EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

A TRIBUTE TO CYNTHIA Y. CUMMINGS

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS
OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 26, 2009

Mr. TOWNS. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Cynthia Cummings, Executive Director of Community Parents, Inc. and community activist.

Cynthia Cummings is the Executive Director of Community Parents, Inc. (CPI), a non-profit community based organization, serving 275 children and families in Bedford Stuyvesant and Far Rockaway. Additionally, she presides over the Administration for Children’s Services Head Start Training Institute at Berean Baptist Church, offering professional, career and credential programs. Continuing accomplishments include securing and renovating a permanent facility in Far Rockaway.

Immediately following completion of her degree in Human Development and Family Studies at Cornell University in 1975, Ms. Cummings began her career as the Teacher/Director of Moravian Head Start in Harlem, where she developed her administrative skills operating the program now known as Arthur and Thelma Adair Community Centers. She decided to pursue her studies further at New York University in Community Health Education as she worked at SUNY Health Science Center on the National Study on Sickle Cell Disease. Her interest and work in the health industry resulted in her being included in several research publications.

She maintained an important connection with her community as chairperson of Community Parents Head Start, while then employed at Empire Blue Cross and Blue Shield. In 1991, her predecessor passed the torch and Ms. Cummings relinquished the chair of CPI to assume the role of Executive Director. The program grew under her leadership, achieving NAEYC accreditation and expanding its services into Far Rockaway, Queens. Concurrently, Ms. Cummings has spearheaded many partnerships to improve quality and to enhance services for Head Start children and families. CPI was selected as a promising practices site for the National Head Start Family Literacy Project and was featured in Newsweek Magazine. The organization was featured as one of 14 programs selected by the Administration for Children’s Services New York City Head Start Best Practices sites. Most recently, in collaboration with Bank Street College, the agency was selected as an Emotionally Responsive Practices site for continued research on best practices.

Among her professional affiliations are, chairperson of DC 1707 Local 85 Head Start Employees Welfare Fund, representing the interests of approximately 3,000 members. She also is a trustee of The Head Start Management Welfare Fund. Additionally, she is an active member of the National, Regional and State Head Start Associations contributing to the development of their respective annual training conferences. Locally, she is Board member of Brooklyn Kindergarten Society and remains active in the Cornell Black Alumni Association and in the Decatur-Stuyvesant Block Association. You often will see Cynthia greeting you at the door during the annual Brownstoner’s of Bedford-Stuyvesant house tour.

Cynthia has testified before the General Health and Welfare Committee of the New York City Council and was a panelist for the Citizen’s Committee on welfare reform. She has presented at The National Center for Family Literacy Conference and at the National Association for the Education of Young Children on the Importance of Family Literacy. As a Johnson and Johnson Management Fellow, she continues her study of organizational management annually at the Anderson School of Business at UCLA. She also continues her activism as a participant in the CORO Leadership NY program.

She is the recipient of Councilmember Annette Robinson’s Spirit of Leadership Award. She was honored by the Mid-Bedford Heights Lions Club and Vanguard Independent Democratic Association and received a proclamation from Councilmember Albert Vann for her civic efforts. An avid horticulturist, one often will see her lovingly tending to her home gardens. Her creative, artistic expression further is nurtured through dance training and performing with Mo’ Jazz, a bithle troupe of athletic and creative women over, let’s say, forty.

Cynthia is married to her soul mate, Richard Cummings, a pianist and composer, and she remains blessed to have in her life, her mother, Ellen Lewis, who recently celebrated her 99th birthday. Representing the ascending generation are her two daughters, Diarra, a professional ballet and modern dance association, and Imani a graduate of The University of Tampa, who now resides in sunny California currently pursuing a second career in acupuncture.

TRANSPORTATION CONSTRUCTION UNDER THE RECOVERY ACT

HON. JAMES L. OBERSTAR
OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 26, 2009

Mr. OBERSTAR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to report that the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act is getting construction workers off the bench and back on the job.

The Recovery Act provides $64.1 billion for transportation and infrastructure investments within the jurisdiction of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure. Nearly $40 billion of those funds have been distributed to States by existing highway, transit, and clean water statutory formulas. Of the $27 billion provided for highway infrastructure formula funds, in the past three weeks, 33 States have submitted and received approval for nearly 800 projects totaling $2.9 billion, more than 10 percent of the Recovery Act highway funds.

Construction is underway across the country: Silver Spring, Maryland: $2.1 million project to resurface and improve safety along a 1.1-mile section of New Hampshire Avenue; Syracuse, Utah: $15 million project to widen State Highway 108; and Richmond, Vermont: $1.7 million project to rehabilitate a bridge over the Winooski River.

In addition, the Federal Transit Administration has awarded grants to the Kentucky, Missouri, and Maine State DOTs to purchase more than 500 vehicles, including trolleys, buses, vans, and ferries and construct almost 50 bus shelters.

Amtrak has approved $938 million of capital improvement projects: including $105 million project to replace a moveable bridge over the Niantic River; and $82 million to rehabilitate 68 passenger cars.

The Federal Aviation Administration has identified $913 million of the $1.1 billion of airport projects, including runway, taxiway, apron, and terminal improvements.

All across America, the Recovery Act is creating good, family-wage jobs to restore our nation’s infrastructure and economy.

H.R. 1746, THE PRE-DISASTER MITIGATION ACT OF 2009

HON. JAMES L. OBERSTAR
OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 26, 2009

Mr. OBERSTAR. Madam Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 1746, the “Pre-Disaster Mitigation Act of 2009”, a bill to reauthorize the Federal Emergency Management Agency’s (“FEMA”) Pre-Disaster Mitigation (“PDM”) program, a program to help communities across the nation protect against natural disasters and other hazards. I thank Ranking Member Mica, and the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia (Ms. Norton) and the gentleman from Florida (Mr. Diaz-Balart), Chair and Ranking Member of the Subcommittee on Economic Development, Public Buildings, and Emergency Management, for joining me in sponsoring this bill.

The Pre-Disaster Mitigation program provides technical and financial assistance to state and local governments to reduce injuries, loss of life, and damage to property caused by natural hazards. Examples of mitigation activities include the seismic strengthening of buildings, acquiring repetitively flooded homes, installing shutters and shatter-resistant windows in hurricane-prone areas, and building “safe rooms” in houses and buildings to protect people from high winds.

Action on this bill today is crucial because, under current law, the Pre-Disaster Mitigation program will sunset on September 30, 2009. Therefore, Congress must take quick action to continue this vital program.

This “bullet” symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.
In 1988, the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure authorized FEMA's Hazard Mitigation Grant Program. This effective program provides grants to communities to mitigate hazards, but only provides grants to "build better" after a disaster. At the time, no program existed to help communities mitigate risks from future natural disasters.

In the 1990s, under the leadership of FEMA Administrator James Lee Witt, FEMA developed a pre-disaster mitigation pilot program known as "Project Impact." Congress appropriated funds for "Project Impact" in each of fiscal years 1997 through 2001. The Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure first authorized the current Pre-Disaster Mitigation program in the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000.

The PDM program reduces the risk of natural hazards, which is where the preponderance of risk is in our country. The devastating ice storms that struck the middle of the United States (including Missouri, Tennessee, Oklahoma, Arkansas, and Kentucky) earlier this year and the floods currently on the Red River in the Midwest are examples of the tragic, real impacts of natural disasters that occur every year. Over the last decade, natural disasters have cost our nation an average of nearly $30 billion per year.

Mitigation has been proven to save money. Studies by the Congressional Budget Office show that for every dollar spent on pre-disaster mitigation projects, future losses are reduced by three to four dollars. In 2005, the Multi-hazard Mitigation Council, an advisory body of the National Institute of Building Sciences, found that "a dollar spent on mitigation saves society an average of $4." The Council found that flood mitigation measures yield even greater savings. According to a September 2007 CBO report on the reduction in Federal disaster assistance that is likely to result from the PDM program, "On average, future losses are reduced by about $3 (measured in discounted present value) for each $1 spent on those projects, including both federal and nonfederal spending.

While empirical data is critical, perhaps more telling for real-life mitigation "success stories" is the town of Valmeyer, Illinois. In 1993, the town was devastated by the great flood of 1993. With $45 million in Federal, state, and local funding, the town relocated to bluffs 400 feet above the site of the former town. When faced with floods last year, the residents of that town were out of harm's way, as the Chicago Tribune reported in a story aptly titled "Valmeyer Illinois—Soaked in '93, Town now High and Dry". The June 19, 2008 story quotes an 86-year-old resident, Elenora Anderson. Her home was destroyed by the 1993 flood but as she said, "I'm sure glad I don't have to worry now that we're high enough here on the hill.

This month, we have seen the communities of North Dakota and my home state of Minnesota damaged by floods. Many of these same communities were devastated by floods in 1997. However, because of mitigation after the 1997 floods, the communities face far less risk. Even before this year's floods, mitigation investment for "Project Impact" paid off. For example, in Grand Forks, after the 1997 floods, FEMA spent $23 million to acquire vulnerable homes in the flood plain. In 2006, a flood came within two feet of the 1997 flood level, and according to FEMA, the 1997 mitigation investment saved $24.6 million. That investment represents a return of 107 percent after just one flood.

Another success story comes from Story County, Iowa. There, six homes that had been flooded in 1993 and 1996 were bought out with $549,662 in FEMA mitigation grants. In 1998 when a flood struck again, FEMA estimates that $541,900 in damages to the homes was avoided. This mitigation project paid for itself in just one flood, and the estimated savings do not include the costs of warning, rescue, or eviction.

Mitigation is an investment. It is an investment that not only benefits the Federal Government, but state and local governments as well. Projects funded by the PDM program reduce the damage that would be paid for by the Federal Government and state and local governments in a Major Disaster under the Stafford Act. However, mitigation also reduces the risks from smaller, more frequent, events that state and local governments face every day, as not every storm, fire, or flood warrants the assistance of the Federal Government.

The Pre-Disaster Mitigation program, through property improvements, takes citizens out of harm's way, by elevating a house, or making sure a hospital can survive a hurricane or earthquake. In doing so, it allows first responders to focus on what is unpredictable in a disaster rather than on what is foreseeable and predictible.

H.R. 1746 reauthorizes the PDM program for three years, at a level of $250 million for each of fiscal years 2010 through 2012. The bill increases the minimum amount that each state can receive from the program from $50,000 to $575,000, and codifies the competitive selection process of the program as currently administered by FEMA.

The bill also eliminates the existing sunset in the program. As the evidence clearly shows, this program works well and is cost effective. It should no longer be treated as a pilot program with a sunset. Rather, state and local governments should have the confidence that this program will be available in the future so they can conduct vital long-term mitigation projects.

Last year, the House passed a virtually identical bill, H.R. 6109, but the other body did not take action on this bill. While a one-year extension was included in the Department of Homeland Security Fiscal Year 2009 Appropriations Act to keep this vital program alive, Congress must act. If we do not, this worthy program will sunset on September 30, 2009.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting H.R. 1746, the "Pre-Disaster Mitigation Act of 2009".

H.R. 1747, THE GREAT LAKES ICEBREAKER REPLACEMENT ACT

HON. JAMES L. OBERSTAR
OF MINNESOTA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, March 26, 2009

Mr. OBERSTAR. Madam Speaker, I today introduce H.R. 1747, the "Great Lakes Icebreaker Replacement Act". U.S. industries in the heartland of the United States are totally dependent on Great Lakes icebreakers to keep them supplied with raw materials during the winter months. Without them, steel mills would shut down for want of iron ore and electrical generation would halt for want of the coal necessary to power generators. People could not just lose their jobs—but their lives.

