

Madam Speaker, I am proud to represent Erin, who was born in New Hartford and raised in Remsen, both in New York's 24th Congressional District. In 1999, at the age of 12, Erin was introduced to the sport of luge through a Verizon/USA Luge Slider Search in Syracuse, New York. After being selected to a development team, she began training in Lake Placid.

Erin earned two Junior National Championship titles and a collection of Junior World Cup medals as a member of the U.S. Junior National Team from 2003 to 2006 and as a competitor on the Junior World Cup Circuit from 2002 to 2005. After making the World Cup Team in the fall of 2005, Erin earned a spot on the 2006 Olympic Team. At the Winter Games in Torino, Italy she slid to a 12th place finish, and was named to the Senior National Team the following season. Erin is also the reigning 2008 Verizon U.S. National Champion.

The accomplishments of Erin and the entire USA Luge team cannot be applauded without commending the efforts of their coaching staff. Senior National Team Head Coach Wolfgang Schaedler, Assistant Coach Klim Gatker, and Team Manager Fred Zimny guided the USA Luge team to victory this year. On behalf of my colleagues in Congress and all of Upstate New York, I wish to congratulate this team on their success and recognition.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues join me in congratulating Erin Hamlin and the entire USA Luge Team, and to support them in their future endeavors as they continue to inspire athletes across the country.

THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE UNITED STATES EXPORT-IMPORT BANK

HON. BARNEY FRANK

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 12, 2009

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 75th anniversary of the United States Export-Import Bank, chartered by Congress in 1934 with the mission of financing U.S. exports in support of U.S. jobs. The Ex-Im Bank has been an important tool in our effort to preserve and expand American jobs in an era of international competition. In an ideal world, there wouldn't be an Ex-Im Bank. But given the fact that other countries aggressively provide public financing to make their exports more competitive, it would amount to unilateral disarmament not to have a strong and active U.S. Export-Import Bank.

Ex-Im Bank has played an important role in trade finance as a lender of last resort, allowing exports to go forward for projects that would otherwise not get support from private lenders. In support of this mission in recent years, the Bank has launched efforts to support small business exporters, women and minority-owned exporters, and exports in support of development projects in Sub-Saharan Africa.

In the midst of the credit and economic crisis we are now working so hard to resolve, it's particularly important that we have the Ex-Im Bank in place. With consumers in the U.S. pulling back, exports will need to play a lead-

ing role in economic recovery. Unfortunately, as in all other areas of private credit, trade financing coming from the private sector has fallen, and as a result, otherwise viable U.S. exports are not able to proceed due to the lack of credit. Ex-Im Bank can and should step in to address this financing gap, just as it did at the time of its Depression-era founding, during the Mexican debt crisis of the early 1980s, and during the Asian crisis of the 1990s. I look forward to working with the Bank to ensure that exporters are adequately financed during this current crisis.

Ex-Im Bank has been able to serve its public mission during times of crisis and in support of underserved areas of trade finance while remaining a good steward of taxpayers' dollars. In its 75 years, the Bank has financed over \$400 billion in U.S. exports with a loss rate of under 2 percent. This is a track record that should be noted and I am pleased to do so today.

RECOGNIZING ISRAEL'S RIGHT TO DEFEND ITSELF AGAINST ATTACKS FROM GAZA

HON. MARION BERRY

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 12, 2009

Mr. BERRY. Madam Speaker, the current conflict in Gaza has drawn international attention. Congress must stand in solidarity with Israel and recognize the operations in Gaza as acts of self defense.

For 8 years, Hamas has conducted rocket and mortar attacks into Israeli communities with increasing intensity and range. Hamas fired without concern for civilian casualties and it is time to put an end to Hamas's attacks.

Israel has had no choice but to take military action in order to protect and defend its people.

A permanent cease-fire must be reached but we must work to create a peace that is "durable and sustainable" and that starts with an end to Hamas's attacks on Israel.

We in the United States must continue to stand in support our friend and ally Israel.

A PROCLAMATION HONORING THE 175TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE QUAKER CITY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

HON. ZACHARY T. SPACE

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 12, 2009

Mr. SPACE. Madam Speaker:

Whereas, the Quaker City United Methodist Church was founded in 1833 by Edward H. Taylor celebrated its 175th anniversary in Quaker City, Ohio; and

Whereas, the congregation of met in the old cording mill and later in the Odd Fellows Hall for the first 38 years until a new church was erected on West Main street in 1871, and

Whereas, the congregation moved to its current location in 1908 after a campaign to raise money for the building of a church yielded \$12,000—\$7,000 of it donated by the family of Jesse Lingo, and

Whereas, the church was dedicated in February of 1909 and has remained there ever since, and

Whereas, the congregation of only 28 members has grown to more than 65 and is lead by Pastor Wilbur Bragg; now, therefore, be it

Resolved that along with the residents of the 18th Congressional District, I commend the Quaker City United Methodist Church on 175 years of dedication and service to the Quaker City community and their continued devotion to the Methodist faith spanning nearly two centuries.

