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PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 111th CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

Vol. 155 WASHINGTON, TUESDAY, APRIL 21, 2009 No. 58

House of Representatives

The House met at 2 p.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. LARSEN of Washington).

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,
April 21, 2009.

I hereby appoint the Honorable RICK LARSEN to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

NANCY PELOSI,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Daniel P. Coughlin, offered the following prayer:

Lord God, who alone measures time against the background of eternity with the vision of faith, give to Your people an honest perspective, that their priorities may surface from the depths of their commitment. Help Members of Congress to accomplish great deeds for the good of this Nation and for the stability of the world's economy.

By an honest assessment of natural and national resources, as well as facing our own human limitations, lead us on a practical course of decisions that will bind the wounds of past sins and free us to live as Your people now and forever. Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, April 3, 2009.

Hon. NANCY PELOSI,
Speaker, The Capitol,
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MADAM SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of Rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on April 3, 2009, at 11:08 a.m.:

That the Senate passed S. 735.

That the Senate passed without amendment H. Con. Res. 93.

That the Senate passed without amendment H. Con. Res. 54.

With best wishes, I am,

Sincerely,

LORRAINE C. MILLER,
Clerk of the House.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, April 3, 2009.

Hon. NANCY PELOSI,
Speaker, The Capitol,
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MADAM SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of Rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on April 17, 2009, at 1:08 p.m.:

That the Senate agreed to S. Con. Res. 13.

With best wishes, I am,

Sincerely,

LORRAINE C. MILLER,
Clerk of the House.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 4 of rule I, the following enrolled bills were signed by the Speaker on Friday, April 3, 2009:

S. 383, to amend the Emergency Economic Stabilization Act of 2008 (division A of Public Law 110–343) to provide the Special Inspector General with additional authorities and responsibilities, and for other purposes

S. 520, to designate the United States courthouse under construction at 327 South Church Street, Rockford, Illinois, as the ''Stanley J. Roszkowski United States Courthouse''

APPOINTMENT AS MEMBERS TO COMMISSION TO STUDY POTENTIAL CREATION OF A NATIONAL MUSEUM OF THE AMERICAN LATINO

Pursuant to section 333(a)(2) of the Consolidated Natural Resources Act of 2008 (P.L. 110–229), and the order of the House of January 6, 2009, the Chair announces the Speaker's appointment of the following members on the part of the House to the Commission to Study the Potential Creation of a National Museum of the American Latino:

as voting members:

Mr. Luis Cancel, San Francisco, CA

Ms. Eva Longoria Parker, San Antonio, TX

Mr. Henry Munoz, San Antonio, TX

as a nonvoting member:

Ms. Lorraine Garcia-Nakata, San Francisco, CA

☐ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., ☐ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

Printed on recycled paper.

MOVING TOWARDS ECONOMIC RECOVERY WITH THE AMERICAN RECOVERY AND REINVESTMENT ACT

(Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I simply want to report that I held two economic recovery workshops in Dallas yesterday with almost a thousand people attending. And it's because the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act is an unprecedented effort to dig ourselves out of the recession and move toward economic recovery and then long-term sustained prosperity.

Communities in my district have already received tens of thousands of dollars in recovery money. The Los Barrios Unidos Community Clinic was able to open a satellite clinic. DFW Airport will be able to start the $2 million runway rehabilitation project immediately. The Dallas Independent School District has received more than $78 million to support low-income students.

We inherited quite a mess with the last administration. There is plenty of work left to do, and we want to be a part of it. I am proud to have voted for the Recovery Act.

SET A STANDARD FOR TECHNOLOGY NEUTRAL, LOW-CARBON FUELS

(Ms. SPEIER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. SPEIER. Mr. Speaker, yesterday's Washington Post featured a column by Eli Hopson from the Union of Concerned Scientists calling for a technology neutral, low-carbon fuel standard.

The Congress and the administration should not be picking winners and losers when it comes to technology. We did that for ethanol and it led to dire unintended consequences as land once used for growing food was converted to fuel production and the price of corn has skyrocketed so those who need it for survival can no longer afford it.

Meanwhile, innovators across America are achieving remarkable results. On a recent visit to a company in my district called Solazyme in South San Francisco, I drove an unmodified American car that ran on 100 percent fuel from algae oil produced right here in the United States of America.

Mr. Speaker, exciting projects like this are going on all across our country, and the only thing that the government needs to do to encourage them is to set a standard for low-carbon fuels that is technology neutral and then let the scientists and the innovators race to the top.

TEA PARTY IN TEXAS

(Mr. OLSON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, last week I was privileged to join my constituents at TEA parties all across my district, people who are frustrated with the spending here in Washington who wanted to say enough is enough. They are tired of runaway government spending dressed up as stimulus, and more importantly, they are tired of saddling our children with a debt they can never repay.

I came away from these events with hundreds upon hundreds of tea bags from my constituents protesting the spending spree that's going on here in Washington. But for me, one little girl summed it up. At a TEA party in Friendswood, Texas, I got to meet Brittany Hornick, a little 12-year-old girl who lives in Lake City, Texas. She had this sign that sums up what this battle is about. Her sign said, ''Stop spending my future income.'' And that's what this is all about, Mr. Speaker.

The bills that the administration and the Democrats are running up in Congress today will be paid by Brittany and her generation. My Republican colleagues and I will continue to push for responsible spending measures that will ensure that Brittany and her generation are not the first generation of American children worse off than their parents.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on motions to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or on which the vote incurs objection under clause 6 of rule XX.

Record votes on postponed questions will be taken after 6:30 p.m. today.

REVOLUTIONARY WAR AND WAR OF 1812 AMERICAN BATTLEFIELD PROTECTION

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1694) to amend the American Battlefield Protection Act of 1996 to establish a battlefield acquisition grant program for the acquisition and protection of nationally significant battlefields and associated sites of the Revolutionary War and the War of 1812, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1694

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. REVOLUTIONARY WAR AND WAR OF 1812 AMERICAN BATTLEFIELD PROTECTION.

Section 7301(c) of the Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009 (Public Law 111–11) is amended as follows:

(1) In paragraph (1)(A), by inserting after ''means'' the following: ''collectively, both the document entitled 'Report to Congress on the Historic Preservation of Revolutionary War and War of 1812 Sites in the United States', prepared by the National Park Service, and dated September 2007, and''.

(2) In paragraph (2), by inserting ''eligible sites or'' after ''acquiring''.

(3) In paragraph (3), by inserting ''an eligible site or'' after ''acquire''.

(4) In paragraph (4), by inserting ''an eligible site or'' after ''acquiring''.

(5) In paragraph (5), by striking ''An'' and inserting ''An eligible site or an''.

(6) By redesignating paragraph (6) as paragraph (8).

(7) By inserting after paragraph (5) the following new paragraphs:

''(6) WILLING SELLERS.—Acquisition of land or interests in land under this subsection shall be from willing sellers only.

''(7) REPORT.—Not later than 5 years after the date of the enactment of this subsection, the Secretary shall submit to Congress a report on the activities carried out under this subsection, including a description of—

''(A) preservation activities carried out at the battlefields and associated sites identified in the battlefield report during the period between publication of the battlefield report and the report required under this paragraph;

''(B) changes in the condition of the battlefields and associated sites during that period; and

''(C) any other relevant developments relating to the battlefields and associated sites during that period.''.

(8) In paragraph (8) (as so redesignated), by striking ''$10,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2009 through 2013'' and inserting ''$20,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2010 through 2014''.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from the Virgin Islands (Mrs. CHRISTENSEN) and the gentleman from Utah (Mr. BISHOP) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from the Virgin Islands.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the bill under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from the Virgin Islands?

There was no objection.

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Mr. Speaker, H.R. 1694, the Revolutionary War and War of 1812 Battlefield Protection Act, was introduced by my colleague on the Natural Resources Committee, Congressman RUSH HOLT of New Jersey. This bill will provide Federal matching grants that will help in the acquisition and preservation of nationally significant battlefields and sites associated with the Revolutionary War and the War of 1812.

Rapid urbanization and suburban sprawl have increasingly encroached upon these battlefield sites, threatening the historic integrity and resulting in the loss of some sites altogether.

H.R. 1694 will enable State or local governments to obtain Federal grants to leverage matching private funds to acquire these endangered sites and work to restore, protect and preserve them for future generations.

I commend our colleague, Representative HOLT, for his leadership on this issue, his patience and his perseverance, as well as his commitment to the preservation of these historic places which influenced the course of our American history.

I ask my colleagues to support the passage of this measure.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

During hearings on this bill, the committee heard testimony from historian David Hackett Fischer whose writings on the Revolutionary War pointed out General Washington's support for property rights and the strong actions he took to ensure that his soldiers respected the property of civilians, even when that property belonged to Tory sympathizers.

Washington personally gave strict orders to forbid looting, even though plunder was the norm at the time and many of his men were hungry, they were dressed in rags, and they marched barefoot in the snow. It is remarkable in such a desperate situation and in such a noble cause, Washington imposed on the Patriot side such a high standard of conduct.

Washington's honorable policy stood in stark contrast to the routine seizures by British and Hessian troops. It is no accident over the course of the early years of the war, in the battleground State of New Jersey, home of the sponsor of this bill, a population that was once evenly divided in its loyalty threw its support to the American cause.

There are lessons that we can learn from Washington's example. In earlier battlefield protection efforts—not this one but earlier ones—the National Park Service misused its eminent domain powers to seize land from unwilling sellers. The justified resentment this caused hurt subsequent efforts. Our enthusiasm for battlefield protection notwithstanding, it is definitely our hope that as we set out to preserve historic sites, we will emulate George Washington and not George III.

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Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Mr. Speaker, at this time, I would like to yield such time as he might consume to the distinguished sponsor of H.R. 1694, Congressman RUSH HOLT of New Jersey.

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlelady. I rise as the sponsor of the Revolutionary War and War of 1812 Battlefield Protection Act, which I introduced with others.

If this looks familiar, it is because this House—you, my colleagues—passed this legislation by an overwhelming majority, this exact legislation, a little over a month ago. So here we are for take two.

I would like to thank Chairman RAHALL, Chairman GRIJALVA, and Majority Leader HOYER for helping to bring this legislation back to the floor after a peculiarity, a quirk in parliamentary procedure, had left the previously passed legislation lying on the roadside.

Mr. Speaker, the preservation of tangible history of the United States, especially history of those formative years of our country, is essential for us to see our way forward. Mr. Speaker, history is something we need now more than ever. I urge the passage of this legislation.

I rise as the sponsor of H.R. 1694, the Revolutionary War and War of 1812 Battlefield Protection Act, which I introduced for myself and 12 of my colleagues. This bill may look familiar to many members, a carbon copy passed the House a little over a month ago. However, due to some procedural motions by the other body it is necessary to bring this legislation back to the floor today. I would like to thank Chairman RAHALL, Chairman GRIJALVA, and Majority Leader HOYER for their help in bringing this legislation back to the floor today.

This month marks the 234th anniversary of two defining and symbolic moments in our nation's early struggle for independence. On the night of April 18, 1775, Paul Revere began his legendary ride to Lexington, Massachusetts to warn Samuel Adams and John Hancock that British troops were marching to arrest them. Along the way, he and his fellow riders alerted countryside residents to the British troops' approach. The next day, dozens of Colonial troops gathered at Lexington to meet the British troops head on officially starting the Revolutionary War. Ralph Waldo Emerson in his poem "The Concord Hymn," commemorated this moment as the "shot heard 'round the world." Paul Revere's Ride and the shot heard round the world are just a few of the stories of the American Revolution that help bring to life the ideals of liberty and Democracy fostered by our Nation's founders.

One can read about the American Revolution and the values that were fought for and established at that time, or read about the War of 1812 when the fledgling country fought to maintain its independence. However, history is best experienced not by reading but by feeling, touching and living what was experienced in those trying times. There is no better way to experience the history of the founding of our great Nation than on the hallowed ground where the epic struggle for our independence took place.

Preserving these American historic treasures is essential to remembering the sacrifices that our forefathers made to secure our freedom and our independence, and it is vital for educating the current generations and future generations about our rich cultural heritage. Unfortunately, urbanization, suburban sprawl and unplanned development continually encroach on many of the significant battlefields of that period posing a severe and growing risk to the preservation of these sites.

Last spring, the National Park Service published its report to Congress on the status of the Revolutionary War and the War of 1812 sites. This report demonstrates that there is a great need to act and to act quickly to preserve many of these sites. Out of the 677 naturally significant battlefields and associated sites of the Revolutionary War and the War of 1812, 99 are lost forever already; 234 are fragmented or in poor condition; an additional 170 are in danger of being destroyed within the next decade.

This bill would help State and local governments and non-profits protect and preserve these battlefields and historic sites by authorizing the use of money from the Land and Water Conservation Fund to provide up to 50 percent of the costs of purchasing battlefield land threatened by sprawl and commercial development. This legislation is patterned after the successful Civil War Battlefield Protection Program that has been in effect for quite some time now.

I might add, it was an oversight, I would say, that decades ago, these battlefields and sites of the War of 1812 and the Revolutionary War were not included under the same umbrella. Now is the time to do it. Now is past the time to do it.

In 1861, Abraham Lincoln visited Trenton on his historic journey to his inauguration in Washington. There, he told the New Jersey State Assembly "In the early Revolutionary struggle, few of the States among the old Thirteen had more of the battle-fields of the country within their limits than old New-Jersey." A couple years ago, I was pleased when Congress took action to protect the battlefields in historic sites in New Jersey where this conflict took place. We passed legislation that created the Crossroads of the American Revolution National Heritage Area, linking hundreds of Revolutionary War sites across 14 counties in New Jersey. New Jersey was truly the crossroads of the American Revolution for a number of reasons, and I'm pleased we are taking steps to preserve the record of those engagements.

There's a fundamental misconception that the American Revolution and War of 1812 took place only in the Northeast. In truth, the story of the American Revolution and the War of 1812 crisscrosses 33 States, from New York to Louisiana, from Georgia to Oregon. Enacting this legislation would allow each of these States to preserve better their history and their role in the War of 1812 and the American Revolution.

Today, I will be introducing legislation that will provide additional funding for the battlefield protection program created by this bill. My legislation, the American Revolution and War of 1812 Commemorative Coin Act, is modeled after the Civil War Battlefield Commemorative Coin Act of 1992, which has raised over $6 million for battlefield preservation.

Enacting that bill will allow many more historic battlefields to be preserved. Enacting this bill will make it possible for our children and their children and other generations to enjoy and learn. We want to give Americans the opportunity to learn history, to feel history, to experience history so that they understand the principles on which this country was founded. People who know history can be better citizens, more engaged in current civic affairs and more cognizant of their place in history.

I urge my colleagues to support and vote for this important legislation.

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Speaker, at this time, I want to be both partisan and very clear on this thing. This is the third time we have actually had this bill before us. I voted for it the first time; I am going to vote for it again; and I will urge my colleagues to

support this legislation at the same time. However, in fairness, I guess in fairness to the sponsor, we should do that again since his original bill did pass, and by machinations then over in the Senate, his bill was stripped and sent back to us in his title, with his number and name, but not with his bill.

Had the Democratic Party leadership not tried so hard with so many machinations to make sure that Republicans were not allowed to try and make amendments to the omnibus land bill, his bill would have passed the first time, legitimately, and it would be done and passed by now. So let us remember that, unfortunately, the good representative from New Jersey lost out because of games that were played on a bill totally separate to this particular one, and I find those games were unfortunate. This bill, however, I once again want to make very clear that I support this bill, and I will urge my colleagues to support it. We passed another bill dealing with Civil War battlefields with a Republican chief sponsor. It is only fair and appropriate that we now look at Revolutionary War and War of 1812 battlefield sites with the Democratic sponsor.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from the Virgin Islands (Mrs. CHRISTENSEN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1694, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

The title was amended so as to read: ''A bill to authorize the acquisition and protection of nationally significant battlefields and associated sites of the Revolutionary War and the War of 1812 under the American Battlefield Protection Program.''.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

CRANE CONSERVATION ACT OF 2009

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 388) to assist in the conservation of cranes by supporting and providing, through projects of persons and organizations with expertise in crane conservation, financial resources for the conservation programs of countries the activities of which directly or indirectly affect cranes and the ecosystems of cranes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 388

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the ''Crane Conservation Act of 2009''.

SEC. 2. PURPOSES.

The purposes of this Act are—

(1) to perpetuate healthy populations of cranes;

(2) to assist in the conservation and protection of cranes by supporting—

(A) conservation programs in countries in which endangered and threatened cranes occur; and

(B) the efforts of private organizations committed to helping cranes; and

(3) to provide financial resources for those programs and efforts.

SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) CONSERVATION.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The term ''conservation'' means the use of any method or procedure to improve the viability of crane populations and the quality of the ecosystems and habitats on which the crane populations depend to help the species achieve sufficient populations in the wild to ensure the long-term viability of the species.

(B) INCLUSIONS.—The term ''conservation'' includes the carrying out of any activity associated with scientific resource management, such as—

(i) protection, restoration, and management of habitat;

(ii) research and monitoring of known populations;

(iii) the provision of assistance in the development of management plans for managed crane ranges;

(iv) enforcement of the Convention;

(v) law enforcement and habitat protection through community participation;

(vi) reintroduction of cranes to the wild;

(vii) conflict resolution initiatives; and

(viii) community outreach and education.

(2) CONVENTION.—The term ''Convention'' has the meaning given the term in section 3 of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1532).

(3) FUND.—The term ''Fund'' means the Crane Conservation Fund established by section 5(a).

(4) SECRETARY.—The term ''Secretary'' means the Secretary of the Interior.

SEC. 4. CRANE CONSERVATION ASSISTANCE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subject to the availability of appropriations and in consultation with other appropriate Federal officials, the Secretary shall use amounts in the Fund to provide financial assistance for projects relating to the conservation of cranes for which project proposals are approved by the Secretary in accordance with this section.

(b) PROJECT PROPOSALS.—

(1) APPLICANTS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—An applicant described in subparagraph (B) that seeks to receive assistance under this section to carry out a project relating to the conservation of cranes shall submit to the Secretary a project proposal that meets the requirements of this section.

(B) ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS.—An applicant described in this subparagraph is—

(i) any relevant wildlife management authority of a country that—

(I) is located within the African, Asian, European, or North American range of a species of crane; and

(II) carries out 1 or more activities that directly or indirectly affect crane populations;

(ii) the Secretariat of the Convention; and

(iii) any person or organization with demonstrated expertise in the conservation of cranes.

(2) REQUIRED ELEMENTS.—A project proposal submitted under paragraph (1)(A) shall include—

(A) a concise statement of the purpose of the project;

(B)(i) the name of each individual responsible for conducting the project; and

(ii) a description of the qualifications of each of those individuals;

(C) a concise description of—

(i) methods to be used to implement and assess the outcome of the project;

(ii) staff and community management for the project; and

(iii) the logistics of the project;

(D) an estimate of the funds and the period of time required to complete the project;

(E) evidence of support for the project by appropriate government entities of countries in which the project will be conducted, if the Secretary determines that such support is required to ensure the success of the project;

(F) information regarding the source and amount of matching funding available for the project; and

(G) any other information that the Secretary considers to be necessary for evaluating the eligibility of the project to receive assistance under this Act.

(c) PROJECT REVIEW AND APPROVAL.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall—

(A) not later than 30 days after receiving a final project proposal, provide a copy of the proposal to other appropriate Federal officials; and

(B) review each project proposal in a timely manner to determine whether the proposal meets the criteria described in subsection (d).

(2) CONSULTATION; APPROVAL OR DISAPPROVAL.—Not later than 180 days after receiving a project proposal, and subject to the availability of appropriations, the Secretary, after consulting with other appropriate Federal officials, shall—

(A) consult on the proposal with the government of each country in which the project is to be carried out;

(B) after taking into consideration any comments resulting from the consultation, approve or disapprove the proposal; and

(C) provide written notification of the approval or disapproval to—

(i) the applicant that submitted the proposal;

(ii) other appropriate Federal officials; and

(iii) each country described in subparagraph (A).

(d) CRITERIA FOR APPROVAL.—The Secretary may approve a project proposal under this section if the Secretary determines that the proposed project will enhance programs for conservation of cranes by assisting efforts to—

(1) implement conservation programs;

(2) address the conflicts between humans and cranes that arise from competition for the same habitat or resources;

(3) enhance compliance with the Convention and other applicable laws that—

(A) prohibit or regulate the taking or trade of cranes; or

(B) regulate the use and management of crane habitat;

(4) develop sound scientific information on, or methods for monitoring—

(A) the condition of crane habitat;

(B) crane population numbers and trends; or

(C) the current and projected threats to crane habitat and population numbers and trends;

(5) promote cooperative projects on the issues described in paragraph (4) among—

(A) governmental entities;

(B) affected local communities;

(C) nongovernmental organizations; or

(D) other persons in the private sector;

(6) carry out necessary scientific research on cranes;

(7) provide relevant training to, or support technical exchanges involving, staff responsible for managing cranes or habitats of cranes, to enhance capacity for effective conservation; or

(8) reintroduce cranes successfully back into the wild, including propagation of a sufficient number of cranes required for this purpose.

(e) PROJECT SUSTAINABILITY; MATCHING FUNDS.—To the maximum extent practicable, in determining whether to approve a project proposal under this section, the Secretary shall give preference to a proposed project—

(1) that is designed to ensure effective, long-term conservation of cranes and habitats of cranes; or

(2) for which matching funds are available.

(f) PROJECT REPORTING.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Each person that receives assistance under this section for a project shall submit to the Secretary, at such periodic intervals as are determined by the Secretary, reports that include all information that the Secretary, after consulting with other appropriate government officials, determines to be necessary to evaluate the progress and success of the project for the purposes of—

(A) ensuring positive results;

(B) assessing problems; and

(C) fostering improvements.

(2) AVAILABILITY TO THE PUBLIC.—Each report submitted under paragraph (1), and any other documents relating to a project for which financial assistance is provided under this Act, shall be made available to the public.

SEC. 5. CRANE CONSERVATION FUND.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established in the Multinational Species Conservation Fund established by the matter under the heading ''MULTINATIONAL SPECIES CONSERVATION FUND'' in title I of the Department of the Interior and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 1999 (112 Stat. 2681–237; 16 U.S.C. 4246) a separate account to be known as the ''Crane Conservation Fund'', consisting of—

(1) amounts transferred to the Secretary of the Treasury for deposit into the Fund under subsection (c); and

(2) amounts appropriated to the Fund under section 7.

(b) EXPENDITURES FROM FUND.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to paragraphs (2) and (3), upon request by the Secretary, the Secretary of the Treasury shall transfer from the Fund to the Secretary, without further appropriation, such amounts as the Secretary determines are necessary to provide assistance under section 4.

(2) ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES.—Of the amounts in the Fund available for each fiscal year, the Secretary may expend not more than 3 percent, or $150,000, whichever is greater, to pay the administrative expenses necessary to carry out this Act.

(3) LIMITATION.—Not more than 20 percent of the amounts made available from the Fund for any fiscal year may be used for projects relating to the conservation of North American crane species.

(c) ACCEPTANCE AND USE OF DONATIONS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may accept and use donations to provide assistance under section 4.

(2) TRANSFER OF DONATIONS.—Amounts received by the Secretary in the form of donations shall be transferred to the Secretary of the Treasury for deposit in the Fund.

SEC. 6. ADVISORY GROUP.

(a) IN GENERAL.—To assist in carrying out this Act, the Secretary may convene an advisory group consisting of individuals representing public and private organizations actively involved in the conservation of cranes.

(b) PUBLIC PARTICIPATION.—

(1) MEETINGS.—The advisory group shall—

(A) ensure that each meeting of the advisory group is open to the public; and

(B) provide, at each meeting, an opportunity for interested persons to present oral or written statements concerning items on the agenda.

(2) NOTICE.—The Secretary shall provide to the public timely notice of each meeting of the advisory group.

(3) MINUTES.—Minutes of each meeting of the advisory group shall be kept by the Secretary and shall be made available to the public.

(c) EXEMPTION FROM FEDERAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE ACT.—The Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C. App.) shall not apply to the advisory group.

SEC. 7. FUNDING.

There is authorized to be appropriated to the Fund $5,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2010 through 2014, to remain available until expended.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from the Virgin Islands (Mrs. CHRISTENSEN) and the gentleman from Utah (Mr. BISHOP) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from the Virgin Islands.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the bill under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from the Virgin Islands?

There was no objection.

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Mr. Speaker, H.R. 388, the Crane Conservation Act, was reintroduced in the 111th Congress by our colleague from Wisconsin, Congresswoman TAMMY BALDWIN. The bill is identical to noncontroversial legislation that passed the House during the 110th Congress.

The overall purpose of the bill is to assist in the conservation of the world's 15 crane species, including the two crane species found in North America, the whooping crane and the sandhill crane. The bill would establish a new crane conservation fund to finance Federal matching grants that support critical conservation projects that conserve these highly endangered birds and their scarce and shrinking habitats in Europe, Asia, South Asia, Africa, and North America. The legislation also mirrors other highly popular and effective wildlife conservation funds authorized under the Multinational Species Conservation Fund that support other critically endangered wildlife species and their habitats.

Mr. Speaker, cranes play an important iconic role in cultures around the world. These birds are viewed as universal symbols of peace, happiness, and good fortune. I ask Members on both sides to support passage of this noncontroversial bill that will help to conserve this family of large, charismatic birds.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise to actually speak on this particular bill, H.R. 388, the Crane Conservation Act. Under this legislation, a new international conservation fund is going to be established to assist up to 15 species of cranes that are in Africa, Asia, Australia, North America—I guess everyone except South America.

There are currently seven crane species that are protected under our Endangered Species Act. The two most imperiled species reside here in the United States and are covered.

The United States already has several laws on the books which can help conserve domestic cranes and their habitats, which includes such things as the Migratory Bird Treaty, the Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Act, wetlands conservation statutes, and the Endangered Species Act.

With the current economic crisis the United States finds itself in—exacerbated by our spending bills in the stimulus, in the budget, and the omnibus bills which simply spend too much, tax too much, and borrow too much—it is highly questionable whether this is the time to once again create another multinational fund to spend taxpayers' money overseas. Other countries should be required to step up to the plate to save their own wildlife without relying on American funds going there.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Mr. Speaker, at this time, I will submit for the RECORD the following exchange of letters between the Committee on Natural Resources and the Committee on Foreign Affairs concerning H.R. 388 and H.R. 411.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS,
Washington, DC, April 21, 2009.

Hon. NICK J. RAHALL II,
Chairman, Committee on Natural Resources, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: I am writing to you concerning H.R. 388, the Crane Conservation Act of 2009, and H.R. 411, the Great Cats and Rare Canids Act of 2009.

These bills contain provisions within the Rule X jurisdiction of the Committee on Foreign Affairs. In the interest of permitting your Committee to proceed expeditiously to floor consideration of these important bills, I am willing to waive this Committee's right mark up these bills. I do so with the understanding that by waiving consideration of the bills, the Committee on Foreign Affairs does not waive any future jurisdictional claim over the subject matters contained in the bills which fall within its Rule X jurisdiction.

Further, I request your support for the appointment of Foreign Affairs Committee conferees during any House-Senate conference convened on this legislation. I would ask that you place this letter into the Congressional Record when the Committee has these bills under consideration.

I look forward to working with you as we move these important measures through the legislative process.

Sincerely,

HOWARD L. BERMAN,
Chairman.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES,
Washington, DC, April 21, 2009.

Hon. HOWARD BERMAN,
Chairman, Committee on Foreign Affairs, Rayburn H.O.B., Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you for your willingness to allow floor consideration of H.R. 388, the Crane Conservation Act of 2009 and H.R. 411, the Great Cats and Rare Canids Act of 2009, to proceed unimpeded.

I understand that this waiver is not intended to prejudice any future jurisdictional claims over these provisions or similar language. I also understand that you reserve the right to seek to have conferees named from the Committee on Foreign Affairs on these provisions, and would support such a request if it were made.

This letter will be entered into the Congressional Record during consideration of H.R. 388 and H.R. 411 on the House floor. Thank you for the cooperative spirit in which you have worked regarding this matter and others between our respective committees.

With warm regards, I am

Sincerely,

NICK J. RAHALL II,
Chairman,
Committee on Natural Resources.

Mr. Speaker, I now yield such time as she may consume to the sponsor of H.R. 388, our distinguished colleague from Wisconsin, Representative BALDWIN.

Ms. BALDWIN. I thank the gentlewoman from the U.S. Virgin Islands, Dr. CHRISTENSEN, for yielding time. And I also thank the chairman of the full committee for reporting out this bill for consideration on the suspension calendar.

I rise today in support of the Crane Conservation Act of 2009, legislation to help protect and preserve the world's 15 species of cranes for generations to come.

Cranes are the most endangered family of birds in the world, with 11 of the world's 15 crane species at risk of extinction. Their special characteristics and unique ability to bring people together across city, State, and international boundaries place them in a class worthy of our conservation efforts.

Cranes are revered throughout the world for their beauty, grace, and long-distance migrations, frequently spanning numerous countries. In fact, their appeal is so vast that they figure prominently in the culture, folklore, and art of many people around the world. They are featured in the silks, sculpture, poetry, and folk tales of many cultures. And because of their long lifespans, they have become symbols of longevity and good fortune.

These magnificent birds also have served as ambassadors of harmony and peace in the international arena. Representatives from nations with various political struggles have reached beyond the instability to address the conservation of cranes. In fact, about 2 years ago, representatives from bordering nations, including India, China, Pakistan, Iran and Afghanistan, and others, met in an attempt to overcome strained relations and send a message of goodwill for the sake of protecting this threatened species. Similarly, African nations which share troubled borders also have joined together in recent years to stop the illegal trade of cranes.

In North America, the whooping crane is the rarest of the crane species. Back in the year 1941, only 21 whooping cranes existed in the entire world. Today, there are almost 400 birds in existence. The resurgence is attributed to the bird's tenacity for survival and to the efforts of conservationists in the United States and Canada. In fact, since 2001, coordinated efforts have focused on encouraging young whooping cranes to migrate from their breeding grounds in Wisconsin's Necedah National Wildlife Refuge to their destination in Florida.

In an effort to reintroduce a migratory flock into their historic range in the eastern United States, the recovery team used ultralight aircraft to train and lead these young cranes on their spectacular journey, stretching from city to city and State to State. Fortunately, these efforts have been successful, and the Crane Conservation Act would complement them, both domestically and internationally.

This bill will provide the resources to support initiatives that protect cranes and, importantly, their habitats, which have deteriorated due to industrial development, pollution, and other human disturbances, including wars and other violent conflicts. The bill will also provide the means for the United States to fulfill various international obligations and commitments, thus having a large environmental and cultural impact across the globe.

Additionally, the Crane Conservation Act will provide resources for the United States to bring people and governments around the world together to protect ecosystems, develop adequate habitats, and encourage overall goodwill. Specifically, the Crane Conservation Act will authorize up to $5 million per year to be distributed in the form of conservation project grants to protect cranes in the wetlands and grasslands and other ecosystems on which they depend.

Congress has passed similar bills in support of globally significant and endangered wildlife species, including tigers, rhinos, elephants, and neotropical migratory birds. And just as these efforts took significant steps in international wildlife conservation, the Crane Conservation Act would play a similar and promising role in improving endangered wildlife and their habitats.

This bill, in identical form, passed on the suspension calendar last session. I encourage my colleagues to support the Crane Conservation Act of 2009.

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. I am pleased to yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Texas, who is an expert not only in cranes and whooping cranes, but on whoopings themselves.

Mr. GOHMERT. I appreciate my friend from Utah yielding in such an amazing form.

I do appreciate my friend from Wisconsin's sensitivity over cranes. And she is right; they are a thing of beauty. We have seen whooping cranes in Texas. I am glad they are protected; they are beautiful.

We have heard President Obama say recently that we are going to have to make some tough choices, that we are going to have to scour through our appropriations, our authorizations, our budgets and cut things that are not really essential. And it is my understanding that of the 15 crane species here, 13 are not in the United States.

Currently, it is clear we are borrowing a great deal of our money that we use as we appropriate from this floor from the Chinese. As I understand it, many of these crane species are not located in the United States, but are located in Asia. What an incredible irony, that we could borrow money from the Chinese for which we will owe principal and interest to the Chinese, and then potentially turn around and pay money to help habitats in China. The irony is astounding.

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I know all of us have people in our districts who are struggling to maintain their own habitat. As we make tough decisions in this body, this ought to be one that is not that tough: The American people keeping their habitat or cranes in a foreign country keeping their habitat. I think we ought to vote for Americans to keep their habitat. We have got to make some tough choices. It is time to quit borrowing money from China. It's time to quit printing additional money. It's time for some responsibility on this floor. We owe that to future generations not to put them in debt to pay foreign countries to create habitats for cranes.

With that I would urge a ''no'' vote on this bill.

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Mr. Speaker, I would just like to respond briefly to some of the mischaracterizations that have been raised about this legislation.

As I stated earlier, the Crane Conservation Act is identical to noncontroversial legislation that passed the House during the 110th Congress. This legislation also mirrors other highly popular and effective wildlife conservation funds authorized under the Multinational Species Conservation Fund that support other critically endangered wildlife species and their habitats. It is no exaggeration to say that the grants awarded through these funds have been pivotal in the recovery of some of the most endangered wildlife populations on the planet. Cranes are no less deserving.

I think that it is also important to note that grants awarded through these funds generate non-Federal matching contributions commonly in excess of three or four times the amount of the Federal grant. As a result, these wildlife programs are some of our most effective conservation programs in leveraging additional funds from partner organizations.

Mr. Speaker, it is expected that future grants awarded from a crane conservation fund will provide the same kind of leveraging benefit as demonstrated by the other funds authorized under the Multinational Species Conservation Fund. The track record for these programs has proven that they are not only good for wildlife conservation, they are also a great value to the Federal taxpayer.

Again, I ask Members on both sides to support passage of this noncontroversial bill.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Speaker, I will conclude simply by saying this is a noble concept, but what Dr. CHRISTENSEN argued is exactly the problem inherent in this noble concept. What we are continuing to do more and more is carve out specific funds for specific animal species that then add up to the total that we are doing rather than realizing our common goals and what we need to deal with. There are seven species that are covered already, two of those in the United States already covered on prior pieces of legislation. This is simply extra funding that is not going to assist necessarily on the American side; it is going to assist overseas in other countries where, quite frankly, in these conditions they should be stepping up to deal with their own wildlife problems, not relying on the United States simply to bail them out once again with another special fund crafted out for American money to go overseas.

This is simply another one of several funds that keep growing all the time without any coordinated policy to it. And that is the danger of this bill. It's not the issue at hand. It's not trying to protect these species. It is the haphazard way we go about creating these funds to try to fund specific entities rather than coming up with a comprehensive overall plan and not requiring our friends in other countries to step up to the plate as well.

Mr. BERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 388, the Crane Conservation Act of 2009. I strongly endorse this effort to provide financial resources and foster international cooperation to restore and perpetuate healthy populations of endangered species and to protect threatened habitats.

This bill establishes a fund to support specific conservation activities by "any wildlife management authority" of a foreign country that meets certain criteria, as well as groups and individuals with demonstrated, relevant expertise. While supporting such efforts is a key element of any effective conservation strategy, it seems to me that such funding in effect constitutes a new form of foreign assistance that ought to be carefully coordinated with our other foreign aid programs.

In the first place, it is essential that the Secretary of the Interior, who will be administering these programs, consult closely with the Secretary of State to ensure that these activities will not conflict with our overall foreign policy objectives. For instance, if there are problems with corruption or transparency and accountability in a particular government, the State Department would be in a better position to know which entities are reliable partners, and to ensure that funding is not diverted to unauthorized purposes. There may also be some countries to which all other government-to-government aid has been terminated for political or human rights reasons, and in which these conservation activities ought to be conducted exclusively through non-governmental organizations.

Secondly, the State Department, the United States Agency for International Development, the Millennium Challenge Corporation, the Peace Corps and other foreign policy agencies may be carrying out their own environmental programs in a given—country. The conservation activities supported by this new fund must be coordinated with ongoing and planned efforts of such agencies in order to avoid duplication and overlap and to seize openings for collaboration. Without a mechanism for consultation with the State Department and USAID, opportunities to build synergy among programs will be lost and the risks of waste and inefficiency will escalate.

In light of these concerns, I would strongly urge that in implementing these new provisions, the Secretary of Interior develop a mechanism for full and meaningful consultation with the State Department, USAID and the foreign policy agencies under the Department's guidance.

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Mr. Speaker, I again just ask colleagues on both sides of the aisle to support H.R. 388, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from the Virgin Islands (Mrs. CHRISTENSEN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 388.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. GOHMERT. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

GREAT CATS AND RARE CANIDS ACT OF 2009

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 411) to assist in the conservation of rare felids and rare canids by supporting and providing financial resources for the conservation programs of nations within the range of rare felid and rare canid populations and projects of persons with demonstrated expertise in the conservation of rare felid and rare canid populations, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 411

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Great Cats and Rare Canids Act of 2009".

SEC. 2. PURPOSES.

The purposes of this Act are to provide financial resources and to foster international cooperation—

(1) to restore and perpetuate healthy populations of rare felids and rare canids in the wild; and

(2) to assist in the conservation of rare felid and rare canid populations worldwide.

SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) CITES.—The term "CITES" means the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora, done at Washington March 3, 1973 (27 UST 1087; TIAS 8249), including its appendices.

(2) CONSERVATION.—The term "conservation"—

(A) means the methods and procedures necessary to bring a species of rare felid or rare canid to the point at which there are sufficient populations in the wild to ensure the long-term viability of the species; and

(B) includes all activities associated with protection and management of a rare felid or rare canid population, including—

(i) maintenance, management, protection, and restoration of rare felid or rare canid habitat;

(ii) research and monitoring;

(iii) law enforcement;

(iv) community outreach and education;

(v) conflict resolution initiatives; and

(vi) strengthening the capacity of local communities, governmental agencies, nongovernmental organizations and other institutions to implement conservation programs.

(3) FUND.—The term "Fund" means the Great Cats and Rare Canids Conservation Fund established by section 5.

(4) IUCN RED LIST.—The term "IUCN Red List" means the Red List of Threatened Species Maintained by the World Conservation Union.

(5) RARE CANID.—The term "rare canid"—

(A) except as provided in subparagraph (B), means any of the canid species dhole (Cuon alpinus), gray wolf (Canis lupus), Ethiopian wolf (Canis simensis), bush dog (Speothos venaticus), African wild dog (Lycaon pictus), maned wolf (Chrysocyon brachyurus), and Darwin's fox, (Pseudalopex fulvipes), including any subspecies or population of such a species; and

(B) does not include any subspecies or population that is native to the area comprised of the United States and Canada or the European Union.

(6) RARE FELID.—The term "rare felid"—

(A) except as provided in subparagraph (B), means any of the felid species lion (Panthera leo), leopard (Panthera pardus), jaguar (Panthera onca), snow leopard (Uncia uncia), clouded leopard (Neofelis nebulosa), cheetah (Acinonyx jubatus), Iberian lynx (Lynx pardina), and Borneo bay cat (Catopuma badia), including any subspecies or population of such a species; and

(B) does not include—

(i) any species, subspecies, or population that is native to the United States; and

(ii) any tiger (Panthera tigris).

(7) SECRETARY.—The term "Secretary" means the Secretary of the Interior.

SEC. 4. FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subject to the availability of funds and in consultation with other appropriate Federal officials, the Secretary shall use amounts in the Fund to provide financial assistance for projects for the conservation of rare felid and rare canids for which project proposals are approved by the Secretary in accordance with this section.

(b) PROJECT PROPOSALS.—

(1) ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS.—A proposal for a project for the conservation of rare felid and canids may be submitted to the Secretary by—

(A) any wildlife management authority of a country that has within its boundaries any part of the range of a rare felid or rare canid species, respectively; and

(B) any person or group with the demonstrated expertise required for the conservation in the wild of rare felids or rare canids, respectively.

(2) PROJECT PROPOSALS.—To be considered for financial assistance for a project under this Act, an applicant shall submit a project proposal that includes—

(A) a concise statement of the purposes of the project;

(B) the name of the individual responsible for conducting the project;

(C) a description of the qualifications of the individuals who will conduct the project;

(D) a concise description of—

(i) methods for project implementation and outcome assessment;

(ii) staffing for the project;

(iii) the logistics of the project; and

(iv) community involvement in the project;

(E) an estimate of funds and time required to complete the project;

(F) evidence of support for the project by appropriate governmental entities of the countries in which the project will be conducted, if the Secretary determines that such support is required for the success of the project;

(G) information regarding the source and amount of matching funding available for the project; and

(H) any other information that the Secretary considers to be necessary for evaluating the eligibility of the project for funding under this Act.

(c) PROJECT REVIEW AND APPROVAL.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall—

(A) not later than 30 days after receiving a project proposal, provide a copy of the proposal to the appropriate Federal officials; and

(B) review each project proposal in a timely manner to determine if the proposal meets the criteria specified in subsection (d).

(2) CONSULTATION; APPROVAL OR DISAPPROVAL.—Not later than 180 days after receiving a project proposal, and subject to the availability of funds, the Secretary, after consulting with other appropriate Federal officials, shall—

(A) ensure the proposal contains assurances that the project will be implemented in consultation with relevant wildlife management authorities and other appropriate government officials with jurisdiction over the resources addressed by the project;

(B) approve or disapprove the proposal; and

(C) provide written notification of the approval or disapproval to the person who submitted the proposal, other appropriate Federal officials, and each country within whose borders the project will take place.

(d) CRITERIA FOR APPROVAL.—The Secretary may approve a project proposal under this section if the project will contribute to conservation of rare felids or rare canids in the wild by assisting efforts to—

(1) implement conservation programs;

(2) address the conflicts between humans and rare felids or rare canids, respectively, that arise from competition for the same habitat or resources;

(3) enhance compliance with CITES, the Endangered Species Act of 1973, and other applicable laws that prohibit or regulate the taking or trade of rare felids and rare canids or regulate the use and management of rare felid and rare canid habitat;

(4) develop sound scientific information on, or methods for monitoring—

(A) the condition and health of rare felid or rare canid habitat;

(B) rare felid or rare canid population numbers and trends; and

(C) the ecological characteristics and requirements of populations of rare felids or rare canids for which there are little or no data;

(5) promote cooperative projects among government entities, affected local communities, nongovernmental organizations, and other persons in the private sector; or

(6) funds will not be appropriated for the purchase or lease of lands to be used as suitable habitat for felids or canids.

(e) PROJECT SUSTAINABILITY.—In approving project proposals under this section, the Secretary shall give preference to conservation projects that are designed to ensure effective, long-term conservation of rare felids and rare canids and their habitats.

(f) MATCHING FUNDS.—In determining whether to approve project proposals under this section, the Secretary shall give preference to projects for which there exists some measure of matching funds.

(g) PROJECT REPORTING.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Each person that receives assistance under this section for a project shall submit to the Secretary periodic reports (at such intervals as the Secretary considers necessary) that include all information that the Secretary, after consultation with other appropriate government officials, determines is necessary to evaluate the progress and success of the project for the purposes of ensuring positive results, assessing problems, and fostering improvements.

(2) AVAILABILITY TO THE PUBLIC.—Reports under paragraph (1), and any other documents relating to projects for which financial assistance is provided under this Act, shall be made available to the public.

(h) LIMITATIONS ON USE FOR CAPTIVE BREEDING OR DISPLAY.—Amounts provided as a grant under this Act—

(1) may not be used for captive breeding or display of rare felids and rare canids other than captive breeding for release into the wild; and

(2) may be used for captive breeding of a species for release into the wild only if no other conservation method for the species is biologically feasible.

(i) ADVISORY GROUP.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—To assist in carrying out this Act, the Secretary may convene an advisory group consisting of individuals representing public and private organizations actively involved in the conservation of felids and canids.

(2) PUBLIC PARTICIPATION.—

(A) MEETINGS.—The advisory group shall—

(i) ensure that each meeting of the advisory group is open to the public; and

(ii) provide, at each meeting, an opportunity for interested persons to present oral or written statements concerning items on the agenda.

(B) NOTICE.—The Secretary shall provide to the public timely notice of each meeting of the advisory group, including the meeting agenda.

(C) MINUTES.—Minutes of each meeting of the advisory group shall be kept by the Secretary and shall be made available to the public.

(3) EXEMPTION FROM FEDERAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE ACT.—The Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C. App.) shall not apply to the advisory group.

SEC. 5. GREAT CATS AND RARE CANIDS CONSERVATION FUND.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established, in the Multinational Species Conservation Fund established in title I of the Department of the Interior and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 1999 under the heading ''MULTINATIONAL SPECIES CONSERVATION FUND'', a separate account to be known as the ''Great Cats and Rare Canids Conservation Fund'', consisting of—

(1) amounts transferred to the Secretary of the Treasury for deposit into such account under subsection (c); and

(2) amounts appropriated to such account under section 7.

(b) EXPENDITURES FROM FUND.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to paragraph (2), upon request by the Secretary, the Secretary of the Treasury shall transfer from the Fund to the Secretary, without further appropriation, such amounts as the Secretary determines are necessary to provide assistance under section 4.

(2) ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES.—Of the amounts in the Fund available for each fiscal year, the Secretary may expend not more than three percent, or up to $100,000, whichever is greater, to pay the administrative expenses necessary to carry out this Act.

(c) ACCEPTANCE AND USE OF DONATIONS.—The Secretary may accept and use donations to provide assistance under section 4, and may make public on the Internet website and in publications of the Department of the Interior that the Secretary is authorized to accept and use such donations. Amounts received by the Secretary in the form of such donations shall be transferred to the Secretary of the Treasury for deposit into the Fund.

SEC. 6. STUDY OF CONSERVATION STATUS OF FELID AND CANID SPECIES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall initiate within three months after the date of the enactment of this Act a study of felid and canid species listed under the IUCN Red List that are not rare canids and rare felids (as those terms are defined in section 3), respectively, to determine—

(1) the conservation status of such species in the wild, including identification of any such species that are critically endangered or endangered; and

(2) any such species that should be made eligible for assistance under this Act.

(b) REPORT.—Not later than two years after date of the enactment of this Act the Secretary shall report to the Congress the determinations made in the study, including recommendations of additional felid species and canid species that should be made eligible for assistance under this Act.

SEC. 7. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

There are authorized to be appropriated—

(1) to the Fund, $5,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2010 through 2014 to carry out this Act, other than section 6; and

(2) such sums as are necessary to carry out section 6.

SEC. 8. INELIGIBLE COUNTRIES.

Amounts provided as a grant under this Act may not be used for any project conducted in Iran, Syria, Cuba, Sudan, or North Korea.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from the Virgin Islands (Mrs. CHRISTENSEN) and the gentleman from Utah (Mr. BISHOP) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from the Virgin Islands.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the bill under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from the Virgin Islands?

There was no objection.

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

H.R. 411, the Great Cats and Rare Canids Act, was introduced in the 111th Congress by our colleague from Washington, Congressman JAY INSLEE. The bill before the House today is identical to noncontroversial legislation that passed the House during the 110th Congress.

The overall purpose of the bill is to assist in the conservation of 15 imperiled cat and canid species such as the lion, cheetah, and jaguar and the African wild dog and Darwin's fox. The bill would establish a new Great Cat and Rare Canid Conservation Fund to finance Federal matching grants that support critical conservation projects to conserve these highly endangered wildlife species and their shrinking and fragmented habitats.

Moreover, this legislation is patterned after other noteworthy wildlife conservation funds authorized by the Congress that help conserve and recover critically endangered populations of rhinoceros, tigers, African and Asian elephants, great apes, and marine turtles.

Mr. Speaker, great cats and rare canids are no less deserving than these other keystone wildlife species, and I ask Members on both sides to support the passage of this noncontroversial bill.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

While this legislation is similar to a bill that was approved by the House last year, and I did, in fact, vote for the bill last year, we have Members who still continue to have concerns with H.R. 411, the Great Cats and Rare Canids Act.

During consideration in the Natural Resources Committee during the last Congress, this bill was amended by Congressman HENRY BROWN to target only 12 imperiled big cats and rare dog species. That was an appropriate amendment especially considering the beginning stages of this particular bill, which had well over 50 different animals listed. However, by the time it went from committee to the floor last year, this bill was expanded, and several other species that are protected under this bill but do not reach the criteria used to create the other five existing wildlife conservation funds under law were added.

I am particularly troubled that the inclusion of things like the Iberian lynx, which lives exclusively in Spain and Portugal, is added. These are clearly two countries that are not impoverished European nations. They could easily afford to conserve their own native wildlife. In addition, I note that few of the species singled out for special treatment under this law could be considered ''keystone,'' unlike the African elephant, the tiger, the rhino that are considered keystone criteria. Under H.R. 411, this bill, these 15 cats and dogs will now be competing for limited funds with the other iconic species.

More importantly, at a time when America has a national debt in excess of $11 trillion, you still have to question whether this legislation is the proper priority for right now. With Federal spending, bank failures, and home foreclosures reaching historic levels, is it really appropriate to spend our constituents' hard-earned tax money to conserve an African wild dog, an Ethiopian wolf, or a Borneo bay cat in Asia? We still are taxing too much, spending too much, and borrowing too much. And this particular bill once again goes at elements and species that are not considered reaching the criteria of needing this kind of protection. If it were to go back to the original bill that came out last year from the Natural Resources Committee with the Brown amendment intact, then you would have a decent standard bill which I would firmly support. But as long as we are still expanding it to areas that don't meet the criteria that should be used on these types of issues, then I need to urge a ''no'' vote.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Mr. Speaker, at this time I would like to yield such time as he may consume to the sponsor of this legislation, Congressman JAY INSLEE of Washington State.

Mr. INSLEE. Mr. Speaker, I just want to point out a few points about this bill.

First off, this is a bill we passed with broad bipartisan support last year. Two hundred ninety-four Democrats and Republicans stepped up to the plate and took a very, very modest step to try to preserve these endangered species that, in fact, are threatened and are listed on international lists. Having gone through the scientific process, these 15 species are all recognized at risk both under United States considerations and under the international consortiums of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora, also called CITES; and the World Conservation Union, the IUCN. We know the science is that all 15 of these species are at risk. And I want to suggest in answer to my friend's concern about this investment by Americans, there are at least three reasons Americans should have an interest in these species even though some of them are not in the United States.

Number one and perhaps most important, many of our citizens will never physically be in the presence of a cheetah or physically be in the presence of some of the fox species that are endangered here. But I can tell you that they are enjoying the presence of these species, the Creator's creation, in the Creator's creation watching them on television. I spent a week taking care of my dad recovering from surgery, and he spent about half of his time enjoying watching these creatures, the Creator's creation, because it gives him joy. And we have got constituents who are enjoying the existence of these species. This is a very small down payment to protect that.

Number two, when we preserve these species and when we preserve their habitat, it is in our self-interest because it is in our self-interest that the rain forest in South America is preserved. That is the lungs of the planet. We cannot solve our climate change problems without it. This can, in fact, help Americans through our environmental challenges that we have.

And, third, this bill is a great investment because for every dollar we put in, and it's a very small commitment of $5 million, but for every one of those dollars, we get $4 from the international community to match and exceed our investment. It is a prudent investment.

So I would hope that we would continue our efforts that we had on a bipartisan basis last year of standing up for these precious species that are on the cusp. And I realize that these species are sometimes thousands of miles away from us, but they can be only months or years away from extinction; so our great-grandkids will never get to watch them except in old-time videos and old-time documentaries. We owe them more. Let's take this very small step forward and pass this bill.

I rise to present important legislation, the Great Cats and Rare Canids Conservation Act, which supports the conservation of wild big cats and canine populations outside the United States by providing financial resources to conserve 15 such species that are vital for their ecological value and are listed as endangered or threatened on the International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources, IUCN, Red List of Endangered Species.

Mr. Speaker, the genesis of the Great Cats and Rare Canids program is nearly a decade old, and the bill under consideration today was also introduced in the past three Congresses. In that time, these species have continued to decline in numbers. I would like to thank Representative UDALL, now Senator UDALL, who brought up this bill in the past.

This bipartisan legislation continues our tradition of protecting threatened and endangered species around the world and comes at a critical time in the survival of these animals. Of the 37 wild felid species worldwide, all are currently recognized as species in need of protection. Of the 35 wild canid species worldwide, nearly 50 percent are recognized as in need of such protection in one of these categories.

The 15 species whose conservation is supported in this bill are umbrella species that, if conserved appropriately, protect their corresponding landscapes and other species dependent on those ecosystems. They include the majestic jaguar of South and Central

America, the elusive snow leopard, the cheetah, the African wild dog, and other rare carnivore species.

If enacted, the Great Cats and Rare Canids Conservation Fund would be established, building on the success of the Multinational Species Conservation Fund. Importantly, it leverages private conservation dollars from corporate and non-government sources in order to address the critical need to conserve these threatened large carnivores. Historically, for every $1 invested by the Federal Government in the programs that are part of the Multinational Species Conservation Fund, there is a $4 match by private donations. Since 1990, the Multinational Species Conservation Fund which has invested over $50 million in conservation assistance to the world's charismatic species, has garnered over $180 million in partner contributions and private funding.

A coalition of over 80 conservation organizations, zoos, sportsmen and hunting groups and other non-governmental organizations support this bill. I would particularly like to recognize Defenders of Wildlife, the International Fund for Animal Welfare, Safari Club International, and the Association of Zoos and Aquariums. These organizations together and their millions of members represent the broad based support among Americans all over the country for Congress to enact this critical piece of legislation.

I would like to thank Chairman RAHALL and committee staff Jim and Dave Jansen for bringing this bill to the floor.

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Speaker, just to clarify on the record, for any kind of species to be included, they have to be included on the endangered species list, the appendix I and appendix II in the red list. Three of these 15 do not meet that criteria. Twelve are legitimate. Three don't meet that criteria.

Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GOHMERT).

Mr. GOHMERT. Again I appreciate the sensitivities with regard to rare cats and dogs around the world. With regard to the previous votes on this bill in the House, to be specific, 227 Democrats voted ''aye,'' 67 Republicans voted ''aye,'' which also was about the same numbers, similar numbers, that voted for the bailout back in September, which was also a huge mistake. There was one Democrat that voted ''no'' and 118 Republicans that voted ''no.''

But we are even in different times now. We are still borrowing money from the Chinese. And, once again, the irony here is incredible. We are going to borrow more money from the Chinese to possibly give them money back to create habitats for wild dogs and cats that are rare.

□ 1445

There is no assurance that if we did that we wouldn't end up with moo goo dog pan or moo goo cat pan. There is no way to assure that money will not be wasted when it's sent to foreign countries.

One other thing, Iberian lynx, that cat would be eligible, and he is only found in Spain and Portugal. We would be appropriating $25 million over 5 years in order to send some money to the very country that has been making ridiculous accusations about the United States here in recent days. Oh, good, accuse us of ridiculous crimes, and then we will send you money for your dogs and cats. At some point we have got to stand up and be more responsible with the money we are borrowing that we are pledging our children and grandchildren and great-grandchildren will pay back.

This is not the time to be passing this bill. I know there were 294 votes, 67 Republicans last time, but I am hoping that because American habitats are again threatened for individual people in America, it's time to quit spending money for habitats in foreign countries for animals.

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Mr. Speaker, I would like to once again yield such time as he might consume to the sponsor of the bill, Congressman INSLEE.

Mr. INSLEE. Very briefly, I just wanted to respond to my friend's assertion that the species have not been recognized by the scientific community. I want to assure the gentleman, all of the 15 species, eight cats and seven canine species, are listed on at least one of the salient lists of these endangered and threatened species, and that would be the Endangered Species Act of the United States, the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora, also called CITES, and the third, the World Conservation Union Red List of Endangered Species. All of the species that we have selected are on at least one of those lists.

I think we will find broad scientific consensus a lot more species are in trouble than these. These are just a tiny fraction of the species that are in trouble, but, frankly, the ones whose existence our constituents enjoy. They are enjoying them in their living rooms, and this is a very small down payment to make sure that continues.

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. May I inquire, Doctor, do you have other speakers?

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. I have just a brief closing statement.

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Just in conclusion, once again, the grants that we have pervaded in the past for things like the African elephant, the rhino, the tigers are on all three lists, not just one of the three lists. Twelve of the fifteen categories included in this are on all three, not one of the three, which is why, if you were to go back to the bill that was actually passed in the Resources Committee, the Brown amendment, and take that standard, that is one that I think is clearly defendable here on the floor.

But the fact of the matter is, we have expanded it. And once you expand it, taking not all three criteria, but any of those three criteria, you set the standard for what may or may not happen in the future. And once again, we start moving into the direction of having dedicated reserve funds going to specific areas without having a comprehensive plan of how we want to spend that money overseas.

In our situation, in the budget crunch here that we are in, we should be much more systematic in the way we try to deal with these kind of endangered species and at least demand that everything on that list is covered on all three of those categories, not just one or two, but all three of them.

Let me just say once again, I did vote for this bill last time. And, once again, I think we could make it better and should be making it better.

I do actually want to thank the majority party for putting back an amendment that was inadvertently omitted last time that had been placed in the bill in committee and making sure that that was added in there before this bill came to the floor. That was very kind of them. I appreciate them doing that.

With that, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Mr. Speaker, President Theodore Roosevelt in a message to the Congress once said, and I am quoting, ''To waste, to destroy our natural resources, to skin and exhaust the land instead of using it, so as to increase its usefulness, will result in undermining in the days of our children the very prosperity which we ought by right to hand down to them amplified and developed.''

H.R. 411, the Great Cats and Rare Canids Act, is legislation that embodies the central tenet in President Roosevelt's message by conserving our natural resources. By conserving our natural resources today, we will ensure the prosperity of future generations.

Mr. INSLEE. Will the gentlewoman yield?

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. I yield to the gentleman from Washington.

Mr. INSLEE. Just to make sure that Members will know about the lists we are talking about, the reason not all of these species are on all three lists that we have alluded to is that canine species that are not traded could not be listed under one of these lists that involve just those that are traded animals. It doesn't mean they are not endangered. It doesn't mean they are not threatened. It just doesn't mean that that is the list that pertains to only traded species.

And I can warrant that you will not find anything but scientific consensus that we have had a very well-targeted rifle shot to the most endangered cats and canines here, not the least. And I am very sensitive to my colleague's concern about our fiscal condition. It is real and his points are well taken.

But there are some things that will not wait, even in respite of our fiscal condition, and extinction is one of them. If we get in better fiscal condition 3 years from now, we can't go back and sort of gin up the DNA from these species. Once the Creator's handiwork is gone, we can't go to our grandkids

and say, well, we had a budget crunch and we just couldn't save them. So we hope we get this done.

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Just for the record, I think it's important to note also that this legislation has the full support of the cochairs of the bipartisan International Conservation Caucus, which includes Congressman NORM DICKS, Congressman HAROLD ROGERS, Congressman JOHN TANNER and Congressman ED ROYCE, as well as the Safari Caucus.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that Members on both sides support the passage of this noncontroversial bill.

Mr. BERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 411, the Great Cats and Rare Canids Act of 2009. I strongly endorse this effort to provide financial resources and foster international cooperation to restore and perpetuate healthy populations of endangered species and to protect threatened habitats.

This bill establishes a fund to support specific conservation activities by "any wildlife management authority" of a foreign country that meets certain criteria, as well as groups and individuals with demonstrated, relevant expertise. While supporting such efforts is a key element of any effective conservation strategy, it seems to me that such funding in effect constitutes a new form of foreign assistance that ought to be carefully coordinated with our other foreign aid programs.

In the first place, it is essential that the Secretary of the Interior, who will be administering these programs, consult closely with the Secretary of State to ensure that these activities will not conflict with our overall foreign policy objectives. For instance, if there are problems with corruption or transparency and accountability in a particular government, the State Department would be in a better position to know which entities are reliable partners, and to ensure that funding is not diverted to unauthorized purposes. There may also be some countries to which all other government-to-government aid has been terminated for political or human rights reasons, and in which these conservation activities ought to be conducted exclusively through non-governmental organizations.

Secondly, the State Department, the United States Agency for International Development, the Millennium Challenge Corporation, the Peace Corps and other foreign policy agencies may be carrying out their own environmental programs in a given country. The conservation activities supported by this new fund must be coordinated with ongoing and planned efforts of such agencies in order to avoid duplication and overlap and to seize openings for collaboration. Without a mechanism for consultation with the State Department and USAID, opportunities to build synergy among programs will be lost and the risks of waste and inefficiency will escalate.

In light of these concerns, I would strongly urge that in implementing these new provisions, the Secretary of the Interior develop a mechanism for full and meaningful consultation with the State Department, USAID and the foreign policy agencies under the Department's guidance.

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from the Virgin Islands (Mrs. CHRISTENSEN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 411, as amended.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. GOHMERT. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

LAKE HODGES SURFACE WATER IMPROVEMENT AND RECLAMATION ACT OF 2009

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1219) to make amendments to the Reclamation Projects Authorization and Adjustment Act of 1992.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1219

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the ''Lake Hodges Surface Water Improvement and Reclamation Act of 2009''.

SEC. 2. PROJECT AUTHORIZATION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Reclamation Wastewater and Groundwater Study and Facilities Act (Public Law 102–575, title XVI; 43 U.S.C. 390h et seq.) is amended by inserting after section 16___ the following:

''SEC. 16___. LAKE HODGES SURFACE WATER IMPROVEMENT AND RECLAMATION PROJECT.

''(a) AUTHORIZATION.—The Secretary, in cooperation with the Olivenhain Municipal Water District, California, is authorized to participate in the design, planning, and construction of projects to treat, reclaim, and reuse impaired surface water from Lakes Hodges in San Diego County, California.

''(b) COST SHARE.—The Federal share of the costs of the projects authorized by this section shall not exceed 25 percent of the total cost.

''(c) LIMITATION.—The Secretary shall not provide funds for the operation or maintenance of a project authorized by this section.''.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections in section 2 of the Reclamation Projects Authorization and Adjustment Act of 1992 is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 16___ the following:

''Sec. 16___. Lake Hodges surface water improvement and reclamation project.''.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from the Virgin Islands (Mrs. CHRISTENSEN) and the gentleman from Utah (Mr. BISHOP) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from the Virgin Islands.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the bill under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from the Virgin Islands?

There was no objection.

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. H.R. 1219 authorizes the Secretary of the Interior, acting through the Bureau of Reclamation, to participate in the Lake Hodges Surface Water Improvement and Reclamation Project.

This project would pre-treat 13,000 acre-feet of impaired Lake Hodges water currently unavailable for consumptive use. We have no objection to this noncontroversial bill.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Speaker, I would like to yield to the author of this piece of legislation, this bipartisan piece of legislation, as much time as he shall consume, the gentleman from California (Mr. BILBRAY).

Mr. BILBRAY. Mr. Speaker, this bill is one that is balanced in time and in effort. At a time when snow packs on Sierra Nevada are very low, at a time when the fact that the water supplies for Southern California have been cut off dramatically through a court order restriction or outright abolition on pumping in the Delta area of the San Joaquin Valley because of the endangered delta smelt, and especially due to the fact that this problem has run into Hodges, those of us in the Federal Government can take a little bit of responsibility here, seeing the fact that a major contributing factor to the pollution problem in this lake was our procedure in the Endangered Species Act, though meaning well to preserve the species, took time that created the problem.

And let me explain to you what happened here. The lake lowered to a level where habitat for the least Bell's vireo was able to grow on the dry land during that time.

When authorities realized that this was going to become a problem, they were not allowed, because of the permitting process for what had been designated a habitat that was great for the least Bell's vireo, an endangered species at that time, now threatened, but basically to explain it is the process took so long that the lake raised back up, flooded out this habitat, and now that habitat is decomposing and polluting the waters of Lake Hodges.

No one meant this to happen. There was no intention by either the environmental agencies involved or by the local community to address this issue. It was just as our regulations go, we create these less-than-appropriate situations.

This bill is one that not only recognizes the responsibility of the Federal Government to the problem, but really is one where the local community is saying we will take on the great majority of the responsibility of addressing this issue. For every dollar of Federal funds that is committed under this bill, there will be $3 of local funds to address this.

And this is not an issue that only affects the 50th District, my district, and

a small section around Lake Hodges. The entirety of Southern California is desperate for the massive amounts of water—not massive—but large amounts of water that is not safe to drink at this time.

I think this is a good cooperative effort. The local community has said we will match you 3 to 1. We will hold harmless the fact that the procedures didn't work out like we would all like it to do, but we will be able to make available very safe drinking water in a very environmentally, friendly way.

And that's basically one of those things that I think we can look to as Federal representatives of cooperating, not doing something for the local community but helping the local community do itself and addressing concerns and problems that we might have been part and parcel involved, sticking to our responsibility as long as the local community is willing to stand up and take care of theirs.

With that, I would ask passage of this bill, Mr. Speaker. I think it's one of those, as the chairwoman for the committee pointed out, it's a reasonable, balanced approach. And when we talk about a 3 to 1 match, a local, I think we have got a very strong statement here that the Federal Government is willing to participate, especially when a community is willing to match us 3 to 1 for a situation that everyone agrees no one was without fault on this.

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. May I simply say in closing on our side that I have to commend the gentleman from California for coming up with this water recycling project that would basically pre-treat the impaired surface of Lake Hodges, California, so that consumer water needs are going to be met.

The drought has largely been manmade because of litigation to protect a 3-inch fish, and it will decrease Southern California's water supplies. As a result, there will be water rationing in some areas and water rates will increase for working families and businesses.

There will be less imported water to recycle. However, water recycling is still, in the long term, a necessity for California and other arid regions in the West. And all these projects together will help ensure that there will be no such thing as a waste of our water. So I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from the Virgin Islands (Mrs. CHRISTENSEN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1219.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

A message in writing from the President of the United States was communicated to the House by Ms. Evans, one of his secretaries.

REPEALING THE ''BENNETT FREEZE''

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the Senate bill (S. 39) to repeal section 10(f) of Public Law 93–531, commonly known as the ''Bennett Freeze''.

The Clerk read the title of the Senate bill.

The text of the Senate bill is as follows:

S. 39

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. REPEAL OF THE BENNETT FREEZE.

Section 10(f) of Public Law 93–531 (25 U.S.C. 640d–9(f)) is repealed.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from the Virgin Islands (Mrs. CHRISTENSEN) and the gentleman from Utah (Mr. BISHOP) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from the Virgin Islands.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the bill under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from the Virgin Islands?

There was no objection.

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, the pending legislation would settle a longstanding dilemma faced by the people of the Navajo and Hopi Nations in Arizona. At the outset, I would commend our colleague from Arizona (Mrs. KIRKPATRICK) for her tenacity in working to have this measure considered by the House, and hopefully by the end of the day, passed and sent to the President for his signature.

The need for this legislation dates back to an executive order issued in 1882 which set aside land in northern Arizona for the Hopi Tribe and such other Indians as the Secretary of the Interior may see fit to settle thereon. A 1934 act of Congress setting aside some of the same lands for the Navajo Nation further complicated the matter.

In 1962, a Federal District Court ruled that both the Hopi Tribe and the Navajo Nation had joint rights to use the land in dispute. This ruling created great tension between the two tribes over critical issues such as access to sacred sites and the development of lands in the joint use area. Because of this situation, in 1966 the Commissioner of the Bureau of Indian Affairs, Robert Bennett, issued a freeze on any development on the disputed lands. This freeze extended to some of the core aspects of tribal life, including the building of homes, improvement to property, public works projects, power lines, and water and sewer access.

After nearly a century of dispute between the Navajo Nation and the Hopi Tribe, the Navajo-Hopi Settlement Act was enacted in 1974 in an attempt to settle rights and interests between the two Native nations. However, in 1980, Congress amended that act to codify the Bennett Freeze. As a result of this freeze on development, tribal citizens living in the Bennett Freeze region find themselves living in 1966 conditions. Only 3 percent of these families affected by the Bennett Freeze have electricity and only 10 percent have running water.

In 2005, the Navajo and the Hopi governments entered into an intergovernmental agreement that resolved all outstanding issues regarding the land in dispute. This agreement contains language which puts an end to the ban on development on the disputed lands. The Secretary of the Interior approved this agreement in September 2006.

This legislation will clarify the law so that it is in agreement with all of the land users and finally close this longstanding dispute between neighboring Indian tribes.

I once again commend our colleague, Mrs. KIRKPATRICK, who has a companion bill here in the House for her work in getting this bill to the floor today. The aforementioned conditions of those living in the Bennett Freeze area are unacceptable. The tribes have resolved their issues and the administration has fulfilled its duties, and now it is time for us to pass this legislation and fulfill our trust responsibility to these two native nations.

I urge all of my colleagues to support the passage of Senate bill 39.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise to support this bipartisan legislation that was authored by Senator JOHN MCCAIN. This bill would end more than 40 years of Federal restrictions placed upon native people living in the western area of the Navajo Nation. These restrictions have barred area residents from making any improvements and repairs to their homes and property.

Once this legislation becomes law, both Navajo and Hopi people will have the opportunity to move forward with critical development projects aimed at providing relief to their region. This

means homes without electricity can now be wired, modern plumbing fixtures can be installed and recent health and safety improvements like smoke detectors and water filters can be realized.

Mr. Speaker, this legislation is identical to a bill that was introduced in the 110th Congress by Senator MCCAIN. Unfortunately, we delayed consideration of this bill during the presidential election, for whatever reason. Hopefully, we are prepared to move ahead with this good public policy.

I am grateful that we are finally able to move forward this legislation that will help both the Navajo and Hopi people. I support the bill.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to yield such time as she may consume to the sponsor of the House companion measure to S. 39, the gentlewoman from Arizona (Mrs. KIRKPATRICK).

Mrs. KIRKPATRICK of Arizona. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to encourage all of my colleagues to support S. 39, the companion to H.R. 1762, which I introduced last month. This bill will repeal the law that has held back growth in my district for 40 years.

In 1966, Commissioner of Indian Affairs Robert Bennett chose to deal with a long-running land dispute between the Navajo and Hopi Nations by establishing a construction freeze on 1.5 million acres in my district. For four decades, no construction was allowed in the area. Families could not even do basic home repair or have electricity put in. There was no economic development, and there was no hope.

Now the Navajo and Hopi have come to an agreement, and in 2006 a judge lifted the Bennett Freeze. But that is not enough. We need to permanently remove the law that kept thousands of folks frozen in time.

Far too many families on tribal lands lack basic necessities. In the area of the freeze, only 10 percent of the people have running water, and even fewer have electricity. We are trying to fight a diabetes epidemic with folks who cannot keep the medication they need at home because they don't have a plug for a refrigerator. These families deserve to know that their government will not stop them from pulling themselves out of poverty.

I was proud to join Senator MCCAIN in introducing this legislation. Senator MCCAIN and I believe that Washington bureaucrats should never stand in the way of folks trying to improve their lives and develop their communities. That is something that I think that everyone in this House on both sides of the aisle can come together on.

I urge your support and encourage passage of this bill.

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the gentlelady from Arizona's work on this particular issue. I appreciate Senator MCCAIN's sponsorship of this particular bill. This is indeed a fresh approach that will produce positive benefits for the people in this particular State, and I appreciate it being brought to the floor by the gentlewoman from the Virgin Islands.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers, and I yield back the balance of my time as well.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from the Virgin Islands (Mrs. CHRISTENSEN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the Senate bill, S. 39.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the Senate bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

HONORING JOHN HOPE FRANKLIN

Mr. LYNCH. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 320) honoring the life and achievements of Dr. John Hope Franklin.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 320

Whereas Dr. John Hope Franklin was born on January 2, 1915, in Rentiesville, Oklahoma, the grandson of a slave and the son of Buck Colbert Franklin, one of the first Black lawyers in the Oklahoma Indian territory, and Mollie Parker Franklin, a schoolteacher and community leader;

Whereas Dr. John Hope Franklin, a noted historian, made significant academic and civic contributions that helped integrate the African-American narrative into American history;

Whereas Dr. John Hope Franklin was a graduate of Fisk University and a recipient of a Ph.D. degree in history from Harvard University;

Whereas in 1936, Dr. John Hope Franklin was appointed to the faculty of Fisk University as Instructor of History and subsequently served as Professor of History at St. Augustine's College, North Carolina Central University, and Howard University;

Whereas in 1956, Dr. John Hope Franklin became the Chairman of the Department of History at Brooklyn College, the first African-American to lead a department at a predominately White institution and later became the first African-American professor to hold an endowed chair at Duke University;

Whereas in 1964, Dr. John Hope Franklin joined the faculty of the University of Chicago, serving as Professor of American History, Chairman of the Department of History from 1967 to 1970, and the John Matthews Manly Distinguished Service Professor from 1969 to 1982 when he became Professor Emeritus of History;

Whereas in 1982, Dr. John Hope Franklin joined the faculty at Duke University and served until his passing, holding such positions as the James B. Duke Professor of History, Professor of Legal History at Duke University Law School, the James B. Duke Professor of History Emeritus, Duke University;

Whereas Dr. John Hope Franklin's numerous publications include ''From Slavery to Freedom: A History of Negro Americans'', widely considered the preeminent history of the African-American experience in the United States, ''The Emancipation Proclamation'', ''The Militant South'', ''The Free Negro in North Carolina'', ''Reconstruction After the Civil War'', ''A Southern Odyssey: Travelers in the Ante-bellum North'', and his influential autobiography ''Mirror to America: The Autobiography of John Hope Franklin'';

Whereas Dr. John Hope Franklin's research contributed to the success of Thurgood Marshall and the NAACP's legal victory in the landmark 1954 Supreme Court case, Brown v. Board of Education, which ended the ''separate but equal'' doctrine in America's public schools;

Whereas Dr. John Hope Franklin was active in numerous professional and educational organizations including serving as President of The Organization of American Historians, the American Studies Association, the Southern Historical Association, the United Chapters of Phi Beta Kappa, and the first African-American to serve as President of the American Historical Association;

Whereas Dr. John Hope Franklin served on many national commissions and delegations, including the National Council on the Humanities, Advisory Commission on Public Diplomacy, and as chair of President Clinton's Race Initiative Advisory Board in 1997;

Whereas Dr. John Hope Franklin was the recipient of numerous awards and accolades, including the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 1995, the inaugural W.E.B. DuBois Award from Fisk University Alumni Association, the Organization of American Historians' Award for Outstanding Achievement, the Alpha Phi Alpha Award of Merit, the NAACP's Spingarn Medal, and Lifetime Achievement Awards from the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, and the American Philosophical Society in 2007;

Whereas in 1996, Dr. John Hope Franklin was named ''Historian of the Century'' by Duke University, North Carolina State University, North Carolina Central University, and the University of North Carolina Chapel Hill;

Whereas in 1998, Dr. John Hope Franklin was inducted into the North Carolina Literary Hall of Fame;

Whereas Dr. John Hope Franklin inspired the John Hope Franklin Center for Interdisciplinary & International Studies at Duke University, a consortium of academic programs that encourage creative scholarship, the exchange of ideas, and a variety of perspectives and methodologies to revitalize notions of how knowledge is gain and shared;

Whereas Dr. Franklin described historians as ''the conscience of the nation, if honesty and consistency are factors that nurture the conscience'', and his contributions to the study of American history fundamentally challenged and changed the manner in which the Nation collectively interprets its past and understands its present;

Whereas Dr. John Hope Franklin was a true scholar and soldier for justice whose chronicling of American history affirmed the dignity of Black people while giving us all a richer understanding of who we are as Americans and our journey as a people;

Whereas generations of young historians have been inspired and personally influenced by Dr. Franklin's keen intellect, graceful humility, and humor in the classroom, and will ensure the endurance of his towering legacy; and

Whereas Dr. John Hope Franklin passed away on March 25, 2009, in Durham, North Carolina, and will be deeply missed: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) honors the life and achievements of Dr. John Hope Franklin; and

(2) encourages the Nation to recognize his academic contributions, scholarship, and service to the American society and history.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. LYNCH) and the gentleman from Utah (Mr. CHAFFETZ) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Massachusetts.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. LYNCH. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Massachusetts?