During the 2006–2007 winter season, transportation of 10,400,000 tons of coal were shipped on the Great Lakes to keep the region supplied with electricity. However, we don't have the icebreaking capacity on the Great Lakes that we have had historically. During the spring of 2008, U.S.-flag vessels operating on the Great Lakes suffered more than $1.3 million in damages to their hulls because the Coast Guard did not have sufficient assets to keep the shipping lanes open.

People who are not from the Great Lakes region probably do not realize that there is ice on the Lakes and their interconnecting channels every year. It is the Federal Government's responsibility to keep these marine highways open so the needs of the public can be met.

In 2006, the Coast Guard took delivery of the new icebreaker MACKINAW. Unlike the old MACKINAW, this vessel is a combined buoy tender–icebreaker so that it can execute Coast Guard missions year-round. The design of the MACKINAW is proven and the vessel has shown that it is up to the job of breaking ice on the Lakes during the winter and tending buoys during the summer, spring and fall months. Not only will this funding ensure that our nation's vital industries are supplied during the winter—the construction of this icebreaker will create jobs at U.S. shipyards and the related supplier industries at a time when jobs creation is so vital to an economy recovering some 600,000 jobs per month.

For all of these reasons, it is critically important that we provide the Coast Guard with the resources necessary to build a replacement icebreaker for the Great Lakes region.

TRANSPORTATION BUDGET AUTHORITY IN THE FY 2010 BUDGET RESOLUTION

HON. JAMES L. OBERSTAR
OF MINNESOTA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, March 26, 2009

Mr. OBERSTAR. Madam Speaker, the Budget Resolution, as ordered reported last night by the House Committee on the Budget, provides a solid foundation for the surface transportation authorization that I, the Chairman SPRATT and the Committee on the Budget, support.
If the Budget Resolution is applied over the six-year period from fiscal years 2010 to 2015, the Resolution assumes a base allocation of $324 billion for highway, highway safety, and transit programs, including $312 billion of contract authority. Importantly, this allocation restores $4 billion over the six-year period for the highway contract authority that had been cut from the Congressional Budget Office baseline, which assumed fiscal year 2009 rescissions would recur in all future years.

In addition, the Resolution establishes a Reserve Fund to allow this base allocation of $324 billion per year to be adjusted upward as necessary to accommodate higher funding levels to the extent they can be supported by the Highway Trust Fund.

The Resolution also assumes the Airport Improvement Program is funded at $4.0 billion in FY 2010, $4.1 billion in FY 2011, and $4.2 billion in FY 2012, consistent with H.R. 915, the FAA Reauthorization Act of 2009, as ordered reported by the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure on March 5, 2009. This is an increase of $840 million over the baseline funding level for this program over the three-year period from FY 2010–2012.

The Resolution rejects the Office of Management and Budget’s proposal to change how programs funded by contract authority are treated for budget scoring purposes. This proposal, had it been adopted, would have converted the mandatory contract authority that currently funds our highway, highway safety, transit and airport grant programs to a simple authorization of appropriations for budget scoring purposes. I am pleased that the Budget Resolution continues to recognize the unique nature of trust-funded programs by rejecting this ill-advised proposal.

A TRIBUTE TO HUMENA BUTE

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS
OF NEW YORK
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, March 26, 2009

Mr. TOWNS. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Humena Bute, an educator and youth advocate.

Ms. Humena Bute worked for the NYC Department of Education from 1970 until her early retirement in 1995. While employed with the Department of Education she advanced to Special Education Records Manager in School District 19. She received her Bachelor of Science degree in Community and Human Services from Empire State College in 1997.

She applied for and received a per-diem substitute teacher certificate in 1998, and has worked in various NYC schools in Brooklyn to present.

In 2000, Ms. Bute became a member of the Brooklyn Club of the National Association of Negro Business and Professional Women’s Club (NANBPWC). She became a Life Member in 2005. During the past eight years Ms. Bute has held the office of Recording Secretary, Vice President (Membership Chair) and has voluntarily served on the Battered Women’s Shelter project, the Thanksgiving Basket Committee and the Founders Day Celebration Committees from 2003–2005. Ms. Bute received an Appreciation Award from The Brooklyn Club president in 2002. In 2007 Ms. Bute received the Membership Chair of the Year Award from National Director of Membership of NANBPWC Inc. She has recently been appointed to serve as Membership Director of the Northeast District of NANBPWC Inc.

From 1997 to 2000 Ms. Bute was given the opportunity to work with at-risk youths as an Educational Specialist for Mental Health Juvenile Justice Diversion project in Brooklyn N.Y. She was also a recruiter for Hugh O’Brian Youth Leadership Program in various High Schools in Brooklyn N.Y.

In 2004, Ms. Bute became a member of the Stuyvesant Heights Lions Club and in 2006 she served as the Lion of the Year award from the club president. In 2007 Ms. Bute was nominated as Club President and still holds that title to this day. She is also a Board Member of the Bridge Street Child Development Day Care in Brooklyn N.Y. Ms. Bute has recently joined the American College of Counselors.

Ms. Bute is a mother of two children, Felicia Allen and the late Gregory Bute and three loving grandchildren Jason Allen, Geninne Allen and Shanay Bute. Ms. Bute regards her many accomplishments and children as gifts from God.
that the federal land management agencies lack such a plan and the USDA Inspector General found that the Forest Service lacks any system to ensure that the highest priority fuel reduction projects are being funded first. This report by the Secretaries of Interior and Agriculture will address the recommendations made by both GAO and the USDA Inspector General.

To ensure that the money is going to where it is most needed, the bill requires that yearly reports be made available to the public on the use of the FLAME Fund. It also requires the Secretaries to conduct a review of wildland fire incidents that result in expenses greater than $10,000,000 and requires the Secretaries to notify Congress whenever the FLAME Fund drops to a level estimated to cover just two months worth of expenditures.

The FLAME Act establishes a wildfire grant program within each department that will assist communities in preparing for wildfires. Grants will go towards purchasing firefighting equipment and training programs for local firefighters. The money will also be used for educational and public awareness of wildfires and to develop community wildfire protection plans.

This bill is necessary so that agencies no longer have to move funding around to make up for the increased costs of wildfire suppression programs. The fund will provide a safety net in the event of catastrophic fires, such as those that occurred in California last year. It will also ensure that the Federal Government has an effective and comprehensive plan for wildland fire management.

I'm proud to support this bill and I urge my colleagues to support this important legislation.

**PERSONAL EXPLANATION**

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY
OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, March 26, 2009

Ms. WOOLSEY. Madam Speaker, on March 25, 2009, I was unavoidably detained and was not able to record my vote for Rollcall No. 151.

Had I been present I would have voted: Rollcall No. 151—"yes"—Providing for the consideration of the Senate amendments to H.R. 146, the Omnibus Public Land Management Act.

**A TRIBUTE TO LINDA BRADLEY**

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS
OF NEW YORK
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, March 26, 2009

Mr. TOWNS. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Linda Bradley, a champion of Nursing and health and wellness promotion. Linda Bradley was born in Brooklyn, New York to Lola Balance and the late Jerry Balance. Linda is the oldest of four siblings, her brother and sisters are Denise, Michelle and Jerry, Jr. She is wife of Calvin Bradley, mother of four children, Nicole, Calvin III, Michael and Johnathan and grandmother of Amir. Linda was always a curious child and now is very active in her community.

After graduation from Canarsie H.S., Linda indulged her desire for inquiry and obtained a degree in Medical Laboratory Technology in Applied Science from N.Y.C Community College. Linda went on to obtain an A.A.S. and a B.S.N. in Nursing. Linda continued her education and received a dual degree; she earned a Master's of Science in Nursing and a Masters of Public Health and received the Outstanding Community Leadership Award from Hunter College.

She is a member of Sigma Theta Tau, International Honor Society, American Public Health Association, and the Kent School Nurses Association of NYC. She was elected to positions in her children's school, is an active member of A.C.O.R.N. and was one of three women who were instrumental in the development of a Kwanzaa community event. She has held positions as Director of Nursing at a licensed agency, Patient Service Manager at Hillside Manor LTHHCP and a staff nurse and then a community outreach nurse for St. Johns Episcopal Hospital. Linda currently works at the Visiting Nurse Service of New York Lombardi Program as a Manager of Clinical Support Services in the boroughs of Brooklyn and Queens. Linda has been an NYU adjunct clinical faculty for the clinical rotation in the Community Health course since 2007. Linda has dedicated her life to nursing, health and wellness which shows through her professional and community activities.

Linda believes that through faith in God and healthy choices people can prevent a multitude of diseases. In her promotion of the profession of nursing, and belief that there are young, intelligent and vibrant minds within communities, she has participated in a community career day, appeared on a Brooklyn cable show and mentored two young women who are now R.N.'s. Linda is the current Health Ministry Director at Solid Rock Solid Rock S.D.A. church, who promotes ongoing health emphasis activities. Linda has assisted in the administration of NIH/Loma Linda Health Study II surveys from 2004–2007 at Solid Rock Church. She has taught as a Sabbath School teacher in the youth division for more than 20 years and is active with the Adventurer's and youth at the church and in the community.

Linda believes that she is a living testimony of God's blessing and healing power and is very committed to nurturing the spirit, mind and body of every person she comes in contact with. Linda believes in excellence and that knowledge is power and whatever knowledge she has is to be shared. Linda has often described the essence of her being as "one who shares" in every aspect of her life.

**INTRODUCTION OF THE BORDER SECURITY SEARCH ACCOUNTABILITY ACT OF 2009**

HON. LORETTA SANCHEZ
OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, March 26, 2009

Ms. SANCHEZ of California. Madam Speaker, I come to the floor today to call attention to the Border Security Search Accountability Act of 2009, which I will be introducing in the House today.

With the support of 16 bipartisan, original cosponsors, the bill will call on the Department of Homeland Security to establish strict guidelines for Customs and Border Patrol, and Immigration and Customs Enforcement’s electronic device seizure policy.

It is important to ensure that Customs and Border agents have the tools necessary to go after potential terrorists.

This bill allows for the appropriate search, review, retention and sharing of information on an individual's electronic device as it is necessary for security purposes.

Equally important is the need to protect the rights of travelers, and especially American citizens.

My legislation ensures that when an individual’s property is seized at a point of entry, there is a well-defined procedure in place that will protect their privacy and electronic data, especially the doctor-patient and attorney-client privileges.

This legislation also requires the Department of Homeland Security to post information about individuals’ rights related to border searches in visible areas near the search points, so that individuals will understand their rights if their property is seized and searched.

I urge my colleagues to support this important legislation.

**IN RECOGNITION OF MEADOWLARK LEMON**

HON. JOE WILSON
OF SOUTH CAROLINA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, March 26, 2009

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, born in Lexington, South Carolina, Meadowlark Lemon came from humble beginnings only to follow his love of basketball and entertaining to tremendous success as a member of the widely popular Harlem Globetrotters. The “Clown Prince of Basketball” as he is known has given of his time to not only entertain on the court but to serve his community off the court. Through his ministry program, Meadowlark Lemon is helping young people prepare for their future, learn the tools necessary to get a job, and have the confidence to compete and be successful in their own lives.

Role-models like Meadowlark Lemon play a vital role in our community because they embody the can-do spirit of the American Dream. They show the youth of today that no matter the circumstances, their lives are precious and filled with potential to make their hopes a reality. Meadowlark Lemon’s story is a perfect example of someone who did just that and has chosen to give back to others.