HONORING FIDELITY MANOR SCHOOLS

HON. GENE GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 12, 2009

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the legacy of Fidelity Manor Schools in the Galena Park Community in my district, for their invaluable education to African-American students for nearly 50 years.

Predating 1955, a building formerly used for white students became an educational institution for African-American students in the Clinton Community, renamed Galena Park in 1936. The building was moved to the Fidelity addition—an area of Clinton named for the Fidelity Shipyard—and became known as the Fidelity School, housing only eight grades and containing one individual who acted as both teacher and principal.

With the growing African-American community Fidelity Manor Schools began to evolve in many ways. Additional classes and teachers were added to meet requirements held by the school district. Fidelity Manor Schools excelled in academics and athletics, winning district and state competitions during its existence.

In 1970 due to desegregation, Fidelity Manor Schools were closed and its students were integrated into the Galena Park School System. Although the Fidelity Manor School buildings were razed in 1986, their history lives on. For its invaluable service to the African-American community and to the Galena Park Community, I extend my deepest gratitude, and honor Fidelity Manor Schools.

TRIBUTE TO MR. RICHARD SHAVER AND THE VOLUNTEERS OF THE HUNGER GARDEN

HON. JOHN P. MURTHA

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 12, 2009

Mr. MURTHA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to an individual who has generously donated his land, his money, and his time to feeding thousands of needy individuals and families in Westmoreland County, Pennsylvania.

For nearly fifteen years, Mr. Richard Shaver, of Madison, Pennsylvania, has operated the "Hunger Garden." The garden is 100 percent volunteer driven, planting and harvesting thousands of pounds of vegetables for the Westmoreland County Food Bank every year. Hundreds of volunteers work evenings and weekends producing sweet corn, tomatoes, cabbage, cucumbers, peppers, and zucchini for

the food bank and its Operation Fresh Express program, which provides fresh fruits and vegetables to low-income families.

Mr. Shaver served his country in the U.S. Army, built a successful career, and at a time when he could sit back and enjoy the fruits of his labor, he set out to help those in need.

Mr. Shaver says he began growing vegetables for the food bank because, "Business was good. I went to country clubs, I was even flying my own airplane, but I just didn't feel right. My daughter suggested that maybe I ought to try to help somebody." His determination to "help somebody" has resulted in the donation of over 145,000 pounds of fresh vegetables over the years, greatly assisting Westmoreland County Food Bank and its service to 6,000 local families.

Madam Speaker, in a struggling economy where millions of Americans have lost their jobs and are struggling to make ends meet, it gives me great pleasure to honor people like Mr. Shaver and the volunteers of the "Hunger Garden." Their extraordinary work and generosity has a tremendous impact on the lives of many, and are an inspiration to us all.

INTRODUCTION OF THE MORRIS K. UDALL SCHOLARSHIP AND EXCELLENCE IN NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY AMENDMENTS ACT OF 2009

HON. RAÚL M. GRIJALVA

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 12, 2009

Mr. GRIJALVA. Madam Speaker, I am pleased to introduce the Morris K. Udall Scholarship and Excellence in National Environmental Policy Amendments Act of 2009. The Morris K. Udall Foundation is an independent federal agency based in Tucson, Arizona, which operates exceptional educational programs focused on developing leadership on environmental and Native American issues. It also includes the U.S. Institute for Environmental Conflict Resolution, the only program within the federal government focused entirely on preventing, managing and resolving federal environmental conflicts.

The legislation I introduce today would enhance the Foundation's programs and operations, and at the same time honor one of the greatest public servants and conservationists in history, Stewart L. Udall, by adding his name to the Foundation with that of his late brother, Morris K. Udall.

The Udall Foundation was established by Congress in 1992. Initially, the Foundation's mission was to provide educational opportunities for studies related to the environment and Native American tribal policy and health care. In 1998, Congress amended the Udall Foundation's enabling legislation to add a new mission: resolving conflicts related to the environment, natural resources and public lands through services including mediation, facilitation and training. The work of the Udall Foundation has become even more important today, as the nation seeks long-term responses to climate change, sustainable energy supplies, and a sustainable economy for all Americans.