There was no objection.

Mr. LYNCH. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, it is with deep respect that I rise in support of House Resolution 320, which celebrates the life of legendary scholar, professor, author and historian, Dr. John Hope Franklin. I would first like to thank my colleague and friend from North Carolina, Congressman MEL WATT, for sponsoring this afternoon's condolence measure which has amassed over 90 cosponsors since being introduced on April 2nd, 2009. I would also like to thank Congressman DAVID PRICE and Congresswoman BARBARA LEE and Senator KAY HAGAN for cosponsoring similar legislation. The outpouring of bipartisan support surely speaks to Dr. Franklin's legacy.

Dr. Franklin was more than a historian. His academic and civic contributions helped integrate the African American narrative into American history. He did as much or more to influence the American historical perspective than nearly any scholar in recent memory in this respect.

One of Dr. Franklin's first contributions to our national story came when he was a young academic working alongside Thurgood Marshall and the NAACP in the landmark 1954 Supreme Court case, Brown v. Board of Education. By his work, Dr. Franklin helped bring an end to the ''separate but equal'' doctrine in America's public schools, ending decades of institutionalized injustice.

John Hope Franklin graduated from Fisk University in 1935, and received both a master's and Ph.D. in history from Harvard University. He taught at a number of institutions, including Fisk University, North Carolina Central University, St. Augustine's College and Howard University.

In 1956, Mr. Franklin became the Chairman of the Department of History at Brooklyn College and in 1964 he joined the faculty of the University of Chicago and served as Chairman of the Department of History from 1967 to 1970.

In 1982, Dr. Franklin joined the faculty of Duke University, where he remained until his passing. He held such positions as the James B. Duke Professor of History, Professor of History Emeritus and Professor of Legal History at Duke University Law School. In 2000, Duke University opened the John Hope Franklin Center for Interdisciplinary and International Studies, dedicated to new methods of knowledge sharing and collaborative understanding.

In 1947, Dr. Franklin published the seminal piece, ''From Slavery to Freedom: A History of African Americans.'' Now in its seventh edition, it is considered the preeminent account of the African American experience in the United States. Other works by Dr. Franklin include ''The Emancipation Proclamation,'' ''The Free Negro in North Carolina,'' ''The Militant South,'' ''A Southern Odyssey, Travelers in the Antebellum North,'' ''Reconstruction After the Civil War,'' and his influential autobiography, ''Mirror to America.''

Dr. Franklin was active in an array of professions and educational organizations. He served as President of the Organization of American Historians, the Southern Historical Association, the American Studies Association, and the United Chapters of Phi Beta Kappa. In 1979, he became the first African American to serve as President of the American Historical Association, and he also served his country on national delegations and commissions, such as the National Council on the Humanities and the Advisory Commission on Public Diplomacy. In 1997, President Clinton tapped Dr. Franklin to chair the Race Initiative Advisory Board.

Dr. Franklin was the recipient of countless awards and accolades, including the Nation's highest civilian honor, the Presidential Medal of Freedom. Dr. Franklin received the inaugural W.E.B. DuBois Award from the Fisk University Alumni Association, the Organization For American Historians Award for Outstanding Achievement, the Alpha Phi Alpha Award of Merit, the NAACP's Spingarn Medal, and the Lifetime Achievement Award from the American Academy of the Arts and Sciences.

□ 1515

Dr. Franklin married his college sweetheart, Aurelia Whittington, in 1940. Aurelia passed away on January 27, 1999. They are survived by their son, John Whittington Franklin.

I ask that this body join the American people in celebrating the life of Dr. John Hope Franklin, who we lost on March 25, at the age of 94. We will certainly miss his keen intellect, his graceful humility and humor. He was a true scholar and stalwart for justice, whose chronicling of American history affirmed the dignity of African Americans everywhere, while giving us a richer understanding of our journey together as Americans.

And so, Mr. Speaker, let us collectively and formally express our appreciation for Dr. John Hope Franklin's life and accomplishments and career by agreeing to House Resolution 320.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CHAFFETZ. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of House Resolution 320, honoring the life and achievements of Dr. John Hope Franklin.

Dr. Franklin was born in Oklahoma and graduated from Booker T. Washington High School in Tulsa. He graduated from Fisk University in 1935, and earned a doctorate in history in 1941 from Harvard University.

Dr. Franklin was a dedicated educator, whose career in teaching included periods at many prestigious institutions of higher learning, including Fisk University, St. Augustine's College, North Carolina College, the University of Chicago, Duke University and its law school, and the District's own Howard University.

In 1956 Dr. Franklin became the chair of a major history department when he joined the faculty at Brooklyn College.

Dr. Franklin spent his life on the front lines of social change in the United States of America. In the early 1950s, he served as a historian consultant to the NAACP Legal Defense Fund team led by future Supreme Court Justice Thurgood Marshall that helped develop the brief in Brown v. Board of Education. That brief led to the historic decision ending legal segregation in America.

Dr. Franklin was a prolific writer, and from among his works is perhaps best known for ''From Slavery to Freedom,'' first published in 1947, and continually updated. More than 3 million copies have been sold.

Throughout his career as a historian, Dr. Franklin was the recipient of many honors and accolades, including the Society of American Historians' Bruce Catton Prize for Lifetime Achievement in 1994, and the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the nation's highest civilian honor in 1995.

In 2006 Dr. Franklin was announced as the third recipient of the John W. Kluge Prize for Lifetime Achievement in the study of humanity.

Dr. Franklin also served on many national commissions and delegations, including the National Council on the Humanities, and the President's Advisory Commission on Ambassadorial Appointments. He also served as the United States Delegate to the 21st General Conference of UNESCO.

Dr. Franklin also served as the President of the American Historical Association, the American Studies Association, the Southern Historical Association, and the Organization of American Historians.

He was a member of the Board of Trustees at Fisk University, the Chicago Public Library, and the Chicago Symphony Orchestra Association.

Sadly, we lost Dr. Franklin in March, but his work and his impact and his

contributions live on. Dr. John Hope Franklin dedicated his life to education and the study of history, and his achievements can be summed up in his own words: ''You can't have a high standard of scholarship without having a high standard of integrity because the essence of scholarship is truth.''

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LYNCH. Mr. Speaker, at this time I would like to yield 5 minutes to the lead sponsor of this measure, the distinguished gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. WATT).

Mr. WATT. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding time and for reserving this time to bring this important resolution forward.

About 2 weeks ago, following the death of our good friend, John Hope Franklin, I witnessed something that I had never witnessed in this body before. People were lining up to introduce resolutions honoring Dr. John Hope Franklin. And the Congressional Black Caucus was saying, John Hope Franklin is our honored person who has been so important to us.

Representative DAVID PRICE from North Carolina, in whose district John Hope Franklin lived at his death, said, I want the honor of introducing a resolution. Individual Members were all intent on introducing their resolution. And I modestly tell you, Mr. Speaker, that I ended up being the lead sponsor, only after a period of negotiation between people who were anxious to be in this position. And I am honored to have been kind of negotiated into the position of being the lead sponsor.

But out of that process, something important became apparent to me, and that's this: That if 100 of our Members had introduced resolutions honoring the life and times of John Hope Franklin, that still wouldn't have been enough to give him the kind and sufficiency of honor that he deserved.

And if 100 different resolutions had been introduced, I can imagine that they would have covered 100 different aspects of his life. They would have said, he was a scholar, because when John Hope Franklin was researching African American history in this country, there really was no written African American history in this country. And he had to beg his way into the Library of Congress, into places where nobody African American had ever really spent any time to try to find the history and place African Americans in a particular reserved place, tracing their ancestry all the way back into Africa, and giving us the due that we were entitled to have as part of this, the history of this country.

A resolution might have talked about his being the first, because there's a whole list. We could take 20 minutes on our side just listing the things that John Hope Franklin was the first to do; the first to be an African American head of a Department of History, the first to do this, the first to do that.

We could devote a whole resolution to him as a historian, because the wonderful work that he authored, ''From Slavery to Freedom,'' helped to define the role of African Americans in this country.

We could do a resolution listing just the honors that he received, the number of honorary doctorates and prizes and awards that he received for his scholarship and his participation.

We could do a resolution on his commitment to growing tulips. Here's a man that has had an tulip named after him because he took a liking to tulips, and really went in and probably has the best understanding and the best collection of tulips of any individual in America.

We could do a resolution on his landmark participation, the fact that he was part of the research team that did Brown v. Board of Education; that he was part of the research team that made it possible for me to continue to serve in this body.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. LYNCH. I yield the gentleman an additional 2 minutes.

Mr. WATT. He was part of the team that did the research on the Voting Rights Act that resulted in the Supreme Court upholding the congressional districts that many of the members of the CBC now occupy in this body.

We could do a resolution on his involvement in President Clinton's Race Initiative.

But I tell you, if I were doing a resolution, if I were writing it myself, I'd do it based on this humble genius, the mentorship that he provided to me, the friendship that he provided to me and my family as we grew up in politics, as we came out of the South and assumed the role that I have in this body today.

This is a great, great, great, great man that had so many different ingredients to his greatness. Time doesn't give us enough time or enough resolutions to do appropriate honor to this man. I am grateful that we have this time, but I'm more grateful that we had him for 90-plus years on this Earth.

Mr. CHAFFETZ. Mr. Speaker, I have no other speakers at the moment, but I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LYNCH. Mr. Speaker, at this point I would like to yield to the gentleman from North Carolina, who is also a cosponsor of this legislation, and earlier the lead sponsor until that position was assumed by Mr. WATT, the distinguished gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. PRICE) for 5 minutes.

Mr. PRICE of North Carolina. I thank the gentleman for yielding and for his work on this resolution, helping us bring it to the floor.

I thank my colleague, Mr. WATT, for his moving and impassioned comments, and I identify myself totally with what he's saying.

This resolution gives us the occasion to honor a great and good man, and to recognize the impact he's had on our lives personally and, indeed, on American life. Dr. Franklin was arguably the most influential American historian of the 20th century. He was the preeminent scholar of African American history in the United States for nearly six decades. And in pursuing that course, he fundamentally changed the way we understood the Nation's past, showing us that African American history is inseparable from any telling of American history.

It may seem obvious today that our national story is made uniquely American by the shared experience of multiple backgrounds, a common quilt sewn with diverse cultural and ethnic and economic threads. This shared experience is perhaps particularly compelling to those of us from the South, those of us whose formative years were shaped by the civil rights movement of the 1950s and 60s. But this greater understanding and appreciation did not just happen by chance; it's in large part the fruit of Dr. Franklin's labors.

Dr. Franklin made his mark on a number of fine institutions, teaching at Fisk University in Nashville, at St. Augustine's College in Raleigh, at North Carolina College in Durham, now North Carolina Central University, and at Howard University here in the District of Columbia. Dr. Franklin spent nearly two decades at the University of Chicago, serving as Professor of American History, chairman of the Department of History, and John Matthews Manly Distinguished Service Professor of history. Then in 1982 Dr. Franklin joined me and other colleagues on the faculty at Duke University, serving as James B. Duke Professor of History and Professor of Legal History at Duke Law School and, ultimately, inspiring the John Hope Franklin Center For Interdisciplinary and International Studies.

Dr. Franklin's distinguished body of work includes his book that went through multiple editions, From Slavery to Freedom: A History of Negro Americans, which is still considered the definitive account of the African American experience in the United States. His clarity of thought and understanding of history were invaluable in aiding Thurgood Marshall's research and victory in the landmark Supreme Court case, Brown v. Board of Education, which ended the ''separate but equal'' doctrine in America's public schools.

Dr. Franklin was a tremendous asset to North Carolina, to the Durham/Chapel Hill/Raleigh area of North Carolina, and to our academic community. He was named ''Historian of the Century'' by Duke University, North Carolina State, North Carolina Central, and UNC-Chapel Hill a decade ago. In 1995, Dr. Franklin received the State of North Carolina's highest honor, the Order of the Long Leaf Pine.

Despite his long and impressive resume, I believe Dr. Franklin will be remembered most for his character as a person, as a man—for his gentleness of spirit, the power of his intellect, the sharpness of his wit, the passion of his social engagement.

□ 1530

I'll always be grateful for the opportunity to know him as a constituent and as a friend after his return to North Carolina in the 1980s. My wife and I will always treasure and remember the encouragement and the support he gave us in our various endeavors—she in the cause of gun violence prevention and I in both the academic and political vineyards.

So I thank Mr. WATT and the entire North Carolina delegation who have joined in this tribute. I thank Mr. TOWNS, Ms. LEE and others for their cooperative efforts in crafting this resolution, and I assure our colleagues that this could not be a more deeply felt resolution. It is a heartfelt and a richly deserved tribute to a great and good man.

Mr. CHAFFETZ. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. LYNCH. In closing, Mr. Speaker, this is a travel day for Members of Congress, but I do want to recognize the other cosponsors of this measure: Representative JAMES CLYBURN from South Carolina; the chairman of our committee, Representative ED TOWNS from Brooklyn; Representative BARBARA LEE from California; Representative SHEILA JACKSON-LEE from Texas; Representative STEVE COHEN from Tennessee; and the gentleman JOHN LEWIS from Georgia, who also, but for the fact that they are traveling today on their way to Washington, would be here to speak in favor of this resolution as well.

Together, we all, the cosponsors and those who have spoken on the floor today, urge our colleagues to join us in this great recognition of Dr. Franklin.

Ms. LEE of California. Mr. Speaker, today I am here to honor a great American who died last month but whose contributions to our nation will live on for many years to come.

John Hope Franklin was a mighty scholar and soldier for justice. H. Res. 320 celebrates the life of Dr. Franklin and his trailblazing achievements in a variety of fields and I'd like to thank Congressmen MEL WATT and DAVID PRICE for their work on this resolution.

A native of Oklahoma, Dr. Franklin received his undergraduate degree from one of the finest HBCU's, Fisk University in Nashville, Tennessee. He received his doctorate in history from Harvard University.

His distinguished academic career began right here in our nations capitol at Howard University and he would go on to teach at Fisk University, St. Augustine's College and North Carolina Central University.

In 1956, Dr. Franklin became the Chairman of the Department of History at Brooklyn College, the first African American to lead a department at a predominately white institution.

Eight years later in 1964, Dr. Franklin joined the faculty of the University of Chicago, serving as Chairman of the Department of History from 1967 to 1970. At Chicago, he was the John Matthews Manly Distinguished Service Professor from 1969 to 1982, when he became Professor Emeritus.

Dr. Franklin is perhaps best known for his prolific writings including, The Emancipation Proclamation, The Militant South, The Free Negro in North Carolina, Reconstruction After the Civil War, and A Southern Odyssey: Travelers in the Ante-bellum North.

For many African Americans our first introduction to black history was through Dr. Franklin's book From Slavery to Freedom. In its pages we found an account of American history that affirmed the dignity of black people and the nobility of our struggle.

Dr. Franklin was not only a noted historian, but also living history himself. His accomplishments are as many as they are great. He was active in numerous professional and education organizations including serving as President of the following organizations: The American Studies Association, the Southern Historical Association, the United Chapters of Phi Beta Kappa and the American Historical Association.

One of Dr. Franklin's earliest and most important contributions was as a member of the team of scholars who worked with Thurgood Marshall to win the landmark school desegregation case Brown v. Board of Education.

Mr. Speaker, our nation will be forever grateful for Dr. Franklin's lasting contributions which gave us all richer understanding of who we are as Americans and our journey as a people.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I stand in support today of H. Res. 320, "Honoring the life and achievements of Dr. John Hope Franklin". This incredible man was a true scholar, social engineer, and civil rights champion. His chronicling of American history affirmed the dignity of African people both in the United States and throughout the Diaspora, while giving us all a richer understanding of who we are as Americans and our journey as a people. His contributions have spanned this country and the world. As Francois Fenelon, a French theologian, poet and writer put it best, "A good historian is timeless; although he is a patriot, he will never flatter his country in any respect". Dr. John Hope Franklin unabashedly served as a clarion call to the triumphs of African peoples throughout the ages, without succumbing to reconstructive history.

It goes without saying that Dr. John Hope Franklin had an accomplished scholarly background, indeed an extraordinary background. Born from humble beginnings, he became one of the great pillars of American scholarly society and a giant in history. He was born on January 2, 1915, in Rentiesville, Oklahoma, the grandson of a slave and the son of Buck Colbert Franklin, one of the first Black lawyers in the Oklahoma Indian territory, and Mollie Parker Franklin, a schoolteacher and community leader.

He later was a graduate of Fisk University and a recipient of a Ph.D. degree in history from Harvard University and became a noted historian. Dr. Franklin made significant academic and civic contributions that helped integrate the African-American narrative into American history. As Dr. John Hope Franklin said "It was necessary, as a black historian, to have a personal agenda."

He was not only a great historian, but made an impact on American history. His research contributed to the success of Thurgood Marshall and the NAACP's legal victory in the landmark 1954 Supreme Court case, Brown v. Board of Education, which ended the 'separate but equal' doctrine in America's public schools.

Dr. John Hope Franklin was active in numerous professional and educational organizations. He served as President of the Organization of American Historians, the American Studies Association, the Southern Historical Association, the United Chapters of Phi Beta Kappa, and was the first African-American to serve as President of the American Historical Association. In addition, he served on many national commissions and delegations, including the National Council on the Humanities, Advisory Commission on Public Diplomacy, and as chair of President Clinton's Race Initiative Advisory Board in 1997.

Dr. John Hope Franklin was the recipient of numerous awards and accolades, including the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 1995, the inaugural W.E.B. DuBois Award from Fisk University Alumni Association, the Organization of American Historians' Award for Outstanding Achievement, the Alpha Phi Alpha Award of Merit, the NAACP's Spingarn Medal, and Lifetime Achievement Awards from the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, and the American Philosophical Society in 2007. He was also named 'Historian of the Century' by Duke University, North Carolina State University, North Carolina Central University, and the University of North Carolina Chapel Hill.

Dr. John Hope Franklin passed away on March 25, 2009, in Durham, North Carolina, and will be deeply missed. He deserves Congressional recognition which would honor his life and achievements as well as encourage the Nation to recognize his academic contributions, scholarship, and service to the American society and history. Dr. Franklin has given so much to our great nation and he has inspired generations of young historians with his keen intellect, graceful humility, and humor in the classroom, and will ensure the endurance of his towering legacy.

I urge my colleagues to support this resolution and as Dr. Franklin said, 'historians are the conscience of the nation, if honesty and consistency are factors that nurture the conscience', and his contributions to the study of American history fundamentally challenged and changed the manner in which the Nation collectively interprets its past and understands its present.

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I join my colleagues in support of H. Res. 320, a resolution recognizing the life and achievements of one of our country's most preeminent historian, scholar and humanitarian: Dr. John Hope Franklin.

Dr. John Hope Franklin, the grandson of a slave and the son of one of the first black lawyers in the Oklahoma Indian territory, graduated from Harvard with a Ph.D. in history and later became the Chairman of the Department of History at Brooklyn College making him the first African American to run a department at a predominately white institution. He was also the first African American professor to hold an endowed chair at Duke University, as well as the first African American to serve as President of the American Historical Association.

Franklin's many contributions include writing numerous publications; among them is his seminal work, From Slavery to Freedom: A History of Negro Americans, which is considered by many to be an unsurpassed history of the African American experience in the United States. In addition to his writings, Franklin was also a prominent figure in the arena of politics and social activism. He provided important historical research to NAACP Legal Defense

Fund lawyer Thurgood Marshall in the historic Brown v. Board of Education case that outlawed school segregation.

Over the course of his career, Franklin served on the National Council on the Humanities, and the Advisory Commission on Public Diplomacy, as well as being the chair of President Clinton's Race Initiative Advisory Board. He has also been the recipient of many prestigious awards, including the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the inaugural W.E.B. DuBois Award from Fisk University Alumni Association, and the Organization of American Historians' Award for Outstanding Achievement Society.

During his life, Franklin saw his challenge as being "to weave into the fabric of American history enough of the presence of blacks so that the story of the United States could be told adequately and fairly." Franklin's life, achievements and contributions has had a profound influence on the field of history, in particular, African American history. With this resolution, Franklin's legacy and spirit will endure for years to come.

I commend Representative MELVIN WATT for introducing H. Res. 320, a resolution that honors the life and achievements of Dr. John Hope Franklin, and urge my colleagues to support it.

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, if there ever were a genuine personification of those treasured values which we call scholarship, commitment, and leadership, Professor John Hope Franklin was it. Franklin, who passed away last month at a youthful ninety-four, lived these values everyday of his distinguished life as one of the twentieth century's most accomplished historians. His celebrated work reflected the trials of his own life and his own race, so that the people of the United States, and the citizens of the world, could better appreciate, better understand, and better embrace our tumultuous—yet always forward-marching—journey.

John Hope Franklin's career began over sixty years ago when, despite rejection from the University of Oklahoma due to the color of his skin, he earned a degree from Fisk University. Franklin then went on to receive a doctorate in history from Harvard University at the age of twenty-six. From there, he entered teaching, seeking to share his deep knowledge of the American experience with his students. Eventually, his acumen as an historian and skill as an instructor led Brooklyn College to name him as the nation's first African-American Chair of a major history department, a position which earned him the respect and prestige he had been denied years previously. John Hope, as his friends knew him, had achieved the notoriety he had worked hard to deserve.

From Brooklyn College, John Hope Franklin would go on to teach at the University of Chicago and Duke University. He would be honored at the latter institution with the distinction of James B. Duke Professor of History, eventually reaching "emeritus" status in that position. Furthermore, Franklin was the recipient of such honors and accolades as the John W. Kluge Prize in the Human Sciences, a Jefferson Lecturer of the National Endowment for the Humanities, and, in 1995, was the recipient of the Presidential Medal of Freedom, presented by President William Jefferson Clinton, for his contributions and service to American society.

Mr. Franklin's honors and titles are impressive and indeed well-deserved. Yet, they do not tell the entire story of this man's extraordinary impact. As an historian, John Hope Franklin sought to tell the story of his fellow men of color, to instill within our nation an understanding of the struggle over race that has defined so much of our history. His seminal work, From Slavery to Freedom, remains to this day a timeless and signature examination of African-American history. It served to illustrate how the history of the United States and the history of racial tensions are so deeply intertwined. Along with the rest of his extensive academic work, From Slavery to Freedom constitutes a tremendous educational legacy for which our nation will always remain filled with gratitude to have received.

The ivory towers and rolling lawns of academia, however, could not confine the enlightening force of John Hope Franklin's talents. In 1954, the NAACP Legal Defense Fund and a talented lawyer named Thurgood Marshall took up a lawsuit in the United States Supreme Court against the Board of Education of Topeka, Kansas. Franklin joined this team, utilizing his knowledge and understanding of race relations and the African-American experience to help Marshall win a court decision that forever changed these United States, serving as the first stone tossed in the pond of injustice, releasing countless ripples calling for social equality and civil rights.

Whether examining the history that had been written by others, or working to write the next pages himself, the potency of John Hope Franklin's impact on the understanding of our journey as a nation, and of our identity as a people places him among the giants of American historical study. His exposure and exploration of the path our nation has taken as it has encountered the struggles of racial strife are lasting contributions to the fulfillment of our nation's promise, and will serve to forever shine a light on the darkness of misunderstanding and ignorance.

It is with heartfelt gratitude and unwavering appreciation toward the accomplishments and contributions of the venerable John Hope Franklin, that I therefore urge my colleagues to join me in support of House Resolution 302, so that we may honor this man who embodied and embraced lasting values of scholarship and service, and who told the story of the United States—our story—with such eloquence and poignancy; a story of which he himself was frequently a resounding character.

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H. Res. 320, which honors the life and achievements of Dr. John Hope Franklin.

Dr. Franklin was a monumental figure in the field of African-American history. In 1947, he published From Slavery to Freedom: A History of Negro Americans. This groundbreaking work is considered the definitive history of the African-American experience in the United States. He continually updated the book over the next half-century, selling over 3 million copies. In 1979, he again made history by becoming the first African-American to serve as President of the American Historical Association. Dr. Franklin is the recipient of numerous awards including the NAACP's Spingarn Medal, the Kluge Prize for lifetime achievement in the humanities, and the Presidential Medal of Freedom.

Dr. Franklin's work forced millions of Americans to re-examine the history of the United States and illuminated the African-American experience for people of all races and creeds. Perhaps more than any other figure, Dr. Franklin has crafted a true narrative of African-American history that speaks to the core of America's past and present.

On March 25, 2009, Dr. Franklin passed away in Durham, North Carolina. As great as his presence was, it is likely that his absence will loom even larger. However, his work will forever serve as a testament to his intellectual rigor and original scholarship. He will continue educating generations of American to come on the issues of race and our complex history. Today, we honor a life of service and achievement that will not be forgotten and I am proud to join with my colleagues in supporting this important resolution.

Mr. LYNCH. I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. LYNCH) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 320.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

IRISH-AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

Mr. LYNCH. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 254) recognizing the designation of March 2009 as Irish-American Heritage Month and honoring the significance of Irish-Americans in the history and progress of the United States, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 254

Whereas from the earliest days of the Nation, America has inspired the hopes and dreams of countless individuals from around the world in search of a better life for themselves and their children;

Whereas these individuals have come to share in America's gifts of freedom, justice, and opportunity, and, in turn, America's democracy and great diversity owe their success in large part to these immigrants;

Whereas, since before the United States was even founded, Irish men and women undertook the perilous journey to make their home in this place of hope and promise, making inestimable contributions to their new country, both during the struggle for independence and in the founding of the republic;

Whereas nine of the 56 signers of the Declaration of Independence were of Irish origin and 19 Presidents of the United States can proudly claim Irish heritage, including the first President of the United States, George Washington;

Whereas Irish immigrants who came to the United States during the Great Famine of the 1840's helped transform America's largest cities, building them into dynamic centers of commerce and industry, and the cultural, economic, and spiritual contributions of these immigrants continue to be evident today throughout the United States;

Whereas, with strength, courage, wit, and creativity, Irish-Americans have flourished, making significant contributions in all areas of American life;

Whereas Irish-American writers such as Eugene O'Neill, F. Scott Fitzgerald, and George Bernard Shaw transformed American literature, entrepreneurs like Henry Ford helped revolutionize American transportation and industry, performers such as Gregory Peck, John Wayne, and Helen Hayes enriched the arts, and social reformers such as suffragist Leonora Barry and labor organizer Mary Kenney O'Sullivan fought for the rights of others;

Whereas Irish-Americans have served ably in their communities in numerous capacities, such as public safety and government, including four-term New York State Governor Alfred E. Smith, and in the Armed Services in every war in which the United States has ever fought, including patriots such as Audie Murphy, America's most decorated soldier of World War II;

Whereas approximately one in four Americans trace at least part of their ancestry to Ireland;

Whereas generations of Irish-Americans have worked alongside their fellow Americans to build a more perfect Union, and the United States is a stronger country because of them;

Whereas it is fitting that the House of Representatives honor the rich heritage, enduring contributions, and firm values of the Irish-Americans who continue to enrich and strengthen American families, communities, ideals, and character; and

Whereas President Barack Obama proclaimed March 2009 as Irish-American Heritage Month: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) recognizes the significant contributions of Irish-Americans in the history and progress of United States; and

(2) encourages Americans to celebrate Irish-American heritage with appropriate ceremonies, programs, and activities.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. LYNCH) and the gentleman from Utah (Mr. CHAFFETZ) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Massachusetts.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. LYNCH. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Massachusetts?

There was no objection.

Mr. LYNCH. I now yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, representing the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform and being one of Irish heritage, I am happy to rise in support of this resolution, House Resolution 254, which is a bill to recognize the importance of Irish-American heritage and to honor the significance of Irish-Americans in the history of the United States.

This bill was introduced by my friend and colleague last month, CAROLYN MCCARTHY of New York, on St. Patrick's Day, and the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform amended the measure on April 2 in order that it be reported by unanimous consent.

House Resolution 254 gives the Members of this Chamber the chance to honor the valuable contributions that Americans of Irish heritage have made to our country since its inception. In fact, nine of the 56 signers of the Declaration of Independence were men of Irish origin, and Irish-Americans have served in the Armed Services for this country in every war in which the United States has ever fought. At least 19 Presidents of the United States can claim Irish heritage, including our current President, Barack Obama.

The works of Eugene O'Neill, F. Scott Fitzgerald and George Bernard Shaw remain invaluable parts of our literary history. Artists including Gregory Peck, John Wayne and Helen Hayes have helped enrich our Nation's culture, and social reformers such as suffragist Leonora Barry and labor organizer Mary Kenny O'Sullivan fought to extend basic rights to others. Henry Ford's assembly line revolutionized manufacturing, and Irish immigrants who settled here in the 1840s helped to make our largest cities into centers of commerce and industry.

I would like to thank my colleague, the gentlelady from New York, CAROLYN MCCARTHY, for sponsoring this measure. I would also like to thank the ranking member of the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, the gentleman from California (Mr. ISSA), for helping us to get it to the floor today.

Many emigrated here from Ireland, hoping to share in our freedom and prosperity. In turn, they have helped to make our country great. For their countless contributions to American history and progress, I urge my colleagues to support the quick passage of House Resolution 254.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CHAFFETZ. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

What began with 300,000 Irish immigrants in 1776 has grown to more than 44 million Irish-Americans today. Throughout our Nation's history, the Irish who came to America saw the promise and hope for their future. Once here, they have been instrumental in building a Nation from the ground up—working on farms, constructing railways and creating major centers of commerce throughout the country. The Irish have done much to build up this country with their blood, sweat and tears. We have all seen countless ways in which these Irish-Americans have advanced our Nation politically, economically and culturally.

Since first arriving here, the Irish in America have demonstrated a commitment to the growth and prosperity of the Nation through their talent and their values. Their contributions have represented the depth and breadth of American society from the most humble to the most exalted. Nineteen Presidents, including George Washington, and at least eight signers of the Declaration of Independence were of Irish ancestry. Two hundred sixty-three recipients of the Congressional Medal of Honor were born in Ireland, and the list of contributions by Irish-Americans goes on: Elizabeth Cady Stanton's successful fight for women's voting rights; John Barry, the first flag officer of the United States Navy; James Hoban's architectural design for the White House; and Annie Moore's brave passage through Ellis Island as America's first immigrant.

The Irish in America have recognized and have spread the message of opportunity as a result of their great success in our country. The history of our country has shown that the Irish have strengthened the United States in all facets of our growth and development. One in four Americans can trace part of their ancestry to Ireland, including ancestors on my mother's side of my family. Therefore, it is no wonder that the Irish in America have in the past and will continue in the future to strengthen and enrich our country.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to support this resolution.

Having no additional speakers, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. LYNCH. Mr. Speaker, in closing, I just want to thank the gentlelady from New York (Mrs. MCCARTHY). As others are, she is also traveling to Washington at this time, and wanted to be here for this resolution. I ask our colleagues to join Member CAROLYN MCCARTHY in supporting the resolution.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. LYNCH) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 254, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the resolution, as amended, was agreed to.

The title was amended so as to read: ''A Resolution recognizing the contributions of Irish-Americans in the history and progress of the United States.''.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

RECOGNIZING KENTUCKY ICE STORM VOLUNTEERS

Mr. LYNCH. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 214) recognizing the efforts of the countless volunteers who helped the Commonwealth of Kentucky recover from the ice storm of January 2009.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 214

Whereas the Commonwealth of Kentucky suffered a devastating ice storm on January 26, 2009, that left more than 700,000 homes and businesses without electricity;

Whereas the ice storm is considered the worst natural disaster in Kentucky history;

Whereas State and local officials acted quickly to coordinate relief efforts and enlisted volunteer agencies, faith-based groups, and community organizations;

Whereas volunteers from 25 organizations in 15 States came to the Commonwealth of Kentucky to provide help and support to those affected by the ice storm;

Whereas volunteers operated 192 shelters for victims of the ice storm, providing 7,884 Kentuckians with shelter, food, and water;

Whereas more than 378,160 meals and snacks were provided to victims of the ice storm by volunteers;

Whereas these volunteers played a key role in Kentucky's recovery efforts and gave their valuable time and resources to offer support;

Whereas 4,600 members of the Kentucky National Guard were activated to assist the citizens of the Commonwealth; and

Whereas the resolve, courage, and determination shown by the citizens of the Commonwealth was commendable: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives recognizes the efforts of the countless volunteers who helped the Commonwealth of Kentucky recover from the ice storm of January 2009.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. LYNCH) and the gentleman from Utah (Mr. CHAFFETZ) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Massachusetts.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. LYNCH. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Massachusetts?

There was no objection.

Mr. LYNCH. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

As a member of the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, I join my colleagues in support of House Resolution 214, which recognizes the efforts of volunteers from across the country who helped the Commonwealth of Kentucky recover from a devastating ice storm in January 2009.

I would like to thank our colleague Mr. BRETT GUTHRIE from Kentucky for sponsoring this thoughtful resolution which was introduced on March 5, 2009. I would also like to commend my colleagues on the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform for acting so quickly to bring this measure to the floor. Additionally, this measure has the support and cosponsorship of 59 Members of Congress, which of course include the entire House delegation from Kentucky.

As many Americans are aware, the Commonwealth of Kentucky suffered a horrendous ice storm on January 26, 2009. More than 700,000 homes and businesses were left without power. Sadly, some estimated 200,000 Americans found themselves without access to water and other basic necessities. In fact, the dreadful ice storm that hit a number of States in the Midwest in addition to the State of Kentucky back in January has been considered the worst natural disaster in Kentucky's history.

As expected, when Americans saw their fellow countrymen in need of help and assistance, support poured into the State of Kentucky immediately following the storm's devastating effect. For example, State and local officials acted quickly to band together in order to coordinate the relief efforts and to ultimately save lives. Volunteer agencies, faith-based groups and community organizations from 15 States came to the aid of Kentucky's cities and neighborhoods, and nearly 200 makeshift shelters provided refuge for almost 8,000 Kentuckians. While certainly tragic in nature, the ice storm once again demonstrated the unyielding resolve of Americans to work together to ensure the common good of the neighbors.

Mr. Speaker, it is also important that we as Members of the House of Representatives take a moment to recognize the supportive efforts of the Kentucky National Guard as some 4,600 guardsmen went door to door throughout the affected communities to make certain that no citizen was beyond the reach of a helpful hand. For their commitment, we say thank you, and for their service, we say a job well done.

In closing, House Resolution 214 is designed to simply recognize the Commonwealth of Kentucky for showing incredible resolve in the face of disaster. The selflessness exhibited by volunteers and aid agencies speaks volumes about the American spirit.

That said, Mr. Speaker, as Kentucky and their neighboring Midwestern States continue to pick up the pieces, let us take pause to acknowledge those who came to the aid of these Americans in their time of need.

With that, I urge support for House Resolution 214, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CHAFFETZ. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise today in support of House Resolution 214, recognizing the efforts of the countless volunteers who helped the Commonwealth of Kentucky recover from the ice storm of January 2009.

This past January, the massive ice storm that devastated States from Arkansas to West Virginia hit Kentucky the hardest, leaving more than 700,000 homes and businesses without electricity. This violent storm was Kentucky's worst natural disaster in the State's history as it pounded the area with an inch or more of ice, causing trees and power lines to fall, forcing Statewide evacuations, schools and businesses to close, fuel shortages, as well as causing debris to block more than 5,000 linear miles of roads following the storm. The ice storm left more than 35 people dead, making this the State's most lethal storm in memory and one of Kentucky's deadliest modern weather events.

On January 27, the Kentucky Governor declared a state of emergency for roughly 100 counties, all of which President Obama soon after declared as Federal disaster areas. The Governor also for the first time activated every member of Kentucky's National Guard, dispatching all 4,600 guardsmen to assist with the crisis. With around-the-clock help from local, State and Federal officials and emergency personnel, many working in subzero conditions for days, relief efforts were carried out quickly and safely.

It is important that we recognize the generous support of the many volunteers, private and corporate donors, religious groups, and charitable organizations that assisted the communities in Kentucky in their time of need. This resolution expresses a sincere sympathy for the victims of this devastating storm, and recognizes the action of their public servants, citizens and community leaders who helped hundreds of thousands through this Statewide hardship.

Once again, we are reminded of the strength of the people of this country, and applaud the citizens of Kentucky who in this very difficult time became beacons of light for those who suffered as a result of this icy disaster.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LYNCH. Mr. Speaker, at this time, I would like to yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. YARMUTH).

□ 1545

Mr. YARMUTH. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to first thank my distinguished colleague from Kentucky (Mr. GUTHRIE) for his leadership in introducing H. Res. 214 and also the entire Kentucky delegation for supporting this important resolution.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in honor of the thousands of generous and dedicated Kentuckians who took action in the wake of the catastrophic ice storms that hit the Commonwealth on January 26 of this year.

In a week's time, all eyes will turn towards my hometown of Louisville for the 135th running of the Kentucky Derby, sports' most exciting 2 minutes. The mood will be jubilant, and justifiably so, but it could not be so if not for the round-the-clock dedication of thousands of volunteers, first responders and National Guard who spared our region from lasting devastation.

The storm created the worst power outages in Kentucky history, and of the 3,000 streets in Louisville, not one was spared from fallen trees, power lines and other wreckage, leaving our city with enough debris to fill Cardinal Stadium. Thousands were displaced, but they were not alone. Neighbors helped neighbors and people from all walks of life rose to the occasion to provide food and shelter to those in need.

Tragically, a family of three from my community was killed by carbon monoxide poisoning from an enclosed generator, a loss mourned by the entire

Commonwealth. But thanks to the efforts of our tireless first responders—police, firefighters and National Guard—untold lives were saved. These men and women walked in freezing temperatures knocking on door after door to ensure that no more families would be subjected to toxic fumes.

Thanks to the leadership of Governor Steve Beshear, Mayor Jerry Abramson, Brigadier General John Heltzel, and countless other officials, the damage was minimized and attention has now turned to the massive cleanup. With 220 men and women working 12-hour days, 7 days a week in Louisville alone, more than half a city has been fully restored, and the rest is not far behind.

But it is the unbridled spirit of thousands of volunteers who have given us new cause to rejoice in this Derby season, again making our Commonwealth great to visit and a place we love to call home. On behalf of thousands of Kentuckians who suffered in that tragic storm, and the thousands more who helped mitigate that suffering, I urge my colleagues to join me in commending the many outstanding individuals who made that possible. But while we continue to mourn the losses, we must also celebrate a job very well done.

Mr. CHAFFETZ. Mr. Speaker, I yield as much time as he may consume to my distinguished colleague from Kentucky (Mr. GUTHRIE).

Mr. GUTHRIE. Mr. Speaker, as the author of House Resolution 214, I am proud that we're here today to recognize the efforts of countless volunteers who helped the Commonwealth of Kentucky recover from the ice storm of January 2009.

Today I rise to recognize what went well following this terrible storm, and that is the volunteers who made a distinct difference in the lives of many Kentuckians.

I traveled across the district in the days following the January 26 storm, and I was quickly reminded of how the people of Kentucky joined together in this time of need to serve each other and not themselves. This may have been the worst natural disaster in Kentucky's history, but it brought about the best of our people.

The spirit of volunteerism was seen in county after county and town after town as we all united around a common purpose—to help the countless citizens affected by this devastating storm cope with the aftermath and begin with the recovery process.

Kentucky State and local officials should be praised for their efforts to enlist the help of volunteer agencies, faith-based groups and community organizations that quickly realized the needs that resulted from the ice storm would far exceed what the government could provide. So they asked churches, nonprofit organizations, school groups and many others to help, and help they did.

In the days following the storms, I watched with pride as volunteers provided shelter, meals and other valuable services to lend a hand to many of the people in my district and around Kentucky. I watched the members of the Kentucky National Guard, who were activated to help, and volunteer the use of their personal vehicles to rescue stranded victims. Many public service officers, police officers, first responders, firefighters, and many utility people were out 24 hours a day. And I watched 4–H and Homemakers Clubs plan to serve meals to 75 people but to find the extra resources to serve nearly 200 instead.

While there are many efforts that should be praised today, I am reminded of the effort coordinated in Ohio County by Ms. Charlotte Whittaker who volunteered to organize her county's shelter. Within 48 hours of the storm, Ms. Whittaker opened the doors to a shelter at Southern Elementary School where nearly 400 people from 21 months old to 98 years old found relief in shelters in the days that followed. Nearly 450 volunteers, many young people in high school and college, operated the shelter for 12 days by serving meals, cleaning dirty laundry, sweeping floors, organizing donated clothing and doing whatever needed to be done to help.

The volunteers came from many different States. I talked with a nurse from Alabama and a member of the Red Cross from Indiana and electrical crews from across the Southeast, Midwest, and Mid-Atlantic. I appreciate all of them traveling to give their valuable time and talents. When I visited this shelter, I quickly realized that lives were saved because of Ms. Whittaker's efforts and the many others who volunteered to help in Ohio County.

This is just one example of the many endeavors that took place across Kentucky. No matter the size of the volunteer efforts, they all made a difference in saving lives and helping the Commonwealth of Kentucky get back on its feet after this terrible storm. The volunteers played a key role and should be praised for giving up their valuable time and resources to offer support. They are a true testament to the American spirit.

I want to thank my colleagues from Kentucky for being extremely supportive of this effort in recognizing the volunteers. I want to thank my colleague from our great City of Louisville for being here on the floor today. And I want to thank everybody who helped our Commonwealth recover from this terrible disaster we endured this year.

I ask for my colleagues' support.

Mr. CHANDLER. Mr. Speaker, in Kentucky we have a very important motto: "United We Stand, Divided We Fall." Not only is it on our state seal, but as a battleground state in the Civil War, it has always held a special meaning for Kentuckians.

After the unprecedented ice storms that moved through our state in late January 2009, the Commonwealth and its people were put to the test. Hundreds of thousands were without power or running water for weeks, infrastructure crumbled, and lives were lost.

Against great odds and in a brave display of humanity and strength, Kentuckians stood by one another and proved that together we could weather the storm.

A large debt of gratitude must be paid to the countless unsung, volunteer heroes of this storm: the Kentuckians who helped their neighbors in need with food, clothing, and shelter; the radio stations who pushed aside their regular programming to keep Kentuckians aware of the latest developments; the KEMA and FEMA workers who were on the front lines; and the volunteers at food pantries across the state whose generosity was astounding.

Our Kentucky National Guard, our local communities, and our volunteers from all over the state worked quickly and admirably to restore services, provide emergency meals, and clear debris. Through the swift support of these volunteers and the prudent leadership of Governor Beshear, hundreds if not thousands of lives were saved.

Truly, Kentuckians are deserving of our state motto as they exemplify the courage, leadership, and compassion that bind us together in times of need.

Mr. Speaker, I commend the people of the Commonwealth for yet another heroic example of what it means to be a Kentuckian.

Mr. WHITFIELD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the many volunteers who rose above and beyond the call of duty in helping their fellow Kentuckians following what many consider to be the worst natural disaster in the Commonwealth's history.

In late January, severe ice storms left over 700,000 homes without power, countless businesses were crippled and communities across the state were left with miles of roads to clear and enormous amounts of debris to clean up. The First Congressional District bore the brunt of these devastating storms, with many in Western Kentucky being left without power for weeks while local officials and utility workers labored round the clock to restore electricity.

While this was an extremely trying time for the First District, it also brought out the very best in many of our local leaders and ordinary citizens who volunteered their time to help their communities. State and local officials acted quickly to coordinate relief efforts with various community organizations and faith-based groups. Volunteers operated 192 shelters across the Commonwealth, providing shelter, food and water to nearly 8,000 Kentuckians. Individuals from 25 organizations in 15 states traveled to Kentucky to volunteer their time in support of relief efforts.

While the magnitude of the ice storms made recovery efforts more difficult and slower in some areas than was hoped, so many people went above and beyond the call of duty to ensure that Kentuckians were kept safe and that vital supplies were disbursed to those in need. I would like to commend all of the local and state officials, utility workers, volunteers, members of the Kentucky National Guard and all those who contributed to the recovery and relief efforts following the storm. During a difficult time that tried all of our spirits, these individuals rose to the occasion to aid their fellow Kentuckians and help the Commonwealth get back on its feet.

While I applaud everyone who worked so hard to help the Commonwealth cope and recover, the ice storms highlighted the dire need to make federal disaster assistance more effective and efficient following an emergency or natural disaster. For this reason, I am a cosponsor of legislation to extend the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) Public Assistance (PA) Pilot Program. The Public Assistance Pilot Program will enable FEMA and local officials to cut through bureaucratic red tape and distribute critical funds immediately following a storm or natural disaster.

In addition, while I am pleased that President Obama issued an emergency declaration for Kentucky so quickly following the storms, I continue to call on FEMA to pay 100 percent of the costs for repair and clean-up. Nearly 3 months after these storms hit the Commonwealth, debris removal and clean up efforts are still ongoing. With local governments in Kentucky already facing significant budget shortfalls this year, the additional financial burden imposed by the ice storms is simply too much for our counties and towns to bear. It is essential that FEMA step up to the plate and ensure that local officials have the funds and resources they need to clean up and rebuild.

I'd like to thank Congressman BRETT GUTHRIE for his leadership in bringing this Resolution to the floor today as well as all my fellow Members of the Kentucky Congressional Delegation. Too often leaders and hard working citizens of our local communities go without recognition for the good work they do. It is my privilege to be able to honor all those who volunteered their time, donated supplies, worked weekends and overtime hours in an effort to restore power and all those who assisted in the clean-up following the storms. On behalf of the people of Kentucky and all those impacted by the storms, I thank you.

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the countless number of volunteers who made a difference and helped the Commonwealth of Kentucky recover from the devastating ice storm of January 2009.

On January 26, 2009, the Commonwealth of Kentucky suffered a catastrophic ice storm that left more than 700,000 homes and businesses without electricity and tragically claimed the lives of over 30 Kentuckians. This is the worst natural disaster in the history of the Bluegrass State.

Together, State and local municipalities organized relief efforts by coordinating volunteer agencies, faith-based groups and community organizations. This quick action made the difference for the hundreds of thousands that were stranded across the Commonwealth.

Total, volunteers hailed from 25 organizations in 15 States, operated 192 shelters for victims, distributed more than 378,160 meals, and provided 7,884 Kentuckians with shelter, food and water. Furthermore, 4,600 members of the Kentucky National Guard were activated and helped the Bluegrass State recover.

I also rise to commend the courage of the citizens of Kentucky and the bravery and kindness demonstrated from the volunteers who took the time to help the Bluegrass State recover from the destructive ice storm of 2009.

Mr. CHAFFETZ. Mr. Speaker, I urge all Members to support the passage of House Resolution 214.

With no additional speakers, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. LYNCH. Mr. Speaker, I join my colleague to ask all of our colleagues to join us in supporting Resolution 214 recognizing the citizens of Kentucky.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. LYNCH) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 214.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

SERGEANT MARCUS MATHES POST OFFICE

Mr. LYNCH. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1516) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 37926 Church Street in Dade City, Florida, as the ''Sergeant Marcus Mathes Post Office''.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1516

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SERGEANT MARCUS MATHES POST OFFICE.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 37926 Church Street in Dade City, Florida, shall be known and designated as the ''Sergeant Marcus Mathes Post Office''.

(b) REFERENCES.—Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the facility referred to in subsection (a) shall be deemed to be a reference to the ''Sergeant Marcus Mathes Post Office''.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. LYNCH) and the gentleman from Utah (Mr. CHAFFETZ) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Massachusetts.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. LYNCH. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Massachusetts?

There was no objection.

Mr. LYNCH. Mr. Speaker, I now yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, as chairman of the House subcommittee with jurisdiction over the United States Postal Service, I am pleased to present H.R. 1516 for consideration.

This legislation will designate the United States postal facility located at 37926 Church Street in Dade City, Florida, as the ''Sergeant Marcus Mathes Post Office.''

Introduced by my colleague, Representative GINNY BROWN-WAITE, on March 16, 2009, and reported out of the Oversight and Government Reform Committee on April 2, 2009, by unanimous consent, H.R. 1516 enjoys the support of the entire Florida House delegation.

A resident of Zephyrhills, Florida, Sergeant Mathes bravely served with the 94th Brigade Support Battalion, 4th Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Light Infantry Division out of Fort Polk, Louisiana. On April 28, 2008, Sergeant Mathes, at age 26, and two of his fellow soldiers were killed in Baghdad, Iraq, when enemy forces attacked their forward-operating base with indirect rocket fire.

Sergeant Mathes, a graduate of Zephyrhills High School, grew up in the City of Sebring in Highlands County and subsequently became a resident of Pasco County. Stirred by the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, Sergeant Mathes proudly joined the United States Army in 2005. He left for boot camp on March 15, 2005, the date of his 23rd birthday. Sergeant Mathes was then deployed in support of Operating Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan from October 2006 until March of 2007. Eight months later, in November of 2007, he was deployed to Baghdad, Iraq, in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

As noted by his loving mother, Sue Sawyer, Sergeant Mathes was extremely proud of his duty. He genuinely appreciated the strangers who often approached him to thank him for his service to his country. According to his father, Ralph Mathes, his son loved the excitement, challenges and adventure associated with serving in the United States Army. His love of family and love of country were further evidenced by the tattoos on his body. Alongside the name of his beloved wife were two more tattoos, one reading ''United States Army'' and the other, the second, an emblem of the American bald eagle.

Sergeant Mathes was full of promise. Just prior to his death in April of 2008, he had passed his Sergeant's exam and has since been posthumously promoted. Additionally, having married his high school sweetheart, Julia, 6 years earlier, he anticipated starting a family.

Mr. Speaker, Sergeant Marcus Mathes' life stands as a testament to the bravery and dedication of the heroic men and women who continue to serve our country at home and abroad. It is my hope that we can further honor his service through the passage of this resolution.

And so I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting H.R. 1516 and dedicating the Church Street Post Office in Dade City, Florida, in honor of our fallen hero.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CHAFFETZ. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself as much time as I may consume.

I rise in support of H.R. 1516, naming the post office after Sergeant Marcus Mathes.

Army Sergeant Marcus C. Mathes was much more than a selfless and heroic soldier. He was a devoted husband

and lover of life and family. As his mother, Sue Sawyer, described him, he loved anything dangerous or thrilling. He was full of life. He loved life, and he lived it to the fullest.

Sergeant Mathes died on April 28, 2008, in Baghdad of wounds sustained when enemy forces attacked his forward-operating base with indirect fire. Also lost in the fight were Private First Class Adam L. Marion and Sergeant Mark A. Stone.

Sergeant Mathes was only 26 years old and hailed from Florida. He left for boot camp on his 23rd birthday on March 15, 2005, and was assigned to the 94th Brigade Support Battalion, 4th Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division out of Fort Polk, Louisiana. He served in Afghanistan from October 2006 until March 2007 and left for Iraq in November of 2007.

Sergeant Mathes was a selfless hero who dedicated his life to being the best soldier he could possibly be. He is remembered by family and friends as someone who loved life and adventure and welcomed a challenge. He loved to hike to waterfalls, SCUBA dive and ride dirt bikes. His father-in-law, Chuck Ehrman, said that he will be remembered as fun-loving and the type to make everyone feel happy around him.

As a loving husband to his wife, Julia, as a son and patriot, Sergeant Mathes made the ultimate sacrifice in April of 2008 serving the country he loved.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill honoring a courageous young man who personified the noblest ideals of our great Nation. His lost life fighting for the freedom enjoyed by all of us, by loved ones back home and his sacrifice, shall not be forgotten.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LYNCH. Mr. Speaker, I continue to reserve my time.

□ 1600

Mr. CHAFFETZ. Mr. Speaker, I yield as much time as she may consume to my distinguished colleague from the State of Florida (Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE).

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. I thank the gentleman for yielding. And I also thank the gentleman from Massachusetts for the speedy consideration of this bill.

I rise today in support of H.R. 1516, which is the bill that I introduced to rename the post office in Dade City, Florida, after Sergeant Marcus Mathes. Marcus was a resident in my district who gave his life for his country while serving in Iraq.

Inspired by the events of September 11, Sergeant Mathes joined the Army and left for boot camp on his 23rd birthday. He was proud to serve and hoped to make a career out of his service in the Army.

Before serving in Iraq, Marcus was deployed to Afghanistan for a year and a half. He volunteered in not one, but two very dangerous war zones to protect the freedoms that all Americans hold dear.

While repairing an equipment truck outside Baghdad 1 year ago this week, Marcus was struck and killed by enemy rocket fire. His brother-in-law, who was on patrol with Marcus at the time, recovered his torn Bible from the battle scene, which gave his brother-in-law strength throughout his multiple tours.

Marcus leaves behind a young widow, Julia Mathes. All the people of Pasco County, where Dade City is located, mourn his passing. My heart goes out to this brave, young widow who stood behind her husband when he made the decision to serve our Nation in its time of need.

Julia remembers that she used to visit the Dade City Post Office to mail packages to her husband in Baghdad. By passing this bill, we can make sure that all who visit the post office will remember Marcus and the sacrifices that he made. I hope that the very simple act of renaming this building will memorialize Marcus' brave and selfless life.

Sergeant Mathes epitomized the courage and patriotism of our all-volunteer military, and we must never forget his sacrifice. I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

Mr. LYNCH. Mr. Speaker, I continue to reserve.

Mr. CHAFFETZ. Mr. Speaker, I urge all Members to support the passage of H.R. 1516.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. LYNCH. Mr. Speaker, at this point, I want to thank Ms. BROWN-Waite for bringing this measure before the House. I urge all of my colleagues to unanimously support this bill, which would designate the post office in Dade City in memory of Sergeant Marcus Mathes.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. LYNCH) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1516.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until approximately 6:30 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 4 o'clock and 2 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess until approximately 6:30 p.m.

□ 1830

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. FOSTER) at 6 o'clock and 30 minutes p.m.

CERTIFICATION REGARDING EXPORT OF CERTAIN ITEMS TO THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES (H. DOC. NO. 111–32)

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following message from the President of the United States; which was read and referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs and ordered to be printed:

To the Congress of the United States:

In accordance with the provisions of section 1512 of the Strom Thurmond National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 1999 (Public Law 105–261), I hereby certify to the Congress that the export of one continuous mixer to be used to manufacture conductive polymer compounds to be further processed to make circuit protection devices, one jet mill to be used for particle size reduction of pigments and other powder products for cosmetic formulations, and one filament winding cell to be used to manufacture fiberglass assembly shelter poles for use in tents and shelters is not detrimental to the U.S. space launch industry, and that the material and equipment, including any indirect technical benefit that could be derived from these exports, will not measurably improve the missile or space launch capabilities of the People's Republic of China.

BARACK OBAMA.

THE WHITE HOUSE, *April 21, 2009*.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, proceedings will resume on motions to suspend the rules previously postponed.

Votes will be taken in the following order:

H.R. 388, by the yeas and nays;

H.R. 411, by the yeas and nays;

H.R. 1219, by the yeas and nays.

The first electronic vote will be conducted as a 15-minute vote. Remaining electronic votes will be conducted as 5-minute votes.

CRANE CONSERVATION ACT OF 2009

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 388, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from the Virgin Islands (Mrs. CHRISTENSEN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 388.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 288, nays 116, not voting 27, as follows:

[Roll No. 193]

YEAS—288

Abercrombie
Ackerman
Adler (NJ)
Altmire
Andrews
Arcuri
Baca
Baldwin
Barrow
Barton (TX)
Bean
Becerra
Berkley
Berman
Berry
Biggert
Bilirakis
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (NY)
Blumenauer
Boccieri
Bono Mack
Boren
Boucher
Boustany
Boyd
Brady (PA)
Braley (IA)
Brown (SC)
Brown-Waite, Ginny
Buchanan
Camp
Cao
Capito
Capps
Capuano
Cardoza
Carnahan
Carson (IN)
Cassidy
Castle
Castor (FL)
Chandler
Childers
Clarke
Clay
Cleaver
Clyburn
Cohen
Connolly (VA)
Conyers
Cooper
Costa
Costello
Courtney
Crowley
Cuellar
Cummings
Dahlkemper
Davis (AL)
Davis (CA)
Davis (IL)
Davis (TN)
DeFazio
DeGette
Delahunt
DeLauro
Dent
Diaz-Balart, L.
Diaz-Balart, M.
Dicks
Dingell
Doggett
Donnelly (IN)
Doyle
Driehaus
Edwards (MD)
Edwards (TX)
Ehlers
Ellison
Ellsworth
Emerson
Engel
Eshoo
Etheridge
Farr
Fattah
Filner
Fortenberry
Foster
Frank (MA)
Fudge
Gallegly
Gerlach
Giffords
Gonzalez
Gordon (TN)
Grayson
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Griffith
Grijalva
Gutierrez
Hall (NY)
Halvorson
Hare
Harman
Hastings (FL)
Heinrich
Herseth Sandlin
Higgins
Hill
Himes
Hinchey
Hirono
Hodes
Holden
Holt
Honda
Hoyer
Inslee
Israel
Jackson-Lee (TX)
Johnson (GA)
Johnson (IL)
Jones
Kagen
Kanjorski
Kaptur
Kildee
Kilpatrick (MI)
Kilroy
Kind
King (NY)
Kirk
Kirkpatrick (AZ)
Klein (FL)
Kosmas
Kratovil
Kucinich
Lance
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
LaTourette
Lee (CA)
Levin
Lewis (GA)
Lipinski
LoBiondo
Loebsack
Lofgren, Zoe
Lowey
Luján
Lynch
Maffei
Maloney
Markey (CO)
Markey (MA)
Marshall
Massa
Matheson
Matsui
McCarthy (NY)
McCollum
McCotter
McDermott
McGovern
McHugh
McIntyre
McMahon
McNerney
Meek (FL)
Meeks (NY)
Melancon
Michaud
Miller (MI)
Miller (NC)
Miller, George
Minnick
Mitchell
Mollohan
Moore (KS)
Moore (WI)
Murphy (CT)
Murphy, Patrick
Murphy, Tim
Nadler (NY)
Napolitano
Nye
Oberstar
Obey
Olver
Ortiz
Pallone
Pascrell
Pastor (AZ)
Payne
Perlmutter
Perriello
Peters
Peterson
Petri
Pingree (ME)
Platts
Polis (CO)
Posey
Price (NC)
Putnam
Rahall
Rangel
Reichert
Richardson
Rodriguez
Rogers (MI)
Ros-Lehtinen
Roskam
Ross
Rothman (NJ)
Roybal-Allard
Ruppersberger
Rush
Ryan (OH)
Ryan (WI)
Salazar
Sánchez, Linda T.
Sanchez, Loretta
Sarbanes
Schakowsky
Schauer
Schiff
Schmidt
Schock
Schrader
Schwartz
Scott (GA)
Scott (VA)
Serrano
Sestak
Shea-Porter
Sherman
Simpson
Sires
Skelton
Slaughter
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (WA)
Snyder
Space
Speier
Spratt
Stark
Stupak
Sutton
Tanner
Tauscher
Taylor
Teague
Terry
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Tierney
Titus
Tonko
Towns
Tsongas
Turner
Upton
Van Hollen
Velázquez
Visclosky
Walz
Wasserman Schultz
Waters
Watson
Watt
Waxman
Weiner
Welch
Wexler
Whitfield
Wilson (OH)
Wolf
Woolsey
Wu
Yarmuth
Young (FL)

NAYS—116

Aderholt
Akin
Alexander
Austria
Bachmann
Bilbray
Bishop (UT)
Blackburn
Blunt
Boehner
Bonner
Boozman
Brady (TX)
Bright
Burgess
Burton (IN)
Buyer
Calvert
Cantor
Carter
Chaffetz
Coble
Coffman (CO)
Cole
Conaway
Culberson
Davis (KY)
Deal (GA)
Dreier
Duncan
Fallin
Flake
Fleming
Forbes
Foxx
Franks (AZ)
Garrett (NJ)
Gingrey (GA)
Gohmert
Goodlatte
Granger
Graves
Guthrie
Hall (TX)
Harper
Hastings (WA)
Heller
Hensarling
Herger
Hoekstra
Hunter
Inglis
Issa
Jenkins
Jordan (OH)
King (IA)
Kingston
Kline (MN)
Lamborn
Latham
Latta
Lee (NY)
Lewis (CA)
Linder
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Lummis
Mack
Manzullo
Marchant
McCarthy (CA)
McCaul
McClintock
McHenry
McKeon
McMorris Rodgers
Mica
Miller (FL)
Miller, Gary
Moran (KS)
Myrick
Neugebauer
Nunes
Olson
Paul
Paulsen
Pence
Pitts
Poe (TX)
Price (GA)
Rehberg
Roe (TN)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rohrabacher
Rooney
Royce
Scalise
Sensenbrenner
Shadegg
Shimkus
Shuster
Smith (TX)
Souder
Stearns
Sullivan
Thompson (PA)
Thornberry
Tiahrt
Tiberi
Walden
Wamp
Westmoreland
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Young (AK)

NOT VOTING—27

Bachus
Baird
Barrett (SC)
Bartlett
Boswell
Broun (GA)
Brown, Corrine
Butterfield
Campbell
Carney
Crenshaw
Frelinghuysen
Hinojosa
Jackson (IL)
Johnson, E. B.
Johnson, Sam
Kennedy
Kissell
Lungren, Daniel E.
Moran (VA)
Murtha
Neal (MA)
Pomeroy
Radanovich
Reyes
Sessions
Shuler

□ 1902

Messrs. LATHAM and REHBERG changed their vote from ''yea'' to ''nay.''

So (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

Stated for:

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 193 I did not realize that my voting card did not work. Had it been recorded, I would have voted ''yea.''

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, April 9, 2009.

The Hon. NANCY PELOSI,
The Speaker, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MADAM SPEAKER: I have the honor to transmit herewith a facsimile copy of a letter received from Mr. Daniel White, Executive Director, Illinois State Board of Elections, indicating that, according to the unofficial returns of the Special Election held April 7, 2009, the Honorable MIKE QUIGLEY was elected Representative to Congress for the Fifth Congressional District, State of Illinois.

With best wishes, I am

Sincerely,

LORRAINE C. MILLER,
Clerk.

Enclosure.

STATE BOARD OF ELECTIONS,
STATE OF ILLINOIS,
April 8, 2009.

Hon. LORRAINE C. MILLER,
Office of the Clerk, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MS. MILLER: Although it is not the normal practice of the Illinois State Board of Elections to release unofficial election results, in response to a request from your office, we are hereby transmitting UNOFFICIAL election results (attached) for the April 7, 2009 Special Congressional Election in the Fifth Congressional District in the State of Illinois.

Sincerely,

DANIEL W. WHITE,
Executive Director.

SWEARING IN OF THE HONORABLE MIKE QUIGLEY, OF ILLINOIS, AS A MEMBER OF THE HOUSE

Mr. COSTELLO. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the gentleman from Illinois, the Honorable MIKE QUIGLEY, be permitted to take the oath of office today.

His certificate of election has not arrived, but there is no contest and no question has been raised with regard to his election.

The SPEAKER. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Illinois?

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER. Will Representative-elect QUIGLEY and the members of the Illinois delegation present themselves in the well.

Mr. QUIGLEY appeared at the bar of the House and took the oath of office, as follows:

Do you solemnly swear or affirm that you will support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic; that you will bear true faith and allegiance to the same; that you take this obligation freely, without any mental reservation or purpose of evasion; and that you will well and faithfully discharge the duties of the office on which you are about to enter, so help you God.

The SPEAKER. Congratulations. You are now a Member of the 111th Congress.

WELCOMING THE HONORABLE MIKE QUIGLEY TO THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

The SPEAKER. Without objection, the gentleman from Illinois is recognized.

There was no objection.

Mr. COSTELLO. Madam Speaker, I rise today as Dean of the Illinois Congressional Delegation to introduce the newest Member of Congress in the Illinois delegation, MIKE QUIGLEY. MIKE

was elected in a special election on April 7 to represent the Fifth District of Illinois.

Before his election, Congressman QUIGLEY served on the Cook County Board for almost 11 years. As commissioner for the 10th District, he earned a reputation for advocating for fiscal discipline and environmental protection.

Congressman QUIGLEY holds a law degree from Loyola University and a master's in public policy from the University of Chicago. He has also worked as a professor of political science at Loyola and Roosevelt Universities.

His wife, Barbara, and two daughters, Alyson and Meghan, are here with him this evening as well as many, many friends in the gallery.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in offering a warm welcome to our newest colleague and newest Member of the House, MIKE QUIGLEY.

Mr. QUIGLEY. Thank you, Madam Speaker, Members of the House and many friends back home watching, including a lot of good friends at Loyola University.

First, a word of thanks. To my friends, family and staff here, I wish to thank everyone here who got me down here. It means a lot to me.

To my mom and dad, it's a gift from all of your children today because, without you and without them, I wouldn't be here.

Above all, I want to thank my wife, Barb, and my daughters, Alyson and Meghan. I must put the record clear: Meghan and Alyson already have their puppy. I will tell you that dog is not hypoallergenic either.

I also want to recognize my predecessor, Rahm Emanuel, who is here today.

Madam Speaker, ladies and gentlemen, you may find that the Congressman and I have different styles. Someone suggested different vocabulary, but I wasn't going to add that. We share much in common, and that is that Rahm and I share the same commitment to the working families of our country and of the Fifth District.

Finally, I do want to thank the people of the Fifth District of Illinois. You all know trust is a hard thing to come by these days in this business, and the people of my district gave me their trust. I can't tell you out there what that means to me. It's a humbling experience to take a job when people are losing theirs and to become a Member of this House when people are losing theirs. It means the world to me that the public gave me their trust. It is for them, for every American confronting these challenges, that I draw my strength, and I look forward to working with each and every one of you to make those things happen.

Thank you and God bless.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. Under clause 5(d) of rule XX, the Chair announces to the House that, in light of the administration of the oath to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. QUIGLEY), the whole number of the House is 433.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. Without objection, 5-minute voting will continue.

There was no objection.

GREAT CATS AND RARE CANIDS ACT OF 2009

The SPEAKER. The unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 411, as amended, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. FOSTER). The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from the Virgin Islands (Mrs. CHRISTENSEN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 411, as amended.

This will be a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 290, nays 118, not voting 24, as follows:

[Roll No. 194]

YEAS—290

Abercrombie
Ackerman
Adler (NJ)
Altmire
Andrews
Arcuri
Baca
Baird
Baldwin
Barrow
Bartlett
Bean
Becerra
Berkley
Berman
Berry
Biggert
Bilbray
Bilirakis
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (NY)
Blumenauer
Boccieri
Bono Mack
Boren
Boucher
Boustany
Boyd
Brady (PA)
Braley (IA)
Brown (SC)
Buchanan
Calvert
Camp
Cao
Capito
Capps
Capuano
Cardoza
Carnahan
Carson (IN)
Castle
Castor (FL)
Chandler
Childers
Clarke
Clay
Cleaver
Clyburn
Cohen
Connolly (VA)
Conyers
Cooper
Costa
Costello
Courtney
Crowley
Cuellar
Cummings
Dahlkemper
Davis (AL)
Davis (CA)
Davis (IL)
Davis (TN)
DeFazio
DeGette
Delahunt
DeLauro
Dent
Diaz-Balart, L.
Diaz-Balart, M.
Dicks
Dingell
Doggett
Donnelly (IN)
Doyle
Driehaus
Edwards (MD)
Edwards (TX)
Ehlers
Ellison
Ellsworth
Engel
Eshoo
Etheridge
Farr
Fattah
Filner
Fortenberry
Foster
Frank (MA)
Fudge
Gallegly
Gerlach
Giffords
Gonzalez
Gordon (TN)
Grayson
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Griffith
Grijalva
Gutierrez
Hall (NY)
Halvorson
Hare
Harman
Hastings (FL)
Heinrich
Herseth Sandlin
Higgins
Hill
Himes
Hinchey
Hirono
Hodes
Holden
Holt
Honda
Hoyer
Inslee
Israel
Jackson-Lee (TX)
Johnson (GA)
Johnson (IL)
Johnson, E. B.
Jones
Kagen
Kanjorski
Kaptur
Kildee
Kilpatrick (MI)
Kilroy
Kind
King (NY)
Kirk
Kirkpatrick (AZ)
Klein (FL)
Kosmas
Kratovil
Kucinich
Lance
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Lee (CA)
Levin
Lewis (GA)
Lipinski
LoBiondo
Loebsack
Lofgren, Zoe
Lowey
Luján
Lynch
Mack
Maffei
Maloney
Markey (CO)
Markey (MA)
Marshall
Massa
Matheson
Matsui
McCarthy (NY)
McCaul
McCollum
McCotter
McDermott
McGovern
McHugh
McIntyre
McKeon
McMahon
McNerney
Meek (FL)
Meeks (NY)
Melancon
Mica
Michaud
Miller (MI)
Miller (NC)
Miller, George
Minnick
Mitchell
Mollohan
Moore (KS)
Moore (WI)
Murphy (CT)
Murphy, Patrick
Murphy, Tim
Nadler (NY)
Napolitano
Nunes
Nye
Oberstar
Obey
Olver
Ortiz
Pallone
Pascrell
Pastor (AZ)
Payne
Perlmutter
Perriello
Peters
Peterson
Petri
Pingree (ME)
Platts
Polis (CO)
Price (NC)
Quigley
Rahall
Rangel
Reichert
Richardson
Rodriguez
Rogers (KY)
Rogers (MI)
Ros-Lehtinen
Roskam
Ross
Rothman (NJ)
Roybal-Allard
Royce
Ruppersberger
Rush
Ryan (OH)
Salazar
Sánchez, Linda T.
Sanchez, Loretta
Sarbanes
Schakowsky
Schauer
Schiff
Schmidt
Schock
Schrader
Schwartz
Scott (GA)
Scott (VA)
Serrano
Sestak
Shea-Porter
Sherman
Sires
Skelton
Slaughter
Smith (NJ)
Smith (WA)
Snyder
Space
Speier
Spratt
Stark
Stupak
Sutton
Tanner
Tauscher
Taylor
Teague
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Tiberi
Tierney
Titus
Tonko
Towns
Tsongas
Turner
Upton
Van Hollen
Velázquez
Visclosky
Walz
Wasserman Schultz
Waters
Watson
Watt
Waxman
Welch
Wexler
Whitfield
Wilson (OH)
Wolf
Woolsey
Wu
Yarmuth
Young (FL)

NAYS—118

Aderholt
Akin
Alexander
Austria
Bachmann
Barton (TX)
Bishop (UT)
Blackburn
Blunt
Boehner
Bonner
Boozman
Brady (TX)
Bright
Brown-Waite, Ginny
Burgess
Burton (IN)
Buyer
Cantor
Carter
Cassidy
Chaffetz
Coble
Coffman (CO)
Cole
Conaway
Culberson
Davis (KY)
Deal (GA)
Dreier
Duncan
Emerson
Fallin
Flake
Fleming
Forbes
Foxx
Franks (AZ)
Garrett (NJ)
Gingrey (GA)
Gohmert
Goodlatte
Granger
Graves
Guthrie
Hall (TX)
Harper
Hastings (WA)
Heller
Hensarling
Herger
Hoekstra
Hunter
Inglis
Issa
Jenkins
Jordan (OH)
King (IA)
Kingston
Kline (MN)
Lamborn
Latham
LaTourette
Latta
Lee (NY)
Lewis (CA)
Linder
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Lummis
Manzullo
Marchant
McCarthy (CA)
McClintock
McHenry
McMorris Rodgers
Miller (FL)
Miller, Gary
Moran (KS)
Myrick
Neugebauer
Olson
Paul
Paulsen
Pence
Pitts
Poe (TX)
Posey
Price (GA)
Putnam
Rehberg
Roe (TN)
Rogers (AL)
Rohrabacher
Rooney
Ryan (WI)
Scalise
Sensenbrenner
Sessions
Shadegg
Shimkus
Shuster
Simpson
Smith (NE)
Smith (TX)
Souder
Stearns
Sullivan
Terry
Thompson (PA)
Thornberry
Tiahrt
Walden
Wamp
Westmoreland
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Young (AK)

NOT VOTING—24

Bachus
Barrett (SC)
Boswell
Broun (GA)
Brown, Corrine
Butterfield
Campbell
Carney
Crenshaw
Frelinghuysen
Hinojosa
Jackson (IL)
Johnson, Sam
Kennedy
Kissell
Lungren, Daniel E.
Moran (VA)
Murtha
Neal (MA)
Pomeroy
Radanovich
Reyes
Shuler
Weiner

□ 1920

So (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

ANNOUNCING THE PASSING OF FORMER REPRESENTATIVE BILL ORTON OF UTAH

(Mr. MATHESON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. MATHESON. Mr. Speaker, it is with regret that I bring before the House the news that a former colleague, Bill Orton from the Third District of Utah, passed away in a tragic accident just last Saturday. He was out with his kids recreating on some sand dunes in central Utah.

Bill was a smart Member of Congress. He was a substantive Member of Congress. He was someone who spoke his mind, and I know that his commitment to public service continued after he left this institution. He was first elected in 1990. He served for 6 years. He was one of the founding members of the Blue Dog Coalition here in the House of Representatives while he was here.

I would like to yield to my colleague from Utah (Mr. BISHOP) for some comments, and then I will ask for a moment of silence.

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Speaker, none of us in the delegation had the opportunity of serving with Mr. Orton while he was in Congress. I did, though, have the opportunity to know him, as a result of being majority leader and speaker of the House in the Utah legislature in his first two terms, and as such got to know that Mr. Orton was indeed someone committed to public service. We offer our deep condolences to him and his very young family at this tragic occurrence and remember him with fondness for his commitment to his country and his State.

Mr. MATHESON. We certainly want to offer our condolences to Bill's wife, Jacquelyn; his sons, Will and Wes. And with that, I ask the House recognize this with a moment of silence.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will all Members please rise for a moment of silence.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, 5-minute voting will continue.

There was no objection.

LAKE HODGES SURFACE WATER IMPROVEMENT AND RECLAMATION ACT OF 2009

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1219, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from the Virgin Islands (Mrs. CHRISTENSEN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1219.

