

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING LT. BENJAMIN BERGER

**HON. HOWARD L. BERMAN**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 6, 2009*

Mr. BERMAN. Madam Speaker, I am honored to pay tribute to my very good friend, Lieutenant Benjamin Berger, a veteran of the U.S. Navy. In honor of his courage, initiative and devotion to duty, he was awarded the following decorations: Silver Star for heroism during the Normandy invasion, and the Presidential Unit Citation. On April 16, 2008, Lt. Berger was bestowed the title of "Chevalier" of the Legion of Honor by the President of the French Republic.

Born in Chicago, Illinois in June 1920, Ben graduated from Sullivan High School and obtained his degree from Loyola University. After working part time for the U.S. Postal Service, he was inducted into the U.S. Navy as an officer in December 1942. Following basic training in Chicago, he was shipped off as a communications officer to the U.S. Amphibious Force, 3rd Division and participated in the invasions of North Africa and Sicily.

In December 1943, he was assigned to England and trained as a fire control officer in support of the U.S. Rangers. On June 6, 1944, he landed at Verille with the Army Ranger 2nd and 5th Battalions in one of D-Day's most dangerous assignments. Lt. Berger organized critical naval gunfire control support not only for his unit, but also for another unit whose leadership had been disrupted during the landing chaos. His actions contributed to a successful assault on the important enemy gun emplacements above the cliffs at Point du Hoc and later the towns of Isigny and Grandcamp. Benjamin was separated from the U.S. Navy at Norfolk, Virginia in October 1945.

Ben married his first wife, Florine Perlman, in December 1941 and they had two children, Elise and Stephan. He retired from his position as Operations District Manager in Southern California for Thrifty Drug Stores in 1981. He married his current wife Rae Polland, who is a lovely vivacious lady, served as senior intern in my district office. They were married in June 2002, and now reside in Valley Village, California near their extended family.

Madam Speaker and distinguished colleagues, I ask you to join me in saluting Lieutenant Benjamin Berger for his impressive military career and dedicated service to the United States of America.

THE ECONOMIC RECOVERY THROUGH RESPONSIBLE HOMEOWNERSHIP ACT AND THE COMMONSENSE AUTO RECOVERY (CAR) ACT

**HON. DAVID DREIER**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 6, 2009*

Mr. DREIER. Madam Speaker, today I have introduced a trio of bills that focus on my top legislative priority for the coming year: getting our economy growing again. The centerpiece of this plan is the Fair and Simple Tax (FAST) Act. I introduced this legislation in the previous Congress, and it remains my long-term goal for economic revitalization. The FAST Act would dramatically simplify and reduce the tax burden on Americans. By creating a simple, one-page tax form that retains the child credit and all major deductions, like mortgage interest, it would make the annual tax filing nightmare far more manageable. It would also implement a host of additional tax reforms, such as reducing the tax on capital gains and corporate income, permanently extending the R&D credit, and creating new incentives for long-term financial planning.

Implementing the FAST Act, however, is a long-term goal. As we work toward comprehensive reform, we must also pursue more immediate and targeted solutions to jumpstart our economy. That's why I introduced two additional pro-growth bills—aimed at the housing industry and the auto industry.

The Economic Recovery Through Responsible Homeownership Act would create new tax incentives for responsible home purchases. Those who make a down payment of 5, 10 or 15 percent will get a tax credit of \$2000, \$5000 or \$10,000 respectively. The housing crisis is at the root of our economic crisis. We need to encourage new purchases to stabilize the market, stop the free-fall in prices and restore the communities that have been plagued by foreclosures. But because irresponsible homeownership and predatory lending are partly to blame for the crisis in the first place, only a plan that rewards responsible action will succeed. This bill accomplishes both objectives.

I have also introduced the Commonsense Auto Recovery (CAR) Act to provide a boost to our ailing auto industry, without resorting to another bailout. The CAR Act draws on the same principle as my housing bill and creates a tax credit for car purchases, equal to the amount of the sales tax on the purchase. Any individual or small business owner is eligible for the credit. This is an important component of my pro-growth plan because the auto industry touches so many parts of our economy and workforce. The manufacturers, dealers, auto-parts makers and financiers—many of whom are small businesses—are all a part of the broad-based auto industry that has weakened considerably in this economy. Thousands of jobs have already been lost, and thousands

more are threatened. An effective and sustainable way to boost the industry is to encourage Americans to get back to their local car dealerships.

Addressing the immediate challenges of the weak housing and auto industries will provide a quick boost to our economy. These are critical short-term steps that must be taken. In the long run, we must act on the need for fundamental reform of our tax code to reduce the burden on families and businesses and simplify the tax-filing process. We cannot restore our economy without both a short-term and long-term view. I believe that this package of tax bills is a comprehensive approach to getting our economy back on a path of growth and I look forward to working with my colleagues in a bipartisan way to achieve this goal.

THE GREEN SCHOOLS ACT OF 2009

**HON. MARK STEVEN KIRK**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 6, 2009*

Mr. KIRK. Madam Speaker, I am proud to stand here today to introduce legislation with Congressman CHRISTOPHER CARNEY (D-PA) which will provide healthier and more productive environments for students.

As energy prices soar and state budgets shrink, schools around the country need more assistance than ever to keep afloat. Congress can provide a commonsense way to help schools achieve fiscal sustainability by helping them to reach energy sustainability through energy efficient and other green improvements.

According to the independent U.S. Green Buildings Council which established a nationally recognized green school certification program, the LEED rating system, green schools on average save \$100,000 per year. This is enough to hire two new teachers, buy 500 new computers or purchase 5,000 new textbooks. In fact, if all new school construction or school renovations went green, energy savings alone would total \$20 billion over the next 10 years.

Green schools also provide better environments for our children, improving student achievement and health. Students at LEED certified schools perform 20 percent better on reading tests and 24 percent better on math tests than the average student. There are nearly 40 percent fewer asthma occurrences at green schools, contributing to the decreased number of sick days students experience.

Providing green school improvements are extremely cost effective. Construction costs on average less than \$3 per square foot more to build, yet saves roughly \$12 per square foot in energy and water savings.

Some schools are already investing in green school technology to take advantage of all the benefits it provides. I am proud that a school

● 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.

in my Congressional District of northern Illinois, Thomas Middle School, installed a one-kilowatt solar array on its roof in November 2007 with a \$10,000 grant from the Illinois Clean Energy Community Foundation. The photovoltaic panel produced enough energy to date to offset more than 730 pounds of carbon dioxide. The output so far is equivalent to the energy needed to power 6 homes for one day, or operate one TV for 2,565 hours.

Thomas Middle School teachers also use the solar array data to help teach students about the importance of renewable energy. Classes use the information from the solar panels in experiments about energy conservation and environmental protection.

I applaud Thomas Middle School Principal Tom O'Rourke and science department chair Jay Bingaman for taking such an initiative to improve the school, environment and education of their students.

We are introducing the Green Schools Act to encourage schools all around the country to follow the example of Thomas Middle School. This legislation provides up to \$10,000 in matching grants for schools to undertake green construction and improvement projects. The bill would also reauthorize the Qualified Zone Academy bonds program, which is used to fund renovations and repairs at schools in low-income neighborhoods. The bill would require that any improvements or rehabilitations be energy efficient. Since its establishment in 1997, the QZAB program has provided nearly \$1.7 billion for school improvements projects.

I hope my colleagues will join me in supporting this bill to improve the health and education of our children and provide financial security to schools.

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#### CAGING PROHIBITION ACT OF 2009

**HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 6, 2009*

Mr. CONYERS. Madam Speaker, today I rise to introduce the Caging Prohibition Act of 2009, a much needed reform to our election system. As the 111th Congress focuses on election fixes and greater voter protections, this legislation is a critical contribution to such efforts. Prohibitions on voter caging will ensure that our democracy lives up to the belief that every eligible citizen is entitled to the right to vote.

Voter caging, though just recently given media attention, is a disenfranchisement tactic that has been around for over 50 years. This undemocratic tactic often involves sending mail to voters at the addresses at which they are registered to vote. Should such mail be returned as undeliverable or without a return receipt, voters' names are placed on a "caging list," that list then being used to challenge voters' eligibility.

Those suggesting that voter caging is necessary to weed out ineligible voters must recognize this practice is unreliable and dangerous for such purposes. Mail may be returned as undeliverable for any number of reasons unrelated to an individual's eligibility to vote. For example, mail is returned due to typos, transposed numbers, new street names, and improper deliveries.

Voters in my home State of Michigan have been subjected to voter caging controversies

in the last two Presidential elections. In the 2008 election, a voter caging strategy meant to politically capitalize on the subprime mortgage crisis was identified. Those voters whose homes had been subjected to foreclosure were targets for caging on the basis that they no longer resided at the addresses at which they registered to vote.

During the 2004 election, challengers monitored every single one of Detroit's 254 polling stations. This strategy was consistent with a Michigan lawmaker's effort to "suppress the Detroit vote." It was widely accepted that this statement was synonymous with "suppress the Black vote," as Detroit is 83 percent African American.

Our most vulnerable voters racial minorities, language minorities, low-income people, the homeless, and college students—always seem to be targeted for caging and other voter suppression campaigns. However, all voters are susceptible to voter intimidation and suppression. For example, during the 2004 election, Ohio and Florida caging lists included the names of soldiers whose mail had been returned as undeliverable because they were stationed overseas.

It is because no one is immune to caging and other disenfranchisement tactics, that I have introducing the Caging Prohibition Act. This bill is really quite simple, as it one, requires election officials to corroborate their caging documents with independent evidence before a voter can be deemed ineligible. And two, limits all other challenges that do not come from election officials to those based on personal, first-hand knowledge.

By eliminating caging tactics, we restore what has been missing from our elections—fairness, honesty, and integrity. I ask that my colleagues in the Congress join me in supporting the Caging Prohibition Act of 2009. Please stand with me in protecting the very core of our democracy.

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#### INTRODUCTION OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA HOUSE VOTING RIGHTS ACT OF 2009

**HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON**

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 6, 2009*

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, today I am introducing, I believe for the last time, the District of Columbia House Voting Rights Act, simultaneously with our Senate partners, Senators JOE LIEBERMAN and ORRIN HATCH. The bill we introduce today also will add two permanent House seats, the first increase in 96 years. It therefore carries a triple bonus: the first vote for the District of Columbia after 212 years, an additional seat for Utah, and two new permanent seats for the House of Representatives itself. The citizens of the District of Columbia are deeply grateful for the persistent partnership and bipartisan dedication that Senator LIEBERMAN and Senator HATCH continue to bring to this bill, and for the continued support of Utah Governor Jon Huntsman.

Because of the importance to the city of achieving the vote after more than two centuries, the D.C. House Voting Rights Act is my first bill of the 111th Congress. This year we introduce the bill as members of the armed services from the District of Columbia are

again engaged in war abroad. In gratitude for the service of our residents serving today, and of those who have served since our country was founded, I dedicate the bill this year to the first soldier from the District to die for his country in the Iraq War, 21-year-old D.C. National Guard Specialist Daryl Dent, and to the District's first unknown soldier to die after picking up arms to fight for liberation on the promise of no taxation without representation. Although two centuries apart, the first to die in these wars had in common fighting for the vote. Our first residents here fought in the War for Independence. Specialist Dent gave his life ensuring the vote for Iraqi citizens, a right he did not live to get for himself.

Today's bill is the first in the Free and Equal series of bills that I will introduce this session to complete the full roster of citizenship rights for residents of the Nation's capital that the first soldiers were promised and for which today's soldiers continue to give their lives and their service for our country. There can be no doubt that the revolutionaries who invented America's most quoted national slogan did not create a new Nation in order to get the vote, only to turn around and deny the vote to the citizens of their capital.