I am grateful for his ministry and commend Meadowlark Lemon on his lifetime of success.
Wildlife Fund (WWF). The WWF has been a major advocate for our earth and addressing the environmental threats we face. Earth Hour 2009 is an opportunity for individuals all across globe to join together in responding to the rapid deterioration of our earth's climate. On March 28, 2009 at 8:30 pm (EST), the world will come together to participate in the first global vote for action on climate change.

With their light switch as their ballot, hundreds of millions of people in more than 75 countries will cast a powerful, visual vote for action by turning off their lights for one hour. Earth Hour was first celebrated two years ago in Sydney, Australia in partnership with the WWF, when 2.2 million people and thousands of businesses turned off their lights for one hour. In March 2008, Earth Hour went global with more than 50 million people in over 400 cities participating, including an estimated 36 million Americans.

Earth hour 2009 has expanded its reach with the support of nearly 1,000 cities around the world, including U.S. cities Atlanta, Chicago, Dallas, Denver, Detroit, Houston, Las Vegas, Los Angeles, Miami, Nashville, New York, Pittsburgh, San Francisco, St. Louis, and Washington, DC. Additionally, international cities committed to the cause include Beijing, Copenhagen, Dubai, Hong Kong, London, Moscow, and Paris.

Madam Speaker, by participating in Earth Hour here in the U.S., it sends a message that Americans care about climate change and stand with the rest of the world in raising awareness about this escalating crisis. With every flick of a light-switch, a vote is cast for meaningful action. I urge my colleagues to take part in this event by turning off their lights and taking a stand for our environment on March 28.

A TRIBUTE TO LOTTIE DOBSON-SHANNON

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS
OF NEW YORK
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 26, 2009

Mr. TOWNS. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Lottie Dobson-Shannon.

Lottie Dobson-Shannon is an educator with the Department of Education, Office for Family Engagement and Advocacy. She was born in North Carolina and moved to New York at the age of nine. She was raised in Bedford-Stuyvesant, in Brooklyn, New York.

Shannon began her career in 1972 at the Department of Education and worked her way to a management position. In 1987, she became the Project Director of the New York City Board of Education Mentoring Program, where she is still a mentor in the Women’s in Education. In 1996 as the Borough Deputy to the Chancellor (Rudy Crews). She was responsible for the development of parent participation in programs in Mount Vernon and the Bronx.

Shannon returned to the Department of Education in 1996 as the Borough Deputy to the Chancellor (Rudy Crews). She was responsible for the development and implementation of projects and assisting the Superintendent in obtaining resources for their schools.

In 2002, Shannon became the Parent Support Officer for District 17, Region 6 where she empowered parents, trained them in how to advocate for their children, and to learn how to navigate the school system. In 2007, Shannon became the District Family Advocate for District 22, where she continues to empower parents to become parent leaders and partners in their children’s education. She also conducts professional development trainings, seminars, workshops, and conferences. She will develop the skills of the parents to become successful leaders in their schools.

Shannon is also the host/producer of the award winning show, “Keeping It Real with Shannon”, a talk show and entertainment that began its run on Brooklyn Community Access Television (BCAT) and various networks for ten years. “Keeping It Real With Shannon” reflects on a wide variety of topics such as Domestic Violence, Police Brutality, Education, Male/Female Relationships, Health, and the Community. The show addresses the issues of the growing community and promotes local artists as well as professional artists. Past guests have included Terrie M. Williams, Publicist/Author, Bad Boy Michael Baisden, KISS FM Radio Personality Dominic Garter, NY1 News Reporter Colleen Babb and Frank Laghezza from the District Attorneys’ office, legendary R&B singer the late Isaac Hayes and Maxine Brown, Baby Washington, The Ink Spots and renowned gospel singer Vicki Winans.

“Keeping It Real With Shannon” is the 2002 winner of the National Hometown Video Festival Award. It won first place for best in public access programming for talk show and entertainment. She was recognized for her award winning show with a Proclamation from Brooklyn Borough President, Marty Markowitz.

Shannon personifies the qualities of intelligence, endurance, compassion, and a strong faith that characterize black foremothers who held the family, church, and community together through all adversities. Shannon is a model for the accomplished great professional and educational victories, while maintaining a household and rearing a daughter who is a graduate of Morgan State University. She strongly believes that Christian fellowship should be practiced in all aspects of life. Shannon attended college and obtained three degrees, including Masters.

Shannon served on the Board of Directors for several Corporate and Community Based Organizations. She has won numerous awards and citations from national and local organizations, including being recognized by DA Charles Hynes, the Brooklyn Borough President and NYS Governor Mario Cuomo. She was featured on (ABC) “Like It Is” with Gil Noble, “Metro Magazine” (WYNE), “The Hotline Show” (Channel 31), “McCreary Report” (Channel 5), Fox 5-Dayside with Linda Vester and in the publications Caribbean Life, Daily News, Brooklyn Paper, New York Newsday and Medgar Evers Radio Station.

ANNOUNCING THE BID ON CULTURE BANNER PROJECT UNVEILING IN CELEBRATION OF WOMEN’S HISTORY MONTH

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL
OF NEW YORK
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 26, 2009

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Artists whose designs were selected through the BID on Culture banner design competition. The winning designs for BID on Culture will be displayed in March 2009 as part of Women’s History Month, celebrating the contributions of women to Harlem and to communities of color, in the fields of...
government, arts and culture, business, education, and religion.

BID on Culture is a new initiative developed through the partnership between the 125th Street Business Improvement District and the Harlem Arts Alliance to help build a community-based vision of Harlem's heritage, as a vibrant cultural center, and to promote the continued revitalization of 125th Street as the commercial and artistic heart of Harlem.

BID on Culture Banners will extend the brand of 125th Street as the center of culture in Harlem, and reassert community with an unparalleled history of contribution to the nation in all fields of human endeavor. Let me recognize the five selected artists whose banner designs will be displayed on the 125th Street Corridor.

Andrea Arroyo, a Mexican born, New York-based artist whose work has been exhibited in twenty-four individual and more than eighty group shows in galleries and museums. Andrea is in the public collections of The Smithsonian Institution, National Museum of American History, The Library of Congress, the Mexican Museum, Chicago, and museum private collections in the US, Mexico, Europe and Japan. Her public art projects include commissions for the Metropolitan Transportation Authority of New York, the New York School Construction Authority, City Arts and the Flatirons City.

Laura Gadson is a native New Yorker raised in Jamaica Queens. A graduate of Fiorella LaGuardia High School of Music and Art, she received her Bachelor of Fine Arts degree from the City College of New York. She has been a teaching artist since age 14 for a variety of public and private New York City institutions. Ms. Gadson’s craftwork is in the private collections of Susan Taylor, Iyanla Vanzant and other collectors. Her work has been exhibited in the New York State Museum in Albany, The Cork Gallery at Lincoln Center, Columbia University and she currently has two quilts on a National Tour until 2010. A Harlem brownstone has been her home studio and personal gallery since 1993.

Obatola Wilhelmina Grant, a native New Yorker, and a relative of Harlem, is an assemblage artist, creating pieces from discarded objects. Obatola was formerly the Director of Programs and Administration at the National Jazz Museum in Harlem and before that the Director of Community Outreach for SHARE, Self-Help for Women with Breast or Ovarian Cancer. She has a Bachelor of Arts in English Language Arts from Hunter College and expects to graduate in June from Hunter with a Masters of Science in Urban Affairs. She has exhibited at Bank Street College, Union Theological Seminary, Harlem, The Simmons Gallery and the New York Public Library.

Sharon Lewis, a graphic designer, originally from Detroit, Michigan, now based in New Rochelle, New York, Sharon is a Production Associate at DMD Insight, a boutique agency specializing in integrated marketing for arts and culture, architecture, design, philanthropic and financial services clients. She has a BFA in Industrial Design from Columbus College of Art and Design and her career focus has been print design in the fields of publishing, advertising and law.

Shabanda was a Harlem-based artist, whose work has been featured on television on The Cosby Show, HGTV-Crafting Coast to Coast, in the magazines Essence, Brides and Beauty, and YSP, and the book Jumping the Broom: The African American Wedding Planner, among others. Shimoda’s exhibit and presentation schedule includes Bank Street College, The National Black Arts Festival, The Mt. Vernon Library, Mt. Vernon NY, the Center for Book Arts, and the Donnell Library in New York City. She has contributed a crafts panel for the Artists’ Fellowships of the NY Foundation for the Arts, has taught beading at Brooklyn Academy of Music and Harlem School of the Arts, assisted Sonya Clark and Joyce Scott at Penland School of Crafts, NC and Ralph Lauren with his 1998 beaded jewelry collection.

The 125th Street Business Improvement District (BID) is a non-profit organization funded primarily from an additional tax assessment collected from the property owners within the defined boundaries. Organized in compliance with state and city laws, the property and business owners determine the services and programs needed for the district. The BID will utilize the competition to bring visibility to its streetscape improvement efforts and to envision the community’s central business district.

The Harlem Arts Alliance (HAA) is a non-profit membership service organization committed to nurturing the artistic growth and organizational development of artists and arts organizations primarily in Harlem and its surrounding communities. Comprised of over 400 individual artists and arts organizations, HAA is the only service organization of its kind in Harlem and plays an essential role by helping to build the resources, network and capacity of its richly diverse membership. Counted among its members are young emerging artists as well as internationally recognized artists. Also represented are small grassroots organizations and major cultural institutions in Harlem and beyond. Major funding for HAA is provided by the Upper Manhattan Empowerment Zone Corporation, the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs, and the New York City Council.

Barbara Askins, President of the 125th Street BID says the BID on Culture project “seeks to maximize the value of the 125th Street corridor by initiating efforts to secure the future of cultural presentation and production in Harlem and to encourage the ongoing revitalization of 125th Street as a premier arts and culture entertainment destination.”

Michael Unthank, HAA Executive Director, says that “over the past 10 to 15 years, 125th Street Corridor has emerged as a major destination anchored by not just local and national chain retail outlets but also by major cultural institutions such as the Studio Museum in Harlem and the Apollo Theater.”

TRIBUTE TO JOHN McNAMARA

HON. TIMOTHY H. BISHOP

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 26, 2009

Mr. BISHOP of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise today to bring to the attention of my colleagues and the entire nation the service and sacrifice of firefighter and 9/11 first responder John McNamara.

A 10-year veteran of the New York Fire Department, John is currently assigned to Engine Co. 234 in Crown Heights, Brooklyn. He is a first responder who not only assisted during the search and rescue efforts following September 11th, 2001, but also assisted the New Orleans Fire Department and the citizens of Louisiana during the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina.

Formerly a resident of Bay Ridge, Brooklyn, and currently a resident of Blue Point, Long Island, John is valiantly struggling to survive a nearly three-year battle with Stage 4, metastatic colon cancer. John, age 43, and his wife Jennifer have a 2½ year old son named Jack.

In the firefighting tradition of “leaving no man behind,” John’s friends and fellow firefighters at Engine 234 / Ladder 123, Engine 220 / Ladder 122, the Blue Point Volunteer Fire Department and the New York City Firefighter Brotherhood Foundation are working hard to see that John and his family are supported as his battle grows more difficult.

Like John, many of the brave first responders who served at Ground Zero are now struggling with debilitating diseases as a result of their courageous efforts. As a nation, we made a promise to help all those who suffered as a result of the treacherous acts of September 11th. We must keep that promise. We must ensure that those brave first responders receive the medical care and other support they need.

Today, we in Congress honor John McNamara for his service to New York and to our nation.

TRIBUTE TO MARSHA T. D'UPONT

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 26, 2009

Mr. TOWNS. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Marsha T. D’Dupont.