This will be a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 362, nays 43, not voting 27, as follows:

[Roll No. 195]

YEAS—362

Abercrombie
Ackerman
Aderholt
Adler (NJ)
Altmire
Andrews
Arcuri
Austria
Baca
Bachmann
Baird
Baldwin
Barrow
Bartlett
Barton (TX)
Bean
Becerra
Berkley
Berman
Berry
Biggert
Bilbray
Bilirakis
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (NY)
Bishop (UT)
Blackburn
Blumenauer
Boccieri
Boehner
Bonner
Bono Mack
Boozman
Boren
Boucher
Boustany
Boyd
Brady (PA)
Brady (TX)
Braley (IA)
Bright
Brown (SC)
Brown-Waite, Ginny
Buchanan
Buyer
Calvert
Camp
Cantor
Cao
Capito
Capps
Capuano
Cardoza
Carnahan
Carson (IN)
Carter
Castle
Castor (FL)
Chaffetz
Chandler
Childers
Clarke
Clay
Cleaver
Clyburn
Coffman (CO)
Cohen
Cole
Connolly (VA)
Conyers
Cooper
Costa
Costello
Courtney
Crowley
Cuellar
Cummings
Dahlkemper
Davis (AL)
Davis (CA)
Davis (IL)
Davis (KY)
Davis (TN)
Deal (GA)
DeFazio
DeGette
Delahunt
DeLauro
Dent
Diaz-Balart, L.
Diaz-Balart, M.
Dicks
Dingell
Doggett
Donnelly (IN)
Doyle
Dreier
Driehaus
Edwards (MD)
Edwards (TX)
Ehlers
Ellison
Ellsworth
Emerson
Engel
Eshoo
Etheridge
Fallin
Farr
Fattah
Filner
Fleming
Forbes
Fortenberry
Foster
Frank (MA)
Fudge
Gallegly
Gerlach
Giffords
Gonzalez
Goodlatte
Gordon (TN)
Granger
Graves
Grayson
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Griffith
Grijalva
Guthrie
Gutierrez
Hall (NY)
Hall (TX)
Halvorson
Hare
Harman
Hastings (FL)
Hastings (WA)
Heinrich
Heller
Herger
Herseth Sandlin
Higgins
Hill
Himes
Hinchey
Hirono
Hodes
Holden
Holt
Honda
Hoyer
Hunter
Inglis
Inslee
Israel
Jackson-Lee (TX)
Jenkins
Johnson (GA)
Johnson (IL)
Johnson, E. B.
Jones
Kagen
Kanjorski
Kaptur
Kildee
Kilpatrick (MI)
Kilroy
Kind
King (NY)
Kirk
Kirkpatrick (AZ)
Klein (FL)
Kline (MN)
Kosmas
Kratovil
Kucinich
Lance
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Latham
LaTourette
Latta
Lee (CA)
Lee (NY)
Levin
Lewis (CA)
Lewis (GA)
Lipinski
LoBiondo
Loebsack
Lofgren, Zoe
Lowey
Lucas
Luján
Lummis
Lynch
Mack
Maffei
Maloney
Manzullo
Markey (CO)
Markey (MA)
Marshall
Massa
Matheson
Matsui
McCarthy (CA)
McCarthy (NY)
McCaul
McCollum
McCotter
McDermott
McGovern
McHenry
McHugh
McIntyre
McKeon
McMahon
McMorris Rodgers
Meek (FL)
Meeks (NY)
Melancon
Mica
Michaud
Miller (MI)
Miller (NC)
Miller, Gary
Miller, George
Minnick
Mitchell
Mollohan
Moore (KS)
Moore (WI)
Murphy (CT)
Murphy, Patrick
Murphy, Tim
Nadler (NY)
Napolitano
Nunes
Nye
Oberstar
Obey
Olson
Olver
Ortiz
Pallone
Pascrell
Pastor (AZ)
Paulsen
Payne
Perlmutter
Perriello
Peters
Peterson
Petri
Pingree (ME)
Platts
Polis (CO)
Posey
Price (GA)
Price (NC)
Putnam
Quigley
Rahall
Rangel
Rehberg
Reichert
Richardson
Rodriguez
Roe (TN)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rogers (MI)
Rohrabacher
Rooney
Ros-Lehtinen
Roskam
Ross
Rothman (NJ)
Roybal-Allard
Royce
Ruppersberger
Rush
Ryan (OH)
Ryan (WI)
Salazar
Sánchez, Linda T.
Sanchez, Loretta
Sarbanes
Scalise
Schakowsky
Schauer
Schiff
Schmidt
Schock
Schrader
Schwartz
Scott (GA)
Scott (VA)
Serrano
Sestak
Shea-Porter
Sherman
Shimkus
Shuster
Simpson
Sires
Skelton
Slaughter
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Smith (WA)
Snyder
Space
Speier
Spratt
Stark
Stupak
Sutton
Tanner
Tauscher
Taylor
Teague
Terry
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Thompson (PA)
Thornberry
Tiahrt
Tiberi
Tierney
Titus
Tonko
Towns
Tsongas
Turner
Upton
Van Hollen
Velázquez
Visclosky
Walden
Walz
Wasserman Schultz
Waters
Watson
Watt
Waxman
Welch
Wexler
Whitfield
Wilson (OH)
Wittman
Wolf
Woolsey
Wu
Yarmuth
Young (AK)
Young (FL)

NAYS—43

Akin
Alexander
Blunt
Burgess
Burton (IN)
Cassidy
Coble
Conaway
Culberson
Duncan
Flake
Foxx
Franks (AZ)
Garrett (NJ)
Gingrey (GA)
Harper
Hensarling
Hoekstra
Jordan (OH)
King (IA)
Kingston
Lamborn
Linder
Luetkemeyer
Marchant
McClintock
Miller (FL)
Moran (KS)
Myrick
Neugebauer
Paul
Pence
Pitts
Poe (TX)
Sensenbrenner
Sessions
Shadegg
Souder
Stearns
Sullivan
Wamp
Westmoreland
Wilson (SC)

NOT VOTING—27

Bachus
Barrett (SC)
Boswell
Broun (GA)
Brown, Corrine
Butterfield
Campbell
Carney
Crenshaw
Frelinghuysen
Gohmert
Hinojosa
Issa
Jackson (IL)
Johnson, Sam
Kennedy
Kissell
Lungren, Daniel E.
McNerney
Moran (VA)
Murtha
Neal (MA)
Pomeroy
Radanovich
Reyes
Shuler
Weiner

□ 1932

So (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. Speaker, I regret that I was unable to participate in a series of votes on the floor of the House of Representatives today.

Had I been present to vote on rollcall No. 193, The Crane Conservation Act of 2009, I would have voted "yea" on the question.

Had I been present to vote on rollcall No. 194, The Great Cats and Rare Canids Act, I would have voted "yea" on the question.

Had I been present to vote on rollcall No. 195, Lake Hodges Surface Water Improvement and Reclamation Act of 2009, I would have voted "yea" on the question.

REMOVAL OF NAME OF MEMBER AS COSPONSOR OF H.R. 1255 AND H.R. 1214

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to have my name removed as cosponsor of H.R. 1255 and H.R. 1214.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Arizona?

There was no objection.

SAN JACINTO DAY

(Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise to commemorate one of the most important events in Texas history, frankly, the history of the United States, San Jacinto Day.

Today, in 1836, roughly 900 Texan and Tejano volunteers overpowered a larger, professional Mexican army of conscript soldiers after defeats at Goliad and the Alamo. These outnumbered volunteers succeeded because they were fighting against tyranny and they were fighting for their families.

In the words of the Texas Declaration of Independence, the people's government had been ''forcibly changed, without their consent, from a restricted federative republic composed of sovereign states to a consolidated central military despotism.''

The Texas Revolution proved the bonds of freedom are stronger than ethnicity, as many Tejanos sacrificed their lives for Texas' freedom at the Battles of Gonzalez, Bexar, Goliad, the Alamo, and San Jacinto. The war was not between Anglos and Hispanics; it was a struggle between all Texans and military dictatorship in Mexico City.

Texans and Tejanos knew then what we know now—freedom requires sacrifice. And our young men and women going to or coming back from fighting in Afghanistan and Iraq are very aware of this.

Texans are renowned around the world for responding to the call of duty. We hold our heroes willing to sacrifice their lives for the betterment of their fellow man in the highest regard. I am proud to represent the site of the Battle of San Jacinto commemorated by the San Jacinto Monument.

Thanks to the San Jacinto Chapter of the Daughters of the Republic of Texas. Their hard work allowed for the preservation of the San Jacinto Battleground by petitioning the Texas Legislature to purchase the acreage and by donating their treasury to complete the sale in 1900. This San Jacinto Chapter of Daughters of the Republic of Texas and the Texas Veterans Association did tremendous work to ensure that the legacy lives on, and the importance of the park has only expanded since then. The park not only has the San Jacinto Monument to recognize the brave men and women, but it also includes the Battleship Texas, which is a symbol of sacrifices in World War I and World War II.

With the understanding of where they came from, Texans and Americans will continue to respond to the calls of service, thereby continuing their legacy of respect and admiration throughout the world.

God bless Texas and the United States.

THANK YOU TROOPS

(Mr. WILSON of South Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. During the recess, I was grateful to visit for the 10th time with troops in Iraq, and my eighth visit with troops in Afghanistan. As our delegation met with servicemembers of our home States, it is inspiring to see the commitment to protecting American families at home by defeating terrorists overseas.

We learned in Baghdad that terrorist attacks have been reduced by over 90 percent from 2007 due to the success of the surge. The next day, when President Obama spoke, he stated, ''You have given Iraq the opportunity to stand on its own as a democratic country. That is an extraordinary achievement.''

As the father of two sons who have served in Iraq, I am especially appreciative of military families. In Afghanistan, it was explained that extensive plans are underway to expand the Afghan National Army, the Afghan police, and the Afghan border police. I know firsthand of the success of local forces as my former National Guard unit, the 218th Brigade, completed a year of service at Camp Phoenix last year promoting a civil society.

In conclusion, God bless our troops—and we will never forget September the 11th and the global war on terrorism.

HONORING FORMER MEMBER OF CONGRESS BILL ORTON

(Mr. HOYER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HOYER. Ladies and gentlemen of the House, today we come to the House floor in memory of a fine Member of this body who distinguished himself here, in my opinion, and left a lasting legacy.

Bill Orton, who our colleague, JIM MATHESON, informed us passed away in an accident in Utah, who represented the people of Utah's Sixth District from 1991 to 1997, died last weekend at the age of 60.

Bill always was an independent thinker and serious-minded public servant. He was elected three times as a Democrat in one of America's most conservative districts, as our friend JIM MATHESON has done, a fact that testifies both to his persuasive skills and the deep respect he earned even from those he didn't persuade.

As a local paper wrote, ''Utahans couldn't have done much better than electing Bill Orton.'' I agree with that sentiment, Mr. Speaker. In just three terms here, Bill left a permanent mark. He was a founder of the Blue Dog Coalition, which has stood up for fiscal discipline ever since and is well represented here tonight.

Bill was instrumental in creating the Democratic ideal of fiscal responsibility. And ever since, when Democrats have come to this floor to defend the government's essential programs while advocating for a balanced budget, they have been following in Bill's footsteps. Now, every time we speak out for a government that pays for what it buys, we have an opportunity to carry on Bill's work.

But as much as we will miss him, I know that his community and his family will miss him incomparably more. Bill became a father late in life, but his boys, Will and Wes, filled what turned out to be the last years of his life with so much joy. Those who know Bill remember, I'm sure, how he turned half of his congressional office into a nursery, or how he proudly brought baby Will to sit with him at hearings.

I know that nothing can make up for the loss of a father, particularly a father of young children. For Jacquelyn Orton, I know that nothing can make up for the loss of her husband. But I hope it will be some consolation—small, but some—to know that Bill was important to the life of his State and of his Nation, and that he shaped them for the better; that even though he had more to give, he gave much more than most ever do.

To his family, we extend great sympathy. From his country, to Bill Orton, we say thank you; thank you for serving so well the people of Utah and the people of the United States of America. God bless his family.

ON THE PASSING OF FORMER CONGRESSMAN BILL ORTON

(Mr. CHAFFETZ asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. CHAFFETZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to former Third Congressional District Representative Bill Orton. Representative Orton passed away in a tragic accident this past weekend. He served with honor for three terms as a Member of this body. He was described as something of a political maverick and an independent voice for Utah, bucking both parties at times.

It is during times such as these that we set aside our partisan differences and join together in mourning the passing of a great American and a great public servant. Representative Orton cast a long shadow over the State of Utah and the Third Congressional District. It is an honor for me to

serve in the congressional district he once held.

I join with my colleagues on both sides of the aisle in expressing my deepest sympathies to the members of the Orton family. I pray that during this period of mourning they will find hope in the great plan of happiness, that they will one day be reunited with their husband and father.

I will conclude by reciting the words of a hymn:

''God be with you till we meet again;
By his counsels guide, uphold you;
With his sheep securely fold you.
God be with you till we meet again.''

ESTABLISHING A SELECT COMMITTEE TO EXAMINE THE CAUSES OF THE CURRENT FINANCIAL CRISIS

(Mr. DINGELL asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, today I've introduced legislation establishing a select committee to examine the causes of the current financial crisis; most certainly, serious financial and other misbehavior on Wall Street and within the banking community. It is modeled on the Pecora Commission, which held hearings in 1932 and 1933 to investigate the roots of the Great Depression, whose seriousness is only slightly greater than that which we now confront.

As Ferdinand Pecora said of the Great Depression's source, he said, ''Legal chicanery and pitch darkness were the banker's stoutest allies.'' Let us take heed of Pecora's words and support this resolution which will foster a coordinated approach among the several committees of jurisdiction in this matter, and to help us remedy and prevent the unsavory practices that have led our Nation to an economic precipice of gargantuan proportions.

ENSLAVED BY DEBT

(Ms. FOXX asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, last week, America witnessed an historic public outcry on tax day as countless Americans exercised their constitutional right—some would say duty—to take to the streets to protest Washington's borrow-and-spend and bailout mentality. Those assembled offered tangible and forceful evidence that average people are concerned by the government's breakneck borrowing spree and the nonstop bailouts of failed companies.

Too many people have played by the rules only to see their children and grandchildren socked with the bill for the bailouts of irresponsible megabanks. To this they are saying ''enough is enough.'' They realize the truth of John Adams' warning on excessive national debt. Adams said, ''There are two ways to conquer and enslave a Nation; one is by the sword, the other is by debt.''

I hope that for the sake of future generations we take these words to heart and restore the American ideal of small government and individual liberty and responsibility.

HONORING BILL ORTON

(Mr. MATHESON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. MATHESON. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor our colleague who just passed away this past Saturday, Bill Orton, who represented the Third Congressional District in Utah. Bill was a Congressman who spoke his mind, who was an independent voice. And let me tell you, in today's politics, I think we can all learn something from Bill Orton because I think most people in America don't like the polarization they see in Washington, D.C. Bill was all about trying to find solutions, trying to make progress. We can honor his legacy by behaving more like Bill.

I offer my condolences to his wife, Jacquelyn, and to his sons, Will and Wes. Their father was a great public servant. I hope they can find some solace in the great record of public service their father has.

□ 1945

HOMELAND SECURITY WATCH LIST

(Mr. POE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, according to a recently released secret memo by Homeland Security, America now faces new serious threats. I'm not referring to al Qaeda, the Somali pirates, or radical Islamic terrorists. The memo states we are in danger from single-issue groups like gun owners, returning military veterans, the recent tax protestors at the TEA parties, and those who want to protect the unborn.

Mr. Speaker, these Americans simply disagree with the administration on certain issues. But by disagreeing, they are now labeled and vilified by Homeland Security as extremists and threats to America. So is Homeland Security going to watch those people and spy on them all under the guise of national security? We shall see.

This is a dangerous policy, an attack on individual liberty and a denial of free speech. Homeland Security should do their real job, like figuring out what countries and spies are stealing secrets about the famed F–35 Fighter rather than making a watch list and snooping around in the private lives of patriots who are just exercising their absolute right to disagree.

And that's just the way it is.

TARP REPAYMENTS

(Mr. MCCLINTOCK asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. MCCLINTOCK. Mr. Speaker, many Americans have been shocked in recent days to learn that banks that are seeking to repay TARP money have been told that the Treasury will not allow them to do so. The taxpayers were promised that this money was to be used to buy up toxic assets and that it would be repaid to the Treasury as soon as humanly possible. Well, not a single toxic asset has been purchased, and now when several banks have attempted to return that money, they have been told the Treasury will not allow them to do so.

This is a travesty. Just a few weeks ago, many Members of this House in this Chamber reacted to the AIG bonus fiasco by saying, ''We want our money back.'' And yet when some banks have attempted to do exactly that, they have been turned away at the Treasury gates.

Mr. Speaker, today I have introduced legislation to require the Secretary of the Treasury to accept TARP repayments unconditionally and immediately when they are presented. I hope that I can count on the support of all of those in this House who promised their constituents that these funds would be repaid at the earliest possible opportunity.

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2009, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

IN HONOR OF THE LIFE OF DR. JOHN HOPE FRANKLIN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. LEWIS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Dr. John Hope Franklin.

Dr. John Hope Franklin grew up in segregated Oklahoma. He was only 7 years old when his new family home was burned to the ground in the Tulsa race riots of 1921.

As a child, he was evicted from white-only train cars. He was forced to attend segregated schools. And on one occasion he was threatened with lynching. John Hope Franklin tasted the bitter fruits of segregation and racial discrimination, and he didn't like it. But he did not give up, he did not give in, he did not give out.

His parents taught him to hold his head high, that he was the equal of every human being. They told him to forget any thought of oppression and spend his time improving his own value and worth. So he followed his father's

example and began spending every evening reading and writing, a habit he continued until he died just a few days ago.

Dr. Franklin attended Fisk University in Nashville, Tennessee, where he graduated at the top of his class. Then he earned a master's and a Ph.D. degree from Harvard College. He had planned to be a lawyer like his father.

But one of his professors encouraged him to tell the story of African Americans, to tell their history. His first book, called ''From Slavery to Freedom,'' sold 3.5 million copies. He became a full professor at Brooklyn College, and he taught one of our colleagues in the Senate. He was appointed Chair of the history department at the University of Chicago, and many years later he became a professor at Duke University.

I knew John Hope Franklin. He was a beautiful human being. He never gave up on the promise of America. Even though he dug deep into America's dark past, he never lost faith in the dream of a new day. He believed that if we were willing to take a hard look at where we have been, we could reconcile the future of all humanity. He believed in a nation and world community at peace with itself. And he did his part.

John Hope Franklin was not only a great historian, but he was a champion of civil rights and social justice. He worked alongside Thurgood Marshall to help dismantle legalized segregation and racial discrimination. In him we have lost more than a brilliant scholar, more than a noble historian, more than a father of African American history. We have lost one of the great men of our time.

There was a gentle power in his presence, an abiding respect in his name, a brilliance and humility in his spirit that changed us all. He is an inspiration to everyone who met him.

John Hope Franklin was a prince of a man. By sharing the riches of his mind and the wealth of his knowledge, he helped not just to educate but to free a people and an entire Nation. He will be deeply missed.

SAN JACINTO DAY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. POE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, growing up in Houston, Texas, I always liked this day, April 21, because it was a school holiday. I believed there was no school because it was my mother's birthday. She never told me differently. I was proud to be the only kid that had a mother with a school holiday.

It was only later that I came to find out that the holiday also represented the most important military victory in Texas history, one that occurred near my hometown of Houston. It was a unique holiday for Texas called ''San Jacinto Day.''

It all started when Texas declared independence from Mexico on March 2, 1836. Texans held off the invading Mexican army at a place called the Alamo. They were led by a commander by the name of William Barret Travis, a 27-year-old lawyer from South Carolina. The 187 volunteers held out for 13 days and inflicted vicious casualties on the invaders. But Santa Anna, dictator of Mexico, was able to storm over the Alamo walls on March 6, 1836, and killed all the remaining defenders. He went looking for the rest of the Texans that wanted independence from Mexico. General Sam Houston had been building the Texas army, and Santa Anna's three armies from Mexico were giving chase. The Texans and their families fled east in what historians call the ''runaway scrape.''

Finally, near the San Jacinto River and Buffalo Bayou at Lynch's Ferry near Houston, Texas, they stopped to fight. Houston and his army of 700 faced Santa Anna and his army of twice that number on the marshy plains of San Jacinto. Scout Deaf Smith was ordered to burn the only bridge and trapped both armies on the peninsula between the river and the marshes.

It was April 21, 1836. General Sam wanted to charge into battle the next day at dawn, but after discussions with his troops, he decided not to wait any longer. So in the middle of the afternoon, General Sam and the boys marched in a single line in broad daylight with little cover toward the Mexican army.

The outnumbered Texans were an odd, terrifying-looking bunch. Without regular uniforms, they were dressed in buckskins, with pistols in their belts, bowie knives, long muskets, and tomahawks. They came from numerous States and foreign countries like Germany, England, Scotland, and Mexico. The Tejanos, Mexicans loyal for independence, were led by Captain Juan Sequin. So as not to confuse these Tejanos with Santa Anna's army, General Sam had Captain Sequin put a playing card in the headband of each Tejano so they could be easily recognized as Texans and not the invaders.

This was General Houston's first Texas battle. Santa Anna's veteran army had yet to lose any conflict after they invaded Texas. The Texans charged down the hill yelling ''Remember the Alamo,'' ''Remember Goliad.'' They carried a flag of a partially nude Miss Liberty, and the fife played a bawdy house song called ''Come to the Bower.''

Santa Anna's army was caught napping and was routed. Most of the enemy were killed or wounded. The rest were captured or disappeared. The victory was stunning. The Texans wanted Santa Anna hung because of the Alamo and for murdering Colonel Fannin and his 13 volunteers at Goliad after they had surrendered. Wise and politically astute, Sam Houston would have none of the lynching and spared Presidente Santa Anna for later bartering power.

Texas became a free and independent nation that day and claimed what is now Texas but also parts of New Mexico, Oklahoma, Kansas, Wyoming, and Idaho, all the way to the Canadian border. It was one of the largest land transfers in world history as a result of one battle. The latter land was sold to the United States to pay for Texas' war debts. But Texas was a free independent republic for 9 years and then was admitted into the United States in 1845 by one vote. A Louisiana Senator changed his mind and voted for admission for the State of Texas to become part of the Union. Some now wished the vote had gone the other way.

Texas still has the right, Mr. Speaker, to divide into five States. It also has the absolute right to fly the Texas flag at the same level of the United States flag because Texas was a country once. In 1936 Texans built the San Jacinto Monument in honor of the Texas War of Independence and General Sam's victory. It looks like the Washington Monument but it has a star on top. But, of course, Mr. Speaker, it's taller than the Washington Monument.

Today the bugles are silent and the battlefield is surrounded by petrochemical plants. Not much is said about Texas Independence or San Jacinto Day. It's not a school holiday anymore. But once again this year, proud Texans were at the San Jacinto battleground today to honor the few brave Texans and Tejanos that made Texas a free nation. We remember our past, knowing we were a nation once, and sometimes we still act like an independent country. I have a grandson who was named in honor of William Barret Travis and Sam Houston. His name is Barret Houston. I flew the Texas Lone Star flag today proudly on this San Jacinto Day. But, also, Mr. Speaker, I sent my mom a bunch of flowers remembering that this glorious day was a school holiday to celebrate her birthday.

And that's just the way it is.

□ 2000

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. SKELTON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. SKELTON addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

AMERICA'S RE-ENGAGEMENT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WOOLSEY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to praise President Obama on his recent meetings with foreign leaders. He changed both the tone and the substance of American foreign policy, and I believe he did a great deal to restore America's reputation throughout the world.

I do not agree with every single detail of his foreign policy decisions, but I certainly applaud his commitment to diplomacy and cooperation as the best way to prevent war, solve international problems and get a dialogue started.

During the G–20 summit in Europe, the President worked hard to restore good relations with our allies, which were stretched to the breaking point by the previous administration's arrogance. He said that America will listen to the concerns of our European friends, and he promised to rebuild our partnership with them.

While he was in London, the President also pledged to work with Russia to reduce both nations' nuclear arsenals, and he announced a new effort to rid the world of nuclear weapons once and for all. And he called for U.S. ratification of the comprehensive nuclear test-ban treaty, which I have been asking for for many, many years.

On his trip to Turkey, Mr. Speaker, the President also reached out to the Muslim world. He said that the U.S. is not and never will be at war with Islam. Those were very welcome words, while he also promised to seek broader engagement with the Muslim world based on mutual interest and mutual respect.

Along these lines, Mr. Speaker, the administration recently stepped up its effort to engage Iran in talks. They agreed to participate in talks with Iran and other global powers about Iran's nuclear program.

When the President attended the Summit of the Americas a little bit later, he pledged to work closely with the nations of the hemisphere on climate change and economic development and to cooperate with Mexico to end the violence on our border.

Most important, however, Mr. Speaker, President Obama called for a new beginning in our relations with Cuba. After a delegation of Members of Congress visited Cuba during the Easter work period, President Obama lifted some of the restrictions that Americans face when they want to travel to Cuba and/or send money to relatives there.

So far the response of the Cuban Government has been very positive. I hope this is a beginning to the end of the 50-year cold war between the United States and Cuba, but I know we have a lot of work to do. These problems probably won't be solved overnight, but we are on the way.

I also have some concerns, concerns with our very own administration about some of their policies. For example, the administration is planning to prolong our occupation of Iraq until at least the end of 2011, and it appears that they could be expanding our military presence in Afghanistan indefinitely.

The lessons of the past 7 years, Mr. Speaker, have made it clear that a military option won't work in either Iraq or Afghanistan. We must, instead, fundamentally change our mission in both countries to focus on reconciliation, economic development, humanitarian aid and regional diplomacy.

I am, however, encouraged, Mr. Speaker, by the administration's desire to chart a new and better course for America's place in the world.

President Obama is willing to listen, build partnerships and show respect for other cultures. That's a big step forward for making the world a more peaceful place for ourselves and our children.

TOM TANCREDO VISIT TO THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA AT CHAPEL HILL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. JONES) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. JONES. Mr. Speaker, America's colleges and universities are training the future leaders of our Nation. In an academic setting, all viewpoints on matters of public policy deserve the chance to be heard. This tradition of academic freedom must be protected.

Unfortunately, last week at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, students were denied the opportunity to hear a talk by former Congressman Tom Tancredo by protesters who interrupted his speech. Congressman Tancredo had been invited by the University of North Carolina Chapter of Youth for Western Civilization to speak on the topic of in-State tuition for illegal aliens, an issue that has been hotly debated in the State of North Carolina.

Campus police shut down the event after protesters who shouted accusations of racism shattered a window of the classroom where the talk was to be held.

Following the incident, I had the chance to speak with the University of North Carolina Chancellor Holden Thorp by telephone. Chancellor Thorp said he had called Congressman Tancredo to apologize for how he was treated during his visit to the campus. The chancellor also issued a public statement about the incident.

He said, and I quote, ''We expect protests about controversial subjects at Carolina. That's part of our culture. But we also pride ourselves on being a place where all points of view can be expressed and heard. There's a way to protest that respects free speech and allows people with opposing views to be heard. Here that's often meant that groups protesting a speaker have displayed signs or banners, silently expressing their opinions while the speaker had his or her say.''

That did not happen during Congressman Tancredo's visit.

I commend Chancellor Thorp for extending a personal apology to Congressman Tancredo and for publicly voicing his disappointment that a visitor to the campus was denied the opportunity to express his views.

On behalf of all taxpayers who support North Carolina's public universities and their system, I also would like to apologize to my former colleague, because it all comes down to one simple point: If our public universities cannot protect freedom of speech on their campuses, who will? While his opposition to in-State tuition benefits for illegal immigrants may be controversial to some, Congressman Tancredo is a respected and knowledgeable leader in the immigration reform movement.

It is a shame that those with dissenting viewpoints prevented others from hearing his comments. I hope disciplinary measures will be taken, as warranted, against any student or professor who participated in disrupting Congressman Tancredo's talk. It is my understanding that the school is working with the students and would like to invite Congressman Tancredo back to campus to speak. In fact, Mr. Speaker, former Congressman Virgil Goode, another opponent of illegal immigration, is already scheduled to speak at the school tomorrow, and I hope that his speech will be protected.

I hope the university will take steps to ensure that future student-sponsored discussions on the university campus at Chapel Hill do not get shut down by those with dissenting viewpoints. We have a right to agree and disagree in this country. But if we cannot protect that at a university, I don't know what the future holds, quite frankly.

Again, in closing, I thank the administrators at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill for working to protect the integrity of the university by allowing free speech to be exercised on their campus.

If our men and women in uniform or in Afghanistan and Iraq are trying to protect the freedom in those countries, then let's do what is possible to protect the freedom of different views at our universities and our colleges in America, because they are the future leaders of America, and they have a right to participate with those who agree and disagree.

With that, Mr. Speaker, I ask God to bless our men and women in uniform, and I ask God to please bless America.

HONORING HARRY KALAS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. SESTAK) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. SESTAK. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the life and accomplishments of one of the most distinctive voices in all of sports, a true baseball legend, and someone who called the Seventh Congressional District of Pennsylvania home. Harold Norbert ''Harry'' Kalas, born in Naperville, Illinois, graduate of the University of Iowa and Hall of Fame broadcaster for over 44 years, passed away on April 13, 2009, having lived a life of great distinction.

After graduation, Harry Kalas served in the 25th Infantry Division of our

United States Army in Hawaii. After his service, he began his long and honored announcing career broadcasting University of Hawaii and Hawaii Islanders games for KGU radio.

Harry Kalas was a member of the original Houston Astros broadcast team in 1965 and joined the Philadelphia Phillies broadcast team in 1971, sharing the booth for 26 years with his great friend and fellow Hall of Famer, Richie Ashburn. Harry broadcast the opening of the Astrodome in Houston and both Veterans Stadium and Citizens Bank Ballpark in Philadelphia. Harry Kalas' talents and voice were in great demand throughout his illustrious career.

His many accomplishments included calling University of Houston football, Southwest Conference basketball, Big Five basketball, University of Notre Dame football and NFL games, as well as providing voiceovers for NFL films and numerous commercials.

In 2002, Harry Kalas was the Ford C. Frick Award winner, named after the former National League president and Major League Baseball commissioner and annually bestowed by the National Baseball Hall of Fame to a broadcaster for major contributions to baseball.

Harry Kalas called seven National League Championship Series and three World Series, most recently as the voice of the 2008 World Champion Philadelphia Phillies.

Harry Kalas called all of Hall of Famer Steve Carlton's starts as a Phillie, as well as all of Hall of Famer Mike Schmidt's 548 home runs, making the phrase ''that ball is outta here'' an often imitated but never duplicated signature home-run call known in Philadelphia and throughout the baseball world.

Harry Kalas was named Pennsylvania Sportscaster of the year 18 times and was inducted into the National Sportscasters and Sportswriters Association Hall of Fame in 2008.

Harry Kalas was a remarkable husband to his wife, Eileen, and father to his three sons, Todd, Brad and Kane.

Just this fall Harry Kalas had one of the greatest experiences a father could ask for when he shared broadcasting of the World Series with his son Todd. On that day, Harry was the voice of the Philadelphia Phillies, and Todd, who had followed his father's career path into broadcasting, was the voice of the Tampa Bay Rays.

Harry Kalas was more than just a voice. He was also the finest possible husband, friend, father and veteran. In these challenging economic times, with a Nation at war, it is important that we take the time to recognize those who dedicate their lives to make such times bearable, in his case more than bearable.

Harry Kalas was one of those individuals. He will be sorely missed by Americans in every corner of this great Nation. Thank you, Harry, for who you were, an inspiration to us all.

DETAINEES IN THE WAR ON TERROR

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BURTON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, something happened last week that really bothered me a great deal. President Obama decided to release CIA documents that were top secret because they said that they showed that there may have been some violations of law regarding torture when we were getting information from terrorists. So I would like to talk a little bit about the whole story or as much of it as I could find.

On March 18, the Justice Department told CIA Director Leon Panetta that they were going to recommend to the White House that these memos be released almost completely uncensored. Now, bear in mind these are top secret documents, and when they are top secret like that and labeled that way, that means that there is a security threat, not only to the United States, but to the CIA and the people that did this work for the United States to protect us against terrorism.

Nevertheless, these top secret memos were going to be released. Panetta told Attorney General Eric Holder and officials in the White House that the administration needed to discuss the possibility that the release of the memos might expose CIA officers to lawsuits on allegations of torture and abuse.

□ 2015

Panetta also pushed for more censorship of the memos, officials said. The Justice Department also informed other CIA officials, seniors over there, of the decision to release the memos, and as a courtesy told former agency directors.

Senior CIA officials objected, arguing that the release would hurt the agency's ability to interrogate prisoners in the future. They also said the move would further tarnish CIA officers who had acted on the Bush officials' legal guidance, and they warned that the action would erode foreign intelligence services' trust, other countries' trust in the CIA's ability to protect their national secrets, current and former officials said.

Now, I hope my colleagues will bear in mind that these were top secret documents, that four former directors of the CIA said it would threaten national security, it would eliminate tactics that were used in the past to get information from terrorists that probably protected American citizens and maybe saved a lot of lives. Even Leon Panetta told them that there was a problem. And former Vice President Cheney last night said on the Hannity show, which I watch quite frequently, that he saw memos that proved that the tactics employed by CIA members on terrorists did protect Americans from a terrorist attack.

Now, if that is the case, and I believe Vice President Cheney when he said that, I believe those memos that show that there was a real help to the country in protecting us against terrorist attack and probably saved a lot of lives, I believe those memos should be released, and I hope that President, President Obama will take a hard look at this.

He looked at these documents and said they should be released, even though they were top secret, threatened a lot of CIA members and threatened our national security, in my opinion. So since he did that, I think the President ought to release the memos that show that the tactics used by the CIA did save lives and did protect America from attack by terrorists in this country.

If I were talking to the President tonight, Mr. Speaker, I would say that is only fair. If you are going to release the memos and threaten the CIA with lawsuits and everything else because of the tactics that were employed there, if you are going to threaten possibly former Justice Department officials who wrote opinions saying that these tactics could be employed to extract information from terrorists, that we certainly should see the memos that show that the things that they did did protect America and did save lives. I think that is only fair.

In addition, I would like to end by saying that I don't think those who did their best at the CIA or the Justice Department to protect America should be prosecuted for doing their job to protect this country.

ACTING TO MAKE OUR COUNTRY STRONGER

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. BOCCIERI) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. BOCCIERI. Mr. Speaker, it has often been said that leadership is about action, not position. Leadership is about action, not position, and the people from the 16th District of Ohio entrusted me to come to Congress to act, to restore and rebuild our economy, to help create jobs, to transition to a clean energy economy, and to make health care more affordable for all our citizens, and they asked us also to improve education so that every child in America has an opportunity to succeed.

Over this last district work period I had the opportunity to visit some very unique people in my district, for them to hear from their Congress on their corners, and also listen to our leaders back at home who are trying to put our economy back on track. And you know those smokestacks that often sent smoky signals of prosperity and success back home? They are becoming few and far between in the Midwest.

Just last week, Alliance Castings in my hometown announced that 400 jobs would be lost because of the downturn in our economy, and we will lose countless other jobs across our district because of some of the policy decisions

we are making right here in Washington, D.C.

I stand here before you today in the House of Representatives suggesting that some of the economic indicators in Ohio are outpacing the national average. In Ohio, we have an unemployment rate of 9.7 percent, but yet in the counties that comprise the 16th Congressional District, Stark County outpaces by that nearly 1 percent more, at 10.7 percent, outpacing the national average. In Ashland County we are at nearly 13 percent unemployment, and in Wayne County we are almost at 10 percent unemployment.

The people of Northeast Ohio are demanding success stories, and Washington, D.C., has a part in playing a substantial role.

We visited the Heinz plant in Stark County. We also had the opportunity to visit another name brand factory in our district, the Smucker factory. The success stories that are there are clearly evidence that the entrepreneurial spirit of America is alive and strong.

What I heard as the common theme from these great individuals and great Americans was that America will recover and we will rebound, but we have to believe in our leadership, we have to believe in our process of dialogue, and respect that we have in the dialogue, that we have in debate, which will restore our economy, and they expect us to demand public policy that will make America stronger.

I was visiting the Defense Metals Technology Center and also meeting with the Blue Green Alliance on energy back home, and they suggested that we have the right tools with the right leadership in Washington to recover and restore jobs back in Ohio, and I talk to you with the respect and dignity that we should have in this chamber here.

We may differ on ideas. We may differ on opinions about how to move our States and our economy and our country foward. But at the end of the day we all want to see prosperity for our Nation. We all want to see Americans get back to work. And those Americans, like the ones at Alliance Castings that punched the time clock every day, played by the rules, brought a lunch pail to work and believed they were contributing to the future success of their family and their loved ones, are now going to be left on the streets with an unemployment check and a pink slip.

We have got to do our part here. We need a manufacturing policy in America, one that helps us embolden those small employers back home like the Heinz factory and Smuckers, two of the big names that we all recognize, but many more, like Sarah Plastics.

I visited with a CEO and a gentleman that has countless numbers of ideas, but he doesn't have the resources to bring his products to market. We have got to help him, and that is what this Congress is aiming to do with helping small businesses. A tax reduction for 95 percent of the Americans in this country. That is significant. The largest tax reduction with the economic stimulus package, the largest tax reduction in our Nation's history, for every American in this country and small businesses who help rebuild our economy day-to-day.

I also heard from Project Rebuild, folks who are giving opportunities and second chances to Americans, those students back home that maybe dropped out of school and are now finding success stories working to build a skill and trade that they can take back and use in this great and diverse economy to help build America and make America stronger.

I heard from Walsh University students, giving their speech for one of their business luncheons, the fact that we have young entrepreneurs in that audience who are looking to make America stronger by bringing their innovative ideas and working with the local businesses. I believe that is going to be the key to success in our education stories back home, is that we marry up our local economies to the industry and talent that we have at our local universities.

Leadership is about action, and that is what they expect in this Congress, that we will act on the ideas of public policy to make our country stronger.

REMEMBERING COLUMBINE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. COFFMAN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. COFFMAN of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, Sunday night a candlelight vigil was held at Columbine Memorial at Clement Park in Littleton, Colorado. Yesterday, April 20th, marks the 10-year anniversary of the shootings at Columbine High School in Littleton, Colorado. This senseless act of violence touched all Americans. As a community and Nation, we were in shock and disbelief that such a horrific incident could take place anywhere in the United States.

The volunteer members of the Columbine Memorial Foundation have dedicated themselves to preserving the memories of those who were lost on that terrible day. I am proud to recognize their tireless efforts in establishing the memorial.

The Columbine Memorial Foundation gives a description of the events that occurred immediately following the shootings at Columbine on April 20, 1999, that eventually led to the establishment of the memorial:

''At first, there was an outpouring of flowers, notes, poems, ribbons, stuffed animals, pictures and other objects that were brought to Clement Park to pay tribute to those who had died, were injured or traumatized. From the initial outpouring of emotions and disbelief came the concept of establishing a permanent public memorial near the high school. This memorial should serve to honor those innocent victims, but also provide an historic record of this tragedy and to deliver a message of hope for many generations to come. This memorial is dedicated to honor and remember the victims of the April 20th, 1999, shootings at Columbine High School.

''The Columbine Memorial consists of an inner ring of Remembrance with unique personal remembrances submitted from the families of those who were murdered. The outer ring of Healing is for all those who were injured on April 20th, 1999, and for the larger community who was touched by the tragic events at Columbine. A variety of general text gathered from interviews of students, teachers, the injured and their families and other community members tell diverse stories of healing, changes in the community and hopes of the future.

''There are overlooks along and on top of Rebel Hill providing panoramic views of the Rocky Mountains, the eastern plains and the Columbine community.''

The candlelight vigil was a moving tribute to the memories of the students and the teacher who had fallen and to their families and to the members of this community who have suffered so much from their loss.

We will never be able to thank the members of the Columbine Memorial Foundation enough for their leadership in making the memorial a reality. Through their extraordinary personal contributions to preserve the memories of the lives lost that day, we will never forget the tragic events of April 20th, 1999, at Columbine High School.

THE SUMMIT OF THE AMERICAS WAS AN EMBARRASSMENT FOR THE HEMISPHERE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Mr. Speaker, the Summit of the Americas held this last weekend in Trinidad and Tobago constituted an embarrassment for this hemisphere. Fidel Castro in Cuba is a psychopath and a serial killer, but he has long had a plan. His long-term goal has been to have the United States apologize to him and for the United States to bankroll his oppressive totalitarian apparatus before he dies. He wants the United States to apologize for having kept the U.S. market and its millions of tourists and billions of dollars in financing from him and for having denied him full diplomatic relations for decades.

In order to achieve his goal, Fidel Castro has been recruiting advocates for years. The ideological and psychological fascination and dependency that Hugo Chavez has on Fidel Castro has allowed Castro to utilize Chavez's billions of petrodollars to purchase many important advocates.

□ 2030

It is part of the public record that a suitcase of Chavez-cash heading to Mrs. Kirchner in Argentina was accidentally intercepted by authorities before reaching its intended destination.

Castro has purchased advocates through the years via the always present threat of blackmail after trips to totalitarian Cuba where the regime tapes visitors in ''compromising'' situations, as confirmed by Interior Ministry defector Roberto Hernandez del Llano and Cuban Counter-Intelligence defector Major Roberto Ortega.

Castro also serves as a ''banker'' for illicit money possessed by those who seek to avoid detection by the anti-laundering mechanisms set up by the international community. It matters not if the money's source is political corruption or narcotrafficking.

Hugo Chavez's absolute dependency on Fidel Castro for every major decision, even for his phrases and gestures in international forums, is unprecedented. While the Soviet Union used to send Castro economic aid and also orders and instructions, Chavez sends Castro billions of dollars and receives orders from him.

What the world witnessed at this last weekend's Summit of the Americas was a culmination of years of preparation in the purchase and cultivation of advocates by Fidel Castro. The goal of the advocates: mass American tourism with its billions of dollars a year and U.S. trade financing, so that the U.S. taxpayer ultimately bails out and bankrolls Fidel Castro.

Castro's advocates know very well that article III of the Charter of the Organization of American States requires the existence of representative democracy in all the countries of our hemisphere, and that the Inter-American Democratic Charter of 2001 even spells out the collective steps to be taken when an American republic's democracy is usurped.

They know that Cuba, under Castro, was the only country in our hemisphere where free elections have not been held in over 50 years, and where dungeons are full of nonviolent political prisoners. They know that under Castro, Cuba is a personal island-estate, a ranch, a personal land holding or homestead, a totalitarian fiefdom, owned by one man, with a brother who enjoys the title of head of state and carefully carries out his brother's orders.

Any goods the people on the island purchase must be purchased in the island fiefdom's ''company stores'' and with worthless ''vouchers'' called ''convertible pesos'' sold by the regime. Castro takes 30 percent of all hard currency ''off the top'' at the time island residents purchase the ''vouchers,'' and all hard currency must be spent with purchased ''vouchers'' in his ''company stores.''

The inducement for child prostitution on the island-fiefdom is unparalleled in the world, because no matter how hard island residents work, only foreign ''hard'' currency allows them to purchase the ''vouchers,'' the ''convertible pesos,'' for use in the stores that sell everything, from food to clothes to soap to toothpaste.

Equally, only foreign ''hard'' currency allows residents to purchase medicines. The shelves in the old stores and pharmacies where residents used to be able to purchase Soviet-bloc supplies with their ration cards are simply empty since there is no money to be made there by the dictator.

The Castro advocates at the weekend ''Summit'' knew all this, like when Mrs. Kirchner called for the U.S. to make amends with ''our sister republic, Cuba.'' Or when Mr. Ortega condemned the U.S. for organizing the Bay of Pigs invasion in 1961. Somehow they knew that President Obama would refer to Castro's totalitarian fiefdom as ''Cuba.'' Somehow they knew that President Obama would not respond to Mr. Ortega that at the Bay of Pigs, Cubans bravely fought to spare their country half a century of totalitarian oppression. President Obama said, ''I'm grateful President Ortega did not blame me for things that happened when I was 3 months old.'' Somehow they knew President Obama would not make clear that, as per U.S. law, the U.S. embargo will go away when all of Castro's political prisoners are freed and when there is freedom of expression and multi-party elections scheduled in Cuba. Of course they knew. President Obama had just unilaterally granted the fiefdom's owner hundreds of millions of dollars a year, in exchange for nothing.

A LITTLE BIT OF OPTIMISM ABOUT OUR ECONOMY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. INGLIS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. INGLIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to report on a telephone conversation that I had and actually then an in-person conversation I had with a fellow who was talking to me about his great concern about the economy. And of course, I started the conversation by saying, yes, I share that concern. But he could tell that I had a little bit of optimism about where we are. And he asked why? How could you be optimistic? And I told him two reasons to be optimistic that are immediately apparent with the economy, I think. One is, you know, crisis creates opportunity to fix things. And it could be that we can use this current financial problem that we've got and the incredible spending that we're doing here in Washington, to finally focus on change to the crucial programs like Medicare, Medicaid and Social Security. Until we're talking those programs, we're not talking balancing the budget.

But in the midst of the crisis created by our wild spending, perhaps we can bring our attention to the underlying problem, the problem that's not new, that's been going on in Medicare, Medicaid, and Social Security. So that's one reason for optimism.

Another, I told him, is that really we've got an incredible opportunity to grow our way out of this current problem by solving the energy challenge. If we address the energy security question, we can grow out of this problem.

You know, I was here in the Congress during the nineties and served on the Budget Committee. Part of our balancing act in getting to balance in 1999 and 2000 was fiscal restraint, and that's because of Republicans taking control of the House and having some fiscal restraint.

But it's also true that what was really happening is there was a massive expansion of the economy because of the tech boom. Because of the advances in PCs and the Internet, the productivity that came with those, and, therefore, growth without inflation, we were able to expand our economy. That economy threw off revenue to the Federal Government and, as a result, we reached balance.

Now we have an opportunity to do the same thing, just energy being the next step up in a plateau of economic development. We climbed up onto the plateau of the tech boom. Now we've got the opportunity to climb up onto another high plateau of energy security. If we do that successfully, I believe that we can generate economic growth that will, in turn, generate revenues for this Federal Government. And the result is that we will, once again, balance the budget if we pursue fiscal restraint in coming out of this crisis, together with economic growth that will come from addressing our energy security challenge.

Mr. Speaker, in the weeks and months to come, I hope to speak more about a very specific proposal that can do just that, with an elegant price signal sent throughout our economy about new energy technologies; and with that price signal, I think we can get about solving this fiscal problem by economic growth and, of course, also addressing the underlying problem of out-of-control entitlement spending that needs to be brought under control.

So, Mr. Speaker, tough times; but it's also true there's every reason to be optimistic.

PRAYER CAUCUS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Minnesota (Mrs. BACHMANN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mrs. BACHMANN. Mr. Speaker, over the course of the last few weeks, President Obama made the statement while in a foreign country that we are not a Christian Nation, that we are not a Jewish Nation or a Muslim Nation. He said we are citizens with shared values.

Upon President Obama's return to the United States, he went to Georgetown University, a great Catholic

school of higher learning. His staff, it is reported, requested that the Catholic university cover up the image of Christ on the cross before President Obama would give his speech at Georgetown. I don't know that any previous President, Mr. Speaker, has ever made such a request.

I wonder, Mr. Speaker, if President Abraham Lincoln, one of President Obama's heroes, would have said overseas that he believed America was a Nation of secularists, or would President Abraham Lincoln have said, America is a Nation which tolerates all faiths, but which is populated primarily by Christians.

President Lincoln felt quite differently than President Obama. Rather than proclaiming the United States a Nation of secularists, President Lincoln warned the people of America to not forget God. In fact, it was on May 30, 1863, that President Abraham Lincoln said, as part of his proclamation for a National Day of Prayer and Fasting, and I quote, Mr. Speaker: ''We have been the recipients of the choicest bounties of Heaven. We have been preserved these many years in peace and prosperity. We have grown in numbers, wealth and power, as no other nation has ever grown. But we have forgotten God. We have forgotten the gracious hand which preserved us in peace, and multiplied and enriched and strengthened us; and we have vainly imagined, in the deceitfulness of our hearts, that all these blessings were produced by some superior wisdom and virtue of our own . . . It behooves us then,'' said President Lincoln, ''to humble ourselves before the offended Power, to confess our national sins, and to pray for clemency and forgiveness.''

And, Mr. Speaker, likewise, as President Obama insisted a Catholic university cover the image of Christ during the Easter season while he spoke at that school, George Washington, our first President, demonstrated that he was not offended by the image of the risen Christ. In fact, our Nation's first President let his views be known quite clearly on his inauguration by a prayer which George Washington himself gave at his inauguration. He said, and I quote, Mr. Speaker: ''Almighty God, we make our earnest prayer that Thou wilt keep the United States in Thy holy protection; that Thou wilt incline the hearts of the citizens to cultivate a spirit of subordination and obedience to government; and entertain a brotherly affection and love for one another and for their fellow citizens of the United States at large. And finally, that Thou wilt most graciously be pleased to dispose us all to do justice, to love mercy, and to demean ourselves with that charity, humility and pacific temper of mind which were the characteristics of the Divine Author of our blessed religion, and without a humble imitation of whose example in these things we can never hope to be a happy nation. Grant our supplication, we beseech Thee, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.''

Mr. Speaker, our first President, George Washington, insisted on his inauguration day as the first President of this great country, that unless the citizens of our country imitate the example of Jesus Christ, that we would not be a happy Nation. What a clear contrast between our first President and our current President.

And with all due respect, Mr. Speaker, I think it's so important, on behalf of the Prayer Caucus of this Congress that, as the National Day of Prayer approaches, that all American citizens do what our first President prayed in his inaugural prayer, and what President Lincoln prayed as well in his address and in his proclamation, that we would do well to imitate the life and example of Jesus Christ, and we would do well to humbly not forget God, but to humble ourselves before an Almighty God and not expect that it is we ourselves that have created these blessings for our country, but that it is a gracious heavenly God who holds our Nation in His hands.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. DEFAZIO) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. DEFAZIO addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

CAP-AND-TRADE LEGISLATION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2009, the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. PENCE) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, I come to the floor tonight with an issue of enormous importance before the American people on my mind. And I'll be joined in just a few moments by distinguished colleagues from around the country who share my profound concern about legislation that has come to be known as cap-and-trade legislation. It is an effort that is under way here on Capitol Hill and from the Obama administration that could well result in an increase in energy cost for the average American household of more than $3,000 per year.

□ 2045

Now we want to talk about the facts and the data here because, even in newspapers and in wire services tonight, that number, which is the calculation of a study done by MIT, is the subject of some dispute and of some debate. I want to concede the point that the impact on the average American household, if the President and the majority's cap-and-trade bill were to become law, could actually be much higher than that. In fact, it would be President Obama, himself, as a candidate in January 2008, who spoke these words in a meeting with the editorial board of the San Francisco Chronicle, and I would say to any of our citizens who are looking in and who are Internet savvy: Don't take my word for it. Go to youtube.com and type in the President's name and the San Francisco Chronicle, and you can watch him say it for yourself.

I give the President, whose office and his person I respect, credit for candor. In January of 2008, he referred to this plan upon which he was campaigning and a plan upon which Democrats have now offered legislation, hearings for which begin this week.

The President said, ''Under my plan of a cap-and-trade system, electricity rates would necessarily skyrocket.'' Adding, ''That would cost money, and they will pass that money on to consumers.''

Let me say again: While a careful calculation of a study done, I believe, in 2007 by a distinguished university, MIT, estimates that the average American household would experience increased energy costs of some $3,128 per year, then candidate and now-President of the United States of America, Barack Obama, said that, if his cap-and-trade system passed into law, electricity rates would necessarily skyrocket.

Now, the last time I checked, which was just late last week, most of this country was going through one of the worst recessions we've experienced in decades. I say with a heavy heart that the people of Indiana recently learned that the unemployment rate in my fair State is now at 10 percent. The American people are hurting, struggling under the weight of the listing economic fortunes of this Nation. Let me say that the last thing, I believe, the American people want this Congress to do is to pass energy legislation in the name of dealing with climate change that could result in, to borrow the President's phrase, a skyrocketing of electricity rates on working families, small business owners and family farms.

As I prepare to begin to recognize some of my colleagues, many of whom have gotten to know more about this topic than I will have a chance to learn, I also want to make one more point about this: This legislation, known as the American Clean Energy and Security Act, offered on March 31, 2009, by House Energy and Commerce Chairman WAXMAN of California and by the Energy and Environment Subcommittee Chairman MARKEY, could not only result in this massive energy tax increase, but I want to say, if this legislation were to pass into law, it would be tantamount to a declaration of economic war on the Midwest by the liberal majority of this Congress.

Now, people who have known me over the last 8 years in this Congress know that I like to turn a phrase, but I don't like to be an alarmist, and so, for me to come to the floor of this Congress and say that I believe if the President's cap-and-trade bill were to become law it would, in effect, be a declaration of

economic war by liberals in Washington, D.C. on the Midwest, allow me to defend that point.

According to a recent study done by the Heritage Foundation, what they call their Manufacturing Vulnerability Index, a picture is worth 1,000 words. This map demonstrates the vulnerability being the highest among the dark red-colored States and the beige States being the least impacted by the cap-and-trade legislation. It tells the tale. I can't do better than this. So, when I say that to pass the cap-and-trade legislation could result in a massive national energy tax and would fall four-square on States that are most dependent on coal-burning power plants for the electricity that we use in our homes and in our small businesses and on our farms, the map tells the tale.

The least affected areas are on the coast—on the west coast and in the Northeast—in places like New Jersey, Massachusetts, New York, Maine, and New Hampshire. A wider diversity of electricity sources of energy would be the least impacted. Likewise, California, Arizona, Oregon, and Washington State would be among the least impacted, but for the Midwest and my State, which according to this study is virtually ground zero of the impact of cap-and-trade's economic burden, the coloration of this map tells the tale. States along the Ohio River Valley, States across—let me say with pride—the heartland of this country, States that depend the most on coal-burning power plants will bear the greatest burden and households and small businesses and family farms in that region, a region, which if I can say on a very personal level, is already struggling in these difficult times.

As I mentioned, there is 10 percent unemployment in the State of Indiana, and for my Michigan neighbors who are looking in tonight, forgive me for not knowing the number, but I do know it's worse, and to think that this Congress, even as we speak, would be contemplating a cap-and-trade piece of legislation that may result in a massive national energy tax increase, falling most harshly on the Midwest, is unconscionable.

Now let me say one last item before I yield to a freshman. I'm going to yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Texas, and we'll hear from Utah and from the gentlelady who just spoke. Let me say, Mr. Speaker, you've heard that I've qualified my estimates here, because the truth is that the American Clean Energy and Security legislation, offered by the distinguished gentleman from California and by the gentleman from Massachusetts, actually includes no specific numbers on how CO_2 emission allowances would be allocated to energy producers. In other words, we don't know whether they'll be free, whether they'll be auctioned—the so-called cap-and-trade scheme. We don't know what price. Therefore, the bill that is going to be the subject of hearings on Capitol Hill this week provides so little information that the Congressional Budget Office confirmed again today that they cannot score the cap-and-trade bill.

Now, as I told members of the media today, we had a little budget debate a few weeks ago, and I remember the Republicans came out with a budget alternative, you might remember, Mr. Speaker, and a few days before that, we thought it would be helpful to put out an outline of that budget alternative. Yet it's a live-and-learn deal around here, and what I learned was that the media really doesn't appreciate it when Republicans come forward without all the numbers in the proposal. I've internalized that lesson, and I'm applying it to the Waxman-Markey bill.

The truth of the matter is that a nonbinding budget resolution is one thing, but legislation that could literally change the economic fortunes of the heartland of America for generations is another.

The American people, Mr. Speaker, are entitled to know what all of this is going to cost, and we don't know today because the bill that will be the subject of hearings, that will be the subject of subcommittee markups just in a matter of days, I'm told, and that may well be on the floor here before we get to Memorial Day weekend has no numbers, no numbers for us to estimate the impact on the average American family, on the average small business owner and family farmer, and that is just not acceptable. So Republicans are left to use estimates like the study from MIT.

We took MIT's estimate of a key cap-and-trade bill from the 110th Congress, cosponsored then by Senator Obama, because the targets of that Senate bill tracked the emission targets outlined in the President's budget. We took MIT's own number, $366 billion, divided that by the number of U.S. households. We assumed about 300 million people and an average household size of 2.56 people, all right? If we use that formula, you get roughly $3,000 per household. Using current census figures, you get $3,128 per household using MIT's own numbers.

Why are we using that? Why are we doing this calculation? Because we don't have any numbers in the bill.

The American people have a right to know. They have a right to know that the price tag is on the plans of this administration and of this majority to raise a massive national energy tax in the name of climate change. We urge them with all deliberate speed to cease and desist any further progress on cap-and-trade legislation until they put the numbers in the bill—leave aside Republicans in the Congress—and until they give the American people the opportunity to count the cost. You know, the old book tells you: Before you build a tower, before you go to war, you count the cost. The American people deserve the right to count the cost on the cap-and-tax legislation that is going to begin to be considered this week. They deserve nothing less.

So, with that, I'd like to yield to a new Member of Congress from Texas. The distinguished gentleman (Mr. OLSON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. OLSON. Yes, sir. Well, thank you very much, my friend and colleague from Indiana, the chairman of our conference. I appreciate those eloquent remarks. I'm just going to echo them in a, probably, less eloquent way, but you are right on the money, my friend.

Last week, like my colleagues from Indiana, Utah and Minnesota, I was privileged to attend TEA parties across my district and to listen to my constituents express their outrage at the out-of-control spending that's going on here in Washington, D.C. While Washington goes on a spending spree, the American people are struggling to pay their mortgages on time, are concerned about keeping their jobs or about finding new jobs and are worried that their paychecks won't cover their bills.

Instead of trying to ease the economic burden on our families, congressional Democrats have decided to move forward with what I'll call a cap-and-tax plan—energy legislation that would place burdensome new taxes on American industries in the name of a short-sighted, politically correct and unscientifically proven environmental agenda. Even as families struggle to make ends meet, these new taxes could increase the cost of living of every single American, as my colleague said, by $3,100 per year for a family of four and could pull $860 billion out of family budgets to put in the Federal budget. I can't imagine a worse idea, and I can't imagine a worse time to do it. In these trying economic times, we should be doing everything we can to keep jobs in America and to encourage reinvestment in our own resources.

The Democrats' plan will increase the cost of doing business in the United States. It will put U.S. manufacturers at a competitive disadvantage, and it will likely force millions of U.S. manufacturing jobs overseas. The Democrats' bill even acknowledges the potential problem because they include rebates for specific sectors, industrial sectors, that would be harmed by the energy tax imposed by the bill. These specific industries are not named in the bill. Rather, the administration would get to pick and choose which industries would be eligible for the rebates—who wins, who loses.

As my colleague from Indiana eloquently said, the least the sponsor of this legislation could do is allow an honest debate over the course of the measure. Unfortunately, because of the lack of details in the draft legislation, the Congressional Budget Office is still not able to provide a cost estimate.

□ 2100

The bill does not identify how the tax would be levied or where the proceeds would be spent. How can we expect to debate a bill that will deeply alter our Nation's energy production and affect every American without the most important details? Specifically, how will

the Federal Government collect the more than $640 billion of taxes estimated to be imposed by this bill? And where will that money go once it is in the hands of the Federal Government?

Any plans to implement a cap-and-tax program cannot be considered in a vacuum. We must engage in a broader, more comprehensive energy discussion. But I look forward to working with my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to create an all-of-the-above energy solution that increases domestic energy production, supports renewable fuel innovation and encourages cleaner fuel technologies.

I thank my colleague for yielding.

Mr. PENCE. I thank the gentleman for his remarks and congratulate him on arriving on Capitol Hill and in such a short period of time commanding the respect of colleagues on both sides of the aisle. PETE OLSON, we thank you.

Mr. Speaker, before I recognize the gentlelady from Minnesota, let me amplify a point that Mr. OLSON made about the impact on this economy and jobs.

According to the National Association of Manufacturers, passing the cap-and-tax regime the likes of which Democrats are considering would result in the destruction of at least 3 to 4 million American jobs. According to the nonpartisan association, the National Association of Manufacturers, which really—as the gentlelady arrives at the podium—and I will recognize MICHELE BACHMANN from Minnesota—but this really begs the question, and I think this was a little bit of a question that was asked at some of the so-called TEA parties last Wednesday, people wonder if anybody in Washington here gets it anymore. I mean, during difficult times, every American family, every small business, every family farmer is out there finding ways to put off to tomorrow what they don't have to spend today. They are making sacrifices, they are making hard choices, they are looking for a little in-town income to supplement—looking for extra means to make it through.

What they are not doing is increasing spending in their family budgets and small business budgets, and they are certainly not increasing their costs. But that's what Washington, DC, is doing.

We've been on a spending spree over the first 3 months of this year: stimulus and omnibus and massive budget. And now the American people—as we dust off from being home with our families over the Passover and Easter holidays—and Congress is prepared to begin to have hearings on what could well be the largest tax increases in American history, a national energy tax that could raise the cost of living on every American household by more than $3,128 a year, which I hasten to add, as I recognize the gentlelady for 5 minutes until she asks me for more, I hasten to add that the President of the United States, that as a candidate in January of 2008, ''Under my plans,'' speaking of the President's plan of a cap-and-trade system, ''electricity rates would necessarily skyrocket.'' And that is precisely the massive tax, national tax increase that we are here to oppose today.

I am very pleased to yield 5 minutes to the gentlelady from Minnesota, MICHELE BACHMANN.

Mrs. BACHMANN. I thank so much my colleague, Mr. PENCE from Indiana, for yielding to me for 5 minutes.

And I want to recognize and honor our colleague, Mr. PETE OLSON.He's a wonderful freshman, and he's focused exactly on where we should be focusing, and that's on solutions.

We have a great solution to America's current energy crisis, and we do have one. And the great news is that the answer is here in our backyard. We have more coal in the United States than any other country in the world. We have abundant sources of natural gas. We have abundant sources of hydropower. We have abundant sources of wind, of solar. We have oil reserves. We have so much here in our backyard.

Instead of talking about a negative, draining our economy with the new cap-and-tax proposals, we could be here on this floor this evening talking about how we can create millions of new American jobs, high-paying jobs; be the lead exporter in the world of energy. That is the American story, and that's part of America's greatness. Unfortunately, the Obama administration, Mr. Speaker, as well as the Democrat majority that runs this body, is proposing a quite different solution. It's the new cap-and-tax proposal.

But people talk about cap-and-tax and they aren't sure exactly what we're talking about. Let's get back to step one: What is the problem? Why did we have to have this tax in the first place?

It's about carbon dioxide. Well, what is carbon dioxide?

Let us just go to a fundamental question. Carbon dioxide, Mr. Speaker, is a natural byproduct of nature. Carbon dioxide is natural. It occurs in Earth. It is a part of the regular life cycle of Earth. In fact, life on planet Earth can't even exist without carbon dioxide. So necessary is it to human life, to animal life, to plant life, to the oceans, to the vegetation that's on the Earth, to the fowls that fly in the air, we need to have carbon dioxide as a part of the fundamental life cycle of Earth.

As a matter of fact, carbon dioxide is portrayed as harmful, but there isn't even one study that can be produced that shows that carbon dioxide is a harmful gas. There isn't one such study because carbon dioxide is not a harmful gas. It is a harmless gas. Carbon dioxide is natural. It is not harmful. It is a part of Earth's life cycle. And yet we're being told that we have to reduce this natural substance and reduce the American standard of living to create an arbitrary reduction in something that is naturally occurring in the Earth.

We're told the crux of this problem is human activity. It's human actions that are creating more carbon dioxide. Is that true or false? Well, carbon dioxide is a natural part of the Earth's atmosphere. But carbon dioxide is perhaps 3 percent of the total atmosphere that's in the Earth. So if you take a pie chart and all of Earth's atmosphere, carbon dioxide is perhaps 3 percent of that total.

What part of human activity creates carbon dioxide? If carbon dioxide is a negligible gas and it's only 3 percent of Earth's atmosphere, what part is human activity? Human activity contributes perhaps 3 percent of the 3 percent. In other words, human activity is maybe 3 percent contributing to the 3 percent of carbon dioxide that's in Earth's atmosphere. It's so negligible; it's a fraction of a fraction of a percent. It can hardly be quantified.

But let's go ahead and give those who believe in the global warming theory, let's give them their due. And let's say that former Vice President Al Gore is completely right in all of his premises. Let's give him his every premise that he believes on carbon dioxide and that emissions are rising here on planet Earth. Let's give him every premise.

And as we give him every premise, let's also give former Vice President Gore every solution that he believes the United States should embrace to address global warming: that we need to reduce our standard of living, tax our people, hike up the taxes. Let's say we put into place every solution that Vice President Gore has put forth for our country.

Even if we give Vice President Gore his premise, even if we give him his solution, what will be the result? Under his own figures, under Al Gore's own figures, we would reduce the amount of carbon emissions in Earth's atmosphere by the year 2095—the end of this century—we would reduce them by less than seven-hundredths of 1 percent. In other words, the temperature of Earth would drop less than seven-hundredths of 1 percent by the year 2095, and we would be essentially bankrupting our economy to do that. Certainly we would be dramatically lowering the American standard of living.

What will this mean? As my colleague, MIKE PENCE, has said, the American people will be paying not once for their electric bill; they will be paying twice. The American people will be paying double. They will be paying double for their electric bill; they will be paying increased prices at the gas pump, increased prices at the grocery store. They will be paying increased prices when they go to Target or Kohl's to buy clothing or goods for their family or to Wal-Mart. When they go to buy furniture, the prices will be included. Why? Because energy touches every part of American life. There is no part of American life or life anywhere on the planet that energy doesn't touch. What will that mean?

That will mean dramatic job losses. As a matter of fact, a study in Spain was concluded and it talked about new

green jobs that were created. For every green job that was created in Spain, 2.2 jobs were lost in Spain. Is that what we want in the United States, create green jobs only to see a dramatic reduction in American jobs? As my colleague, Mr. PENCE, said, the American heartland—I represent the great State of Minnesota—we can't afford that. And the chart that Congressman PENCE pointed to stated in the Heritage Study that Minnesota would lead the Nation in job losses if this new cap-and-tax situation was put into place, is that what America wants? I don't think so.

When you look at the fact that carbon dioxide is a natural Earth substance, part of Earth's life cycle, that human activity only contributes 3 percent of 3 percent, so negligible that even if we give the global warming enthusiasts every premise and put into place every prescription, that even so, by the year 2095, we will only reduce carbon dioxide emissions less than seven-hundredths of a percent. And we are willing to export American jobs to do that and do that in spite of knowing that China and India have already declared, We're not in. We're not in. So you might as well call President Obama's and the Democrats' cap-and-tax plan the ''India and China job stimulus plan'' because that's exactly what this will mean for the American economy.

We can do so much better.

As our colleague, PETE OLSON, said, we can, instead, embrace American energy solutions and create more natural gas, more oil, more coal, cleaner ways of heating and electrifying our Nation. That's not the way President Obama wants to go. President Obama said you can build a new coal plant but we will bankrupt you. As my colleague, MIKE PENCE, said, your electricity prices will skyrocket. It doesn't have to be that way.

I am so excited about solutions that we can have in our country, and that would be to make life better for the average American by reducing America's energy cost. This is reality. This is the good news. It's available to you, and the Republicans have a plan to do just that.

I yield back to my colleague from Indiana to tell more of the positive solution and the concerns that we have about this new cap-and-tax. As we go forward in the next weeks, we want to let the American people know, Mr. Speaker, that there are solutions to this problem, that we don't have to reduce America's standard of living.

With that, I would yield back to my colleague and thank him with much appreciation for hosting this remarkable hour this evening.

Mr. PENCE. I thank the gentlelady. And before she departs the floor—reclaiming my time—I would call the attention, Mr. Speaker, to you and anyone who might be looking in, to a map that reflects recent research done by the highly respected Heritage Foundation. They call this the manufacturing vulnerability index, which really calculates what the gentlelady said about her home State of Minnesota, my home State of Indiana, represent those kind of heartland States that will be undeniably most impacted by a cap-and-tax system.

I would yield to the gentlelady for a quick response. We're struggling in Indiana. Our economy, Mr. Speaker, has a 10 percent unemployment rate. The idea of Congress actually making a priority today—in the name of climate change—to pass legislation without numbers in it. Again, I want to emphasize we don't have numbers in this bill, but the estimates are based on independent studies that it will cost millions of jobs, the estimates are that it will burden families.

I would just ask the gentlelady, are the good people of Minnesota in a better position than the people of Indiana to absorb a national energy tax of some $3,128 per household?

I would yield.

□ 2115

Mrs. BACHMANN. Absolutely not. As a matter of fact, in Minnesota, we have had, historically, a very low level of unemployment. However, now, with the economy in the condition it is in, Minnesota is very unusual; we are upwards of 8 percent unemployment. In my largest city, we are looking at approximately 10 percent unemployment. In one of my great rural counties, we are also at about 10 percent level of unemployment. In Minnesota, that is absolutely unheard of.

And I would also refer to the map that the gentleman from Indiana is holding. This is a wealth redistribution scheme—some people would call that socialism. This is a wealth redistribution scheme. The reason why I say that is because the individuals in the United States that live in the heartland will be paying the tax, much of which will be redistributed to States on the coast, which will be paying negligible tax. And so all of that money will be taken out of the area in the United States that is very hard hit by this economy and transferred to Washington, D.C. and redistributed to other States.

This is adding insult to injury to an already painful process that a lot of people are going through. And that is why no one can understand this right now. I think no more clear statement needs to be said than that which our President stated perhaps about 4 or 5 weeks ago when he stated, he will have—this is a nonnegotiable. He wants this cap-and-tax. This is President Obama's highest priority. He wants this passed. But he also said that our economy couldn't take the imposition of this tax right now; it couldn't take it because our economy is vulnerable. So he is saying that he wants to delay imposition of this tax until 2012.

What does that tell the American people? The American people are smarter than that. They recognize this is a tremendous burden on their pocketbook and a job killer and, therefore, it should be a deal killer here in the Congress. And I know for you this is, for me this is. We have got to get to a better solution. Thank God we have one.

Mr. PENCE. I thank the gentlelady. And I will let her get on to her evening. But I did hear news reports of the administration's suggestion that they might consider phasing in the cap-and-tax. It kind of reminds me of that story of how you boil a frog, whether you turn the heat up slowly and bring it to a boil or whether you drop it into scalding water, it seems to me you've still got a dead frog at the end of that story.

The truth of the matter is that there are better solutions, solutions where we don't end up transferring enormous amounts of wealth from the heartland of the country, from the manufacturing bedrock of this Nation, if I can say with some regional pride. There are better solutions where we can deal with CO_2 emissions, with new technologies. We can develop a broad, comprehensive energy strategy. And as I thank the gentlelady, Mr. Speaker, and wish her a restful evening, I am prepared to recognize the distinguished gentleman from Utah (Mr. BISHOP).

Let me just assure, it has been mentioned by several of my colleagues, I was actually asked by the Republican leader of the Congress to lead a Republican Energy Solutions Working Group. We have brought together not only the distinguished ranking member of the Energy and Commerce Committee, JOE BARTON, but also I've got the capable assistance of co-chairmen in the likes of Congressman JOHN SHIMKUS, Congressman FRED UPTON, men who have the experience and the background that helped us develop the American Energy Act as a Republican alternative in the last Congress and are in the process of building a comprehensive Republican energy alternative as we speak.

There are better solutions. There are better options. We can achieve cleaner air without raising taxes on every American household in the form of a national energy tax, a cost of living tax, according to estimates, of more than $3,128 per year.

Before I yield to the gentleman, let me say this point again because it is—you can probably tell I am a pretty patient man, Mr. Speaker, but when it comes down to denying the American people the information that they need to make informed choices, I am an impatient man. The truth is—and anyone looking on deserves to know—that this week this Congress will begin to debate what could well result in a massive change in our energy generation system in this country, the so-called cap-and-trade system, which would fall foursquare on coal-burning power plants in this country, would fall foursquare on the region of the country that I call home in Indiana and the industrial Midwest that relies so heavily

on coal-burning power plants. And this massive multigenerational impact on our economy, on our way of life, all in the name of climate change, and we have no numbers.

Mr. Speaker, it is not acceptable. It is not acceptable that the American Clean Energy and Security legislation that will be the subject of hearings beginning this week has been brought to the floor so bereft of detail that the Congressional Budget Office cannot tell the Members of this Congress or the people of the United States of America how much this is all going to cost. That is not acceptable. I urge my colleagues, burn the midnight oil, put the numbers in, or pull these hearings, pull this legislation until you can produce a bill that my colleagues—like the gentleman sitting across the aisle tonight, colleagues that I respect, colleagues with whom I differ vehemently on issues, but whose integrity I respect—that our colleagues can come together and have an honest debate about what this will really cost the American people.

Let's debate climate change. Let's debate the science. Let's debate the solutions for achieving carbon dioxide reductions and particulates. But let's also debate the cost. Let's allow the American people to count the cost before this Congress considers a massive national energy tax that could change our economy forever and essentially amounts to an economic declaration of war on the Midwest by liberals here in Washington, D.C.

With that, I am pleased to yield such time as he may consume to the former Speaker of the Utah State House, a distinguished member of the Republican minority, the gentleman from Utah (Mr. BISHOP), an expert on issues of energy and an eloquent spokesman about positive solutions.

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. I appreciate the kind words from the gentleman from Indiana. And I understand not only the passion, but the desire to be able to have some kind of strong, stable numbers that you can grasp to try and discuss the debate. No one really knows what it is going to do when you are trying to go into the darkness of a room that doesn't have the lights turned on—maybe because there is too much of an energy tax—but doesn't have the lights turned on to tell us what those numbers actually are.

We have heard a great deal about the cap-and-tax proposal. I would like to take the debate maybe one step backwards slightly and just talk about a few basic principles if I could. For we have been engaged in this Congress in something I find very unique, something we haven't had in the last 15 or 16 years in either the Bush or Clinton administrations. We are truly involved in a philosophical, fundamental debate in this Congress. There are those in this Congress and in the administration who truly believe that the best solutions to our problems lie in increasing the role of government. And there are others who truly believe that the best way of finding those solutions are in empowering individuals. And on every issue we have had to date in this Congress, that is truly the crux of the debate. I mean, we may be talking about energy today, or we may be talking about health care tomorrow, or we may be talking about bank bailouts, housing, the budget yesterday. But in each of these issues, that was the same debate; is the better solution empowering individuals or growing the size of government? And in each of those debate areas, in all sincerity, the Democrats basically gave us three options. And it doesn't matter which issue you want to use, you can just put it in there and it is basically the same concept, that in each of these issues they decided, first of all, that it will be the government that will dictate and regulate.

In this cap-and-tax or cap-and-trade policy, if it goes through, every person will use the kind of energy and the style of energy as has been dictated by Washington. And in so doing, it would create bigger government, when the EPA will already say without additional legislation they have the power to control the air that we breathe just as they have said they have the power to control the water so they can illustrate or demand that an irrigation ditch be classified as part of the navigable water system of the United States. That is essentially big government.

The third element is that it will involve higher taxes. By the President's own budget numbers, this program is identified in his budget as adopting $600-plus billion of new revenue coming from this cap-and-tax. And it is revenue that is not going to the production of alternative energy; it is revenue that would go into the paying for the increase of government that we have done in other bills that we have debated already. And any time that we actually talk about higher taxes, they become winners and losers, as the gentleman from Indiana showed you on his map.

If you go to the west coast, the Speaker's district, for example, with a great deal of hydrogen power, there is less of an impact than if you go to the heartland of this country, into the Midwest, where almost all their energy comes from coal-fired sources. There are winners and losers in this type of approach. And even the President's budget director simply said that this program will impose costs on the economy, and we need to know what those costs are in very, very specific numbers.