This bill was passed by the House in the 110th Congress, thanks to Speaker NANCY PELOSI, who has long fought for the rights of D.C. residents and personally insisted that this legislation go forward as a bill of historic importance; Majority Leader STENY HOYER, my long-time regional friend, who has been an especially outspoken champion of this bill; Judiciary Chairman JOHN CONYERS, who gave the bill his priority attention, emblematic of the strong support he has always brought to our rights throughout his long service in Congress; and Chairman HENRY WAXMAN, who as ranking member and then as chair of the Oversight and Government Reform Committee, also was a central figure in ensuring passage; and many others among my colleagues in both Chambers and both parties, who have made special efforts for passage of the D.C. House Voting Rights Act. My special thanks to Tom Davis, my good friend and a strong partner on this bill, who retired at the end of last session. It was Tom's idea to pair the District with Utah after Utah narrowly missed getting a seat following the last census. I will always be grateful to Tom for the unfailing bipartisan spirit that characterized all his work as chair of the Oversight and Government Reform Committee, especially his consistent respect for home rule and for affording me every opportunity to fashion this bill when he was a member of the Republican majority and I was a minority member. I must also thank the two important coalitions of organizations that have led this fight. The Leadership Conference on Civil Rights, whose leader, Wade Henderson, also has been a close advisor throughout the many years of this struggle, and D.C. Vote and its leader, Ilir Zherka, who gave our bill a big quantum leap in strength it never had before through a superior indispensable grassroots organization that was born to lead the successful lobbying strategy here and nationwide and that singlehandedly raised the funds necessary to make D.C.'s struggle a national campaign.

There is every reason to believe that the D.C. bill will finally prevail this year. The bill easily passed in the House in 2007, and now

has an estimated 64 votes in the Senate, considerably more than the 60 needed. The addition of seven Democratic senators, who replaced seven Republican opponents of the bill, together with the eight remaining Republicans who supported the bill, should assure that our bill will have significantly more than the 57 Senate votes it received in 2007. We are equally encouraged that President-elect Barack Obama, who was a co-sponsor of the bill in the Senate, will sign the D.C. House Voting Rights Act when it reaches his desk.

My service in Congress has been defined by the search for ways to get full representation for the city where my family has lived since before the Civil War. That search has been guided by the pursuit of the maximum that was possible, including the two-day debate followed by the first and only vote on statehood more than 10 years ago, the vote I won in the Committee of the Whole during my second term, and the "No Taxation Without Representation" Act for votes in both the House and Senate. Our struggle has always been driven by what was required but we also have insisted on all that was possible, as with the District's first floor vote, the Committee of the Whole vote on some but not all matters on the House floor and the Home Rule Act, the path-breaking bill enacted before I came to Congress that gave the city partial self-government.

The Congress, which has always been divided by regional and parochial concerns, virtually never does all that is required at one time, even granting a vote to American citizens who are second per capita in Federal income taxes paid to support their Government and served in every war, including the war that created our country. However, the people of the District of Columbia have never ceased demanding the full measure of their rights, while insisting on all that is possible for each generation. The people of the Nation's proud capital will never give up until achieving their full rights as American citizens. Today's bill is another big step to achieve full and equal citizenship.

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INTRODUCTION OF DECEPTIVE PRACTICES AND VOTER INTIMIDATION PREVENTION ACT OF 2009

**HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 6, 2009*

Mr. CONYERS. Madam Speaker, today I rise to introduce the Deceptive Practices and Voter Intimidation Prevention Act of 2009. During our elections, including the 2008 election, we have witnessed numerous attempts, some of them successful, to disenfranchise our eligible voters. Deceptive practices and voter intimidation, age-old voter disenfranchisement tactics, continue to keep voters away from the polls today.

The Deceptive Practices and Voter Intimidation Prevention Act is a critical effort in ensuring fairness and integrity in our elections. It is a direct response to the fraudulent tactics used to undermine our elections. Every eligible voter should be able to vote free of intimidation, harassment, and harm.

Numerous accounts indicate that deceptive practices have been employed throughout the

country in our elections. Voters have been told to vote on the wrong day. They have been told they could not vote with outstanding parking tickets. Ultimately, they were misled, deceived, and disenfranchised.

During the 2008 election, a phony flyer circulated in Virginia telling Democratic voters that they were to vote on Wednesday instead of Tuesday. During the 2006 midterm, Latino voters in Orange County, California, were threatened with incarceration if they voted and African American voters in Prince George's County, Maryland were given fliers with false endorsements. As evidenced in California and Maryland, our most vulnerable voters—immigrants and minorities—are often those voters that are targeted for deceptive practices.

No matter who is targeted for these tactics, however, such actions are despicable and those responsible for them must be held accountable. This country's long history of voter suppression must end now. We must protect the right to vote for all of our citizens and that is what this legislation will enable us to do.

Under this legislation, those that engage in deceptive practices and voter intimidation will be held accountable. Deceptive electioneering practices are clearly defined and prohibited so there is no confusion as to the rights and protections afforded voters.

Additionally, the Federal Government will be held responsible for protecting and advancing the right to vote. The Attorney General and the Department of Justice are required to combat and counteract deceptive practices. These measures will ensure that voters are not left to fend for themselves when their right to vote is threatened.

If we allow deceptive practices and other such behavior to continue, we jeopardize the very core of our democracy, the right to vote. I ask that my colleagues in the Congress stand with me in support of this legislation, so that we may begin eliminating barriers to the polls.

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INTRODUCTION OF THE VOTING OPPORTUNITY AND TECHNOLOGY ENHANCEMENT RIGHTS (VOTER) ACT OF 2009

**HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 6, 2009*

Mr. CONYERS. Madam Speaker, today I rise to introduce the Voting Opportunity and Technology Enhancement Rights or VOTER Act of 2009. I introduce this legislation, more than 200 years after the founding of our democracy, because we have yet to realize a government that is truly representative of the principle, "of the people, by the people." Not until every eligible voter has the opportunity to cast a ballot and have that ballot counted, will we have a proper democracy.

Though the 2008 Election did not present the widespread irregularities and improprieties that were witnessed during the 2000 and 2004 Elections, it was still an election in which voter disenfranchisement was attempted and accomplished. Voters' names are still missing from voter rolls. Voter harassment and intimidation continues.

In fact, over the years, the methods that are used to disenfranchise voters have just be-

come more contemporary and sophisticated as evidenced during the 2008 Election. For example, in my home State of Michigan, in the midst of the current subprime mortgage crisis, a strategy to challenge a voter's eligibility based on home foreclosure status was devised. In Virginia, a flyer telling Democrats to vote on Wednesday November 5, 2008, circulated.

Anything short of a perfect election system is unacceptable. I have introduced VOTER so that we may work towards a more perfect system, one that reflects legitimacy, integrity, and inclusivity. VOTER will protect and expand voting rights in Federal elections, as well as ensure the proper administration of Federal elections.

VOTER will:

- (1) provide for a uniform Federal write-in absentee ballot;
- (2) require States to provide for a verified audit trail;
- (3) count provisional ballots cast in the proper State;
- (4) properly allocate voting machines and poll workers;
- (5) provide for election day voter registration;
- (6) protect against improper purging of registration lists;
- (7) mandate early voting;
- (8) require verification and audit ability for punch cards;
- (9) simplify voter registration requirements;
- (10) allow voter identification by written affidavit;
- (11) provide for a study of nonpartisan election boards;
- (12) strengthen the EAC with funding and resources;
- (13) require the EAC to (a) enhance training for election officials; (b) require the use of publicly available open source software; (c) provide uniform standards for vote recounts; and (d) prohibit voting machine companies from engaging in political activities;
- (14) prohibit deceptive practices and intimidation;
- (15) prohibit caging and other questionable challenges;
- (16) restore voting rights to former felons; and
- (17) treat Election Day as a federal holiday.

Some of these initiatives have already been implemented by States, the success of which was observed during the 2008 Election. There are 32 States that currently provide early voting, including Florida, a State that witnessed over one million voters turn out to the polls the weekend before the election. There are also 28 States that currently provide no-excuse absentee voting.

Such practices were critical to managing an unprecedented voter turnout. More than 130 million people turned out to vote in the 2008 Election, the highest turnout in any presidential election. With this many longtime and new voters engaged in the 2008 election process, I suspect that voter participation will only increase in 2012.

As such, we must pledge to fight for election reform in this Congress. The right to vote and to have that vote counted is one of our democracy's most fundamental principles. It is with VOTER that I intend to protect this fundamental principle, and I ask that my colleagues in this Congress join me in this fight for fair and just elections.

HONORING THE LIFE AND SERVICE  
OF ANDY ANDERSON

**HON. RICK LARSEN**

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 7, 2009*

Mr. LARSEN of Washington. Madam Speaker, Andy Anderson's passing is a tragic loss for Washington state, Whatcom County and for me personally. My thoughts and prayers are with Andy's loved ones during this difficult time.

Andy's commitment to public service is legendary and his contributions to Washington state have been many and varied.

While serving as District Manager for Congressman Al Swift, Andy was instrumental in creating the PACE (now NEXUS) lane for frequent travelers between the United States and Canada. Andy's efforts to expand trade and reduce wait times helped thousands of families and businesses on both sides of the border.

After I was elected to Congress in 2000, I asked Andy to come out of retirement to join my team. For 3 years, he served as director of my Bellingham office, representing me in Whatcom County.

I am honored to have worked with Andy Anderson. He was a true friend and a tireless advocate for my constituents. He was always available to answer a question, investigate and solve a problem and look for new ways to make life a little easier for the people he served.

Andy will be missed, but his contributions to our community, our State and our country will be felt for many decades to come.

HONORING THE 2008 MYRTLE  
BEACH HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL  
TEAM

**HON. HENRY E. BROWN, JR.**

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 7, 2009*

Mr. BROWN of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, please permit me to take this opportunity to extend my personal congratulations to the 2008 Myrtle Beach High School Football Team. By beating the Chester Cyclones in "Death Valley" at Clemson University, the "Seahawks" led by Coach Scott Earley returned the Class AAA State Football Championship Trophy to Myrtle Beach after a hiatus of 24 years. This outstanding victory exemplifies the drive, ambition and teamwork of these young men.

CONGRATULATING MR. CLARENCE  
E. FAULK, JR., ON THE OCCA-  
SION OF HIS 100TH BIRTHDAY

**HON. RODNEY ALEXANDER**

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 7, 2009*

Mr. ALEXANDER. Madam Speaker, it is with great pride and pleasure that I rise to honor Mr. Clarence E. Faulk, Jr., on the occasion of his 100th birthday.

Mr. Faulk was born on January 9, 1909 in West Monroe, LA to Clarence E. Faulk, Sr. and Josephine McClendon Faulk.

He married Louise Benson Page on July 8, 1931 and from this union three children were born. In addition, Mr. Faulk is the proud and loving grandfather of 10 grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren.

Mr. Faulk was the publisher of the Ruston Daily Leader from 1931 to 1962, the owner of radio station KRUS from 1947 to 1968, and the owner of Westside Self Storage from 1980 to present.

Moreover, Mr. Faulk and his late beloved wife owned 10 rental houses, one 16-unit apartment house, and eight commercial buildings in Ruston, LA.

Mr. Faulk is a friend to many, and is deemed a gracious and hardworking person to all who have had the privilege of making his acquaintance.

I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Mr. Clarence Faulk on this truly significant birthday.

**RULES OF THE HOUSE**

SPEECH OF

**HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 6, 2009*

Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas. Madam Speaker, let me congratulate you for your reelection as Speaker of the House. It is an honor that you have served with great distinction and verve. I look forward to more of your continued leadership in the 111th Congress.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 5, Adopting the rules for the One Hundred Eleventh Congress. The House Rules Package provides commonsense reforms that will enable Congress to work more efficiently for America.

In the 110th Congress, Democrats put forth critical measures to restore integrity and accountability to the House. These reforms were the most sweeping ethics and lobbying reforms since Watergate and has changed the way Congress does business in Washington. The reforms adopted by the 110th Congress included banning gifts from lobbyists, prohibiting the use of corporate jets, mandating ethics training for all House employees, establishing a new, independent Office of Congressional Ethics, and ensuring transparency for budget earmarks by requiring the full disclosure of earmarks in all bills and conference reports.