Marsha was born in Brooklyn, NY, to Deacon Clyde Tarrant, Sr. and the Late Catherine Britt Tarrant. She is the only girl child out of three children born for three generations. She is the sister of Deacon Clyde Tarrant Jr., and the Late Bruce Tarrant.

She received her education from Public School 11 and Rothchild Junior High School both of Brooklyn, New York. Marsha received a scholarship from Fashion Industries Vocational High School, where she graduated with an Associate in Fashion and became a model. She later attended Fashion Institute of Technology where she majored in retailing and became a model. She later attended Fashion Institute of Technology where she majored in retailing and became a model. She later attended Fashion Institute of Technology where she majored in retailing and became a model. She later attended Fashion Institute of Technology where she majored in retailing and became a model. She later attended Fashion Institute of Technology where she majored in retailing and became a model. She later attended Fashion Institute of Technology where she majored in retailing and became a model. She later attended Fashion Institute of Technology where she majored in retailing and became a model. She later attended Fashion Institute of Technology where she majored in retailing and became a model. She later attended Fashion Institute of Technology where she majored in retailing and became a model.
“Duchess Unlimited” where she worked as a Wedding Coordinator and coordinated anniversaries and other types of social events at cost.

Marsha joined the Mt. Olie Baptist Church in 1959 under the leadership of the late Rev. R.D. Brown. She sang in the Junior Choir, was an original member of the Studio of Promise, a member of the Junior usher Board and later joined the Young Adult Choir. Rev. Brown appointed Marsha to the Senior Trustee Board to “observe.” She was the youngest female trustee. This was a major accomplishment for Marsha, for little did she know that God was preparing her for the future. In 1989 she was elected as the first female Chairperson of the Board and is still serving in that capacity today. She has given 20 years of service to the trustee board.

At present Marsha works as the Director of Housing/Food & Beverage for the Office of Conventions and Meetings for the National Baptist Convention USA, Inc. She was appointed to this position by the President of the Convention in 1995. She is a member of the religious Conference Management Association and Coalition of Black Meeting Planners. She is also a member of the National Council of Negro Women.

Marsha began her work as a member of the Brooklyn District of the New York State Chapter of the Gospel Music Workshop of America, Inc. in the 1950s under the leadership of Bishop Albert L. Jamison, Sr. as Chapter representative. Marsha gave great support and dedication to the late Brother Larry Brown and the late Minister Allen D. Jamison as Borough Presidents of the Brooklyn District. After their passing she then was appointed Borough President. The Brooklyn District took on new life and direction under her leadership.

Marsha is also a Charter Member of the famous Tri-boro Mass Choir of which she credits the choir’s annual prayer and fasting shut-in as interior minister to the Ottoman Empire and helped orchestrate the Armenian Genocide. Like the Nazis, Pasha kept detailed population figures of the Ottoman Empire’s Christian ethnic minority, the Armenians.

Before 1915, 1.2 million Armenians lived in what today is modern Turkey. By 1917, the membership was reduced to 284,000 Armenians. Bardakci received these original lists of population figures from Pasha’s wife, Havyre Talat, in 1983. However, he waited to include them in his book until he felt Turkey was ready to receive them.

As the New York Times reported in November of 1920, Talat Pasha used to say, “the only way to dispose of the Armenians question is to kill the Armenians.” As Ambassador to the Ottoman Empire, Henry Morgenthau made many courageous efforts to stop the ethnic cleansing of the Armenians, as well as alert Americans to the genocide that was taking place. Morgenthau, who dealt with Talat in Istanbul, believed strongly that Pasha was fully responsible for the killings of the Armenians.

These figures in Bardakci’s book provide further evidence that those who masterminded the genocide against the Armenians were obsessed with exterminating all the Armenian people. Talat Pasha’s mictulous figures bring to mind the Nazis who kept records of 17 million victims, including the Jews who were exterminated during the holocaust. In aggregate, the Nazis kept 50 million pages of documents now available for the families of those who lost loved ones, scholars, and the public.

Unfortunately, Bardakci does not believe that the Armenian Genocide took place. Like his government, he is an outspoken denier. However, he believes that Turkish people should be exposed to historical documents. Bardakci is correct that Turkey needs documents. This week’s Times article astutely notes the chilling silence that swept over Turkey in response to these figures. Turkey needs to come to terms with its past.

It is with sadness that it may take the figures of the man who orchestrated the genocide to convince the Turkish government and the Turkish people that 90 years ago the Ottoman Empire committed genocide against the Armenians. I am hopeful that Turkey will soon unclench its hold on its people’s memory and permit the Armenians to the genocide that was taking place.

Mr. PALLONE. Madam Speaker, recently, the New York Times reported on a recently published book The Remaining Documents of Talat Pasha by Turkish author Murat Bardakci. The book details Pasha’s methodical recording of the disappearance of nearly 1 million Armenians in a 2-year period. Pasha served as interior minister to the Ottoman Empire and

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Ms. CASTOR of Florida. Madam Speaker, in recognition of Women’s History Month, I rise today to honor Matilda Martinez Garcia, a devoted advocate for Hispanic Americans in Florida. Ms. Garcia exemplifies the power of women to make a difference in their communities.

Ms. Garcia is a third generation Floridian whose grandfather came from Spain to Tampa via Cuba. Ms. Garcia serves as a liaison between the Tampa government and the Hispanic community as a council member of the Mayor’s Hispanic Advisory Council. She also serves on several boards including the Mayor’s Hispanic Advisory Council, LULAC and the University of Florida’s Mental Health Institute.

Ms. Garcia is a member of the Tampa Hispanic Heritage Board of Directors, which is comprised of Hispanic Americans with varied roots who share pride in being Hispanic. The organization serves to share rich Spanish language, culture and tradition with our community during Tampa’s Hispanic Heritage Celebration.

Ms. Garcia served as the Former State Director of The League of United Latin American Citizens. LULAC’s mission is to advance the economic needs, educational attainment, political influence, health and civil rights of the Hispanic population of the United States. In 2007, Ms. Garcia spoke at a LULAC convention seminar on the historic and ongoing contributions that Latina leaders have made to the civil rights struggle in the U.S. and the development of LULAC as a civil rights organization. Women’s leadership has long been a cornerstone of the Latino community.

As a member of the Florida Institute for Community Studies (FICS) Board of Directors, Ms. Garcia speaks to children about her life growing up in Tampa as the child of Spanish immigrants and the challenges facing the Hispanic community.

In 2001 the Department of Child and Family Studies created the Matilda Garcia Initiative, or “Latin American Research Scholars Exchange,” to ensure continued collaboration between the Department of Child and Family Studies and Latin American researchers and practitioners. The Matilda Garcia Initiative provides the institute with a means for strengthening the level of exchange with Latin America through the funding of these and other activities. Ms. Garcia’s support has encouraged a new vision of future collaboration between the Department of Child and Family Studies at FMH and a wide variety of Latin American academic institutions and organizations.

In 2002, The Community of Tampa Bay proudly awarded Ms. Garcia the Silver Medalion Humanitarian Award. This award is given to members of the community who have helped to promote dialogue and respect among cultures, regions, and traditions. In 2008, Ms. Garcia attended the 89 Democratic National Convention as Florida’s oldest delegate. At the convention Ms. Garcia inspired Florida’s delegates with her
Madam Speaker, Matilda Garcia is a highly regarded woman who has touched the lives of many in Tampa. I am proud to call her my neighbor, and I join many others to applaud her lifelong contribution to the Tampa Bay community.

INTRODUCING THE ENERGY EFFICIENT AND ENVIRONMENTALLY FRIENDLY AUTOMOBILE TAX CREDIT ACT

HON. RON PAUL OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 26, 2009

Mr. PAUL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Energy Efficient and Environmentally Friendly Automobile Tax Credit Act, legislation that will help Americans reduce pollution and the amount they pay for gas. My legislation accomplishes these important goals by providing Americans a tax credit of up to $2,000 when they sell or trade in a car and obtain a vehicle that has at least a 20% higher average fuel economy than the sold or traded-in car. The bill also creates a federal tax deduction for any state or local taxes paid on the purchase of the more fuel-efficient automobile and makes interest on loans to purchase the more fuel-efficient automobile tax deductible.

This legislation will help Americans reduce the amount they pay to fill up their cars by making it easier for them to obtain more fuel-efficient cars. I hope my colleagues would agree that Congress should provide free market incentives to make it easier for Americans to exchange their current cars for cars that create less pollution.

Providing tax deductions and tax credits to make it easier for Americans to purchase fuel-efficient automobiles is a win for American consumers, a win for the environment, and a win for those of us who favor free market solutions to pollution and high gas prices. I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

A TRIBUTE TO NATALIE ADDISON

HON. EDOPHUS TOWNS OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 26, 2009

Mr. TOWNS. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of a wonderful lady and a true Nebraska treasure. Today, Sally Gordon will be celebrating her 100th birthday in a place which has come to know and love her— The Nebraska State Capitol.

Sally was the Nebraska Legislature’s first female Sergeant-at-Arms when she was first hired in 1983—and she has been putting Nebraska lawmakers in their place ever since.

In this day and age, such dedication to public service is rare and her amazing stamina has put many of her colleagues to shame over the years.

She truly exemplifies the word ‘elegant’ and I have been blessed to have had the opportunity to work with her during my time in the Nebraska Unicameral.

Sally, may your force never diminish and your voice never fade. Happy Birthday.

HONORING WASHINGTON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY'S 75TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. MICHELE BACHMANN OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 26, 2009

Mrs. BACHMANN. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor the Washington County Historical Society and their dedication to preservation of the history of Washington County and Minnesota.

Founded on April 11th, 1934, the Society has grown from 75 members meeting in the public library to more than 700 members operating four buildings, two museums and a growing research library.

In 1941, the Society purchased the Warden’s House Museum and today it is one of Minnesota’s oldest buildings and the second oldest continuously operating house museum. The Society purchased the Boucheval Cemetery and the Hay Lake School in 1978 and shortly thereafter the school’s neighbor, the Johannes Erickson Log House, was donated for the Society’s care and restoration. All three buildings are on the National Register of Historic Places.

The Society provides educational programs and historical expertise with the ultimate goal of collaborating with the community, facilitating historical discussion and providing an opportunity for all Washington County residents to learn and enjoy their area’s history. Minnesota is so rich with history, heritage, and tradition. This work is such a tremendous service to us all.

Madam Speaker, it is my honor to recognize and congratulate the Washington County Historical Society on their 75th Anniversary. Their efforts have demonstrated the importance of historical preservation and resulted in a strong sense of community heritage throughout Washington County.

INTRODUCING A RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING THE CRUCIAL ROLE OF ASSISTANCE DOGS IN HELPING WOUNDED VETERANS LIVE MORE INDEPENDENT LIVES, AND SUPPORTING THE GOALS AND IDEALS OF CREATING A TOWER OF HOPE DAY

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 26, 2009

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce a resolution that acknowledges the admirable role of assistance dogs in helping our wounded veterans live more independent lives, expresses gratitude to the Tower of Hope, and supports the goals and ideals of creating a Tower of Hope Day.

We currently have over 170,000 troops deployed in Iraq and Afghanistan. Thousands of those brave service men and women have been seriously wounded in combat. Many of these courageous soldiers suffer from brain injuries, single and double amputations, and other traumatic wounds. As a result, they are required to spend weeks, months, and years in hospitals recovering from their injuries.

Madam Speaker, we must not forget that these brave men and women are still in genuine need of assistance to continue their recovery. Assistance dogs will help to empower veterans in need of assistance to live a more comfortable and independent life.

