding the world and people who are different from you," says Lafley. "She was a card-carrying member of the League of Women Voters. I remember being dragged around in the '52, '56, and '60 presidential elections in neighborhoods we didn't live in."

Lafley enrolled as a Ph.D. student in history before a hitch in the Navy overseeing retail supply shifted his career goals. After Harvard Business School, he joined Cincinnati-based Procter & Gamble in 1977, becoming CEO in 2000 and chairman in 2002.

For Lafley, diversity is a competitive advantage at a company that employs 138,000 people from 140 nationalities and ethnicities, and provides household and personal care products for more than three billion consumers.

Lafley recalls a recent conversation with a young mother and her family in a modest home on a hillside above São Paulo, Brazil. "We sit around the kitchen table," he says.

I LEARN THROUGH HER STORY

"It may take a little longer to work across cultures and languages," says Lafley, "but we're going to come up with more ideas and create something that will make a difference." Sometimes the difference is big.

"We developed a unique and proprietary product that can render any source of water anywhere in the world potable."

Jean Nganji "Are you Hutu or Tutsi?"

The question was raised by a teacher when Jean Nganji was a seven-year-old schoolboy in Rwanda.

"Go home and ask your parents," the teacher commanded.

The next day, he recalls, "I said, 'I am Tutsi.'" Nganji's parents then pushed him hard to excel academically.

"Why?" he asked.

"Just listen," they said. "Don't ask questions."

The answer soon emerged, as Nganji was forced to repeat grades, despite his competence, because he was Tutsi. When he realized that a Tutsi admissions quota made it difficult to attend college in Rwanda, he was accepted at a small school in Massachusetts with the help of his friend Andre, who had moved to America.

The two young men became college roommates soon after Nganji arrived in the United States, in October 1989. But Andre was Hutu, and a year later, with the outbreak of war, the friendship ended.

The genocide started on April 6, 1994. On April 15, Nganji learned that his parents and youngest brother were killed. The daughter of his eldest brother, who perished, was saved by her nanny, a Hutu woman who claimed the four-year-old was her little sister.

Today, Nganji lives near Boston. He tells his story at schools in America and travels regularly to Rwanda on a project that helps Tutsi and Hutu youth tell their stories through film. "I have found therapy and peace talking to young people."

DO NOT FALL INTO THE TRAPS OF IGNORANCE, BIGOTRY, AND RACISM

WE ARE EACH PART OF AMERICA'S JOURNEY

We did not leave history behind, like unwanted baggage at immigration's door.

Our particular pasts and our shared present are wedded in hyphenated names:

African-American,
Irish-American,
Italian-American,
Korean-American,
Polish-American.

We are not always on a first-name basis with one another.

But we quickly become acquainted in playgrounds and classrooms, in college dorms and military barracks, and in offices and factories.

We feel at home.

In some parts of the world, our differences would be threatening.

We feel enriched.

In America, our differences resonate in our names, language, food, and music. They inspire art and produce champions and leaders.

We feel free to disagree.

We are a family, and what is a family gathering without debate?

Gurpreet Singh Ahuja was completing his residency in New Delhi, in 1984, when Indira Gandhi was assassinated.

Reports that the prime minister was shot by Sikhs set off reprisals throughout India. "As a physician in the hospital, I saw the charred bodies of those young men and women."

The violence contradicted his experience growing up. "As a Sikh, we're reminded to respect all faiths. They're all paths to the same central truth."

He and his wife, Jasjit Singh, also a doctor, moved to New York, in 1986, where they continued their medical training before moving to Washington, D.C., and then to Southern California. They visited family in India annually.

"Every time I stepped foot back on American soil it would give me a great sense of exhilaration and liberation."