The Rule Package for the 111th Congress builds upon these reforms to further strengthen the integrity of Congress. Key provisions include closing the loophole regarding "lame-duck" Members negotiating post-Congressional employment, codifying additional earmark reforms adopted in mid-term in the 110th Congress, continuing the Office of Congressional Ethics, maintaining strong PAYGO rules, and improving Congress's effectiveness by removing an abusive practice where popular measures are killed through unrelated, "gotcha" amendments on motions to recommit.

On this last point, noted Congressional scholar Norm Ornstein pointed out in the Roll Call, August 13, 2007, "Using 'promptly' . . .

is a subterfuge, a way to kill bills, and reflects a desire not to legislate but embarrass vulnerable majority Members through a "gotcha" process. The Rules Package protects the minority and still preserves its ability to recommit. Specifically, the minority can offer a motion to recommit "forthwith," where the GOP amendment is immediately voted upon and, if adopted, is added to the bill. Additionally, the minority can offer a straight motion to recommit the bill to committee (in which case the vote occurs on the merits of the bill itself).

Mr. Speaker, the Rules Package removes term limits for Committee Chairmen from House Rules. Instead, each party should determine its own rules on the tenure of Committee Chairs and/or Ranking Members—and they should be reflected in Democratic Caucus Rules and Republican Conference Rules. In practice, term limits have resulted in the creation of a "pay-to-play" system, where the chief criterion for being selected as a new Chair has in many instances been a Member's fundraising prowess. This had the effect of focusing upon fundraising and undermining the integrity of Congress and the legislative process.

Lastly, I am pleased that the Select Committee on Energy Independence and Global Warming, the Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission, and the House Democracy Assistance Commission will be continued. These entities have done tremendous work.

I urge my colleagues to support the Rules Package. I believe this package restores integrity and accountability.

RECOGNIZING RICHARD RIEDEL OF  
SPRING HILL, FLORIDA

**HON. GINNY BROWN-WAITE**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 7, 2009*

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Richard Riedel of Hernando County, Florida. Richard will do something later this year that all of us strive to do, but that very few of us will ever accomplish, celebrate his 100th birthday.

Richard was born February 1, 1909 in Sturbridge, Massachusetts. Richard's favorite childhood memories include receiving his first bicycle and robbing his sisters' piggy banks to buy penny candy.

During his youth, Richard attended Sturbridge Public and Vocational School, and then went on to serve as a sergeant in the United States Air Force. Eventually moving to Florida, Richard started working at Linen Company in St. Petersburg, Florida, eventually working his way up from a driver to the vice president of the company, an accomplishment of which he is very proud.

Throughout his life, Richard married twice, but had no children. His first wife Lucille passed away in 1981 and his second wife Ann passed away in 2006. He has fond memories of sailing into New York harbor and seeing the Statue of Liberty and the tug's radio playing "Sentimental Journey."

Richard came to Hernando County in 1984 looking for a retirement community where he could keep his dog. Today he enjoys living in the Timber Pines community where he is far away from the congestion of Pinellas County.

Richard is quite the everyday comedian, telling friends and neighbors that breathing gives him the most pleasure. If he had his life to do over again, Richard said he would get more education, and his advice to young people today is to always do things in moderation and be conservative.

Madam Speaker, I ask that you join me in honoring Richard Riedel for reaching his 100th birthday. I hope we all have the good fortune to live as long as him.

“THE PATERSON GREAT FALLS NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK ACT”

**HON. BILL PASCRELL, JR.**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 7, 2009

Mr. PASCRELL. Madam Speaker, it is my pleasure today to introduce the “Paterson Great Falls National Historical Park Act” as my first act in the 111th Congress. This bipartisan legislation was approved by the House in October 2007, and would designate a National Park at the majestic Great Falls in Paterson, NJ. I urge my colleagues to pass this legislation as soon as possible.

Fifteen miles west of New York City, the Great Falls was the second largest waterfall in colonial America. No other natural wonder in America has played such an important role in our nation’s historic quest for freedom and prosperity. At the Great Falls, Alexander Hamilton conceived and implemented a plan to harness the force of water to power the new industries that would secure our economic independence.

Hamilton told Congress and the American people that at the Great Falls he would begin implementation of his ambitious strategy to transform a rural agrarian society dependent upon slavery into a modern economy based upon freedom. True to Hamilton’s vision, Paterson became a great manufacturing city, producing the Colt revolver, the first submarine, the aircraft engine for the first trans-Atlantic flight, more locomotives than any city in the Nation, and more silk than any city in the world.

New Jersey’s Great Falls is the only National Historic District that includes both a National Natural Resource and a National Historic Landmark. In a special Bicentennial speech in Paterson with the spectacular natural beauty of the Great Falls in the background, the late President Gerald R. Ford said, “We can see the Great Falls as a symbol of the industrial might which helps to make America the most powerful Nation in the world.”

Preeminent Hamilton biographers, an esteemed former Smithsonian Institution curator, the former chief of the National Park Service Historic American Engineering Record, and distinguished professors at Yale, Princeton, Harvard, NYU, Brown and other universities have filed letters with the National Park Service strongly recommending a National Historical Park for the Great Falls Historic District. Editorial boards, Federal, State, and local officials and community groups have also endorsed the campaign to award a National Park Service designation to the Falls.

Scholars have concluded that Pierre L’Enfant’s innovative water power system in

Paterson, and many factories built later, constitute the finest remaining collection of engineering and architectural structures representing each stage of America’s progress from a weak agrarian society to a leader in the global economy. It is a little known fact that L’Enfant was hired by Hamilton to create Paterson as the sister city to Washington, DC, having completed his plan of Washington only months before arriving in Paterson.

Madam Speaker, Congress must act now to pass this vital piece of legislation, so that we may fully recognize these cultural and historic landmarks that have played such a seminal role in America’s history.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. LUIS V. GUTIERREZ**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 7, 2009

Mr. GUTIERREZ. Madam Speaker, I was unavoidably absent from this Chamber today. I would like the record to show that, had I been present, I would have voted “yea” on rollcall votes 1 and 4; “nay” on rollcall vote 3; and for Rep. NANCY PELOSI (CA–08) on rollcall vote 2 for the election of the Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives.

ISRAEL’S MILITARY ACTION IN GAZA

**HON. JERRY F. COSTELLO**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 7, 2009

Mr. COSTELLO. Madam Speaker, for the past several years, Israelis living near Gaza have endured a continual state of fear due to the thousands of rocket attacks launched from there by Hamas. When the six-month cease fire between Hamas and Israel recently ended, Hamas responded almost immediately by firing more than 70 missiles at civilian targets within Israel. On December 27th, Israel, in an act of self defense, struck at Hamas targets in Gaza in response to these continued attacks, and I want to express my strong support for Israel’s right of self-defense.

Israel has taken meaningful steps in recent years to push the peace process forward, including unilaterally withdrawing from Gaza in 2005. Unfortunately, Hamas has not met Israel’s efforts towards a peaceful coexistence, and has instead increased military operations against its neighbor and continues to deny Israel’s right to exist.

These unfortunate developments are tragic, but have been precipitated by Hamas’ aggression. Hamas must stop the rocket attacks and all parties in the region need to commit to renewing efforts at peace. The U.S. should remain involved in the peace process and I will continue to work with my colleagues in Congress towards this goal.

THE INTRODUCTION OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA HOUSE VOTING RIGHTS ACT OF 2009

**HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON**

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 7, 2009

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, today I am introducing, I believe for the last time, the District of Columbia House Voting Rights Act, simultaneously with our Senate partners, Senators JOE LIEBERMAN and ORIN HATCH. The bill we introduce today also will add two permanent House seats, the first increase in 96 years. It therefore carries a triple bonus: the first vote for the District of Columbia after 212 years, an additional seat for Utah, and two new permanent seats for the House of Representatives itself. The citizens of the District of Columbia are deeply grateful for the persistent partnership and a bipartisan dedication that Senator LIEBERMAN and Senator HATCH continue to bring to this bill, and for the continued support of Utah Governor Jon Huntsman.

Because of the importance to the city of achieving the vote after more than two centuries, the D.C. Voting Rights Act is my first bill of the 111th Congress. This year we introduce the bill as members of the armed services from the District of Columbia are again engaged in war abroad. In gratitude for the service of our residents serving today, and of those who have served since our country was founded, I dedicate the bill this year to the first soldier from the District to die for his country in the Iraq War, 21-year-old D.C. National Guard Specialist, Daryl Dent, and to the District’s first unknown soldier to die after he picked up arms to fight for liberation on the promise of taxation without representation. Although two centuries apart, the first to die in these wars had in common fighting for the vote. Our first residents here fought in the War for Independence. Specialist Dent gave his life ensuring the vote for Iraqi citizens, a right he did not live to get for himself.

Today’s bill is the first in the Free and Equal series of bills that I will introduce this session to complete the full roster of citizenship rights the residents of the Nation’s capital, that the first soldiers were promised and for which today’s soldiers continue to give their lives. There can be no doubt that the revolutionaries who invented America’s most quoted national slogan did not create a new nation in order to get the vote, only to turn around and deny the vote to the citizens of their capital.

This bill was passed by the House in the 110th Congress, thanks to Speaker NANCY PELOSI who has long fought for the rights of D.C. residents and personally insisted that this legislation go forward as a bill of historic importance, Majority Leader STENY HOYER, my long-time regional friend, who has been an especially outspoken champion of this bill; Judiciary Chairman JOHN CONYERS, who gave the bill his priority attention, emblematic of the strong support he always has brought to our rights throughout his long service in Congress; and Chairman HENRY WAXMAN, who as ranking member and then as chair of the Oversight and Government Reform committee, also was a central figure in ensuring passage; and many others among my colleagues in both chambers and both parties, who have made special efforts for passage of the D.C. House

Voting Rights Act. My special thanks to Tom Davis, my good friend and strong partner on this bill, who retired at the end of last session. It was Tom's idea to pair the District with Utah after Utah narrowly missed getting a seat following the last census. I will always be grateful to Tom for the unfailing bipartisan spirit that characterized all his work as chair of the Oversight and Government Reform committee, especially his consistent respect for home rule and for affording me every opportunity to fashion this bill when he was in the Republican majority and I was a minority member. I must also thank the two important coalitions of organizations that have led this fight, the Leadership Conference on Civil Rights, whose leader, Wade Henderson also has been a close advisor throughout the many years of this struggle, and D.C. Vote, and its leader Ilir Zherka, who gave our bill indispensable strength through a superior grassroots organization that led the successful lobbying strategy here and nationwide and singlehandedly raised the funds necessary to take D.C.'s struggle national.

There is every reason to believe that the D.C. bill will finally prevail this year. The bill easily passed in the House in 2007, and now has an estimated 64 votes in the Senate, considerably more than the 60 needed. The addition of seven Democratic senators, who replaced seven Republican opponents of the bill, together with the eight remaining Republicans who supported the bill, should assure that the bill will have significantly more than the 57 Senate votes it received in 2007. We are equally encouraged that President-elect Barack Obama, who was a co-sponsor of the bill in the Senate, will sign the D.C. House Voting Rights Act when it reaches his desk.

My service in Congress has been defined by the search for a way to get full representation for the city where my family has lived since before the Civil War. That search has been guided by the pursuit of the maximum possible, including the two-day debate followed by a vote on statehood more than 10 years ago, the vote I won in the Committee of the Whole during my second term, and the "No Taxation Without Representation" Act for votes both in the House and Senate. The struggle has been driven always by what was required but also by what was possible, as with the Committee of the Whole vote on some but not all matters on the House floor and the Home Rule Act, the path-breaking enacted before I came to Congress that gave the city partial self-government.

The Congress which has always been divided by regional and parochial concerns, never does what is clearly right, even granting a vote to American citizens who are second per capita in federal income taxes paid to support their government and have served in every war, including the war that created our country driven by the slogan of "No Taxation without Representation." However, the people of the District of Columbia have never ceased demanding the full measure of their rights, while insisting on all that is possible for each generation. The people of the nation's proud capital will never give up on our full rights as American citizens.

TRIBUTE TO ROBERT "RED"  
McKEON

**HON. JOE COURTNEY**

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 7, 2009*

Mr. COURTNEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Robert "Red" McKeon on being inducted into the Connecticut Firefighters Hall of Fame. There is perhaps no one more worthy of such an honor than Red.