You know, last week we had the TEA tax protests that were going on. And as an old history teacher, I'm sorry, I had to think about this, history does repeat itself. Back in 1773, the British East India Company was in financial trouble, and so the Parliament decided the British East India Company was too big to fail and, therefore, they entered into a bailout agreement. And in this bailout agreement, they imposed a one-size-fits-all mandate on the colonies that the only tea they could drink would be imposed and come from the British East India Company, and the only tax they would pay had to go back to one specific source. It is amazing sometimes that we actually do repeat what has happened in history.

Now, I said this is a basic debate and the Democrats have three positions. Well, so do the Republicans, and a vast contrast to them, whatever the issue you want to put in there. But the first one goes back to the idea that the fundamental difference in the solutions that Republicans have proffered—whether they were actually heard on the floor or not, but have proffered—the first one is to go back to the concept that we believe there should be choice and options for Americans. The Founding Fathers in 1773, when they were dumping tea in the harbor, were not just upset about a tax—which, actually, technically, had been lowered—they were upset about the fact that they were eliminated the choice to drink whatever tea they wanted to; that if they wanted to pay for a more expensive Dutch brand, they could not have that option.

You know, when I was growing up and I wanted a particular song in the age of plastic records, you had to buy the whole album to get the song. Now, I don't know how iPods work, but my kids tell me that it's cool enough right now that you can actually download the particular song you want. You look around in the world we have today, and everybody, in almost every aspect of their lives, is able to select and make choices and options except when you deal with the Federal Government. And maybe it is time the government needs to realize that, rather than giving a one dictate, one solution and regulate it, you allow people the choice to have options, and in so doing, you empower people with those choices.

We have already had different concepts placed on the table that are out there for debate. The No-Cost Stimulus Act is one that I sponsored with Senator VITTER that deals with developing energy sources across the board. The Western Caucus will join with the Republican Study Committee in coming up with an option. There will be more options that will empower Americans to be able to make choices by using all of the above, not taking some energy sources off the table, not trying to use a tax that will pick winners and losers, but simply trying to give those. And those will be alternatives that we will be throwing out.

There are some people that say my party is the party of ''no.'' I have to admit, with some of the bills we have had on the floor, it is very easy to vote that way. But if you were to ask me if the bailout bills excessively entangled business and government, I would say yes. If you asked me if the stimulus bill stimulated the growth of government more than jobs, I would say yes.

If the GIVE Act actually paid people to volunteer and allowed groups like ACORN to get Federal funding? Yes. If the omnibus land bill made a difference in making it more difficult for the Park Service to fulfill their mission, I would say yes. If the AIG bonus tax was an unconstitutional tax that was a regressive cumulative tax to try and get even with somebody, I would say yes. But if Homeland Security, when they implied that veterans may be part of a right-wing group that needs to be watched carefully, and you asked me if that was outrageous, I would say yes. If you asked if the budget spends too much, taxes too much, and borrows too much, I would say yes. In all due respect to my colleague from Indiana, I think we are the party of ''yes''; it is just the media is not asking the right questions.

And if you were to ask whether empowerment of people and giving them options and choices is the right thing to do, emphatically yes. Because when we try to lower taxes, we take the winners and losers off the table and realize that far too often when we raise taxes, it is people who are on the margins are the ones who are most likely to be harmed.

□ 2130

If you were rich, a cap-and-trade policy, or a cap-and-tax policy, will be merely an annoyance, just as the $4-a-gallon gasoline was last fall. It kind of takes you back to the medieval time period where the aristocracy knew that there were sins out there but they could simply go down and buy an indulgence and thereby simply continue on with the same lifestyle without any kind of inhibitions or disruptions whatsoever because they simply bought their way out of it. Poor people could never do that. People on the poverty level today where 50 percent of their income goes to energy, when they hear us talk about energy processes or energy policies, for them that debate is how they heat their homes and how they cook their food and whether they'll be able to afford a luxury like tuna casserole this evening.

Affordable, comprehensive, and available energy has been the great equalizer in the history of this country, allowing people to escape poverty and move forward. When we talk about programs that are either going to take money away from those people and then maybe even return it, that is a ridiculous concept. If we talk about programs that are going to increase the prices for those on the margins to survive and to live, that's the same thing as a direct tax on those individuals. For, indeed, if we get to the point in those different parts of this country where you go into a room and you have to flip on the light switch, and if you're rich, it's okay, you can handle it; but if you're poor, you have to determine where flipping on that light switch today makes a difference on whether you can afford Hamburger Helper tonight, we have reached the point where we are no longer taking care of the needs of our people, and we are putting a great slice of the American population at extreme risk.

That is a dangerous situation in which to move, and it should be done carefully and it should be done realistically with, as the gentleman from Indiana has said, the numbers and the debate all on the table. That's the future, and that is the fundamental debate that we will be having on this issue and with every other issue, transportation, housing, budget, that we will come up with. That's all there.

With that, I thank the gentleman for yielding to me.

Mr. PENCE. I thank the gentleman for his extraordinary remarks and eloquence. And let me thank my colleagues who have joined me and let me thank you, Mr. Speaker, for the courtesy of recognizing us for this debate. It will be the first of many, many hours on this floor, in committees, on the airwaves, and on the stump that House Republicans and, I expect, more than a few Democrats are going to be taking a case against this extraordinary national energy tax increase to the American people.

I am very provoked by the larger themes that Congressman BISHOP brought forward tonight because, as I have been tapped to lead the House Republican Energy Solutions Working Group. Republicans will be coming up with an alternative energy strategy that will be built on precisely those ideals, on choices and options, on empowering individuals and small businesses, and on not only not raising taxes, as the President's cap-and-trade plan intends to do, a strategy of tax increases and fees on utility companies that will be passed along to the consuming public, most especially those of us who live in the Midwest; Republicans will be bringing forward ideas to actually use the Tax Code to give incentives for energy-producing companies to develop the new technologies that will result in cleaner air and a safer environment.

But let me recap, if I can. Anyone looking in tonight, Mr. Speaker, has a right to know this week, in the midst of these challenging economic times, this Congress is going to begin hearings and in a matter of a few days is going to begin the process of legislating, marking up, and ultimately bringing to the floor within this month legislation that could result in an increase in the cost of living, energy cost of living, of some $3,128 per year for every working family, small business, and family farm in America. And as the Heritage Foundation's recent Manufacturing Vulnerability Index showed, the President's cap-and-tax proposal will fall most squarely on the heartland of America, where my heart is, in the State of Indiana, and other great States of the industrial Midwest. Why? Is there an intention to go after a part of the country? Of course not. It's that we out in the Midwest along the Ohio River Valley, there where I went to college, we rely on coal-burning power plants for an inordinate amount of our electrical energy, in our businesses, in our farms, and in our homes. So the President's plan to cap and tax utility companies that burn coal principally will fall foursquare on the Midwest. In fact, the President admitted this point, and I give him high marks for candor and clarity.

In January, 2008, the President said: ''Under my plan of cap-and-trade system, electricity rates would necessarily skyrocket. That will cost money. They,'' referring to utility companies, he said, ''will pass that money on to consumers.'' Give the President of the United States credit for candor.

And, you know, as I always tell folks back home, don't take a politician's word for it. Go to youtube.com and type in the President's name respectfully and type in ''San Francisco Chronicle,'' and you can watch him say it for himself, as more than 200,000 Americans already have.

The last complaint I have is just that it's about the numbers. I spoke to a number of colleagues in the media today and pointed out to them that the Waxman-Markey bill that will begin hearings today includes no specifics whatsoever on how CO_2 emission allowances will be allocated to energy producers. In other words, we don't know if they'll be free or if they'll be auctioned or at what price. This legislation they are about to have hearings on is bereft of numbers. That the Congressional Budget Office can't even tell us what it's going to cost. Namely, the American people are expecting this Chamber to take up legislation that could transform the economy of this Nation forever, transform the economy of the Midwest forever, and we are not being given the numbers necessary to count the cost and make an informed judgment. And that is simply not acceptable.

I close with some words that I first noticed about a year ago. They are the only words chiseled on the wall other than ''In God We Trust,'' which I also believe. But Daniel Webster has got some words up there that without my reading glasses on, I can't get all of them, but they are actually words about the environment, and they are words about natural resources. Isn't it interesting that in the last century as they put together this room, they put words up on the wall that talked about natural resources and energy. It's pretty interesting. Daniel Webster, at some point in his storied career, said, ''Let us develop the resources of this great Nation and call forth its power, and in so doing, let us do something worthy to be remembered.''

I really believe that the foundation of American greatness is our faith in God, our freedom, and our vast natural resources. The combination and our fealty to those three things, our belief

that America wasn't just an accident with somebody sailing on the way to India, that Providence had His hand on this miracle, our belief in freedom and free institutions and private property, economic and political freedom, combined with this extraordinary continent of natural resources, has allowed us to build the freest and most prosperous Nation in the history of the world. We can confront every challenge facing us in the 21st century if we build on that foundation of a belief in freedom and embrace those natural resources and renewing our faith in Him who set this miracle on these shores. But it all begins with knowing what we're doing.

So let's get the details out. The American people deserve to know what's in the cap-and-tax bill before the hearings start tomorrow, and we will keep coming to this floor until we get the numbers for every single one of those Americans that will be affected.

ENERGY AND THE CLIMATE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. MAFFEI). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2009, the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. BLUMENAUER) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, it was enjoyable to listen here to my colleagues from the other side of the aisle with their version of what they would like the debate to be about.

I do hope that the American public zeros in on what we are saying here tonight, listens to my friends on the other side of the aisle, and draws their own conclusions. This is the most important discussion that we are going to have in this session of Congress.

Now, my good friend, the gentlewoman from Minnesota, doesn't think there are any problems with the concentration of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere. It's interesting to listen to her say that something that was naturally occurring simply couldn't be harmful, ignoring the fact that we have the highest concentrations of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere for two-thirds of a million years. The consensus of the scientific community, not people making things up on the floor of the House, is that this has been profoundly influenced by human activity starting with the dawn of the Industrial Revolution, where we started consuming huge quantities of coal, burning fossil fuels, accelerating that over time. The consensus of the scientific community is that this is, in fact, a serious problem.

The debate is going far beyond sort of the modest disputes that people may take back and forth from one another that it may not work. The new Secretary of the Department of Energy has likened it to somebody who has been given an assessment by an engineer that their house is in danger of falling down, that it has an 80 percent chance of falling down or burning up because of faulty wiring. And the response, before a rational person spends huge sums of money, they might get a second opinion. And if that second opinion says, yes, that house is going to burn up or fall down in the not too distant future, it would be not irrational to maybe get a third or a fourth. But as Secretary Chu points out, it's pretty risky business to run through all the engineering professionals until you find one outlier who says forget about it, don't worry, your house isn't going to fall down. None of us, none of us, would treat our family that way.

I am embarrassed for them that they continue to trot out the number of somehow a $3,100 cost on the American public according to an MIT research analysis. Well, as I pointed out during the debate on the budget before the floor of the House of Representatives, that is a hopelessly tortured interpretation of some decent scientific research. The author of that study, John Reilly, sent, on the 1st of April, to JOHN BOEHNER a letter setting the record straight. Mr. Reilly indicated that it was wrong in so many ways, it's hard to begin. The fact is that they totally misrepresented the thrust of the research and they assumed that none of the benefits would flow back to the economy or the families in question.

□ 2145

Professor Reilly pointed out that that's a bogus number, that it is perhaps, at most, one-tenth of that amount, according to their research. And yet the Republican leadership and Republican members keep coming to the floor citing erroneous information, but it is symptomatic of the approach that they have taken to this critical issue. They ignore the fact that we are facing dramatic changes to our economy, to the health and future of our family, to our way of life, to the environment, if we continue down this path.

Sir Nicholas Stern issued a report on behalf of the British Government that indicated, according to their analysis, that the cost of inaction is five times greater than the threat of moving forward and making a change.

So it's one-fortieth of what BOEHNER is talking about and the other Republican talking points, but they are not comparing it to what is happening to our environment now and where this path is going with rising temperatures, with permafrost that is no longer perma, roads buckling, changing patterns of disease, insects, problems with forests that are infected, coastal areas washed away, drought, loss of snowpack.

These are things that we are facing right now in the United States. The high likelihood is that it is a result of our dependence on fossil fuels, greenhouse gases, failure to act.

And if we follow this path, we are going to pay a much greater price over time. But it is not true that there are no benefits to this alternative.

You know, if our friends on the other side of the aisle would ignore the advice of the Republican leadership that they not be legislators, that they be communicators, if they would ignore that, roll up their sleeves, work in the committees of jurisdiction, we would have an opportunity to have the give-and-take. We would be able to focus on optimal ways to make sure that the fees for carbon pollution are channeled back to the American public and incent new matters of economic development.

We are seeing an explosion in solar and wind energy. We have an opportunity to not only create new industries, but of making America no longer the greatest waster of energy in the world. We waste more energy than any country in the world at great cost to American families.

If the Republicans join with us, roll up their sleeves and look at alternative ways of dealing with the fees on carbon pollution, we would be able to provide opportunities for a whole host of new products, techniques, buildings and at the same time we can reduce the energy costs of American families.

It is true that if the massive polluters of carbon pollution into the atmosphere, if they are finally charged a fee, if it is no longer free for them to pollute the atmosphere with carbon like we did with sulfur dioxide, like we did with CFCs—and, I must note, at that time industry analysts, the Republicans, apologists, some of the business associations, claim that acid rain, the trading, was going to wreck the environment. They claimed that the health benefits were not supported by science.

Well, the OMB has found that the acid rain program accounted for the largest quantified human health benefits in history: $70 billion annually, more than any federally-implemented program in the last 10 years with benefits exceeding costs more than 40–1. Likewise, when we were concerned about ozone-depleting chemicals, DuPont warned that the United States' costs would exceed $135 billion and ''entire industries would fold.'' Well, the actual costs were almost 100 times less, and not only didn't DuPont fold, but they made millions of dollars selling substitutes for phased-out chemicals.

Mr. Speaker, I hope that there will be some attention from the American public, attention to what the consequences will be for a fee on carbon pollution, the benefits for stopping the progress of global warming, the benefits for a whole new array of industries and practices, ways to make families safer, strengthen America, reduce our dependence on foreign oil, and move us into a path in the future.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased that I am joined this evening by a number of my distinguished colleagues who are leaders in the efforts to protect the environment and the American public and to chart a new direction for environmental protection and the revitalization of our economy, creating jobs and saving the taxpayer money.

One that I would like to turn to right now is my friend PAUL TONKO from New

York, who came to Congress recently, but he has over two decades of administrative, legislative and policy experience. I have been pleased to work with him on these initiatives to share the program with him, and I would yield to my friend to provide some of his insights into this issue.

Mr. TONKO. I appreciate the gentleman from Oregon, and he obviously has an outstanding voice speaking to what is the smart approach to the future of this country and certainly to the impact that we can make on American households and on American businesses.

The country faces, undeniably, economic energy and certainly climate crises, and this is a time for a plan of action.

I believe that as we have just heard, there are these opportunities that are shelf ready, available to American consumers, to American businesses today. There are emerging technologies as we speak. This requires an immense investment.

And if there is a strategy that has been promoted here by the President that has been advanced by the Speaker of this House, NANCY PELOSI, and endorsed by the leadership, it's to move forward in a way that is intellectually honest, looking at the factors out there that exist. The human elements that are causing an impact through global warming, through climate change that are growing the carbon footprint.

The President knows that the down payment of the Recovery Act was just the beginning of the story. He knows that in order to resolve the many crises facing this country, including, primarily, an economic crisis, we need to be smart about our plan of action. He knows that it will require an investment, an investment through R&D, of research and development that will enable us to produce savings.

And we hear an awful lot of talk about a tax being imposed. The tax that is imposed is coming through billions of dollars, hundreds of billions of dollars paid by American companies, by American consumers, by households, that is going to places like the Middle East and Venezuela, paying for fossil-based fuels that are polluting our environment, that are driving downward, through these crises, the American economy.

We have an option out there, and that option is to be smart, to go forward with American-produced power, done through American jobs, to save and grow American jobs. That is a good and clever strategy. We can do this by embracing the intellectual capacity of this great Nation, shelf-ready opportunities of which I am quite familiar.

Certainly, when I was over at the Energy Research and Development Authority in New York State, I witnessed firsthand how policies and programs were implemented by that authority that is nationally inspected, and it was through the retrofits that we had done with the farming community, with the business community, with households, through building efforts, that we were able to achieve immense savings.

These savings are dollars and benefits to the consuming public. They are job creating in terms of dynamics. When we look at the renewable standards, the renewable energy standards that are part of the package to respond to the energy crises of this country, we are talking about the creation of some 300,000 jobs.

When we look at the energy efficiency resource standards, we are looking at some 220,000 jobs. When we look at the economic savings of the energy jobs creation, the green-collar job creation, we are talking about a savings of some of $100 billion. In the area of energy efficiency, a savings of $170 billion. So these are real dollars. They are savings.

What I think our friends who are speaking so vociferously against this proposal do not comprehend, that savings and cleanup of our environment are benefits that are immeasurable at this point in time, and this economy requires that sort of investment, that sort of policy creation.

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Absolutely spot on, and I hope that you can stay with us.

We have been joined by a number of our colleagues here, and I would like to be able to move as quickly as I can to include them, because we have truly outstanding leaders.

I want to turn next to JOHN HALL, with whom I have been privileged to serve on the Select Committee on Energy Independence and Global Warming.

Our colleague, Congressman HALL, has been a leader in the environmental movement long before he came to Congress. In fact, my wife has music that he recorded, a song that maybe he will sing here from the floor, but a man truly ahead of his time, multitalented and passionate about how we save the environment.

Mr. HALL of New York. Thank you, Mr. BLUMENAUER. If you don't mind, I will confine myself to lyrics tonight.

Like you, I have noticed over the years that industries that are about to be regulated cry wolf and say that jobs will be lost.

As I recall when seat belts were first proposed for cars, the automobile industry said: Oh, you are going to put us out of business. You are going to throw people out of work. And, instead, it created a whole new industry of building and installing and maintaining seat belts. The same thing with air bags in cars: Oh, you are going to put us out of work. You are going to cause a big loss of jobs.

And, instead, SRS and other companies sprang up inventing, designing, installing and maintaining air bags in cars. The same thing goes for scrubbers on coal power plants and so on and so forth.

So I would like to speak as a member of the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee because the surface transportation bill that we are going to work on this year will be critical to solving the climate change problem. This upcoming surface transportation reauthorization is a historic opportunity to take us forward toward a 21st century solution and a 21st century transportation network and begin to deal with climate change.

If this bill does not focus, not only on building and repairing roads and bridges, which is important and does create jobs, but also on increasing the share of funding going toward mass transit, then it will be a missed opportunity.

If the bill does not increase funding for alternative modes of transportation like bicycles and pedestrian walking paths and intercity passenger rail, then it will be a missed opportunity. If this bill does not change the way we think about land use planning so that we focus on smart growth, good land use planning principles and transit-oriented development and complete streets, we will have missed an opportunity.

And if this bill does not encourage the use of renewable fuels on electric vehicles and plug-in hybrids, it will be a missed opportunity.

□ 2200

I must remark that a couple of weeks ago I drove one of the test vehicles that was here outside that gets 250 miles per gallon in the plug-in hybrid version. And the pure electric version, I'm sure you saw it here, I won't mention the brand name because I don't want to be seen as endorsing a particular company, but we could find it on the Internet with a little search. The pure electric version currently gets a 70-mile-per-hour top speed and 100-mile range, well within the commuting range and the speed necessities of most commuters. So we need to look at all these things that, hopefully, will do that in this bill.

Furthermore, there's a great opportunity not just to mitigate climate change effects which have environmental and public health benefits, but also in developing new technologies which cannot or should not be outsourced. We should be creating jobs right here the United States and reinvigorating our economy. We, the country who put a man on the Moon, should be leading the way in these new technologies and not conceding that lead, new technologies to other countries.

So I will stay around to take part in the discussion for a little while. But I appreciate, Congressman BLUMENAUER, your organizing this hour, and thank you for inviting me to be a part of it.

Mr. BLUMENAUER. I deeply appreciate your comments, your insights. We'll worry about the music later.

But it is something that you have helped me with, some of the insights that you've offered on our work on the Global Warming Committee, and I appreciate your joining us.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the subject of my Special Order.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Oregon?

There was no objection.

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Congressman HIMES, a new Member of Congress, but somebody who has been involved with community development and finance for a number of years at the local level in Connecticut, has already hit the ground running, being actively involved in these debates and deeply appreciate your willingness to enter into this discussion this evening.

Mr. HIMES. Thank you, Mr. BLUMENAUER. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am deeply honored to be standing on this floor where, for over a century and a half, our predecessors have taken the tough decisions, made the hard choices to set the American economy up for greatness. I'm talking about the investment in the highway system. I'm talking about the investment in the Internet, which has opened up vast new swaths of our economy. And we have that kind of opportunity now. In fact, we have that challenge right now. And the question is, will we find the will to rise to that challenge?

And I want to confine my remarks tonight to a very, very important topic, which is the fact that we have a renewable energy resource that is clean, cheap, abundant and available right now, by which of course I refer to the energy that we don't use because we conserve it, because we take advantage of the ugly fact that we are far too inefficient in our use of energy.

There is a history to this. We would simply be accelerating something that has been true now for decades. The Alliance to Save Energy estimates that without the efficiency gains that we were forced to make starting in 1973, when foreign nations decided to force us to make these efficiency gains, that we would use 50 percent more energy than we used to. And there's a lesson here. There is a lesson here that we can continue, not because a foreign country forces us to do it, but that we can choose to affirmatively capture this readily available energy resource.

Let me comment on a couple of ideas and areas that I happen to know well, having worked on the rehabilitation of this country's affordable housing stock for many years. The fact is that roughly 40 percent of the energy that we use in this country is used in our built environment, in our homes, our building, our commercial facilities, and we operate far less efficiently than we might.

At Enterprise Community Partners, we would do a rehabilitation of a 100-year-old tenement, 5-, 6-story tenement in New York City, built at a time when coal was pennies per ton and, therefore, builders and architects didn't think about efficiency. We would rehabilitate that structure and take 60 or 70 percent of the energy usage out of that building, 60 to 70 percent out a building which represents collectively 40 percent of the this country's energy usage.

You can't always achieve 60 or 70 percent. In our homes we achieve something; when we weatherize we achieve something like 30 percent energy savings. And I'm delighted and proud that the Recovery Act that passed on this floor made available $1 billion for weatherization around this country.

I was holding a caulk gun a mere 36 hours ago helping to weatherize a home in Bridgeport, Connecticut, where not only would we reduce the energy used in that home, but we would create a healthier home for the individual. And as it happened, these programs target low-income individuals, and so we would cut their energy bill substantially. And in this particular home, this woman was struggling to pay her bills. And if we could take 30 percent off of her utility bills, that would make all the difference between the kind of food she could buy, whether she could take some time off, whether she might educate her children. We can do this. And I'm delighted to say that as part of this much broader effort to rise to the generational challenge of our day, we will be submitting legislation very soon that will require the use of green building standards in HUD-subsidized housing; that will provide financing mechanisms which bridge a gap which has existed for far too long, a guarantee which recognizes the fact that you can spend a little bit of extra money, not a lot, a little bit of extra money to build green, but that you quickly get that money back in reduced utility and power bills in 2, 3 and 4 years.

This mechanism would simply guarantee lending associated with that small increment of additional capital that will very rapidly be repaid through reduced operating costs.

This bill, we hope will drop this week and, hopefully, will take a very big step towards addressing what is 40 percent of the energy usage in this country. So I'm just as excited as possible to stand here with my colleagues to say that we will rise to the generational challenge of our era.

My colleagues on the other side of this floor often are fond of asking us what sorts of burdens are we placing on our children and our grandchildren. The reality is that the energy consumption and use that this country does right now places a tremendous burden in health, in costs for remediation, in pollution, in further subservience to foreign energy sources on to our children. We have done this for too long. We are presented with a generational challenge that, on this floor, for 150 years, has been met by wise men and women who stood up and said we will take the hard decisions.

Change is never easy. But we will take the hard decisions because our children deserve and should expect nothing less from us.

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Thank you very, very much. And I appreciate your point about the cheapest kilowatt is the kilowatt that we don't expend, that we don't have to build the coal-fired plant or even a solar collector. And we have watched what has happened over the course of the last 30 years because business now in the United States does produce more product per kilowatt than it did before.

This is not going to be easy. And it's not going to be without cost and consequence. But I am absolutely convinced that the hardest part is not going to be the technology, but it's cutting through the misrepresentation and the misunderstandings and, in some cases, I think, willful misrepresentation of the facts.

I was stunned to hear the gentlelady from Minnesota, from the floor of the well tonight, declare that carbon dioxide concentrations were not a problem because carbon dioxide appears naturally in the atmosphere; this coming after the EPA has finally owned up to its responsibilities and acknowledged the fact that the concentration, the greater concentration of carbon dioxide is, in fact, a threat to human health.

Mercury occurs naturally in the environment. But when it is concentrated in the wrong places, it can be deadly. And we need to just be able to get to the heart of some of these issues and sweep aside some of these misrepresentations that, frankly, are dangerous, if they're not refuted.

We've been joined this evening by my colleague, Congressman MASSA from New York, a Naval Academy graduate, a retired Navy commander, serves on a number of committees, but important for the discussion this evening, he's on the House Agriculture Committee, and on the subcommittee that deals with conservation, credit, energy and research, both in his committee assignment and the work that he's done, in his area of upstate New York, or not upstate, I'm not saying it right. I know where it is, to the west. And Congressman, we welcome some observations and comments that you would have.

□ 2210

Mr. MASSA. Thank you very much. It is an honor to be here tonight, and it is a privilege to speak in a space that has seen the great debates that have shaped this country, and now we embark on just such a debate.

The reality is I rise today with a unique perspective, frankly, from a small town in western New York State, in the heart of Upstate New York, my hometown of Corning, New York. I am reminded of the arguments and debates of the early 1970s when we realized that the crushing burden of smog that obscured the buildings of our great cities like New York and Los Angeles was comprised largely of nitrous oxide, ironically, another naturally occurring

chemical but, when concentrated in parts per million above 30, became deadly. Some of us in this Chamber are old enough to remember, looking out at television scenes and, in fact, living in our great metropolises where we could not see a half a mile on a smoggy day, and yet the scientists of this great Nation went to work and understood that it was largely the nitrous oxide being emitted from unregulated internal combustion engines that was literally choking us to death.

Those same scientists, many of them in my hometown of Corning, New York, invented the catalytic converter, and found a way through that process to remove nitrous oxide from the exhaust streams of automobiles. When that solution was laid before chambers like this and before legislatures all over this country, it was deemed, as it often is deemed by my close and intimate friends and colleagues on the other side of the aisle, as attacks. It was said to be a job-killing innovation that would destroy the automobile industry, that would drive millions from their jobs. Yet I come from a town that was fundamentally transformed by that technology and by the provisions of the Clean Air Act of the early 1970s, interestingly enough, formulated largely by some of the same leaders who today stand to draw this country forward under a new cap-and-trade regime that will install and initiate the same revolutionary technologies because, where I come from, thousands of working-class Americans found new jobs in creating innovative technologies and in removing nitrous oxide to the manufacture of catalytic converters—one, two and sometimes four—which are today on every automobile manufactured in the United States of America, throughout Europe and in most of the Far East.

The proof is as clear as the clean skies of Los Angeles where just 30 years ago you could not see the Los Angeles bay from the skyscrapers that overlooked the Pacific Ocean. Yet the argument from my dear and intimate colleagues on the other side of the aisle is always to say ''no.'' It is to say ''no'' at the opportunity of every great innovation this Nation in the world has stood to see every single time. It is scare the public. Tell them they'll be taxed, and stop technological innovation when, in fact, it is just that regime that will power this Nation well beyond the 21st century.

The last 40 years have seen us move forward in information technology, and now we stand on the cusp of an entirely new economy based on jobs that cannot be exported and on environmental technologies. I come from a small town that has already lived and seen that. It is time for us to fear not. It is time for us to stand in the light of day and to tell the truth.

For the first time in generations, almost a third of the House of Representatives is represented by those who are the sophomore and freshman class, who have been sent here with a mandate by the American people to do the work that needs to be done, not to stand and say ''no'' and to be obscure and obstructionist but, rather, to get the job done. It is on our shoulders, not fearful of elections, not fearful of false facts, not fearful of lies and of insinuations and of distortions but, rather, to stand in the clear air, much of it created through the innovations that we saw in the Clean Air Act in the 1970s.

It is an honor to stand and to be part of this great debate. Let the debate begin here and now with truth and clarity and forcefulness. Thank you. I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Thank you, and I appreciate your bringing this home in very real terms about what the upside has been and what you have seen in Corning as making a difference. Your point about some of the newer Members of Congress, I think, is well taken.

I am struck by the range of talent that we've seen here this evening in terms of people who have been legislators, policymakers, businesspeople, musicians. We're about to hear from another colleague, BEN RAY LUJÁN from New Mexico. In a prior life, he was one of those people charged with actually getting it right in terms of regulation. He was chairman of the New Mexico Public Regulation Commission, and as commissioner, he worked to develop the renewable portfolio standard in New Mexico to increase their renewable energy production by New Mexico utilities to 20 percent by 2020. I'm hopeful that he can give some insights based on his experience as somebody who has been on the ground, working on it, bringing that knowledge to Congress.

Mr. LUJÁN. Mr. BLUMENAUER, I'll tell you it's an honor to be here this evening and to be here with so many of our colleagues when we're talking about a new direction and about moving the country forward and about developing the jobs and policies that will truly transform the way we look at energy, at the way we deliver energy, and at the way we appreciate the resourcefulness of the American people.

In a former life, not many years ago—actually, not many days ago—I had the opportunity and the privilege of serving on the New Mexico Public Regulatory Commission. It's the equivalent of public utility commissions around the country. In New Mexico a few years ago, we increased the renewable portfolio standard, the amount of energy that would be produced from utilities in the State of New Mexico, the amount of energy that would come from the sun and from the wind. We were looking to see how we could take advantage of those resources, resources that we know to be abundant all across the country, but it wasn't just a matter of talking about increasing the amount of energy from one particular source. It was about looking at the way that we could adopt technology and innovation, looking to see how we could ultimately lower the cost of utility bills for people around New Mexico.

A lot of people have asked me, ''Well, BEN, when you talk about that and you say, 'well, we're going to increase the amount of energy that's going to come from the sun and from the wind,' how, indeed, are you going to lower utility bills ultimately for the customers of New Mexico when they say that this technology is so expensive and that we're not sure how we're going to be able to move this renewable energy generation forward?''

Well, what's interesting is, when you talk about natural gas and when you look to see the amount of a utility bill that that makes up and when you talk about the fuel source, it's about 60–65 percent of the utility bill when you're heating your home with natural gas. In New Mexico, it's something we depend on. When you talk about electricity generation and you look at that fuel source, it can range anywhere from 25–35 percent of your utility bill. Well, what a novel thought.

If we're able to utilize free fuel sources, a fuel source that comes from the sun and the wind—renewable resources—and you can eliminate that costly utility bill, it will ultimately drive those costs down. We'll be smarter about the technology that we're moving forward. We'll be smarter about the partners that we're engaging with.

Our Los Alamos National Laboratory and national laboratories around the country are research institutions that are moving forward and are coming up with new technologies that are ultimately bringing down the cost of renewable energy, making it more resourceful, making it more of a reality, but making it happen.

I've heard from a few of my colleagues who are concerned about rural parts of the country and how it would impact them if we move forward with the strong, renewable energy generation plan in the United States. Well, I come from a rural State. I come from a State where the rural electric cooperatives are participating in our renewable portfolio standard, the equivalent of our renewable electricity standard that we're talking about.

Just the other day, there was an announcement of a 30-megawatt new facility that is going to be built in a rural part of New Mexico, in the northeastern part of our State, creating up to 120–140 construction jobs. Not including that, we're also going to be creating a real working laboratory, a working environment for our students to go in and to take advantage of learning how to install these phenomenal resources, these large panels and how we're going to move that power. We're teaching these students how they can take advantage of jobs into the future.

□ 2220

But then teaching these students how they can take advantage of jobs into the future.

We made it happen in New Mexico. We worked with our colleagues in Western States. We worked with colleagues across the East and to the West, working to make sure that we were implementing best practices.

It's amazing what happens when you get new ideas and good ideas together. And you lean on the ingenuity and the perseverance of the American people. You know, when it comes to energy, the United States has always been a leader, and we need to be a leader when it comes to being smarter about the way we're generating power and the way that we're moving power.

I heard from my good friend, Mr. HIMES, talk about the importance of building standards and how the community can come together to make a difference in our homes. This last week, I was home and there is a group of students with the youth corps that has come together, and they are actually going to be building a new home for the Habitat for Humanity program for a woman in the community. It's going to be a green home. It's students getting together working with builders to learn how to build our buildings with these new, innovative ways and being smarter about the ways we're doing things. Ultimately, lower utility bills for this family, being able to send their kids and their family to school.

It's so exciting, and you get so passionate when you talk about what can be done, and through the leadership with Speaker PELOSI, with the President, with the budget resolution, the commitment of the American Recovery Act towards a new energy future and a new energy certainty for the United States.

It's amazing to be part of this, Mr. BLUMENAUER.

Mr. BLUMENAUER. We appreciate you making a critical point about the difference between the price in what people pay on the bill and your notion of how we are more energy efficient, we're smarter, we have competition and the benefits that you, through your leadership, did in New Mexico and now over half the States have gone ahead following. And hopefully it's time the Federal Government is able to do that as well.

I wonder, turning to Mr. TONKO, if, based on your experience, actually on the ground with work in the leadership in the legislative assembly of New York, chairing the committee and your work with the entity in New York dealing with energy efficiency, if there is something that stands out in your mind as an example that illustrates this principle that you think would give us a path of what we can expect in the future.

Mr. TONKO. Obviously, a number of opportunities, and I thank you again, Mr. Speaker, and thank you, Representative BLUMENAUER, for putting this forum together this evening.

But I think immediately of opportunities to work with our business community with manufacturing, retrofitting it with energy-efficiency outcomes. That enables us to see that as a microcosm of activity that when engaged in full efforts, can really repower America in a way that produces jobs, cuts energy costs, and produces wonderful savings to our environment, and certainly to those manufacturers out there in businesses that struggle in this economy.

I look at situations that the price tag for doing nothing means that we lose a market share to places like China, like Germany, like Korea. Doing nothing means losing jobs, energy, green collar jobs to those same nations. Doing nothing means continuing to be taxed in a way that sends money to Venezuela and the Mid East.

But when you ask for a specific example, one that comes to mind also is retrofitting of the dairy industry in the State of New York. That was done through the auspices of NyCerta, the State Energy Research and Development Authority, while I was still at the New York State Assembly chairing the energy committee. We worked in tandem with the local utility, with National Grid. We worked with Cornell University with its efforts to retrofit that dairy sector with energy efficiency seen as the fuel of choice out there. Working with the energy service companies, working with a group of policymakers from within the State Assembly. All of that working in a team spirited way that had, as demonstration projects, two dairy farms. And without even adjusting the rate for the power that they utilize, they had achieved immense savings simply through reducing demand.

And then that demonstration project with two farms was further extrapolated over 70 participants, all of whom had seen the same sorts of positive results, reducing demand severely.

This is where we're at. We're at a cutting knowledge of opportunity. We're looking at embracing technology in a way that can allow us to practically produce change. That is about job creation. It's about consumer behavior adjustment. It's about the boldness of leadership. It's allowing us to develop the blueprints, the greenprints for tomorrow. And we have the capacity today. There are tons of practical examples.

Even at NyCerta. A demonstration project with kinetic hydropower where the turbulence of the East River alongside Manhattan was producing power that was used in that given region. And there are theories suggesting that some 1,100 megawatts' worth of power statewide could be the result in New York State alone. Think of it: if we multiply that over the many States of this country; think of it if we make the investments that are asked of us here by doing this program in a way that caps the amount of pollution out there, rewards the good behavior and creates the resources to implement the science and technology that is within our grasp today.

There is great potential here. Great job creation, great savings of energy, which is a precious commodity, and the ability to do an American-produced agenda—American-produced power to grow and retain American jobs in a way that creates a new segment of employment out there: employees who are green collar workers. Great potential for the country.

Mr. BLUMENAUER. As we're winding down, I would like to turn again to my colleague, Congressman HALL.

Mr. HALL of New York. Thank you.

I would like to emphasize jobs. It's astonishing to me that the chorus from the other side of the aisle here seems to be that we're going to lose jobs when in fact the U.S. Conference of Mayors released a study recently showing that renewable power generation alone will lead to the creation of over 4.2 million new jobs in manufacturing, legal, construction, engineering, consulting, and research sectors.

And like my colleague, Mr. HIMES, I recently spent a couple of days with my work gloves on and my jeans and a hard hat working doing retrofitting, weatherization of homes in my home county of Dutchess County of New York where last year the Dutchess County Community Action Program only retrofitted and weatherized 183 homes. This year, thanks to the stimulus package, they are looking at over a thousand homes already lined up. They are going to be hiring five times as many people to go out on those teams.

In my district alone, there are many exciting new companies from low-tech to high-tech. For example, Taylor Biomass Energy has an exciting new patent process that turns municipal solid waste, MSW, into clean-burning gas for electricity generation using a process that is carbon negative. The end result is 75 percent reduction in greenhouse gas emissions because when you take that trash, that organic household waste, whatever it is, goes into the landfill and turns into methane and goes out those upside-down J-shaped fences and goes out into the atmosphere is actually worse than carbon dioxide, 20 times worse.

SpectraWatt, which has just announced a major investment in my district, is creating state-of-the-art solar technology, and they will be building solar panels which we hopefully will sell not only around the country, maybe to New Mexico, but also to other countries like India or China or Germany who right now are in the lead.

Cities and towns are asking for help to do the same thing. The City of Beacon in my district just asked for funds which I was able to secure to install a new solar electric power system on their municipal building, developing a comprehensive plan for a city which recognizes the value of free energy and no emissions. It's sort of the win-win-win policy because it hires people to make the panels and it hires people to

install them. And once they get past that initial payoff—and of course the higher the price of gas or diesel or electricity from other sources goes, then the better this looks.

And they will also use it as an educational tool for the students in the City of Beacon, New York, to be able to see how renewable energy works.

□ 2230

And, lastly, I would just say, echoing Congressman TONKO's statements about tidal power and hydropower, that New York State alone, according to the Idaho National Laboratory Web site, which is an offshoot of the Department of Energy's Web site, has more than 4,000 low-head hydroelectric sites. Those are existing dams and waterfalls where water is falling every day by the ton and not being used, going to waste. And just by putting the properly sized turbines where water is already falling, they estimate that we could generate 12 megawatts of power. And think of the people it would hire. That was when you were speaking, Mr. TONKO, I wanted to make this comment that you are hiring electrical workers, you are hiring mechanics, you are hiring engineers, you are, in some cases, hiring attorneys because there are liability questions with orphan dams that need to be worked out. But you are hiring a wide spectrum of workers with different kinds of jobs, ranging from construction and electrical work, to sheet metal, to engineering and so on, and transportation jobs.

And then not only that, but then you have a decentralized grid with a lot of smaller points of generation as opposed to having one huge note of generation and another huge note of consumption and worrying about blackouts occurring in between. So there are many reasons for us to go down this path, and one of them is that many, many jobs will be created by it.

With that, I yield back.

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Congressman HIMES, any last words?

Mr. HIMES. Well, I just reiterate. We see a tremendous commitment on this floor at this late hour to what I really believe is the legacy that we will leave for those who follow in our footsteps. I really believe that this is the generational challenge of our time. And we will be truthful about it; we will explain it to the American people. And we will act or we will fall prey to the misinformation, to the fear, to the anxiety that is rooted in the desire for political gain, but also in the natural fear that many people have of change.

So I would just close with the notion that we need to stand united and go forward with this terribly important initiative.

Mr. BLUMENAUER. I appreciate your providing that context. I have been involved in the political process all my life. I have watched people meet challenges. I have watched people come up to the edge and simply not have the wherewithal to follow through.

This seems to me to be one of the areas that is most exciting because of the leadership that has been articulated here on the floor. We are finding that actually we have to run to keep up with the public. We have 906 cities across America that have decided they weren't going to wait for the Bush administration, they were moving forward. Each of us have cities, college campuses, churches and synagogues in our district that are rolling up their sleeves and willing to move forward, and I find that a truly exciting development.

As we are winding down, I see Congressman MASSA. I appreciated your earlier eloquence and focusing in on what difference it made to your hometown. Do you have any concluding thoughts?

Mr. MASSA. Well, Congressman and colleagues, thank you very much. After I concluded my remarks, I noticed that I had received a text message from my 18-year-old daughter. My 18-year-old daughter, like many of her age, represents an entirely different way of looking at the future, one, frankly, framed by optimism and not constrained by the ideology of ''no.'' And she text me a message and said, ''You go, dad.''

Many tell me that I get impassioned about these issues on the floor of the House, and there is some truth in that. But I ask my colleagues and I ask those people who sent me here to Washington and I ask us all, how can you not be? When you are confronted with the tremendous challenges that we face—and I hope I am mistaken, but I know I am not, because I do believe that global climate change is real and that there is an immediate imperative—but I combine that umbrella under which we conduct this discussion with the very hard-core business reality that we are presented with a tremendous economic and business opportunity to begin a process. And I am honored to be part of that process as we speak power to truth and debunk the incredible false statements that sometimes rise on the floor of this House to scare people away from taking the bold steps that we were sent here to take.

So I look forward to being back with you and my colleagues, the scientists, Representatives like my fellow New Yorker, PAUL TONKO, who already has an incredible legacy of leadership in New York, to my good friend, Congressman HALL, who, frankly, has led this not just from the floor of a stage, but from an absolute understanding of the imperative of science, and to those few words that I can add to this great debate as we move forward to undertake this challenge. I thank you for the opportunity to join you tonight.

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Well, you go, indeed, Mr. MASSA.

Congressman LUJÁN.

Mr. LUJÁN. Mr. BLUMENAUER, and to my colleagues here, we are talking about jobs. And I am reminded of a group of ranchers and farmers on the eastern side of my district in a mainly rural part that came together and they invested and they worked together to invest in the building of wind power, wind generation, wind turbines. And as a community, they came together with the Mesalands Community College in a small town by the name of Tucumcari, New Mexico, to build the National Wind Turbine Research Center out in the rural part of our State, training young people, creating jobs, investing in their community.

And you have to think back to the lack of investment that we saw over the last 8 years. And that is what we are talking about, investing in America, investing in Americans, investing in education, and investing in a new way of generating energy.

It is great to be part of a Congress that is moving forward with this new direction and a Congress that is working boldly, making sure that we are listening to the American people, working with the President, making sure that we are truly being responsible toward those that have entrusted us to do the good work that we are doing here today.

Mr. BLUMENAUER, I can't tell you thanks enough for putting this hour together so we can talk to our friends, our family, the American people about the truth of the matter in this important debate, that we are going to need them to move forward, to work closely with us as we work with them to make this happen and to transform the way that we generate power, look at power, and save power in our great Nation. Thank you very much.

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Thank you, Congressman LUJÁN.

Congressman HALL, thank you so much, Congressman HIMES, Congressman TONKO. We deeply appreciate your taking time out. It is only 7:36 back home in Oregon, but for you gentlemen, it is the end of a long day—or you are probably going back to your offices. And being willing to be part of this discussion tonight and the work that you are doing in the committees and providing the leadership, for me it is inspirational, and I deeply appreciate it.

I appreciate your focusing in on the economic benefits, even putting aside the problems that we are facing as a result of global warming, but the opportunities to help families reduce their utility bills, to live more comfortably, to create not just thousands of jobs or tens of thousands of jobs, we are talking literally about millions of jobs. And already, as you pointed out this evening, we are seeing the glimmer of what can happen as a result of the economic recovery package.

We are seeing that there are all sorts of advantages from simply moving forward apart from that, in terms of the cost savings, given the fact that energy costs are going to be going back up in the foreseeable future without question. And last, but not least, the cost of

inaction dwarfs the cost of action. The downside risk is truly chilling. We are seeing that mount. We have seen study after study that shows that the American economy risks losing trillions of dollars of productivity. And the relatively small amount that we would be investing to forestall disaster seems like a bargain.

I appreciate your willingness to join with us this evening. I hope that we will be able to continue this discussion, not just in our committees, but here on the floor, to be able to put the bigger picture together. And I look forward to continuing that conservation with you.

Mr. Speaker, we thank you for the opportunity to share this with the American people tonight and yield back our time.

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise to speak tonight, on the eve of Earth Day with respect to the most critical environmental crisis that this nation has ever faced: climate change. As daunting as this challenge is, I am proud that this Congress has done more in the past two months to combat climate change than the previous Administration accomplished in eight years.

With passage of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, we invested over $70 billion in clean, renewable energy. This important legislation will save or create over three million jobs. In the area of clean, renewable energy we will put people to work weatherizing homes of low income Americans. The previous Administration proposed eliminating all funding for the Weatherization Assistance Program. This stimulus legislation will invest $5 billion dollars over two years, which will weatherize at least two million homes. A wide range of studies suggests that weatherization is the most efficient way to save money while reducing greenhouse gas emissions. With the stimulus legislation, we are off to a great start.

The stimulus also invested $8.4 billion in transit and $8 billion in high speed rail. Communities around the nation, including my 11th District of Virginia, are suffering from congestion that threatens to constrain economic growth in some of the most productive communities in the Nation. These transit investments will give commuters choices, reduce congestion, and reduce greenhouse gas emissions. They will spur economic development while reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

The stimulus invests $2 billion in advanced battery research. This field is essential to develop the next generation of plug in hybrids and to store solar energy. With solar companies creating jobs throughout our region, we must make the investments in innovation that will continue to grow the green jobs sector. America invented the photovoltaic solar panel, yet Germany, China, and Japan now lead us in solar panel production. With these investments, in addition to loan guarantees, we will once again have the opportunity to lead the world in production of green energy. By investing in the development of a smart grid, we will ensure that we conserve energy at home while enabling the transmission of renewable energy.

Although we are already seeing benefits of the stimulus, whether it is repaving potholed roads or creating green jobs, we know that we cannot rest while carbon emissions continue to rise in America, China, and India. We must lead by passing comprehensive greenhouse gas reduction legislation that reaches 80 percent reductions in emissions by 2050, with aggressive but achievable shorter term targets. Without this legislation we will not be able to bring China and India to the table to develop binding goals for those large carbon emitters.

I look at greenhouse gas legislation as an opportunity. For a quarter of a century, we have accepted dependence on foreign oil. For a quarter of a century, we have accepted dramatic declines in mining jobs even as our communities are devastated by acid mine drainage and mountaintop removal. For a quarter of a century, we have lost market share in auto sales as we clung to production of gas guzzling dinosaurs.

No more will we accept the constraints that accompany an unwillingness to innovate. We may look forward to greenhouse gas legislation that sends a strong market signal to invest once again in America: in efficient automobiles, in wind turbines, in solar panels, in weatherization, in transit. These investments will not only protect our climate, and thus our coastal communities and agricultural heartland, but also lay the groundwork for a new age of industrial expansion founded on technological innovation.

The environment cannot sustain further increases in carbon emissions and neither can our economy. We must act now to pass greenhouse gas reduction legislation that protects our climate while unequivocally redirecting our economy toward a clean energy future.

HEALTH CARE IN AMERICA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2009, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BURGESS) is recognized for half the time to midnight.

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I have come to the floor tonight to talk about health care, but some of the comments that we have just heard in the last hour, I just feel obligated to respond. I cannot let the fantasies that are put forward on this floor stand unchallenged.

We heard the statement made that no investment in renewable energy occurred in the last 8 years. That is absolutely preposterous. The State of Texas has one of the most aggressive renewable portfolio standards in the country. In fact, the State of Texas is the leader in the generation of wind.

And this did not spring from the Earth fully formed on January 21 of this year. This has been the product of well over a decade of hard work back in the State, our renewable portfolio standard that, I might add, was signed into law by Governor George W. Bush back in the 1990s in the State of the Texas.

□ 2240

Please, let's have the debate, but let's argue from the standpoint of facts. Let's not continue to engage in this fantasy that nothing has occurred over the last 8 years. Nothing makes the American people more angry than to hear this type of falsehood repeated over and over again.

Texas is the leader in the production of wind energy. We have an aggressive renewable portfolio standard, and all of that was initiated under the governorship of George W. Bush. It has been continued under the Republican governorship of Rick Perry and, yes, during the 8-year Presidency of George W. Bush.

Thank you for letting me get that off my chest. Now on to health care.

Mr. Speaker, the Health Caucus Web site went live this week, www.healthcaucus.org. I formed the Health Caucus earlier this year because I felt it was important to have a forum to talk about some of the changes, some of the things that we are seeing in this health care debate. The Health Caucus is not a legislative caucus. We're not going to write the law. That never was the intention of the Health Caucus. But the intention of the Health Caucus was to provide a forum where ideas can be exchanged, and, indeed, that's exactly what has happened. And I want to talk about a couple of those that we have had recently. It was to provide a vehicle for Member education so Members who perhaps weren't as familiar with issues surrounding health care would have an opportunity to avail themselves of recent information and prepare themselves for the debates, prepare themselves for the legislative process that's going to be ahead of us.

Certainly a great deal of effort in the Health Caucus is spent towards staff training, to prepare the communications staff for Member offices on how to communicate with constituents about health care, how to communicate effectively in the health care debate that is going to be ahead of us. And probably most important or one of the most important functions of the Health Caucus that was recently formed is outreach.

We spend a lot of time here in Washington, we spend a lot of time in windowless rooms in the basement of the Capitol of the new Capitol Visitor Center. And as beguiling as those accommodations are, it always seems that we have the same discussion with the same people rehashing the same ideas over and over and over again. And yet out across the country, there are men and women who are engaged and involved in this debate. They are engaged and involved in the actual delivery of health care, taking care of actual real patients on a day-in and day-out basis. They kind of know what works; they kind of know what doesn't. And it is so important for us to go out and solicit those stories, take the advice of the men and women who are working in the health care industry, and bring that information back to Washington, learn from what works, learn from what doesn't work. There is no reason that we should continue policies or try to develop policies that have been proven not to work, say, in a State jurisdiction or a State venue, but it is very important that we learn from

those things that do work because we are going to be called upon at some point this year to do something, and it remains to be seen what, but to do something with health care in this Congress.

Now, the Web site, www.healthcaucus.org, that Web site is available. There are links on that Web site to the various forums that have been held where ideas about health care are exchanged. And they're not all Republican ideas or Democratic ideas. We seek to have a balance of opinion. In fact, the very first forum that I held earlier this year had Karen Davis from the Commonwealth Foundation, Grace-Marie Turner from the Galen Institute, ostensibly one speaker from a little bit left of center, one speaker from a little bit right of center. We have had other speakers from the Commonwealth Foundation come and participate in some of our member organizations as well as other members from the Galen Institute. It's important to expose Members to ideas from both sides of the political stripe.

Today's forum was no exception. We had a lively discussion, in fact, in the Capitol Visitor Center. I will talk a little about the panelists and their presentations later. But, again, a Webcast of today's forum is available for anyone who wants to go to www.healthcaucus.org and view that. When we do these events, they are Webcast live. It's not always possible to compete for C–SPAN coverage, but we do generally Webcast these events live. And the audience that is seated at the forum is certainly free to ask questions. These events are open to the press, and questions can be submitted over the device called ''Twitter'' that many people use for instant message communications. So today's audience, for example, we had probably between 50 and 70 people in the audience, and we had a similar number who were watching live on the Webcast. And, indeed, we did pose a couple of questions from folks who sent in questions via e-mail and Twitter. We did pose some of those questions to the panelists in the course of that forum.

Also up on the Web site are brief, minute interviews primarily with the panelists who have come and talked, but we have had some other individuals that have just been part of the discussion and part of the debate as we go along. Dr. Mark McClellan, the former head of the Food and Drug Administration under the Bush administration, former head of the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, graciously provided me a brief video which is up on that Web site and also available on Youtube. Today the policy forum was titled ''Making Health Care Affordable Without the Government.''

You know, it was interesting, yesterday one of the papers that is published up here in Washington called Politico had an article, and, in fact, it was a front-page article yesterday, talking about the health care reform debate as it's unfolding; in fact, talking about how it appeared that the Democrats are ahead of the Republicans in the health care debate. Some statements were made that were perhaps a little bit hyperbolic, a little bit overblown. It's not that there is no Republican health care plan right now. There are many Republican health care plans. The challenge is to get us all to agree on a set of facts, a set of principles, and a health care bill going forward. But I would point out that that is no different from the difficulties that are being encountered on the other side of the aisle.

In fact, last fall during the Presidential campaigns, the presidential debates, Senator BAUCUS, the chairman of the Senate Finance Committee, produced a white paper. He had a forum over in the Library of Congress and invited many of the stakeholders, many of the players who are involved in the issues around health care reform, and produced a white paper. Many of us thought that this white paper was, in fact, a prelude to legislation and, in fact, that this legislation would likely appear just shortly before the November elections. It's perhaps somewhat of a surprise that that legislation has not come forward yet. In fact, there was a recently released letter to President Obama from the Democratic leadership in the other body stating that indeed there would be a bill to mark up by early June. So you can see it is difficult not just for Republicans, but it is, indeed, difficult for Democrats. You've got lots of different and differing constituencies to be represented, and it is a challenge to bring everybody together, get everyone reading from the same page, and then going forward with a unified plan.

My suspicion last fall was that that would be very quick to materialize from the other body, from the Democratic leadership in the other body, and perhaps not too surprising that the Republicans are where they are, but very surprising that we had not yet seen more as far as a fully formed plan from the other side.

A question came up during the forum today: What do you think of President Obama's health care plan? And that's a tough one because I don't know if anyone can honestly tell you right now today what the President's health care plan is. In fact, during the Health Care Forum that he put on at the White House a few weeks ago, he was very careful to say that this is legislation that will be developed by the United States Congress. It will come through the appropriate committees on both the House and the Senate, that he would provide guideposts and guidelines and boundaries going along, but the legislation would be developed from the congressional committees. And that's a reasonable thing for the President to say because 15 years prior, another President who was new in town and was trying to also effect some major changes in the way health care is delivered in this country went entirely the other way.

□ 2250

He said, we are going to sit down within the confines of the White House—again, one of those small windowless rooms that we have so many of up here in Washington, D.C.—500 lawyers behind closed doors, and we are going to generate a health care plan, and, by golly, the Congress will like it. But it turns out they didn't. And, as a consequence, no health care reform was done in 1993 and 1994 and the argument languished for many years, 15 years after that.

It's not that nothing happened, I do want to stress. We keep hearing that the status quo is not acceptable. I will submit to my colleagues on both sides of the aisle here in the House, men and women, American medicine has not sat still during the last 15 years. In fact, there have been dramatic changes in health care in the last 15 years, dramatic changes in the science of health care, dramatic changes in the delivery of health care.

One of the changes that came about as a result of the Republicans having a plan back in 1993 and 1994 to offer, as a counter to the Clintons' plan, was the concept of the health savings account. At the time they were called medical savings accounts.

They came along after the Republicans took control of Congress in 1995. I think it was 1996 or 1997 that the first health savings accounts became available. They have matured over the last 10 or 15 years. In 2003 we expanded, and now they are called health savings accounts. But that program was expanded and some of the more onerous red tape was removed.

And now you do have a system that provides health insurance, on the individual market the high deductible health plans for probably anywhere between 7 and 14 million people. And these are individuals that at least almost half would not have insurance were it not for the availability of this product.

I know that because back in 1994, I attempted to buy an individual policy for a family member and could not find one at any price. I was prepared to write a large check in order to get that insurance coverage, and it just simply was not available.

Fast forward to the present time, you can go on to the Internet, to the search engine of choice and type in ''health savings account'' and find that there are a variety of programs, a variety of products that are out there and available and priced at a reasonable amount. A 25-year-old, such as I was trying to purchase insurance for back in 1994, a 25-year-old now for a high deductible policy, a good product, a PPO product from a well-recognized company that would be listed on the stock exchange, so you would know they were a reliable company, those policies are available for between $75 and $100 a month.

To be sure, there is a high deductible. But, of course, under the HSA laws there is the ability to put a medical IRA, a tax-deferred account away to help defer those high deductible expenditures. And, over time, this can be a very satisfactory type of insurance to have. In fact, it's the type of insurance that I carry. We have a health savings account option through the Federal Employee Health Benefits Program. It costs about half of what the high-option PPO costs. So I am saving the government money. I am putting money away in a medical IRA.

And, in fact, the HSA that is available is very conscious about making sure you have your routine studies done, your routine medical care done. I get e-mail alerts all the time reminding me I need to take care of this or that, and it's a good program. It's one that I think shows a lot of promise for into the future. But I do digress.

Right now, currently, President Obama does not have an official White House health care plan that's out there, so it was very difficult to provide a precise answer to the gentleman's question today in the forum.

During the fall, we heard some campaign rhetoric on what some of the—perhaps the proposals that President Obama would put forward. We heard discussion of a mandate for covering children. I don't hear much talk of that currently.

You hear some talk currently of there being some sort of government-run public plan, either a Medicare, Medicaid or some other type of plan to compete with the private sector.

There is some unease on both sides of the aisle about this type of program, but, nevertheless, these are the relatively broad areas that are being talked about under the Obama plan. There is no specific Obama plan.

So it's a little bit, again, a little bit overly critical for the newspaper article yesterday to say there is no Republican plan. Well, there is no Republican House plan, but there is no Democratic House plan. In fact, there is no White House plan that is being talked about.

The other thing the article said, there is no Republicans leading the charge. I would submit to you that I have been on the floor of this House an hour, at least 1 hour out of every month for the last 2½ years. As many people who suffer from insomnia who from time to time turn on C–SPAN, Mr. Speaker, will recall that I have talked on this subject, sometimes at painstaking length.

And I would just say that there are a number of leaders on the Republican side in the arena of health care. It perhaps does not get the billing that the energy debate does, perhaps does not get the billing as the security debate, but, nevertheless, suffice it to say that there are good and engaged and energetic people on the Republican side who are working this area.

One of the things that did concern me about the article is it points to findings from a Kaiser health tracking poll that said 58 percent of Americans lack confidence in the Republican Party to do the quote, unquote, right thing for health care.

And that does concern me and that is why, when I put together the Health Caucus, I wanted to be sure that we included the communications arm of Members' offices because people do want to hear Republicans talk about health care. In fact, that's one of the things that comes out consistently in the polling. They do want us to talk more about health care. They want to hear our ideas.

In fact, during the months of the Presidential campaign, from time to time I would be tasked to participate in a debate. Well, after the debate was over and both candidates' points were discussed, as things were winding down and the podiums were being taken away, invariably, invariably I would have a throng of people around me wanting to hear more. Is there really a way to do this without the government taking everything over?

And I would submit to you that there is, and I would submit to you that we are closer now to achieving that state than we really ever have been at any time, certainly in my professional time, having practiced medicine for 25 years before I came to Congress some 6 or 7 years ago.

Isn't it ironic that we are perched on the threshold of being able to provide more care at lower cost and better quality to more people under the existing system, and we are talking about doing things that might fundamentally disrupt the system. And I will tell you that's one of the very difficult things both sides have to wrestle with.

You heard it repeatedly during the Presidential campaign. Both sides said if you like what you have got you can keep it. Of course they said that. Polling shows 65 to 68 percent of Americans are satisfied or very satisfied with their health care and do not want it to change.

Yes, they are concerned about the number of people who are uninsured or underinsured. They want to see that segment of the population get some help, but they are also terribly concerned that, in the process of doing so, will undo what they have.

And that is a great concern. Again, it's something that has to be borne in mind by both sides when they talk about doing anything to the health insurance market.

When Republicans talk about we would like to see more people own their own insurance policies, some people are concerned because that might undo the employer-sponsored insurance that so many people like. When the Democrats talk about we want a robust option to compete with the private sector, people are legitimately concerned that there will be a crowd-out and drive-out of the private sector, and they, indeed, will lose what they have.

The old adage is, if you like what you have got you can keep it right up until the time we take it away from you. Both sides have to be mindful of that concern.

You know, in any case, we have got to continue to move forward in this debate, and it's important that we Republicans, my side of the aisle, continuously challenge and continuously try to penetrate the echo chamber that surrounds Capitol Hill and hear from Americans that are on the front lines of delivery of health care all over the country.

At some point, both sides are going to unite behind a plan. Both sides maintain they want to unite behind a plan that actually will work, and both sides will be required to take their ideas to the American public.

Now, certainly Democrats have an advantage. They have a huge size advantage here in the House of Representatives. My committee, the Committee on Energy and Commerce is no contest. The Democrats can pass anything they want with no Republican input. It is not necessary for us to even show up and vote most days because they are going to overwhelm us with their numbers in committee and subcommittee.

The Rules Committee upstairs, a 9–4 ratio, Democrats to Republicans. We are not going to win any of the arguments in the Rules Committee.

It is very possible that we will win no arguments here on the floor of the House. It's possible the Democrats can pass whatever they want.

Where it is possible for Republicans to make a difference, and this is why it's so important that we be able to communicate these issues, is we can win this in a court of public opinion.

□ 2300

And that is really where this battle is going to be fought, probably late this summer, but certainly into the fall.

Now, a lot of people have asked me about the time line, what I see ahead as far as the time line for health care reform. We've heard 2 hours tonight on energy tax, cap-and-trade. We're going to do that in our committee before we do health care. Sometime before the end of next month, before the end of May, we will have that work done in our committee, or at least that is what the chairman has told us, and we'll clear the decks for health care in committee starting in June or July.

I would submit to you, having watched then-President Clinton 15 years ago deliver his speech here on the floor of the House to a joint session of the House and Senate, and I think it was about the third week in September of 1993, and he gave a wonderful speech, had everyone in the room mesmerized. Go back and get the video of it and watch it. It was a wonderful speech. But it was about 3 months too late because they were already into an election time and, as a consequence, the ability to get a big concept like that through the Congress was severely compromised.

By the end of September, first of October, a lot of Members here are thinking about their re-election. The House of Representatives has 2-year terms, remember. And we are about to finish our so-called off year. Our off-year lasts about 6 months, and it will be done by the middle of the summer. So the time window is real very, very narrow for getting a big concept like this through.

Add to that the fact that we are going to do some major piece of legislation on climate change, energy, energy tax, whatever you want to call it. That will be a big push to get that done.

And the President said in his speech last week that he is going to sign a major banking regulatory bill before the end of the year. Those are three very big things to get done. And that's a lot on the to-do list, and we're already halfway through April of this year. And we really haven't gotten the guts of any one of those bills to get to the House floor. So the window of opportunity may be closing faster than some people realize.

Just briefly, today's forum, we had three great folks come and talk to us. We heard from Rick Scott, we heard from Greg Scandlen, we heard from Dr. Nicholas Gettas who is the chief medical officer at CIGNA, a family physician who gave a wonderful talk about how important it is to have things like care coordination; how important it is to have things like disease management to be able to manage the exponential increase in the rising cost of care. Rick Scott talked about a number of outpatient clinics that he runs in Florida and how he manages these clinics by absolute transparency. Everyone who comes in knows exactly what it's going to cost for any procedure that's done, and there is a cap. There is a limit on the amount that can be charged on any patient visit.

And how about this: if you come in to see a doctor in the clinic, say, you've got a viral syndrome, a little cough, a little runny nose, scratchy throat; 3 days later you've taken the medicines they're giving you; not only are you not better, you're worse, you can come back in for a reevaluation, and according to Rick Scott, the patient would not be charged for that revisit within 3 days' time, if, indeed the patient felt that the treatment was—or they were not responding to the treatment that was recommended on the previous visit. So a very forward way of looking at things, both in the outpatient clinic sitting, by being very transparent about price, and with Dr. Gettas within CIGNA Health Care, found that by anticipating problems, covering problems early, taking care of problems early, they could significantly hold costs down. And both of these are different sides of the same coin. They both are what are called consumer-directed health care, where you engage and involve the consumer. You engage and involve the individual in the control of, as an active participant in their health care, and you tend to get the ability to lower cost without resulting in denying care and without pulling that ratchet that we love to pull, that reduces reimbursement to the physician and creates so much anxiety in our physician community across the country. So these were two very forward looking statements that we, three very forward looking bits of testimony that we heard today. And I would just encourage people who are interested in learning more about this, it's www.healthcaucus.org.

Now, tomorrow morning, for the Member briefing, we're going to have Ramesh Ponnuru, who is the senior editor of the National Review, came to my attention because he wrote an article that appeared in the Dallas Morning News over the break, and he was also talking about ways we can increase affordability; very, very important concepts. He talked about, you know, some people are concerned about universal coverage. Other people are concerned with the desire to reduce costs. Turns out when you poll this, the people who have the desire to reduce costs are much more than those that desire universal coverage. People are concerned about flexibility and policy design and benefit design, and there ought to be ways that we can get around some of the State regulatory problems, the State regulatory burdens that cause insurance in some locations in the country to be priced so high that literally prices some people out of the market.

Another concept that Mr. Ponnuru brought up was the ability to bring more people into, if you hold down costs, the ability to bring more people into a state of insurance coverage. In fact, Steve Parenti out of the University of Minneapolis did an economic study, which indicated that in excess of 20 million people could be brought into coverage simply by doing things that will hold the price of care down.

What about individuals with pre-existing conditions? And this can be a terribly difficult, difficult problem to deal with. But, you know, we've got 34 States right now that are doing what are called assigned-risk or high-risk pools. Some are working better than others. We ought to look at those States, take the best practices from States that are working well and create at least a floor below which no State would go on learning from these best practices.

To be sure, it is going to take some shared support from the insurance company that is providing the insurance, probably will have to be a cap on insurance premiums so that they will stay affordable. The State and the Federal Government are likely going to have to participate, depending upon income levels, but likely have to participate in that shared support.

But it just goes to underscore that doing these three things, where we no longer discriminate against someone in the Tax Code, where we provide someone the ability to buy an affordable insurance policy in a reasonable fashion, and we take care of, or provide for contingencies for people that have pre-existing conditions, we've gone a long way towards solving a lot of these problems.

And then, just like Dr. Gettas relayed this morning, add to that the care coordination, disease management, the electronic medical records, infection control, the kinds of things that you want to do because they're the right things to do and they provide better care at a lower price. Accountable care organizations are one of the things that I talked to Dr. Mark McClellan about. These are all ways of holding costs down. And you've actually got the nidus of an almost pretty workable health care plan just right there in the last 30 or 40 words that I spoke. So it's not terribly difficult to construct something. What's difficult is to construct something that more of us can agree on than disagree on, and that's certainly the challenge that is ahead of us.

Certainly, the work done through the Health Caucus is going to continue. I did have an opportunity to go to Omaha last Friday and speak with doctors at Alegent Medical Center in Omaha, heard from them about a number of their concerns.

You know, I'm from Texas and we passed a bill in 2003 dealing with medical liability, a bill that put caps on noneconomic damages. Other parts of the country, issues of medical liability are still front and center as far as doctors are concerned, and I did hear a little bit about that in Omaha, a lot of concern that if we really push things in the government-plan realm, that public option, if that's really what catches on, and that's what's going to be the model for reform, that the concern there is that in those settings there's very little incentive to hold down costs, and what we end up doing in these government plans, and we certainly do it in Medicaid and we certainly do it in Medicare. In fact, if we don't do something by the end of this year, doctors across the country are facing a 20 percent cut in Medicare reimbursements.

□ 2310

We go through this type of machination all the time because one of the only leverages we have to pull to hold down costs is to decrease reimbursements to providers.

I did hear from one gentleman in Omaha who felt that the way forward was going to be an individual mandate that required everyone to purchase health insurance. We need to be careful. Certainly, there are some States that have done that on an individual basis, and certainly we need to look at and learn from those States that have explored with mandates. We do get some information back that, yes, more people are covered but that, yes, costs have gone up. Insurance companies are only human. You tell them that, yes,

now everybody is going to have to buy your product and, doggone it, wouldn't you know that the price just crept up a little bit.

You do have to be careful about pricing products out of the range where people can afford them because, if you put an individual mandate out there and say you have to buy insurance or you're going to get a fine, some people will look at the cost differential and will say, ''You know what? The fine is cheaper than the insurance,'' and it never crosses their minds that actually the insurance is something of value that they need. They will just simply pay the fine, will pocket the extra cash and then will hope that they'll be able to get care if they do, indeed, ultimately get sick and need that care. So mandates, in my opinion, are something that we need to be extremely judicious of in our approach there.

We just finished tax time. The IRS. There is no bigger and harsher mandate out there than what the Internal Revenue Service places on each and every American. We know that, if we earn above a certain level every year, we've got to file a tax return. We know, if we don't and if we don't pay our taxes, the retribution will be swift and it will be certain. Well, almost. I mean there are a few exceptions. Members of Congress and some members of the administration, perhaps, don't have to pay taxes, but for most Americans, we know that this mandate out there from the Internal Revenue Service exists and that the consequences are extremely unpleasant if we do not comply.

What is the compliance rate with the IRS? What is the voluntary compliance rate with people who pay their income taxes? Well, it's about 85 percent. Right now, we have a voluntary system of insurance in this country. We don't have a mandate. What is our compliance rate? It's about 85 percent. So, before we go down the road of mandates and of putting yet more governmental control into people's lives, I think we ought to look at what the other options are. Well, the other options are keeping the product at an affordable price and to actually create programs that people want.

When part D in Medicare was constructed a few years ago, it was done very, very carefully so that there were six protected classes of drugs that had to be covered, that had to be provided for anyone who wanted to provide a prescription drug benefit. Okay. There are six classes of drugs where you have to at least offer two choices in each of those six classes of drugs. Now, the original cost for the prescription drug benefit—I forget the number—is reported to be at $35 or $37 a month under the plan that was constructed by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services; but with the competition by allowing many people to participate, in fact, we were criticized because there are too many plans out there, and it's hard to choose. There are some plans out there, but the price for that prescription drug coverage was down at about $24 or $25, easily $10 per month under what it would have been under the program designed by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, and those prices have held now over the past 3 years. It's not that there weren't some problems with the initial rollout, but by and large, 9 out of 10 seniors are satisfied with their prescription drug coverage, and over 9 out of 10 seniors have some type of credible drug coverage. So we have exceeded what we would have expected with voluntary coverage. We have exceeded those numbers, and the satisfaction rates are high.

Well, maybe that's a model that we ought to look at. How was that so successful?

It was so successful because we offered a lot of choice. It was so successful because there was competition between the companies that were involved. Yes, there were some significant parameters laid down. Dr. McClellan would not budge on the concept of the six protected classes of drugs. Now I don't remember all of them, but they dealt with anti-inflammatories and anticancer drugs. There were six classes that he said you had to offer, and each of those classes had to have at least two different offerings. You didn't need to offer everything within that class, but you had to have at least two choices for patients in that. Again, the result is a program that has gained wide acceptance and that has enjoyed significant popularity.

So I would submit that that would be a better model to follow than the IRS model where we put a big, bad penalty out there if you don't comply, and we still see that 15 percent of the people are still willing to take their chances and stay away from the mandate.

The city of Dallas, Texas, close to my home, has an individual mandate for car insurance, and they were having difficulty with compliance. People would just not purchase the car insurance. So now my understanding is, if you get a traffic ticket in the city of Dallas and you cannot provide proof of insurance, they'll tow your automobile. Well, you can't really do that in health care. It just leads to all kinds of bad news stories when you go and repossess people and lock them up for not having health care insurance.

How are you going to enforce that individual mandate? We're going to have to ask ourselves: To what limits are we going to go? Is it going to be purely a monetary penalty? What are going to be the consequences of not providing that mandate?

Remember back during the campaign, then candidate Obama talked about, if he became President, he would have a mandate to cover children—a noble concept to be sure, but nobody could really ever define what was a child as far as: Is that age 18, 19, 25, 30? I heard every one of those numbers during the course of the Presidential debate depending upon the audience that was hearing the information.

Who is going to be responsible for a 23-year-old who had moved out of the home? Obviously, the parents are going to be looked to for the responsibility of a mandate for children if we're going to mandate children's insurance, but what about a 23-year-old who is on his own, perhaps off and not living with his parents any longer? Who is responsible for paying that insurance premium? Is it still the parents? Is it the parent's employer? Is it the child, himself, or the child's employer? No one could define it. It becomes very, very difficult, and there are lots of areas where corners can be cut. Unfortunately, it's in just the areas where those corners are cut where you typically get into the bad problems where someone finds himself without the coverage that he so desperately needs.

When we look going forward at the very programs and plans that might be available, one of the things that concerns me greatly about the so-called ''public option plan''—and during the campaign this was always talked about—is that we will have insurance coverage for everyone who is uninsured today. Insurance coverage will be available that's just as good as a Member of Congress'. That's the Federal Employees Health Benefits Plan.

Now, remember. There are a variety of products available under the Federal Employees Health Benefits Plan. I chose a Health Savings Account, which again saves the government money, but who's going to get to pick and choose which of those plans it is? Even with more on the low options side, we're still talking about a tremendous amount of money. How much money were we talking about putting into this?

Well, in the President's own budget that he submitted to Congress, he said $650 billion is the down payment on health care. That's over a 10-year budgetary window, so that's about $65 billion a year. Is $65 billion a year going to pay for insurance in the Federal Employees Health Benefits Plan for 40 or 45 million uninsured individuals? I don't think so. It's not even going to be close.

Steve Parente, the economist from the University of Minneapolis, estimated that cost to be somewhere north of $700 billion a year. The $60 billion a year actually buys you a slimmed-down Medicaid product.

□ 2320

Now, many people have difficulty—different States do things differently, but Medicaid has—without the cross-subsidization from the private sector, Medicaid would have a very difficult time providing the coverage that we're required to provide.

So I feel I'm at the end of my time. Obviously, it's not the end of this discussion. We'll be back to do this again many more times before the time is through.

I yield back my time.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. JACKSON of Illinois (at the request of Mr. HOYER) for today on account of illness.

Ms. KOSMAS (at the request of Mr. HOYER) for March 23 on account of travel delays.

Mr. REYES (at the request of Mr. HOYER) for today on account of illness in family.

Mr. CRENSHAW (at the request of Mr. BOEHNER) for today on account of the birth of his second granddaughter.

Mr. CULBERSON (at the request of Mr. BOEHNER) for today on account of an illness.

SPECIAL ORDERS GRANTED

By unanimous consent, permission to address the House, following the legislative program and any special orders heretofore entered, was granted to:

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. LEWIS of Georgia) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. SKELTON, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. WOOLSEY, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. DEFAZIO, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. SESTAK, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. BOCCIERI, for 5 minutes, today.

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. BURTON of Indiana) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. POE of Texas, for 5 minutes, today, April 22, 23, 27 and 28.

Mr. JONES, for 5 minutes, today, April 22, 23, 27 and 28.

Mr. BURTON of Indiana, for 5 minutes, today, April 22, 23, 27 and 28.

Mr. COFFMAN of Colorado, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. MORAN of Kansas, for 5 minutes, April 22 and 23.

Mr. INGLIS, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. FLAKE, for 5 minutes, April 22 and 23.

Mrs. BACHMANN, for 5 minutes, today.