The Tower of Hope is dedicated to providing wounded soldiers with service dogs. The Tower of Hope was created following the September 11th terrorist attacks in an effort to bring about hope and happiness to our wounded veterans. Among other things, these service dogs give wounded veterans with the necessary everyday tasks such as using the stairs, retrieving items, pulling wheelchairs, and even turning lights on and off.
Today, we will introduce legislation that builds on this success by setting efficiency standards for outdoor lighting.

Outdoor lighting currently consumes approximately 4.4% of all the electricity produced in the United States. Most of this lighting is currently provided by outdated and inefficient technologies. Our bill sets efficiency standards to phase out these inefficient technologies (which include incandescent and halogen lights), paving the way for more efficient and cost-effective lights (such as super-efficient light emitting diodes, or LED's). The first standard will be set in 2011, the second in 2013, and the last in 2015. The Department of Energy would then have the authority to set rules that raise efficiency standards even further.

The bill also requires outdoor lights to come with bi-level controls, which permit users to alter the amount of light emitted. You don’t need the same level of brightness at dusk as you do in the middle of the night. This is important, because these controls will give cities, counties, and other users more control over their own energy usage, empowering them to maximize their own energy conservation efforts.

Finally, like in 2007, we protect the efforts of early innovators such as California, which has already passed an outdoor lighting standard. Our bill allows California to fully implement its law before imposing nationwide preemption.

The energy savings that will flow from these efficiency improvements are stunning. A leading industry group estimates that this bill could eventually reduce energy usage from outdoor lighting by more than 25%, saving more than $6 billion in electricity every year. That’s the equivalent of more than 50 coal fired power stations.

And like our 2007 legislation, we are proud that this bill is a bipartisan, consensus effort forged after extensive discussions between leading environmental and industry groups.

The United States will not be able to get its arms around the twin, daunting challenges of global climate change and dependence on oil until we pursue efficiency and energy conservation wherever it is technologically feasible.

We believe that this bill, like its 2007 counterpart, is a vital and necessary piece of the solution. We urge its swift passage.
forgo their last fire. When a deadly brushfire swept through Olney Springs on April 19, 2008 at age 29, I send my deepest condolences to the family and friends of Mr. Pine and am proud to announce that his name will be added to the Fallen Firefighter Memorial in Colorado Springs. Mr. Pine was a kind, loyal and genuine man who inspired those around him. May he be remembered along with the other heroes in Colorado who have given their lives protecting this country.

IN HONOR OF FRANKLIN CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL FOR THEIR OUTSTANDING PUBLIC SERVICE

HON. ANDRE´ CARSON
OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 26, 2009

Mr. CARSON of Indiana. Madam Speaker, today I rise to honor the faculty and students of Franklin Central High School for their dedication as dynamic and sharing members of our community. Earlier this month, FCHS students raised over $24,000 for Riley Hospital for Children in Indianapolis, Indiana. The students raised the money at their inaugural dance marathon.

This program was a six hour event with 325 students participating. In addition to the dancing, the dance marathon included a dodge ball tournament and a girls' basketball free throw contest that raised $6,000. The faculty and staff set an excellent example by raising an additional $3,500 to contribute to their students' efforts. All in all, the inaugural dance marathon was an extremely successful program that surpassed its intended goal of $15,000.

The Riley dance program was originally established in 1991 in memory of Ryan White, an AIDS activist and Riley patient. Since the program's inception, thousands of Indiana's high school and college students have contributed themselves to raising funds for Riley. It is a program that Riley has come to depend on to facilitate research and provide treatment to children in need of vital health services.

I urge my colleagues to join me in thanking Franklin Central High School for their dedicated public service.

RECOGNIZING THE 90TH BIRTHDAY OF MR. FRED A. CURLS

HON. EMANUEL CLEAVER
OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 26, 2009

Mr. CLEAVER. Madam Speaker, I proudly rise today in recognition of the 90th birthday of Mr. Fred Curls, a pioneer for civil and political rights and a resident of the Fifth District of Missouri, which I am honored to represent. On March 31, 2009, Mr. Curls will be 90 years young. This weekend on March 26th and 27th, he is to be honored in Kansas City, Missouri by family, friends, and acquaintances. I am privileged to be a part of this ceremony.

Mr. Curls is one of the original Founders of Freedom Incorporated, an African-American political organization which at one time could not have told nearly 70,000 votes for a candidate or a cause. The organization has been at the forefront in serving as a catalyst for change in civil rights, public accommodations, and the election of candidates at all levels of government. Freedom Inc.'s office has been visited by City Councilpersons, Jackson County Executives, Mayors, Missouri State Senators and Representatives, Governors, Congresspersons, Senators, Presidents, and those who have Presidential aspirations.

For nearly fifty years, Mr. Curls has dedicated his life to the Greater Kansas City community, promoting and improving political empowerment and the civil rights of people of all ages. He was their hero. His family and friends struggle with the shock of his passing, but his grandchildren have followed in his footsteps in acknowledging their responsibility of giving back to the community. His son, State Senator Phil B. Curls, Sr. was the President of Freedom Inc. when I was Chairman. It was a period when Freedom Inc was considered as one of the most potent political organizations in the United States and brought about the election of the first African-American Congressman from the Fifth District of Missouri, U.S. Representative Alan Wheat. These "kids" have also held many public offices. Two of them were and one is presently a Missouri State Representative, one was a city councilwoman, and two have been School Board members in the Metropolitan Kansas City area.

Since the mid-1950s, Mr. Curls has been involved in real estate sales and appraisals, most notably in the African-American community of Kansas City. He fought against "restrictive covenants" whereby residential homes could not be sold in certain areas to minorities. He was part of a class action lawsuit which resulted in the United States Supreme Court outlawing such covenants.

In all of his activities, Mr. Curls demonstrates his dedication and commitment to the greater good of others. He is actively involved with his high school graduating class, the "Class of 1937," which has been very close to this day. He was honored by Jackson County, Missouri as one of its "Legacy Award"es for its 175th anniversary as a political subdivision. He has also been honored by fellow Missourian U.S. Representative William Lacy Clay of St. Louis and myself as an awardee of the "Missouri Walk of Fame" designation, as one of the pioneers of Kansas City's African-American political struggle.

Throughout his life, he has believed in the saying "make it happen." He has put his principles into practice, and the effects of his efforts have "made it happen" throughout the Kansas City metropolitan area. He has been embraced by all and has held us on those shoulders all these years to promote equality in all walks of life.

For those reasons and more, it is indeed an honor and a privilege to recognize Mr. Fred Curls on his 90th Birthday celebration. Madam Speaker, please join me in expressing our appreciation to Mr. Fred Curls and his endless commitment to serving the residents of Kansas City and the State of Missouri.
The team is led by Head Coach Harry Welch; Assistants Rod Baltau, Chris Colaw, Mark Davidson, Jay Noonan, Mel Taylor, Fr. Reggie Payne-Wiens, Brent Ward, and Butch Ward; Athletic Trainer Dave Tominson; and Team Managers Kimber Kira, Caleb, Anna Maria Carabini, Emily Furman, and Valerie Wu. It is an honor to represent such a fine group of young people with a strong dedication to team work and academics. I know each one of them will treasure the memories of their championship season and I commend them, and the entire St. Margaret’s community, for this truly great achievement.

INTRODUCTION OF THE WIND INCENTIVES FOR A NEW DECADE ENERGY ACT OF 2009

HON. KEVIN McCARTHY OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 26, 2009

Mr. McCARTHY of California. Madam Speaker, I am pleased to introduce the Wind Incentives for a New Decade (WIND) Energy Act of 2009. The proposal, along with the production tax credit (PTC) over the next decade to demonstrate that we are committed to powering our nation with more alternative and clean electricity.

Electricity prices have soared more than 26 percent in the past 10 years. Wind energy and other renewable energy resources are a crucial component to ensuring that Americans have access to clean, reliable, diversified, and affordable electricity. According to the U.S. Energy Information Administration, wind energy today accounts for approximately 3 percent of electricity produced in the United States. However, wind energy capacity has the potential to significantly increase in the United States in the future—but only if we have a stable investment climate.

A clean, reliable, and renewable energy source, wind-generated electricity produces no carbon dioxide or greenhouse gas emissions. In fact, in 2007, the American Wind Energy Association (AWEA) estimated that wind energy displaced more than 28 million tons of carbon dioxide from being released into the atmosphere. A 2007 report compiled by the American Solar Energy Society indicates that widespread use of wind has the potential to displace up to 1,780 million metric tons of carbon dioxide by 2030.

By extending the PTC through 2020, my bill would create long-term fiscal stability primarily in the wind energy market. This certainty is vital to wind energy project planning and development. By providing a long-term credit, wind energy developers can attract investors and plan out schedules for project development, thereby creating an efficient and cost-effective process for allocating resources and encouraging investment in this industry. This alone has the potential to reduce the costs associated with many of these projects thereby making wind-generated electricity more competitive with other types of electricity that is generated.

The wind energy industry currently employs over 85,000 individuals and indirectly employs tens of thousands more in industry-related support services. With a current national unemployment rate of 8.1 percent, which is higher in the construction sector (21.4 percent) and manufacturing sector (11.5 percent), providing long-term stability in the tax code for the PTC would help create sustainable, good-paying jobs. In fact, in 2007, the U.S. Department of Energy’s Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory found that a 5- to 10-year extension of the PTC, relative to one- or two-year extensions, could reduce the cost of wind projects by up to 15 percent, result in better transmission line planning, enhance private research and development spending, and significantly increase domestic manufacturing of wind equipment thereby, creating American jobs. In addition, this report goes on to indicate that by extending the PTC through 2020, wind energy has the potential to increase in the United States from about 3 percent to 17 percent of our electricity supply by 2030.

Unfortunately, since its creation in 1992, the PTC has been allowed to expire three times, only to be retroactively renewed and extended. In addition, Congress nearly allowed this credit to expire many times, but then has passed 11th hour extensions of the provision. The 3-year extension of the PTC included in the recently-enacted stimulus bill is a good start; however, given the history of extensions of this credit, extending the PTC in this process is a major disincentive to long-term wind and renewable energy development. This situation has led to a boom-bust cycle in wind energy rather than a consistent, longterm investment in one of our nation’s limitless green energy resources. For instance, information compiled by AWEA shows that each time the PTC was allowed to expire but then was reactively renewed and extended, the subsequent year wind energy installations decreased 73 percent—93 percent compared to the prior year.

Kern County, which I represent, is a model of renewable energy resources, and Tehachapi, California, is a leader in wind energy development. In fact, the Tehachapi Wind Resources Area, located in the Tehachapi Mountains of eastern Kern, has attracted wind energy developers because, if you have ever been there, the wind blows nearly all the time through the mountain tops and valleys. Under-scoring the vast wind energy potential in this area, over 3,500 wind turbines have already been installed, which produce electricity to displace more than 250,000 tons of carbon dioxide, create more than 650 jobs (both directly and indirectly) in the local communities. In addition, Kern County produces over 30 percent of the total wind-generated power in California, and accounts for about 5 percent of the total wind power generated in the United States. Even with all of this, it is my understanding there is still opportunity for significant expansion of wind power in the Kern-Tehachapi area, which some estimates put as high as bringing an additional 6,000 megawatts of wind-generated electricity online. A long-term extension of the PTC would help create renewable energy jobs, and AWEA estimates wind power generation in the Tehachapi Wind Resources Area, as well as the United States’, vast potential for wind energy can be developed in a reliable and timely manner,
which not only benefits Kern County, but California and the United States.

It is time for Congress to take decisive action to help ensure that Americans have reliable and affordable renewable electricity. A long-term extension of the PTC would help ensure the economic viability of our American renewable energy resources, such as wind, and create thousands of new, skilled jobs, both in manufacturing and engineering in this country.