Red has been a leader in his community for over 60 years. In 1944, Red joined the Occum, Connecticut Volunteer Fire Department. Red served in various roles within the department before becoming fire chief in 1960, a position he held for 34 years. Red was not only an active and committed fireman, but he was also a pioneer. During Red's tenure, he ensured that Occum's department led the way in improving the life saving services which they provide to the people of eastern Connecticut. Occum was the first department in the state of Connecticut to employ two-way radio communication in fire trucks and other emergency service vehicles. Occum was also the first department that employed a computer to develop the skills of its first responders.

In 1970, Red founded the Occum volunteer ambulance service to provide the residents of Occum access to state-of-the-art emergency services. Red has also been a pioneer in taking care of his fellow first responders. Red led the charge for establishing a pension system for volunteer firefighters. Despite putting their lives in on the line every day, volunteer firefighters do not receive a pension in recognition of their service. Red worked with State and local leaders in Connecticut to establish a program that allows local communities like Occum to establish retirement programs for volunteer firefighters.

Red has demonstrated his commitment to our first responders at the State, national and even international levels. After serving in the Connecticut State Firemen's Association since 1944, he was elected State President by his fellow firemen in 1977 and 1978.

In 1991, Red became the national chairman of the National Volunteer Fire Council, the largest volunteer firefighter organization in the country, and served in the post until 1994. His leadership within that organization and at home in Connecticut received further recognition when the Council chose him as the National Firefighter of the Year in October 1999. Along with this award, Red was presented with a certificate for \$2000 from Scott Health and Safety. In keeping with his unselfish nature, Red announced that he would donate the proceeds to the North Carolina Relief Fund to help fire departments that were devastated by Hurricane Floyd.

Red has also been generous enough to share his talents and expertise with the world. Red served as a representative for the United States at the World Federation of Firefighters meetings in Argentina, Denmark, Indonesia and Japan and is an active member of the International Society of Fire Service Instructors.

After a lifetime of service to his community and his fellow first responders it should come as no surprise that Red would be chosen as an inductee to the Connecticut Firefighters' Hall of Fame. This latest recognition is one

that is well deserved, and I applaud my friend Red for receiving this prestigious award. We in eastern Connecticut are lucky to have such a fine public servant.

IN HONOR OF CATHERINE "LENA"  
ZABARA DICHELE

**HON. CHRISTOPHER S. MURPHY**

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 7, 2009*

Mr. MURPHY of Connecticut. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the 100th birthday of Lena Dichele, a living example of the hard work and spirit that we cherish as Americans. Born on January 1, 1909, Lena immigrated to the United States at age 7. Her story began at Ellis Island, where so many other American stories began. Although Lena stopped her formal education in the 8th grade to help her family in trying economic times, she went on to become a life-long educator.

At the age of 14, Lena learned to sew at the Waterbury Connecticut Girls' Club, where she transformed this skill into her life's passion. Lena went on to become a sewing instructor at the Girls Club and an informal authority on all things sewing at Tops Department Store in Waterbury. She was also familiar enough with electric sewing machines to assist customers and perform repairs. Lena began sharing her love of sewing with seniors throughout Waterbury by teaching at the Pearl Street Neighborhood Center, the Palladino Center and the Mattatuck Senior Center, where she ended her 83 year career in 2006 at the age of 97.

On New Year's Day, Lena's family gathered to celebrate her 100th birthday. But more appropriately, they celebrated the impact that she has had on her family, her friends, and her community, during those 100 years. Lena's story is a truly American story, and I am honored to represent her in Congress, and be able to congratulate her today, here on the floor of the United States House of Representatives, on this milestone.

HONORING HOSTELLING INTERNATIONAL-USA ON THEIR 75TH ANNIVERSARY

**HON. DAVID WU**

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 7, 2009*

Mr. WU. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Hostelling International-USA on their 75th anniversary. Since 1934, Hostelling International-USA has encouraged cultural interaction among its guests by providing affordable overnight accommodations for domestic and international travelers.

In my home state of Oregon, Hostelling International-USA operates three facilities, which together welcome more than 35,000 visitors each year.

J.R.R. Tolkien once wrote: "Not all those who wander are lost." Travel reminds us of the unity in our diverse world, and I believe that the more we interact with others, the more we can understand of ourselves.

I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Hostelling International-USA on this important occasion.

HONORING THE WORK OF CAROL  
J. FRIEDMAN

**HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 7, 2009*

Ms. WOOLSEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate Carol J. Friedman of Point Reyes Station, California. Carol is retiring as Executive Director of the Dance Palace Community Center after 37 years at the helm. From the founding of the organization in 1971 to the present, she has been the force that has made the Dance Palace an integral part of the West Marin community.

Born and raised in Rye, New York, Carol was a dancer from her youngest days, whether it was the Nutcracker Suite in her living room or formal study with a number of modern dance teachers. She matriculated at Radcliff College but took time off in 1971 after two years as dance was not part of the Harvard curriculum. She came to the Bay Area and connected with fellow dancers who had rented a perfect dance space with apartments above in a building in Point Reyes that had previously housed the Palace Market. As described by Carol, "So we moved into the Dance Palace—7 of us—dancers, musicians, hippies, idealists, and all completely naive about the community and about going about business."

From those early beginnings, the Dance Palace evolved into a multi-use facility with input and ideas from all segments of the community and Carol as the guide. She made the ideas into reality, whether it took building a whole new building, constantly securing funding, running day-to-day operations, programming events, reaching out to new people, or plunging toilets. When she saw a need in the community, she worked to fill it. And she did it all with her own personal warmth, style, and creativity.

Today the Dance Palace Community Center has an annual budget of \$475,000, presents 100 special events a year, offers 30 classes weekly, has 200 regular volunteers, and serves 27,000 people of all ages annually—providing a wide variety of services including a summer day camp, senior meals program, teen theater activities, after-school classes for kids, English as a Second Language instruction, and weekend performances and concerts. Carol personally participated in many of these activities, claiming, for example, "I am personally responsible for introducing the ever-popular Bubble Wrap Day plus the Russian hand jive dance to generations of Dance Palace Campers."

Carol expanded the Dance Palace's role by actively promoting collaboration among other local and County-wide organizations. She herself became an expert on non-profit and community work and gave unstintingly of her time and knowledge wherever it was needed.

Along the way, Carol had two sons, Abraham and Eli, whom she raised as a single mother. The Dance Palace was their second home, and they were early performers in community productions. Carol continues to dance and teach dancing as well as sing, and has volunteered in many capacities including as an elephant seal docent and hospice bereavement supporter. She also stars in a weekly

soccer pickup game where she has evolved into a formidable talent. Clearly, she will not be sitting still after retiring from her Dance Palace duties.

Madam Speaker, Carol Friedman will be missed at the helm of the Dance Palace Community Center but will continue to be involved in her community, as long as it doesn't interfere with her soccer schedule. As the heart and soul of the Center for so many years, Carol's spirit will shine at the Dance Palace Community Center for generations to come.

117TH ANNIVERSARY OF ELLIS  
ISLAND

**HON. ALBIO SIRE**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 7, 2009*

Mr. SIRE. Madam Speaker, today I rise to recognize the 117th anniversary of the opening of Ellis Island. Originally opened on January 1, 1892, the island remains a part of American history and our culture. Together with the Statue of Liberty, these places represent what it means to be an American.

During the attacks of September 11, 2001 these symbols stood as a reminder and a warning that we will prevail against those who wish us harm. So great are these symbols that visitors from here and abroad visit them every day. Yet the Statue of Liberty crown is still closed to visitors. I am happy that both President-Elect Obama and Interior Secretary Designate Salazar support fully opening up the crown.

I am optimistic that we will again allow Americans and foreign visitors to peer out from the crown and to think about what it means to be an American.

IN RECOGNITION OF STANLEY  
REED

**HON. MIKE ROSS**

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 7, 2009*

Mr. ROSS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Stanley Reed of Marianna, Arkansas, and his outstanding service to the state of Arkansas as outgoing president of the Arkansas Farm Bureau and outgoing chairman of the University of Arkansas Board of Trustees.

I have had the distinct honor and privilege of knowing Stanley for many years and his dedication to the citizens of Arkansas is second to none. A third-generation cotton farmer from Marianna, he holds a bachelor's degree in agricultural engineering and a law degree from the University of Arkansas, though his affection for the land eventually led him back to the farm.

Stanley is one of the greatest allies to and advocates for Arkansas farmers and farm families. He has served as president of Arkansas Farm Bureau for 5 years, and has been a member of the organization's state board for more than 20 years, including stints as vice president and secretary-treasurer. He also serves as a member of the Arkansas Farm Bureau Federation's board of directors. Due to his determination to improve Arkansas agri-

culture, Stanley has participated in numerous foreign trade missions including trips to Mexico, Turkey, Taiwan, Korea, Japan and Cuba.

Of course, Stanley's commitment to Arkansas does not end with farming. Stanley just completed a 10-year term on the University of Arkansas Board of Trustees, where he served as chairman for 2 years. His service on this distinguished panel earned him the respect and admiration of all who came into contact with him throughout his tenure. Stanley will forever be remembered for his selfless service to improve secondary education opportunities for countless Arkansans. In addition to these roles, Stanley also serves on the board of directors for Baptist Health and as a board member of Pine Bluff-based Simmons First National Bank.

Amidst all of these professional successes, anyone who knows Stanley understands that his most treasured role in life is that of a husband to Charlene, father to Haley Davis, Nathan and Anna, and grandfather to three grandchildren. Carrying on in true Reed family tradition, Stanley's son Nathan continues to work with him on the family farm.

Stanley Reed will long be considered one of Arkansas's finest, and a best friend and advocate for agriculture. It is with great pride that I rise today to recognize Stanley Reed for a lifetime of accomplishments, and for his much-admired service to one of his greatest passions—farming.

TRIBUTE ON THE RETIREMENT OF  
MASTER SERGEANT ROBERT C.  
WILKINS FROM THE UNITED  
STATES AIR FORCE

**HON. JOHN S. TANNER**

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 7, 2009*

Mr. TANNER. Madam Speaker, on the occasion of his retirement from the United States Air Force, I want to personally take this opportunity to honor my dear friend, MSgt Robert C. Wilkins for his 26 years of dedicated service to our country. In his most recent assignment, he served as the Superintendent, Operations, Air Operations Division, Office of the Legislative Liaison, Secretary of the Air Force, Washington, DC.

A superior leader, Master Sergeant Wilkins assisted me and members of the U.S. delegation to the NATO Parliamentary Assembly during trips to France, Spain, Italy, Belgium, Macedonia, Albania, Croatia, Turkey, Germany and the Netherlands. He performed magnificently, upholding the highest standards of professional conduct and through his efficient planning, these trips were a complete success.

Madam Speaker, I respectfully request my distinguished colleagues join me in expressing our sincere appreciation to Master Sergeant Wilkins for his extraordinary service to the United States Air Force and our great Nation. On behalf of members serving on the U.S. NATO Parliamentary Assembly delegation, I say we will miss his expertise and positive attitude, but most importantly, we will miss his friendship.

Betty Ann and I wish Rob, his wife, Amy and son, Robert, the very best as they face new and exciting challenges in the coming years.

## RULES OF THE HOUSE

SPEECH OF

**HON. DENNIS A. CARDOZA**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 6, 2009*

Mr. CARDOZA. Mr. Speaker, at the beginning of the 110th Congress, the new Democratic majority reinstated the proven PAYGO rules that were abandoned by President Bush and the then-Republican Congress as an important first step in ending reckless spending and getting our country back on track fiscally.

I am proud to say that the House rules package for the 111th Congress maintains the Democratic commitment that government should live within its means—just as every family across America must live within its own budget.

While the House of Representatives consistently adheres to the PAYGO rules, the fact remains that these are tough times for our country economically and financially.

Millions of American families' jobs and livelihoods are at risk and we have the responsibility to react in a timely and efficient manner.

As such, Blue Dogs have worked to include an emergency exception to the House PAYGO rules, similar to the emergency provisions used throughout the 1990s, so that Congress has the flexibility it needs to respond to extraordinary circumstances.