SENATE BILL REFERRED

A bill of the Senate of the following title was taken from the Speaker's table and, under the rule, referred as follows:

S. 735. An act to ensure States receive adoption incentive payments for fiscal year 2008 in accordance with the Fostering Connections to Success and Increasing Adoptions Act of 2008; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

SENATE ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

The Speaker announced her signature on Friday, April 3, to enrolled bills of the Senate of the following titles:

S. 383. An act to amend the Emergency Economic Stabilization Act of 2008 (division A of Public Law 110–343) to provide the Special Inspector General with additional authorities and responsibilities, and for other purposes.

S. 520. An act to designate the United States courthouse under construction at 327 South Church Street, Rockford, Illinois, as the ''Stanley J. Roszkowski United States Courthouse''.

BILL PRESENTED TO THE PRESIDENT

Lorraine C. Miller, Clerk of the House reports that on April 20, 2009 she presented to the President of the United States, for his approval, the following bill.

H.R. 1388. To reauthorize and reform the national service laws

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 11 o'clock and 20 minutes p.m.), the House adjourned until tomorrow, Wednesday, April 22, 2009, at 10 a.m.

OATH OF OFFICE MEMBERS, RESIDENT COMMISSIONER, AND DELEGATES

The oath of office required by the sixth article of the Constitution of the United States, and as provided by section 2 of the act of May 13, 1884 (23 Stat. 22), to be administered to Members, Resident Commissioner, and Delegates of the House of Representatives, the text of which is carried in 5 U.S.C. 3331:

> ''I, AB, do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic; that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the same; that I take this obligation freely, without any mental reservation or purpose of evasion; and that I will well and faithfully discharge the duties of the office on which I am about to enter. So help me God.''

has been subscribed to in person and filed in duplicate with the Clerk of the House of Representatives by the following Member of the 111th Congress, pursuant to the provisions of 2 U.S.C. 25:

MIKE QUIGLEY, Illinois, Fifth.

EXPENDITURE REPORTS CONCERNING OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL

Reports concerning the foreign currencies and U.S. dollars utilized for speaker-authorized official travel during the fourth quarter of 2008 and the first quarter of 2009, pursuant to Public Law 95–384 are as follows:

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON BUDGET, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN JAN. 1 AND MAR. 31, 2009

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem [1]		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]
HOUSE COMMITTEES											
Please Note: If there were no expenditures during the calendar quarter noted above, please check the box at right to so indicate and return. ☒											

HON. JOHN M. SPRATT, JR. Chairman, Apr. 7, 2009.

[1] Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.
[2] If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON HOUSE ADMINISTRATION, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN OCT. 1 AND DEC. 31, 2008

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem [1]		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]
HOUSE COMMITTEES											
Please Note: If there were no expenditures during the calendar quarter noted above, please check the box at right to so indicate and return. ☒											

[1] Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.
[2] If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.

HON. ROBERT A. BRADY, Chairman, Apr. 9, 2009.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON HOUSE ADMINISTRATION, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN JAN. 1 AND MAR. 31, 2009

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem [1]		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]

HOUSE COMMITTEES

Please Note: If there were no expenditures during the calendar quarter noted above, please check the box at right to so indicate and return. ☒

[1] Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.
[2] If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.

HON. ROBERT A. BRADY, Chairman, Apr. 9, 2009.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN JAN. 1 AND MAR. 31, 2009

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem [1]		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]
Karen Hyun	2/14	2/22	South Korea		$2,318.80		$7,843.06		$79.00		$10,240.86
Committee total					$2,318.80		$7,843.06		$79.00		$10,240.86

[1] Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.
[2] If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.

HON. NICK J. RAHALL II, Chairman, Apr. 1, 2009.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON STANDARDS OF OFFICIAL CONDUCT, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN JAN. 1 AND MAR. 31, 2009

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem [1]		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]

HOUSE COMMITTEES

Please Note: If there were no expenditures during the calendar quarter noted above, please check the box at right to so indicate and return. ☒

HON. ZOE LOFGREN, Chairwoman.

[1] Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.
[2] If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON VETERANS' AFFAIRS, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN JAN. 1 AND MAR. 31, 2009

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem [1]		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]

HOUSE COMMITTEES

Please Note: If there were no expenditures during the calendar quarter noted above, please check the box at right to so indicate and return. ☒

[1] Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.
[2] If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.

HON. BOB FILNER, Chairman, Apr. 6, 2009.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 8 of rule XII, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

1231. A letter from the Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, Farm Credit Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Organization; Eligibility and Scope of Financing; Funding and Fiscal Affairs, Loan Policies and Operations, and Funding Operations; Definitions; and Disclosure to Shareholders; Director Elections (RIN: 3052-AC43) received April 3, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

1232. A communication from the President of the United States, transmitting a request for FY 2009 supplemental appropriations for ongoing military, diplomatic, and intelligence operations; (H. Doc. No. 111–27); to the Committee on Appropriations and ordered to be printed.

1233. A letter from the Chair, Congressional Oversight Panel, transmitting the Panel's monthly report, pursuant to Public Law 110-343, section 125(b); to the Committee on Financial Services.

1234. A letter from the Deputy Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs, Department of the Treasury, transmitting the Department's report entitled, ''U.S. Government Foreign Credit Exposure as of December 31, 2007,'' pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 2656h(b); to the Committee on Financial Services.

1235. A letter from the Interim Assistant Secretary Office of Financial Stability, Department of the Treasury, transmitting the Department's monthly report on its activities and expenditures under section 105(a) of the Emergency Economic Stabilization Act of 2008; to the Committee on Financial Services.

1236. A communication from the President of the United States, transmitting a proposal to expand significantly the resources available to the International Monetary Fund (IMF) through its New Arrangements to Borrow (NAB); to the Committee on Financial Services.

1237. A letter from the Acting Assistant Secretary for Communications and Information, Department of Commerce, transmitting the Department's ''Major'' final rule — Amendments to the Digital-to-Analog Converter Box Program to Implement the DTV Delay Act [Docket Number: 090212171-9172-01] (RIN: 0660-AA19) received March 30, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

1238. A letter from the Secretary, Department of the Treasury, transmitting a six-month periodic report on the national emergency with respect to persons who commit, threaten to commit, or support terrorism that was declared in Executive Order 13224 of September 23, 2001, pursuant to 50 U.S.C. 1641(c); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

1239. A letter from the Assistant Legal Adviser for Treaty Affairs, Department of State, transmitting Copies of international agreements, other than treaties, entered into by the United States, pursuant to 1 U.S.C. 112b; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

1240. A letter from the Assistant Legal Adviser for Treaty Affairs, Department of State, transmitting Copies of international agreements, other than treaties, entered into by the United States, pursuant to 1 U.S.C. 112b; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

1241. A letter from the Assistant Legal Adviser for Treaty Affairs, Department of State, transmitting Copies of international agreements, other than treaties, entered into by the United States, pursuant to 1 U.S.C. 112b; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

1242. A letter from the Director, Office of Human Resources, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting a report pursuant to the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

1243. A letter from the Director, Office of Human Resources, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting a report pursuant to the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

1244. A letter from the Director, Office of Human Resources, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting a report pursuant to the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

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1255. A letter from the Director, Office of Human Resources, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting a report pursuant to the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

1256. A letter from the Director, Office of Human Resources, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting a report pursuant to the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

1257. A letter from the Chairman, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, transmitting the Commission's annual report for the calendar year 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 552b(j), section 3(a); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

1258. A letter from the Acting Archivist of the United States, National Archives and Records Administration, transmitting the Administration's annual Performance and Accountability Report for Fiscal Year 2008, ending September 30, 2008; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

1259. A letter from the Deputy General Counsel, Office of National Drug Control Policy, Executive Office of the President, transmitting a report pursuant to the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

1260. A letter from the Acting President & CEO, Overseas Private Investment Corporation, transmitting the Corporation's Fiscal Year 2008 Annual Report, pursuant to Public Law 107-174, section 203; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

1261. A letter from the Secretary to the Board, Railroad Retirement Board, transmitting the Board's Fiscal Year 2008 annual report, pursuant to Public Law 107-174, section 203; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

1262. A letter from the Chief Administrative Officer, transmitting the quarterly report of receipts and expenditures of appropriations and other funds for the period January 1, 2009 through March 31, 2009 as compiled by the Chief Administrative Officer, pursuant to 2 U.S.C. 104a Public Law 88-454; (H. Doc. No. 111–26); to the Committee on House Administration and ordered to be printed.

1263. A letter from the Chief Justice, Supreme Court of the United States, transmitting amendments to the Federal Rules of Appellate Procedure that have been adopted by the Supreme Court, pursuant to 28 U.S.C. 2074; (H. Doc. No. 111–28); to the Committee on the Judiciary and ordered to be printed.

1264. A letter from the Chief Justice, Supreme Court of the United States, transmitting amendments to the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure that have been adopted by the Supreme Court, pursuant to 28 U.S.C. 2072; (H. Doc. No. 111–29); to the Committee on the Judiciary and ordered to be printed.

1265. A letter from the Chief Justice, Supreme Court of the United States, transmitting amendments to the Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure that have been adopted by the Supreme Court, pursuant to 28 U.S.C. 2074; (H. Doc. No. 111–30); to the Committee on the Judiciary and ordered to be printed.

1266. A letter from the Chief Justice, Supreme Court of the United States, transmitting amendments to the Federal Rules of Bankruptcy Procedure that have been adopted by the Supreme Court, pursuant to 28 U.S.C. 2075; (H. Doc. No. 111–31); to the Committee on the Judiciary and ordered to be printed.

1267. A letter from the Acting Assistant Secretary Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting the Department's report entitled, ''Report on Denial of Visas to Confiscators of American Property,'' pursuant to 8 U.S.C. 1182d Public Law 105-277, section 2225(c); to the Committee on the Judiciary.

1268. A letter from the Secretary, Judicial Conference of the United States, transmitting a draft bill entitled, ''Multidistrict Litigation Restoration Act of 2009''; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

1269. A letter from the Vice President Government Affairs and Corporate Communications, Amtrak National Railroad Passenger Corporation, transmitting an addendum to the Fiscal Year 2010 Legislative and Grant Request of February 17, 2009, pursuant to 49 U.S.C. 24315(a)(2); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

1270. A letter from the Attorney, Advisor, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Safety Zone; Perdido Regional Host Outer Continental Shelf Platform in the Gulf of Mexico [Docket No.: USCG-2008-1051] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received April 7, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

1271. A letter from the Project Counsel, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Transportation Worker Identification Credential (TWIC) Implementation in the Maritime Sector; Hazardous Materials Endorsement for a Commercial Driver's License [Docket Nos: TSA-2006-24191; USCG-2006-24196] (RIN: 1652-AA41) received April 7, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

1272. A letter from the Attorney Advisor, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Temporary Security Zone; Freeport LNG Basin, Freeport, TX [USCG-2009-0005] (RIN: 1625-AA87) received April 7, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

1273. A letter from the Attorney Advisor, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Security Zone; West Basin, Port Canaveral Harbor, Cape Canaveral, Florida [Docket No.: USCG-2008-0752] (RIN: 1625-AA87) received April 7, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

1274. A letter from the Attorney — Advisor, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Drawbridge Operation Regulation; Chehalis, Hoquiam, and Wishkah Rivers, Aberdeen and Hoquiam, WA, Schedule Change [Docket No.: USCG-2008-1095] (RIN: 1625-AA09) received April 7, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

1275. A letter from the Attorney Advisor, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Security Zone; Port of Mayaguez, Puerto Rico [Docket No.: USCG-2008-0070] (RIN: 1625-AA87) received April 7, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

1276. A letter from the Attorney Advisor, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Temporary Moving Security Zone; Freeport Channel Entrance, Freeport, TX [USCG-2009-0006] (RIN: 1625-AA87) received April 7, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

1277. A letter from the Attorney, Advisor, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Saftey Zone: Route 5 Bridge Demolition, Chickahominy River, Charles City County and James City County, VA. [Docket No.: USCG-2008-1198] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received April 7, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

1278. A letter from the Attorney Advisor, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Safety Zones; Fireworks Displays within the Fifth Coast Guard District [Docket No.: USCG-2008-0189] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received April 7, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

1279. A letter from the Acting Administrator, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's report for fiscal year 2008 on foreign aviation authorities to which the Administrator provided services in the preceding fiscal year, pursuant to Public Law 103-305, section 202; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

1280. A letter from the FMCSA Regulatory Ombudsman, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Elimination of Route Designation Requirement for Motor Carriers Transporting Passengers Over Regular Routes [Docket No.:

FMCSA-2008-0235] (RIN: 2126-AB16) received April 3, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

1281. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Modification of Class E Airspace; Reno, NV [Docket No.: FAA-2008-1108; Airspace Docket No. 08-AWP-11] received April 3, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

1282. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Bombardier Model CL-600-2B19 (Regional Jet Series 100 & 440) Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2008-0521; Directorate Identifier 2008-NM-040-AD; Amendment 39-15854; AD 2009-06-17] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received April 3, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

1283. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Bombardier Model CL-600-2B19 (Regional Jet Series 100 & 440) Airplanes [Docket No. FAA-2008-0888; Directorate Identifier 2008-NM-084-AD; Amendment 39-15840; AD 2009-06-04] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received April 3, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

1284. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Bombardier Model CL-600-2C10 (Regional Jet Series 700, 701, & 702) Airplanes, Model CL-600-2D15 (Regional Jet Series 705) Airplanes, and Model CL-600-2D24 (Regional Jet Series 900) Airplanes [Docket No. FAA-2008-0522; Directorate Identifier 2008-NM-041-AD; Amendment 39-15855; AD 2009-06-18] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received April 3, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

1285. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives;Boeing Model 757-200, 757-200PF, and 757-300 Series Airplanes [Docket No. FAA-2008-0846; Directorate Identifier 2008-NM-045-AD; Amendment 39-15857; AD 2009-06-20] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received April 3, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

1286. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Hawker Beechcraft Corporation Model MU-300-10 Airplanes and Model 400 and 400A Series Airplanes; and Raytheon (Mitsubishi) Model MU-300 Airplanes [Docket No. FAA-2008-1142; Directorate Identifier 2008-NM-060-AD; Amendment 39-15861; AD 2009-07-02] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received April 3, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

1287. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Empresa Brasileira de Aeronautica S.A. (EMBRAER) Model ERJ 170 Airplanes and Model ERJ 190 Airplanes [Docket No. FAA-2008-0831; Directorate Identifier 2008-NM-051-AD; Amendment 39-15853; AD 2009-06-16] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received April 3, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

1288. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Turbomeca Turmo IV A and IV C Series Turboshaft Engines [Docket No. FAA-2006-25730; Directorate Identifier 2006-NE-31-AD; Amendment 39-15798; AD 2009-02-08] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received April 3, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

1289. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Bombardier Model DHC-8-102, -103, and -106 Airplanes, and Model DHC-8-200, -300, and -400 Series Airplanes [Docket No. FAA-2008-1361; Directorate Identifier 2008-NM-140-AD; Amendment 39-15858; AD 2009-06-21] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received April 3, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

1290. A letter from the Acting Officer for Civil Rights and Civil Liberties, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's report for the Office of Civil Rights and Civil Liberties for the First Quarter of Fiscal Year 2009, pursuant to 6 U.S.C. 345(b); jointly to the Committees on Homeland Security and the Judiciary.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES ON PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XIII, reports of committees were delivered to the Clerk for printing and reference to the proper calendar, as follows:

Mr. GORDON of Tennessee: Committee on Science and Technology. H.R. 1580. A bill to authorize the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency to award grants for electronic waste reduction research, development, and demonstration projects, and for other purposes; with amendments (Rept. 111–75). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union.

Mr. GORDON of Tennessee: Committee on Science and Technology. H.R. 1145. A bill to implement a National Water Research and Development Initiative, and for other purposes; with amendments (Rept. 111–76). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union.

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania: Committee on House Administration. H.R. 749. A bill to amend the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 to permit candidates for election for Federal office to designate an individual who will be authorized to disburse funds of the authorized campaign committees of the candidate in the event of the death of the candidate (Rept. 111–77). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union.

Mr. CONYERS: Committee on the Judiciary. H.R. 1139. A bill to amend the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 to enhance the COPS ON THE BEAT grant program, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 111–78). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union.

Mr. OBERSTAR: Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure. House Resolution 269. Resolution supporting the goals of Motorcycle Safety Awareness Month (Rept. 111–79). Referred to the House Calendar.

Mr. OBERSTAR: Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure. House Resolution 313. Resolution supporting the goals and ideals of National Public Works Week, and for other purposes (Rept. 111–80). Referred to the House Calendar.

Mr. OBERSTAR: Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure. H.R. 1747. A bill to authorize appropriations for the design, acquisition, and construction of a combined buoy tender-icebreaker to replace icebreaking capacity on the Great Lakes (Rept. 111–81). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union.

PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XII, public bills and resolutions of the following titles were introduced and severally referred, as follows:

By Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN (for herself, Mr. BURTON of Indiana, Mr. MANZULLO, Mr. ROYCE, Mr. BILIRAKIS, Mr. MCCOTTER, Mr. FORBES, Mr. WOLF, Mr. KING of New York, Mr. HOEKSTRA, Mr. ROHRABACHER, and Mr. POE of Texas):

H.R. 1980. A bill to continue restrictions against and prohibit diplomatic recognition of the Government of North Korea, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. OLSON:

H.R. 1981. A bill to require States to report information on Medicaid payments to abortion providers; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Ms. KILPATRICK of Michigan (for herself, Ms. BORDALLO, Mr. STARK, Mr. COHEN, Mr. GUTIERREZ, and Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia):

H.R. 1982. A bill to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to acknowledge the receipt of medical, disability, and pension claims and other communications submitted by veterans; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. CONYERS (for himself and Mr. SMITH of Texas):

H.R. 1983. A bill to enact certain laws relating to small business as title 53, United States Code, ''Small Business''; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California (for himself, Mr. ANDREWS, Ms. WOOLSEY, Mr. SABLAN, Mr. GRIJALVA, Ms. HIRONO, Ms. CLARKE, Mr. HARE, Mrs. DAVIS of California, and Mr. KILDEE):

H.R. 1984. A bill to amend title I of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 to provide special reporting and disclosure rules for individual account plans and to provide a minimum investment option requirement for such plans; to the Committee on Education and Labor.

By Mr. KIRK (for himself, Mr. SHERMAN, Mr. WEXLER, Mr. KLEIN of Florida, Mr. BLUNT, Mr. MCMAHON, Mr. LOBIONDO, Mr. CHAFFETZ, Mr. LINDER, Ms. KOSMAS, Mr. SCHOCK, Mr. BURTON of Indiana, Ms. FOXX, Mr. SENSENBRENNER, Mr. MARCHANT, Mr. LAMBORN, Mrs. MILLER of Michigan, Ms. BERKLEY, Mr. BILIRAKIS, Mrs. MYRICK, Mr. MCHENRY, Mr. REHBERG, Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey, Mr. PLATTS, and Mr. SHIMKUS):

H.R. 1985. A bill to amend the Iran Sanctions Act of 1996 to enhance United States diplomatic efforts with respect to Iran by expanding economic sanctions against Iran to include refined petroleum, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and in addition to the Committees on Financial Services, Oversight and Government Reform, and Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. CHILDERS:

H.R. 1986. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 and the Economic Growth and Tax Relief Reconciliation Act of 2001 to restore the estate tax, increase the estate tax unified credit to an exclusion equivalent of $4,000,000, reduce the maximum estate tax

rate to 40 percent, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. BOOZMAN (for himself and Mr. MEEKS of New York):

H.R. 1987. A bill to amend the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 to provide funding for capacity-building to microfinance service providers; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. ANDREWS:

H.R. 1988. A bill to amend title I of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 to provide for independent investment advice for participants and beneficiaries under individual account plans; to the Committee on Education and Labor.

By Mrs. CAPITO:

H.R. 1989. A bill to provide for subsidies for interest on loans for rural multifamily housing guaranteed by the Rural Housing Service of the Department of Agriculture; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. CARDOZA:

H.R. 1990. A bill to establish an Oleoresin Capsicum Spray Pilot Program in the Bureau of Prisons, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mrs. CHRISTENSEN:

H.R. 1991. A bill to establish the District Court of the Virgin Islands as a court under article III of the United States Constitution; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. CLARKE (for herself and Mr. CONYERS):

H.R. 1992. A bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to provide penalties for individuals who engage in schemes to defraud aliens and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. COURTNEY:

H.R. 1993. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to modify the first-time homebuyer credit; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. DAVIS of Kentucky:

H.R. 1994. A bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to provide equity between active and reserve component members of the Armed Forces in the computation of disability retired pay for members wounded in action; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Ms. DEGETTE (for herself, Mr. CASTLE, Mr. KIRK, Mr. BECERRA, Ms. LEE of California, Mr. HONDA, and Ms. VELÁZQUEZ):

H.R. 1995. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to prevent and treat diabetes, to promote and improve the care of individuals with diabetes, and to reduce health disparities, relating to diabetes, within racial and ethnic minority groups, including the African-American, Hispanic American, Asian American, Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander, and American Indian and Alaskan Native communities; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. FLAKE (for himself, Mr. BURTON of Indiana, and Mr. MCCOTTER):

H.R. 1996. A bill to prohibit the inclusion of earmarks in the Intelligence Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2010; to the Committee on Intelligence (Permanent Select).

By Mr. GERLACH:

H.R. 1997. A bill to direct the Secretary of Transportation to update a research report and issue guidance to the States with respect to reducing lighting on the Federal-aid system during periods of low traffic density, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, and in addition to the Committee on Science and Technology, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. GORDON of Tennessee (for himself and Mr. DENT):

H.R. 1998. A bill to improve access to emergency medical services, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. HALL of New York:

H.R. 1999. A bill to require the Secretary of Education to award grants to local governments that have experienced at least a 15 percent decrease in property tax revenues to fund certain elementary and secondary school education programs; to the Committee on Education and Labor.

By Mr. HOLT (for himself, Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN, Mr. MORAN of Virginia, Mr. CARTER, Mr. CAPUANO, Mrs. TAUSCHER, Ms. BALDWIN, Ms. LEE of California, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Mr. CUMMINGS, Ms. WATSON, Mrs. MALONEY, Mr. CROWLEY, Mr. HONDA, Mr. KIRK, Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas, and Mr. THORNBERRY):

H.R. 2000. A bill to award a congressional gold medal to Dr. Muhammad Yunus, in recognition of his contributions to the fight against global poverty; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. HOLT (for himself, Mr. HINCHEY, Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA, Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia, Mr. SPRATT, Mr. PATRICK J. MURPHY of Pennsylvania, and Mr. MARKEY of Massachusetts):

H.R. 2001. A bill to direct the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in commemoration of the battlefields of the Revolutionary War and the War of 1812, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. ISRAEL (for himself, Mr. BRADY of Texas, Ms. SCHWARTZ, Mr. MOORE of Kansas, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mrs. BLACKBURN, and Mr. GRIJALVA):

H.R. 2002. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to improve access of Medicare beneficiaries to intravenous immune globulins (IVIG); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. KENNEDY:

H.R. 2003. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to include certain children's psychiatric hospitals under the program of payments to children's hospitals that operate graduate medical education programs; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. KILDEE:

H.R. 2004. A bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 4282 Beach Street in Akron, Michigan, as the ''Akron Veterans Memorial Post Office''; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Mr. KING of New York (for himself, Mr. BURTON of Indiana, and Mr. MARIO DIAZ-BALART of Florida):

H.R. 2005. A bill to amend the Cuban Liberty and Democratic Solidarity (LIBERTAD) Act of 1996 to require that, in order to determine that a democratically elected government in Cuba exists, the government extradite to the United States convicted felon William Morales and all other individuals who are living in Cuba in order to escape prosecution or confinement for criminal offenses committed in the United States; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. KING of New York (for himself, Ms. BALDWIN, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, and Mr. SESTAK):

H.R. 2006. A bill to amend the Social Security Act to enhance the social security of the Nation by ensuring adequate public-private infrastructure and to resolve to prevent, detect, treat, intervene in, and prosecute elder abuse, neglect, and exploitation, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committees on the Judiciary, Energy and Commerce, and Education and Labor, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. MASSA:

H.R. 2007. A bill to amend the Truth in Lending Act to prevent certain unfair practices by credit card issuers, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. MATHESON (for himself and Mr. CHAFFETZ):

H.R. 2008. A bill to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to facilitate the development of hydroelectric power on the Diamond Fork System of the Central Utah Project; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. MCCLINTOCK:

H.R. 2009. A bill to amend the Emergency Economic Stabilization Act of 2008 to permit immediate repayment of direct capital investments received under the Troubled Asset Relief Program; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. MORAN of Virginia:

H.R. 2010. A bill to amend title 49, United States Code, to allow States to regulate tow truck operations; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. PAYNE:

H.R. 2011. A bill to authorize the Secretary of Education to establish a competitive demonstration grant program to provide funds for local educational agencies in order to increase the effectiveness of substitute teaching, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and Labor.

By Mr. PAYNE:

H.R. 2012. A bill to promote youth financial education; to the Committee on Education and Labor.

By Mr. PAYNE:

H.R. 2013. A bill to award posthumously a congressional gold medal to Thurgood Marshall; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN (for herself, Mrs. DAVIS of California, Mr. BARTLETT, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. BOSWELL, Mr. CONAWAY, Mr. MCCARTHY of California, Mr. ORTIZ, Mr. RYAN of Ohio, Mrs. TAUSCHER, Mr. EDWARDS of Texas, Mr. LAMBORN, Mr. LUETKEMEYER, Mrs. MALONEY, Mrs. MCMORRIS RODGERS, Mr. MOORE of Kansas, Mr. SNYDER, Ms. BORDALLO, Mr. LOBIONDO, Mr. MASSA, Mr. STEARNS, Mr. MCCAUL, Mr. THORNBERRY, Mr. GOHMERT, Ms. CASTOR of Florida, Ms. BERKLEY, Mrs. CAPPS, Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, Ms. KAPTUR, Mr. KLINE of Minnesota, Mr. KISSELL, Mr. ROONEY, Mr. SPRATT, Mrs. KIRKPATRICK of Arizona, Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas, Mr. BUCHANAN, Mr. CALVERT, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Mr. WOLF, Mr. ALEXANDER, Mr. TURNER, Mr. SMITH of Texas, Mr. HINOJOSA, Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas, Ms. PINGREE of Maine, Mr. SCALISE, Ms. WOOLSEY, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Ms. TITUS, Mr. FILNER, Ms. TSONGAS, Mr. HALL of Texas, Mr. MCGOVERN, Ms. ESHOO, Mrs. MYRICK, Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia, Mr. BISHOP of New York, Mr. YOUNG of Florida, Mr. ROTHMAN of New Jersey, Mrs. CAPITO, Ms. DELAURO, Mr. KLEIN of Florida, Mr. ROGERS of Alabama, Mr. ROGERS of Michigan, Mr. ROE of Tennessee, Ms. FALLIN, Mr. MARIO DIAZ-BALART of Florida, Mr. BRADY of Texas, Mrs. BIGGERT, Mr. SERRANO, Mr. SHIMKUS, Mr. DUNCAN, Mr. CAMPBELL, Mr. BROWN of South Carolina,

Mr. BILIRAKIS, Ms. HARMAN, Mrs. EMERSON, Mr. BONNER, Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida, Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas, Ms. EDWARDS of Maryland, Mr. MANZULLO, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. REICHERT, Mr. MACK, Mr. WEINER, Mr. CRENSHAW, Mr. SCHOCK, Mr. LEE of New York, Mr. SHERMAN, Mr. UPTON, Mr. CLAY, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. GONZALEZ, Mr. SABLAN, Mr. MARCHANT, Ms. GRANGER, Mr. SHULER, Ms. LEE of California, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California, Mr. EHLERS, Mr. CUMMINGS, Ms. KILPATRICK of Michigan, Mr. CLEAVER, Mr. YOUNG of Alaska, Mr. WEXLER, Mr. MCKEON, Ms. SUTTON, Mr. RADANOVICH, Mr. PATRICK J. MURPHY of Pennsylvania, Mr. TANNER, Mr. MCCLINTOCK, Mr. ABERCROMBIE, Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California, Mr. MEEK of Florida, Mr. SESTAK, Mr. NEAL of Massachusetts, Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin, Mrs. CHRISTENSEN, Mr. SESSIONS, Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida, Mr. CULBERSON, Mr. REYES, Mr. RODRIGUEZ, Mr. OBERSTAR, Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California, Mr. CARDOZA, Mr. FATTAH, Mr. GUTIERREZ, Mr. TIM MURPHY of Pennsylvania, Ms. HERSETH SANDLIN, Mr. ADLER of New Jersey, Mr. WU, Mr. ISRAEL, Mr. CHAFFETZ, Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, Mr. SULLIVAN, Mr. DREIER, Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, Mr. MARSHALL, Mr. COSTELLO, Mr. LANCE, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. BARROW, Mrs. BONO MACK, Mr. PIERLUISI, Mr. CARTER, Mr. OLVER, Mr. MORAN of Kansas, Mr. CAO, Ms. MATSUI, Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA, Mr. MORAN of Virginia, Mrs. LUMMIS, and Mr. ADERHOLT):

H.R. 2014. A bill to award a congressional gold medal to the Women Airforce Service Pilots (''WASP''); to the Committee on Financial Services, and in addition to the Committee on House Administration, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. SESTAK:

H.R. 2015. A bill to instruct the Secretary of Energy to carry out a study on the use of thorium-fueled nuclear reactors; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. SIRES (for himself and Mrs. MALONEY):

H.R. 2016. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide that qualified energy efficiency property is eligible for the energy credit; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. VAN HOLLEN (for himself and Mr. JONES):

H.R. 2017. A bill to amend title 36, United States Code, to grant a Federal charter to the Military Officers Association of America, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. YOUNG of Alaska:

H.R. 2018. A bill to provide for the recognition of certain Native communities and the settlement of certain claims under the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Ms. BALDWIN (for herself, Mr. PRICE of Georgia, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. KIND, Mr. PETRI, Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas, Mr. YOUNG of Alaska, Mr. HOLT, Mr. LINDER, Mr. WU, Mr. BURTON of Indiana, Mrs. TAUSCHER, Mr. SOUDER, Mr. CONAWAY, and Mr. WESTMORELAND):

H. Con. Res. 100. Concurrent resolution expressing the support of the Congress regarding the need to facilitate State innovation in national health care reform; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. LEWIS of California (for himself, Mr. CALVERT, Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California, Mr. ROHRABACHER, Mr. RADANOVICH, Mr. HERGER, Mr. MCKEON, Mr. ROYCE, Mr. DREIER, Mr. NUNES, Mr. GARY G. MILLER of California, Mrs. BONO MACK, Mr. BILBRAY, Mr. CAMPBELL, Mr. HARPER, Mr. HUNTER, Mr. GALLEGLY, Mr. ISSA, Mr. MCCARTHY of California, Mr. MCCLINTOCK, Ms. PELOSI, and Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California):

H. Con. Res. 101. Concurrent resolution providing for the acceptance of a statue of Ronald Wilson Reagan from the people of California for placement in the United States Capitol; to the Committee on House Administration.

By Ms. LEE of California (for herself, Mr. CONYERS, Mr. BUTTERFIELD, Mr. HONDA, Mr. BACA, Mr. MCDERMOTT, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Mr. HINCHEY, Mr. OLVER, Mr. GRIJALVA, Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida, Mr. GONZALEZ, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Mr. ELLISON, Ms. NORTON, Mr. SIRES, Mr. ABERCROMBIE, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. RUSH, Ms. WOOLSEY, Mr. AL GREEN of Texas, Mr. KUCINICH, Mr. MCGOVERN, and Mr. SCHIFF):

H. Con. Res. 102. Concurrent resolution expressing the sense of Congress that the United States has a moral responsibility to meet the needs of those persons, groups, and communities that are impoverished, disadvantaged, or otherwise in poverty; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Mr. PAYNE (for himself, Mr. BOOZMAN, Ms. LEE of California, Mr. RANGEL, Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas, Ms. WATSON, Mr. RUSH, Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. ELLISON, Mr. ENGEL, and Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas):

H. Con. Res. 103. Concurrent resolution supporting the goals and ideals of Malaria Awareness Day; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California:

H. Res. 334. A resolution calling on the Government of Vietnam to release from prison, end the detention without trial, and cease the harassment and house arrest of the people who signed the Manifesto on Freedom and Democracy for Vietnam, and expressing the sense of Congress that the President should encourage Vietnam to release such people from prison and to direct the Secretary of State to establish a Countries of Particular Concern list to condemn countries like Vietnam, which engage in ''particularly severe violations'' of human rights; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. PLATTS (for himself, Mr. PRICE of North Carolina, and Ms. MATSUI):

H. Res. 335. A resolution supporting the goals and ideals of National Volunteer Week; to the Committee on Education and Labor.

By Mr. EHLERS (for himself and Mr. GRIJALVA):

H. Res. 336. A resolution supporting the goals and ideals of National Library Week; to the Committee on Education and Labor.

By Ms. GRANGER (for herself, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin, Mr. COURTNEY, and Mr. MCDERMOTT):

H. Res. 337. A resolution supporting the observance of National Child Abuse Prevention Month, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and Labor.

By Mr. LATHAM (for himself, Mr. WU, Mr. CASTLE, Mr. MILLER of North Carolina, Ms. NORTON, Mr. SABLAN, Mr. COSTELLO, Mr. GORDON of Tennessee, Mr. BRALEY of Iowa, Mr. BOSWELL, Mr. LOEBSACK, Mr. HINOJOSA, Mr. TANNER, Mr. FOSTER, Mr. MOORE of Kansas, Mr. HONDA, Mr. GONZALEZ, Mr. FATTAH, Mr. FILNER, Ms. MARKEY of Colorado, Mr. ROSS, Mr. EHLERS, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. PETERSON, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. KING of Iowa, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mrs. MALONEY, Mr. REYES, Mr. SIRES, Mr. HARPER, Mr. BARRETT of South Carolina, and Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida):

H. Res. 338. A resolution supporting the goals and ideals of National Community College Month; to the Committee on Education and Labor.

By Mr. WELCH (for himself, Mr. LANGEVIN, Mr. AKIN, Mr. ALEXANDER, Mr. BISHOP of Utah, Mr. BISHOP of New York, Mr. BOCCIERI, Mr. BOSWELL, Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania, Mr. BRALEY of Iowa, Mr. CARNAHAN, Mr. CARSON of Indiana, Mr. CASTLE, Mr. CHAFFETZ, Mr. CHANDLER, Mr. COFFMAN of Colorado, Mr. COHEN, Mr. CONAWAY, Mr. COSTA, Mr. COURTNEY, Mr. CRENSHAW, Mrs. DAHLKEMPER, Mrs. DAVIS of California, Mr. DELAHUNT, Mr. FOSTER, Mr. HALL of New York, Mr. HEINRICH, Mr. HINCHEY, Mr. HODES, Mr. HOLDEN, Mr. HOLT, Mr. HONDA, Mr. ISRAEL, Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. JONES, Mr. KENNEDY, Ms. KILPATRICK of Michigan, Ms. KILROY, Mr. KIRK, Mrs. KIRKPATRICK of Arizona, Mr. KISSELL, Ms. KOSMAS, Mr. KRATOVIL, Mr. LAMBORN, Mr. LARSEN of Washington, Mr. LOBIONDO, Mr. MAFFEI, Mrs. MALONEY, Mr. MARKEY of Massachusetts, Mr. MARSHALL, Mr. MASSA, Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York, Mr. MCHUGH, Mr. MCINTYRE, Mr. MCKEON, Mr. MCMAHON, Mrs. MCMORRIS RODGERS, Mr. MICA, Mr. MINNICK, Mr. MITCHELL, Mr. MORAN of Virginia, Mr. NYE, Mr. ORTIZ, Mr. PALLONE, Mr. PASCRELL, Mr. PETERS, Ms. PINGREE of Maine, Mr. POE of Texas, Mr. REICHERT, Mr. REYES, Mr. RODRIGUEZ, Mr. ROGERS of Michigan, Mr. ROONEY, Mr. ROTHMAN of New Jersey, Mr. SESTAK, Ms. SHEA-PORTER, Mr. SHUSTER, Mr. SKELTON, Mr. SPACE, Mr. SPRATT, Mrs. TAUSCHER, Mr. TEAGUE, Mr. TONKO, Mr. WALZ, Mr. WILSON of Ohio, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Mr. WITTMAN, and Mr. GERLACH):

H. Res. 339. A resolution expressing the sense of the United States House of Represensatives regarding the hijacking of the Maersk Alabama, the kidnapping of Captain Richard Phillips by Somali pirates, the rescue of Captain Phillips by United States Navy SEALs and the crews of the USS Bainbridge,USS Boxer, USS Halyburton and Patrol Squadron (VP) 8, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. HINCHEY (for himself, Mr. ACKERMAN, Mr. ARCURI, Mr. BISHOP of New York, Ms. BORDALLO, Mr. CHANDLER, Ms. CLARKE, Mr. COHEN, Mr. CONYERS, Mr. CROWLEY, Ms. DELAURO, Ms. EDWARDS of Maryland, Mr. ENGEL, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. GUTIERREZ, Mr. HALL of New York, Mr. HIGGINS, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. HOLT, Mr. ISRAEL, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. KILDEE, Ms. KILROY, Mr. KING of New York, Mr. LANGEVIN, Ms. LEE of California, Mr. LEE of New York, Mrs. LOWEY, Mr. MAFFEI, Mrs. MALONEY, Mr. MASSA, Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York, Mr. MCHUGH, Mr. MCMAHON,

Mr. MEEKS of New York, Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin, Mr. MORAN of Virginia, Mr. NADLER of New York, Mr. PASCRELL, Mr. PIERLUISI, Mr. PRICE of North Carolina, Mr. RANGEL, Mr. ROTHMAN of New Jersey, Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Mr. SERRANO, Mr. SHERMAN, Mr. SIRES, Ms. SLAUGHTER, Mrs. TAUSCHER, Mr. TONKO, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Ms. WATSON, Mr. WEINER, and Mr. WELCH):

H. Res. 340. A resolution expressing sympathy to the victims, families, and friends of the tragic act of violence at the American Civic Association in Binghamton, New York; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Mr. BRIGHT (for himself, Mr. DAVIS of Alabama, Mr. BACHUS, Mr. ROGERS of Alabama, Mr. GRIFFITH, Mr. BONNER, and Mr. ADERHOLT):

H. Res. 341. A resolution expressing heartfelt sympathy for the victims and families of the shootings in Geneva and Coffee Counties in Alabama, on March 10, 2009; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Mr. CAO:

H. Res. 342. A resolution expressing support for designation of May 2, 2009, as ''Vietnamese Refugees Day''; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Mr. CONAWAY (for himself, Mr. MACK, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. NEUGEBAUER, Mr. OLSON, Mr. HERGER, Mr. JORDAN of Ohio, Mrs. BACHMANN, Mr. BARTLETT, Mr. MCCLINTOCK, Mr. GINGREY of Georgia, Mr. KING of Iowa, Mr. BARRETT of South Carolina, Mr. LAMBORN, Mr. MCHENRY, Mr. CULBERSON, Mr. PRICE of Georgia, Mr. THORNBERRY, Mr. COOPER, Mr. SOUDER, Mr. HENSARLING, Mr. WITTMAN, Mr. BROUN of Georgia, Mr. DEAL of Georgia, Mr. HALL of Texas, and Mr. DAVIS of Kentucky):

H. Res. 343. A resolution amending the Rules of the House of Representatives to require the reduction of section 302(b) suballocations to reflect floor amendments to general appropriation bills; to the Committee on Rules.

By Mr. COURTNEY (for himself, Ms. DELAURO, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, Mr. MURPHY of Connecticut, Mr. HIMES, Mr. MEEKS of New York, Ms. BORDALLO, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. VISCLOSKY, and Mr. WELCH):

H. Res. 344. A resolution commending the University of Connecticut Huskies for their historic win in the 2009 National Collegiate Athletic Association Division I Women's Basketball Tournament; to the Committee on Education and Labor.

By Mr. DINGELL:

H. Res. 345. A resolution establishing a select committee to make a thorough and complete investigation of the causes of the current financial crisis and other matters; to the Committee on Rules.

By Mr. MEEKS of New York (for himself, Ms. BERKLEY, Mr. BERMAN, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida, Mr. BURTON of Indiana, Mr. BUTTERFIELD, Mr. CAPUANO, Mrs. CHRISTENSEN, Ms. CLARKE, Mr. CLAY, Mr. CLYBURN, Mr. CUMMINGS, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, Ms. EDWARDS of Maryland, Mr. ELLISON, Mr. AL GREEN of Texas, Mr. HOLT, Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Ms. KILPATRICK of Michigan, Mr. NADLER of New York, Ms. NORTON, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, Mr. SCOTT of Georgia, Mr. SERRANO, Mr. TOWNS, Mr. WATT, and Mr. WU):

H. Res. 346. A resolution recognizing that the occurrence of prostate cancer in African-American men has reached epidemic proportions and urging Federal agencies to address that health crisis by designating additional funds for research, education, awareness outreach, and early detection; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. PERRIELLO:

H. Res. 347. A resolution congratulating Averett University in Danville, Virginia, for 150 years of service and leadership to the United States; to the Committee on Education and Labor.

By Mr. PRICE of North Carolina (for himself, Mr. BUTTERFIELD, Mr. ETHERIDGE, Mr. JONES, Ms. FOXX, Mr. COBLE, Mr. MCINTYRE, Mr. KISSELL, Mrs. MYRICK, Mr. MCHENRY, Mr. SHULER, Mr. WATT, and Mr. MILLER of North Carolina):

H. Res. 348. A resolution congratulating the University of North Carolina men's basketball team for winning the 2009 NCAA Division I Men's Basketball National Championship; to the Committee on Education and Labor.

By Mr. REICHERT (for himself, Mr. GERLACH, and Mr. BACHUS):

H. Res. 349. A resolution expressing support for designation of April 2009 as ''National Autism Awareness Month'' and supporting efforts to devote new resources to research into the causes and treatment of autism and to improve training and support for individuals with autism and those who care for individuals with autism; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Education and Labor, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. SESTAK:

H. Res. 350. A resolution honoring the life and accomplishments of Harry Kalas for his invaluable contributions to the national past-time of baseball, the community, and the Nation; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

MEMORIALS

Under clause 3 of rule XII, memorials were presented and referred as follows:

15. The SPEAKER presented a memorial of the Senate of Michigan, relative to Senate Resolution No. 16, memorializing the Congress of the United States to oppose the Employee Free Choice Act; to the Committee on Education and Labor.

16. Also, a memorial of the House of Representatives of Maine, relative to JOINT RESOLUTION H.P. 105, MEMORIALIZING THE PRESIDENT-ELECT OF THE UNITED STATES AND THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS TO SUPPORT THE ''DIVIDED WE FAIL'' EFFORT; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

17. Also, a memorial of the City of Lauderdale Lakes of Florida, relative to RESOLUTION No. 09-11 EXPRESSING CONGRATULATIONS TO AND SUPPORT FOR BARACK H. OBAMA, THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATE OF AMERICA; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

18. Also, a memorial of the Thirtieth Legislature of Guam, relative to Resolution 15(COR) relative to presenting an Agenda of Priority Concerns for Guam on federal-territorial issues for proposed action to President Barack Obama, and to the Congress of the United States; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

19. Also, a memorial of the State Senate of Oklahoma, relative to Resolution No. 5 strongly opposing the federal Freedom of Choice Act; and directing distribution; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

20. Also, a memorial of the House of Representatives of Missouri, relative to House Resolution Nos. 294 & 212 requesting that the Congress be urged to reject the Freedom of Choice Act; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

21. Also, a memorial of the House of Representatives of Kentucky, relative to Resolution No. 216 urging the United States Congress to act swiftly to renew the exemption of the Delta Queen from Public Law 89-777; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

PRIVATE BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 3 of rule XII,

Mr. KANJORSKI introduced a bill (H.R. 2019) for the relief of Charmaine Bieda; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions as follows:

H.R. 13: Ms. KILPATRICK of Michigan.

H.R. 22: Mr. OLVER, Mr. BISHOP of Utah, Mr. CASTLE, Mr. GALLEGLY, Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin, Mr. RANGEL, Mr. SHULER, Mr. HALL of New York, Mr. RYAN of Ohio, Mr. STARK, Mr. TEAGUE, Mr. WAXMAN, Mr. SCHRADER, Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California, Mr. NADLER of New York, Mr. INSLEE, Mr. BARROW, Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, Mr. SKELTON, and Mr. WEINER.

H.R. 23: Mr. CALVERT, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. MASSA, Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas, Mr. CARDOZA, Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts, Mr. HARE, Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. RUSH, Mr. ROSS, Mr. COHEN, Mr. HOLDEN, Mr. DAVIS of Tennessee, Mr. ISSA, Mr. RODRIGUEZ, Mr. ROGERS of Alabama, Ms. LEE of California, Mrs. BONO MACK, Ms. KILPATRICK of Michigan, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Mr. JONES, Ms. DELAURO, Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California, Mr. BARROW, Mr. REYES, Mr. LARSEN of Washington, Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, and Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia.

H.R. 24: Mr. BARROW.

H.R. 25: Mr. ROE of Tennessee.

H.R. 49: Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey.

H.R. 52: Mr. GONZALEZ and Mr. MOORE of Kansas.

H.R. 61: Mr. PAYNE.

H.R. 98: Mr. BOOZMAN and Mr. MCCAUL.

H.R. 104: Ms. CLARKE.

H.R. 111: Mr. SOUDER, Mr. ROGERS of Alabama, and Mr. WOLF.

H.R. 154: Mr. PLATTS.

H.R. 179: Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia and Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas.

H.R. 233: Mr. SNYDER.

H.R. 235: Ms. SPEIER, Mr. DEFAZIO, Mr. MCCARTHY of California, Mr. BOSWELL, Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania, Mr. AL GREEN of Texas, and Ms. HERSETH SANDLIN.

H.R. 265: Mr. DRIEHAUS and Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ.

H.R. 305: Mr. LYNCH.

H.R. 327: Mr. ORTIZ and Mr. BONNER.

H.R. 336: Mr. HIGGINS.

H.R. 347: Mr. KISSELL, Mr. ROGERS of Michigan, Mr. CARTER, Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN, Mr. CAPUANO, Mr. RODRIGUEZ, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, and Mr. RUSH.

H.R. 388: Mr. GONZALEZ.

H.R. 393: Mr. SIMPSON.

H.R. 403: Mr. COURTNEY, Mr. CLEAVER, and Ms. KAPTUR.

H.R. 430: Mr. ROGERS of Michigan and Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia.

H.R. 433: Mrs. MCMORRIS RODGERS, Mr. MITCHELL, Mr. ROONEY, and Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia.

H.R. 444: Mr. DAVIS of Illinois and Mr. CARNEY.

H.R. 450: Mr. MCCAUL, Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. DAVIS of Kentucky, Mr. MILLER of Florida, Mr. FRANKS of Arizona, and Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin.

H.R. 470: Mr. Roe of Tennessee.

H.R. 481: Mr. ELLISON.

H.R. 482: Mr. MURPHY of Connecticut, Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia, and Mr. KISSELL.

H.R. 490: Mr. CRENSHAW.

H.R. 503: Mr. CAMPBELL, Mr. PIERLUISI, Mr. FATTAH, Mrs. DAVIS of California, and Mr. DAVIS of Illinois.

H.R. 509: Mr. PIERLUISI and Mrs. CAPPS.

H.R. 520: Ms. BORDALLO.

H.R. 556: Mr. FILNER.

H.R. 558: Ms. WATSON.

H.R. 560: Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas.

H.R. 578: Mr. OLVER.

H.R. 586: Mr. BISHOP of Georgia.

H.R. 610: Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD.

H.R. 613: Mr. MCINTYRE, Mr. BAIRD, Mr. PLATTS, Mr. PUTNAM, Mr. HONDA, and Mr. COURTNEY.

H.R. 618: Mr. GORDON of Tennessee and Mr. HASTINGS of Florida.

H.R. 621: Mr. RAHALL, Mr. DENT, Mr. SCHIFF, Mrs. BONO MACK, and Mr. MCINTYRE.

H.R. 622: Mr. BARROW, Mr. NUNES, Mr. BAIRD, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. DELAHUNT, Mr. SCOTT of Georgia, Mr. GOODLATTE, and Mr. SCHRADER.

H.R. 626: Mr. LEWIS of Georgia, Mr. PAYNE, Mrs. LOWEY, Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida, and Ms. NORTON.

H.R. 656: Mr. JONES.

H.R. 666: Mr. GONZALEZ.

H.R. 667: Mr. DONNELLY of Indiana and Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN.

H.R. 669: Mr. GONZALEZ, Mrs. CAPPS, Mrs. CHRISTENSEN, and Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida.

H.R. 673: Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida.

H.R. 676: Mrs. CHRISTENSEN.

H.R. 690: Mr. TIBERI.

H.R. 699: Ms. LEE of California.

H.R. 731: Mr. FILNER.

H.R. 758: Ms. SUTTON.

H.R. 759: Mr. MOORE of Kansas.

H.R. 775: Mr. CLEAVER, Mrs. BIGGERT, Mr. RUSH, Mr. PIERLUISI, Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, Mr. COSTELLO, and Mr. BISHOP of New York.

H.R. 804: Mr. SESTAK and Mr. BISHOP of Georgia.

H.R. 808: Mr. RAHALL and Mr. RUSH.

H.R. 816: Ms. SHEA-PORTER, Mr. WALZ, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. CLEAVER, Mr. BONNER, Mr. HINCHEY, Mr. YARMUTH, Mr. HINOJOSA, Mr. RYAN of Ohio, and Mr. MURTHA.

H.R. 834: Mr. ROHRABACHER.

H.R. 856: Mr. ISSA.

H.R. 860: Mr. BACA.

H.R. 873: Mr. CUMMINGS, Mr. MCMAHON, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. SMITH of Washington, and Mr. RYAN of Ohio.

H.R. 878: Mr. KLINE of Minnesota.

H.R. 885: Mr. PLATTS and Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania.

H.R. 899: Mr. CHAFFETZ.

H.R. 914: Mr. LUETKEMEYER, Mr. GRAVES, Mr. GOHMERT, Mrs. DAHLKEMPER, and Mr. RAHALL.

H.R. 927: Mr. TAYLOR and Mr. MCHUGH.

H.R. 930: Mr. RAHALL, Mrs. DAVIS of California, Mr. DEFAZIO, Mr. DENT, and Mr. SMITH of Washington.

H.R. 934: Mr. BACA.

H.R. 936: Mr. WAMP.

H.R. 948: Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. KRATOVIL, Mr. BOREN, Ms. TSONGAS, Mr. SMITH of Washington, and Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD.

H.R. 949: Mr. BRALEY of Iowa.

H.R. 950: Ms. BORDALLO.

H.R. 952: Mr. MEEKS of New York, Mr. CONYERS, and Mr. MITCHELL.

H.R. 958: Mr. BISHOP of New York, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Ms. BORDALLO, Mr. MURTHA, Mr. GONZALEZ, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. SPACE, and Mr. BOUCHER.

H.R. 968: Mr. MCHENRY.

H.R. 978: Mr. KISSELL.

H.R. 986: Mr. BARTLETT, Mr. SNYDER, Mr. SMITH of Washington, Mr. SHUSTER, Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania, Ms. BORDALLO, Mr. FORBES, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Mr. MARSHALL, and Mr. ABERCROMBIE.

H.R. 997: Mr. ROYCE.

H.R. 1016: Mr. BOCCIERI, Mr. GUTIERREZ, Mr. MURPHY of Connecticut, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mrs. DAVIS of California, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Ms. SUTTON, Mr. ROSS, Ms. KILPATRICK of Michigan, Mr. BOUCHER, Mr. KISSELL, Mr. SABLAN, Ms. MARKEY of Colorado, Mr. MAFFEI, Mr. OBERSTAR, and Mr. PATRICK J. MURPHY of Pennsylvania.

H.R. 1017: Mr. DOGGETT.

H.R. 1030: Mr. WILSON of Ohio and Mr. WOLF.

H.R. 1032: Mr. SNYDER, Mr. CALVERT, Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California, Mr. COURTNEY, Mr. MCCOTTER, and Mr. JONES.

H.R. 1034: Mr. SCOTT of Virginia.

H.R. 1036: Mr. GRIFFITH.

H.R. 1040: Mr. FORBES.

H.R. 1054: Mr. CONAWAY.

H.R. 1067: Mr. ROGERS of Alabama.

H.R. 1074: Mr. WILSON of South Carolina.

H.R. 1076: Mr. CARTER.

H.R. 1101: Mr. WELCH and Mr. SMITH of Nebraska.

H.R. 1103: Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida and Mr. BRALEY of Iowa.

H.R. 1145: Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. TONKO, Mr. BAIRD, Mrs. DAHLKEMPER, Mr. CHANDLER, Mr. HILL, Mr. LIPINSKI, Mr. WU, Ms. WOOLSEY, Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin, Mr. MATHESON, Ms. FUDGE, Mr. GRIFFITH, Ms. EDWARDS of Maryland, and Ms. MCCOLLUM.

H.R. 1150: Mr. MURTHA, Mr. NEAL of Massachusetts, and Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia.

H.R. 1157: Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN, Mr. MCGOVERN, and Mr. WALZ.

H.R. 1182: Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. SHUSTER, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. BOCCIERI, and Mr. JOHNSON of Illinois.

H.R. 1188: Mr. SESTAK, Mr. TIM MURPHY of Pennsylvania, Ms. BALDWIN, Mrs. CAPITO, and Mr. MCINTYRE.

H.R. 1189: Mr. FATTAH, Mr. PLATTS, Mr. UPTON, Mr. GORDON of Tennessee, Mr. RAHALL, and Mr. WAMP.

H.R. 1190: Mr. HERGER, Mr. SALAZAR, Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania, Mr. OBERSTAR, Mr. JONES, Mr. BONNER, and Mr. ADERHOLT.

H.R. 1193: Mr. MORAN of Virginia.

H.R. 1195: Mr. SHULER.

H.R. 1203: Mr. BACA, Mrs. MYRICK, Mr. TIM MURPHY of Pennsylvania, Mr. CLEAVER, Mr. ADERHOLT, Mr. REYES, Mr. WEXLER, Mr. PETERS, Ms. JENKINS, and Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ.

H.R. 1204: Ms. JENKINS.

H.R. 1205: Mr. CALVERT, Mr. BARROW, Mr. LANGEVIN, Mr. WEXLER, Mr. TERRY, Mr. DELAHUNT, Mr. CHAFFETZ, and Mr. MCINTYRE.

H.R. 1207: Mr. LUCAS, Mr. LAMBORN, Mr. EHLERS, Mr. BILBRAY, Mr. PENCE, Mr. MANZULLO, Mr. MCCAUL, Mr. COLE, Mr. ROE of Tennessee, Mr. HERGER, Mr. BISHOP of Utah, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. OLSON, Mr. LATHAM, Mr. LUETKEMEYER, and Mr. DOGGETT.

H.R. 1209: Mr. PERRIELLO, Mr. RADANOVICH, Mr. GOHMERT, Mr. ACKERMAN, Mr. ANDREWS, Ms. BERKLEY, Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia, Mr. EDWARDS of Texas, Ms. ESHOO, Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas, Mr. HINCHEY, Mrs. LOWEY, Mr. MCDERMOTT, Mr. PASTOR of Arizona, Mr. SCHIFF, Ms. SHEA-PORTER, Ms. SLAUGHTER, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Ms. RICHARDSON, Mr. MITCHELL, Mr. BACA, Mrs. CAPPS, Mr. CARSON of Indiana, Mr. CLEAVER, Mr. CLYBURN, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. ENGEL, Mr. FARR, Mr. FILNER, Mr. GRIFFITH, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. GUTIERREZ, Ms. HERSETH SANDLIN, Mr. HIMES, Mr. HONDA, Mr. KENNEDY, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Ms. MARKEY of Colorado, Mr. MARKEY of Massachusetts, Mr. MASSA, Mr. MEEK of Florida, Mr. NYE, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, Mr. SERRANO, Mr. WEINER, Mr. WEXLER, Mr. HALL of New York, Mrs. MCMORRIS RODGERS, Mr. SNYDER, and Mr. MCHENRY.

H.R. 1211: Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. EDWARDS of Texas, Mr. BOUCHER, and Mr. GRIFFITH.

H.R. 1214: Mr. KLEIN of Florida, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, and Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia.

H.R. 1231: Mr. HODES and Mr. KUCINICH.

H.R. 1240: Mr. MORAN of Virginia.

H.R. 1248: Mr. WEXLER.

H.R. 1271: Mr. BILIRAKIS, Mr. BUCHANAN, Ms. KOSMAS, Mr. MILLER of Florida, Mr. YOUNG of Florida, Mr. BOYD, Ms. CASTOR of Florida, Mr. GRAYSON, Mr. MACK, Mr. POSEY, Mr. STEARNS, Mr. CRENSHAW, Mr. PUTNAM, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida, Mr. MICA, Mr. ROONEY, and Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida.

H.R. 1277: Mr. CAMP, Mr. INGLIS, and Mr. PAULSEN.

H.R. 1285: Mr. HASTINGS of Florida.

H.R. 1294: Mr. HASTINGS of Washington and Mr. MCCLINTOCK.

H.R. 1300: Mr. CALVERT.

H.R. 1310: Mr. EHLERS, Mr. GRAYSON, Mr. PERRIELLO, Mr. CROWLEY, and Mr. ISRAEL.

H.R. 1313: Mr. PERRIELLO, Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas, Mr. CARNEY, Mr. NYE, Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia, Mr. ORTIZ, and Mr. SPACE.

H.R. 1317: Mr. TIM MURPHY of Pennsylvania.

H.R. 1322: Ms. SHEA-PORTER, Mr. NADLER of New York, Mr. HARE, Mr. MCDERMOTT, Mr. OLVER, Mr. BISHOP of New York, Mr. ISRAEL, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. STUPAK, Mr. HALL of New York, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. KILDEE, and Mr. SARBANES.

H.R. 1326: Mr. PAYNE and Mr. ACKERMAN.

H.R. 1327: Mr. GERLACH, Mr. ENGEL, Ms. HARMAN, Ms. FOXX, Mr. COLE, Mr. GORDON of Tennessee, Mr. PATRICK J. MURPHY of Pennsylvania, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. WELCH, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN, Mr. MORAN of Kansas, Mr. GUTHRIE, Mr. SIRES, Mr. PALLONE, Mr. JACKSON of Illinois, Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California, Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York, Mr. TIM MURPHY of Pennsylvania, Mr. MCMAHON, Mrs. KIRKPATRICK of Arizona, Mr. ROSKAM, Mr. MCHUGH, Mr. INGLIS, Mr. ANDREWS, Mr. MITCHELL, and Mr. RADANOVICH.

H.R. 1330: Mr. NADLER of New York.

H.R. 1354: Mr. LAMBORN, Mr. PIERLUISI, Mr. BROWN of South Carolina, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. SESTAK, Mr. ALEXANDER, and Mr. ROONEY.

H.R. 1358: Mr. KILDEE.

H.R. 1380: Mr. RUSH, Mr. COHEN, and Mr. SABLAN.

H.R. 1398: Mr. SULLIVAN and Mr. BARROW.

H.R. 1403: Mr. SPACE.

H.R. 1405: Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN and Mr. SPACE.

H.R. 1412: Mr. GONZALEZ, Mr. LEWIS of Georgia, and Mr. HASTINGS of Florida.

H.R. 1415: Mr. EHLERS.

H.R. 1425: Mr. HASTINGS of Florida.

H.R. 1427: Mr. GRIJALVA.

H.R. 1428: Mr. GORDON of Tennessee, Mr. HALL of New York, and Mr. SPACE.

H.R. 1430: Mr. KIRK.

H.R. 1437: Ms. TITUS and Mr. MCCAUL.

H.R. 1443: Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. COHEN, Mr. BRALEY of Iowa, and Mr. WELCH.

H.R. 1448: Mr. BILBRAY and Mr. KIRK.

H.R. 1454: Mr. BISHOP of Utah, Mr. REYES, and Ms. SHEA-PORTER.
H.R. 1458: Mr. WOLF, Mr. PLATTS, and Mr. EHLERS.
H.R. 1460: Mr. PAYNE.
H.R. 1470: Mr. COURTNEY.
H.R. 1474: Mr. MASSA, Mr. KISSELL, Ms. BORDALLO, Ms. SUTTON, and Mr. SIRES.
H.R. 1476: Mr. CRENSHAW.
H.R. 1483: Mr. SESSIONS.
H.R. 1485: Mr. ARCURI and Mr. BISHOP of New York.
H.R. 1504: Mr. SERRANO.
H.R. 1507: Mrs. MALONEY.
H.R. 1509: Mr. BOOZMAN.
H.R. 1520: Mrs. BLACKBURN.
H.R. 1521: Mr. HALL of Texas, Mr. REICHERT, Mr. SPACE, Mr. BOUSTANY, Ms. FOXX, Mr. LAMBORN, Mr. MELANCON, Mr. PLATTS, Mr. CRENSHAW, Mr. TIBERI, and Mr. HOLDEN.
H.R. 1544: Mr. STARK.
H.R. 1547: Mr. GORDON of Tennessee, Mr. MEEKS of New York, Mr. CAMPBELL, Mr. ROSS, Mr. BURTON of Indiana, Mr. MITCHELL, Mr. LATHAM, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. KINGSTON, Ms. CASTOR of Florida, Ms. JENKINS, Mr. DENT, Mr. ARCURI, and Mr. GERLACH.
H.R. 1550: Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Ms. FUDGE, Mrs. CHRISTENSEN, and Mr. WILSON of Ohio.
H.R. 1551: Mr. ABERCROMBIE.
H.R. 1552: Mr. HILL, Mr. KAGEN, Mr. PERRIELLO, Mr. MINNICK, Mr. NYE, Mr. KIRKPATRICK of Arizona, Mrs. MYRICK, Mr. ROONEY, Mr. LANCE, and Mr. MITCHELL.
H.R. 1558: Mr. HARE, Ms. HIRONO, Ms. SUTTON, Mr. COHEN, Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California, Ms. LEE of California, and Ms. SHEA-PORTER.
H.R. 1571: Mrs. SCHMIDT.
H.R. 1580: Mr. TONKO, Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California, Ms. WOOLSEY, Mr. SESTAK, Mrs. BIGGERT, Mr. EHLERS, Mr. MCMAHON, Mr. GRIFFITH, Mrs. DAHLKEMPER, Ms. EDWARDS of Maryland, Mr. BLUMENAUER, and Ms. BORDALLO.
H.R. 1584: Mr. ANDREWS.
H.R. 1587: Mr. PAUL, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. HASTINGS of Washington, Mr. MCCLINTOCK, Mr. UPTON, Mrs. BACHMANN, Mr. GRAVES, Mr. CALVERT, Mr. ROE of Tennessee, and Ms. HERSETH SANDLIN.
H.R. 1588: Mr. MARSHALL and Mr. CALVERT.
H.R. 1591: Mr. RODRIGUEZ and Mr. MCCLINTOCK.
H.R. 1597: Mr. PERRIELLO and Mr. MOORE of Kansas.
H.R. 1600: Mr. EDWARDS of Texas, Mr. WOLF, and Mr. SMITH of New Jersey.
H.R. 1619: Mr. ABERCROMBIE.
H.R. 1622: Mrs. BLACKBURN.
H.R. 1625: Mr. SIMPSON, Mr. CARSON of Indiana, Mr. WU, Mr. PALLONE, Mr. WEXLER, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. PLATTS, Mr. MEEKS of New York, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. ROHRABACHER, Mr. KING of Iowa, Mr. PETRI, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. LOEBSACK, Mr. LIPINSKI, Mr. GORDON of Tennessee, and Mr. BISHOP of Utah.
H.R. 1633: Mr. BARROW, Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN, Mrs. MALONEY, Mr. RODRIGUEZ, Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California, and Mr. ROGERS of Michigan.
H.R. 1638: Mr. GOODLATTE.
H.R. 1660: Mr. RODRIGUEZ, Mr. BARTLETT, and Mr. CARTER.
H.R. 1669: Mr. EDWARDS of Texas, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, and Mr. CLAY.
H.R. 1676: Mr. COHEN.
H.R. 1683: Mr. PAYNE.
H.R. 1684: Mr. PLATTS and Mr. WESTMORELAND.
H.R. 1685: Mr. BISHOP of New York.
H.R. 1688: Mr. HALL of New York.
H.R. 1690: Ms. LEE of California.
H.R. 1693: Mr. LEWIS of California, Mr. FILNER, and Mr. BISHOP of Georgia.
H.R. 1699: Mr. DOYLE.
H.R. 1701: Mr. PASCRELL.
H.R. 1705: Ms. SPEIER, Mr. CONYERS, and Mr. BLUMENAUER.
H.R. 1723: Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. BISHOP of New York, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. COHEN, Mr. FARR, Mr. GUTIERREZ, Mr. Griffith, Mr. GONZALEZ, Mr. FILNER, Mr. MCDERMOTT, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. HINCHEY, and Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania.
H.R. 1740: Mr. HIGGINS, Mr. WOLF, Mr. SHERMAN, and Mr. LOBIONDO.
H.R. 1741: Mr. CONYERS, Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. FATTAH, and Mr. COHEN.
H.R. 1751: Ms. LEE of California, Mr. ISRAEL, Mr. SERRANO, Mr. FATTAH, Mr. HOLT, Mr. WEINER, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Mr. ORTIZ, Ms. ESHOO, Mrs. DAVIS of California, Mr. CLEAVER, and Ms. SCHAKOWSKY.
H.R. 1764: Mr. CONYERS.
H.R. 1765: Mr. MOORE of Kansas.
H.R. 1770: Mr. COSTA, Mr. ALTMIRE, and Ms. TITUS.
H.R. 1776: Mr. PAYNE and Mr. MASSA.
H.R. 1788: Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi and Mr. PLATTS.
H.R. 1796: Mr. SHULER and Ms. KILPATRICK of Michigan.
H.R. 1799: Mr. PUTNAM and Mr. BARROW.
H.R. 1802: Mrs. BACHMANN and Mr. MACK.
H.R. 1826: Mr. GRAYSON, Ms. SHEA-PORTER, Mr. COURTNEY, Mr. ABERCROMBIE, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. WELCH, Mr. HIMES, and Mr. MAFFEI.
H.R. 1827: Mr. FILNER and Mrs. TAUSCHER.
H.R. 1831: Mr. MCDERMOTT, Mrs. KIRKPATRICK of Arizona, Mr. SPACE, Ms. BERKLEY, Mr. BARROW, Mr. REHBERG, and Mr. BOUCHER.
H.R. 1835: Mr. SHADEGG, Mr. MARCHANT, Mr. ROSS, Ms. KILPATRICK of Michigan, Mr. SIRES, Mr. BOOZMAN, and Mr. PAUL.
H.R. 1836: Mr. MASSA and Mr. PAULSEN.
H.R. 1841: Mr. MAFFEI.
H.R. 1844: Mr. KING of New York and Mr. MCGOVERN.
H.R. 1847: Mr. HOLDEN.
H.R. 1855: Mr. HARE and Mr. RYAN of Ohio.
H.R. 1862: Ms. WOOLSEY.
H.R. 1873: Mr. STARK.
H.R. 1874: Mr. GUTIERREZ.
H.R. 1884: Mr. BOSWELL, Mr. CHANDLER, Mr. BRALEY of Iowa, Mr. HARE, and Mr. CARSON of Indiana.
H.R. 1893: Mr. PAULSEN.
H.R. 1910: Mr. MORAN of Virginia and Ms. BORDALLO.
H.R. 1913: Mr. CAPUANO, Ms. LEE of California, Mr. COHEN, Mr. HARE, Mr. FILNER, Mrs. DAVIS of California, Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, Mr. MAFFEI, Mr. CROWLEY, Mr. PATRICK J. MURPHY of Pennsylvania, Mr. HOLT, Mr. SIRES, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, and Ms. SCHAKOWSKY.
H.R. 1920: Mr. MCCOTTER and Mr. POE of Texas.
H.R. 1921: Mr. SESTAK.
H.R. 1922: Mr. SESTAK.
H.R. 1923: Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. CONAWAY, and Mr. WESTMORELAND.
H.R. 1926: Mr. ELLISON.
H.R. 1927: Mr. TIM MURPHY of Pennsylvania, Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts, Mr. MOORE of Kansas, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Mr. TOWNS, Mr. ALTMIRE, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mrs. CAPPS, and Mr. WOLF.
H.R. 1928: Ms. KAPTUR and Ms. SHEA-PORTER.
H.R. 1932: Ms. DELAURO, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, and Ms. BALDWIN.
H.R. 1941: Mr. FILNER and Mr. FRANKS of Arizona.
H.R. 1960: Mr. MACK.
H.R. 1964: Mr. MEEKS of New York, Mrs. CHRISTENSEN, Mr. TOWNS, and Mr. DAVIS of Illinois.
H.R. 1976: Mr. WAXMAN.
H.J. Res. 12: Mr. LEWIS of Georgia and Ms. KILPATRICK of Michigan.
H.J. Res. 41: Mr. BARTON of Texas.
H. Con. Res. 15: Mr. MEEKS of New York and Mr. BACA.
H. Con. Res. 24: Mr. HASTINGS of Florida and Mr. RANGEL.
H. Con. Res. 74: Mr. LEWIS of Georgia and Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia.
H. Con. Res. 98: Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. CARSON of Indiana, and Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia.
H. Con. Res. 99: Mr. GRIJALVA.
H. Res. 57: Ms. KILPATRICK of Michigan, Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, and Mr. SMITH of Washington.
H. Res. 109: Mr. MINNICK, Ms. BORDALLO, and Mr. HASTINGS of Florida.
H. Res. 111: Mr. MEEK of Florida, Mr. TIM MURPHY of Pennsylvania, Mr. LATOURETTE, and Mr. DEFAZIO.
H Res. 156: Mr. POE of Texas.
H. Res. 175: Mr. BISHOP of Utah, Mr. MCCOTTER, and Mr. MANZULLO.
H. Res. 185: Mr. CARSON of Indiana, Mr. RANGEL, and Mr. SHULER.
H. Res. 199: Mr. BURTON of Indiana and Mr. JONES.
H. Res. 215: Mr. NADLER of New York.
H. Res. 230: Mr. MEEKS of New York, Mr. ROHRABACHER, Mr. ORTIZ, Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA, Mr. INGLIS, Mr. ENGEL, and Ms. WATSON.
H. Res. 244: Mr. TURNER.
H. Res. 247: Mr. NYE.
H. Res. 248: Mr. LATTA and Ms. KILROY.
H. Res. 251: Mr. TIM MURPHY of Pennsylvania.
H. Res. 252: Mr. LYNCH, Mrs. MILLER of Michigan, Mr. DOGGETT, Mr. MCKEON, Mr. HINCHEY, Ms. SCHWARTZ, and Mr. LARSON of Connecticut.
H. Res. 254: Mrs. LOWEY and Mr. KUCINICH.
H. Res. 259: Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania, Ms. WATSON, Mr. BROWN of South Carolina, Mr. CARNEY, Mr. GORDON of Tennessee, Mr. PERRIELLO, Mr. GINGREY of Georgia, Mr. SULLIVAN, Mr. CULBERSON, Mr. MARSHALL, Mr. WOLF, and Mr. WILSON of South Carolina.
H. Res. 260: Ms. KILPATRICK of Michigan, Mr. PIERLUISI, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. SABLAN, Mr. FARR, Ms. KILROY, and Mr. BISHOP of Georgia.
H. Res. 267: Mr. ROHRABACHER and Mr. BOREN.
H. Res. 270: Mr. CALVERT, Mr. JONES, and Mr. PUTNAM.
H. Res. 283: Mr. HOLT.
H. Res. 285: Mr. BLUMENAUER, Ms. BERKLEY, and Mr. COHEN.
H. Res. 291: Mr. WHITFIELD, Ms. SHEA-PORTER, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. ORTIZ, Mr. BARTLETT, Mrs. TAUSCHER, Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia, Mr. COHEN, and Mr. SPRATT.
H. Res. 300: Mr. MASSA, Mr. ARCURI, Mr. TOWNS, Mr. MAFFEI, and Mr. KING of New York.
H. Res. 311: Mr. GRAYSON, Ms. SHEA-PORTER, Mr. SABLAN, Mr. COSTELLO, Mr. SESTAK, Mr. MELANCON, Mr. HINCHEY, Mr. DENT, Ms. LEE of California, and Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia.
H. Res. 329: Mr. REYES, Ms. BORDALLO, Mr. LEWIS of Georgia, Mr. RYAN of Ohio, Ms. KILPATRICK of Michigan, Mr. HINCHEY, Mr. BOSWELL, Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia, Mr. SMITH of Washington, Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania, Mr. MCCAUL, Mrs. DAVIS of California, Ms. SHEA-PORTER, Mr. TAYLOR, Mr. ANDREWS, Mr. ABERCROMBIE, Mr. ORTIZ, Mr. KLINE of Minnesota, Mr. MILLER of Florida, Mr. LOBIONDO, Mr. THORNBERRY, Mrs. MCMORRIS RODGERS, Mr. WITTMAN, Mr. AKIN, Mr. SPRATT, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Ms. CASTOR of Florida, Mr. LARSEN of Washington, Mr. ELLSWORTH, Mr. SESTAK, Mrs. TAUSCHER, Mr. LANGEVIN, Ms. FALLIN, and Mr. JONES.

CONGRESSIONAL EARMARKS, LIMITED TAX BENEFITS, OR LIMITED TARIFF BENEFITS

Under clause 9 of rule XXI, lists or statements on congressional earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits were submitted as follows:

The amendment to be offered by Representative Bart Gordon, or a designee, to H.R. 1145, the National Water Research and Development Initiative Act of 2009, does not contain any congressional earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits as defined in clause 9(d), 9(e), or 9(f) of Rule XXI.

DELETIONS OF SPONSORS FROM PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were deleted from public bills and resolutions as follows:

H.R. 1214: Mr. GRIJALVA.
H.R. 1255: Mr. GRIJALVA.

PETITIONS, ETC.

Under clause 3 of rule XII,

26. The SPEAKER presented a petition of the Detroit Board of Education, relative to A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE REQUEST OF THE UNITED STATES FEDERAL GOVERNMENT FOR FINANCIAL RELIEF AND SUPPORT OF CONTINUED EDUCATION WITHIN THE CITY OF DETROIT; which was referred to the Committee on Education and Labor.

DISCHARGE PETITIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XV, the following discharge petition was filed:

[Omitted from the Record of March 26, 2009]

Petition 1. March 23, 2009, by Mr. ROBERT E. LATTA on the bill (H.R. 581), was signed by the following Members: ROBERT E. LATTA.

[Omitted from the Record of April 2, 2009]

Petition 2. March 31, 2009, by Mr. JOHN R. CARTER on the bill (H.R. 735), was signed by the following Members: JOHN R. CARTER and STEVE KING.

United States of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 111th CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

Vol. 155 WASHINGTON, TUESDAY, APRIL 21, 2009 No. 58

Senate

The Senate met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable MARK R. WARNER, a Senator from the Commonwealth of Virginia.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Almighty God, architect of our destinies, You have entrusted this world to humanity. Make us responsible stewards of its resources. Lord, lead our lawmakers to work and conserve not only inanimate things but human capital as well. Guide them to invest in the talents and creativity of the American people, remembering how our citizens have solved great problems in our past. Use our governmental leaders to bring order from chaos and harmony from discord. Lord, give them the wisdom to be forces for unity and good will. Replenish their physical strength so they can have resiliency for each challenge.

We pray in Your mighty Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable MARK R. WARNER led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. BYRD).

The legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, April 21, 2009.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable MARK R. WARNER, a Senator from the Commonwealth of Virginia, to perform the duties of the Chair.

ROBERT C. BYRD,
President pro tempore.

Mr. WARNER thereupon assumed the chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

SCHEDULE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, following leader remarks, the Senate will resume executive session and consideration of the nomination of Christopher Hill to be Ambassador to Iraq. This is all postcloture time. Cloture was invoked last evening. We have 30 hours, if the Republicans ask we use all that time. Whenever that time is completed, Mr. President—30 hours—we will move to the next matter on which another filibuster is being conducted to prevent us from going to S. 386, the Fraud Enforcement and Recovery Act legislation, which is somewhat astounding since it is a bipartisan bill. But that is where we find ourselves.

It is too bad we cannot move to that and start offering amendments and complete that legislation, but that is the way the minority wishes to proceed—not to allow us to proceed.

The Senate will remain in session, as I indicated yesterday, until we vote on the confirmation of the Hill nomination, and then cloture on the motion to proceed to S. 386, the Fraud Enforcement and Recovery Act. If Senators require the full 30 hours of postcloture debate, we will vote at 1 a.m. this morning.

The Senate will recess from 12:30 to 2:15 p.m. today to allow for the weekly caucus luncheons to meet.

MEASURE PLACED ON THE CALENDAR—H.R. 131

Mr. REID. Mr. President, H.R. 131 is at the desk. It is my understanding it is due for its second reading.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 131) to establish the Ronald Reagan Centennial Commission.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I object to any further proceedings on this matter at this time.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Objection is heard.

Without objection, the bill will be placed on the calendar.

NEVADA'S PULITZER PRIZE WINNER

Mr. REID. Mr. President, it is not every day we get to read good news in the newspaper, and it is certainly not common of late to read good news about newspapers. Today is one of those rare days. A newspaper in the State of Nevada—the Las Vegas Sun—has won the Pulitzer Prize because of a courageous young journalist named Alexandra Berzon. I spoke to her yesterday. This was basically this young woman's first reporting job. She is so excited, as she should be.

I am very happy and proud the Pulitzer is coming to Nevada. This is only the second time in Nevada's history it has received this most prestigious award in journalism and the first time in more than three decades. But I am especially proud because the Sun has been recognized for public service reporting that uncovered lax safety standards and led to actual policy changes that are saving lives.

The famous Las Vegas strip recently saw a $32 billion building boom. But something else was going up along with the hotels and casinos—the unnecessary deaths of construction workers. Twelve workers died in a little over 17

● This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

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months. Berzon's careful reporting led to important safety improvements, and not one worker has died since these changes took effect. I applaud Alexandra Berzon, her editors, and everyone at the Las Vegas Sun, which has a storied history of solid investigative journalism.

This newspaper started on a string many years ago—in the 1950s—by a man by the name of Hank Greenspun. He was a crusading newspaperman. He was the first person in the entire country to take on Senator McCarthy and the awful things he was doing to America and about America. He took him on personally on one of McCarthy's visits to Las Vegas.

He also did something else which was very courageous. Nevada had a very powerful Senator. His name was Pat McCarran. He was noted for his use of power, and Hank Greenspun, of the Las Vegas Sun newspaper, took after him big time. McCarran asked all the strip hotels to no longer advertise in that newspaper, and they followed the demand of Senator McCarran. A lawsuit was filed. We only had one Federal judge, and that one Federal judge—even though he had been appointed by McCarran in an antitrust action, which is not a jury trial—ruled in favor of the Sun. He won that lawsuit.

He took on McCarthy, he took on McCarran, and that was only the beginning of this great newspaper and the things it has done, and now they have won a Pulitzer. Hank Greenspun must be smiling from heaven.

Someone who is a modern-day icon of this newspaper was a man who taught me in high school. Fortuitously, he and I, unexpectedly, were elected, independently, Governor and Lieutenant Governor at the same time. He served 8 years. His name was Mike O'Callaghan, Governor of the State, and a very popular person. He could have gone on to make huge amounts of money in other places. He decided not to do that. I was a lawyer. I drew up this big contract where he would go to work for Hank Greenspun running his newspapers. I met with him, handed him the contract, and he said: We don't sign contracts; we shake hands. So they shook hands, and that was the beginning of a relationship that is historic in Nevada. My dear friend Mike O'Callaghan died in church; he went to mass every morning, and died as a young man in church, where I am sure his good thoughts are still coming forward.

With Hank and Mike, I am sure, as I have indicated about Hank, they are looking down from this place we call heaven at this wonderful time for this newspaper.

The kind of reporting Alexandra Berzon did is a model for reporters everywhere to follow. Of the 21 Pulitzer Prizes, only one—the Public Service Award—the one that the Las Vegas Sun was awarded—doesn't come with a cash prize. All the others come with a $10,000 cash prize but not this one. It comes with a medal. But this medal is going to mean much more to Alexandra than any dollar amount would. It is a reminder that journalism, in its most fundamental role—as a disinterested watchdog for our communities and our citizens, our country—benefits all of us.

RECOGNITION OF THE REPUBLICAN LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Republican leader is recognized.

GITMO CLOSURE

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, yesterday, I pointed out that the President's war funding request contains up to $80 million to close the U.S. detention facility in Guantanamo Bay. The administration says Guantanamo will be closed by next January. What they haven't told us is what they plan to do with these killers once it closes. Well, Americans want some assurances that closing Guantanamo will not make them less safe. Frankly, that is a very important and understandable request.

Guantanamo currently houses some of the most dangerous men alive. These are men who are proud of the innocent lives they have taken and who want to return to terrorism. One person who is there, and whom we don't know what we will do with, is Khalid Shaikh Mohammed, the mastermind of the 9/11 attacks. We captured him while he was planning followup attacks to 9/11, including plots to destroy a West Coast skyscraper and to smuggle explosives into New York. If we hadn't captured him, he may have succeeded in launching the same type of attack on the west coast that he carried out on the east coast. This is a man who brags about decapitating the American journalist Daniel Pearl, with the following quote: ''. . . with my blessed right hand.'' How does transferring Khalid Shaikh Mohammed make the country safer?

Another person at Guantanamo that the administration doesn't know what it will do with in 9 months is Ali Abd al-Aziz Ali, who served as a key lieutenant for Khalid Shaikh Mohammed during the 9/11 operation. How does transferring him make the country safer?

Then there is Abd al-Rahim al-Nashiri. He was al-Qaida's operations chief in the Arabian Peninsula and the mastermind behind the attack on the USS Cole which killed 17 sailors in 2000. How does transferring or releasing him make our country safer?

These are just 3 of the 240 terrorists that the administration doesn't know what to do with. The one thing they do know is that they claim they are going to close Guantanamo in 9 months, even though they can't say yet whether the alternative is as safe and secure. All of this, despite the fact that after visiting Guantanamo for the first time recently, Attorney General Holder said he was ''impressed by the people who are presently running the camp'' and that ''the facilities there are good ones.''

That was certainly my impression when I went there a few years ago.

The administration needs to tell the American people what it plans to do with these men if it closes Guantanamo. Two years ago, the Senate voted 94 to 3—94 to 3—against sending these men to the United States. Foreign countries have so far been unwilling to take any of them in significant numbers—understandably. Even if countries were willing to take them, there is an increasing probability that some of these murderers would return to the battlefield. The Defense Department recently confirmed that 18 former detainees had returned to the battlefield and said that at least 40 more are suspected of having done so. These are people we have already released who are back on the battlefield.

Earlier this year, the Saudi Government said that nearly a dozen Saudis who were released from Gitmo are believed to have returned to terrorism.

The administration has made a priority of closing Guantanamo, but its first priority should be to assure the American people that the detainees at Gitmo will never again be able to harm Americans.

ENTITLEMENT SPENDING

Mr. President, I wish to say another word in addition to my comments yesterday about the President's welcome gesture on wasteful spending. The Cabinet has been asked to find $100 million in savings over the next few months and this is clearly a step in the right direction, but it is just a step. Current levels of Government spending and debt are completely and totally out of control and the threat of a fiscal catastrophe is very real. The only way to address this out-of-control spending is to get at the heart of the problem, which is entitlement spending. A lot of people do not realize that nearly 70 percent of the money the Federal Government spends every year is mandatory spending on very popular programs such as Medicare, Medicaid, Social Security, and on the interest we have to pay on the national debt.

Entitlements are the heart of the problem. As Willie Sutton put it: That's where the money is. And if we don't find a way to address this spending, we will be in very serious trouble as a nation. Fortunately, Senators GREGG and CONRAD have a proposal on the table that addresses entitlement spending head on, by forcing Democrats and Republicans to come together and make the kind of tough choices necessary to steer the country out of an otherwise inevitable financial shipwreck. It deserves much more attention than it has received, and it deserves a vote here in the Senate.

Cutting $100 million in waste is certainly good, but let's put it in context. The amount of money the President asked the Cabinet to save yesterday,

$100 million, is about how much we will spend every single day on interest on the stimulus bill we passed a while back. Mr. President, $100 million in savings is certainly good. It amounts to about 33 cents for every single American. Compare that to entitlement spending where, in order to meet all our current and future entitlement promises, we would have to extract $495,000 from every American household—$495,000 from every American household. The way I see it, there is simply no question as to where the priority should be.

I yield the floor.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

NOMINATION OF CHRISTOPHER R. HILL TO BE AMBASSADOR TO IRAQ—Resumed

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senate will proceed to executive session to consider the following nomination which the clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

Nomination of Christopher R. Hill, of Rhode Island, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Career Minister, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Iraq.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Massachusetts is recognized.

Mr. KERRY. Mr. President, I know we are here to discuss the nomination of Christopher Hill to be our Ambassador to Iraq. I want to talk about that for a few minutes.

But I have to say, as I was sitting there listening to the distinguished minority leader complaining about the interest we are paying on the debt, I almost choked on the absurdity and irony of the situation in which we find ourselves. The reason we have to have an enormous stimulus plan is because of the mismanagement of our entire economy and Government over the course of the last 8 years. Not once—the Senator from Rhode Island will know this—not once did the President of the United States George Bush veto a spending bill—not once. It was under the leadership of the Republicans as the chairs of all the essential spending committees of the Congress. They had the House, they had the Senate, they had the White House. During that period of time, they took a $5.6 trillion surplus and turned it into a $10 trillion debt and about a $5.6 trillion deficit—the most irresponsible period of fiscal management in the history of this country. Not to mention what they did with respect to the management of the regulatory process of our country, where, as we know, deals were allowed to be made on Wall Street that had no business being made. Regulators were taken out of the industry itself and it was like putting the fox in charge of the chicken coop in the most overt sense possible, so regulation went out the window.

We are paying the price for that today. The American taxpayer is paying the price. The average homeowner is paying the price. Retirees are paying the price. Workers—unprecedented numbers of people laid off because of the hollow, empty Ponzi scheme investments and commission schemes that were engaged in on Wall Street and elsewhere. It is staggering.

To listen to them come to the floor with no alternative plan—they don't offer any alternative as to how you put America back to work. They just say: No, don't spend this money. Oh, my God, we are building up a terrible deficit—despite the fact that for 8 years they were silent about the deficit. There is something in public where you earn the right, sort of a moral level of rectitude or of justification for saying the things you say. I have to tell you, it is hard to listen to some of these folks, who were so much a part of that, without even accepting responsibility for it. They don't come down and say, you know, we made a blooper of a mistake or, boy, did I misjudge this or that or whatever. It is a wholesale flip-flop transition that is absolutely staggering in its proportions. Judging by the polling numbers on the President reflecting the decisions he is making, tough decisions about how to get the country moving again, I think the American people get it. I hope we are going to spend our time more profitably around here than playing the traditional political game of delay and obfuscation and those tactics.

The reason I mention that is the reason we are on the floor today debating the nomination of Christopher Hill is more of the same. It is exactly part of the same process of politics as usual in Washington, DC. There is no reason that for the last 2 weeks, while the Congress of the United States was on its Easter break—many Members back home or traveling the world, dealing with a lot of issues—there is no reason we did not have an ambassador in Iraq, which is what General Odierno wants, what General Petraeus wants, what the President wants, what the American troops need and deserve.

Time and again, Senators have come to the floor and said there is no military solution in Iraq. The reason we are drawing down our numbers of troops there now is to transfer authority to the Iraqis themselves so our troops can come home and so they can assume responsibility for their country. As all of us know, that cannot happen completely and properly until and unless the political issues of Iraq are resolved. As the Washington Post noted, we have not had an ambassador in Iraq since last February. So we have gone all this time with the principal issue which needs to be resolved, which is political, without the principal player, who is the Ambassador.

It is stunning to me that a few Senators have decided not just to register their opposition—which they can do. They have a right to do that, come to the floor, speak against the nomination and let's have a vote. He is going to be overwhelmingly supported to be the next ambassador to Iraq. But we will have delayed and diddled and who knows what opportunity may have been delayed or lost as a consequence of our not having the principal political player on the ground in Iraq in order to help negotiate.

The fact is, Chris Hill, when you look at the record, even some of the arguments that are being made about him by the few who oppose him do not stand up. They do not stand up to scrutiny. In over three decades of service at the State Department, as ambassador to complicated, difficult parts of the world—Ambassador to Macedonia and Poland, to South Korea—Chris Hill has proven himself to be one of America's most talented diplomats. Today we are asking him to take on one of the most challenging diplomatic posts, one that if you look at his record through the years he has been preparing for in different ways in each of these different posts.

Senator LUGAR yesterday joined in the effort to get this vote and to approve this nomination. I appreciate enormously the partnership Senator LUGAR has provided for years on the Foreign Relations Committee, as a partner to now-Vice President BIDEN, and now working with me and with the rest of the committee. Senator LUGAR believes in calling things the way he sees them and in making judgments based on the facts—above all, in trying to have a foreign policy presence for the United States that is bipartisan, where the politics end at the water's edge. The fact is, Ambassador Hill's decades of diplomatic experience, as Senator LUGAR has pointed out, give him the skills that matter the most in Iraq—the ability to achieve our objectives in a complex, challenging, sectarian, volatile, complicated environment.

This is exactly the experience Chris Hill brings to this effort. He was one of the principal players in helping to resolve the civil wars in the Balkans. Many of us remember how difficult and, frankly, gridlocked that particular situation looked. He has worked on multiparty international negotiations. He has dealt with hostile regimes in the six-party talks on North Korea's nuclear program. Several times he has conducted his diplomatic efforts alongside a sizable military presence.

His next assignment will require him to bring every single one of these experiences to the table. He will have to do it working against the clock as we finally bring our troops home from Iraq.

We have set a timetable. It is a timetable that the military and Defense Department have agreed with, and it is one that many people believe will require the Iraqis to stand up for themselves in ways that they had been unwilling to do previously. But the fact is that to properly effect the transition that is going to be needed to bring those troops home, it is going to require more diplomacy, smarter diplomacy, and more urgent diplomacy. Now more than ever we need to enlist Iraq's neighbors in working constructively to stabilize Iraq, and that includes Iran and Syria.

Iraq today still presents extraordinary challenges. Nobody should believe that because we have announced the troops are going to start to come home that Iraq is a done deal. It is not a done deal. It is still tricky, it is volatile, explosive. There are very complicated issues such as the oil revenues, the Federal Constitution, the resolution of the city of Kirkuk and the Kurds' interests. All are these are political solutions that need to be arrived at. I believe Chris Hill brings the skills necessary to help us to be able to do that.

A few weeks ago, the Foreign Relations Committee strongly endorsed Chris Hill's nomination. As I said a few moments ago, I absolutely respect the right of any Senator to object to a nominee and to want to make their points about that nominee. But when you know you do not have the votes to legitimately block a nomination, to delay that nomination for critical weeks I think borders on the irresponsible. It makes this institution look a little silly in some ways. The fact is, if you look at the issues that have been raised, those issues have been consistently and accurately answered on the record. Let me go through a couple of them.

Concerns have been raised about Ambassador Hill's record dealing with North Korea. Let me address that directly. First, some have attacked Chris Hill for not pressing hard enough against North Korea's atrocious human rights record. My friend Senator BROWNBACK in particular has been outspoken in this regard, arguing that Ambassador Hill reneged on a promise made at a July 31, 2008 Senate Armed Services Committee hearing.

Well, Ambassador Hill has spoken directly to that before our committee in answer to a question he was asked by Senator LUGAR. Yesterday, I asked that portions of Ambassador Hill's Senate testimony be submitted for the RECORD so Senators could read that today in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD and make their own judgment.

But Ambassador Hill did the following in answer to a question from Senator BROWNBACK: He did consent to invite the Special Envoy for North Korean human rights, a fellow by the name of Jay Lefkowitz, to future negotiations, except those that were specifically dealing with nuclear disarmament. That is appropriate. Those are two totally different portfolios. Mr. Lefkowitz was responsible for human rights, but what was being negotiated was the nuclear component, as Ambassador Hill explained at his nomination hearing. The problem is that the talks with North Korea never got beyond the issue of nuclear disarmament. It never got to the broader, more general issues that were before them.

Furthermore, the call on whether to include the Assistant Secretary for Human Rights in the six-party talks was made above Chris Hill's pay grade. That was not a Chris Hill decision, that was a decision for the President of the United States and the Secretary of State.

Let me tell you precisely what Secretary of State Condi Rice said about Mr. Lefkowitz and his efforts. Publicly in the New York Times, she is quoted rebuking the Human Rights Assistant Secretary in a public way. It is rather extraordinary that that would happen. But here is what she said:

> He is the human rights envoy. That is what he knows. That is what he does. He doesn't work on the Six-Party talks. He does not know what is going on in the Six-Party talks. And he certainly has no say what American policy will be in the Six-Party talks.

That is not a Democrat talking; that is his boss, the Secretary of State, Condi Rice, talking about his interference in the process. And Chris Hill was taking daily instructions, as he ought to be as a diplomat, from Secretary of State Condi Rice and from the President of the United States.

So, you know, this is ridiculous that we are here tying up a nomination over something Chris Hill had absolutely no power to fundamentally change. It was not his right to make that decision. He did not make that decision. He followed his instructions. If Senator BROWNBACK has a complaint, his complaint is with Secretary of State Condi Rice and President George Bush.

Lost in this is also the fact that Chris Hill was extraordinarily outspoken in his criticism of human rights in North Korea. He was plainspoken with respect to that, and he was diligent in his effort to improve human rights in North Korea. Listening to some of his critics, you might get the impression that Chris Hill was somehow indifferent to the suffering of the North Korean people. Nothing could, in fact, be further from the truth.

First, he expressed, on a number of occasions, using the plainest language, that North Korea's human rights record was ''abysmal,'' making clear in public and private that North Korea cannot fully join the international community short of significant improvement on this issue.

Yesterday, my colleague from Kansas showed pictures comparing North Korean gulags to Nazi concentration camps. He warned that he must not be silent about North Korea's conduct. He is right. We must not be silent. Most importantly, Chris Hill agrees with him, and Chris Hill was not silent. He made it plain in open testimony before the Senate Armed Services Committee in July of 2008. Let me quote from that testimony because it speaks eloquently to Ambassador Hill's character and to his concern for the innocent victims of North Korea's repressive system. Here is what Chris Hill said in 2008, well before being nominated for this job, before the Armed Services Committee of the Senate:

> The DPRK's human rights record is, quite frankly, abysmal. And every day that the people of North Korea continue to suffer represents an unacceptable continuation of oppression. I have seen—I've personally seen satellite images of the DPRK's extensive prison camp system. This is truly a scar on the Korean Peninsula . . .

So he refers specifically to the photos Senator BROWNBACK showed yesterday.

He goes on to say:

> It is reported that North Koreans suffer torture, forced abortion, and in some cases, execution. The dangers faced by North Korean refugees who flee their country in search of a better life, often only to face suffering or eventual repatriation with a very uncertain fate, are certainly, or are similarly, unacceptable. The United States' dedication to improving the lives of North Korean people will never wane, and we will continue to seek all available opportunities to improve this heartbreaking situation.
>
> We have repeatedly made clear to the DPRK that human rights is not only a U.S. priority—frankly, it's an international priority. It is a part of the standard of joining the international community. We've emphasized how much we value the advancement of human rights in all societies and our need to have this and other outstanding issues of concern discussed in the normalization process.

So Chris Hill could not have been more clear, time and again, in his negotiations, in his public comments, in his testimony to the Senate, about the human rights situation.

Second, Chris Hill worked closely with his colleagues to implement the North Korean Human Rights Act of 2004, sponsored by our friend, the Senator from Kansas. Consistent with that act, Ambassador Hill secured the admission of the first North Korean refugees into the United States in 2006. He helped ensure the safe passage of asylum seekers from the north who were detained in other countries. He backed increased funding of radio broadcasting activities and support for defector organizations in South Korea, regularly meeting with North Koreans who made it out alive.

Finally, it was the team of Ambassador Hill and USAID official John Brause that secured unprecedented access for reputable U.S. nongovernmental organizations to deliver carefully monitored food aid to North Korean children. In my opinion, there can be no higher accomplishment in the field of human rights than to prevent the starvation of children. It was not easy for Hill and Brause to convince North Korea to permit Mercy Corps, World Vision, Samaritan's Purse, Global Resources Service, and Christian

Friends of Korea to send Korean-speaking foreign staff to the countryside of North Korea in order to monitor food aid deliveries. But they did that. They accomplished that.

The fact that several of these NGOs are Christian charitable organizations makes this accomplishment even more remarkable given North Korea's poor record on religious freedom issues.

So Chris Hill's record on North Korean human rights is, frankly, unassailable, it is admirable, and we do him a disservice if that is not acknowledged here in the Senate.

What is more, Chris Hill achieved these gains inside the limitations of a policy that was shaped from above by his superiors in the White House, one that properly focused on denuclearization first, while also trying to address a wide range of other concerns, including human rights, missile proliferation, counterfeiting, drug smuggling, and other illicit activities. From the early days of the Bush administration, the focus was always clearly on security issues. In announcing the results of the Bush administration's North Korea policy review on June 6, 2001, the President instructed his security team to focus on North Korea's nuclear activities, its missile programs, and its conventional military posture. There was no explicit mention of human rights in President Bush's policy at that point in time, although there was a pledge to help the North Korean people, ease sanctions, and encourage progress toward north-south reconciliation. But the focus of the administration at that point was national security. As Secretary Rice testified to in the Foreign Relations Committee back in January of 2005:

> Our goal now has to be to make the Six-Party mechanism work for dealing with the North Korean nuclear program and then hopefully for dealing with the greater problem of managing this dangerous regime.

This was 6 weeks before Chris Hill was named envoy to the six-party talks, and it was 3 months before he was even named Assistant Secretary of State. So what are we doing debating the question of Chris Hill and this policy, when the policy was put in place by the President well before he even became Assistant Secretary of State? He followed the policy directives.

My friend Senator BROWNBACK said yesterday that our North Korean policy was a Chris Hill policy. That is not the case, and the record proves that is not the case. The decision to focus on the complete verifiable and irreversible elimination of North Korea's nuclear program was American policy, it was U.S. policy well before Chris Hill arrived, and it remains America's policy today.

Those who criticize Chris Hill for not accomplishing more in the area of human rights should also appreciate that he was, in many cases, hamstrung. I think he would have liked to have gone further in some regards, but his limitations were to the six-party talks, when many of us were pressing for bilateral talks, I might add. I remember in the 2004 campaign, in the debates with President Bush, I advocated moving toward biliteral as the way to get things done. And the President said no. He stood by the concept of six-party talks. For several years, we went on with that. But ultimately it was through the administration's eventual transition to a bilateral set of meetings that we actually made progress and accomplished what was accomplished in that relationship, tenuous as it was.

So Chris Hill was implementing the policy of President Bush, Secretary Rice, National Security Adviser Hadley, Vice President Dick Cheney, and those who had the final say on North Korean policy. That final say did not then rest with a professional foreign career officer who was implementing the policy of his superiors.

I am also troubled that some of the criticisms of America's policy toward North Korea seem to carry with them the implication that Chris Hill does not care on a personal level about human rights. Well, this runs counter to a lifetime of concern and achievement everywhere he has served.

In Kosovo, Ambassador Hill advocated NATO intervention to prevent ethnic cleansing. When more than a quarter million refugees from Kosovo flooded Macedonia in 1999, it was Ambassador Hill who worked tirelessly to keep the border open and set up dozens of refugee camps across Macedonia, protecting every last refugee and pressuring Macedonia's leadership to keep taking refugees even as they complained that their country could hold no more, even as the number of refugees rose to 10 percent of Macedonia's population, with a wave of Muslim refugees entering a delicately balanced majority-Christian, multireligious society. That is what Chris Hill accomplished. He managed to protect the rights of those people, and he did so under enormously difficult circumstances. He ought to get credit for that. The folks who are sounding the drumbeat of human rights ought to be giving him credit for the record of what he accomplished in those difficult circumstances.

Another particular story shows Chris Hill's commitment to human rights. In the middle of the night, a crowd had gathered in a refugee camp and was preparing to harm two Roma families in that camp. Chris Hill personally risked his own safety to stand in front of that crowd and allow the families who were being targeted to evacuate while he stood there. Those present said it was an impressive display of moral and physical courage.

So while we may disagree with the American policy, let's not allow those disagreements to degenerate into personal accusations against a man who has given his entire life to serving America's interests and ideals and has a decades-long record on human rights to prove it.

Simply put, Chris Hill is one of the best diplomats we have. That is why Senator LUGAR expressed his support and spoke of his outstanding diplomatic and managerial skills. Vice President BIDEN has referred to Ambassador Hill as ''one of the gems we have in the Foreign Service.''

For years, many in this body have argued that we ought to follow the advice of our commanders on the ground in Iraq. How many times have we had a debate in which people have said: Listen to the generals. Listen to the commanders in Iraq. Well, here is what they are saying:

GEN Ray Odierno, the top military commander in Iraq, said:

> Hopefully we will have an ambassador out here very soon. It would certainly help to have an ambassador here as quickly as possible.

The Pentagon's top spokesman went even further. He said:

> It is vital that we get an ambassador in Baghdad as soon as possible because there is no substitute for having the President's envoy, the U.S. Ambassador, in place and on the job.

Our Ambassadors have also been unanimous in their support. Ryan Crocker, Zalmay Khalilzad, John Negroponte, the three wartime American Ambassadors to Iraq, wrote a letter together urging a quick confirmation for Chris Hill. They wrote Hill ''brings over three decades of experience to this task, especially in the areas of national security, peace-building, and post-conflict reconstruction. We need his experience during this critical time in Iraq. . . . The issues are pressing and the President must have his personal representative on the scene now. We encourage the Senate to act promptly to provide its advice and consent.''

One of the principal reasons GEN David Petraeus and Ambassador Ryan Crocker were able to accomplish so much is because they worked together so closely. I know General Petraeus's successor, General Odierno, is looking forward to building a similar relationship with Ambassador Hill, which explains why he is outspoken in the need to send Chris Hill to Baghdad in a timely manner.

So this is not a time for delay. Chris Hill has promised to leave for Iraq within 24 hours of being confirmed, if possible. I believe we should have Chris Hill on a plane tomorrow to Iraq. And I hope my colleagues—I see none of them in the Chamber who oppose this nomination. We are going to try to move to a vote, let me say to my colleagues. If there are people who oppose this nomination, they ought to be here to do so because we are going to try to move to a vote in the early afternoon and not delay this nomination any further.

I yield the floor.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Rhode Island.

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Mr. President, I rise today to join the distinguished

chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee in support of Ambassador Christopher Hill as our next United States Ambassador to Iraq.

In helping to negotiate an end to the crisis in the Balkans, in leading three Embassies, and in working to disarm North Korea's nuclear weapons program, Ambassador Hill has gleaned invaluable experience and given invaluable service in over 31 years of diplomatic service to this country.

Ambassador Hill is a fellow son of the Foreign Service. My father and grandfather were Foreign Service officers, and I have some experience of the sense of calling and dedication that background provides. He is decent, honorable, and snarled right now in Senate politics in a way, frankly, that is less of a reflection on him than it is a reflection on us.

He is also a fellow Rhode Islander, with a family home in Little Compton, RI. His family moved there when he was in the fifth grade, when United States diplomats, including his father, were expelled from Haiti. He attended the Moses Brown preparatory school in Providence and later returned to the Ocean State to attend the U.S. Naval War College.

Now, at the crest of his career, he is a hero of the American Foreign Service and one of our very few most distinguished diplomats. He has shown in his career a special talent for bringing together ethnically divided peoples, a skill that will, obviously, be critical in Iraq. When the Balkans erupted in ethnic conflict, Ambassador Hill was a central player on the Clinton team that forged the Dayton Accords, the peace settlement that ended the Bosnian war.

In his book on the Dayton negotiations, Special Representative for Afghanistan and Pakistan Ambassador Richard Holbrooke described Hill as ''brilliant'' and ''fearless,'' praising him for being both ''very cool and very passionate,'' and for his strong negotiating skills. These are the very traits we need in an Ambassador to Iraq.

Ambassador Hill served as Ambassador to Macedonia during a troubled time, and as a special envoy to wartorn Kosovo. He said of this conflict that ''like a lot of things in life: you've got to do everything you can do'' to be satisfied ''that you have left no stone unturned.'' I am confident he will bring the same tenacity to his position as United States Ambassador for Iraq.

As Ambassador to South Korea, Christopher Hill broke diplomatic precedent and charmed the South Korean people by repeatedly visiting hotbeds of anti-American sentiment, such as universities, where he engaged in open debate with audiences. He paid his respects at a memorial for thousands of civilians fired upon by a 1980s military government. No senior U.S. official had ever before visited this memorial, and he won the respect and trust of many through this simple yet momentous gesture. A senior official with the American Chamber of Commerce in South Korea, Tami Overby, stated:

> He was here the shortest term among the six ambassadors that I've seen here in my 18 years, but [he] had the most impact.

Ambassador Hill's time in South Korea was cut short as he was tapped to head negotiations in six-party talks over North Korea's nuclear weapons program. At a time of crisis, when the Bush administration had long ignored nuclear proliferation by North Korea, Ambassador Hill successfully brought China, Japan, South Korea, Russia, and other regional partners to the bargaining table. Though some of my Senate colleagues have criticized Ambassador Hill for negotiating with North Korea, his efforts there culminated in the dismantlement of the Pyongyang reactor, slowing North Korean nuclear proliferation and protecting United States and world security.

Now he is President Obama's nominee as Ambassador to Iraq. Timing, as Senator KERRY has pointed out, is crucial, and the delay is perplexing.

Let's look back to May 2005, when the Republican majority leader took to the floor to comment on the nominations of Miguel Estrada, Priscilla Owen, and Janice Rogers Brown to U.S. courts of appeals. He said then of the Senate Democratic minority:

> For the first time in 214 years, they have changed the Senate's ''advise and consent'' responsibilities to ''advise and obstruct.''

Well, the shoe is on the other foot. My Republican colleagues are obstructing the nomination of our much needed United States Ambassador to Iraq.

When, in 2006, Kenneth Wainstein was nominated as the Assistant Attorney General for National Security, my colleague from Texas, Senator CORNYN, came to the floor and stated:

> Obstruction from the other side of the aisle, Mr. President, is impeding efforts to improve national security.

He continued:

> Democratic obstruction is impeding this effort to improve national security.

Today, Republicans are engaged in the very obstruction they criticized.

In 2007, when Michael Mukasey was nominated as Attorney General, the Republican leader came here to state:

> If . . . our colleagues intentionally delay the nominee and hold him or her hostage, they will show the American people that their concern for the Department was insincere. . . . In these times, it is especially important that the Senate act promptly. We are, after all, at war.

Well, they will be the first to tell you that we are still at war, and yet on this critical appointment for our new President: obstruction.

Similarly, when it came to the Iraq surge, my colleagues on the other side of the aisle argued vehemently that we should defer to the judgment of General Petraeus and commanders on the ground in Iraq. I am not so sure about that. Civilian control of the military is a longtime and valued American tradition. But that was their argument. We heard the name of Petraeus invoked over and over and over again.

Senator MCCONNELL, in March of 2007, spoke out against setting deadlines for U.S. troop withdrawals in Iraq, stating that deadlines would ''interfere with the President and General Petraeus's operational authority to conduct the war in Iraq as he and his commanders see fit. It would substitute for their judgment the 535 Members of Congress.''

In September of 2007, my colleague from South Carolina, Senator GRAHAM, said that ''. . . to substitute the Congress's judgment for General Petraeus's judgment, is ill-advised and unwarranted.''

Those of us who were here through that time remember clearly the repeated incantation of the name of Petraeus that featured so prominently in the Republican rhetoric.

Well, I suggest to my Republican colleagues, the time may now have come to heed their own advice. Last month, the U.S. military's chief spokesman, Geoff Morrell, stated:

> Generals Odierno and Petraeus have come out very publicly and very forcefully in support of Ambassador Hill's nomination. I know they support it. They know him from previous assignments, they like him, they believe he is well suited to the job and are anxiously awaiting his confirmation.

What happened to the deference to General Petraeus now that he wants Ambassador Hill? And it is not just General Petraeus and General Odierno and the military establishment engaged in that theater. The last three United States Ambassadors to Iraq—all Republican appointees—Ambassador Ryan Crocker, Ambassador Zalmay Khalilzad, and Ambassador John Negroponte, have all also expressed their unequivocal support for Ambassador Hill.

There are areas outside of politics where professional respect prevails. As a former U.S. attorney and attorney general, I have seen it among prosecutors. We saw it when prosecutors of both parties rallied around the Department of Justice when the Bush administration and Attorney General Gonzales made their best efforts to ruin that great Department. The same principle applies here, the politics of this Chamber notwithstanding. The professional colleagues of Ambassador Hill know better. They know how good he is, and they know we need him there.

My distinguished colleague from Indiana, the ranking member of the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations, also agrees. He put it well in Ambassador Hill's confirmation hearing. ''We're at war,'' he said. ''This is not a parliamentary struggle among senators with different points of view.''

Senator LUGAR is right. This is not or should not be a time for bickering. This is the time to confirm our next United States Ambassador to Iraq without further delay.

Christopher Hill has served in the State Department for 31 years. As Senator KERRY, the distinguished chair of

the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations has said, he is one of our Nation's most accomplished diplomats, ready for one of our most difficult assignments. He has the votes to be confirmed. Delay now can only impede progress in Iraq's future. And it fails me to understand how that could be any Member's goal. The situation is better in Iraq, but it remains difficult.

Arab-Kurd tensions are high in the north. Sectarian groups struggle for power after January's provincial elections, and elections slated for the end of this year will be a key indicator of Iraq's democratic direction. The safety of our 146,400 men and women on the ground in Iraq, of course, is always of concern. History shows that even major gains can always be reversed. So let us get Ambassador Hill out there to lead the transition of the United States mission in Iraq from a military intervention to a much needed focus on stabilization and economic development, and to advance our Nation's interests in that troubled region.

I thank the Acting President pro tempore. I thank the distinguished chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee for his advocacy and his ardent support of this nomination.

I yield the floor.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Massachusetts.

Mr. KERRY. Mr. President, I am very grateful to the Senator from Rhode Island for his comments now, as well as his leadership on the committee. And I appreciate his coming to the floor to take time to do this.

I know Senator CARDIN has been waiting.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Maryland.

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, I take this time to urge my colleagues to confirm the nomination of Christopher Hill to be Ambassador to Iraq.

I compliment the distinguished chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee, Senator KERRY, for his comments. I agree with him on the urgency of our action. It is critically important we have a confirmed ambassador in Iraq.

I also concur in the comments of Senator LUGAR, the ranking member of the Foreign Relations Committee. We are at war. We should be coming together, as Senator WHITEHOUSE has pointed out, and acting on this nomination.

I am somewhat confused as to why this nomination has been held up several weeks when I think of the fact that a clear, overwhelming majority of the Members of the Senate are going to vote for Ambassador Hill's confirmation.

It is critically important we have an experienced diplomat in Iraq as our Ambassador. Christopher Hill has devoted his career to service to our country as a diplomat. He first volunteered as a Peace Corps volunteer in Cameroon. He was Special Envoy to Kosovo, a very difficult part of the world. He was Ambassador to Poland and Macedonia and head of the U.S. delegation to the six-party talks on North Korea. That experience will serve him well as Ambassador to Iraq. He has navigated complex regional dynamics in seemingly intractable conflicts to promote peace and development in parts of the world where we thought we could not make progress. He is exactly the type of experienced diplomat the United States needs representing our interests in Iraq. As has been pointed out, we need a career diplomat, someone who has the confidence of the community to be able to make the type of progress we need to make in Iraq.

Chris Hill has the endorsements of the three prior Ambassadors of the United States to Iraq. As Senator WHITEHOUSE pointed out, they were appointed by a Republican President. However, quite frankly, Ambassador Hill represents a nonpolitical appointment that has bipartisan support in Congress. Again, he is the right type of person at this moment to represent the interests of the United States.

Let me speak a little about the urgency of why we need to move forward now and get Ambassador Hill confirmed as our Ambassador. Mr. President, 140,000 American troops are currently in Iraq. They are entitled to have a confirmed ambassador to represent the interests of the United States in Iraq. Our soldiers are serving valiantly, and they are entitled to have all the tools at their disposal to make sure their mission succeeds. One of the most important tools is to have a confirmed U.S. Ambassador.

By August 31, 2010, America's combat mission in Iraq will end. That puts more urgency on our diplomacy. There may have been some disagreement—there was disagreement—as to the surge of U.S. troops, but there is no disagreement as to the surge and the need of a surge for U.S. diplomacy. This is a critical time for Iraq. They are going through a transition in their political environment. The United States needs to be represented by an experienced, confirmed diplomat. Chris Hill is that type of an individual.

Let me speak about a couple of the other issues, starting with the refugee issue, which I heard Senator KERRY speak about. I was recently in Syria and saw firsthand Iraqi refugees who are currently living in Syria. I have been to Jordan. I have seen Iraqi refugees who are living in Jordan. There are millions of displaced Iraqis—a couple million within Iraq, a couple million outside of Iraq, mostly in the surrounding countries—and one of the challenges to a stable Iraq will be dealing with that refugee issue. The United States has to play a critical role in that, a lead role. We know that. We need an ambassador in Iraq on the ground advising the Obama administration as to what will be the most effective policies in dealing with the displaced individuals within Iraq and the refugees living in surrounding countries. We need an ambassador in Iraq now to represent those interests to give the President the best advice so we have our best chance of a successful mission within Iraq.

President Obama stated our strategy in Iraq ''is grounded in a clear and achievable goal shared by the Iraqi people and the American people: an Iraq that is sovereign, stable, and self-reliant. To achieve that goal, we will work to promote an Iraqi government that is just, representative, and accountable, and that provides neither support nor safe-haven to terrorists.''

I think we all agree with President Obama's goals for Iraq, but it is clear to all of us that we need a career, experienced diplomat in Iraq representing our interests at this critical moment.

Quite frankly, I don't understand the delay. I really don't. I think the vote is going to be overwhelmingly in support of his confirmation. Let's get on with it. Let's get him confirmed. As Senator KERRY has said, let's get him on a plane to Iraq as quickly as possible so he can help serve our interests as Ambassador to Iraq.

I urge my colleagues to vote for confirmation—and let's get that vote as quickly as possible—to represent the U.S. interests in Iraq.

With that, I yield the floor and suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mrs. GILLIBRAND). The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Delaware.

Mr. KAUFMAN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. KAUFMAN. Madam President, I rise today in support of the nomination of Christopher Hill to be Ambassador to Iraq.

Last week, I had the very distinct privilege of joining Senator JACK REED on a trip to Iraq, Afghanistan, and Pakistan to witness firsthand the remarkable contributions of our military and civilians abroad. In each and every meeting in Baghdad, we were asked about the nomination of Ambassador Hill, and it was painstakingly clear that the absence of a U.S. Ambassador creates questions regarding America's commitment to the future of Iraq.

I cannot stress enough the concern expressed by our military and civilian leadership, as well as the Iraqi Government, that there is no high-level civilian representing the United States in Iraq. It is in this regard that I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting Ambassador Hill's confirmation.

Here in the Senate, we understand the intricacies of parliamentary procedures, but outside this delay is interpreted differently. It is seen by far too many as signifying a low priority, a lack of American interest, and a slight to the people of Iraq.

With the beginning of President Obama's drawdown plan and the withdrawal of American forces from major cities by this summer, we absolutely, positively need an ambassador to coordinate increased civilian efforts needed to replace our military presence.

As Iraqis take important steps to improve security, governance, economic development, and the training of police, we must have an ambassador to coordinate our efforts and continue to channel U.S. resources and support. As Iraq faces the challenge of continued sectarian tension—especially between the Arabs and the Kurds—Ambassador Hill's first task should be focusing on mitigating tensions in the north and helping the Iraqis resolve difficult questions surrounding the status of Kirkuk and the hydrocarbons law.

The future of Iraq is incumbent upon critical developments and critical milestones that were made this year, and it is incumbent upon this body—the Senate—to ensure that the U.S. Embassy in Baghdad—the largest in the world—has the leadership it needs to succeed in Iraq.

I have met with Ambassador Hill and I am positive that he is the right person for this critical task. His extensive experience in diplomacy, nation building, and conflict management—especially in the Balkans—has prepared him for the challenge of Iraq. As a member of Ambassador Holbrooke's team, Ambassador Hill was deeply engaged in the success of the Dayton peace accords in Bosnia. As Ambassador of Macedonia, he helped to ensure refugee camps were established for the Kosovar refugees. As a Special Negotiator for Kosovo, Ambassador Hill was the architect for efforts to secure human rights for the population. When those negotiations failed, he recommended NATO intervention to prevent ethnic cleansing. Ambassador Hill has been tested by some of the very biggest foreign policy challenges in recent decades. He has demonstrated time and time again that he has the skills necessary to succeed in Iraq.

The post of Ambassador to Iraq is vitally important to U.S. security interests in the region, and I am confident the Senate will soon confirm Ambassador Hill. With this in mind, I urge my colleagues who oppose this nomination to reconsider their reservations and concerns. For that reason, I wish to address a few of those concerns now because it is critical to stress the importance of protecting human rights throughout the world, and Ambassador Hill does.

The most serious allegation against Ambassador Hill is related to his alleged unwillingness to push North Korea during the Six Party Talks. I can tell my colleagues frankly that I would not support Ambassador Hill's nomination if I had any question about his commitment to human rights. But I have none. He coordinated his efforts closely with the State Department's Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor. Together they worked to admit the first North Korean refugees to the United States in 2006 and expanded funding in support of North Korean human rights. This included expanded radio broadcasting efforts and support for North Korean defector organizations in South Korea.

He has intervened with foreign governments, including China, to make sure North Korean asylum seekers did not disappear into detention but could have safe transit into third countries. In public and in private, Ambassador Hill has made clear to North Korean officials that human rights are a primary concern of the United States—as important as the nuclear issue. The United States must insist that any settlement with North Korea take into account its atrocious record on human rights. Ambassador Hill was clear about the primacy of human rights in the process of negotiations.

Critics of Ambassador Hill have looked at a disappointing outcome at Six Party Talks and pointed the blame at him. It is a chilling thought, but it must be noted that without Ambassador Hill's commitment, the situation could have been far worse. In this regard, I am grateful to Ambassador Hill for all that he accomplished with a government well-known for its intransigence—clearly, the most intransigent government on the face of the Earth.

The practical diplomatic skills Ambassador Hill demonstrated in the Balkans and North Korea are what we need in Iraq. We will need his past experience with refugees and internally displaced persons. We will need his ability to interact with all parties as a fair arbitrator, and we need his experience with security issues and the training of police.

Now, more than ever, it is absolutely critical to demonstrate to the Iraqi people and the world that we value the importance of the future of Iraq. At this critical turning point, we must have a diplomat in Baghdad who can confront the many challenges and provide the necessary leadership for our mission. It is in this regard that I strongly support the nomination of Ambassador Chris Hill, not only because he is an accomplished diplomat but because he is the right person for the task at hand in Iraq.

I yield the floor and suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. BROWNBACK. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. BROWNBACK. Madam President, today is a sad day in the history of the world. It is Holocaust Remembrance Day. This month marks the 65th anniversary of a daring escape from Auschwitz by a teenager who then revealed the truth about the death camps, only to be ignored by the allied leadership.

In March 1944, the Germans occupied Hungary and prepared to deport that country's Jews—numbering approximately 750,000—to Auschwitz. A 19-year-old prisoner, Rudolph Vrba, together with fellow inmate Alfred Wexler, decided to do something that almost nobody had ever done before: escape from Auschwitz. They were determined to alert the world about the doom Hungarian Jews would soon face.

On April 7, Vrba and Wetzler slipped away from their slave labor battalion and hid in a hollowed-out woodpile near the edge of the camp. On the advice of Soviet prisoners of war, the fugitives sprinkled the area with tobacco and gasoline, which confused the German dogs that were used to search for them.

On their second day in the woodpile, Vrba and Wetzler heard Allied warplanes overhead. ''They came closer and closer—then bombs began to crunch not far away,'' Vrba later recalled in his searing memoir I Cannot Forgive. ''Our pulses quickened. Were they going to bomb the camp? Was the secret out? . . . Was this the end of Auschwitz?''

The Allied planes were actually bombing German oil factories in and around the Auschwitz complex. The idea of bombing the death camp had not yet been proposed to the Allied leadership, and details such as the location of the gas chambers and crematoria were not yet known to the Allied war command. But that was about to change.

On April 10, in the dead of night, Vrba and Wetzler emerged from the woodpile and began an 11-day, 80-mile trek to Slovakia. There they met with Jewish leaders and dictated a 30-page report that came to be known as the ''Auschwitz Protocols.'' It included details of the mass-murder process, maps pinpointing the gas chambers and crematoria and warnings of the impending slaughter of Hungary's Jews.

''One million Hungarian [Jews] are going to die,'' Vrba told them. ''Auschwitz is ready for them. But if you tell them now, they will rebel. They will never go to the ovens.''

A copy of the report was given to Rudolf Kastner, a Budapest Jewish leader. Instead of publicizing the information, Kastner negotiated a deal that involved bribing the Germans to permit a train with 1,684 of his relatives, friends and Hungarian Jewish leaders to leave the country. Kastner's action became the centerpiece of a controversial trial in Israel after the war.

Another copy of Vrba's Auschwitz Protocols was given to Rabbi Michoel Dov Weissmandl, a rescue activist in Bratislava, who then wrote the first known appeal for the use of Allied air power to disrupt the mass murder. Weissmandl's plea to the Allies to bomb the railroad lines between Hungary and Auschwitz reached the Roosevelt administration in June.

Assistant secretary of war John McCloy responded that the request was ''impracticable'' because it would require ''diversion of considerable air support essential to the success of our forces now engaged in decisive operations.'' He also claimed the War Department's position was based on ''a study'' of the issue. But no evidence of such a study has ever been found by researchers. In reality, McCloy's position was based on the War Department's standing policy that no military resources should be allocated for ''rescuing victims of enemy oppression.''

Vrba's report convinced the Jewish Agency leadership in Palestine to change its position on bombing. Agency leaders initially opposed bombing Auschwitz because they believed it was a labor camp, not a death camp. But after receiving the Auschwitz Protocols in June, agency officials lobbied British, American and Soviet officials to bomb the camp or the railways leading to it. Their requests were rebuffed.

Most important, a condensed version of the Auschwitz Protocols reached the U.S. Government's War Refugee Board in June. It helped galvanize the board mobilize international pressure on Hungary to halt the deportations to Auschwitz. Although that effort came too late for the more than 400,000 Hungarian Jews who had been shipped to their doom, it did spare the 200,000-plus who were still alive in Budapest.

The full version of the Vrba report was actually held up in Switzerland for three months by U.S. diplomats who regarded it as low priority. And when the report finally reached Washington in October, the Office of War Information opposed distributing it; OWI director Elmer Davis claimed the report was actually part of a Nazi conspiracy to ''create contempt for the [Jewish] inmates'' by showing that the Jews were not resisting their killers.

Fortunately, Davis and his cockamamie theories were too late to blunt the impact of the Auschwitz Protocols. The Hungarian deportations had been stopped, and Rudolf Vrba and Alfred Wetzler had played a significant role in bringing that about.

So it was held up by U.S. diplomats, who regarded Auschwitz, in this situation, as a low priority.

I will show you a picture of what is happening in North Korea. These are North Korean children who are being starved to death. These pictures were smuggled out by activists who wanted us to see what is taking place there. There are reliable estimates that up to 10 percent of the North Korean population has been starved to death in a gulag system, which I have spoken about many times on this floor, or by a regime that willfully gives food to those they deem reliable and willfully keeps food away from those they deem unreliable—including innocent children.

This is taking place today on Holocaust Remembrance Day, in full view of the world, with full knowledge of U.S. diplomatic officials and with the knowledge that this has been going on for some time. They have deemed it a low priority, that it is not essential for us to deal with it at this time, that we have more important obligations to the world and to ourselves. And they starve and they die. It continues.

The situation in North Korea has been studied fairly in depth. Here is a report done by the Committee for Human Rights in North Korea, chaired by Vaclav Havel and Eli Wiesel, among others. It is titled ''Failure to Check the Ongoing Challenge in North Korea,'' about the starvation at the gulags. Here is another report titled ''North Korea: Republic of Torture.'' They gave this report. And we have our own report by the Congressional Research Service, titled ''North Korean Refugees in China and Human Rights Issues: International Response and U.S. Policy Options.'' So we have a number of studies. Ambassador Hill knows of these quite well.

Here on Holocaust Remembrance Day, this sounds eerily familiar—deeming this a low priority, saying that we have other more urgent needs and we should not divert resources or attention or focus to another area. And they continue to die. It seems as if we have seen this play before. It always saddens me to see this play. I don't like it.

The title for this year's Holocaust Remembrance Day is ''Never Again: What You Do Matters.'' I think that title could not be more appropriate when we are debating the new potential Ambassador who will go to Iraq. It does matter. This has been a matter that for some length of time I have negotiated with this Ambassador—to elevate this issue in North Korea. But it hasn't taken place. And we continue to see this situation.

I guess you could say: Well, OK, we could do that. We must have gotten a great deal for letting this situation be ignored. Yet as articulated last night—actually it will be worthwhile to go through it right now.

Let's look at the deal we got from the North Koreans in the six-party talks. Let's put these guys on the side bench. We are not going to consider them right now. It is low priority.

This is what the United States got out of the six-party talks where we set aside the human rights issue—not now, even though we have a special envoy for human rights, even though the Congress passed a bill, the North Korean Human Rights Act, after we have done all these things, but, OK, we are going to set that aside right now because we got a good deal in the six-party talks out of the North Koreans. I know they are difficult to deal with, tough negotiators, crazy, but we got a good deal this time.

What we got out of it was we obtained an incomplete declaration from North Korea which the United States was unable to verify. They gave us a declaration, and we could not verify it. It was incomplete. It was also radioactive, which is spiteful on the part of the North Koreans. The actual report was radioactive.

They imploded a cooling tower at Yongbyon—a little bit of theater, a camera shot, a photo op. It did not stop them from producing nuclear material there. It is just less safe to do it now in this spot. They are even saying now they are going to produce there.

In the last 2 weeks, they have launched a missile that flew over Japan and has a range to reach the western United States. They have captured and detained two U.S. citizens who were reporting on this situation.

They are being investigated for selling nuclear material to Iran. That is what has happened in the last 2 weeks. They pulled out of the six-party talks and kicked out U.N. inspectors. That has happened. That was the deal we got.

What did the North Korean regime get so we could set aside this sort of human rights mess there and kind of ignore that? What did they get? They got delisted as a state sponsor of terrorism. They were able to access funds they had in an international bank. Probably those were gotten funds by selling drugs or by printing U.S. currency, which they are greatly proficient at doing. They obtained key waivers of U.S. sanctions imposed after the regime's illegal nuclear detonation in 2006. So we waived those sanctions. They got off the state-sponsored terrorism list. They received tens of millions of dollars worth of U.S. energy assistance, fuel oil we gave them. That is what the Soviets used to give the North Koreans. Now the United States is giving it to North Korea. They were allowed to continue totalitarian oppression and starvation of the North Korean people and continued operation of a gulag of concentration camps for political dissidents. They were never required to release or account for all abductees or POWs or acknowledge a clandestine uranium enrichment program or their role in Syria's reactor bombed by the Israelis. That was a North Korean-designed reactor. They didn't have to say: This is what we did with that. They were able to test ballistic missile technology in violation of U.N. Security Council sanctions without any meaningful consequences.

That was the deal we got, and that was the deal North Koreans got. We called off the human rights issue, which I was pushing and a number of people here were pushing for years, holding up different things in the system saying, you have to deal with this because we don't like these pictures; we know what is going on; you have to stop it. No, we have to put all that aside; this is a great deal. It was a terrible deal.

Who was the head of all these negotiations? It turns out it is the individual we are now going to promote to the lead diplomatic post around the world for us, Ambassador Chris Hill, nominated to be our Ambassador to

Iraq at the very point in time when those negotiations are moving into the most important diplomatic phase, more from the military phase to the diplomatic phase. This is the key person, this is our lead person on the ground, this is our representative to the Iraqi people whom we put in place, and this is the deal he got in his last assignment. Let's set aside those nettlesome human rights issues that always seem to pop up and get in the way.

On its face, we should not put the individual who negotiated that bad deal and ignored that terrible situation into our best and most important post around the world. We should not do that. And certainly adding insult to injury, doing it on Holocaust Remembrance Day when we have a modern equivalent—not an equivalent, that is not fair to say—we have a systematic modern killing by a government of millions of North Koreans, and that is taking place now.

One can say, I guess, there is nobody else who would take the post in Iraq. And yet CNN was reporting the story about General Zinni, a highly decorated individual of our Government, being offered the post of Ambassador to Iraq by Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, being congratulated by Vice President JOE BIDEN, and then mysteriously it is pulled back and he is not given the post. Here General Zinni, a highly qualified, knowledgeable individual of what is taking place in the region—he was certainly a skeptic on parts of the war, an individual with whom I disagreed, but he had his basis to do that—this is the individual who was initially nominated for this post or initially put forward and then suddenly is abruptly pulled out and instead they bring forward an individual who negotiated this bad deal.

Why not General Zinni? If people are so upset, as they I guess rightfully should be, that we do not have anybody in that post, why did they throw the last ambassador out so quickly before we got this one in or bring in General Zinni who doesn't have these questions and problems and doesn't have this history of a horrific failure. Why not General Zinni? We can move him through fast. No problem. He is knowledgeable and qualified, not this controversial background nor this ignoring of a human rights disaster in North Korea as being problematic and nettlesome and harmful to the overall debate.

Never again, as we say, never again are we going to let this sort of situation bubble up on us. Never again Rwanda. Never again a holocaust. Never again, as it happens today.

I want to go through what is happening. I have a number of points I want to cover, but let me start with this. I had a lengthy and ongoing discussion with Ambassador Hill about the human rights situation in North Korea and the problems with it. He refused to invite the Special Envoy Jay Lefkowitz to those negotiations. I talked directly with Jay Lefkowitz since that period of time. Jay said he was never invited by anybody or by Mr. Hill to the six-party talks or any associated talks. He was kept away from them.

There has been a refusal by Ambassador Hill to comply with the North Korean Human Rights Act. He refused to make use of resources at his disposal to assist in bringing out the human rights issues overall.

I want to read from the record what Ambassador Hill said. We had this ongoing negotiation. I know there is some question about what he actually committed to. I have been talking with people at the State Department for some period of time. They continue to say: No, we are not going to do human rights, but we might do something, this or that. I said: It is not good enough; it needs to be involved in the actual negotiations and is actually a key to getting the regime under control and getting it to stop doing the terrible things it is doing now if you bring up the human rights issues. When you put exterior pressure on North Korea—you have to stop the missiles, nuclear development—the leader can say to his own people: They are threatening us and we have to stand together and be protected. When you talk about human rights, this is what he is doing to his own people. It weakens the regime. They refused to bring that up.

In a hearing before the Armed Services Committee on the six-party talks and implementation activities, Ambassador Hill spoke. Senator John Warner worked with me, saying: Will you work with Ambassador Hill? Yes, if he includes the Special Envoy for human rights in these talks. If he agrees, fine, let's get it out in a public hearing and out on the record and move forward with it. This is what happened at that hearing on July 31 of last year. I was there. I asked Ambassador Hill:

> . . . will you state that the Special Envoy will be invited to all future negotiating sessions with North Korea?

That was my question in a public hearing on the record. This was choreographed ahead of time. I asked:

> . . . will you state that the Special Envoy will be invited to all future negotiating sessions with North Korea?
>
> ''All future negotiating sessions with North Korea.''
>
> Ambassador Hill: I would be happy to invite him to all future negotiating sessions with North Korea.
>
> Senator BROWNBACK: Thank you.

Those are two sentences. As a lawyer, that is pretty clear. It is ''all.'' It says ''all.'' We both say ''all.'' It is not, well, OK, I meant this group, not that group of sessions. There was no parsing of words because I knew this is what would take place if I did not get a complete statement, and it was a complete statement—all future negotiating sessions. ''I would be happy to invite him to all future negotiating sessions with North Korea,'' and that did not occur.

We received a statement from Jay Lefkowitz who was our Special Envoy to North Korea. I talked with Jay about this. Let me dig up the statement he sent back to me on the specifics of whether he was invited to any of those sessions. He said he was invited to none of them. Yet here is a statement that he will be invited to all. Jay Lefkowitz: I was invited to none.

Misleading or lying to a Member of Congress at the Senate Committee on Armed Services by the individual we now are asked to trust with the most important account that we have. He is going to be an individual who is going to come back up to this body and he is going to be asking for resources, he is going to be asking for different things for the Congress to do. This is an individual I have had some depth of experience with and I am going to question what he is asking and what he is guaranteeing then in the process, if this is the way he has dealt with me on a very specific, a very clear issue that has come forward.

A number of my colleagues have questions about his overall qualifications to go to the region in Iraq with no prior experience there, when you have an individual such as General Zinni who wants to take the post and has enormous experience in the types of things about which we are talking. I think this is lamentable.

I put in a bill last night. It calls for resanctioning North Korea with the sanctions that were lifted off this deal that was structured. This bill calls for resanctioning North Korea, putting it back on the terrorism list, not sending them more fuel oil, funds to have at their disposal from us, fuel oil to fuel their economy. I think this is appropriate for us to be discussing at this point in time since the individual who negotiated that deal is the one we are considering for this next future negotiation.

It is my hope that we can bring that bill up, that we can get some sort of vote on it. I remind individuals—and I know President Obama is very concerned about what is taking place in North Korea. He stated it, he stated very publicly that he is concerned about it. He stated it as a candidate, and he stated it as a Senator.

I want to put up a quote from Candidate Obama who was also then Senator Obama at that point in time about what he was saying about North Korea. He said this:

> Sanctions are a critical part of our leverage to pressure North Korea to act. They should only be lifted based on North Korean performance. If the North Koreans do not meet their obligations, we should move quickly to re-impose sanctions that have been waived, and consider new restrictions going forward.

This is Candidate Obama, Senator Obama, now President Obama, what he stated on June 26, 2008.

What has been the performance by North Korea? I have gone through this. I think it is worth noting, but the most obvious one is a big missile test that

took place less than 2 weeks ago. They are now restarting a nuclear reactor. They are being investigated for sending nuclear material to Iran. The North Koreans have arrested two U.S. citizens. That is the performance that has taken place. We go to an international body, the U.N., and they say we ought to put sanctions on them. I am saying we ought to put our own sanctions back on based on what our President said, as a candidate at that time.

In deference to several of my colleagues, I have much more to say, but I will allow others to speak, and then I will come back later in the day to speak further.

With that, at this point in time, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Connecticut.

Mr. DODD. Madam President, I rise to speak on behalf of Ambassador Hill. First of all, I wish to commend my colleagues. Yesterday, by a vote of 73 to 17 the Senate confirmed the nomination of Ambassador Chris Hill to serve as our Ambassador to Iraq, and I cast a vote for him. I did not get the chance yesterday to speak prior to the vote, so I wished to take a couple minutes today because I think this is an important issue. Its not just about Chris Hill but also about how we conduct diplomacy and about a professional, an individual who has served in administrations, regardless of politics or party, but as a professional. It is extremely important, in my view, that we have a cadre of professional people in our diplomatic corps who can serve both Democratic and Republican administrations with dignity, with professionalism, with brilliance in this case, and that we recognize them. That will necessitate from time to time that there will be a change in policies, but having individuals who are able to accommodate those changes and serve the interests of our country in a highly professional capacity is something to be celebrated, in my view, and something we need more of, not less. My support for Chris Hill's nomination is not to suggest that I necessarily agreed with every decision he made when he served at the discretion of Condoleezza Rice and President Bush but because he did so professionally and with great capacity. That willingness is something I believe we need to celebrate, as I said a moment ago, more often.

Chris Hill is one of America's most accomplished Ambassadors and diplomats. He has served as Ambassador of our country to Macedonia, to Poland, and South Korea, as Special Envoy to Kosovo, and as a key negotiator of the 1995 Dayton Accords. He has been the Assistant Secretary of State for East Asia, and the Special Envoy to the six-party talks on North Korea's nuclear program.

His experience, tremendous professionalism and discipline, and his very keen analytical skills have made Ambassador Hill uniquely qualified, I believe, to serve as Ambassador to Iraq. It is high time the Senate confirmed him. This has gone on too long, given the importance of that Nation and the very precarious situation Iraq is in as it transitions from a nation at war with itself to the political stability we all hope will be achieved.

The purpose of the surge in Iraq was to create the breathing space for the Iraqis to engage in political reconciliation and the political processes that would enable the Government to address the needs of its people and to rely less on American Security forces while doing so. The reduction in violence is a very positive sign and one that all of us welcome. But we must ask ourselves some critical questions as well: Have the fundamentals in Iraq changed? Is this reduction in violence organic or temporary? Is it sustainable? Have the fundamental roadblocks to political reconciliation been removed? How real is that progress? How fragile is it? Given the answers to these questions, what strategy should the United States employ in Iraq?

I believe we made the correct decision yesterday by a vote of 73 to 17 that Ambassador Hill is the right person to analyze these questions. He has a wealth of experience in very difficult places around the globe. While he lacks the so-called direct experience in this part of the world, the skill sets he brings to this are absolutely essential, in my view, to navigate these very difficult issues I have raised. So we need to recognize that.

I also believe he is the right individual because he has demonstrated a solid grasp of the complex Iraqi reality, as well as a commitment to working toward reconciliation in Iraq and helping build an inclusive and responsive government that meets the needs of its people, while allowing American forces to quickly withdraw in the most responsible way possible.

I am confident Ambassador Hill can accomplish this extraordinarily difficult and complex mission because he has demonstrated his ability to do so time and time again. Most recently, with the full confidence of the former President and Secretary of State, Ambassador Hill coordinated difficult and highly sensitive multilateral negotiations over North Korea's nuclear program.

For people who supported President Bush's policy regarding North Korea to raise objections to Ambassador Hill's embrace and faithful execution of that policy is somewhat illogical. Similarly, it is unfair and dangerous for us to sit here and second-guess every split-second decision our Ambassadors around the world have to make, often in extremely difficult and rapidly changing circumstances, when those decisions are consistent with the guidance of the Secretary of State and the President, as they were in the previous administration. On one such occasion, in fact, in his negotiations on North Korea, then-Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice approved of Chris Hill's quick thinking and adaptability, and she was highly critical of his Chinese negotiating partners for complicating an already tenuous situation.

The American people need our Ambassadors to carry out administration policy at the direction of the President and the Secretary of State and to think quickly on their feet when unexpected circumstances arise. Chris Hill has demonstrated the ability time and time and time again to make those kinds of decisions that advance our interests as a nation through the diplomatic process. To do otherwise would be irresponsible.

Moreover, I am concerned about the complaints that Ambassador Hill did not press hard enough against North Korea on its deplorable human rights record. North Korea's human rights practices are horrific. We all know it. I know of no one, including Ambassador Hill, who thinks otherwise. But to claim Ambassador Hill somehow failed to faithfully and energetically carry out the human rights policies of President Bush and Secretary of State Rice, I think, is wrong. It is not just unfair to him and unfair to the former President and Secretary of State, it is a naive oversimplification of a highly complex matter, particularly when the reduction of a nuclear threat was the primary objective of those efforts.

Ambassador Hill, has earned the support of the chairman and ranking member of the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations, Generals Petraeus and Odierno, and the last three U.S. Ambassadors to Iraq. Ambassador Hill has testified before the Foreign Relations Committee and has answered all our questions on that committee, and I believe it is time we stopped delaying and send this Ambassador to Baghdad, where he is needed to carry out the critical missions of our Nation and advance the interests of our Nation. I know I am not alone in my belief that we are lucky to have such a talented and dedicated public servant to take on this daunting task, and I would urge my colleagues to support his nomination.

I referred earlier to the vote yesterday. That vote was on a cloture motion to go to Ambassador Chris Hill's nomination. When I said it was a vote on his nomination—that vote of 73 to 17—it was a vote that allows us to get to the vote on the nomination. I was confusing the cloture motion with the vote to come on his nomination, which will occur at some point in the next day or two. Again, I urge my colleagues to be as supportive in the nomination as they were on the cloture motion.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Tennessee.

EARTH DAY

Mr. ALEXANDER. Madam President, tomorrow is Earth Day, and it is a good day to save our mountaintops. I live in east Tennessee, near the edge of the Great Smoky Mountains National Park. Millions of Americans visit us

every year because of the natural beauty of our landscape. They do not come to Tennessee to see the smog, they do not come to Tennessee to see creeks polluted by mountaintop mining, and they don't come to Tennessee to see ridgetop wind turbines that are three times as tall as our University of Tennessee football stadium, which, with their transmission lines, would create a junkyard in the sky.

The American landscape is a part of our environment. It is essential to the American character. From John Muir and Theodore Roosevelt to Lady Bird Johnson, generations of Americans have worked to protect the landscape. Some of the same groups that have worked hardest to protect the landscape are neglecting it in pursuit of remedies for climate change.

I am working with three Democratic Members of Congress to try to protect the American landscape. The first is Senator TOM CARPER of Delaware. He and I are introducing legislation to put stiffer controls on sulfur, nitrogen, and mercury emissions from coal plants. We have the technology to make the air cleaner, and we should be using it. There is no need to delay dealing with sulfur, nitrogen, and mercury while we figure out what to do about carbon.

Secondly, Senator CARDIN of Maryland and I have introduced legislation to ban the practice of blowing off the tops of mountains and dumping the waste in streams to mine coal. Coal is essential to our energy future. I hope we will reserve a Nobel Prize for the scientist who finds a way to deal with the carbon from existing coal plants. But we will create many more jobs by saving our mountaintops to attract tourists than we will by blowing them up to find coal, especially because our State produces less than 2 percent of the Nation's coal.

Finally, Representative HEATH SHULER of North Carolina and I hosted a forum in Knoxville highlighting the Tennessee Valley Authority and their choices for renewable energy. Conservation and nuclear power are realistic options for clean electricity for our region, and we should move ahead aggressively with both. But solar power, for the longer term; underwater river turbines in the Mississippi River; biomass, such as wood chips; and methane from landfills are all good choices for renewable electricity as well.

On the other hand, the idea of polluting our landscape with 500-foot wind turbines and their transmission towers is preposterous. It makes no sense to destroy the environment in the name of saving the environment, especially since the wind only blows about 18 percent of the time at TVA's one wind farm. And much of that is at night, when TVA already has thousands of unused megawatts of electricity that we could be using. TVA should take the $60 million it is spending to buy about 5 megawatts of unreliable wind power and instead buy 10 compact fluorescent light bulbs for every TVA household, which, if used, would save about 920 megawatts of reliable power—the equivalent of an entire nuclear plant.

Senator CARPER and I will host a roundtable this Thursday in the Capitol on our legislation to establish stiff standards for sulfur, nitrogen, and mercury. The Tennessee Valley Authority needs to go ahead and put sulfur, nitrogen, and mercury controls on all its large coal plants that it intends to keep open. But TVA actions alone will not be enough to give us clean air in the Great Smoky Mountains and in Tennessee. We need strong national standards, such as those in our legislation because so much of our dirty air blows in from coal powerplants in other States.

During each of the 2-year Congresses in which I have been a Senator, I have introduced legislation to curb pollutants from coal plants, including carbon. Tomorrow is Earth Day and a good day to save our mountaintops. The way we should do that is to have stiffer controls for cleaner air, to ban mountaintop removal for coal mining, and to stop the practice of wasting ratepayer dollars for ridgetop wind turbines that destroy the landscape, which is also an essential part of the American environment.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Pennsylvania.

Mr. CASEY. Madam President, I thank the Chair.

(The remarks of Mr. CASEY pertaining to the introduction of S. 839 are located in today's RECORD under "Statements on Introduced Bills and Joint Resolutions.")

Mr. CASEY. I yield the floor, and I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, in late February, President Obama made an announcement to thousands of marines in Camp Lejeune about bringing an end to the war in Iraq. After only 5 weeks in office, this President delivered on what I consider to be one of his most important campaign promises—to end this war once and for all.

But amidst this historic position and with this change that is looming, the Senate unfortunately has delayed the confirmation of the United States Ambassador to Iraq. We have gone almost 2 months without an ambassador in Iraq. With more than 140,000 American military personnel literally risking their lives in that country, the Senate has refused to fill this vacancy and to send our highest ranking civil official to Iraq to work with our military for a peaceful conclusion to this war. It is unforgivable. It is inexcusable. It is a fact.

Ambassador Hill, Christopher Hill, the man who has been nominated for this position, is a highly accomplished career diplomat. This is not a man who comes to this job without experience. He has served America for over three decades in some of the world's most difficult and challenging situations. Here is what President Obama said in nominating Christopher Hill to be our Ambassador:

> From his time in the Peace Corps to his work in Kosovo and Korea, Ambassador Hill has been tested, and he has shown the pragmatism and the skill that we need right now.

In the former Yugoslavia, Ambassador Hill was at the center of negotiations for the Bosnia peace settlement. He was the first United States Ambassador to Macedonia, where he helped to build the basic institutions of democratic governance and civil society. As our Ambassador to South Korea, Christopher Hill worked with Korean officials and U.S. military leaders to develop and implement the most significant realignment of military posture in the region since the Korean war of the 1950s.

Most recently, as Assistant Secretary of State for East Asian and Pacific Affairs, Ambassador Christopher Hill worked with China, South Korea, Russia, and other nations to advance negotiations with North Korea over its nuclear program.

Some have argued on the floor that Ambassador Hill did not adequately press the North Korean Government on its deplorable human rights record. But, in truth, Hill did address the North Korean human rights record, but he did so while following the President's request to keep denuclearization of the Korean peninsula at the forefront of his agenda.

President Obama's plan to remove 140,000 troops from Iraq, including all combat forces by next summer, is a challenge. It is a challenge not only for our military but also on the diplomatic front. We will be working with the Iraqi Government throughout this transition to make certain we do everything in our power to have a meaningful handover of authority and a stable Iraq left behind. We are going to have 35- to 50,000 transitional forces that will remain to train and advise Iraqi security forces, to conduct counterterrorism operations, and to protect American civilian and military personnel. Those transitional forces are scheduled to leave by the end of 2012. Is there anyone who believes we can accomplish this without having our best and brightest on the ground in Iraq? Is there any parent or spouse, relative, or friend of a service man or woman now risking their life in Iraq who does not believe we should have an ambassador on the ground? How can we explain to these soldiers that for 2 months, while Congress sits here wringing its hands, we have not sent an ambassador to Iraq?

Yesterday, we were forced to have a cloture vote. A cloture vote basically

says: Stop talking, Senators, and get down to business. Make a decision once in a while.

Do you know what the vote was yesterday? It was 73 to 17. That means that not only the 57 Democrats who are here but at least 16 of the Republicans joined us and said: Let's get this moving.

How do we find ourselves in this position where the President wants to send the most important civil representative of our Government to a nation where American soldiers' lives are at risk and the Senate wrings its hands and says: Well, maybe we ought to wait a few days; maybe we ought to wait a few weeks; maybe we ought to let this sit over the Easter recess while we eat our Peeps and jellybeans. I do not buy that. This is a critical decision for America's security interests. Sending a diplomat of the skill of Christopher Hill is absolutely essential to protect America's interests, to protect the interests of servicemen, to make certain we have an ongoing relationship with the Iraqis, so that our service men and women can come home safely and Iraq will be stable and safe itself afterward. There is no reason to delay this 1 minute more. We should vote on Christopher Hill's nomination immediately. Why are we denying this? Why are we delaying this when 73 Senators yesterday said: Do it. That is enough. There are enough Senators to get this job done.

President Obama stated a clear goal here: ending our combat mission in Iraq by August 31, 2010. When the combat mission ends, the United States will still leave behind in Iraq the largest American Embassy in the world, where we will maintain a diplomatic mission to help a country still struggling to build stability and democracy. Is there anyone who questions whether we need an ambassador to be in that Embassy? Shouldn't that person have been there weeks ago instead of being delayed by the other side in the Senate?

I do not deny to any Senator the right to speak, express their concerns or reservations about any appointment. I do not deny to any committee of this Senate the opportunity to have a hearing, which Ambassador Hill did have. All of that happened in the regular order. At the end of the day yesterday, 73 Democratic and Republican Senators said: Get on with it. Still, we languish over this nomination at this very moment. The military leaders, American military leaders of Iraq, have been begging this Senate to do its job and send an ambassador who can complement the fine work of General Odierno in Iraq. We continue to delay.

The President's plan for Iraq is measured and thoughtful and will bring a resolution to this war. It sends a message to the Iraqi political leadership that they have to take responsibility for their own future. It takes into consideration the concerns and recommendations of the senior military leaders regarding the time for the drawdown and the manner in which it will be implemented. It frees resources for the real battle against al-Qaida in Afghanistan, which was the source of the 9/11 attacks. It includes comprehensive diplomatic engagement with all of the countries of the region not only on the future of Iraq but on other important regional challenges. It begins to put an end to the extraordinary cost to America and American families in terms of lives and dollars that the Iraqi war has entailed.

Our military men and women have served heroically in Iraq. I have been there to visit them. I have been several times in my home State to see our Guard units take off and join the conflict. I have been there to welcome them home, attended the funerals. We could not ask for anything more. They have given us so much, and they continue to do so as we meet in the safety of the Senate Chamber here in the Capitol. More than 4,200 Americans have been killed, 165 from my home State of Illinois. When the war started, I said I would write a note to the families who lost soldiers from my State. Little did I dream that years later I would still be signing those notes, as I did yesterday. Thousands have suffered serious physical and psychological injuries. That is the real cost of this war. Civilian experts in and out of the Government have also served with distinction and paid with their lives. Thousands of innocent Iraqis have died. I have seen firsthand the dangerously hard work our soldiers face.

We owe them gratitude and admiration, but we also owe them our best efforts to make certain we bring this war in Iraq to an end in the best possible way. President Obama has the strategy, but to implement this strategy we need an experienced ambassador in Iraq without any further delay.

I wonder what would have happened under the previous administration if the Democrats had held up a key appointment of an ambassador to Iraq in the midst of a war. Well, I can tell you what would have happened: The right-wing radio would have gone crazy, talking about endangering American servicemen by not filling this critical position. We would have speeches on the floor about shirking our responsibility and that we cannot go home for a break until we send a full complement of our best and brightest to represent America in Iraq. I can almost predict that would have happened if we had been so shortsighted under the previous administration as to hold back a career diplomat such as Christopher Hill.