VIOLENCE IN NORTHERN IRELAND

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.
OF NEW JERSEY
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, March 26, 2009

Mr. PALLONE. Madam Speaker, I rise this evening to join political leaders of Northern Ireland in condemning the recent murders of two British soldiers and a British police officer in Northern Ireland.

Two dissident republican groups, the Continuity I.R.A. and the Real I.R.A., have claimed responsibility for the attack. The first, on a Saturday evening, occurred when two British soldiers guarding a base outside of Antrim were gunned down. Two pizza delivery workers were also tragically injured in the attack. The second attack came on a recent Monday when gunmen shot a member of the Police Service of Northern Ireland on duty near Belfast.

This small group of political dissidents is not representative of the overall peace and unity that so many have worked so hard for since the Good Friday Agreement was signed in 1998. They should not be allowed to return us to the days of the Troubles.

I call on anyone with information on those who perpetrated these attacks to come forward so that justice can be served. Foolish attacks such as these will not put a stop to the peace process that has been gaining momentum over the last ten years in Northern Ireland.

With the mutual condemnation of these attacks from both sides of the political spectrum, I am hopeful that Martin McGuinness and Peter Robinson will take the lead in reinforcing their commitment to peace in the province.

Events like these recent attacks represent the past in the North of Ireland. We must be focused on developing the economy in the North of Ireland, educating children, and training workers—not reverting to the bloody violence of the past.

Madam Speaker, I hope my colleagues will join me in denouncing this recent disturbing and senseless violence in Northern Ireland. With all of the progress made since the Good Friday Agreement in 1998, the people of Northern Ireland will only accept peace as the answer. We must not allow these murderers to be successful in disrupting that goal.

HUNTINGTON BEACH 100TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. DANA ROHRABACHER
OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, March 26, 2009

Mr. ROHRABACHER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the City of Huntington Beach on its one hundredth anniversary. One of the most beautiful, comfortable, successful, clean, and vibrant cities of America has transformed itself from a tiny oil-producing and cow-grazing piece of land, into the vibrant metropolis it is today. The home to nearly 200,000 people, Huntington Beach, CA has become a great example of what cities across America should strive to be.

Anybody who has ever strolled along the boardwalk, played volleyball in the sand, surfed the waves, trekked out over the pier and watched the sun set know that they are experiencing something special. But leisure is not the only thing valued in Surf City, USA. The city has established a commitment to education with 35 elementary schools, five high schools, as well as two community colleges within the city’s limits. The people of Huntington Beach are also very hard workers who have labored to contribute a great deal to their city, state, country, and world. The city plays host to a diverse range of industry, from low-tech to high-tech aerospace, among them The Boeing Company. The city is also home to part of the upper stage of the Saturn V rocket, which was engineered and built by Douglas Aircraft (later McDonnell Douglas), which took the first American flights to the moon.

I must point out another aspect to this city that is near and dear to my heart, as the Chairman of the unofficial, yet powerful, House Surfers Caucus. Visit Huntington Beach, and within a short distance of each other, you will find the International Surfing Museum, the Surfing Hall of Fame, the Surfing Walk of Fame, Quicksilver, and my personal favorite, Jack’s Surfboards. Every year, thousands gather on its beaches for the yearly U.S. Open of Surfing Contest. Although I’m not a competitor, it does not prevent me from getting up early in the morning, whenever I can, to join other surfers in the areas beyond the breakline, and hopefully catch a wave or two. Surfing adds a unique and important flavor to the local culture, and Huntington Beach has indeed earned its designation as Surf City, USA.

Yes, Huntington Beach has much to be proud of. The city has so much to offer that people from every corner of the world have traveled to visit or settle in this beautiful city. And who can blame them? Huntington Beach boasts one of the most beautiful coastlines in the country, amazing weather, and friendly and innovative people. Several times, the FBI has cited the city as being one of the safest communities in the United States.

Huntington Beach continues its quest for offering a great quality of life and advocating the advancement of freedom, fun, and human progress. Establishments such as Central Park, the Huntington Harbour, the Bolsa Chica Ecological Preserve, among others, are a testament to this dedication. As this great city, Surf City, USA, celebrates its centennial, let us look to its example and work to emulate its success. I congratulate Huntington Beach on its centennial. I’m sure the next hundred will be just as grand.

FAREWELL, BEST WISHES, AND THANKS TO AMY SCHICK

HON. JOHN W. OLVER
OF MASSACHUSETTS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, March 26, 2009

Mr. OLVER. Madam Speaker, the Transportation, Housing and Urban Development Appropriations Subcommittee bid farewell earlier this week to Amy Schick who has served as a part of the Subcommittee’s Congressional Fellow over the past year. Ms. Schick returned to the Office of Occupant Protection and Impaired Driving at the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, where she will have her next assignment as part of the Presidential Management Fellows program.

The Transportation Subcommittee was fortunate to have Amy as a part of the Subcommittee team. She did a superb job researching a variety of transportation issues; preparing hearing and briefing materials; and, managing the thousands of project requests that were submitted to the Subcommittee during the fiscal year 2009 appropriations process. In addition, Amy had lead staff responsibility for oversight of the budgets of the Surface Transportation Board and the Architectural and Transportation Barriers Compliance Board.

Amy’s organizational skills and unwavering positive attitude set a high standard for the Subcommittee. Her outstanding commitment to public service was evident not only in how she performed her duties on the Subcommittee but also through her dedication and brave service in the United States Army Reserves.

I am profoundly grateful for Amy’s service to the Subcommittee over the past twelve months and I am confident that she will go on to achieve great things at the Department of Transportation. I, along with my Subcommittee staff, wish Amy all the best in her future endeavors.
HON. ADAM SMITH  
OF WASHINGTON  
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
Thursday, March 26, 2009

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Madam Speaker, I mistakenly missed the vote on rollcall No. 162: On passage of H.R. 1404, the Federal Land Assistance, Management and Enhancement Act. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes."

HON. FRANK R. WOLF  
OF VIRGINIA  
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
Thursday, March 26, 2009

Mr. WOLF. Madam Speaker, I want to share with our colleagues today the recent passing of Frank Raflo of Leesburg, Virginia. He died on March 15, 2009, at the age of 89.

A long-time resident of Leesburg, Frank was a giant in his community who made public service a priority. He was a member of the town council for several years, as well as serving as mayor for two years. During his tenure as mayor, Frank oversaw the effort to build an airport in Leesburg. He was also a member of the Loudoun County Board of Supervisors for 14 years, including a year as chairman in 1985.

Frank served his community in unselected positions as well. He was one of the charter members of the Leesburg Kiwanis Club in 1957. The club holds the annual Kiwanis Halloween Parade that local children look forward to year after year. With his wife Frances, Frank championed parks and outdoor spaces in Loudoun County. They were influential in the creation of the W&OD Trail in Leesburg, and a park along the trail was subsequently dedicated for them. In more recent years, Frank wrote a column in the local paper, the Leesburg Today.

The town of Leesburg and the Commonwealth of Virginia will greatly miss the service of their friend, Frank Raflo. His legacy will not soon be forgotten.

I would like to share an in memoriam of Frank Raflo that ran in the Leesburg Today on March 18, 2009:

(From the Leesburg Today, Mar. 18, 2009)  
FRANK RAFLO: IN MEMORIAM, 1919–2009  
(BY MARGARET MORTON)

Small in physical stature, but towering in intelligence, integrity and love of community, Frank Raflo, who died Sunday at age 89, was one of the noisiest members of Loudoun leaders during the second half of the 20th century.

All this week, tributes poured in for a man whose bracket of interests was phenomenal. A generous dispenser of advice for others making their way in the world, Raflo retained all his long life a curiosity into what made people and institutions tick.

Blessed with a sharp brain, with a penetrating eye for fiscal detail and a consuming interest in all that went on around him, Raflo lived an extraordinary life in which he had a number of careers-businessman, journalist and columnist, author, radio commentator and local elected government representative.

In his later years, Raflo's column, Just Being Frank, in Leesburg Today, in which he dispensed his particular brand of down-home wisdom, had a loyal following. Readers were drawn to his often whimsical but always knowledgeable observations on a variety of subjects ranging from human beings, government malfeasance, the price of coffee, hemlines going up or down, how to find good tomatoes or a good shovel, whether it was a true sale or not, and so on.

In addition, Raflo wrote a number of books detailing Leesburg's and Loudoun's history, among the best known being Within The Iron Gate.

The two men, who worked together on many county and local issues, had a number of careers-businessman, journalist and columnist, author, radio commentator and local elected government representative.

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In addition, Raflo wrote a number of books detailing Leesburg's and Loudoun's history, among the best known being Within The Iron Gate.

Serving on both the Leesburg Town Council and the Board of Supervisors, Raflo's love of both was remarkable. Director of the Loudoun Office of Transportation Services Terrie Laycock, who started work with county government in 1977 as an aide to board members, worked closely with Raflo, who served on the county board from 1972 to 1986, including as chairman in 1985. "You never questioned that his motives were anything other than for the good of Loudoun County: No politics, no personal advancement, it was always from his perspective for what he felt was best for the county," she said.

He was a dedicated Democrat and an equally dedicated Kiwanian, a charter member of the Leesburg Kiwanis Club, and founder of the Kiwanis Halloween Parade in Leesburg. Growing up in Leesburg, Raflo attended Leesburg High School where he always was in sports, the top of his class. That keen intellect led to his being accepted into the College of William and Mary in Williamsburg, where he graduated as a Phi Beta Kappa student.

As a businessman, Raflo and his wife, Frances, operated a women's dress shop on South King Street in the 1960s and 1970s, and in the 1980s, as well as on weekends, Quanbeck recalled. "It takes a lot to get teenage girls out of bed at 6 a.m. on a weekend," Quanbeck said.

HONORING THE LIFE OF FRANK RAFLO  
OF VIRGINIA  
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
Thursday, March 26, 2009

Mr. MAFFEI of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise today to talk about some great achievements by student athletes in my district.

This past weekend Jamesville-DeWitt boys' varsity basketball team, which is my hometown, defeated Peekskill 77–75 in Overtime to win the Class A Boys' High School basketball championship.

The 25th congressional district winning ways continue at the New York Public schools championship with Bishop Kearney boys' varsity basketball team defeating Seton Catholic 65–48 to bring home the Class B Boy's High School basketball championship.

And the women of the 25th district got into the act when Newark girls varsity basketball team defeated Albertus Magnus 75–68 to take the Girls' Class A basketball championship.

Coach McKenney at Jamesville-DeWitt, Coach Boeheim at Bishop Kearney, Coach Kimler at Newark and all of the student athletes are to be congratulated on these great achievements. I wish them all the best of luck as they move on to the New York State Federation Championships this weekend in Glens Falls.

Last, but certainly not least, I am proud to say that the Syracuse Orange men's basketball team won both of their NCAA tournament games this past weekend and have advanced to the sweet 16 this weekend. To coach Boeheim, and all of the players, I can't tell you how many people come up to me in halls of Congress to talk about how great you are. I will be cheering for you as you compete for a berth in the Final Four.

All of the student athletes that compete bring my district and the whole United States great pride and I applaud you on your efforts. Keep up the good work, and Go Orange!
After serving on the Leesburg Town Council, Raflo ran for the Board of Supervisors, where he served from 1972 to 1986. He also served on the Virginia Commission for Local Government. He was appointed by both Democratic and Republican governors to that post, where his experience in local government planning and budgeting served him well.