Let me be clear: this is not just simply a way around PAYGO. This can only be used in the event of true, defined emergencies such as war, a response to an act of terrorism, a natural disaster, or even the current economic crisis.

What is profoundly difficult in all this is that just 8 years ago, President Bush inherited—and squandered—a projected \$5.6 trillion surplus from President Clinton.

Had President Bush not abandoned the Blue Dog principles of fiscal responsibility that we have long preached, the projected \$5.6 trillion dollar surplus would have been available for us to respond to the economic crisis in a swift and effective manner, without having to ask foreign nations such as China, Saudi Arabia, and Iran to pay our bills.

In spite of our Nation's current ailments, one thing is for certain. PAYGO is and must continue to be our guiding principle. We should not be in the economic and fiscal situation that we are today, and it's high time we start doing the right thing by paying for what this country buys.

RECOGNIZING THE UBLY HIGH SCHOOL BEARCATS 2008 FOOTBALL SEASON

**HON. CANDICE S. MILLER**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 7, 2009*

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan. Madam Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge the inspiring and truly remarkable football season displayed both on and off the field by the Uby High School Bearcats from Huron County.

The Bearcats took an undefeated record of 13 wins and 0 losses in to the Division 7 State Championship at Ford Field in Detroit against

perennial powerhouse Traverse City St. Francis. Although at the end of the contest St. Francis had prevailed on the scoreboard, Uby can stand proud with their heads held high. I think former Green Bay Packers Coach Vince Lombardi said it best, "We didn't lose the game; we just ran out of time."

The 2008 season was comprised of more than just film sessions, chalk talks and wind sprints but something beyond the parameters of just football. Sadly in early October, the entire Uby community experienced a tremendous loss when former teammate and classmate, David Ostensi, passed away from cancer at age 17. David was diagnosed while a member of the JV team but courageously continued his support of the football team despite his ailing physical condition. Less than 2 weeks before his passing, David was recognized during a special ceremony at the homecoming game and even took pictures with the homecoming court proudly wearing his #44 black and orange jersey.

This small rural town sought comfort in each other, rallied together as family and used football as a form of therapy to ease the pain of this devastating loss. To commemorate his life, each player wore David's name on his helmet and broke each huddle saying his name.

Led by Head Coach Bill Sweeny, these 24 young men conveyed the true meaning of the human spirit, in what was a historic run to the school's first finals appearance, and that through tragedy you can find triumph.

When you reflect upon the entire season, everyone can agree that these young men are "real" champions and they should be proud of all their accomplishments. They persevered when confronted with adversity and matured quickly beyond their years. They learned that life is not always fair but instead of giving up they stepped up to meet each challenge head-on and will forever have those experiences to help them grow in the future.

Thank you to the 2008 Uby Football Team for providing coaches, school officials, students, and parents with an outstanding season. I commend you all! Way to go Bearcats.

“BRIAN ROTHSCHILD: MAN OF THE YEAR”

**HON. BARNEY FRANK**

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 7, 2009*

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Madam Speaker, after the congressional redistricting of 1992 and the subsequent election, I won the great responsibility and challenge of representing America's most prosperous fishing port—the City of New Bedford and the Town of Fairhaven. Over these past sixteen years I have worked very hard in conjunction with the people in the fishing industry to help create the conditions in which they can do their work which is so important not just to the region in which they are located, but to the entire country. As we stress the importance of people eating in a healthier manner, the role of seafood becomes all the more important, and preserving the ability of people in the fishing industry to perform this service they do for the rest of us is a major part of my job.

In some cases, our advocacy can be fairly easy, as a matter of principle. But there are

also cases in which mastering a very complex body of data is essential if we are to do our job right. We are of course in the Congress assisted in doing that by the extremely talented and dedicated people we are lucky enough to have on our staffs, but we are also in need of help from outside. In the case of the fishing industry, no individual during my career has been as important as Dr. Brian Rothschild of the University of Massachusetts Dartmouth.

Brian Rothschild combines in an extraordinary degree technical expertise, practical knowledge, political savvy, and an ability to understand all viewpoints and articulate his own that makes him an enormous asset to those concerned with the fishing industry. He is a model of how public policy discussions should be conducted. Not surprisingly, the New Bedford Standard Times recently named him their South Coast Man of the Year, an honor that is beyond dispute an extremely well deserved one.

Madam Speaker, I ask that the article from the New Bedford Standard Times chronicling the extraordinary work of Dr. Rothschild and his importance to the fishing industry be printed here, since this is an industry which is greatly impacted by our activity and about which the Members should know a great deal.

[From South Coast Today, Jan. 1, 2009]

## A BIG FISH IN MARINE SCIENCE

Teacher, fisherman, furniture maker, marine scientist—there isn't much that University of Massachusetts Dartmouth professor Brian Rothschild can't do and do well.

Luckily for the city of New Bedford, sometime in the 1990s he set his mind on seeking ways to save the local scallop fishery. A little over a decade later, scallops have made the city the biggest fishing port, in terms of dollars worth of seafood caught, in the United States.

Around the same time that Dr. Rothschild, now 74, started studying scallops, he also started building up the faculty and facilities at the UMD Center for Marine Science and Technology (SMAST), making it into one of the nation's quality schools of ocean science. He was dean of the marine school from 1995 through 2006, the school's formative decade, when it first began attracting a world-class faculty.

For his efforts on behalf of the fishermen of New Bedford and the seafood economy to their fisheries, and for his efforts in making UMass Dartmouth a growing center of marine science and research, Brian J. Rothschild is The Standard-Times 2008 SouthCoast Man of the Year.

Nominations for the award came from the community and members of the newspaper staff. Recipients were selected by a newsroom committee.

"He's really made a big difference in the fishing industry in New Bedford," said Rodney Avila, the owner of two scallop boats and the city's representative to the New England Fisheries Management Council (a coalition of industry, conservation, and government officials that recommends regulations for the region's fisheries).

Dr. Rothschild and UMass Dartmouth professor Kevin Stokesbury developed a system of counting scallops by using an underwater camera to photograph their beds at the bottom of the ocean.

Previously, the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) had estimated scallops by the numbers caught in fishing nets, a method that invariably led to undercounting, Dr. Rothschild said.

Dr. Rothschild and Dr. Stokesbury proved the government conservationists' methods of measuring scallops were wrong.

The underwater camera, in addition to being able to count scallops not caught in nets, was also able to count scallops in ocean areas that federal regulators had closed to scallopers. They found the scallop numbers in the closed areas were also greatly underestimated.

"I've always supported the idea of controlling fishing, but I also support the idea of the best science," Dr. Rothschild said. "What we did was really good science."

Jean MacCormack, the chancellor of UMass Dartmouth, noted the singular nature of Brian Rothschild convincing a federal regulatory agency to change its practices.

"It's pretty unusual," she said, "to develop a methodology that NMFS accepted."

"NMFS was saying there were no scallops and they proved them wrong," Mr. Avila said. "That was one of the main components of the rejuvenation of the scallop industry."

New Bedford Mayor Scott Lang is unqualified in his praise of Brian Rothschild.

"I think he's the difference between the scallop industry prospering, as they have in the last decade, versus being in the same situation as groundfish," he said.

The mayor was referring to the fact that the New Bedford groundfishing industry has suffered from stringent federal fishing regulations.

New Bedford was the nation's busiest port last year, for the ninth year in a row, with 60 million pounds of fresh seafood landed, with a value of \$281 million, principally due to the scallop catch.

Dr. Rothschild stresses that he's a big supporter of conserving fisheries but, because fish live below the surface, they aren't easily measured. He thought that if he could improve the science, he could benefit both the fishery and the fishermen.

"There was some resistance from the fisheries service. And some of the conservation groups thought our estimates were in error, but it's a solid scientific process we went through," he explains.

Dr. Rothschild subscribes to a view of ocean ecology that the fishermen, and their fishing efforts, are themselves an integral part of the ocean ecology of a given area.

"You have to look at a balance between the substantial effects that humans have on the (fish) populations and the productivity of the populations. That's what conservation is in this day and age."

Because fishing species, under certain conditions and to a certain extent, proliferate in the wake of a fishing effort, Dr. Rothschild set out to balance the maximum amount of fishing effort needed to benefit human beings with the maximum amount of fishing effort needed to benefit the population of fish species.

Currently, SMAST is studying counting methods for groundfish (which unlike scallops, move around in the ocean). The objective is to obtain more accurate counts of the groundfish (haddock, cod, yellowtail flounder) in the New England fishery.

Because the federal government's currently accepted methods of counting groundfish counting show the stocks are depressed, NMFS intends to further restrict the fishing effort—which is already a barely profitable industry—next year.

The failure to find a better method for integrating the effects of fishing and groundfish proliferation has had devastating effects on the local industry, Dr. Rothschild said.

"You can see all this happening in New Bedford. The (fish) populations are being managed biologically yet there's a tremendous amount of economic grief," he said. "The societal grief won't be realized until these contemplated cuts (in the fishing effort) take place."

People will be displaced from their jobs and end up on government "welfare," dependent on the taxpayers, he said.

In addition to his professional fields of expertise, Dr. Rothschild is an active advocate for area fisheries and his research on important government and quasi-government boards and commissions. He worked for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration in the 1970s as a senior policy adviser so he well understands how the regulatory bureaucracy works.

Presently, he chairs New Bedford's Ocean and Fisheries Council (an advocacy group for the city's fishing interests), co-directs the Massachusetts Marine Fisheries Institute (a research partnership between UMass Dartmouth and the state Division of Marine Fisheries) and chairs the Scientific and Statistical Committee of the Mid-Atlantic Fisheries Management Council.

The goal is to bring fishing regulations more into line with statistics that better reflect ocean science, including in the economics of the fisheries, he said.

"One measure of performance is overfishing, another is optimal yield (of fish), another is minimal angst among the people that are regulated," he said. "I think we could do a much better job so we need to increase the dialogue with the agency. (That's) a step that Barney Frank and the mayor and I have been involved in."

Congressman Frank, who along with Sens. John Kerry and Edward Kennedy, has long advocated for the city's interests in Washington, said Dr. Rothschild has been very helpful in making the scallop industry more successful.

"The beauty of Brian is that he knows the scene better than anybody else," he said.

Dr. Rothschild's reputation as a scientist has given his studies credibility with the federal government, said Mayor Lang.

A former professor at the state universities of Maryland and Washington, Brian Rothschild is the author of nearly 100 papers and books and is an acknowledged expert in fish population dynamics, biological oceanography, and natural resources policy. Next year, in collaboration with several West Coast fishery scientists, he will publish a book on the future of fisheries science in North America.

Mayor Lang calls him the perfect expert on the Magnusson-Stevenson Act that governs American fisheries.

"He understands how it relates to species and he understands how it relates to human beings," he said.

Dr. MacCormack noted that even though Dr. Rothschild has an international reputation as a scientist, he is completely at home with the fishermen and fishing boat owners on the New Bedford docks.

"When you see him present a paper to academics, he speaks their language, but he can go to the fish auction and speak their language, too," she said.

Boat owner Rodney Avila gave a similar assessment.

"He doesn't talk down to fishermen, he talks with them. That's important," he said.

"He's a good, all-around man," said Mr. Avila.

Brian Rothschild has dug deep into New Bedford in the 13 years he's been at UMass Dartmouth.

He and his wife, Susan, have refurbished one of the long-neglected Victorian houses in the city's West End and he has a studio in the North End where, in his spare time, he builds replicas of 18th century furniture.

He has traded in the sailboat he first came to New Bedford in for a 40-foot "Novi," a recreational fishing boat where he and Susan fish for local fish that make good eating: stripers, fluke and whatever else in local waters that might taste good.

His wife, like himself, loves fishing and ocean studies so it makes for an interesting

crew, he said, the dry sense of humor he's well known for coming through.

Dr. Rothschild said he hopes his New Bedford legacy will be the use of ocean science to continue the revival of the fishing industry, and he hopes that SMAST can continue to build the quality of its faculty so it becomes one of the nation's elite marine science schools.