Well, it has happened here, and it is happened for too long. It is unforgivable. It is inexcusable. Members have had plenty of time to give their speeches, to express their concerns, even to vote no, which is their right to do if they believe this man is not the right person for the job. But it is time for us to get on with this important mission. We owe it to those men and women who are risking their lives in Iraq. We owe it to all who have served there and to the American people who have sustained this war, as expensive as it has been in terms of life and costs. It is time for us to stop wasting time. It is time for us to fill this position and send Christopher Hill to be the U.S. Ambassador to Iraq.

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, I yield the floor.

RECESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate stands in recess until 2:15 p.m.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 12:30 p.m., recessed until 2:15 p.m. and reassembled when called to order by the Presiding Officer (Mr. BURRIS).

NOMINATION OF CHRISTOPHER R. HILL TO BE AMBASSADOR TO IRAQ—Continued

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from North Dakota.

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, I trust we are not in a quorum call.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. We are not.

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to speak as in morning business and that Senator BROWNBACK be recognized following my presentation.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

(The remarks of Mr. DORGAN are printed in today's RECORD under ''Morning Business.'')

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Kansas.

Mr. BROWNBACK. Mr. President, I rise to speak on the Chris Hill nomination to be Ambassador to Iraq. I am opposed to that nomination. A number of issues have been raised on this nomination I want to talk about to try to put some factual setting associated with that.

First, though, I wish to have printed in the RECORD at the end of my statement a Jerusalem Post online edition article dated yesterday that I read extensively from in my first presentation regarding the 65th anniversary of the escape from Auschwitz. I ask unanimous consent to have that article printed in the RECORD at the end of my statement.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

(See exhibit 1.)

Mr. BROWNBACK. I want to note for my colleagues, I read extensively from this article and did not cite that during my initial presentation. I want to make sure they know this came from that reporter and that we were putting that in.

Second, there has been a lot of discussion here about: OK, we have to get this person confirmed. We have to get him out, and it is a terrible shame it has not taken place to date.

I agree we need an ambassador to Iraq. There is no question about that. I appreciate my colleagues' concern about getting an ambassador to Iraq. I would note, there is one who does not have the controversy this one has who was offered the post initially, who accepted it, and then somehow this was mysteriously withdrawn. So there was a person we could have gone forward with, who had accepted it, and for some reason it was pulled back.

Yesterday, CNN was talking to General Zinni, retired General Zinni, and I wish to quote from this report from yesterday.

Zinni told CNN Monday he hasn't been given any explanation about why the offer he got in January for the post—

This is U.S. Ambassador to Iraq—

which he accepted was abruptly taken back. Zinni confirmed in an e-mail that he was asked to take the job by Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, and even congratulated by Vice President JOE BIDEN, but then the offer was revoked and extended to Hill, a development Zinni says he heard on the news. Zinni is a retired four-star Marine general and former head of Central Command. Like President Barack Obama, he was an early critic of the Iraqi war.

He would seem like a likely—logical, actually—pick for our Ambassador to Iraq, putting forward somebody whom I could have seen supporting. He is knowledgeable of the region and not with a history of deception toward this body or of problems dealing with human rights issues.

To my colleagues who put forward: We have to get this done, it is a terrible tragedy you are holding this up, well, why didn't you nominate somebody such as Retired General Zinni, or why did you pick him and then pull him back? That might be a more interesting note to find out. It would be interesting to me, anyway and, I would hope, to a number of other people.

The reason I have trouble with this nominee is because of this nominee's past performance, lack of concern on human rights, and then we are giving him this great, huge assignment for the United States, and I don't agree with that.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that this be printed in the RECORD at the end of my statement as well.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

(See exhibit 2.)

Mr. BROWNBACK. Thank you very much, Mr. President.

There has also been a charge that Ambassador Hill simply didn't raise the human rights issues because the Bush administration wouldn't let him do this and that you needed to look up the ladder, not at Ambassador Hill on this. I can tell my colleagues from my personal conversations with President Bush, he was deeply concerned about human rights. He loathed Kim Jong-Il because of the human rights issues more than any other. Those were his statements. I personally had two direct conversations at length with the President about this.

The idea that somehow Chris Hill couldn't do this because the President and his apparatus wouldn't agree to it raises some major questions about that charge because it certainly wasn't the President who was saying anything such as that. I think that one is patently false on its face.

There is also this unfortunate history that Chris Hill has of diminishing and playing down human rights issues. There are human rights issues in Iraq as well, and there are going to be as we go forward in that region. To have somebody who consistently has played these down, ignored them, papered them over, that raises real questions to me.

To support that, I wish to put forward as well some thoughts from others of my colleagues who are concerned about human rights. I have cited my own discussion with him. I have cited previously, but I think this bears putting forward to my colleagues again, Jay Lefkowitz was our North Korean Human Rights Special Envoy, who was appointed pursuant to the North Korean Human Rights Act that this body passed and the President signed, and Jay Lefkowitz wrote to me:

At no point during my tenure as special envoy for human rights in North Korea, either before or after July 31, 2008, did Chris Hill or anyone acting on his behalf invite me to participate in any six party talks; any, none, not at all. Jay.

This is after Chris Hill had stated in open testimony before the Senate Armed Services Committee, when I was asking him:

Will you state that the special envoy will be invited to all future negotiating sessions with North Korea?

Ambassador Hill responds:

I would be happy to invite him to all future negotiating sessions with North Korea.

This is on the Record. This is Jay Lefkowitz' statement afterward.

I ask unanimous consent that both of those be printed in the RECORD after my statement.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

(See exhibits 3 and 4.)

Mr. BROWNBACK. Mr. President, a number of my colleagues will know Congressman FRANK WOLF from the House side as a wonderful human rights advocate and has been for a number of years. He is deeply concerned about human rights issues overall. He has worked these issues for a long period of time. He is a fabulous man on these topics. He wrote Ambassador Hill on February 5, 2009, this to Ambassador Hill on his nomination to go into Iraq:

While I do not question your qualifications as a diplomat, I must be frank in telling you that I was often disappointed in your approach to diplomacy with North Korea; specifically, your marginalization and oftentimes seeming utter neglect of human rights.

In a Washington Post piece Michael Gerson described your shaping of America's North Korea policy in this way—

Now, Michael Gerson was on the inside of the Bush White House and cites to Ambassador Hill as shaping United States-North Korea policy, and Michael Gerson writes this:

Hill has been a tireless advocate of preemptive diplomatic concessions—

preemptive diplomatic concessions—

and the exclusion of human rights issues from reports and negotiations.

That is the end of the quote from Gerson.

It is difficult to know how much the policy you were pursuing simply reflected the President and the Secretary's aims or whether you were in fact the chief architect and advocate of this approach. Regardless, while Iraq and North Korea are obviously two very different countries, it gives me pause as I consider the human rights challenges confronting Iraq's ethno-religious minorities who are increasingly under siege.

This is taking place in Iraq today. We have all these human rights abuses that are boiling in Iraq today, and now we want to send a guy who has a highly questionable record on human rights in his last assignment.

FRANK WOLF goes on:

More than 500,000 Christians, or roughly 50 percent, have fled Iraq since 2003. Even though Christians make up only 3 percent of the country's population, according to the U.N. High Commission for Refugees, they comprise nearly half of all refugees leaving Iraq. As Iraq has continued to stabilize, these minority populations, including the aging Christian community—some of whom still speak Aramaic—is dwindling and increasingly vulnerable to marginalization and increasing attacks, of the sort we witnessed in Mosul this past fall.

This is from Congressman FRANK WOLF.

We have a history of bad human rights in dealing with North Korea and we have a bubbling problem, a current problem in Iraq, and we send Chris Hill who has had big difficulty in dealing with it.

I ask unanimous consent to have this printed in the RECORD at the end of my statement.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

(See exhibit 5.)

Mr. BROWNBACK. Finally, in this tranche, there was a letter sent—this is on January 28 of 2005 and it was to the Permanent Representative of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to the U.N., our contact point with North Korea diplomatically. It was addressed to Ambassador Pak. It states:

This letter is to inform you and your government of the distress with which the undersigned Members of the Illinois Congressional Delegation received the finding from the Seoul Central District Prosecutor's Office on December 14, 2004 that South Korean citizen and U.S. permanent resident Reverend Kim Dong-Shik had been abducted by agents of your government in northeast China in January of 2000 and taken forcibly into North Korea. Your government regrettably has, by its own admission, been involved in the abduction of a number of Japanese citizens as well as an even greater number of South Korean citizens.

Reverend Kim Dong-Shik, as you may be aware, is the spouse of Mrs. Young Hwa Kim

of Chicago, Illinois, and is the parent of U.S. citizens, one of whom is currently residing in Skokie, Illinois. Citizens from a Korean-American church in the Chicago area have also raised this matter as an issue of grave concern and requested congressional assistance in ascertaining the facts behind the disappearance and current whereabouts of Reverend Kim. In pursuant of these issues, Mrs. Kim and a delegation from Illinois will be visiting Capitol Hill in the near future.

The successful resolution of this case, therefore, is of critical importance to us—

This is the Illinois delegation—

both because of the constituent interest involved as well as because it is a case involving the most fundamental of human rights. Reverend Kim, in his selfless efforts to assist refugees escaping in an underground network to third countries, brings to mind two great heroes held in high esteem in the United States. The first is Ms. Harriet Tubman, who established an underground railroad allowing for the escape from slavery of those held in bondage before President Lincoln issued the emancipation proclamation, the second is the Swedish diplomat Raoul Wallenberg who, during the dark days of the world conflict against fascism in the Second World War, rescued Jewish refugees trapped in Hungary. We view Reverend Kim Dong-Shik as also being a hero who assisted with the escape of the powerless and forgotten.

We, therefore, wish to inform the Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea that we will not support the removal of your government from the State Department's list of State sponsors of terrorism until such time, among other reasons, as a full accounting is provided to the Kim family regarding the fate of Reverend Kim Dong-Shik following his abduction into North Korea five years ago.

This is signed by U.S. Senators RICHARD J. DURBIN and Barack Obama. They signed this letter to our permanent representative, the permanent representative of North Korea to the U.N. on January 28 of 2005.

Well, those sanctions are now lifted. The guy who pushed for the lifting of them is now being pushed to be the Ambassador to Iraq, and Rev. Kim Dong-Shik—it is still not known where he is. He is still somewhere abducted, hopefully alive—we don't know—in North Korea.

I ask unanimous consent that this letter be printed in the RECORD at the end of my statement.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

(See exhibit 6.)

Mr. BROWNBACK. When people say this is being held up and it is irresponsible and you shouldn't do this, I am just quoting a number of Members of Congress. I am just quoting the President. I am just pointing to a human rights situation that our Ambassador to Iraq will go into, and saying, isn't this reason enough to go with somebody such as General Zinni instead of Ambassador Hill in this situation?

Also, we haven't been able to get information from the State Department. I had asked for the instructions they had given to Ambassador Hill. He had stated in committee testimony here that at one point in time he called it ''inaudible'' in the negotiations, and in that ''inaudible'' he made a change. We wanted to find out what State Department instructions were to him, or what they were to him on human rights issues, and that hasn't been received by my office. We haven't been able to get those back.

A number of my colleagues don't remember, or they don't cite to the period of time that Ambassador Hill was working on the Korean desk, but they do cite to what he did in Bosnia and say, OK, he was a successful diplomat, he did this; North Korea is tough, we are going to ignore that; and now let's put him in Iraq. Well, there are some real questionable records of what he did in the situation in the Balkans and in Bosnia. Here I have an article, dated March 22, of this year. I think it is very interesting and quite troubling. This is about one of the people who is charged with war crimes and his dealings with Ambassador Hill. I am going to quote from this article and enter it into the RECORD.

Every time Radovan Karadzic, the onetime Bosnian Serb leader, appears in court on war crimes charges, he has hammered on one recurring claim: a senior American official pledged that he would never be standing there being charged with war crimes.

The official, Richard C. Holbrooke, now a special envoy on Afghanistan and Pakistan for the Obama administration, has repeatedly denied promising Mr. Karadzic immunity from prosecution in exchange for abandoning power after the Bosnian war.

But the rumor persists, and different versions that recently emerged that line up with Mr. Karadzic's assertion, including a new historical study published by Purdue University in Indiana.

Charles W. Ingrao, the study's co-editor, said that three senior State Department officials, one of them retired, and several other people with knowledge of Mr. Holbrooke's activities, told him that Mr. Holbrooke assured Mr. Karadzic in July 1996 that he would not be pursued by the international war crimes tribunal in The Hague if he left politics.

Mr. Karadzic had already been charged by the tribunal with genocide and other crimes against civilians.

Now, you say, OK, that is charging Mr. Holbrooke, but let's see what the report writers go on to say about this.

The Purdue University study, ''Confronting the Yugoslav Controversies: A Scholars' Initiative'', instructed his principal assistant, Christopher Hill, to draft the memorandum to be signed by Karadzic, committing him to give up power—

in exchange for not being charged with war crimes.

The author of the study said Mr. Holbrooke used Slobodan Milosevic, the then Serbian leader, and other Serbian officials as intermediaries to convey the promise of immunity and to reach the deal with Mr. Karadzic. ''The agreement almost came to grief when Holbrooke vigorously refused Karadzic's demand, and Hill's appeal, that he affix his signature to it,'' the study says, citing unidentified State Department sources.

Chris Hill's name again.

The study, the product of 8 years of research by historians, jurists, and social scientists from all sides of the conflict, was an effort to reconcile disparate views of the wars that tore the former Yugoslavia apart in the 1990s, Mr. Ingrao said.

The former official said Mr. Karadzic wanted written assurance that he would not be pursued for war crimes and refused to sign without them.

''Holbrooke told the Serbs, 'You can give him my word he won't be pursued,' but Holbrooke refused to sign anything,'' the official said. Mr. Holbrooke could make that promise because he knew that American and other western militaries in Bosnia were not then making arrests, the official said.

Neither Mr. Hill nor Mr. Goldberg responded to requests for interviews for this article.

Here is another insertion of Mr. Hill on a huge problem with human rights. This one in the Yugoslav, the Balkans theater. There it is again—North Korea, the Balkans, and we have a brewing situation taking place in Iraq, and we are going to send him there.

I ask unanimous consent that this article be printed in the RECORD at the end of my statement.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

(See exhibit 7.)

Mr. BROWNBACK. Mr. President, I am doing that so my colleagues and others who study this can look at the factual studies we have in examining what is taking place here.

A number of my colleagues say the North Korean situation is not relevant to the debate we are in today. I don't know why it is not. When we run for office, people go look at our backgrounds and say what did they do in their past job to see if we ought to elect them for this one. People don't kind of walk into the Senate. There is an examination process that the public goes through. I don't know why we would not want to examine somebody to see their track record.

Some have suggested that the human rights issue kind of popped up in North Korea, and that we learned at the last minute, so that Chris Hill had to deal with this at a quick point so he should have had set it aside to get the full deal.

This is a February 4, 2004 article on washingtonpost.com. This is written by Anne Apolebaum. The title is ''Auschwitz Under Our Noses.''

As I stated, it is Holocaust Remembrance Day today. This article talks about North Korea and what is taking place there in 2004. So this didn't just pop up. There had been a documentary put forward by the BBC describing the atrocities in North Korea. I will read one section that is incredible. It says this:

Look, for example, at the international reaction to a documentary, aired last Sunday night on the BBC. It described atrocities committed in the concentration camps of contemporary North Korea, where, it was alleged, chemical weapons are tested on prisoners. Central to the film was the testimony of Kwon Hyuk, a former administrator at a North Korean camp.

This is what the administrator said:

I witnessed a whole family being tested on suffocating gas and dying in the gas chamber.

He witnessed that.

He said:

The parents, son, and a daughter. The parents were vomiting and dying, but till the very last moment they tried to save the kids by doing mouth-to-mouth breathing.

The article goes on:

The documentary also included testimony from a former prisoner, who says she saw 50 women die after being deliberately fed poison. And it included documents smuggled out of the country that seemed to sentence a prisoner to a camp ''for the purpose of human experimentation.''

The author writes this at the end, and this is the whole point of this:

Later—in 10 years, or in 60—it will surely turn out that quite a lot was known in 2004 about the camps of North Korea. It will turn out that information collected by various human rights groups, South Korean churches, oddball journalists, and spies added up to a damning and largely accurate picture of an evil regime. It will also turn out that there were things that could have been done, approaches the South Korean government might have made, diplomatic channels the U.S. Government might have opened, pressure the Chinese might have applied.

Historians in Asia, Europe, and here will finger various institutions, just as we do now, and demand they justify their past actions. And no one will be able to understand how it was possible that we knew of the existence of the gas chambers but failed to act.

That is what I am asking. My goodness. This has been going on, and I tried to push Chris Hill about it for years and nothing happened, and I got an agreement in open testimony in a hearing, and nothing happened after that. But now let's move him to Iraq and give him that account.

I ask unanimous consent this article be printed in the RECORD after my statement.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

(See exhibit 8.)

Mr. KERRY. Will the Senator yield for a procedural question?

Mr. BROWNBACK. Yes.

Mr. KERRY. I ask my colleague, if he has a moment, to see whether we can set a time for the vote with respect to this issue.

Mr. BROWNBACK. If I may respond through the Chair, I have contacted colleagues. We are still confirming at what time they can speak. Several colleagues want to speak. We are working on that right now.

Mr. KERRY. Does the Senator have a sense of when we could try to come to some arrangement? A lot of Senators on both sides of the aisle are trying to arrange schedules, and the majority leader is trying to deal with the question of the legislative schedule. If we can get a sense of that—I know the Senator is trying to get at it. I think if we could pin this down, that would be helpful. If he could give me a sense of how many Senators, when, and if we will lock in their times and then lock in a vote.

Mr. BROWNBACK. I am contacting colleagues now. We don't have that officially tied down yet so that I can respond at this time. I appreciate my colleague from Massachusetts saying that, as I understand, there will be a hearing on North Korean—not necessarily on the atrocities, although I hope it will be covered, but also on possible sanctions on North Korea. I appreciate that is being worked on to address some of these concerns. I will be raising, as well—while my colleague is here—that we not put in a supplemental bill support for the North Korean regime that is beyond humanitarian aid, particularly as these things are surfacing now. I realize that is not the Senator's committee, but I want to make my colleagues, who know the situation well, aware of these points that I will be raising.

Mr. KERRY. Let me say that every one of us shares the outrage at the type of government and the way in which the people of North Korea are oppressed. I commend the Senator from Kansas for calling the country's attention and the world's attention and the Senate's at this moment to it. We will have a hearing on May 6. It will be a comprehensive hearing on North Korea. It will involve all of the issues with respect to North Korea. We welcome that. That is an appropriate role for us.

But it is also appropriate for us to try to get this nominee a time certain. He would like to leave for Iraq tomorrow. So we wish, if we can, to have a sense of the timing on the vote. If we can get an agreement here, maybe I could—how many Senators are planning to speak on the Senator's side of the aisle?

Mr. BROWNBACK. Mr. President, we have three who are lined up to speak. There are Senators MCCAIN and KYL, who have scheduling issues later in the day. That is what I am trying to get firmed up. I am not trying to delay my colleagues.

Mr. KERRY. I understood that Senator MCCAIN was going to try to speak at 3:30, which is about 35 minutes from now. We are prepared not to have any further speakers on our side.

I will propound a request. I ask unanimous consent that we allow the Senator from Kansas to control the time, but for, say, 10 minutes between now and the hour of 5 o'clock, and that the vote be at 5 o'clock. I ask for an order to that effect.

Mr. BROWNBACK. Mr. President, I have to object at this time. I simply don't know when Senator KYL can speak, and he desires to speak. Until I can determine that, I cannot agree for others of my colleagues.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

Mr. KERRY. I respect that, but I also know how the Senate works; I have 26 years here. I will come back. I have a meeting going on now, but I will be back in about 20 minutes. I hope we can find Senator KYL between now and then, pin down the time for him, and get an agreement. I think it is important for the Senate to get its business done. Is that agreeable to the Senator from Kansas?

Mr. BROWNBACK. If we can locate him and if there are not others.

Mr. KERRY. If we cannot contact a member of the Senate who is in the leadership—surely we can find one of the leaders of the Senate in 20 minutes.

Mr. BROWNBACK. I have said what I know.

Mr. KERRY. I will be back at a quarter after, and I hope we can propound an agreement at that time. I thank the Senator for the interruption.

Mr. BROWNBACK. Mr. President, I want to speak about another issue, because this caught a lot of what is involved here. This is a 2004 article called ''An Auschwitz in Korea.'' I had hoped my colleague could stay and hear this, but he has to leave.

This is to the point raised by a number of people that this was kind of quick and the problem with human rights was not known as an issue in North Korea, and that we don't know about it. Chris Hill steps in and he has to make the call that we are not going to pursue human rights, but we are going to go completely after the nuclear issue.

This article is by Jeff Jacoby from the Boston Globe. He puts it so well, because it is to the point we have here. He writes this:

Does ''never again'' simply mean ''never again will Germans kill Jews in Europe between 1939 and 1945?''

Is that what ''never again'' means? Obviously, that is not the case. We are not going to let this sort of thing happen again on Holocaust Remembrance Day.

That brings us to North Korea. In 2004, this author writes this. This was in the press:

It is not exactly news that the Communist regime of Kim Jong Il has sent millions of North Koreans to early graves. Estimates back to 1998 were that as many as 800,000 people were dying in North Korea each year from starvation and malnutrition caused by Kim's ruthless and irrational policies. World Vision, a Christian relief organization, calculated that 1 million to 2 million North Koreans had been killed by ''a full-scale famine'' largely of Pyongyang's creation.

They created the famine and people die off who don't support the regime. We have heard about that system before, and some of the purges that took place in the Soviet Union.

The article also says:

Nor is it breaking news that North Korea operates a vicious prison gulag—''not unlike the worst labor camps built by Mao and Stalin in the last century,'' as NBC News reported more than a year ago. Some 200,000 men, women, and children are held in these slave-labor camps; hundreds of thousands of others have perished in them over the years. Some of the camps are so hellish that 20 percent or more of their prisoners die from torture and abuse each year. The dead can be of any age: North Korea's longstanding policy is to imprison not only those accused of such ''crimes'' as practicing Christianity [one of

the major crimes] or complaining about North Korean life, but their entire families, including grandparents and grandchildren. The policy there is if one member of the family complains, 3 generations are taken. This is the way they then operate these prison camps.

I want to show a picture of one of the prison camps that looks organized along the lines that Auschwitz was organized. This is taken by Google Earth. They are organized like the Auschwitz ones. The difference here is that they group you by families, so they have taken three generations when one is opposed. They organize this and it is a death camp. Kwon Hyuk was quoted, saying:

I witnessed a whole family being tested on suffocating gas and dying in the gas chamber.

The article says:

The speaker is Kwon Hyuk, a former North Korean intelligence agent and a one-time administrator at Camp 22, the country's largest concentration camp.

We have a picture of camp 22. I will show you what he is talking about here. It is the largest camp. The testimony was heard on a television documentary that aired on BBC, which I mentioned.

Here we have a situation—this writer is writing—of ''Gas chambers. Poisoned food. Torture. The murder of whole families. Massive death tolls. How much more do we need to know about North Korea's crimes before we act to stop them? How many more victims will be fed into the gas chambers before we cry out, 'never again!' ''—and we mean it?''

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD this article titled ''An Auschwitz in Korea.''

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[From boston.com, Feb. 8, 2004]

AN AUSCHWITZ IN KOREA

(By Jeff Jacoby)

TWO WORDS—''never again''—sum up the most important lesson that civilized men and women were supposed to have learned from the 20th century. It is forbidden to keep silent, forbidden to look the other way, when tyrants embark on genocide and slaughter—if Auschwitz and Kolyma and the Cambodian killing fields taught us nothing else, they taught us that.

Or so, at any rate, we like to tell ourselves. As Samantha Power discovered upon returning to the United States after two years as a war correspondent in Bosnia, the lesson of ''never again'' is invoked far more often than it is applied.

''Everywhere I went,'' Power recalled in a speech at Swarthmore College in 2002, ''I heard 'never again.' Steven Spielberg's 'Schindler's List' had been a smash hit. The Holocaust Museum had opened on the Mall in Washington. College seminars were taught on the 'lessons' of the singular crime of the 20th century. But why, I wondered, had nobody applied those lessons to the atrocities of the 1990s: the systematic murder of 200,000 Bosnian civilians in Europe between 1992 and 1995 and the extermination of some 800,000 Rwandan Tutsi in 1994.

''Did 'never again' simply mean 'never again will Germans kill Jews in Europe between 1939 and 1945?' ''

Power went on to write ''A Problem From Hell,'' her Pulitzer Prize-winning account of America's failure to intervene in the genocides of the 20th century. The book was hugely and deservedly praised. It made clear, as no book had before, how much Americans knew about some of the most horrific massacres of the last century even as they were happening, and how little we did to stop them—or even, in most cases, condemn them.

Which brings us to North Korea.

It is not exactly news that the communist regime of Kim Jong II has sent millions of North Koreans to early graves. Estimates back in 1998 were that as many as 800,000 people were dying in North Korea each year from starvation and malnutrition caused by Kim's ruthless and irrational policies. World Vision, a Christian relief organization, calculated that 1 million to 2 million North Koreans had been killed by ''a full-scale famine'' largely of Pyongyang's creation.

Nor is it breaking news that North Korea operates a vicious prison gulag—''not unlike the worst labor camps built by Mao and Stalin in the last century,'' as NBC News reported more than a year ago. Some 200,000 men, women, and children are held in these slave-labor camps; hundreds of thousands of others have perished in them over the years. Some of the camps are so hellish that 20 percent or more of their prisoners die from torture and abuse each year. The dead can be of any age: North Korea's longstanding policy is to imprison not only those accused of such ''crimes'' as practicing Christianity or complaining about North Korean life, but their entire families, including grandparents and grandchildren.

And, of course, it is widely known that Kim is openly pursuing nuclear weapons, has fired missiles capable of reaching Japan, and controls one of the largest military forces on earth.

All of this is hideous enough, and more than sufficient reason for making Kim's ouster—and his prosecution for crimes against humanity—an explicit goal of the United States. But now comes something new.

''I witnessed a whole family being tested on suffocating gas and dying in the gas chamber. The parents, a son, and a daughter.'' The speaker is Kwon Hyuk, a former North Korean intelligence agent and a one-time administrator at Camp 22, the country's largest concentration camp. His testimony was heard on a television documentary that aired last week on the BBC. ''The parents were vomiting and dying, but till the very last moment they tried to save the kids by doing mouth-to-mouth breathing.''

Like other communist officials, Kwon was not bothered by what he saw. ''I felt that they thoroughly deserved such a death. Because all of us were led to believe that all the bad things that were happening to North Korea were their fault. . . . Under the society and the regime I was in at the time, I only felt that they were the enemies. So I felt no sympathy or pity for them at all.''

Soon Ok-lee, who spent seven years in another North Korean camp, described the use of prisoners as guinea pigs for biochemical weapons.

''An officer ordered me to select 50 healthy female prisoners,'' she testified. ''One of the guards handed me a basket full of soaked cabbage, told me not to eat it, but to give it to the 50 women. I gave them out and heard a scream. . . . They were all screaming and vomiting blood. All who ate the cabbage leaves started violently vomiting blood and screaming with pain. It was hell. In less than 20 minutes, they were dead.''

Gas chambers. Poisoned food. Torture. The murder of whole families. Massive death tolls. How much more do we need to know about North Korea's crimes before we act to stop them? How many more victims will be fed into the gas chambers before we cry out ''never again!''—and mean it?

Mr. BROWNBACK. Mr. President, this is Camp 22. You can see it outlined, the size and scale. We have some other camp pictures that show this. I want to make sure everybody knows that on Holocaust Remembrance Day we have pictures of this going on. This is not some secret information. This is on Google Earth. Look it up yourself.

This picture is of outside the camp, the westbound coal train from Camp 22 where they do coal mining, slave labor where people go in, but nobody comes out. They are worked to death, starved to death.

There are a couple books on this point—''The Aquariums of Pyongyang'' was written by a survivor and ''Eyes of Tailless Animals'' was written by Soon Ok Lee. Those are a couple books people can look at.

This is another picture from Google Earth. These are people in the concentration camp, this shows outside the fence. About 200,000 people we believe are in concentration camps in North Korea. Here is another picture, one of a concentration camp. I urge my colleagues to get a briefing on this situation so they can look at the high resolution information we have access to, not just Google Earth. Google Earth is useful for this setting.

Here is another concentration camp. Here is the execution site in this particular camp. These have all been run by refugees who have been able to make their way out and now give the information of here is what took place in various places. Here are the coal mine entrances marked No. 1; prisoner housing, No. 2; the execution site, No. 3; No. 4 is a rifle range. I don't know if they use individuals as target practice.

This picture shows the location of various prison camps of the gulag that is in North Korea that we chose to ignore in our six-party talks. These are the selected North Korean prison camp locations, where they are around the country. We know what is taking place in that country. I raise all of these points to point out that we cannot continue to allow this to take place.

I want to raise one final issue. My colleagues have been very generous to allow me to put this forward. I have to do this on this day, Holocaust Remembrance Day, when we are about to confirm an ambassador who looked past all of this while he was there.

We will soon consider the supplemental appropriations bill. That will be coming up shortly before this body. Last year, this body inserted into the supplemental appropriations bill a waiver to waive the Glenn amendment sanctions against North Korea. The Glenn amendment sanctions do not provide for a Presidential waiver. The Congress has to affirmatively act to waive Glenn amendment sanctions. The Congress did, and that allowed us to send—as the Soviet Union used to send to the North Koreans only we are sending it now. I ask my colleagues not to put in this year's supplemental Glenn amendment waivers and not to put in this year's supplemental funding for North Korea beyond humanitarian

assistance. Yes to humanitarian assistance because people are starving to death, but no to fuel, oil aid, no to other aid because they tested missiles in defiance of us and the United Nations. They are being investigated now for sending nuclear material to Iran. They have captured two American journalists and still have them there. They have unaccounted for other people they have captured. They have this incredible human rights gulag system that is tragic and taking place right now. They are forcing people to walk into China, many of whom are women who walk into China to get food and are taken for human trafficking and as concubines.

Let's not continue a regime that is a disaster, that is a horrific situation, and we are allowing this to happen.

Let's not do that in the supplemental. Let's not approve Chris Hill moving on after two big problems on human rights.

I urge my colleagues to vote against this nominee and to not give further funds and aid and waiving sanctions on North Korea.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

EXHIBIT 1

[From the Jerusalem Post, Apr. 20, 2009]

THE TEENAGER WHO EXPOSED AUSCHWITZ

(By Rafael Medoff)

This month marks the 65th anniversary of a daring escape from Auschwitz, by a teenager who then revealed the truth about the death camp—only to be ignored by the Allied leadership.

In March 1944, the Germans occupied Hungary and began preparing to deport that country's Jews—numbering approximately 750,0000—to Auschwitz. A 19-year-old prisoner named Rudolf Vrba, together with fellow-inmate Alfred Wetzler, decided to do something that almost nobody had ever done before: escape from Auschwitz. They were determined to alert the world about the doom that Hungarian Jews would soon face.

On April 7, Vrba and Wetzler slipped away from their slave labor battalion and hid in a hollowed-out woodpile near the edge of the camp. On the advice of Soviet prisoners of war, the fugitives sprinkled the area with tobacco and gasoline, which confused the German dogs that were used to search for them.

On their second day in the woodpile, Vrba and Wetzler heard Allied warplanes overhead. ''They came closer and closer—then bombs began to crunch not far away,'' Vrba later recalled in his searing memoir I Cannot Forgive. ''Our pulses quickened. Were they going to bomb the camp? Was the secret out? . . . Was this the end of Auschwitz?''

THE ALLIED PLANES were actually bombing German oil factories in and around the Auschwitz complex. The idea of bombing the death camp had not yet been proposed to the Allied leadership, and details such as the location of the gas chambers and crematoria were not yet known to the Allied war command. But that was about to change.

On April 10, in the dead of night, Vrba and Wetzler emerged from the woodpile and began an 11-day, 80-mile trek to Slovakia. There they met with Jewish leaders and dictated a 30-page report that came to be known as the ''Auschwitz Protocols.'' It included details of the mass-murder process, maps pinpointing the gas chambers and crematoria and warnings of the impending slaughter of Hungary's Jews.

''One million Hungarian [Jews] are going to die,'' Vrba told them. ''Auschwitz is ready for them. But if you tell them now, they will rebel. They will never go to the ovens.''

A COPY of the report was given to Rudolf Kastner, a Budapest Jewish leader. Instead of publicizing the information, Kastner negotiated a deal that involved bribing the Germans to permit a train with 1,684 of his relatives, friends and Hungarian Jewish leaders to leave the country. Kastner's action became the centerpiece of a controversial trial in Israel after the war.

Another copy of Vrba's Auschwitz Protocols was given to Rabbi Michoel Dov Weissmandl, a rescue activist in Bratislava, who then wrote the first known appeal for the use of Allied air power to disrupt the mass murder. Weissmandl's plea to the Allies to bomb the railroad lines between Hungary and Auschwitz reached the Roosevelt administration in June.

Assistant secretary of war John McCloy responded that the request was ''impracticable'' because it would require ''diversion of considerable air support essential to the success of our forces now engaged in decisive operations.'' He also claimed the War Department's position was based on ''a study'' of the issue. But no evidence of such a study has ever been found by researchers. In reality, McCloy's position was based on the War Department's standing policy that no military resources should be allocated for ''rescuing victims of enemy oppression.''

VRBA'S REPORT convinced the Jewish Agency leadership in Palestine to change its position on bombing. Agency leaders initially opposed bombing Auschwitz because they believed it was a labor camp, not a death camp. But after receiving the Auschwitz Protocols in June, agency officials lobbied British, American and Soviet officials to bomb the camp or the railways leading to it. Their requests were rebuffed.

Most important, a condensed version of the Auschwitz Protocols reached the U.S. government's War Refugee Board in June. It helped galvanize the board to mobilize international pressure on Hungary to halt the deportations to Auschwitz. Although that effort came too late for the more than 400,000 Hungarian Jews who had been shipped to their doom, it did spare the 200,000-plus who were still alive in Budapest.

The full version of the Vrba report was actually held up in Switzerland for three months by U.S. diplomats who regarded it as low priority. And when the report finally reached Washington in October, the Office of War Information opposed distributing it; OWI director Elmer Davis claimed the report was actually part of a Nazi conspiracy to ''create contempt for the [Jewish] inmates'' by showing that the Jews were not resisting their killers.

Fortunately, Davis and his cockamamie theories were too late to blunt the impact of the Auschwitz Protocols. The Hungarian deportations had been stopped, and Rudolf Vrba and Alfred Wetzler had played a significant role in bringing that about.

EXHIBIT 2

PREFERENCE FOR HILL OVER ZINNI REMAINS A MYSTERY

(By Dana Bash)

WASHINGTON (CNN)—Chris Hill is slowly overcoming GOP opposition that has delayed his nomination as U.S. ambassador to Iraq, but it's still unclear why the Obama administration revoked the offer they gave to someone else first—General Anthony Zinni.

Zinni told CNN Monday he hasn't been given any explanation about why the offer he got in January for the post, which he accepted, was abruptly taken back.

Zinni confirmed in an e-mail that he was asked to take the job by Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, and even congratulated by Vice President Joe Biden. But then, the offer was revoked and extended to Hill—a development Zinni says he heard on the news.

Zinni is a retired four-star Marine general and former head of Central Command. Like President Barack Obama, he was an early critic of the Iraq war.

Sen. Lindsey Graham, R-South Carolina, told CNN he would have wholeheartedly supported Zinni for position because of his knowledge of the region. Graham, along with Sens. John McCain, R-Arizona, and Sam Brownback, R-Kansas, have led the opposition to Hill, citing his ''controversial legacy'' as point man in the six-nation talks aimed at dismantling North Korea's nuclear program and his lack of experience in the Middle East.

Graham, however, voted Monday to move Hill's nomination forward, while McCain did not vote. Brownback voted against Hill.

A State Department spokesman had no comment on Zinni.

A senior Democratic congressional source, who would not be quoted speaking about private deliberations, called the decision to nominate Hill over Zinni one of the ''great mysteries'' of the early days of the Obama administration.

EXHIBIT 3

U.S. SENATE,
Washington, DC, March 25, 2009.

Mr. JAY P. LEFKOWITZ, P.C.,
Kirkland & Ellis LLP, Citigroup Center, New York, NY.

DEAR JAY: Christopher Hill testified today before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. In response to a question by Senator Lugar, he failed to specifically address whether he invited you to participate in the Six Party Talks to address North Korean human rights. As you recall, in his testimony before the Senate Armed Service Committee on July 31, 2008, he promised to invite you to participate in all future negotiation sessions, without qualifying the nature of those sessions.

Based on my knowledge of the situation, I believe he violated his commitment. Can you please respond to me as to whether or not Christopher Hill or anyone acting on his behalf invited you to the Six Party Talks subsequent to July 31, 2008?

I look forward to your swift reply, and appreciate your cooperation in this matter.

Sincerely,

SAM BROWNBACK,
United States Senator.

DEAR SENATOR BROWNBACK: At no point during my tenure as Special Envoy for Human Rights in North Korea, either before or after July 31, 2008, did Chris Hill or anyone acting on his behalf invite me to participate in any Six Party Talks.

JAY.

EXHIBIT 4

Senator BROWNBACK. I want to, because my time will be narrow here: will you state that the Special Envoy will be invited to all future negotiating sessions with North Korea?

Ambassador HILL. I would be happy to invite him to all future negotiating sessions with North Korea.

Senator BROWNBACK. Thank you.

Mr. Ambassador, you noted this earlier, that there are political gulags and concentration camps in North Korea. Will you state that any prospect of normalization with North Korea is contingent upon the regime shutting down the political gulags and concentration camps?

Ambassador HILL. I can say to you, Senator, that we will definitely raise these issues as an element of the normalization process. I'm not in a position at my level to state to you today what the specific conditions of normalization were, but they will be raised as part of that and clearly, we will be looking for more satisfactory answers on this.

Senator BROWNBACK. Mr. Ambassador, the Illinois delegation in total in a letter dated

in 2005—noted the abduction of Reverend Kim Dong Shik, who's a U.S. citizen, and his wife is an Illinois resident, children U.S. citizens. I'm going to enter this letter in the record. It's from the Illinois delegation. They have said they would not support any normalization with North Korea until his abduction is dealt with.

[The information referred to follows:]

EXHIBIT 5

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, February 5, 2009.

Mr. CHRISTOPHER R. HILL,
Assistant Secretary, Bureau of East Asian and Pacific Affairs, Washington DC.

DEAR MR. HILL: I write in light of your nomination to serve in the critical position of U.S. ambassador to Iraq.

While I do not question your qualifications as a diplomat, I must be frank in telling you that I was often disappointed in your approach to diplomacy with North Korea—specifically your marginalization and often times seemingly utter neglect of human rights. In a Washington Post piece, Michael Gerson described your shaping of America's North Korea policy in this way, ''Hill has been a tireless advocate of preemptive diplomatic concessions and the exclusion of human rights issues from reports and negotiations.'' It is difficult to know how much the policy you pursued simply reflected the president and the secretary's aims or whether you were in fact the chief architect and advocate of this approach. Regardless, while Iraq and North Korea are obviously two very different countries, it gives me pause as I consider the human rights challenges confronting Iraq's ethno-religious minorities who are increasingly under siege.

More than 500,000 Christians, or roughly 50 percent, have fled Iraq since 2003. Even though Christians make up only 3 percent of the country's population, according to the UN High Commission for Refugees, they comprise nearly half of all refugees leaving Iraq. As Iraq has continued to stabilize, these minority populations, including the ancient Christian community—some of whom still speak Aramaic, the language of Jesus—is dwindling and increasingly vulnerable to marginalization and targeted attacks, of the sort we witnessed in Mosul this past fall.

I have already requested that Secretary Clinton facilitate the development of a comprehensive policy to address the plight of these struggling minority communities, and, consistent with the recommendations of the U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom, that she appoint a special envoy for human rights in Iraq to our Embassy in Baghdad, reporting directly to her.

Similarly, should you be confirmed, I urge that these communities, which are foundational to a modern pluralistic Iraq, not be neglected on your watch. Before departing for Baghdad, it is critical that you meet with a coalition of NGOs, consisting in part of members of the Iraqi diaspora, so that they might brief you on the unique challenges confronting these ancient faith communities and make additional concrete policy recommendations for their protection.

Best wishes.

Sincerely,

FRANK R. WOLF,
Member of Congress.

EXHIBIT 6

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, COMMITTEE ON INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS,
Washington, DC, January 28, 2005.

His Excellency PAK GIL YON,
Ambassador, Permanent Representative of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to the United Nations, New York, NY.

DEAR AMBASSADOR PAK: This letter is to inform you and your government of the distress with which the undersigned Members of the Illinois Congressional Delegation received the finding from the Seoul Central District Prosecutor's Office on December 14, 2004 that South Korean citizen and U.S. permanent resident Reverend Kim Dong-Shik had been abducted by agents of your government in northeast China in January 2000 and taken forcibly into North Korea. Your government, regrettably, has, by its own admission, been involved in the abductions of a number of Japanese citizens, as well as an even greater number of South Korean citizens.

Reverend Kim Dong-Shilc, as you may be aware, is the spouse of Mrs. Young Hwa Kim of Chicago, Illinois, and is the parent of U.S. citizens, one of whom is currently residing in Skokie, Illinois. Citizens from a Korean-American church in the Chicago area have also raised this matter as an issue of grave concern and have requested Congressional assistance in ascertaining the facts behind the disappearance and current whereabouts of Reverend Kim. In pursuit of these issues, Mrs. Kim and a delegation from Illinois will be visiting Capitol Hill in the near future.

The successful resolution of this case, therefore, is of critical importance to us, both because of the constituent interests involved as well as because it is a case involving the most fundamental of human rights. Reverend Kim, in his selfless efforts to assist refugees escaping in an underground network to third countries, brings to mind two great heroes held in high esteem in the United States. The first is Ms. Harriet Tubman, who established an underground railroad allowing for the escape from slavery of those held in bondage before President Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation; the second is the Swedish diplomat Raoul Wallenberg who, during the dark days of the world conflict against fascism in the Second World War, rescued Jewish refugees trapped in Hungary. We view Reverend Kim Dong-Shik as also being a hero who assisted with the escape of the powerless and forgotten.

We, therefore, wish to inform the Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) that we will NOT support the removal of your government from the State Department list of State Sponsors of Terrorism until such time, among other reasons, as a full accounting is provided to the Kim family regarding the fate of the Reverend Kim Dong-Shik following his abduction into North Korea five years ago.

Sincerely,

J. Dennis Hastert, Speaker of the House of Representatives; Henry J. Hyde, Chairman; Richard J. Durbin, U.S. Senator; Barack Obama, U.S. Senator; Lane Evans, Member of Congress; Jerry F. Costello, Member of Congress; Luis V. Gutierrez, Member of Congress; Donald A. Manzullo, Member of Congress; Bobby L. Rush, Member of Congress; Jesse L. Jackson, Member of Congress. Ray LaHood, Member of Congress; Jerry Weller, Member of Congress; Danny Davis, Member of Congress; John Shimkus, Member of Congress; Judy Biggert, Member of Congress; Jan D. Schakowsky, Member of Congress; Timothy Johnson, Member of Congress; Rahm Emanuel, Member of Congress; Melissa L. Bean, Member of Congress; Daniel Lipinski, Member of Congress.

EXHIBIT 7

STUDY BACKS BOSNIAN SERB'S CLAIM OF IMMUNITY

(By Marlise Simons)

PARIS—Every time Radovan Karadzic, the onetime Bosnian Serb leader, appears in court on war crimes charges, he has hammered on one recurring claim: a senior American official pledged that he would never be standing there.

The official, Richard C. Holbrooke, now a special envoy on Afghanistan and Pakistan for the Obama administration, has repeatedly denied promising Mr. Karadzic immunity from prosecution in exchange for abandoning power after the Bosnian war.

But the rumor persists, and different versions have recently emerged that line up with Mr. Karadzic's assertion, including a new historical study of the Yugoslav wars published by Purdue University in Indiana.

Charles W. Ingrao, the study's co-editor, said that three senior State Department officials, one of them retired, and several other people with knowledge of Mr. Holbrooke's activities told him that Mr. Holbrooke assured Mr. Karadzic in July 1996 that he would not be pursued by the international war crimes tribunal in The Hague if he left politics.

Mr. Karadzic had already been charged by the tribunal with genocide and other crimes against civilians.

Two of the sources cited anonymously in the new study, a former senior State Department official who spent almost a decade in the Balkans and another American who was involved with international peacekeeping there in the 1990s, provided additional details in interviews with The New York Times, speaking on condition that they not be further identified.

The former State Department official said he was told of the offer by people who were close to Mr. Holbrooke's team at the time. The other source said that Mr. Holbrooke personally and emphatically told him about the deal on two occasions.

While the two men agreed, as one of them put it, that ''Holbrooke did the right thing and got the job done,'' the recurring story of the deal has dogged Mr. Holbrooke.

Last summer, after more than a decade on the run, Mr. Karadzic was found living disguised in Belgrade, Serbia's capital. He was arrested and sent to the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia in The Hague for his trial, which is expected to start this year.

Asked for comment for this article, Mr. Holbrooke repeated his denial in a written statement. ''No one in the U.S. government ever promised anything, nor made a deal of any sort with Karadzic,'' he said, noting that Mr. Karadzic stepped down in the summer of 1996 under intense American pressure.

''The agreement almost came to grief when Holbrooke vigorously refused Karadzic's demand, and Hill's appeal, that he affix his signature to it,'' the study says, citing unidentified State Department sources.

The study, the product of eight years of research by historians, jurists and social scientists from all sides of the conflict, was an effort to reconcile disparate views of the wars that tore the former Yugoslavia apart in the 1990s, Mr. Ingrao said.

Neither Mr. Hill nor Mr. Goldberg responded to requests for interviews for this article.

In an interview, the former State Department official, who had access to confidential reports and to members of the Holbrooke team, said that during that evening in 1996,

Mr. Milosevic and other Serbian officials were on the phone with Mr. Karadzic, who was in Pale, Bosnia.

The former official said that Mr. Karadzic wanted written assurances that he would not be pursued for war crimes and refused to sign without them.

''Holbrooke told the Serbs, 'You can give him my word he won't be pursued,' but Holbrooke refused to sign anything,'' the official said. Mr. Holbrooke could make that promise because he knew that American and other Western militaries in Bosnia were not then making arrests, the official said.

There were some 60,000 American and NATO troops in Bosnia, but the soldiers had no orders to arrest indicted Bosnians, for fear of inciting local rebellion.

In the brief statement Mr. Karadzic eventually signed, he agreed to withdraw ''from all political activities'' and to step down from office. It carried the signatures of Mr. Milosevic and four other Serbian leaders acting as witnesses and guarantors. It did not include any Americans' names and made no mention of immunity.

The American who was involved in peacekeeping insisted in an interview that Mr. Holbrooke himself told him that he had made a deal with Mr. Karadzic to get him to leave politics. He recalled meeting Mr. Holbrooke in Sarajevo, Bosnia, on the eve of Bosnian elections in November 2000, just after Mr. Milosevic had finally been ousted from power in Serbia.

Mr. Holbrooke was worried about the outcome of the Bosnian vote because he knew that Mr. Karadzic was still secretly running his nationalist political party and picking candidates, including mayors and police chiefs who had run prison camps and organized massacres.

''Holbrooke was angry; he was ranting,'' the American recalled. He quoted Mr. Holbrooke as saying: ''That son of a bitch Karadzic. I made a deal with him that if he'd pull out of politics, we wouldn't go after him. He's broken that deal and now we're going to get him.''

Mr. Karadzic's party won those elections in the Bosnian Serb republic. Shortly afterward, he disappeared from public view.

''In subsequent meetings, as a private citizen, I repeatedly urged officials in both the Clinton and Bush administrations to capture Karadzic,'' Mr. Holbrooke said. ''I am glad he has finally been brought to justice, even though he uses his public platform to disseminate these fabrications.''

Mr. Holbrooke declined to accept further questions and did not address the specifics of the new accounts.

Mr. Karadzic, by insisting that he is exempt from legal proceedings, has now forced the war crimes tribunal to deal with his allegations, illustrating the difficulty of both administering international justice and conducting diplomacy.

In December, tribunal judges ruled that even if a deal had been made, it would have no bearing on a trial. They said no immunity agreement would be valid before an international tribunal in a case of genocide, war crimes or crimes against humanity. Mr. Karadzic is charged with all three.

But Mr. Karadzic has appealed and filed motions demanding that prosecutors disclose every scrap of confidential evidence about negotiations with Mr. Holbrooke. He has asked his lawyers to seek meetings with American diplomats.

His demands have led the court to write to the United States government for clarification.

Peter Robinson, a lawyer for Mr. Karadzic, said that he had received a promise from Washington that he could interview Philip S. Goldberg, who was on the Holbrooke team meeting in Belgrade the night the resignation was negotiated.

''Goldberg took the notes at that meeting,'' Mr. Robinson said. ''The U.S. government has agreed to search for the notes and provide them if they find them.''

A State Department spokesman said that the government was cooperating with the tribunal, but would provide no further details.

Mr. Holbrooke, who brokered the peace agreement that ended the Bosnian war in 1995, returned to Belgrade in 1996 to press Mr. Karadzic to resign as president of the Bosnian Serb republic. Mr. Holbrooke's memoirs recount a night of fierce negotiation on July 18, 1996, but make no mention of any pledge of immunity.

The Purdue University study, ''Confronting the Yugoslav Controversies: A Scholars' Initiative,'' says that Mr. Holbrooke ''instructed his principal assistant, Christopher Hill, to draft the memorandum to be signed by Karadzic,'' committing him to give up power.

Mr. Ingrao said Mr. Holbrooke used Slobodan Milosevic, then the Serbian leader, and other Serbian officials as intermediaries to convey the promise of immunity and to reach the deal with Mr. Karadzic.

EXHIBIT 8

[From washingtonpost.com, Feb. 4, 2004]

AUSCHWITZ UNDER OUR NOSES

(By Anne Applebaum)

Nearly 60 years ago last week, Auschwitz was liberated. On Jan. 27, 1945, four Russian soldiers rode into the camp. They seemed ''wonderfully concrete and real,'' remembered Primo Levi, one of the prisoners, ''perched on their enormous horses, between the gray of the snow and the gray of the sky.'' But they did not smile, nor did they greet the starving men and women. Levi thought he knew why: They felt ''the shame that a just man experiences at another man's crime, the feeling of guilt that such a crime should exist.''

Nowadays, it seems impossible to understand why so few people, at the time of the Auschwitz liberation, even knew that the camp existed. It seems even harder to explain why those who did know did nothing. In recent years a plethora of respectable institutions—the Vatican, the U.S. government, the international Jewish community, the Allied commanders—have all been accused of ''allowing'' the Holocaust to occur, through ignorance or ill will or fear, or simply because there were other priorities, such as fighting the war.

We shake our heads self-righteously, certain that if we'd been there, liberation would have come earlier—all the while failing to see that the present is no different. Quite a lot has changed in 60 years, but the ways in which information about crimes against humanity can simultaneously be ''known'' and not known hasn't changed at all. Nor have other interests and other priorities ceased to distract people from the feelings of shame and guilt they would certainly feel, if only they focused on them.

Look, for example, at the international reaction to a documentary, aired last Sunday night on the BBC. It described atrocities committed in the concentration camps of contemporary North Korea, where, it was alleged, chemical weapons are tested on prisoners. Central to the film was the testimony of Kwon Hyuk, a former administrator at a North Korean camp. ''I witnessed a whole family being tested on suffocating gas and dying in the gas chamber,'' he said. ''The parents, son and a daughter. The parents were vomiting and dying, but till the very last moment they tried to save the kids by doing mouth-to-mouth breathing.'' The documentary also included testimony from a former prisoner, who says she saw 50 women die after being deliberately fed poison. And it included documents smuggled out of the country that seemed to sentence a prisoner to a camp ''for the purpose of human experimentation.''

But the documentary was only a piece of journalism. Do we really know that it is true? We don't. It was aired on the BBC, after all, an organization whose journalistic standards have recently been questioned. It was based on witness testimony, which is notoriously unreliable. All kinds of people might have had an interest in making the film more sensational, including journalists (good for their careers) or North Korean defectors (good for their cause).

The veracity of the information has been further undermined by the absence of official confirmation. The South Korean government, which believes that appeasement of the North will lead to reunification, has already voiced skepticism about the claims: ''We will need to investigate,'' a spokesman said. The U.S. government has other business on the Korean Peninsula too. On Monday Secretary of State Colin L. Powell told a group of Post journalists that he feels optimistic about the prospect of a new round of nuclear talks between North Korea and its neighbors. He didn't mention the gas chambers, even whether he's heard about them.

In the days since the documentary aired, few other news organizations have picked up the story either. There are other priorities: the president's budget, ricin in the Senate office building, David Kay's testimony, a murder of a high school student, Super Tuesday, Janet Jackson. With the possible exception of the last, these are all genuinely important subjects. They are issues people care deeply about. North Korea is far away and, quite frankly, it doesn't seem there's a lot we can do about it.

Later—in 10 years, or in 60—it will surely turn out that quite a lot was known in 2004 about the camps of North Korea. It will turn out that information collected by various human rights groups, South Korean churches, oddball journalists and spies added up to a damning and largely accurate picture of an evil regime. It will also turn out that there were things that could have been done, approaches the South Korean government might have made, diplomatic channels the U.S. government might have opened, pressure the Chinese might have applied.

Historians in Asia, Europe and here will finger various institutions, just as we do now, and demand they justify their past actions. And no one will be able to understand how it was possible that we knew of the existence of the gas chambers but failed to act.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. UDALL of Colorado). The Senator from South Carolina.

Mr. DEMINT. Mr. President, I thank my colleague from Kansas for making such a powerful, persuasive case for human rights and freedom in North Korea and around the world. I wish to change subjects slightly for a few minutes and talk about some experiences over the last couple of weeks.

STOP THE SPENDING

Last Wednesday, tens of thousands of Americans celebrated tax day by speaking out against the direction of this Federal Government. I attended three tea parties in South Carolina. What struck me the most was how nonpartisan these events were. These were families, couples with children, not

necessarily Republicans or Democrats, but both were there. They did not care about parties or candidates. They cared about their kids and the debt we are saddling them with, with almost everything we do in Washington. They cited with their signs and their voices that every American today has a $35,000 share in our national debt. That is just today, not counting what we have added. And it does not count the unfunded costs of Social Security and Medicare that we borrowed from our future.

The way we are spending up here, the per capita debt in our country will soon exceed the per capita income. We are not just bankrupting our country, we are bankrupting generations of Americans not even born yet.

This is a moral issue. Every dollar spent represents another freedom seized, another constitutional principle ignored, another opportunity squandered. The American people are tired of politicians—Republicans and Democrats—borrowing and spending money on programs we do not need, programs they know will not work.

The message of the tea parties is clear: Stop growing Government and spending all our money, all our kids' money, all our grandkids' money.

But will we get the message? We keep hearing that we are in the middle of an economic crisis, but we are in the middle of a political crisis. We hear a lot about corporate greed, but that pales in comparison to the political greed of elected officials who continue to make promises that we cannot pay for and borrowing the money to do it.

A poll conducted last week suggests that while a majority of American people have a favorable view of these tea parties, only 13 percent of the political class does. It is the same pattern over and over again on the stimulus, on earmarks, on socialized and rationed health care, on the proposed tax on electricity and energy. Americans disagree with Washington on these socialistic experiments, and our leaders act as if it is the American people who are the ones who are out of touch.

Indeed, no sooner had the protesters gone home than they learned that their preference for freedom, limited Government, and local control marked them as potential terrorist threats, according to a report by the Department of Homeland Security.

Americans have been misled and lied to by elected officials who promise the world while stealing our future. And they have had enough. Tea parties are only the beginning. Americans have come to understand that many of our problems are caused by more Government and that they can only be solved by more freedom.

Think of the things that are categorized as crises today—a crisis in education, a crisis in health care, a crisis in energy, our transportation infrastructure, banking and finance, the auto industry. But who has been running these services for the last several decades? Who has been running our education system? It has not been the free market. It has not been the free people. It has been Government, with the price we are paying expanding faster than any other service. We spend more per capita than any other country in the world, yet consistently we lose ground to other industrialized nations. We do not need more Federal control, we need more freedom in education, more choices, more competition, more technology, the kinds of things that Government and union control cannot provide in our education. It may be a crisis, but it is not one caused by freedom, it is one caused by politicians.

What about health care? We talk about the number of uninsured Americans, but have we given freedom a chance? The rules and laws we pass here make it virtually impossible for individuals to own and keep their own insurance policy. There are ways we can solve this problem, there are ways we can get every American insured without spending one additional dime of tax dollars. But instead, the movement in Washington is toward Government health care, socialized medicine, and we have made a downpayment in our recent budget in that direction.

We have an energy crisis, but who has held back this country from exploring and developing our own energy reserves? It has not been the free markets or the free people; it has been this Government. And under the name of environmental protection, we have actually made the environment worse by blocking nuclear energy, blocking natural gas development, and not moving where other countries have toward cleaner energy sources that are within our reach.

What about our transportation infrastructure? Who has been running that? Increasingly, the Federal Government takes more and more gas tax dollars and instead of giving them back to States for their priorities, we earmark it in every different direction. The last Secretary of Transportation basically said we cannot have a transportation program because it is all politically directed. That is political greed. That is not a fault of freedom.

What about banking and finance? The Government was going to help our financial system, so they made loans, not just to those too big to fail. If you talk to local bankers, the Federal Government essentially forced these banks to take this money, and now they will not let them give it back. And they are now talking about converting these loans into common stock so the Federal Government owns the banks. That is not freedom. That is not the America we know. That is nationalization, that is socialization of a country.

Freedom has not failed in the financial markets. It has been this Government, our oversight, and the Government intermediaries of Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac that essentially packaged and brokered all of these so-called toxic assets.

Freedom has not failed. Has freedom failed in our auto industry? Of course not. The Government and the labor unions have been running the American auto companies for years. Management has very little discretion. If you look at other auto companies that are free of Government control, free of the barnacles of unionization, we see these companies succeeding in the United States. You cannot bail them out with more money; you have to bail them out with freedom.

Over the work period, I had a chance to visit Europe and the Middle East. I had a chance to welcome the new Prime Minister, Benjamin Netanyahu, back to office. It was interesting to hear him talk. He is concerned about the direction of our country moving toward a more socialist direction, while he realized the opportunities in Israel were to move away from socialization to more free markets, more land reform that allowed more property ownership, exactly the opposite of where we see us going. He realized that in order to have a prosperous Israel and a strong military and a bright future, he needed to move his country more toward freedom.

I heard the same thing in Brussels from a lot of our European allies, startled at the level of spending and debt the United States has taken on, concerned that we have the ability to pay it back, concerned that our commitment to the military is falling off, concerned that America will not be there as promised as part of a NATO partner sometime in the future.

But it was concern about our abandonment of free market principles, free trade, the things that can make the world safe and prosperous, that the United States seemed to be pulling back from those principles.

I just wanted to share a few thoughts today because as we talk about more Government and more spending in almost every area of our lives, and we continue to blame our problems on freedom and capitalism—the people who work hard and take personal responsibility—it seems we have it backwards from what actually made America great and exceptional and unique and prosperous and good.

I keep hearing our economic problems were caused by the free market. But what free market? What have I talked about that has had a chance to work as a free market? If you look at those areas where the Government has not yet reached its tentacles in to regulate to the point of paralysis, look at our telecommunication system, which we are talking about in committee as to how we can regulate it. The incredible explosion of innovation and choice and competition—the cell phones, the BlackBerrys, the fantastic ways we have to communicate all over the world—could never have been created by a government system. It was created by free people and free markets, and that can work in every area, as it has before in America.

Let's not blame this financial crisis and the housing problems on freedom and free markets. The Government itself, through its public-private partnership of Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac, was the broker of these deals—the middle man of toxic assets. No private company would take the kind of risks that were taken unless they could first get cheap money, which the Federal Reserve provided, and then have a basic government guarantee for these loans that they were making and packaging. The Government is in the middle of this crisis. It is political greed. It is not the fault of freedom.

This Congress and this Federal Government are really at a crossroads, and the American people are standing there with these tea parties telling us: Don't give up on freedom. Government does not work. Socialism does not work. There is no example in history where it has. Yet we contemplate every day another step closer to more Government control. I am thankful the American people are standing up. They are alarmed at what we are doing. It has nothing to do with politics. It has nothing to do with a political party. It has everything to do with what makes this country great and good. But we have abandoned it in Congress, and this crossroads at which we stand is the crossroads between freedom and socialism.

Some folks say you shouldn't use that term, ''socialism.'' But, folks, when the Government basically controls or owns most aspects of economic production, which is where we are headed today, we are talking about socialism, and socialism that is to the left of where many European countries are. We can stop it, but we have to stop it starting today, and that is why these tea parties are so important. I hope they will shake up a few people here in both parties. I hope they will send a message that this Government is for the people, and of the people, and by the people. If we don't get it right, if we don't listen to them, these people can take it back, and I am thankful they are willing to stand up and express their voices. And I am very sorry anyone in this administration or this Government would categorize them as a threat in any way just because they are willing to speak out against what they know is wrong in Washington.

I encourage my colleagues, as we think about one spending program after another, one Government takeover after another, that we not give up on freedom and that we listen to the American people.

With that, Mr. President, I yield back.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New Jersey.

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. President, I came to speak in support of the nomination of Christopher Hill to be the Ambassador to Iraq, but I have heard my distinguished colleague from South Carolina speak, and I feel compelled to say a few things in response.

It is easy to rail against the Government when you are part of it. It is easy to rail against the Government. But when we have a national disaster, whether it be September 11 or hurricanes or floods or tornadoes, it is only the National Government that can come and help our fellow citizens. It is only the National Government that can come at the end of the day and create a common defense. It is only the National Government that very often can stop us from economic collapse.

Now, I am for the free market as much as anyone else, but there is a difference between a free market and a free-for-all market. What we saw over the last 8 years is regulators, who were supposed to act as the cops on the beat, ultimately allowing the private sector, particularly those who are regulated industries, to regulate themselves. The consequence of that is we have excess that now each and every American is paying for. Yet there are those who want to rail against that.

There are those who also rail about spending. I am with them. But the time to have railed against that was in the last years that saw the debt and the deficit dramatically grow. If President Obama did absolutely nothing—nothing—he would have inherited a $1.3 trillion deficit. So I think we need some intellectual honesty in this Chamber as we have our debates.

Mr. President, I want to now talk about the President's nomination of Christopher Hill to serve as our next Ambassador to Iraq. I support that. It should be clear to all of us that the position of the Ambassador to Iraq is one of the most critical ambassadorial selections that President Obama will make. We are at the beginning of a period of transition in our relationship with Iraq. We are now working under a Status of Forces Agreement. Our troops are winding down their combat role and many will withdraw by June 30 of this year.

In his speech to the Marine Corps at Camp Lejeune at the end of February, President Obama made his policy clear: by the 31st day of August of the year 2010, in accordance with the Status of Forces Agreement, the combat mission of U.S. troops in Iraq will come to an end. But even though the end of our combat mission in Iraq may now be in sight, we cannot forget that today we still have more than 140,000 U.S. troops there, and we have over 1,000 U.S. civilian employees from the Department of State, from USAID, and many other departments and agencies who have been assigned to work at the Embassy in Baghdad under the authority of our Chief of Mission.

We all look forward to the day when our combat mission in Iraq is ended, our troops are returned home, and the Iraqis enjoy relative peace and security under the full protection of their own security forces. But that day has not yet come. We are at the beginning, not the end, of the transition in our role in Iraq. It is a time of uncertainty and risk, and that is why it is so urgent that the Ambassador's position be filled without delay.

We hear the military counterparts constantly saying—General Odierno—where is my civilian counterpart? Where is the Ambassador?

Now, I certainly respect the decision of any colleague to closely scrutinize any of the President's appointments. This is a keystone position at a critical juncture in our relationship with Iraq, and we need to ensure the person leading our Embassy in Baghdad is and has in full measure the background, skills, and pragmatism needed. I have scrutinized Ambassador Hill's qualifications and his testimony, both before the Foreign Relations Committee, of which I am a member, and in responding to questions for the record, and I am convinced that in nominating Ambassador Hill, President Obama has chosen exactly the right person to lead our Embassy in Baghdad at this point in time. I urge my colleagues to confirm his nomination without delay.

During his 32-year career in the Foreign Service, Ambassador Hill has developed a well-earned reputation as a diplomatic trouble-shooter by taking on a series of difficult assignments, including serving as an ambassador in the Balkans, Special Envoy to Kosovo, Ambassador to Poland and South Korea, and most recently as Special Envoy to the six-party talks involving North Korea's nuclear program. He was one of the State Department's top negotiators during the 1995 Dayton talks that ended the war in Bosnia. He has never balked from taking on the most difficult assignments and has a long list of honors and awards which stand as evidence of his accomplishments.

Now, one of the concerns raised by my colleague earlier was about Ambassador Hill's experience, or lack of experience, in the Middle East. It should be noted that our three prior ambassadors in Baghdad—Ryan Crocker, Zalmay Khalizad, and John Negroponte—the persons who know best the experience needed to do the job—do not share this concern. They have expressed their support for Ambassador Hill's confirmation.

I am confident the experience Ambassador Hill has gained in other areas can be readily applied to the challenges he will face in Iraq. Ambassador Hill's experience in coordinating the multilateral negotiations on North Korea's nuclear program will serve him well when he seeks the support of Iraq's neighbors on nuclear issues. That experience will also serve him well in working with Iraq's numerous political factions. Ambassador Hill's experience in the Balkans has prepared him to deal with sectarianism, border disputes, human rights, refugees, developmental assistance, and postconflict normalization of relations, all of which will be major issues in his portfolio in Baghdad.

Mr. President, I share the concerns expressed by my colleague about North

Korea's human rights record, and I agree completely with Ambassador Hill's own assessment of that record of North Korea when he said it is abysmal. But as others have noted, Ambassador Hill's mission with regard to North Korea was set by his superiors in the Bush administration, not by him. The primary objective was to push the North Koreans to end their nuclear weapons program and their nuclear proliferation activities. That was his mission, directed by the Bush administration. That is the mission he undertook to accomplish.

I appreciate Ambassador Hill's continued willingness to take on these tough assignments. He is the right person to lead our Embassy in Baghdad at this time, and I urge his nomination be confirmed without delay.

Finally, I too often hear on the other side of the aisle a very familiar refrain lately. It is no—no to just about everything we are trying to do here. President Obama was elected with overwhelming support to try to move this country in a different direction, and what we hear consistently on the other side of the aisle—using the procedural mechanisms of the filibuster in this institution—is no and no and no. Then, while they hold up nominees, such as yesterday's nominees for Assistant Attorneys General—incredibly important to the Attorney General for law and order in this country—when we finally get to the vote, we see overwhelming bipartisan votes.

We have delayed it an inordinate amount of time instead of having those people work for the security of the country, instead of being able to move this agenda forward, instead of having more time for the Senate to meet some of the Nation's critical challenges.

It is time to get over the noes and start saying yes to some of the critical issues we need. The first yes should be today, with Ambassador Hill. That will move our foreign policy agenda ahead in one of the most critical parts of the world today.

With that, Mr. President, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Massachusetts.

Mr. KERRY. Mr. President, I thank the Senator from New Jersey for a very precise and important set of arguments about why we ought to proceed forward, and I appreciate his taking time to come to the Senate floor to do that.

Momentarily, it is my hope we will be able to propound a unanimous consent agreement. We are just waiting, I hope, for the word to come back from Senator KYL shortly. I hope that can come very quickly so there could be a vote around 5:15 on this nomination.

Let me just say a couple of words about a few of the things that have been said. Obviously, we hope to be able to divide up the remaining time between us and then conclude the debate, but part of what the Senator from Kansas has said, both this morning and this afternoon, is that the human rights envoy, then Jay Lefkowitz of the State Department, was not invited to take part in the six-party talks per an exchange that Senator BROWNBACK had with Chris Hill—with Ambassador Hill—before the Armed Services Committee.

Ambassador Hill has addressed this issue, I have addressed this issue on a number of occasions, and we have really laid this out. The full text of his remarks has been submitted for the RECORD. In a nutshell, let me just state one last time for the record exactly what happened.

As Ambassador Hill made clear at the time, his promise to Senator BROWNBACK applied to the future negotiating sessions, except those specifically dealing with nuclear disarmament where the Human Rights Assistant Secretary had no portfolio whatsoever. To make it clear, the Senator from Kansas somehow believes that no matter what, Special Envoy Lefkowitz should have been invited to that, but that was not a decision that was up to Ambassador Hill. Let's be clear about this. That was not Ambassador Hill's decision to make.

The New York Times on January of 2008 reported that the decision about who would attend the six-party talks and what issues would be discussed was made by Secretary Rice and the President. Here are the words of Secretary Rice speaking about Human Rights Envoy Jay Lefkowitz as quoted by the New York Times on January 23, 2008. ''He,'' Lefkowitz, ''doesn't work on the six-party talks.'' This is Secretary of State Rice talking, rebuking her own Assistant Secretary.

> He doesn't work on the six-party talks. He doesn't know what's going on in the six-party talks and he certainly has no say in what American policy will be in the six-party talks.

That is exactly what Secretary Rice said. So the Senator may have a quarrel but it is not with Ambassador Hill. Secretary Rice was very explicit in that rebuke. Quoting Secretary Rice, again from the New York Times, this is what she said:

> I know where the President stands, and I know where I stand, and those are the people who speak for American policy.

That is the level of the rebuke you are talking about here. It is almost unprecedented, frankly. And here the Senator is, trying to carry water for this rebuked Assistant Secretary who was inappropriately asserting himself at that time. But regardless of whether you think he should have been there or should not have been there, it was not Ambassador Hill's decision to make. He took daily instructions from the President and from the Secretary of State, from the State Department. That is what a good diplomat and negotiator at important talks like that does and that is exactly what he did.

I ask unanimous consent the full text of the article in the New York Times be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the Record, as follows:

[From the New York Times, Jan. 23, 2008]

RICE REBUKES BUSH ENVOY WHO CRITICIZED POLICY ON NORTH KOREA

(By Helene Cooper)

WASHINGTON.—Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, in a rare public rebuke, has upbraided a White House envoy who criticized United States diplomacy toward North Korea that is aimed at coaxing the North Koreans to give up their nuclear weapons.

Ms. Rice said the official, Jay Lefkowitz, President Bush's special envoy on North Korean human rights, was not speaking for the administration when he told an audience at the American Enterprise Institute last week that the United States ''should consider a new approach to North Korea'' because the current approach was unlikely to resolve the issue before the end of Mr. Bush's term in a year.

Speaking to reporters aboard her flight to Berlin on Monday, Ms. Rice sharply disagreed, and said Mr. Lefkowitz should stick to human rights and leave the talks over the North's nuclear policy to her, Mr. Bush and the other nations involved: Russia, China, Japan and South Korea.

''He's the human rights envoy,'' Ms. Rice said. ''That's what he knows. That's what he does. He doesn't work on the six-party talks. He doesn't know what's going on in the six-party talks and he certainly has no say in what American policy will be in the six-party talks.''

Mr. Lefkowitz, reached at his office in New York, said he and Ms. Rice spoke on Friday about the disagreement, and he described their conversation as ''very amicable, substantive and useful.''

''I'm going to have a great deal more to say about elevating the issue of human rights in North Korea, which is clearly a priority for the president and Congress,'' he said.

The dispute comes at a time when nuclear talks have stalled, with North Korea missing a year-end deadline to disclose all of its nuclear programs. A debate within the administration has fractured along familiar lines, with hard-line national security hawks in Vice President Dick Cheney's office and at the White House arguing for a more confrontational approach with the North.

On the other side, Mr. Bush's lead North Korea nuclear negotiator, Christopher R. Hill, backed by Ms. Rice, has argued that the United States should continue a more restrained approach, one that was widely credited with bringing about an agreement last year intended to eventually lead to the denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula.

Ms. Rice said that Mr. Bush had ''spoken as to what our policy is in the six-party talks.''

''I know where the president stands,'' she added, ''and I know where I stand, and those are the people who speak for American policy.''

Mr. KERRY. The second thing alleged here is somehow Ambassador Hill failed to implement the North Korean Human Rights Act. That is not accurate. Facts are facts. Facts, as has been said many times, are stubborn things. Consistent with the Human Rights Act, Ambassador Hill secured the admission of the first North Korean refugees into the United States in 2006. He worked to ensure the safe passage to South Korea of asylum seekers from the North who had been detained in other east Asian

countries. He backed increased funding of radio broadcasting by Radio Free Asia. During Ambassador Hill's tenure as Assistant Secretary of State for East Asian and Pacific Affairs, the State Department approved the expenditure of $2 million of our taxpayer funds to sponsor the Seoul Summit on North Korean Human Rights in South Korea, in December of 2005. Ambassador Hill met regularly with North Korean refugees and defectors who made it out of North Korea.

The record simply doesn't substantiate the notion that Chris Hill was inattentive to human rights. In the morning debate, the Senator from Kansas showed a dramatic picture of starving North Korean children. Noting that today is Holocaust Remembrance Day, Senator BROWNBACK said we should not be indifferent to the suffering of North Korean people and we must not consider human rights inside North Korea to be a low priority. We all agree with the Senator. Of course we should not allow it to be a low priority.

He noted that unnamed ''U.S. diplomats'' had opposed decisive action to bomb the rail lines leading to Auschwitz during World War II and said the current situation with north Korea is ''eerily familiar.''

All of us should listen carefully to what the Senator has said about North Korea and its oppression. None of us should forget the lessons of the Holocaust. We have an obligation to respond to great humanitarian crises, whether they are caused by nature or by man.

But to show a picture of starving North Korean children in the debate on Ambassador Hill's qualifications and to imply somehow that he is indifferent to their plight does a good public servant an enormous disservice—particularly one whose record is what I have described, who time and again has fought for the implementation of the Human Rights Act and who has taken personal risks on occasion to enforce human rights.

The date of the photograph that was there was not in fact declared, but I believe it was during the great Republic of North Korea's famine in 1996 and 1997. If that is true, that is 10 years before Ambassador Chris Hill began his duties as the lead envoy in the six-party talks. So, again, to create some sense of linkage or nexus here is inappropriate.

In any case, the bottom line is this. No one is going to deny that North Korea is a country on the brink of famine and failure. It is a failed place. None of us should be idle in the face of this basic threat to the health of the North Korean people and to the security of the peninsula and of the region. It is deplorable that North Korea has recently expelled food aid workers. I hope they are going to reverse that decision. We are going to listen carefully to testimony before our committee on May 6. We will have a comprehensive view on what is happening in North Korea and what the possibilities are for our policy. But let me emphasize: Chris Hill never ignored that situation. He worked with skill and persistence to secure direct access for five U.S. NGOs, including Christian groups, to provide aid to millions of North Koreans, including hungry children exactly like the kids who were depicted in the photograph on the floor this morning.