That feeling was tested in the aftermath of 9/11 and the rash of hate crimes that began with the murder of a Sikh living in Arizona. The events evoked memories of 1984. Says Ahuja,

I NEVER LOST FAITH IN THE SYSTEM IN AMERICA

He helped establish the California Sikh Council to promote tolerance and educate

people about the Sikh faith, and now serves as president of the council. Jasjit Singh is vice president of the Central Orange County Interfaith Council.

"As a relatively recent immigrant, I am very appreciative of the opportunities that this country has given me," says Ahuja. "Our value system must remain steadfast. That's what distinguishes us from most any other country in the world."

Nina Totenberg "Ninotchka, we're proud of you."

Nina Totenberg still cherishes her father's words. She had just endured a period of intense scrutiny after her reporting led to testimony by law professor Anita Hill, during the confirmation hearing of Justice Clarence Thomas.

Her father, Roman Totenberg, a world-renowned violinist, performed across Europe by age eleven. A Polish Jew, he left Europe in 1935. "He saw the rise of Hitler," says his daughter, "but he came to America because it represented a kind of equality and meritocracy that did not exist in Europe."

Nina Totenberg's mother, Melanie, shared her interest in American politics. "I remember my mother watching the Army-McCarthy hearings on TV all day every day, explaining to me what was going on," says Totenberg. "I knew who all those senators were and I was eight years old."

At 16, reading *The Making of the President*, the classic book about the 1960 election, Totenberg confirmed her childhood desire to be a witness to history. "I wanted to be a reporter from the time I realized that I couldn't be Nancy Drew."

For the past three decades, Totenberg has reported for National Public Radio and is best known for her coverage of the Supreme Court. "There are a lot of injustices in the world and in this country," she says. "The ones that I can do something about—I will try to do something about." She credits her father, who still teaches at age 97.

YOU CAN'T GET MY DAD TO DO SOMETHING HE THINKS IS NOT RIGHT

We believe in fairness.

In America, the loudest voice does not always have the last word, and every voice has a right to be heard.

We act with hope.

Not because life is perfect, but because we are free to face life, and all its imperfections, on our own terms.

We rely on faith.

In a sturdy and tested framework of law and government that works because of the confidence we place in it and in each other.

WE ARE EACH RESPONSIBLE FOR KEEPING AMERICA ON COURSE

"Are we there yet?" the children ask.

We know the answer.

We pursue justice.

But still have a way to go.

We celebrate freedom.

But endlessly debate what it means to be free.

Our table is brimming.

But not everyone receives a fair portion.

John Lewis Growing up in a large family on a small farm in rural Alabama, John Lewis cared for the chickens.

When his parents wanted to sell or trade chickens, or have one for dinner, "I would protest," Lewis recalls. "They were creatures of God, and we didn't have a right to abuse them."

Lewis was fifteen in 1955, when Emmett Till, a black teenager, was brutally murdered in Mississippi. Rosa Parks refused to move to the back of the bus, and Martin Luther King, Jr., organized the Montgomery bus boycott. Listening to King on the radio, "It was like he was saying, 'John Lewis, you can do it,

YOU, TOO, CAN MAKE A CONTRIBUTION

Lewis went to Nashville, to study non-violence and become a minister. He participated in sit-in demonstrations, Freedom Rides, and the creation of a campus group called the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee.

"Even when I was being beaten, I saw these individuals almost like the chickens," he says. "They were innocent creatures and something happened to them."

As chairman of SNCC, at 23, Lewis stood with King and other civil rights leaders on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial during the March on Washington in August 1963, preaching, "Wake up, America." He has exerted leadership in Congress since 1986, representing the district around Atlanta. "We've made progress," says Lewis. "The world is so different from the world I grew up in."

Still pursuing his vision of a "beloved community," Lewis asserts, "We need to turn toward each other to create a greater sense of community and belonging."

Tasneem Shamim. In the late 1990s, at about age 40, Tasneem Shamim began to feel spiritually empty.

She missed a sense of compassion and universality, which she remembered from her childhood in India and could not find in the mosques in New Jersey, where Shamim, a doctor, lives with her husband and three children.