It may be, however, that Dr. Rothschild's biggest legacy will be tied to the people of New Bedford themselves.

He admits that his survey is unscientific but he says the city has changed since 1995 when he first arrived, sailing his own boat from Maryland to the city, passing Cuttyhunk and then finally coming up a foggy Acushnet River.

"When I moved here, the houses were, in general, in a state of disrepair. The economy looked bleak," he said. "As the economy and the fish auction developed, the community seemed brighter and better furnished and more prosperous."

That's not a bad legacy, for an ocean scientist who sees local fishermen as part of the sea's ecology.

#### INTRODUCTION OF THE MOUNT MCKINLEY NAME ACT

**HON. TIM RYAN**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 7, 2009*

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. Madam Speaker, Representative BETTY SUTTON and I offer the attached bill, on behalf of the now-retired Congressman Ralph Regula (R-OH).

January 29th brings the birthday of President William McKinley, a native son of Niles, Ohio and a true patriot whose presidency was tragically ended by assassination. In order to preserve President McKinley's memory and continue to honor him, it is fitting to retain the name of North America's highest point, Mount McKinley. Reaching an astounding height of 20,320 feet, Mount McKinley honors this prominent figure who was not only a fallen President but also a Union veteran of the Civil War. Mount McKinley has borne the name of our 25th Commander-in-Chief for over 100 years. We must retain this national landmark's name in order to honor the monumental legacy of this great President and patriot.

**GAZA**

**HON. ELLEN O. TAUSCHER**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 7, 2009*

Mrs. TAUSCHER. Madam Speaker, I am observing the violence unfolding in the Middle East with great concern. My constituents, like many across the nation, are horrified by the loss of life that is occurring on top of several decades of strife, and yearn for a solution that would bring stability to the region. I continue to believe that the United States has a central part to play and must return to an active and engaged role as mediator between Israel and the Palestinian people.

The solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict is also a regional one, and it is high time that all countries in the neighborhood play an active role in supporting a two state solution.

The aspirations of the Palestinian people and of their Israeli neighbors will continue to be undermined if Iran and Syria continue to funnel support for terrorist groups who kill innocent civilians and challenge the aspirations of moderates.

Just like we in our country would and have responded to a terrorist attack on our soil, I fully support the right of Israel to defend its people against rockets launched by Hamas. Hamas has fired more than 6,300 rockets and mortars at Israeli population centers since Israel withdrew from Gaza in 2005. No country can endure such actions. Hamas had an opportunity to govern the Gaza strip and work with Israel to meet the needs of the Palestinian people when Israel withdrew from Gaza in August 2005. Instead of renouncing its goal to eliminate the Israeli state and provide true leadership for the Palestinian people, Hamas chose violence and most recently broke the cease-fire which Egypt had brokered.

Fatah in the West Bank and Palestinian moderates have shown the way by growing the economy there. Moderates on both sides will find lasting solutions which must then be actively supported by our new administration, the region and our European allies. Until that time when all parties can return to the negotiating table, I urge Israel to keep its operation focused on its core goal of eliminating the military threat posed by Hamas while protecting the lives of civilians who must be Israel's partners in the future.

RECOGNIZING LUCIUS YOUNG OF  
SPRING HILL, FLORIDA

**HON. GINNY BROWN-WAITE**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 7, 2009*

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Lucius Young of Hernando County, Florida. Lucius will do something later this year that all of us strive to do, but that very few of us will ever accomplish, celebrate his 100th birthday.

Lucius Young was born May 8, 1909 in Martel, Florida. A native Floridian, Lucius attended school at Howard University, Georgetown University and Fessenden Academy. He eventually married Muriel Young and the two did not have any children. While one of his proudest memories is his high school graduation, he remembers when his brother earned the title Professor and he was able to address him as such.

During World War II, Lucius served in the Army Infantry, where he met general Douglas MacArthur and heard him make the statement, "I shall return." He also met President Franklin D. Roosevelt when he became a special representative of the president as a commissioned officer. Lucius said he was also happy to meet Mrs. Roosevelt. Lucius retired from the military as a commissioned officer. In fact, Lucius's proudest moment was when his mother said that he made her proud when he became a commissioned officer.

Lucius moved to Hernando County when he married his wife Muriel. Today Lucius says that just eating, sleeping and reading give him all the pleasures he needs to be content. He likes it here in Hernando County because it's clean and quiet. Lucius' advice for young peo-

ple is to study hard in school including subjects you don't like.

Madam Speaker, I ask that you join me in honoring Lucius Young for reaching his 100th birthday. I hope we all have the good fortune to live as long as him.

INTRODUCING THE CRITICAL  
ELECTION INFRASTRUCTURE  
ACT OF 2008

**HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 7, 2009*

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Critical Election Infrastructure Act of 2009.

This legislation is a necessary and vital investment in our citizens and the future of our democracy. This bill authorizes \$1 billion to states and local governments over the next four years for the acquisition of additional voting systems and equipment, improving training of election administration officials, upgrading existing election equipment, and allocating additional election administration officials to polling places serving greater numbers of voters. This funding is essential to improve efficiency and fairness in the operation of polling places in federal elections.

President Dwight Eisenhower once said, "The future of this republic is in the hands of the American voter." In the 2008 Presidential election, an astounding 130 million people voted and, even more exciting, an unprecedented number of youth and minorities lined up at the polls to participate in the electoral process, many for the first time. While this increased turnout is emblematic of our nation's commitment to our future, in some parts of the country it caused undue difficulties.

For example, throughout South Florida and elsewhere in the country, hundreds of thousands of voters found themselves waiting on interminable lines, sometimes for over five hours. *Five hours!* Forced to stand in the heat and during Florida's famous afternoon thunderstorms with little food and water, voters are to be commended for their civic commitment. But American citizens should not have to face such difficulties when exercising their sacred right to vote.

Elections officials simply did not have enough equipment and trained personnel on the ground to speedily and effectively handle such large numbers of voters. Clearly what is needed is more: more polling booths, more trained workers, more equipment, and more polling locations and facilities to handle increasing numbers of voters.

Madam Speaker, voting should not be a right granted only to those who can stand in line the longest or can go the longest without food or a bathroom break. Voting is the sacred right of all eligible citizens. We have a solemn responsibility to ensure the greatest possible access to exercise that right. Authorizing funding for the necessary equipment and personnel is an essential first step in that process. I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

HONORING RANDALL JOHNSON

**HON. LYNN A. WESTMORELAND**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 7, 2009*

Mr. WESTMORELAND. Madam Speaker, at the end of 2008, a great Georgia lawman turned in his badge to retire after a long, distinguished career.

Randall Johnson worked for Fayette County as sheriff for 32 years. At his retirement, he was one of the longest serving sheriffs in the state of Georgia. But more important, he was one of the most distinguished sheriffs in Georgia.

Sheriff Johnson oversaw the department during three decades of incredible growth. In the 1970s when Johnson first won election to the post, the Fayette Sheriff's Department has less than a dozen employees in a county then considered a rural outpost. By the time he left, the department had transformed into a modern law enforcement operation that protected a large suburban county in the booming metropolitan Atlanta region. Sheriff Johnson acted as a constant, a steady hand and a voice of leadership throughout those times of change.

The sheriff's post fulfilled Johnson's lifelong dream. He said at his graduation from Fayette County High School in 1960 that he was going to be sheriff one day. He got his start in law enforcement working for the state of Georgia, busting moonshine operations along the multitude of Georgia's creeks and streams. As testament to the depth of respect he holds in the community, some of those moonshiners he arrested decades ago showed up at his retirement party to wish him well.

During my two decades in politics, I've seen a lot of politicians come and go. Most are quickly forgotten. It is the rare public official who holds the job for three decades. It is even rarer that one constantly maintains the integrity, dignity and honesty that Sheriff Johnson demonstrated in office.

I'm well aware that, as I enter my third term in the U.S. House of Representatives, I owe a large debt to Sheriff Johnson. I got my start in politics in Fayette County as a state representative. No one in the county back then won office without the express consent of Sheriff Johnson. His support was the Good Housekeeping Seal of Approval for any local campaign. He carried great weight not because he carried the proverbial big stick but because he had earned the people's trust and respect. His loyalty and backing through all these years humbles me.

In Fayette County, "sheriff and -Randall Johnson" are synonymous. When he entered a room, everybody knew the sheriff had arrived—even if he wasn't wearing his uniform. His presence was a statement in itself. The county will sorely miss one of the greatest leaders in its history, but the department that he has built up will carry on, and its continued success will serve as part of Sheriff Johnson's legacy.

On behalf of the people of Georgia's 3rd Congressional District, I want to thank Sheriff Johnson for his lifetime of service to the people of Georgia and to Fayette County. He is a great American and an inspiration to us all. Best wishes to Sheriff Johnson and his wife Kaye as they enter a new phase of life in retirement, a reward that's richly deserved.

RECOGNIZING NANCY PASQUALINO  
OF SPRING HILL, FLORIDA

**HON. GINNY BROWN-WAITE**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 7, 2009*

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Nancy Pasqualino of Hernando County, Florida. Nancy has done something that all of us strive to do, but that very few of us will ever accomplish, celebrate her 101st birthday.

Nancy was born May 12, 1907 in Brooklyn, New York. Coming from a loving family, Nancy grew up and attended school in Brooklyn. She did not get married or have any children, but she did have a long career as a bookkeeper and office manager at Gucci Shops on 5th Avenue in New York City. While she has not met any famous people in her life, Nancy said she and her sister Connie are second cousins to Mother Theresa.

Living in Hernando County with Connie, Nancy says that the beautiful weather is what drew her to this area of Florida. Still active in the community, she is still driving her car and has recently renewed her driver's license. She enjoys the company of her sister and likes to read literature. Nancy's advice to young people today is that they should always listen to their parents.

Madam Speaker, I ask that you join me in honoring Nancy Pasqualino for reaching her 101st birthday. I hope we all have the good fortune to live as long as her.

BIPARTISAN CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION TO NATO PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY MEETINGS

**HON. JOHN S. TANNER**

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 7, 2009*

Mr. TANNER. Madam Speaker, during the period November 10–November 18, I led a bipartisan House delegation to NATO Parliamentary Assembly, NPA, meetings in Valencia, Spain and to additional meetings in Rome and Florence, Italy. The co-chair of the NPA delegation was the Hon. JOHN SHIMKUS. The delegation also included, Representatives JO ANN EMERSON, DENNIS MOORE, JOHN BOOZMAN, BARON HILL, KENDRICK MEEK, CHARLES MELANCON, CAROLYN MCCARTHY, MELISSA BEAN, JEFF MILLER, MIKE ROSS, DAVID SCOTT and staff. The NPA delegation had a highly successful trip in which a wide range of political, economic and security issues on NATO's agenda, as well as issues involving the U.S.–Italy bi-lateral relationship, were examined.

The NATO Parliamentary Assembly, NPA, consists of parliamentarians from all 26 NATO member states. The NPA provides a unique forum for elected officials to analyze and debate issues that the NATO leadership discusses in Brussels. In addition to the 26 member parliaments, parliamentarians from countries such as Russia, Georgia, Croatia, and Afghanistan also participated in the sessions as associate states or observers and engaged in the discussions and debates. Through these sessions, delegates have the opportunity to

learn first-hand the views and concerns that other countries have over the key security issues of the day. An invaluable aspect of the meetings is the chance to meet and come to know members of parliaments who play important roles in their own countries in shaping the security agenda that their governments pursue at NATO. These contacts can endure through a career, and can provide an invaluable private avenue for insights into each ally's particular views on an issue.