His son recalled his father was a firm believer in planning and his earlier work in Leesburg would culminate in his years serving on the Board of Supervisors in the 1970s and 1980s. He was an early advocate for planning and adequate public facilities planning to service growth, particularly water and sewer, as well as ensuring quality and sufficiency of water. He said, “My son, the infrastructure were not there,” according to his son. Several colleagues agreed, citing his frequent comments on community planning that “you will grow to the capacity of your toilet” and “if you can’t flush, you can’t build it”—highlighting the essential role in local government.

His interest in being prepared to manage growth responsibly led him to join other county leaders on a trip to England to look at planning practices in the 1970s. The trip was organized by Powell Harrison, founder of the Piedmont Environmental Council. Raflo’s interest in tying adequate infrastructure into the planning was presaged by repeated efforts by county boards into the 1990s to seek state enabling legislation to adopt the local growth controls, each meeting without success.

Among the champions of that effort was Supervisor Jim Burton (I-Blue Ridge). “He had many good ideas,” Burton said. “I had a lot of respect for him.” Burton recalled the deliberations of the Leesburg Restaurant lunch group, of which Raflo was a member. The group was political, judicial and business leaders met each day at the diner’s large table, “solving the problems of the world.”

In her years providing assistance to board members, Laycock recalled Raflo’s frustration with constant comments by staff members that the board had to have studies and analyses before they could decide on various topics. Raflo’s response was “to come into the board meeting, pulling a kid’s wagon behind him, with policy in it. He loved to do theatrics to prove his point.”

Jim Brownell, who served on the county board for 30 years called Raflo “such an interesting fellow, the hardest working member of the board in my time.” “He was always real good with figures, and very intense with it. He always wanted to be right.” Brownell laughed as he recalled Raflo’s constant visits to then Director of Finance Kirby M. Bowers for information. Bowers, who will retire as county administrator April 1, Tuesday recalled Raflo as a tough budget reviewer. “Men I was budget manager he was in my office almost every day.”

“Frank would go to see him and find out what was going on, so often, that Kirby finally had to go to (then) County Administrator Phil Helden and say, ‘Mr. Raflo is always here. I can’t get my work done!’ That led to a resolution that no one supervisor should go to see a department head about anything.”

Former Loudoun Supervisor and, later, State Senator Charles Waddell recalled Raflo as a “person who was always thinking, always going to him with ‘big ideas’ on policy change. ‘Phil’s standard reply was, ‘Frank, do you have five votes?’ He rarely did, Waddell said. “He was as honest as the day was long. He had no hidden agendas. He was very hard working and if anyone was ‘government,’ he was it,” Brownell recalled. “I always thought of him as my best friend,” Brownell said, laughing, as he recalled a common demeanor. “Frank was a great fighter, he was the bantam rooster and me as the old setting hen.”

Hard working as he was, Raflo had always tried to help others. Waddell first met Raflo in 1963 several years after coming to live in the county. That year, he became chairman of the Loudoun County Democratic Committee. In 1967, Raflo ran successfully for the Board of Supervisors, joining Brownell as freshmen members. “He was a great help to me in my campaign as Democratic chairman and also as a member of the board,” Waddell said.

Raflo’s assistance did not stop there, as Waddell recalled he helped him in his initial campaign for state legislature and afterward. Waddell said he recalled to Raflo years later going to the dress shop on King Street for help on speeches or statements, and Raflo would say, “Charlie, come on downstairs to my office,” then proceed to translate Waddell’s ideas into correct prose on his trusty Underwood typewriter.

It was a detail man on the budget, which was his specialty. He always said, “It must be necessities, not niceties,” Waddell remembered. Describing Raflo as a “brilliant man,” Waddell said he preferred to be in the political and controversial at times, “there was a lot of substance in what he did.” Waddell said. A favorite saying of Raflo’s was “hold on to your tax bills, they’ll never get lost.”

“He cut out a niche for himself, he made a difference in the last half of the 20th century.”

It’s not widely known that Raflo was instrumental in the creation of the W&OD Trail and securing parks for Loudoun County, including Algonkian Park.

Raflo was a prominent and longtime member of the Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority Board of Directors Jim Wiley recalled he and Raflo went to the first two appointed members from Loudoun to that board.

“He was the father of regional parks in Loudoun,” Wiley said, noting that Raflo and Brownell were responsible in 1972 for NVRPA coming to the county.

Wiley was then chairman of the county’s agriculture board for preservation. “The supervisors kept promising us $100,000 per year for parks, but it never came through,” Wiley said. Then, the park author- celebrated the park’s first anniversary.

To Wiley’s frustration, the supervisors turned that offer, too. “So, in a huge fury I publicly resigned,” Wiley recalled. The next day, he got a call from Brownell. “I met with him and with Frank. They had decided it was a good idea after all, and we both got appointed to the [NVRPA] board.” That year, Raflo became a “great park advocate,” Wiley said, and the governmental spokesman for Loudoun until his resignation in 1986.

Raflo was very much involved with both land purchases—for the W&OD and Algonkian Park.

“We have had some great conversations, we rode back and forth together to NVRPA meetings,” Wiley said. “He was extremely effective, a great communicator, who got along with everyone, and always meant what he said.”

As dear to his heart as parks became, Democratic politics was a true avocation. “Frank was a very active Democrat and former member of the Loudoun Electoral Board,” said Bennie termed Raflo “a true Democrat, who stuck by his principles, never bent, even under the most intense pressure to do so.” She recalled that the Young Turks of the party sometimes would “poo poo his ideas,” and showed
irritation with Raflo's tendency to tell stories. "They'd strum their hands on the table and dismiss him because it was all so whimsical, and I often proved true.

Raflo would say that the Democratic Party was sliding down the tube in Virginia, "and it did," Bennie said, recalling that Raflo kept telling him this until it would have to do things differently if it were to succeed.

"He was always looking into the future, and had enormous experience. And he was often right."

Raflo was the son of Joseph Raflo and Fannie Bulitsky Raflo. He was predeceased also by his daughter Joe Raflo; son Philip Raflo; and granddaughter Mary Raflo. He is survived by his wife Frances Atwell Raflo; sons Paul Raflo of Stevensville, MD, and Alan Raflo of Blacksburg; grandson John-Paul Raflo; and brother Harry Raflo. He is survived by his daughter Joe Raflo; son Philip Raflo; and granddaughter Mary Raflo. He is survived by his wife Frances Atwell Raflo; sons Paul Raflo of Stevensville, MD, and Alan Raflo of Blacksburg; grandson John-Paul Raflo; and brother Harry Raflo. He is survived by his wife Frances Atwell Raflo; sons Paul Raflo of Stevensville, MD, and Alan Raflo of Blacksburg; grandson John-Paul Raflo; and brother Harry Raflo. He is survived by his wife Frances Atwell Raflo; sons Paul Raflo of Stevensville, MD, and Alan Raflo of Blacksburg; grandson John-Paul Raflo; and brother Harry Raflo. 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the criminal code was last revised. The exist-
ing criminal code is riddled with provisions that
are either outdated or simply inconsistent with
more recent modifications to reflect today’s
modern world. I introduced this Act in both the
109th and 110th Congresses. This new version
of the criminal code includes many criminal laws enacted

This measure is intended to continue the
dialogue and process for rewriting the criminal
code, with the hope that other Members, the
Senate, the judiciary, the Justice Department,
criminal law professors, and other interested
professionals will provide input and seek to
develop a more comprehensive re-write.

With the increasing federalization of local
crimes, there is a need to review and revise
Title 18 to ensure that such federalization is
minimized and tailored to appropriate crimes
where State and local prosecutions may not
adequately serve the public interest. Federal
prosecutions constitute only seven percent of
the federal role continues to be
limited and that the State and local offenses are
not assumed within an ever-expanding
criminal code.

Through the years, the criminal code has
grown with more and more criminal provisions,
some of which are antiquated or redundant,
some of which are poorly drafted, some of which
have not been used in the last 30 years, and some of which are unnecessary
since the crime is already covered by existing
criminal provisions.

This bill cuts over 1/3 of the existing criminal
code; reorganizes the criminal code to make it
more user-friendly; and consolidates criminal
offenses from other titles so that title 18 in-
cludes all major criminal provisions (e.g. drug
crimes in title 21, aviation offenses and hijack-
ing in title 49).

To the extent possible, and for the most
part, I applied a policy-neutral intent, meaning
that changes were made to streamline the
code in an effort to assist policymakers, practi-
tioners (judges, prosecutors, probation offi-
cers) and other persons who rely on the code
to implement criminal law enforcement and
effective. In instances where two general policy
changes were made: (1) attempts and conspir-
cacies to commit criminal offenses are gen-
erally excluded the term “willfully” in the defi-
nition of the Model Penal Code, for example, delib-
erately excluded the term “willfully” in the defi-
nition of crimes, stating that the term “is un-
usually ambiguous standing alone.” Model Penal
Code §2.02, explanatory note at 228
(Official Draft and Revised Comments 2005).

The revised criminal code employs a
straight-forward approach—where possible,
the term “knowingly” is used to define the requ-
ise intent for every crime, except for those
criminal offenses that require some additional,
more recent modifications to reflect today’s
modern world. I introduced this Act in both the
109th and 110th Congresses. This new version
of the criminal code includes many criminal laws enacted

This measure is intended to continue the
dialogue and process for rewriting the criminal
code, with the hope that other Members, the
Senate, the judiciary, the Justice Department,
criminal law professors, and other interested
professionals will provide input and seek to
develop a more comprehensive re-write.

With the increasing federalization of local
crimes, there is a need to review and revise
Title 18 to ensure that such federalization is
minimized and tailored to appropriate crimes
where State and local prosecutions may not
adequately serve the public interest. Federal
prosecutions constitute only seven percent of

Title 18—In reviewing the code, there were
instances where terms were defined dif-
ferently. In instances where two general policy
changes were made: (1) attempts and conspir-
cacies to commit criminal offenses are gen-
erally punished in the same manner as the
substantive offense unless specifically stated
otherwise; and (2) criminal and civil forfeiture
provisions were consolidated unless a more specific policy was adopted for a
crime.

Creating a Uniform Set of Definitions for the
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provisions were consolidated unless a more specific policy was adopted for a
crime.
During my years in the Florida State Senate, I worked closely with Karin when she was Vice President of Protect America’s Children in passing the Jennifer Act. This legislation, which I sponsored and became law in 1997, makes any credible threat or attempted assault of a minor 16 years of age and under a third degree felony.

In 1982 Karin and her husband found out that they were expecting their fifth child. The doctors also handed Karin a life-threatening diagnosis of Arterial Venous Malformation on the left side of her brain. Karin and her son survived and one year at the giving birth from successful surgery more than nine hours of brain surgery. She does not see her handicap as an ailment; on the contrary, it motivates her to continue serving the community and working for children.

As we celebrate Women’s History Month, I ask you to join me in congratulating Karin Brown, a woman who lives her life with courage, a will to live, and a genuine passion to serve others.

EARMARK DECLARATION
HON. MARY BONO MACK
OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, March 26, 2009

Mrs. BONO MACK. Madam Speaker, pursuant to the Republican Leadership standards on earmarks, I am submitting the following information regarding earmarks I received as part of H.R. 2638, the Consolidated Security, Disaster Assistance, and Continuing Appropriations Act, 2009:

Requesting Member: MARY BONO MACK
Bill Number: H.R. 1105
Account: Department of Education, National Projects; Innovation and Improvement
Entity Requesting: Reading Is Fundamental, Inc., 1825 Connecticut Avenue, N.W., Suite 400, Washington, DC 20009

Description of Earmark: $26 million is provided to Reading Is Fundamental, Inc. (RIF). RIF is one of our nation’s oldest and largest children’s literacy organizations. RIF partners with thousands of schools, public agencies, nonprofit organizations and corporations throughout our country and provides millions of underserved children with free books and reading encouragement from over 20,000 locations. Over the past 4 decades, RIF has provided books to more than 300 million children. RIF encourages reading both inside and outside of school by allowing youngsters to select books to keep at home.