"One of my early memories is going with my grandmother to the small villages. My grandmother started organizations to help women out of poverty and oppression."

To help reconnect with her feelings, Shamim visited the holy sites in Mecca and Medina, and she decided to cover her hair. Her mother and sister were concerned about potential antagonism, and one friend asked, "Do you have to go to chemotherapy?"

For Shamim, the head scarf is an opportunity to prompt and answer questions about Islam. Most important, it makes her more conscious of her roles in life.

"You become a doctor mostly to please God. God says, 'You cannot help Me, but help the creatures that I have created.'"

Shamim also began studying Sufism, a spiritual strand of Islam. At the urging of a Sufi leader that she express her religion in good works, Shamim established the Muslim Women's Coalition, a national organization devoted to community service and mutual respect.

PEOPLE ACCEPT THAT AMERICA IS A QUILT

Progress can be slow as we propose and protest, argue and advocate.

But we are grateful to be part of this vigorous democracy.

We enjoy its unparalleled privileges and accept its obligations:

To pursue our dreams while helping others.

To advance our convictions while respecting others.

To prepare our children for the gift of the American journey.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. STEVE KING

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 19, 2008

Mr. KING of Iowa. Madam Speaker, I wish to make the following disclosure in accordance with the new Republican Earmark Transparency Standards requiring Members to place a statement in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD for a bill that includes earmarks they

have requested, describing how the funds will be spent and justifying the use of Federal taxpayer funds.

Requesting Member: Congressman STEVE KING

Bill Number: H.R. 2638, The Consolidated Security, Disaster Assistance, and Continuing Appropriations Act, 2009.

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

Project Name: Battlefield Plastic Biodiesel.

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Renewable Energy Group and General Atomics.

Address of Requesting Entity: West Central, 406 First Street, Ralston, IA 51459. General Atomics, 3550 General Atomics Ct., San Diego, CA 92121.

Description of Request: \$1.6 million is provided in the bill to continue a 3-year partnership with the U.S. Army to develop a technology providing a cost effective way to recycle military plastic waste into a useable biodiesel fuel with enhanced energy yield, for use in field power generation and other applications. This technology has the potential to save taxpayers millions per month in military waste disposal costs, and enhance the viability of increased use of biodiesel by both the military and civilian sectors to achieve greater energy independence. The \$1.6 million FY09 appropriation is needed to complete the development phase of this multi-year project and demonstrate the technology.

RECOGNIZING THE FUTURE FARMERS OF AMERICA

HON. JACK KINGSTON

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 20, 2008

Mr. KINGSTON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize five students in my district that have received national honors from Future Farmers of America. These young people—Ryan Highsmith, Jordan Culpepper, Nicholas Worley, Jacob Schindler, and Courtney Curlin—have surpassed many other students to earn top honors for their work in local Future Farmers of America. All of these students excelled though challenging assessments at State and National level against their peers before being awarded these top accolades.

Ryan Highsmith of Lake Park, Georgia, won first place in the nation for Specialty Animal Production for his four year work with honey bee cultivation.

Jordan Culpepper of Lake Park, Georgia, won second place in the nation for Diversified Agriculture Production. Jordan dutifully worked with both livestock and crop production in a wide range of operations for over 5 years.

Nicholas Worley of Valdosta, Georgia, was named National Agriscience Student of the Year. Using clean wood chips and leftover biomass from Georgia forests, Nicholas found that a large amount of ethanol can be produced from these two sources.

Jacob Schindler of Valdosta, Georgia, won second place in the Junior Individual Botany Division. Jacob's project involved research on the effects of inert gases on kudzu. Jacob researched the uses of gases on kudzu, which enabled him to eradicate several large infestations of kudzu in the Valdosta area.

Courtney Curlin of Valdosta, Georgia won third place in the senior individual Engineering