As NATO approaches its 60th anniversary summit in April 2009, the key issues on the agenda of the Alliance include the broader issue of the future of NATO and more specific issues including relations with Russia, energy security, missile defense, the conflict in Afghanistan, and emerging threats, such as piracy. Each of these issues was on vigorous display at the NPA meetings. The conflict between Russia and Georgia that played out this past August was the one issue that dominated the Valencia sessions. Many members of the Alliance expressed concern that Russia has begun to implement an increasingly assertive security policy including efforts to intimidate neighboring states, through the threat of force. There was also continued concern that Russia would use its energy supplies as a political lever to influence European policy. It was clear from our meetings that not only the United States and NATO, but the European Union as well, are concerned about Moscow's posture on a wide range of issues. There were, however, differences of opinion over how to structure future relations between NATO and Russia as well as the NPA and the Russian delegates to the Assembly. While the consensus among the delegates was that dialogue between NATO and the NPA and Russia was important and should continue, there were calls for the NPA to take some action against the Russian delegation as a show of displeasure over Russia's conduct in Georgia. As a result, the Assembly, at large, adopted a series of measures limiting, for now, the participation of the Russian delegation. These measures included, among others, the downsizing of the Russian delegation and the suspension of Russian participation in Committee and Sub-committee visits and the Transatlantic Forum.

In addition to these issues, many of the NPA delegates were extremely interested in the outcome of the U.S. Presidential elections and how the incoming administration would conduct relations with Europe in general and with NATO in particular. Questions over the incoming Administration's views on Afghanistan, Iran and missile defense were on everyone's agenda. A highlight of the session was a letter that President-elect Obama had written to outgoing NPA President Jose Lello of Portugal pledging to work with NATO and the NPA during the Obama administration.

Before the opening sessions of the Assembly's plenary the U.S. delegation received a detailed briefing from Ambassador Kurt Volker, the U.S. representative to NATO. He very ably prepared us for the nuances involved in some of the issues that would be debated during the NPA sessions, particularly regarding Russia and whether NATO should offer a Membership Action Plan to Georgia. In addition to the briefing by Ambassador Volker, various members of our delegation held private meetings with NATO Secretary General Jaap de Hoop Scheffer, who gave an overview of member

state perspectives on the most controversial issues confronting the alliance; he later addressed the NPA's plenary session. The Foreign Minister of Spain, who also addressed the plenary, briefed several of our Members. And, we met with General Bantz John Craddock, Supreme Allied Commander for Europe who covered a wide range of issues, including the situation in Afghanistan. I also had the opportunity to attend a private meeting with Mikheil Saakashvili, President of Georgia who recounted the August conflict between his country and Russia and what Georgia faces today with respect to reconstruction of the country.

Over two days of the NPA session, intense meetings of the NPA committees took place. There are five NPA committees. In each, parliamentarians presented reports on issues before the alliance. The reports were debated by all members of the committee who often made counter-arguments or suggestions for amending a report. Members of our delegation were present in each committee meeting.

I chaired the Economics and Security Committee, which heard reports on reconstruction efforts in Afghanistan, on Russia's economy, and on economic developments in India. Representative BOOZMAN was the co-rapporteur of this last report, which he very ably presented, and which generated an interesting discussion. The Committee also heard an interesting presentation by Rodrigo Rato, former managing director of the International Monetary Fund who spoke on the impact of the current global financial crisis. The Committee also heard from Lt. Gen. Karl Eikenberry, former head of the military command in Afghanistan who spoke on the nexus between security and development in Afghanistan.

The Political Committee heard several reports that touched off sometimes animated debates. Most notable were the reports on NATO's future political agenda and NATO's partnerships that included a lengthy discussion on the recent Russia-Georgia conflict and the future of Georgia's membership in NATO. There were significant differences of opinion on who actually was responsible for starting the war in Georgia and whether to grant Georgia a Membership Action Plan for eventual membership in NATO. U.S. Representative MIKE ROSS was a rapporteur for a report on a possible NATO political engagement with Iran. When Mr. ROSS was unable to present his paper to the Committee, Representative CAROLYN MCCARTHY stepped in and made the presentation. The report was well received. Representative BEN CHANDLER serves as a vice-chairman on this Committee and during the session, Representative CAROLYN MCCARTHY was elected to serve as a Subcommittee vice-chairperson.

The Defense and Security Committee heard two reports on NATO's ongoing operations, including the ISAF mission in Afghanistan and on the contributions non-NATO states were making to NATO operations. The Committee also received a report on NATO's future capability requirements. During the session, the Committee received presentations from the Minister of Defense of Spain, and the Defense Minister of Georgia. Representative TAUSCHER is a vice-chair of one of the Committee's subcommittees.

The Science and Technology Committee heard reports on energy security, reducing global nuclear threats, and on missile defense.

Representative DAVID SCOTT was very engaged on the issue of energy security and was successful in offering three amendments to the resolution proposed on energy and security.

The Committee on the Civil Dimension of Security also heard a report on energy security and the protection of energy infrastructure, along with reports on Kosovo and the future stability in the Balkans, and democracy and security in Central Asia. The Committee also heard presentations on the Balkans and Central Asia.

On Tuesday, the final day of the plenary, the general assembly debated and approved a resolution on relations with Russia. The consensus view was that NATO and Russia should resume their dialogue and continue to find ways to cooperate with each other on critical issues. Also on Tuesday, the Assembly elected new officers to serve during 2009. I had the honor of being elected President of the Assembly and look forward to an interesting and productive year.

Prior to arriving in Valencia for the NPA Plenary, the delegation traveled to Italy on November 10–13 for bi-lateral meetings in Rome and Florence. In Rome, the delegation received a briefing by U.S. Charge d' Affairs, Barbara Leaf and Embassy staff on current relations between Italy and the United States, that continues to be strong. After the briefing, the delegation, in honor of Veterans Day, traveled to the Sicily-Rome Cemetery in the town of Nettuno, just outside the city of Anzio.

During the Second World War, the critical Italian campaign was launched in Sicily and proceeded up the coast of Italy. The delegation visited the resting place of almost 8,000 U.S. soldiers, sailors, and airman who died in the liberation of Sicily and in the landings at Salerno and Anzio. The beautiful cemetery is managed by the U.S. American Battle Monuments Commission. Together, the members of the delegation laid a wreath at the cemetery's central monument, "Brothers in Arms." Members of the delegation also visited individual graves of fallen soldiers from their states to place a rose in memory of those servicemen. This was perhaps the most memorable and poignant moment of the delegation's trip. We were deeply honored to visit the cemetery and want to thank Ron Grosso of the Commission and Joseph Bevilacqua, Cemetery Superintendent, for their hospitality and the fine job they do preserving the memory of those U.S. servicemen who gave their lives in Italy.

Upon our return to Rome, the delegation visited the NATO Defense College for a tour and briefing by the College Commandant, Lt. Gen. Wolf-Dieter Loeser. The College was created in 1951 at the suggestion of General Dwight Eisenhower who argued that military officers from the newly created NATO Alliance "needed an establishment where they could meet and learn to operate together." The Commandant briefed us on the work taking place at the College and the issues currently under discussion in the Fall curriculum. We also had the opportunity to meet several U.S. military personnel attending the Senior Course.

Following the visit to the Defense College, the delegation visited the Italian Ministry of Defense. We were briefed by the Deputy Minister of Defense Crosetto and the head of the Italian General Staff, General Camporini who gave us an overview of the numerous oper-

ations that the Italian military were currently engaged in. Italy has approximately 8,000 troops stationed abroad, including 2,200 in the ISAF mission in Afghanistan, 2,500 in Lebanon, and 83 engaged in training the Iraqi National Police. This meeting provided a precise, focused discussion of how Italy is contributing to the global security mission.

Also in Rome, the delegation was hosted at a working lunch by Senator Sergio Di Gregorio, President of the Italian delegation to the NATO Parliamentary Assembly. We had a very animated discussion on issues ranging from the U.S. presidential elections, to Afghanistan, to Russia and energy security. At the time of our visit, the Italian Senate was in the middle of a debate on their defense budget. With the global economic crisis affecting everyone, Senator Di Gregorio told us that the defense budget for next year would be less than 1 percent of the Italian GDP. As a result, we were told it was unlikely that Italy could do much more in Afghanistan. Following our meeting at the Senate, the delegation met with Mr. Gianni Letta, Under Secretary of the Council of Ministers and close advisor to Prime Minister Berlusconi. Mr. Letta covered a range of issues but spent some time addressing the impact of the global financial crisis on Italy.

On November 13, the delegation traveled to Florence. We were met by U.S. Consul General Mary Ellen Countryman who briefed the delegation on the work the Consulate does in Tuscany and the surrounding region. Tuscany is home to several thousand U.S. citizens, retired, employed, or students studying abroad. While in Florence we also visited the European University Institute which operates a campus comprising doctoral students from all over Europe. We were warmly welcomed by EUI President Yves Menv, faculty and students. A lively discussion followed on the U.S. elections and its impact on transatlantic relations, the differences between the European and U.S. views of the world, and the future role of NATO, relations with Russia, and the conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Our visit to Italy concluded that evening at a dinner hosted by New York University which operates a campus outside Florence for American students studying in Italy. Our dinner was hosted by Ms. Ellyn Toscano, Director of the Campus. Ellyn is no stranger to the House of Representatives where she served for several years as the chief of staff to our colleague, JOSÉ SERRANO.

Madam Speaker, the NATO Parliamentary Assembly provides a unique opportunity for Members of Congress to engage in serious discussions on critical issues with our colleagues from other NATO member states. I believe our delegation, and thus this Congress, benefits greatly from the information we exchange and the personalities we meet during these meetings. I look forward to a very productive Assembly during 2009.

In conclusion, I would like to acknowledge the hard work and dedication of our Embassy staff in Rome and Madrid, our Consular services in Florence and our entire military escort group from the United States Air Force, including the pilots who took us to Europe and back for the NPA sessions. Our diplomatic corps and military personnel provide a quiet but invaluable service in ensuring safety and an efficient schedule for U.S. congressional delegations, and this group of diplomats, servicemen

and women was no exception. I thank them for their hard work and their dedication to duty.

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TRIBUTE TO MUNSON'S  
CHOCOLATES

**HON. JOE COURTNEY**

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 7, 2009*

Mr. COURTNEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Bob Munson and the employees of Munson's Chocolates which is headquartered in Bolton, Connecticut.

During the recent holiday season, I had the privilege of visiting Iraq and Afghanistan with a Congressional Delegation led by Representative GENE TAYLOR of Mississippi and witnessed first hand the important work being done by the men and women of our armed forces. Our group spent time meeting with civilian and military leaders serving on the ground in each country. The holidays are always a difficult time for the men and women of the armed forces as they are away from their loved ones. One of the things that they will tell you makes this time of year a little easier is to enjoy some of the comforts of home.

Thanks to Bob Munson, President of Munson's Chocolates of Bolton, the men and women of the 890th Engineer Battalion and the 926th Engineer Brigade, Multi-National Division currently serving in Baghdad were able to enjoy a sweet reminder of home. A few days before Christmas Congressman TAYLOR arranged for 2,000 pounds of shrimp gumbo to be served to the battalion and Munson's donated almost 600 Connecticut made chocolate bars for dessert. This gift is just another example of the generosity of the Munson family, who for generations has been active supporters of the military community.

The Munson family of employees is no stranger to the heartache families endure while their loved ones are serving overseas. During my visit to the Munson factory, I had the honor of meeting Kay Doherty. Kay's son Stephen recently returned from a tour in Iraq. As Kay can attest, the holidays are an extremely difficult and trying time for military families which is why this generous gift is so timely.

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HONORING JADE MOORE, THERE  
WAS NO BETTER FRIEND OF  
TEACHERS

**HON. C.W. BILL YOUNG**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 7, 2009*

Mr. YOUNG of Florida. Madam Speaker, Pinellas County, Florida lost one of the pillars of our community and our teachers lost their greatest advocate December 16th with the passing of Jade Moore.

Jade served for 34 years as Executive Director of the Pinellas Classroom Teachers Association. In that role, he was the champion for teachers, but he was also the champion for the students they taught.

Jade Moore was a tough but fair negotiator, one who earned the trust and respect of all

those with whom he came in touch. He grew up in Pinellas County and was a product of Pinellas County schools having graduated from Clearwater High School.

His advice was eagerly sought not just by this Congressman but by Governors, legislators, school board members and community leaders. And it was just not advice on educational issues. In fact, Jade was just completing a difficult term as the Governor's appointee to the Florida Taxation and Budget Review Commission.