RIF’s Inexpensive Book Distribution Program: This program provides books for low-income children and youths from infancy to high school graduation and supports activities to motivate them to read, through aid to local nonprofit groups and volunteer organizations.

Spending Plan: Nearly 89 percent of RIF’s 2007 federal funds were used to purchase books and RIF was able to use this as leverage to raise an additional $6.6 million from local communities to support book ownership. With the help of Congress, RIF was able to provide more than 16 million books to 4.6 children last year.
A TRIBUTE TO TRACYE RAWLS-MARTIN

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS
OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, March 26, 2009

Mr. TOWNS. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Tracye Rawls-Martín.

Tracye Rawls-Martín, MS ATC is a Certified Athletic Trainer and one of five African American Athletic Training Education Program Directors in the United States. She is “mother,” advisor and professor to more than 16 Athletic Training Students within the BS/MS Degree Program in Athletic Training & Sports Sciences at Long Island University Brooklyn Campus. She began her academic career as a Dance Education major and progressed to a Pre-Physical Therapy major and finally fell in love with an Athletic Training major. After completing two semesters in the Pre-Physical Therapy program at Kingsborough Community College, she decided it was time to move on to a more exciting and productive field—the field of Athletic Training and Sports Sciences. The field of Athletic Trainers was made for her because it is designed for Health Care Professionals who specialize in prevention, assessment, treatment and rehabilitation of injuries and illnesses that occur to athletes and the physically active. All Certified Athletic Trainers must have at least a bachelor’s degree in athletic training, which is an allied health profession, must pass a comprehensive exam before earning the ATC credential, must keep knowledge and skills current by participating in continuing education and must adhere to standards of professional practice set by a national certifying agency.

The combination of dance education & athletic performance was a winning combination for her professional life. She loves helping people, teaching, watching and participating in sports. In addition to nurturing her students through academic requirements for the program, she has had the honor and privilege of working with over 1000 athletes worldwide; high school, junior college, division one collegiate athletes, semiprofessional and professional. Her current responsibilities as Director of Athletic Training Education Programs at Long Island University, Brooklyn Campus include teaching (18 credit hours teaching a variety of sports medicine topics which include risk management, injury prevention, orthopedic examination & diagnosis, medical conditions and disabilities, acute care of injuries and illnesses, therapeutic modalities, conditioning, rehabilitation exercise and pharmacology, psychosocial intervention and referral, nutritional aspect of injuries and illnesses and health care administration), administrative (direct and administer BS/MS Degree Program and Advanced Master’s Degree program in Athletic Training and Sports Sciences, maintain guidelines and standards set forth by the accrediting agency, work with the Clinical Coordinator to establish and maintain affiliations, conduct and publish research/scholarly activities in areas of expertise, advise students, develop and implement internal/external marketing strategies and program, teach in the BS/MS Degree Program, assist in the recruitment of faculty, continue to encourage good citizenship and professional conduct among all students and faculty so as to promote the best interest of athletic trainers, maintain continuing education credits, participate/coordinate and conduct committees within the Division, School of Health Professions, the University and the Brooklyn Committee, service (active member with the local, regional and national athletic training organizations, Athletic Training Students Club/Members and Faculty noted on national website, Instructor for American Heart Association, Book Reviewer for Lippincott Williams and Wilkin publishing company, participant in several health events for children, i.e. TEAM L.I.U. Teenagers Educated About Asthma Management.

In addition, Tracye Rawls-Martín is an entrepreneur and a top executive for one of the world’s largest direct selling telecommunications providers. On a part time basis she has reached the first earned executive position in the company. She is well on her way to helping hundreds and thousands of individuals achieve financial freedom and continue to live out their life long dreams whether it is to have more time with their families or to explore the beaches of the world.

Tracye will continue to pursue her passions and would like to contribute her success to the Lord, her family and her students. She will not rest until she has fulfilled her life’s mission—to take care of children of all ages, to feed them, clothe them, teach them and love them; in the end to develop a place they can call home and a place they can always return to a “University for Children.”

A TRIBUTE TO MR. JITEN SHAH

HON. BRETT GUTHRIE
OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, March 26, 2009

Mr. GUTHRIE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Jiten Shah for his service to western Kentucky. He has effectively served as the Executive Director of the Green River Area Development District (GRADD) since 1987, where he has worked to create economic opportunity for this mostly rural region. Recently, Federal Computer Week recognized Mr. Shah as one of the magazine’s Federal 100 of 2009. This award recognizes the top executives from government, industry, and academia who had the greatest impact on the government information systems community in 2008.

Mr. Shah was the driving force for the creation of ConnectGRADD, Inc., a regional broadband internet network. This extraordinary enterprise brought affordable, high-speed wireless Internet to a rural seven county region, which is larger than the state of Delaware. Mr. Shah developed the plan and built the coalition of support to make this project a reality.

By providing a united vision and strong advocacy, Mr. Shah helped level the playing field for the 212,000 residents of the counties. Now, this region is in a better position to spur economic development and entrepreneurship among its residents.

Mr. Shah’s outstanding effort is an example for all Kentuckians to follow. I thank Mr. Shah for his commitment to the people of western Kentucky.

TRIBUTE TO LEROY BROOKS

HON. TRAVIS W. CHILDERS
OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, March 26, 2009

Mr. CHILDERS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Supervisor Leroy Brooks from my home state of Mississippi. Supervisor Brooks will be celebrating 25 exceptional years of committed public service.

Mr. Brooks has served as a Supervisor in Lowndes County, Mississippi for the past 25 years. During that time he has dedicated his efforts to improve the quality of life for the people of Lowndes County. He is the longest serving Supervisor in Lowndes County history, and I wish to thank him for his career and dedication to our great state of Mississippi and the people of Lowndes County. I urge you to join me in congratulating Mr. Brooks for this accomplishment.

PAYING HOMAGE TO SULLIVAN COUNTY, NEW YORK

HON. MAURICE D. HINCHEY
OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, March 26, 2009

Mr. HINCHEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to the County of Sullivan in New York State on the occasion of its Bicentennial. I am delighted to add my voice to those recognizing this milestone, and I am proud to join the residents of Sullivan County in commemorating this significant anniversary.

Created from neighboring Ulster County on March 27, 1809, Sullivan County was named in honor of American Revolutionary War leader, Major General John Sullivan. Since that time, Sullivan County’s natural beauty and abundance have greatly influenced its development. Early settlers focused their efforts on tapping the generous natural resources of the region and building vibrant timber, bluestone, and tanning industries. These early commercial activities were replaced by growing agriculture and tourism sectors starting in the mid-Nineteenth Century. Sullivan County also served as an important transportation corridor and link between the Hudson and Delaware Rivers. Transportation projects such as the Newburgh-Cochecon Tumpike, the Delaware & Hudson Canal, and the New York & Erie Railroad helped to develop the region and fuel the expansion of metropolitan New York seventy miles to the County’s south.
The first of Sullivan County’s grand hotels was constructed in 1846 and over the next century, hundreds of additional hotels, camps, bungalow colonies, and resorts were constructed. During the peak decades of Sullivan County’s resort industry, the communities in the Catskills surged each summer with an influx of families looking to enjoy Sullivan County’s tremendous beauty and many offerings. The County became increasingly popular as a vacation destination for Jewish families, who helped to build up the entertainment and hospitality industry that came to define the Catskill region. Sullivan County became widely known as part of the Borscht Belt, and its resorts and hotels helped to launch the careers of many of this country’s most beloved comedians and entertainers in the decades following the Second World War.

Sullivan County is renowned for its profound beauty and tremendous natural assets, including the picturesque Catskill and Shawangunk Mountains and Delaware River Valley. The Delaware River Valley in Sullivan County is designated by the National Park Service as part of the Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River and recognized for its incredible recreational, historic and cultural resources. This River corridor, located in close proximity to the New York metropolitan area, continues to attract many thousands of visitors who are drawn by the area’s fishing, hunting, boating, golfing, and other activities.

Tourism remains a vital part of the economy for Sullivan County today. As the birthplace of fly-fishing, the County continues to attract sportsmen from around the world to the area’s famous trout streams. The Town of Bethel in Sullivan County, once the site of the legendary Woodstock Music Festival in August 1969, now hosts the stately Bethel Woods Center for the Arts, which attracts nationally renowned performers. Sullivan County has worked diligently to build upon its historic legacy and its impressive surroundings and revitalize its economy with new industries, including green technology and a new generation of hospitality businesses.

Madam Speaker, I am delighted to offer my congratulations and best wishes to the residents and businesses of Sullivan County as they celebrate this Bicentennial and as they continue to build upon the region’s rich history to ensure that Sullivan County remains an extraordinary place to live and to visit.

HONORING COLONEL MARY BETH BEDEL
HON. SAM GRAVES OF MISSOURI
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, March 26, 2009


During this time, her husband, Dennis Bedell, and their children, Kergin, Carl, and Brian, supported her as she served the Army without hesitation. The people of Missouri and the United States thank Colonel Bedell and her family for their mutual service and sacrifices.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask all my colleagues to join me in commending the career of Colonel Mary Beth Bedell, who has exemplified the qualities of dedication, leadership, and service throughout her tenure with the US Military.

INTRODUCTION OF THE AMERICAN DREAM ACT
HON. LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, March 26, 2009

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Madam Speaker, I rise today to join my colleague Representative HOWARD Berman in introducing the American Dream Act, a bill that would enable thousands of ambitious young people to attend college and fulfill their God-given potential.

The Act is the product of Congressman Berman’s tireless efforts on behalf of undocumented students. Recognizing the senselessness of wasting their promise, we worked together to craft this crucial legislation, which stands as a testament to his commitment to fighting for the most vulnerable Americans. I commend him for his leadership on this important issue and thank him for his friendship.

The Act’s premise is simple and just: Undocumented students deserve the same opportunities as the 2.8 million others who graduate from this country’s high schools every year. We cannot afford to waste our investments in these talented, motivated young people who are products of our schools and our communities. Indeed, in this era of globalization, America will struggle to maintain its competitive advantage if we continue to deprive some of our most promising students the chance to earn a college education.

The American Dream Act offers a prudent, equitable solution to the challenges that undocumented students face in attempting to gain admission to our colleges and universities. First, it provides a path to legalization and citizenship to students who entered the U.S. before the age of 16, have lived here for 5 years, and have completed two years of higher education or military service. Second, because they often face severe economic hardships, the bill also eliminates a federal provision that discourages states from allowing undocumented students to pay in-state tuition.

The fight to fix a policy that squanders the intellectual gifts of so many is part of a much wider struggle. Our immigration system is broken. It divides families, enables the persecution of workers and denies immigrants basic legal protections. The American Dream Act is a critical component of comprehensive immigration reform. As we work with President Obama’s administration over the coming months to overhaul our immigration system, we should ensure that The American Dream Act is a critical component of our plans.

The millions of high school students who comprise the Class of 2009 are mere months away from graduation. Among them are thousands of kids who have the potential to become doctors, lawyers and even members of Congress but face insurmountable legal obstacles. We have a moral obligation to remove these impediments so that all of our young people can accomplish their goals. Moreover, this nation cannot afford to waste the investment we have already made in these young people and inhibit their potential by denying them the opportunity to earn a college degree. Please join me in supporting the American Dream Act.