EDUCATION PROGRAMS

Through its education programs, the Udall Foundation identifies and educates tomorrow's

leaders in fields that are critical to the energy, climate change and economic issues facing our nation. The programs include:

The premier college scholarship and doctoral fellowship for studies related to the environment and a scholarship for Native Americans studying tribal policy or health care. The Obama Administration has committed to creating five million new jobs by strategically investing \$150 billion over the next ten years to catalyze private efforts to build a clean energy future. The 1,000-some Udall Scholar alumni, who are chosen in part for their demonstrated commitment to public service, will clearly be in the forefront of clean energy and climate change response activities both in the private sector and government.

The Native American Congressional Internship program placing gifted undergraduate and graduate students in Congress, the Council on Environmental Quality, and Cabinet offices to learn first-hand how Washington impacts their tribes and communities. My own Washington office has hosted a Udall Native American intern each summer since I first came to Congress in 2003, and I can testify to the talent and commitment of these interns, many of whom have already gone on to positions of leadership in their tribal communities, government and nonprofit organizations. More than 150 young Native leaders will have completed the Udall Congressional internship through this summer.

Native Nations Institute for Leadership, Management and Policy (NNI), which serves as a self-determination, governance, and economic development resource for tribal nations. Through the impact of its tribal executive leadership program, Indian nations are rebuilding their economies. NNI has three primary program areas: Leadership and Management Training, Strategic and Organizational Development, and Research and Policy Analysis. NNI's activities in these three areas have made it the leading provider of nation-building services and education to the senior leadership of Indian nations and a world-class center for applied research on how indigenous peoples can meet the practical challenges of nation building.

The Parks in Focus program, which connects underserved youth to nature through the art of photography, instilling in them a long-lasting understanding of and appreciation for national parks and other public lands.

THE U.S. INSTITUTE FOR ENVIRONMENTAL CONFLICT RESOLUTION

The Udall Foundation includes the U.S. Institute for Environmental Conflict Resolution, the only entity in the federal government dedicated to resolving federal environmental conflicts. The Institute is funded by an annual appropriation from Congress and fees for services. Since its inception in FY 1999, the Institute has been involved in hundreds of conflicts around the country, providing services such as assessment, mediation and facilitation. The Institute also provides leadership on conflict resolution within the federal government and training to federal managers and stakeholders, providing practical hands-on tools to better prevent and manage disputes and engage in collaborative problem-solving. Each year, the Institute engages thousands of stakeholders directly in agreement-seeking processes representing many thousands of constituents. Services are provided by the Institute's small staff, as well as by contracted mediators who

are listed on the Institute's national roster of almost 300 conflict resolution professionals.

The U.S. Institute's work is particularly needed right now, given the need for infrastructure projects, natural resource management, and other important priorities with environmental impacts. Major initiatives by the new Administration related to energy policy and climate change most likely will require considerable multi-sector dialogue and consensus building. The Institute has a 10-year track record of facilitating such dialogue, particularly where multiple federal, state, local and tribal governments are involved. The need for Institute services has already been growing, and will continue to grow with these new energy and climate initiatives.

It is appropriate for Congress to provide solid support for the Udall Foundation's important programs through the legislation I introduce today, while simultaneously recognizing the unsurpassed contributions of Stewart L. Udall by adding his name to the Foundation's title. Stewart Udall served in this House of Congress with distinction from 1955, representing an area that included what is now my district, until he was appointed Secretary of the Interior in 1961 by President John F. Kennedy. As Secretary of Interior, Stewart Udall had an unmatched record of environmental leadership, overseeing the creation of 4 national parks, 6 national monuments, 8 national seashores and lakeshores, 9 recreation areas, 20 historic sites, and 56 wildlife refuges. He continued to make substantial contributions to environmental and Native American policy as a lawyer and author following his tenure at Interior.

With the legislation introduced today, the name of the Foundation would change to the Morris K. Udall and Stewart L. Udall Foundation. The legislation also would support the Udall Foundation's important programs into the future by authorizing funding for the education trust fund and the U.S. Institute for Environmental Conflict Resolution in such amounts as Congress determines is necessary.

HONORING JOHN D. DINGELL FOR HOLDING THE RECORD AS THE LONGEST SERVING MEMBER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SPEECH OF

HON. RUSH D. HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 11, 2009

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of House Resolution 154, which honors JOHN DINGELL for being the longest serving member of the House of Representatives.

JOHN DINGELL came to Congress in 1955 at the age of 29 and in his more than 53 years in the House, including 16 as the chairman of the Committee on Energy and Commerce, has represented energetically and effectively the constituents of his southeastern Michigan district.

Longevity alone, however, does not distinguish JOHN DINGELL, and the Dean of the House has been at the center of almost every major legislative accomplishment of this body since his earliest days in Congress. In 1965,