More than 700 people turned out this past Saturday to memorialize Jade Moore and pay tribute to his life as a husband, a father, an educator, a community leader, a Sunday school teacher, and a friend to many. Following my remarks, I will include an article "Boisterous and fitting farewell" by Thomas Tobin and Donna Winchester of The St. Petersburg Times on January 4, 2009 which talks about the very moving and uplifting memorial service. Also, I will include a December 20, 2008 column by Jon East of The St. Petersburg Times which describes Jade as a tough but friendly advocate. As Mr. East says in concluding his column, Jade Moore "honestly believed in saving one soul, one child, at a time."

Madam Speaker, at a time when our Nation looks to its elected leaders to come together and put politics aside to do the people's business, Jade Moore should be an enduring example of how we can serve our constituencies and express our views with respect rather than conflict. We have lost a great leader in Jade Moore, but we must not lose those lessons from a lifetime of leadership he leaves behind.

[From the St. Petersburg Times, Jan. 3, 2009]

#### BOISTEROUS AND FITTING FAREWELL

(By Thomas C. Tobin and Donna Winchester)  
CLEARWATER.—He loved roses and Broadway musicals. He stunk at golf, though he had a whale of a time playing it.

He was an optimist, active in his church, strong in his views. He was a reader and a smiler, a pundit, a partier, a people lover.

And when it came to teachers, Jade Thomas Moore—the executive director of the Pinellas teachers union for 34 years—was no pushover.

"He fought hard for them and he loved them," Tim Moore said at a memorial service for his brother Saturday. "If you want to remember Jade, remember that love for teachers."

Pinellas County's education and political communities turned out in force to remember Mr. Moore, who died Dec. 18 at age 61 after suffering his second stroke in a year.

More than 700 people jammed Trinity Presbyterian Church in Clearwater for an hourlong service that recalled his success as a family man, his long career as an educator and the outgoing personality that endeared him to allies and adversaries alike.

The congregation included state and county officials, legislators, judges, lawyers and school system employees of every stripe—from support workers and teachers to top administrators and school board members.

In keeping with Mr. Moore's love of food and celebration, hundreds of mourners reconvened at union headquarters in Largo for an evening of eating, drinking, tears, laughter and toasts.

Guests arrived to a massive potluck spread, a full bar and a chance to talk about Mr. Moore for up to three minutes.

A DJ played Broadway hits, popular songs from the 1950s and '60s and Mr. Moore's favorite, Blue Moon by the Marceles.

"The noise is what Jade would want to have happened," his wife, Sue Moore, told the crowd. "He would want us talking to each other and drinking a whole lot."

She offered a toast: "To the best man I've known and the best man I will ever know."

Said U.S. Rep. Kathy Castor, D-Tampa: "He believed in the power of education. He believed in the power of teachers. He believed we could take this state forward."

Kim Black, president of the Pinellas Classroom Teachers Association, said Mr. Moore served with her and 12 other presidents during his tenure.

"Jade has adapted to every one of us," she said. "He has been the constant. When we were weak, he was strong."

She said his favorite part of the job was visiting schools. Black and Mr. Moore had been to 40 so far this year and planned many more visits in the upcoming semester.

"He was about bringing joy to the workplace," Black said. "He was about bringing joy to everybody he knew."

County Commissioner Susan Latvala recalled her time on the Pinellas School Board from 1992 to 2000.

"I don't know if I would have survived those eight years without Jade," she told the crowd. "He would call me to say, 'Susan, why don't you come over to the office and we'll have a drink.' It was never a 15-minute conversation."

Upstairs at union headquarters Saturday, Mr. Moore's office remained as he left it on Dec. 15, his last day of work.

An avid reader who would polish off a dozen books during vacations to North Carolina, he had three books on his desk.

The titles: I Haven't Understood Anything since 1962, Educational Conflict in the Sunshine State and The Language of God.

Mr. Moore was known in Pinellas and across the state for his knowledge of Florida's budget and politics. He took tough stances, including pushing for a teacher raise this year even as the district plunged into a deep economic hole. But he maintained a collaborative style and an optimistic outlook.

"All of us knew that Jade meant what he said, that ... his views were in support of the many, not of the few, and that he would always, no matter what, stand by his beliefs," said the Rev. Victoria ByRoade, a local Presbyterian pastor who eulogized him Saturday. "Jade Moore was a man we could trust."

[From the St. Petersburg Times, Dec. 20, 2008]

#### A TOUGH, FRIENDLY ADVOCATE

(By Jon East)

What made Jade Moore such an institution in Pinellas public education was also what made him such an invaluable source to those of us who watched from the sidelines. Moore, who died Thursday after suffering a stroke, knew his stuff. He believed in what he was doing, and he would never let education ideology cloud his plain assessment of right and wrong. And, yes, Moore would speak his mind, usually with blunt, sometimes profane and often comic effect.

Moore ran a union with 8,000 teachers and could throw a punch with the best of them. He retaliated to legislative cutbacks in 1991 by stuffing what was then called the Florida. Suncoast Dome with 15,000 educators and supporters holding signs imploring, "Don't Shortchange our Kids." He skewered a Pinellas School Board that in 1998 voted to seek an end to the federal court order on desegregation, and then fought a choice plan for student assignment that he viewed as a retreat. But Moore became a force in education policy for three decades in part because conflict was not really in his genes and was never his first impulse.

School boards and superintendents from other locales would marvel at the relationship between the Pinellas Classroom Teachers Association and the school administration. Most contracts through the years were signed after friendly collaboration, not threats and mediation. Moore came to respect most of the superintendents with whom he worked, though he remained partial to Scott Rose for his inspirational style through the 1980s. Moore managed to develop such strong bonds with school officials that former superintendent Clayton Wilcox made the unfortunate mistake upon his arrival in 2004 of seeing Moore as part of a good ol' boy network that needed to be rooted out. Moore remained as Wilcox left.

The Moore persona was a tapestry of color and contradiction. He would cuss enough to make the timid blush. But he also was a Sunday school teacher who really did live by the Golden Rule. Nothing got him angrier than to see teachers be made scapegoats for political causes or to be publicly humiliated for private and personal transgressions. But he would avoid like the plague defending any teacher who he believed didn't belong in the classroom. He was an unabashed liberal Democrat, but he befriended so many Republicans that he even managed an appointment from Gov. Charlie Crist to a constitutional taxation review panel. He could describe, in detail, the district cost differential multiplier in the Florida Education Finance Program but—much preferred to settle budgetary policy over a bottle of bourbon.

Back in the early 1990s, when tensions were high with then-superintendent Howard Hinesley, Moore was persuaded by a former PCTA president to lobby School Board members for the four votes necessary to remove Hinesley. He failed, and to the day he passed away he seemed to regret what he had done. Guerrilla politics were never Moore's style, and the failed attempt nearly severed his relationship with Hinesley. "I'll never go there again," he would say. "I won't do it."

The lesson was never lost, and Moore even found himself taking friendly fire as a result. A splinter group calling itself TUFF-Teach emerged in 2001, condemning what it saw as too much coziness between PCTA and school administrators and state lawmakers. But Moore was unyielding and argued that cooperation, not confrontation, is more productive in the long run. In his characteristic style, he said: "You don't score points by taking a dump on these guys."

What I always saw in Moore was an unfailingly sentimental view of public education. He would speak wistfully of his own days at Clearwater High School and the way such schools can be a gathering place for children from different walks of life. Nothing got him more emotional than to talk about a teacher who had made a difference in a child's life. That was the Sunday school teacher in Jade. He honestly believed in saving one soul, one child, at a time.

#### RECOGNIZING ROSE RUSSO OF SPRING HILL, FLORIDA

#### HON. GINNY BROWN-WAITE

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 7, 2009

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Rose Russo of Hernando County, Florida. Rose will do something later this year that all of us strive to do, but that very few of us will ever accomplish, celebrate her 100th birthday.

Rose Russo Was born April 11, 1909 on 63rd Street and 1st Avenue in New York City,

New York. Following her schooling in Brooklyn, Rose went on to work at the New York Health Department as a tab-operator.

Marrying Anthony Russo, Rose went on to have two daughters and is now the proud grandmother of nine grandchildren. Her happiest moments include her 50th wedding anniversary and touring our beautiful country.

Rose's proudest moment was seeing her daughter and her grandchildren graduate from college. In fact, Rose's youngest grandson now has his PhD.

Eventually moving to Hernando County, Rose decided to live with family because her daughter and son-in-law didn't want her to live alone. Today she enjoys relaxing with a book

and knitting. Her advice to young people is to stay in school and get a good education.

Madam Speaker, I ask that you join me in honoring Rose Russo for reaching her 100th birthday. I hope we all have the good fortune to live as long as her.

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate on February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules Committee—of the time, place, and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled, and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Thursday, January 8, 2009 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED  
JANUARY 9

- 9:30 a.m.  
Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions  
To hold hearings to examine the nomination of Hilda L. Solis to Secretary of Labor.  
SD-430
- Joint Economic Committee  
To hold hearings to examine the employment situation in December 2008.  
SD-106

JANUARY 13

- 9 a.m.  
Budget  
To hold hearings to examine the nominations of Dr. Peter R. Orszag, of Massachusetts, to be Director, and Robert L. Nabors II, of New Jersey, to be Deputy Director, both of the Office of Management and Budget.  
SD-608
- 9:30 a.m.  
Foreign Relations  
To hold hearings to examine the nomination of Hillary R. Clinton to be Secretary of State.  
SH-216

- 10 a.m.  
Budget  
To hold hearings to examine the nomination of Mr. Shaun Donovan, of New York, to be Secretary of Housing and Urban Development.  
SD-538
- Energy and Natural Resources  
To hold hearings to examine the nomination of Steven Chu to be Secretary of Energy.  
SD-366
- Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions  
To hold hearings to examine the nomination of Arne Duncan to be Secretary of Education.  
SD-430

JANUARY 14

- 10 a.m.  
Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry  
To hold hearings to examine the nomination of Thomas J. Vilsack to be Secretary of Agriculture.  
SD-G50
- Environment and Public Works  
To hold hearings to examine the nominations of Lisa P. Jackson to be Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, and Nancy Helen Sutley to be Chairman of the Council on Environmental Quality.  
SD-406
- Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions  
Business meeting to consider pending calendar business.  
SD-430
- Veterans' Affairs  
To hold hearings to examine the nomination of Eric Shinseki to be Secretary of Veterans Affairs.  
SD-106

- 2 p.m.  
Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs  
To hold hearings to examine the nominations of Dr. Peter R. Orszag, of Massachusetts, to be Director, and Robert L. Nabors II, of New Jersey, to be Deputy Director, both of the Office of Management and Budget.  
SD-342

JANUARY 15

- 9:30 a.m.  
Energy and Natural Resources  
To hold hearings to examine the nomination of Ken Salazar to be Secretary of the Interior.  
SD-366

- Foreign Relations  
Business meeting to consider the nomination of Hillary R. Clinton to be Secretary of State; to be followed by a hearing to examine the nomination of Susan E. Rice to be Representative to the United Nations, with the rank and status of Ambassador, and the Representative in the Security Council of the United Nations, and to be Representative to the Sessions of the General Assembly of the United Nations during her tenure of service as Representative to the United Nations.  
SH-216

- Judiciary  
To hold hearings to examine the nomination of Eric H. Holder to be Attorney General of the United States.  
SR-325

- 10 a.m.  
Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs  
To hold hearings to examine the nominations of Mary Schapiro, of New York, to be Chairman of the Securities and Exchange Commission; Christina Romer, of California, to be Chair of the Council of Economic Advisors; Austan Goolsbee, of Illinois, and Cecilia Rouse, of New Jersey, each to be a Member of the Council of Economic Advisors; and Daniel Tarullo, of Maryland, to be a Member of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System.  
SD-538
- Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs  
To hold hearings to examine the nomination of Janet A. Napolitano to be Secretary of Homeland Security.  
SD-342

- 2:30 p.m.  
Indian Affairs  
To hold hearings to examine job creation and economic stimulus in Indian country.  
SD-628

JANUARY 27

- 9:30 a.m.  
Armed Services  
To hold hearings to examine challenges facing the Department of Defense.  
SD-106