Thanks to the work of Ambassador Hill, Korean-speaking U.S. aid workers in 2008–2009 were able to travel to remote parts of North Korea never before reached by U.S. aid workers. That is an extraordinary success for which Ambassador Hill ought to be congratulated. They were able to establish five field offices in rural areas where they had never been before. That is a success. They were able to conduct unannounced visits to schools, hospitals, and orphanages. That is an accountability we never had before. That is a success. They were able to provide 100,000 tons of food aid to help people feed literally millions of North Korean children. That is a success.

This was the first U.S. food aid to North Korea delivered by U.S. NGOs since the year 2000 and this was delivered in the most intrusive, comprehensive monitoring system ever permitted by North Korea. Ambassador Hill deserves praise for his efforts on this issue, not the criticism that was implied on the floor of the Senate.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that at 5:15 p.m. today all postcloture time be yielded back and the Senate proceed to vote on the confirmation of the nomination of Christopher Hill to be Ambassador to Iraq, that the time until then be equally divided and controlled between myself and Senator BROWNBACK or designees of each of us, and that the 10 minutes immediately prior to the vote be equally divided and controlled between myself and Senator BROWNBACK; further, that the time controlled by the Republicans, of that time, Senator KYL control 15 minutes, Senator MCCAIN control 20 minutes, and that upon confirmation, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, no further motions be in order, the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action and the Senate then resume legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. KERRY. I thank the Chair and thank my colleague.

I yield the floor, according to the unanimous consent.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Kansas is recognized.

Mr. BROWNBACK. Mr. President, I agreed to this unanimous consent request to try to move this somewhat forward. I do believe this has been a healthy debate. It has been a good thing for us to discuss what took place in North Korea. It has been a good thing for us to discuss human rights. Anytime we can do that I think it is a good thing for us to discuss that setting, moving into Iraq and the human rights concerns there.

I do want to address a few things the Senator from Massachusetts raised. One is on the North Korean Human Rights Act. I was the author of that bill. I know that bill. I worked to get that bill through. I pushed hard to get it through. One of the provisions in that bill was $20 million authorized under the North Korean Human Rights Act for use of the North Korean Human Rights Act and to resettle refugees from North Korea in the United States and for a number of other issues. The administration has not requested a single dime under that authorization. It didn't ask for a single appropriation. So the idea that we have implemented the North Korean Human Rights Act when no money was requested underneath that, I guess I am impressed that could take place. I hope the Government can do that well in many other areas, where they do not ask for any money and then they fully comply with an act.

I do not think the act was fully complied with. I stated that specifically here on the RECORD, the places I do not believe it was complied with.

We are digging up right now how many people have been resettled in the United States under this North Korea Human Rights Act. It is a very small number—in the dozens at most. There is a lot of hesitation, hiccups taking place. The State Department is not pushing or working with this. A number of these refugees could have been resettled here by communities in the United States. This is actually one piece that could have been done very cheaply because the Korean-American community here would have resettled them, in many cases, without cost to the Federal Government. Very few were received or brought to the United States.

The chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee is a very distinguished Senator from Massachusetts with a lot of foreign policy experience. I admire all of that. I don't think he has worked quite as much on the Korean issue, certainly not as much as some other Members of this body and myself have worked on it. To say that this was a successful negotiation I think does not stand the overall, just view of this from the public's view, let alone from a diplomatic viewpoint.

When you look at this—you say it was a successful negotiation Ambassador Hill conducted with North Korea and the six-party talks. When you look at what North Korea has done since then and try to call it that, I don't think the Japanese would call this a successful negotiation that a missile was fired over their country, one that could reach the western United States. I don't think the Japanese would call it a successful negotiation that the abductees that were taken from Japan by the North Korean leadership and never accounted for were not accounted for during the negotiation.

This was the top issue. I had the Japanese Embassy contacting my office, complaining about the six-party talks and not being included on their top issues.

Why are they having to go through me? Because they can't go through Chris Hill. What kind of diplomat is that, when he has trouble with one of your main allies on a very specific item and issue that you can at least keep them tuned in and coming along with the overall issue?

China is one of the members of the six-party talks and China has been one of the lead problems with us dealing with North Korea. Yet we do not even push the Chinese on North Korea or North Korean human rights. We don't demand that the U.N. Human Rights Commission, or Commission on Human Rights, be allowed into China to determine are these North Korean refugees who are coming into China, are they economic migrants, are they refugees? We don't even push the Chinese to allow the U.N. in to look and see what the status is here. We do not push them at the six-party talks or the U.N. There is a complete failure of this.

I have had some refugees, a few who made it out of North Korea into the United States, a few more who made it into China—it is hard to get out of China and into the country—I have had a couple into my office, interviewing them, and they talked about the horrible conditions in China for North Korean refugees. Several hundred thousand, probably, are there, stateless, not protected. The women are generally captured and sold as concubines in China—captured like wild animals. This is their fate. We do not push the U.N. Human Rights Commission, don't push the Chinese to allow these individuals in, even though the Chinese have signed the declaration on this. We don't get that done. That is not a success taking place.

North Koreans recently abducted two Americans on the North Korea-China border. That has taken place. We don't object to that. They are developing part of the Syrian nuclear reactor. We don't get any information on that. We get incomplete information. We waive the terrorism list. We get nothing out of this deal. That is called a successful negotiation. I wonder what we will call successful negotiations in Iraq, then, if that is what we are calling a successful negotiation with the North Koreans in the six-party talks. I wonder what we will call successful human rights being determined in Iraq when we see the human rights record of what is taking place in North Korea. I wonder how that is going to be viewed.

For all of those reasons, I think this has been a healthy debate for us to have had. I hope when the supplemental comes up, we as a body do not waive again the Glenn sanctions on North Korea. That will come up in front of this body. It is an annual waiver that will have to take place. I hope we as a body do not fund North Korea beyond humanitarian assistance. That will come up in the supplemental. I want to lay those markers down for my colleagues. I hope people are watching for this, that we do not reward the North Koreans, that we do not become their supporter like the Soviets were, and we do not continue this practice, much of which Chris Hill negotiated.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. KAUFMAN). The Senator from Virginia is recognized.

Mr. WEBB. Mr. President, I would like to add my voice in support of the nominee, Chris Hill, whom I have had the pleasure of working with extensively in his current assignment, both in my role as a member of the Armed Services Committee and also of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

I think he is a uniquely qualified individual. He has a long history of success. If anything, in the current debate, I believe he is perhaps being victimized by the fact that he is a loyal diplomat and was carrying out, with great expertise, the charges that had been given to him as someone who has a career in that area.

The numbers are pretty clear. He is going to get at least 70 votes. I believe it is time for us to end this debate and have the vote and get Chris Hill on his way. I respect the Senator from Kansas. I respect his concerns. He has been a great champion in terms of human rights. I would just suggest that this is not the place to continue this sort of discussion when the situation in Iraq is filled with unknowns, as it is, and our need of getting someone who has these types of qualifications over there to do this job.

The Chris Hill nomination is no more place to have this debate than it was when the nomination of the current Ambassador to South Korea was also held up for similar reasons. The points have been made. I think all of us understand them, and we need to get on with this nomination.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair recognizes the Senator from Arizona.

Mr. MCCAIN. Mr. President, I rise today in opposition to the confirmation of Assistant Secretary Christopher Hill as U.S. Ambassador to Iraq. I do not often come to the floor and object to nominees of the President of the United States. I believe elections have consequences, and that gives a President of the United States the benefit of the doubt and, even more, as far as the selection of the team he assembles in order to do the best job possible. So it is on a rare occasion that I object to a nominee of the President. But for too long and too deeply the United States of America has been involved in Iraq. There is a fragile situation there. We have recently seen an uptick in violence and attacks by extremist elements within Iraq. Now is not the time to send a person who I believe is not only unqualified on the face of it but also, in my view, has not conducted himself in the most admirable fashion in his previous work.

Today, we find ourselves in a situation few could have foreseen just a few years ago. In late 2006, the situation in Iraq was deteriorating at an alarming rate. The Government was mired in internal strife and deadlock, sectarian violence crippled the lives of everyday Iraqis, and the outlook for the country's future was increasingly bleak. Yet in the face of seemingly unsurmountable challenges, a drastic change in strategy was introduced. GEN David Petraeus and Ambassador Ryan Crocker launched and executed a civil-military counterinsurgency plan for Iraq that turned the tide of violence in a timeframe and to a degree that surprised even the optimists. The result has been a decrease in violence to the lowest levels since 2003 and real hope about the future of the country in which we have expended so much precious American blood and treasure. Yet as our commanders have repeatedly warned, these gains, though real, are fragile. The recent uptick in violence demonstrates anew that there remain elements within Iraq who wish to continue the violence and use their power to disrupt the transition to a more stable, democratic, and tolerant society. There also remain a number of difficult political and economic issues that lay ahead, including the distribution of oil revenues, the resettlement of refugees and internally displaced Iraqis, and ongoing tensions between Arabs and Kurds.

Ambassador Ryan Crocker was able to tackle these and other issues with great skill and expertise, ensuring unprecedented cooperation between the military, the Embassy, and their counterparts in the Iraqi Government. Ambassador Crocker's remarkable tenure was a byproduct of his lengthy career in the Middle East, not simply incidental to his long record of experience in the region. He had served two tours in Baghdad previously, including in the Coalition Provisional Authority, and he also served as Ambassador to several neighboring countries, including Lebanon, Kuwait, and Syria. His longstanding relationships with the region's leaders, his deep understanding of the complexities of Arab and Iraqi culture, and his ability to speak fluent Arabic were instrumental to his success.

Now, as we reduce the number of combat forces in Iraq, our national interests there will depend to an increasing degree on the skill of our diplomacy. I believe Ambassador Crocker's successor should possess many of the same traits he demonstrated, including experience in the region, an understanding of its players and dynamics, and relevant language skills. While Ambassador Hill has developed regional expertise, it is not in the Middle East. He has served as Ambassador in Europe and Asia, and speaks, admirably, three European languages but does not speak Arabic. He has not had the opportunity to work with leaders in Iraq or in the region. In fact, he has

never been to Iraq. He has limited experience at best in working with the military in the areas of counterterrorism and counterinsurgency.

The next U.S. Ambassador to Iraq will take over at a critical time in history of our involvement there. The U.S. Embassy in Baghdad is the world's largest and, along with our Embassy in Kabul, one of the two most important. The next Ambassador will play a vital role in consolidating our hard-won gains and ensuring that the country does not backslide into violence and turmoil. Given the enormity of our stakes in Iraq, I do not believe it is appropriate to select as our next Ambassador someone who will require on-the-job training in Iraqi affairs and in Middle East issues.

This may well be, I am afraid, the case with Mr. Hill.

There are a number of well-qualified individuals both within the Foreign Service and without it who would make excellent U.S. Ambassadors to Iraq. I do not believe Mr. Hill is among this number.

Our next Ambassador must hit the ground running and quickly work with the ground commander, Iraqi leaders, and others to confront the still great challenges that will present themselves over the next several years. We have made many mistakes in Iraq over a number of years, and they have cost us dearly. We have seen individuals take charge of U.S. efforts there without the background and experience necessary to succeed. I do not want us to repeat this mistake.

In addition to my concerns about Ambassador Hill's lack of Middle East experience, I also have questions arising from his tenure as U.S. Envoy to the six-party talks on North Korea's nuclear program. His legacy in those talks was controversial, as evidenced by complaints that other members of the interagency process were cut out of crucial policy deliberations. In a cable reported in the Washington Post, Thomas Schieffer, then-U.S. Ambassador to Japan, warned of irreparable harm to our relations with Tokyo resulting from an agreement that did not adequately address Japanese interests, including the issue of abductions. Ambassador Schieffer added that he could not play a role in remedying this state of affairs because Ambassador Hill had cut him out of the flow of information on North Korea.

Members of the Senate, including my colleague from Kansas, have asserted that Ambassador Hill broke a commitment made before a congressional committee to include North Korean Special Envoy for Human Rights Jay Lefkowitz to all future negotiating sessions with North Korea. I am aware that Ambassador Hill has asserted that he did not, in fact, break such a commitment, notwithstanding the fact that Mr. Lefkowitz was not included in these subsequent negotiating sessions.

Given the key role the Congress and non-State Department agencies play in our Iraq policy, however, I believe it is crucial that the next Ambassador to Iraq begin with a surplus of trust and good will with both. Ambassador Hill, I am afraid, starts with a deficit.

Ambassador Hill testified on October 25, 2007, before the House Foreign Affairs Subcommittee that ''clearly we cannot be reaching a nuclear agreement with North Korea if at the same time they are proliferating. It is not acceptable.'' Yet, just months later, Ambassador Hill reached an agreement with Pyongyang despite its alleged nuclear proliferation to Syria, and reports have emerged of Iranian-North Korean cooperation in missile technology.

In recent weeks alone, North Korea has tested a ballistic missile in violation of United Nations Security Council resolutions, expelled inspectors from the International Atomic Energy Agency, removed seals on equipment, and turned off surveillance cameras at the Yongbyon nuclear plant and announced that it is withdrawing from the six-party talks.

While Mr. Hill did not bear sole responsibility for the content of U.S. policy toward North Korea, nor for the outcomes I have just described, it is nevertheless inescapable that he has played the key U.S. role in the formulation of policy toward Pyongyang for the past several years. To the eyes of most objective observers, those policies have failed.

Finally, I am troubled at comments and characterizations that appeared in a recent book by New York Times reporter David Sanger. In a statement to associates, for example, Ambassador Hill is quoted—and it is a direct quote—as saying of members of the administration—the administration which he supposedly served—''these [expletive] don't know how to negotiate. Everything is Appomattox. It's just 'Come out with your hands up.' It's not even really Appomattox, because at the end of Appomattox they let the Confederates keep their horses.'' This is perhaps the most colorful but not the only reference along these lines. Mr. Sanger quotes Ambassador Hill as saying that his instructions ''showed a complete lack of understanding about how the world works,'' and the book, along with other accounts, cites numerous examples of Mr. Hill going beyond his instructions as authorized by the Department of State.

I know loyalty is a rare commodity in this town, and I do not expect a lot of it. I have seen a lot of situations where people seek to burnish their own images and their own reputations. I guess in some ways this is kind of a classic example, this quote of Ambassador Hill's, talking about the people he works for: ''These [expletive] don't know how to negotiate.'' And he says—and it is a direct quote again—that his instructions ''showed a complete lack of understanding about how the world works.'' I wonder if Mr. Hill really felt this strongly, as these quotes indicate in Mr. Sanger's book, that he might have felt motivated for the good of the country to speak out publicly to remonstrate that ''These [expletive] don't know how to negotiate.'' Instead, many times we see people more interested in how a New York Times reporter describes them than they are in serving the people who appoint them to the positions of responsibility.

In response to a lengthy set of questions I submitted to Ambassador Hill, he wrote that fulfilling the oath taken by a Foreign Service officer ''means respecting the chain of command and remaining loyal to my leadership.'' In this, I agree with Mr. Hill. Mr. Hill, if those quotes are accurate—and I have no reason to believe they are not—obviously did not feel so at the time.

But, most importantly, the stakes in Iraq today could hardly be higher. We have been at this war for 6 long and difficult years. We made many mistakes. We paid an enormous price for the gains we see in that country today. And I must say, in all candor, we have seen another Ambassador to Iraq who went there without experience, and things did not turn out so well.

There are qualified individuals who are serving this Nation in and out of the Foreign Service.

It well known that Marine General Zinni was offered the job, at least by some members of the administration, and then somehow that offer disappeared. The fact is, we have sacrificed a lot. We owe it to the brave men and women who have sacrificed so much to ensure that the remarkable progress they have achieved translates into long-term stability as our combat troops begin leaving the country. After meeting with Ambassador Hill and examining his record, the concerns I raised following his nomination last month remain. For this reason, I must oppose his nomination as the next U.S. Ambassador to Iraq.

Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. KYL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. KYL. Mr. President, I rise in opposition to Ambassador Christopher Hill's nomination to serve as the next U.S. Ambassador to Iraq. As Senator BROWNBACK and I stated in a letter to Secretary of State Clinton regarding Ambassador Hill's nomination:

> Our role as United States Senators is not to choose the President's envoys. However, in the exercise of the Senate's constitutionally mandated role of advising and consenting to nominations, we are required to judge the qualifications by ambassadorial candidates on several levels, not least their past record of dealing with our own branch of government.

I do not believe Ambassador Hill has the requisite experience to be our Ambassador to Iraq at this critical time in that young democracy's history. Beyond that, serious allegations have been made by members of the press as well as Members of this body that call into question Mr. Hill's ability to follow orders and his willingness to be forthcoming and truthful with the Senate itself. I believe these allegations merit much more rigorous review.

Many of my colleagues believe that Iraq is at a critical and fragile juncture and that now is no time to delay the installation of our Ambassador to that country, and to them I say I could not agree more. However, I would also say to them it is even more critical that we send an Ambassador who has the proper experience for the tough task ahead of him. We should be sending someone who understands the complex and unique historical, cultural, and tribal intricacies of those with whom he will be interacting and negotiating. We should be sending someone who speaks their language, literally. We should be sending someone who, over their distinguished career at the State Department, has at least had one assignment to the Middle East. Ambassador Hill has had none. At no time during his 32 years has he had an assignment there, nor does he speak Arabic. Surely, the State Department has at least one distinguished diplomat who has career experience in the Middle East.

Some of my colleagues argue that Ambassador Hill's experience in Kosovo and Bosnia give him crucial experience solving complex problems of ethnic civil wars. After 6 years of, I would hope, lessons learned, I am sure my colleagues would agree with me that we should not approach the cultural and ethnic nuances in Iraq with a same-thing-only-different diplomacy. I certainly hope the Obama administration is not taking a one-size-fits-all approach to the world.

Iraq's history is not that of Kosovo or Bosnia. Its cultural and ethnic makeup is completely unique. We need someone who understands Iraq's history, culture, and, yes, language. That is why the choice of Ambassador Ryan Crocker was so inspired—a diplomat who, over his career at the State Department, had been assigned to Iran, Qatar, Lebanon, Egypt, Syria, Afghanistan, and Pakistan—all before he took on his assignment as Ambassador to Iraq. In addition, he spoke Persian and Arabic.

Much of our recent success in Iraq is because of Ambassador Crocker's lifetime of knowledge and understanding of Iraq and its neighbors' cultural and ethnic history. While I don't expect a carbon copy of Ambassador Crocker, I do assert again that surely the State Department has to have at least one distinguished diplomat with relevant experience in the Middle East. If it doesn't—if its bench for Iraq is one diplomat deep—we need to find out what is going on over at the State Department.

Moreover, I worry what signal it sends—when coupled with the recent campaign rhetoric—of our commitment to sustain the hard-fought gains of the surge by sending an ambassador to Iraq with no experience in the region. What message does that send to Iraqi leaders who are nervous that the U.S. commitment to finish what we started has ended?

In addition to his lack of Middle East experience, recent press reports about Ambassador Hill's conduct as head of the U.S. delegation of the six-party talks on the North Korean nuclear issue raise serious doubts about his fitness to serve in such a sensitive position as Ambassador to Iraq.

Twice, Ambassador Hill allegedly disobeyed orders from the President and Secretary Rice not to engage in any bilateral meetings with the North Koreans. According to Stephen Hayes of the Weekly Standard:

> On July 9, 2005, [Secretary of State] Rice had given approval for a trilateral meeting with the Chinese and the North Koreans in an effort to get the North Koreans to return to the six-party talks on their nuclear program. . . . The Chinese didn't show up, as they had promised. Hill nonetheless met alone with the North Koreans and gave them an important propaganda victory.

We cannot afford to have diplomats exceeding their authority and engaging in freelance diplomacy when they see fit and in direct opposition to the wishes of the President and the Secretary of State.

That is why Senator BROWNBACK and I wrote to Secretary Clinton and asked her to provide us with all relevant cables and correspondence regarding Ambassador Hill's instruction for these two meetings so that we can establish the facts. These matters could have been cleared up by now if the State Department had responded to the letter that Senator BROWNBACK and I sent. It has not chosen to do so. We have no response.

Finally, Senator BROWNBACK raised questions about Ambassador Hill's truthfulness to the Senate. The Senator spoke to this matter.

The position of U.S. Ambassador to Iraq is among the most sensitive missions we have in the world at this time. It is critical that ambassadors follow the letter and spirit of the orders given by the President and the Secretary of State. It is equally important that anytime an ambassador gives assurances to the Senate that something will be carried out, or certain actions will not be engaged in, that those assurances be rock solid.

Mr. President, for the reasons I have articulated—and I associate myself with the remarks of Senators BROWNBACK and MCCAIN—I regret that I cannot support Christopher Hill's nomination to replace Ambassador Crocker as U.S. Ambassador to Iraq.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Rhode Island is recognized.

Mr. REED. Mr. President, I rise to express my strong support for Christopher R. Hill to be the next Ambassador to Iraq. I have had the privilege of working with Ambassador Hill and I know him. He is a Rhode Islander. He was born in Little Compton, where he resides. He brought his fine skills and talents to public service many years ago. He has distinguished himself in that service over many years. He is being posted to one of the most critical areas of the world.

Mr. President, you and I just returned from Iraq. One of the comments we heard from General Odierno and from our diplomatic personnel was the need to rapidly confirm Ambassador Hill. They have every confidence in him. They believe he cannot only do the job but do it extremely well. I think their support is much more compelling than the opposition I have heard on the Senate floor today.

We understand, as they do, the real step forward in Iraq is building its governmental capacity and dealing with very explicit problems, one of which—and the Presiding Officer and I have both spoken on this today—is the tension between the Kurds and Arabs around Kirkuk, with respect to oil. Our Ambassador has to hit the ground running and deal with a very difficult set of issues. Chris Hill is prepared to do that.

Together with General Odierno, they will form a team that will continue the progress that has been made over the last several months.

Ambassador Hill, as I mentioned, is from Rhode Island. He earned his B.A. from Bowdoin College and a masters from the Naval War College, also in Rhode Island. He is extremely well qualified for this position, with a lifetime of diplomatic service and facing challenges in many different arenas, and facing them with distinction. He has particular skills in bridging gaps and bringing people together, which will be critical.

Ambassador Hill entered the Foreign Service in 1977. In the 1980s, he served in various positions within the State Department in Washington. He was an economic officer in the Embassies in Belgrade, Yugoslavia; Warsaw, Poland; and Seoul, Korea.

Beginning in 1991, he spent 2 years as the Deputy Chief of Mission at the U.S. Embassy in Tirana, Albania. From 1994 to 1996, he was the Director of the Office of South Central European Affairs.

Then, in 1996, he was named the Ambassador of Macedonia during a period when the United States was actively engaged in multilateral efforts to prevent the spread of ethnic conflict in Macedonia, bolster Macedonian independence and state viability, and manage bilateral disputes between Macedonia and Greece. He worked with our American military forces during that period.

The first time I met with him I was with the commander of the First Infantry Division of the U.S. Army who was on the ground. So the Ambassador is someone who has already been in a situation in which ethnic tension, bilateral relationships between regional

powers, and Army military stabilization operations were underway. I think that experience will make him extremely prepared for and equipped to accomplish the mission he has been assigned in Baghdad.

Ambassador Hill was also part of a team that was assembled by Ambassador Holbrooke that negotiated the Bosnian peace settlement. He fought to ensure that protections were included for those who had been made refugees by the war. In one instance, he personally intervened at the Stenkovac refugee camp to prevent a rioting mob from beating an ethnic Roma family to death.

I think he has a sensitivity to ethnic and sectarian tension, not gleaned from textbooks but from personal involvement and engagement in these situations.

In 2004, he returned to Seoul, Korea, this time as the Ambassador. There he partnered with Korean authorities and the commander of the U.S. Forces Korea, General Leon LePorte, another Rhode Islander, to develop and implement the most significant realignment of our military posture in the region since the Korean war. I think it was an effort that today is bearing fruit in terms of the ability of U.S. forces in Korea to continue their mission with a smaller footprint, and indeed to be able to support operations around the globe as units from Korea are being sent into the combat zone in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Most recently, after his experience as Ambassador to Seoul, he served as Assistant Secretary of State for East Asian and Pacific Affairs and also as head of—as somebody mentioned—the six-party talks, which attempted to get the North Koreans to move away from their path of nuclear progress they had been making. He worked hard to dismantle their main nuclear facility and provide a full accounting for their plutonium.

Ambassador Hill also engaged in issues of human rights. It has been pointed out that not all of the efforts have been completely successful. But what he was doing was carrying out the policy of the beneficiary administration. He was carrying out the instructions of the Secretary of State and the President of the United States. I think he did that with fidelity to his responsibilities to his superiors and also a keen commitment to improving a situation that had become very dire indeed.

Ambassador Hill has received numerous awards, including the Secretary of State's Distinguished Service Award, the Francis Shattuck Security and Peace Award, the Robert C. Frasure Memorial Award for Peace Negotiations, and the Secretary of Defense Medal of Meritorious Civilian Service.

Ambassador Hill, with his talent, his character, and his commitment to the Nation, has also been recognized because he has been endorsed for this position by the last three Ambassadors to Iraq, including Ryan Crocker, Zalmay Khalilzad, and John Negroponte. These gentlemen did an extraordinarily good job for us there. I am particularly singling out Ryan Crocker—someone whose commitment was not just in terms of his professional skill but his physical skill—risking his life numerous times, working day and night, 7 days a week, and doing it with distinction and grace. That is remarkable.

Again, no one is going to be another Ryan Crocker. I think it is extraordinarily significant that Ryan Crocker, who probably knows that job as well as anybody, would endorse Christopher Hill to take the job. He would not do it just as a courtesy to a fellow State Department officer. He did it because I believe he understands that Ambassador Hill not only can do the job but will do it.

I also say the same thing about the commitment and sincerity and support of Zalmay Khalilzad and John Negroponte. Furthermore, I think both General Petraeus and General Odierno have indicated that not only is he someone with whom they can work, they want to be able to work with him quickly. They want him on the ground. Iraq is at a pivotal juncture in the history of that country and its relationship with the United States. The intelligence and commitment and experience of the Ambassador to Iraq is critical. Ambassador Hill has an abundance of the necessary skills. He has proven again and again he can bring a possible situation to a workable solution. He is the right man for the job. I urge my colleagues to support his nomination.

I yield the floor.

Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, I strongly support the nomination of Christopher Hill, one of America's most distinguished and accomplished career diplomats, to serve as Ambassador to Iraq.

Our Bagdad Embassy is, obviously, a post of critical importance to United States interests. Our Armed Servicemembers and diplomats serving in Iraq need and deserve an ambassador without further delay. President Obama has set forth a sound strategy for ending our combat role in Iraq and allowing the Iraqi Government to take full responsibility for that Nation's affairs. We will be extremely fortunate to have an ambassador of Christopher Hill's skills, stature, and experience, to oversee this important new phase in our relations with Iraq.

Ambassador Hill's career in the Foreign Service spans more than three decades. He has extraordinary expertise and experience in the fields of national security, peacebuilding, and postconflict reconstruction. He is exactly the right person to have in this critical post at this pivotal time in Iraq.

While serving in the former Yugoslavia from 1996 to 1999, Ambassador Hill was at the center of negotiations for the Bosnia peace settlement, serving as deputy to chief negotiator Richard Holbrooke. He fought to ensure the protection of those who had been made refugees by the war. In one instance, he personally intervened at the Stenkovac refugee camp to prevent a rioting mob from beating to death an ethnic Roma family.

As America's first Ambassador to Macedonia, he worked with local authorities to quell ethno-religious violence and build institutions of democratic governance and civil society.

As Ambassador to South Korea, Hill strengthened a key bilateral alliance, partnering with Korean authorities and the commander of U.S. Forces in Korea to develop and implement the most significant realignment of our military posture in the region since the Korean war.

Most recently, as Assistant Secretary of State for East Asian and Pacific Affairs, Ambassador Hill led extremely complex negotiations to counter North Korea's nuclear ambitions, working with a diverse and powerful group of countries, including China, South Korea, Japan, and Russia.

Ambassador Hill has a master's degree from the Naval War College, and has extensive experience working with our U.S. military on counterterrorism and counterinsurgency. Ambassador Hill has worked with some of the best military commanders of this generation, addressing some of our Nation's toughest challenges GEN Eric Shinseki in the Balkans, GEN Leon LaPorte in Korea, ADM Tim Keating of Pacific Command, to name just a few.

Ambassador Hill's nomination has been endorsed enthusiastically by our last three Ambassadors to Iraq: Ambassador Ryan Crocker, Ambassador Zalmay Khalilzad, and Ambassador John D. Negroponte. We need his experience and seasoned judgment during this crucial time of transition in Iraq. Ambassador Hill's nomination has been vetted through the normal process. It is now time for the Senate to vote on his confirmation, and allow Ambassador Hill to get to work on the significant challenges ahead.

Mr. BUNNING. Mr. President, I rise today to give my remarks on the nomination of Christopher Hill to be United States Ambassador to Iraq. Unfortunately, I cannot support this nomination. There are two principal reasons for my opposition. The first is his inexperience in the Middle East and with the type of challenges provided by Iraq. The second is his actions and behavior during negotiations with North Korea.

It is generally accepted that career diplomats will serve in many very different parts of the globe. However, the position of Ambassador to Iraq is arguably the most important diplomatic post in the world to the United States. To see an example of just the type of person suited to this job one only need to look to the most recent U.S. Ambassador to Iraq: Ryan Crocker. Mr. Crocker previously served as Ambassador to Pakistan, Syria, Kuwait, and

Lebanon. He had served in Iraq previously and was Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Near Eastern Affairs. He is also fluent in Arabic.

Ambassador Hill has none of these credentials. He has spent nearly his entire career concentrating on European affairs, until recently shifting to the Far East to concentrate on issues regarding the Korean peninsula. He has no prior postings or assignments that would give him experience with the Middle East nor that would give him any knowledge of U.S. counterinsurgency efforts there. As the United States begins to draw down the military presence in Iraq, the efforts of our diplomats there will become even more important. We need a more experienced head of these efforts than we have been given in Christopher Hill.

Within Ambassador Hill's experience to date, I have severe concerns in the manner in which he conducted himself as chief U.S. negotiator in the disarmament talks with North Korea. Not only do I find his actions unprofessional but question his negotiating tactics and the concessions he made. Records show he engaged in evasive and unprofessional activities, including sidelining key officials at the State Department and breaking commitments made before congressional committees.

Ambassador Hill also made significant concessions to North Korea during his disarmament talks that I believe were diplomatically unsound and imprudent. I firmly believe they put the United States at a disadvantage in our efforts to move forward with this rogue Communist regime. Removing North Korea from our list of state sponsors of terrorism along with lifting our sanctions in return for a mere ''good faith'' declaration of their nuclear weapons program was unsound and irresponsible. True to form, North Korea, through a symbolic process of smoke and mirrors, only partially disclosed their weapons program giving the United States access to information that was already known throughout the international community. North Korea's recent decision to abandon the six party talks and restart their nuclear weapons program only highlights our failed diplomacy and Ambassador Hill's shortcomings.

As we move forward with one of the most diplomatically sensitive missions in American history I do not believe that we can afford to make any mistakes. While Ambassador Hill has a distinguished career of diplomatic service, I do not believe that he is the right nominee for this position. Thus, I respectfully oppose his nomination.

Mr. BROWNBACK. Mr. President, there is a previous agreement that the final 10 minutes be equally divided, 5 minutes on either side, and I rise to use that 5 minutes in opposition.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator is recognized.

Mr. BROWNBACK. Mr. President, we are soon to vote on the issue of whether Chris Hill should be the next ambassador to Iraq, and I want to make a few comments about that in closing.

I think there has been a good, full discussion, and I think it has been a good discussion. I misspoke at one point in time, in talking about Auschwitz and Poland. It wasn't a Polish concentration camp. It was in Poland, but it was run by the Nazis. I wanted to make sure I am clear on that to individuals.

Also, I wish to add Senator HUTCHISON to the North Korean Sanctions Act for the RECORD.

Today marks the Holocaust Remembrance Day, as cited earlier on the floor. The Holocaust Museum's theme this year is: ''Never again: What You Do Matters.'' I think what Chris Hill did matters in this case.

I want to read one section of the statement from the Holocaust Museum and what they put forward about what you do matters. They stated:

> Remembrance obligates us not only to memorialize those who were killed but also to reflect on what could have been done to save them. Those who survived tell us that as many faced their horrific deaths, their last words were ''Remember us. Tell our story.'' Survivors promised that they would, and that never again would the world stand silent or look the other way.

Well, I can't stand silent and look the other way in North Korea. And I think ''never again'' ought to mean that. The deeds of Ambassador Hill in North Korea—no progress on human rights, a terrible deal, failed diplomacy—and I can go through what has happened in the last 2 weeks. To reiterate, North Korea has launched a multistage ballistic missile over Japan, kidnapped two of our citizens, pulled out of the six-party talks, kicked out international nuclear inspectors and American monitors, restarted its nuclear facilities, and according to at least one news source is now under investigation for shipping enriched uranium to Iran.

It was a terrible deal. In all this debate we have had about Chris Hill, not one colleague has defended the deal Chris Hill got with the North Koreans on its merits. Nobody has defended the deal he has gotten on the merits. They just said: Well, it is tough to negotiate. Yes, it is tough to negotiate, but on the merits, this was a terrible deal. And the irony is that the only thing dismantled in the six-party talks was our strategic deterrence and our moral authority. That was the only thing that was dismantled. Convening a six-party dialogue is not success in and of itself, especially when the result is so abhorrent.

We will have a chance to talk about this again shortly. It is going to be coming up in a supplemental. As a reminder here in the Chamber, then-Senator Obama said:

> Sanctions are a critical part of our leverage to pressure North Korea to act. They should only be lifted based on North Korean performance. If the North Koreans do not meet their obligations, we should move quickly to reimpose sanctions that have been waived and consider new restrictions going forward.

In the supplemental fight, there will be a discussion to give North Koreans more heavy fuel oil. I ask my colleagues not to put that in the bill. There will be a sanctions waiver discussion in the supplemental. I ask my colleagues not to waive sanctions on North Korea in the supplemental fight, and I ask instead that we reimpose the sanctions that then-Senator and Presidential candidate, now President Barack Obama called for in June of 2008. That seems to me to be an appropriate route for us to take as we look at this full set of problems we have and the discussion that we have had to date.

I ask my colleagues again to consider the qualifications of Ambassador Hill, the problems that have come under his watch, and the North Korean talks, and not confirm him to be our ambassador for Iraq in a situation where he has produced such terrible results and on a Holocaust Remembrance Day when we say: Never again.

I further ask my colleagues that if you do confirm him, if he is confirmed today, that we actually do remember that what we do matters and what we say matters and that we not go forward here at this point in time and say: Fine, we are going to go ahead and waive the sanctions. This was part of the Hill strategy toward North Korea; we are going to go ahead and waive these and we are going to let it happen anyway.

Mr. President, I realize I have used my time, and I do appreciate that my colleagues have let us have a full debate on this.

I yield the floor, and I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. KERRY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. KERRY. Mr. President, we have given Senators now a chance to air these grievances and raise questions and engage in a pretty full debate on the nomination of Chris Hill. I appreciate the issues my colleague has raised. I know he is deeply concerned about these, and has been one of the leaders in the Senate on the subject of human rights. We all respect that and we are determined in the course of our hearings and in the course of the work of the committee to keep that issue front and center, not just with respect to North Korea but with every country where those issues exist.

I do think it is unfair to suggest that Ambassador Chris Hill has done anything less than meet the standards we would expect with respect to his stewardship, both with the six-party talks as well as in the rest of his career, and I have talked about that a great deal.

We have heard the arguments and now is the time to vote. We need an ambassador in Iraq. We need this ambassador in Iraq.

This should not be a controversial nomination. Ambassador Hill is a proven expert negotiator. He is a problem solver and one of the best diplomats we have in the corps. As has been discussed, he has a great deal of experience with the skills that matter the most for the resolution of the remaining issues in Iraq, and he has been particularly involved in ethnic and sectarian conflicts not unlike those he will face when he gets over there. He has worked on multiparty international negotiations, and he is going to have to bring every skill he has learned in the fullness of his career to this task.

Particularly, I want to say we join Senator BROWNBACK in expressing the full concern of every Member of the Senate that we give meaning to the words ''never again.'' That is a solemn responsibility. It is a solemn responsibility particularly on this Holocaust Remembrance Day.

But it is also clear from the record, from Secretary Rice's own words, that the decision to leave the Special Envoy for Human Rights out of these negotiations was not made by Chris Hill and we should not, in our votes today, hold that decision of his superiors against Chris Hill. It was a decision which Secretary Rice has spoken to publicly and I think we have addressed the major concern that was raised by the Senator from Kansas.

We have also shown the fullness of Chris Hill's own record on human rights and I think that record speaks for itself.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The time of the Senator has expired.

Mr. KERRY. I thank the Chair and look forward to this vote. I hope it will be an overwhelming vote in favor of our ambassador to Iraq.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader is recognized.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the cloture motion with respect to the motion to proceed to S. 386 be withdrawn, and that on Wednesday, following a period of morning business, the Senate proceed to the consideration of Calendar No. 28, S. 386.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. REID. There will be no further rollcall votes today, of course after the Hill vote. Tomorrow we will consider financial fraud legislation. I encourage those Members who have indicated to the managers interest in offering amendments or coming to speak on the bill, that they do that. I have spoken to the Republican leader today. He said he believes there are a number of amendments—not long in number—that the Republicans wish to offer. We solicit those amendments. There could be several amendments from this side also. It would be good if we could get to legislating on this tomorrow.

I also say I think it set a good tone. We should not have to file cloture on every motion to proceed. I appreciate very much the Republicans not necessitating that wasteful vote. This bill has been on the calendar and available since March 5. No one has to be concerned about not having seen this financial fraud legislation.

Members who have amendments should be ready to go forward with them tomorrow morning.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nomination of Christopher R. Hill, of Rhode Island, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Career Minister, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Iraq?

Mr. KERRY. Mr. President, I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. KENNEDY) and the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. ROCKEFELLER) are necessarily absent.

Mr. KYL. The following Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from Kansas (Mr. ROBERTS).

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The result was announced—yeas 73, nays 23, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 159 Ex.]

YEAS—73

Akaka	Feingold	Merkley
Alexander	Feinstein	Mikulski
Barrasso	Gillibrand	Murkowski
Baucus	Gregg	Murray
Bayh	Hagan	Nelson (NE)
Begich	Harkin	Nelson (FL)
Bennet	Hutchison	Pryor
Bingaman	Inouye	Reed
Boxer	Isakson	Reid
Brown	Johanns	Sanders
Burris	Johnson	Schumer
Byrd	Kaufman	Shaheen
Cantwell	Kerry	Snowe
Cardin	Klobuchar	Specter
Carper	Kohl	Stabenow
Casey	Landrieu	Tester
Chambliss	Lautenberg	Udall (CO)
Cochran	Leahy	Udall (NM)
Collins	Levin	Voinovich
Conrad	Lieberman	Warner
Corker	Lincoln	Webb
Dodd	Lugar	Whitehouse
Dorgan	Martinez	Wyden
Durbin	McCaskill	
Enzi	Menendez	

NAYS—23

Bennett	DeMint	McConnell
Bond	Ensign	Risch
Brownback	Graham	Sessions
Bunning	Grassley	Shelby
Burr	Hatch	Thune
Coburn	Inhofe	Vitter
Cornyn	Kyl	Wicker
Crapo	McCain	

NOT VOTING—3

Kennedy	Roberts	Rockefeller

The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the motion to reconsider is considered made and laid upon the table. The President will be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume legislative session.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. DORGAN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now proceed to a period of morning business with Senators allowed to speak for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mrs. SHAHEEN). Without objection, it is so ordered.

FLOODING IN NORTH DAKOTA

Mr. DORGAN. Madam President, I have come to the floor to talk for a moment about the unprecedented flooding that has occurred in the State of North Dakota in recent weeks. My colleague, Senator CONRAD, discussed it some yesterday, and I want to discuss it as well.

We have had flood disaster assistance now approved for 38 of North Dakota's 53 counties, and it has been the most unprecedented, unbelievable flooding we have ever seen in the State of North Dakota. This chart I have in the Chamber shows, in red, the counties that have been declared disaster areas as a result of flooding. You can see it covers nearly three-fourths of the State of North Dakota. And we have had more snow, more moisture, more difficulty, more blizzards, and so on, and the rivers across our State have exceeded their banks and threatened very dramatic flooding, which I am going to talk about some today. But before I talk about the water, I want to talk about the people of North Dakota.

The unprecedented flooding that has driven people from their homes and caused so much damage and so much difficulty for so long has caused people in North Dakota to come together to do the most unusual things I have ever seen.

At midnight one night, I peered down the stairs of what is called the FARGODOME to see this large expanse. Inside this large dome building, at near midnight, I peered down on that floor, and there were thousands and thousands of people on the floor of that dome filling sandbags. They filled 3½ million sandbags in about 5½ days—3½ million sandbags in 5½ days. And they did not hire anybody to do that; they just put out a notice on the radio to say: We need people, and people showed up. The most unbelievable thing in Fargo, ND, was to watch what they did with just the people power that showed up. No one thought a group of people could do that, but they did—3½ million sandbags.

The Anne Carlsen School over in Jamestown, ND—on the James River that began flooding—the Anne Carlsen School previously, many years ago, was called the Crippled Children's School. Children who are in that school need a great deal of care. There needed to be an evacuation of the Anne Carlsen School. Eighty athletes from the college and the high school showed up, and in 4 hours, not just the children but the special beds and special equipment and all the things that are necessary to help take care of those children was moved to higher ground and moved to safer quarters.

It is unbelievable that people all over our State just showed up. When all of these volunteers were out there walking the dikes—and particularly the National Guard that walked all of those dikes on the Red River especially, and now in Valley City, which has very high levels at the moment and is in a very difficult circumstance—we had all of those people involved 24 hours a day.

As is very typical in a State such as mine, hundreds and hundreds of people decided that one way they could participate is to prepare hot dishes and casseroles and meals. I was in meetings where people would show up with big platters of homemade sandwiches. I know volunteers who worked for hour after hour on end would find that people would show up with casseroles and hot dishes, as they call them in our part of the country. One of the ways you fight floods as well is to feed those who are hungry out there in the dike lines and out there who are sandbagging.

Let me show a couple of the sites from the Red River Valley. This is a photograph of a National Guard helicopter. I cannot say enough about the National Guard and how critically important they have been to this flood fight.

But, as you can see from this picture, this area is as flat as a table top. Someone once described the Red River and the Red River Valley as a table top with a scratch in it, the scratch being the Red River. You can see there is not a hill in sight. This is totally, completely flat. You see water simply spreads everywhere. Here is a farmstead completely surrounded by water. That is in the Red River Valley of North Dakota.

In Pembina, ND—and by the way, this Red River runs north and runs out of North Dakota at Pembina into Lake Winnipeg—you will see the city of Pembina is surrounded by water. As shown in this picture, this is an interstate highway surrounded by water. The folks in Pembina, almost every year, have to fight these floodwaters, and this year was no different.

As reported in the Valley City Times Record, a substantial portion of Valley City had to be evacuated. In the middle of this unbelievable fight in Valley City—and by the way, that is on the Sheyenne River—the fight to the finish line here was with so many volunteers to build dikes and to try to do what is necessary to save the city of Valley City. I walked into the Valley City Winter Show facility and saw once again an unbelievable sandbagging operation. Just blowing the city whistle and putting out a notice over the radio meant that people flocked to the area where they were needed to fill sandbags. In Valley City, even as I speak, they are still fighting those floodwaters. As shown in this picture, this is part of the diking around Valley City, as you can see. This happens to be the Sheyenne River. I mentioned the Red River Valley, which is the Red River. The Red River runs north, one of the only rivers in America that run north. The headwaters are in the southern part of North Dakota and South Dakota, so the headwaters are south and the river runs north. But this is the Sheyenne River, which then eventually runs into the Red River as well. That happens to be the Valley City issue.

This is a picture of Fargo, ND. This photograph is all water. Obviously, this house is flooded. But we had the Coast Guard there. We had propeller boats evacuating people. It is an unbelievable sight.

This is a copy of the Bismarck Tribune: ''Forces of Nature.'' It shows a number of head of cattle simply gathered here on the only piece of dry ground, stranded by all of the water.

Of course, Linton, ND, a little community, a smaller community south of Bismarck, was hit with a significant flood.

Beulah and Hazen were hit with a significant flood, and Bismarck, ND, with ice jams, has a threat to a substantial portion of that city of a wall of 3 or 3½ feet of water that would inundate the southern part of that city if the ice jams broke.

All of these communities were facing those kinds of challenges.

Ransom County, ND. This is dead cattle shown in this picture. We do not know the count yet of how many dead head of livestock we will have, but it will be plenty, and our ranchers will have suffered a substantial amount. In addition to the dead livestock that is going to happen, we will have, undoubtedly, more than 3 million acres of ground that cannot be planted this year because of water—another difficulty as a result of this flood to the agriculture community.

As shown in this picture, this is one block from Main Street in Beulah, ND. I will be in Beulah on Saturday of this week. Here is the threat that Beulah faced, a city in the center of our State, and all of these communities: Valley City, Lisbon, La Moure, Fort Ransom, Mott, Beulah, Linton, Bismarck—and the list goes on—Pembina. All of these cities faced very substantial flooding this year.

Here, shown in this picture, is a feed lot west of Mandan, ND, with a couple dogs and a bucket. All you can see is water because that is all there was because of complete total flooding.

This is a photograph of a flooded yard and outbuilding in Fargo, ND, with a dog looking over the dikes.

Let me say the Corps of Engineers has done a masterful job. Let me also say the mayor and the vice mayor and the folks in Fargo and so many other communities have done an extraordinary job. The mayor of Valley City even today is continuing to fight this fight. If you go into a fight, a flood fight, you want the Corps of Engineers on your side because they have sent hundreds of people into our State to try to fight these floods.

This is a photograph of sandbagging, in this case by National Guardsmen, in Bismarck, ND.

This is a photograph of the dropping of 2,000-pound sandbags in areas of the dike that were about to breach, dropping from a helicopter 2,000-pound sandbags into a crevice to see if they could stop a breach.

These are just a few of the challenges we have faced in so many different communities: Jamestown, La Moure, Linton, Beulah/Hazen, Mott, Fort Ransom—so many other communities.

I want to say that I think almost everyone in North Dakota has been overwhelmed by what the notion of being a good neighbor really means. It means showing up, just showing up when you are needed—not because somebody asked you to but because you just felt you should because it was part of the destiny and the future of your community to be involved in fighting floodwaters.

This is a natural disaster, and it is going to take some long while for our State to recover. But our State is a community of interests that has made me enormously proud. The folks who settled the northern Great Plains are pretty special people. My ancestors showed up there from Europe a long, long time ago and pitched a tent on the prairies and raised a family and then built a house and started a farm. That is the way they started populating the prairies of the northern Great Plains.

In North Dakota, they still look after each other when times are tough. And this is about as tough a time as I have ever seen in my lifetime in the State of North Dakota with respect to natural disasters. We know that 12 years ago, in 1997, the city of Grand Forks faced a flood and the dike breached and the city of 50,000 people was evacuated. It was the largest evacuation of a major city at that time since the Civil War. We well understand a flood fight, well understand the consequences of natural disasters and flooding, and I am proud to say Grand Forks has come roaring back as a city.

I am also proud to say the cities of Fargo and Moorhead and Wahpeton and Breckenridge and others have fought back these floodwaters, and we did not have a breach in the dike, so that a major portion of the cities were protected. But other areas were not. The mayor of Oxbow, ND, for example—I recall standing on a dike with him, and

his eyes were full of tears as he recalled and recounted the fight they fought and lost in some areas because they simply could not hold back the waters.

There are so many stories and so much misery as a result of a natural disaster, but I think there is also a second side to it, and that is a very inspirational side of what people can do for each other and with each other to try to deal with these difficult times. The one thing about life is, success is pretty easy to handle. The question is, How do you handle things when times get a little tough?

I wanted to say I am so proud of the people of my State, the State I am privileged to represent. We have a lot now to do with the Corps of Engineers, with future water projects, and the kinds of protections that are needed to be improved for future flood protection. That will come at a different moment in the weeks and months ahead, but for now I simply wanted to describe to my colleagues some of the circumstances we faced in our State and especially the stories about what people did together to try to make a big difference, fighting back the waters of these many rivers that exceeded their banks and caused such havoc in many of our communities.

TRIBUTE TO JOHN HOPE FRANKLIN

Mr. WEBB. Madam President, I would like to take some time today and talk a little bit about an individual for whom I have great admiration who passed away without much comment from this body last month, John Hope Franklin, I think perhaps the most eminent Black historian in America. Even that does not do justice to John Hope Franklin, one of the most eminent historians in our country, who happened to be of African-American descent.

I make these comments as someone who spent a good deal of my life as a writer and dedicated to examining American history, and also I make them in the spirit that our Attorney General offered when he said: Maybe we should have a little more courage when we are talking about issues like race in America.

It is interesting to take a look at the paper this morning and see the Pulitzer Prizes that were awarded this year, the Pulitzer Prize for history being awarded to Annette Gordon-Reed for a book entitled ''The Hemingses of Monticello: An American Family,'' which ties into the continuing saga of Thomas Jefferson; and for general nonfiction, a book entitled ''Slavery by Another Name: The Re-Enslavement of Black Americans From the Civil War To World War II,'' by Douglas A. Blackmon, which is another examination of the situation of Black America in the American South.

Those are both important contributions to our understanding of American history. When I look at John Hope Franklin, who died at the age of 94 last month, and the contributions he made and the environment in which he grew up and basically conquered through his success, I look at an individual who had a lot of impact on me when I was a young man trying to put the history of the American South into some context because John Hope Franklin had the courage to not only address Black history but to place it into the context of American history, not to deal with it as a separate issue.

There is a very fine obituary that was written in the Economist April 4 edition which outlined a lot of the high points and the challenges of John Hope Franklin's life. I ask unanimous consent this obituary be printed at the end of my remarks.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

(See exhibit 1.)

Mr. WEBB. I am going to hit a couple of points in this obituary, then I want to talk about the American South as John Hope Franklin understood it and where we are today, White and Black.

John Hope Franklin grew up in Oklahoma. His father moved to Oklahoma when he was 6 years old to practice law. He had his own challenges in that environment during the Jim Crow laws. He then went to Fisk University, was an outstanding scholar, got a doctorate at Harvard. He became the first African American to lead an all-White history department at Brooklyn College.

He later taught at the University of Chicago, and as the Economist pointed out:

> Unlike many after him, he did not see ''black history'' as an independent discipline and never taught a formal course on it. What he was doing was revising American history as a whole. His books, especially ''From Slavery to Freedom'' which was first published in 1947, offered Americans their first complete view of themselves.

When I was at Georgetown Law Center, after I left the Marine Corps, and was studying on my own stead, sort of an avocation, of ethnic settlement patterns in America, I was being confronted with a lot of rhetoric that had come out of people who did not understand the American South, who did not really understand that, in truth, the American South has never been White against Black, even during its worst times. It was more a three-tiered than a two-tiered society. It was a small veneer of White aristocrats in many ways manipulating White against Black.

White and Black in the majority of the American South economically differed very little at all. I started reading John Hope Franklin's classic book, ''From Slavery to Freedom.'' I saw that he was an intellectually honest observer, a passionate observer of true history, and he commented in this book on that in 1860, at the height of slavery right before the Civil War began.

Region-wide, less than 5 percent of the Whites in the South owned slaves. If you think about what the American perception is on the issue of South versus slavery, you will realize what an astounding statistic that happens to be. He also went on to say:

> Fully three-fourths of the white people of the South had neither had slaves nor an immediate economic interest in the maintenance of slavery or the plantation system.

So contrary to a lot of rhetoric today and a lot of misunderstanding, John Hope Franklin was giving an actual context that in the South, fully 75 percent of the Whites living alongside Blacks during the Civil War and afterwards had never benefitted from slavery or had never participated in it as an economic institution.

The aftermath of the Civil War was a very difficult time for the American South, White and Black. As I wrote in my book ''Born Fighting,'' between the end of the Civil War and the beginning of World War II, the South was basically an owned place. It was a colonized place and, in fact, it was colonized doubly. It was colonized from the outside, an entire region owned from the outside in its basic infrastructure, its banking systems, its schools not properly funded, and it was also colonized from the inside.

This is the area that we see so many historians commenting on even today; that is, the planters society, early, before the Civil War, became, in many ways, this aristocracy that kept White and Black down at the same time, and it has taken us a very long time to get past that.

In 1933, President Roosevelt published probably the most comprehensive document on the economic conditions of the American South that has ever been written. He pointed out in this document in 1933, the educational base of the South has been decimated, White and Black. Illiteracy in the South was five times as high in the North Central States and more than double the rate in New England than the Middle Atlantic States.

The total endowments of all of the colleges and universities in the South were less than the combined endowments of Harvard and Yale alone. The South was being required to educate one-third of the Nation's children with one-sixth of the Nation's school revenues. The richest State in the South in 1933 ranked lower in per-capita income than the poorest State outside the region.

In 1933, the average annual income in the South was only $314, while the rest of the country averaged more than $600. This report pointed out, importantly, using the terms of the time:

> Whites and Negroes have suffered alike. Of the 1.8 million tenant families in the region, about 66 percent are white [the South's population at this time was 71 percent white] . . . half of the sharecroppers are white, living under conditions almost identical with those of Negro sharecroppers.

The region had 28 percent of the country's population. In 1937 it had 11 percent of the Nation's bank deposits.

So this was a region, all the way into World War II, where you had legal separation, which we were able to overcome through the Civil Rights Movement and through a lot of very courageous people, John Hope Franklin among them.

But once you get past the legal restrictions, the economic conditions among a preponderance of the population were basically the same. But this has provided downstream implications for both African Americans and people of European descent in the American South.

When I was in law school in 1974, the National Opinion Research Center at the University of Chicago did a study on White ethnic groups, broke them down by 17 different criteria. White Baptists, which basically are a population that has descended out of the American South through the Scotch-Irish migration—of which I wrote in ''Born Fighting''—averaged 10.7 years of education. Blacks nationwide averaged 10.6 years of education. So the point to be made is that for both of these groups with a very common heritage, once we set aside, as we have, the legal disparities that tormented the South for so long, have very similar challenges in terms of breaking down generational cycles.

In the obituary from the Economist that was written about John Hope Franklin, this point was made:

Militancy was not in his nature. He was too scrupulous a historian for that, and too courteous a man. Asked whether he hated the South, he would say, on the contrary, he loved it. His deepest professional debt was to a white man, Ted Currier, who had inspired him to study history and had given him $500 to see him through Harvard.

I would say, as we remember this truly brilliant American, that he not only loved the South, he understood it.

EXHIBIT 1

[From the Economist, Apr. 4, 2009]

JOHN HOPE FRANKLIN

His chief pleasures were contemplative and patient. With watering can and clippers, he would potter in his greenhouse among hundreds of varieties of orchids. Or, standing in a river, he would wait for hours until a fish tickled his line. These were, one could say, typical historian's amusements; very close, in rhythm and character, to the painstaking, careful accumulation of tiny pieces of fact.

And yet what John Hope Franklin collected, over a lifetime of scholarship, were scraps of horror. Five dollars for the cost of a branding iron. A deed of sale, in Virginia in 1829, for a male slave ''of a yellow colour'' who ''is not in the habit of running away''. Or the testimony from 1860 of Edward Johnson, a black child apprentice:

''I was tacon and plased with a rope a round my rists my back intiarly naked and swong up then and there Each of [the men] tuck a cow hide one on Either side and beet me in such a manner when they let me down I fanted and lay on the ground 2 hours.''

To these Mr Franklin could add from his own experience. The train journey to Checotah, Oklahoma, when he was six, that ended when his mother refused to move from the whites-only carriage. His father's small law office in Tulsa, reduced to rubble after a race riot in 1921. The day he was told by a white woman whom he was helping, at 12, across the road, that he should take his ''filthy hands'' off her. And the warm evening when he went to buy ice cream in Macon, Mississippi—a tall 19-year-old student from Fisk University, scholarly in his glasses—only to find as he left the store that a semi-circle of white farmers had formed to block his exit, silently implying that he should not try to break through their line.

Academia offered no shelter. He excelled from high school onwards, eventually earning a doctorate at Harvard and becoming, in 1956, the first black head of an all-white history department at a mostly white university, Brooklyn College. Later, the University of Chicago recruited him. But in Montgomery, Louisiana, the archivist called him a ''Harvard nigger'' to his face. In the state archives in Raleigh, North Carolina, he was confined to a tiny separate room and allowed free run of the stacks because the white assistants would not serve him. At Duke in 1943, a university to which he returned 40 years later as a teaching professor, he could not use the library cafeteria or the washrooms.

Whites, he noted, had no qualms about ''undervaluing an entire race''. Blacks were excluded both from their histories, and from their understanding of how America had been made. Mr Franklin's intention was to weave the black experience back into the national story. Unlike many after him, he did not see ''black history'' as an independent discipline, and never taught a formal course in it. What he was doing was revising American history as a whole. His books, especially ''From Slavery to Freedom'' (1947), offered Americans their first complete view of themselves.

THOMAS JEFFERSON'S WINE

Militancy was not in his nature. He was too scrupulous a historian for that, and too courteous a man. Asked whether he hated the South, he would say, on the contrary, that he loved it. His deepest professional debt was to a white man, Ted Currier, who had inspired him to study history and had given him $500 to see him through Harvard. Yet, alongside the dignity and the ready smiles, a sense of outrage burned. He longed to tell white tourists thronging Washington that the Capitol had been built by slaves, and that Pennsylvania Avenue had held a slave market, ''right by where the Smithsonian is''. Profits made possible by enslaving blacks had not only allowed Thomas Jefferson to enjoy fine French wines: they had also underpinned America's banks, its economic dynamism and its dominance in the world. The exploitation of blacks was something he admitted he had ''never got over''.

Nor had America got over it, despite the march from Selma, in which Mr Franklin led a posse of historians, and Brown v Board of Education, where he lent his scholarship to help prove that the Framers had not meant to impose segregation on the public schools. The ''colour line'', as he called it, remained ''the most tragic and persistent social problem'' the country faced. His own many black firsts—president of the American Historical Association and the Southern Historical Association, membership of Washington's Cosmos Club—had not necessarily opened the door to others. The night before he received the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 1995, a woman at the Cosmos Club asked him to fetch her coat. He was overjoyed by Barack Obama's election, but could not forget the poor, immobile blacks revealed by Hurricane Katrina.

He yearned to improve things, but wondered how Financial reparations he was doubtful about; apologies seemed trifling. Only time, in historical quantities, seemed likely to make a difference. For some months he was chairman of Bill Clinton's Initiative on Race, a disorganized effort that ended by recommending ''community co-operation''. Hostile letters poured in, mostly from people who did not think the subject worth talking about. Mr Franklin took them in his stride. He would go and work on his next book, or retire to the greenhouse, implements in hand; and practise patience.

HONORING YOM HASHOAH, HOLOCAUST REMEMBRANCE DAY

Mr. REID. Madam President, today, Holocaust Remembrance Day, or Yom Hashoah in Hebrew, is a day to give us pause. Today, we remember the horrific events of over half a century ago, when more than 6 million Jewish men, women, and children were targeted and systematically murdered, along with countless other victims of Nazi persecution. Today, we honor their memories and renew our commitment to stand up against prejudice and hatred in all its forms.

In 1980, Congress passed legislation that would dedicate this week every year to Holocaust Remembrance, so that Americans all over our country could come together and pay tribute to those who perished, and to ensure their stories will never be forgotten. This same legislation created the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum, a building that now stands in our Nation's Capital as a center of Holocaust education and learning and a memorial to its victims. Today, the names of some of those who perished will be read aloud in the Museum's Hall of Remembrance, and on Thursday, Holocaust survivor and Nobel Laureate Elie Wiesel will join President Barack Obama and congressional leaders in a ceremony in the Capitol Rotunda.

Even now, so many decades later, we continue to uncover more stories of untold brutality and terror during the Holocaust, as work by the International Institute for Holocaust Research at the Yad Vshem Holocaust Museum exposes new evidence of Nazi genocide. These little-known cases are even more poignant today, as we consider the renewed struggle against anti-Semitism and continued denial by some of the State of Israel's very right to exist.

Next week, on April 29, we will celebrate 61 years since the establishment of Israeli independence, and 61 years of unwavering U.S.-Israeli friendship. Last year, I was proud to lead the Senate in adopting a bipartisan resolution to honor Israel in its achievement of 60 years of statehood, and its resilience as a stronghold of democratic principles and freedoms in a volatile region. Although Israel remains under constant siege from neighboring states and terrorist groups, its unwavering dedication to these ideals and its proud history of survival demonstrate that Israel will endure and it will do so with the United States standing firmly by its side.

Today, as we both remember those who perished in the Holocaust and look

toward the coming celebration of Israel's independence, let us reflect upon the imperative we face. Since the establishment of the term ''genocide'' in 1944, the terrible events in former Yugoslavia, Rwanda, and now ongoing in Sudan have taught us what will continue to happen when hatred and persecution go unchecked. The day of Yom Hashoah calls upon each one of us to work individually and collectively to rededicate ourselves to overcoming intolerance, and—perhaps just as important—indifference, wherever and whenever we encounter them.

To the vibrant Jewish community that calls our great state of Nevada home, I wish you a joyous celebration of the 61st anniversary of Israeli independence, and I look forward to many more years of productive friendship between the United States and Israel. And to all who gather today and all of this week to pay tribute to the victims and survivors of the Holocaust, let us join together in honoring their memories and pledging to take up our shared mission of remembrance and action.

Mr. NELSON of Florida. Madam President, I rise today for the solemn purpose of commemorating Holocaust Remembrance Day.

I just returned from an overseas visit with SENATORS LEVIN and COLLINS to examine missile defense issues in Russia, the Czech Republic, and Poland. In Poland, I visited the Warsaw Ghetto memorials, one of which was built on the location where the Jews were transported to the death camp at Treblinka, beginning in July 1942. I was moved by visiting that place. We saw another monument built to the heroes of the Warsaw Ghetto uprising. The death camps would not be liberated until 1945, but we remember this courageous struggle against overwhelming odds.

In America and throughout the world, Jews are observing this day in synagogues, reciting prayers. Young people listen to the testimonies of survivors who witnessed and were victims of the worst crimes committed by humankind, so that the Holocaust is not forgotten by future generations.

Florida has the largest number of Holocaust survivors in the entire country. These survivors remind us that the Holocaust was a tragedy of almost unimaginable proportions.

Today we remember those who lost their lives, not because of any crime they committed, but simply because of their faith and their heritage. And, though Jews were indeed the primary victims, we also remember the others who suffered persecution and were murdered by the Nazis: Gypsies and Poles, Jehovah's Witnesses, the handicapped, gays, political dissidents and Soviet prisoners of war.

In addition to marking this day, we in Congress are doing what we can to ensure that we never forget what happened during the Holocaust and that it never happens again.

Earlier this year, two of my distinguished colleagues, Senators COLLINS and CARDIN, introduced an important resolution that I cosponsored, which condemns anti-Semitism in all its forms.

In respect for the victims of the Holocaust and surviving relatives, I will introduce a resolution on restitution or compensation for property and other assets seized by the Nazi and Communist regimes in postwar Europe, in anticipation of the International Conference on Holocaust Assets that will be held in Prague at the end of June. This conference is a followup to the International Conference that was held 10 years ago in Washington, which established the framework compensation programs that were established throughout western Europe during the past decade.

I would point out that we still must determine how to address the cases of the remaining Holocaust victims who have yet to be compensated for the unpaid value of insurance policies they held before the war. I would support legislation that actually helps survivors to obtain just compensation and avoid dragging out compensation efforts or giving false hope to survivors.

I will also be introducing the World War II War Crimes Accountability Act to encourage foreign governments to prosecute and extradite wanted criminals, and to bring them to justice.

Despite the efforts of the U.S. Government, particularly the Department of Justice, and of groups such as the Simon Wiesenthal Center, a number of perpetrators of crimes against humanity remain at large. What is worse, we know exactly where some of the individuals are living, but the countries where they reside refuse to extradite them to face justice.

We are in a race against time. Each year, more Holocaust survivors are laid to rest. Let us work together quickly to let them see a measure of justice done in their lifetime.

Finally, our Government has made solemn commitments in the past that the horror of the Holocaust will never be repeated. And yet we are all well aware of the grim stories of ethnic cleansing in the former Yugoslavia in the 1990s, the mass murder of Tutsis in Rwanda in 1994, and now the ongoing genocide in Darfur. America as a nation must be a leader on the world stage to prevent genocide.

I urge President Obama, Secretary of State Clinton and UN Ambassador Rice to continue the battle against ignorance, intolerance, and instability that seem to contribute to genocide, and to confront those governments that engage in genocide. And America must make every effort to ensure that those who commit these horrific crimes face justice.

RETIREMENT OF RABBI SOIFER

Mr. REID. Madam President, I rise today to recognize Rabbi Myra Soifer, who will retire on June 30, 2009, after 25 years of service to the congregation of Temple Sinai in Reno, NV. Rabbi Soifer was one of the first ten women ordained as a rabbi after the Reform Jewish movement accepted them in 1972. A well accomplished scholar, she received her undergraduate degree from Lawrence University, her Masters in Hebrew Letters and ordination from Hebrew Union College in Cincinnati, Ohio, and graduate work at the Pacific School of Religion in Berkeley, CA, and the Leo Baeck College Rabbinical School in London, England.

Rabbi Soifer has enriched her community with her grasp of the Torah and its teachings. Under her guidance, Temple Sinai has grown into a vibrant religious community with an expanded religious school and an enlarged campus that can accommodate both the congregation's largest gatherings as well as community meetings.

Besides being a dedicated spiritual leader for her congregants, she has been a powerful voice for good in the community at large. Rabbi Soifer has been a fearless, driving force in bringing the greater faith community together around prayer, and to address moral and political issues. She led Temple Sinai to help organize the Northern Nevada interfaith response to the tragic events of 9/11. She has organized women in the faith community as the founder of the Reno Clergywomen's Association, and she created an interfaith clergy study group known as the ''Study Buddies'', which has been going strong for over 20 years. The community recognizes her as a passionate advocate for social justice, celebrating cultural and religious diversity, and caring for the underserved locally and globally.

Her accomplishments have been recognized in many ways over the years, as she has been the recipient of the Metropolitan Community Church's Human Rights Award; University of Nevada, Reno's Psychological Services Award; ACLU's Civil Libertarian of the Year; and Reno Magazine's ''88 people to watch in '88'' Award. Her reach in the community goes beyond the Temple's walls, having worked with the Washoe County School District, Nevada Coalition Against the Death Penalty, Witness For Peace, Reno/Sparks Metro Ministry, Community Coalition to End Hate and Violence, Northern Nevada AIDS Foundation, Planned Parenthood of Northern Nevada, Northern Nevada Black Cultural Awareness Society, and the Food Bank of Northern Nevada.

I join with Nevadans throughout the Silver State to honor Rabbi Myra Soifer for her lifetime dedication to her faith, her community, and the social justice of all people. She has indisputably made a tremendous impact which will endure in the institutions she has enriched.

LEGACY OF CHICAGO'S ARTURO VELASQUEZ, SR.

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, at the start of the Great Depression, a

Mexican immigrant mother in Gary, IN, found herself with no job, no money and no food. So she did the only think she could think of: She decided to pack up her young son and move back to Mexico, where they would at least have something to eat.

Fortunately for the city of Chicago, which I am honored to represent, the old Model T Ford they rode in overturned near Albuquerque, leaving them stranded without money.

The mother took a job as a farm worker and they began migrating between sugar beet fields in the Black Hills of South Dakota and tomato farms in Minnesota and Iowa.

Eventually, they landed in Chicago.

Over the next seven decades, that little boy, Arturo Velasquez, would become a civic treasure in Chicago: an entrepreneur, philanthropist, activist, advisor to Chicago's leaders, and patriarch of one of Chicago's leading Hispanic families.

Arturo Velasquez was dedicated to his family, his church, his business, and the city of Chicago, especially the Mexican American community on Chicago's South Side.

This past Friday, Mr. Velasquez passed on at the age of 93. But his influence will live on in the people he inspired, the lives he helped change, and the opportunities he helped create for so many.

Mr. Velasquez was a gracious man. He was also humble. He used to describe himself as a ''jukebox operator.''

In fact, he owned one of Chicago's largest music and game firms, Velasquez Automated Music Co, which he founded more than 70 years ago. It is run today by his son Ed and daughter Maria Elena.

In 1970, Mr. Velasquez helped another son, Art, found Azteca Foods, Inc; which supplies thousands of groceries and restaurants with tortillas and other food products.

He played a key role in the establishment of the Mexican American Chamber of Commerce, the Azteca Lions Club, the Illinois Federation of Mexican Americans and many other business and civic groups.

Formal education was a luxury for Mr. Velasquez, as it is for many children of migrant workers.

He attended 13 different grade schools and he never went to high school. But he was a strong advocate for education.

He was determined that all five of his children would graduate from college, and they did.

He also worked tirelessly for decades to provide other young people, especially Mexican Americans, with the educational opportunities he himself never received.

He served as a trustee for two colleges: the City Colleges of Chicago and National Louis University.

And a year ago, Chicago City Colleges' West Side Technical Institute, which Mr. Velasquez supported strongly, was renamed in his honor.

Arturo Velasquez continues to help others, even now.

His family asks that anyone wishing to honor his memory donate to two causes that were important to him.

The first is the City Colleges of Chicago Foundation for Scholarships to the Arturo Velasquez West Side Technical Institute, a scholarship fund for Latinos in the 2-year technical education program who want to go on to 4-year colleges.

The second cause is Alivio Medical Center, near and dear to my heart, a community health center, founded by Mr. Velasquez's daughter Carmen, that provides free health care to thousands of Chicago families each year in the mostly Latino Pilsen, Little Village and Back of the Yards neighborhoods.

I cannot tell you how impressed I am with Carmen and her work at Alivio. The fact that her father inspired her and now wants to continue helping her, even in his passing, says a lot about the family.

Mr. Velasquez received many well-deserved accolades including an honorary doctorate for public service from St. Xavier University, and the Ohtl Award from the Mexican government, the highest award to a Mexican who lives outside that country.

And in 2002, he was honored by the Chicago Historical Society with its Making History Award.

But what meant most to Mr. Velasquez was his family.

He and his wife Shirley were married for 72 years. They were blessed with five children, 11 grandchildren and 19 great-grandchildren.

As a young father, Mr. Velasquez dreamed of being able to provide his family with a home of their own.

It took a while. He bought an empty lot at 72nd Street and St. Louis Avenue in 1945. But he did not build a house on it until 1950.

Mrs. Velasquez once told a reporter, ''Every Sunday he would take the kids to the empty lot. He'd tell them, 'Go jump on it. It's yours.' And I'd say, Can't you think of any other place to go?''

In 1959, Mr. Velasquez covered the White Sox for a Spanish-language newspaper. That year, the Sox won their first division pennant in 40 years, only to lose the World Series to the Los Angeles Dodgers.

In 2005, he saw his great-grandson Willy throw out the first pitch during Game 2 of the division series.

He had tickets to every game of the playoffs.

And he saw his beloved White Sox, at last, win the World Series, another dream come true for a man who made the dreams of so many others possible.

I want to express my deep condolences to his wife Shirley, their children, Art, Raymond, Carmen, Maria Elena and Edward, and their grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Arturo Velasquez was a gracious and generous man and a true community leader. He will be greatly missed.

HONORING OUR ARMED FORCES

Mrs. BOXER. Madam President, today I rise to pay tribute to 11 young Americans who have been killed in Iraq since November 19. This brings to 870 the number of servicemembers either from California or based in California that have been killed while serving our country in Iraq. This represents 20 percent of all U.S. deaths in Iraq.

GySgt Marcelo R. Velasco, 40, of Miami, FL, died November 19 from injuries sustained in a non-hostile incident in Anbar province, Iraq. Gunnery Sergeant Velasco was assigned to I Marine Expeditionary Force Headquarters Group, I Marine Expeditionary Force, Camp Pendleton, CA.

LCpl Robert L. Johnson, 21, of Central Point, OR, died December 20 as a result of a nonhostile incident in Anbar province, Iraq. Lance Corporal Johnson was assigned to the 5th Combat Logistics Battalion, 1st Combat Logistics Regiment, 1st Marine Logistics Group, Camp Pendleton, CA.

SPC Tony J. Gonzales, 20, of Newman, CA, died December 28 in Sadr City, Iraq, when an improvised explosive device detonated near his vehicle. Specialist Gonzales was assigned to the 1st Battalion, 6th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Brigade, 1st Armored Division, Baumholder, Germany.

PFC Benjamin B. Tollefson, 22, of Concord, CA, died December 31 in Balad, Iraq, of wounds suffered when insurgents attacked his unit with indirect fire in Ghazaliya. Private First Class Tollefson was assigned to the Special Troops Battalion, 2nd Heavy Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division, Fort Riley, KS.

PFC Grant A. Cotting, 19, of Corona, CA, died January 24 in Kut, Iraq, of injuries sustained from a noncombat related incident. Private First Class Cotting was assigned to the 515th Sapper Company, 5th Engineer Battalion, 4th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade, Fort Leonard Wood, MO.

SSG Sean D. Diamond, 41, of Dublin, CA, died February 15 in As Salam, Iraq, when an improvised explosive device detonated near his vehicle. Staff Sergeant Diamond was assigned to the 610th Engineer Support Company, 14th Engineer Battalion, 555th Engineer Brigade, Fort Lewis, WA.

1LT Daniel B. Hyde, 24, of Modesto, CA, died March 7 in Samarra, Iraq, of wounds sustained in Tikrit when an explosive device struck his unit vehicle. First Lieutenant Hyde was assigned to the 2nd Battalion, 35th Infantry Regiment, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division, Schofield Barracks, HI.

PFC Bryce E. Gautier, 22, of Cypress, CA, died April 10 when his military vehicle was struck by a suicide vehicle-borne improvised explosive device in Mosul, Iraq. Private First Class Gautier was assigned to the 1st Battalion, 67th Armor Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, Fort Carson, CO.

SFC Bryan E. Hall, 32, of Elk Grove, CA, died April 10 when his military vehicle was struck by a suicide vehicle-borne improvised explosive device in Mosul, Iraq. Sergeant First Class Hall was assigned to the 1st Battalion, 67th Armor Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, Fort Carson, CO.

SGT Raul Moncada, 29, of Madera, CA, died April 13 near Baghdad, Iraq, of wounds sustained when an explosive device detonated near his vehicle. Sergeant Moncada was assigned to the 563rd Military Police Company, 91st Military Police Battalion, 10th Sustainment Brigade, 10th Mountain Division, Light Infantry, Fort Drum, NY.

LCpl Ray A. Spencer II, 20, of Ridgecrest, CA, died April 16 as a result of a non-hostile incident in Anbar province, Iraq. Lance Corporal Spencer was assigned to 3rd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, 3rd Marine Division, Kaneohe Bay, HI.

I would also like to pay tribute to the four soldiers from CA who have died while serving our country in Operation Enduring Freedom since November 19.

SSG Joshua R. Townsend, 30, of Solvang, CA, died January 16 in Tarin Kowt, Afghanistan, of injuries sustained in a noncombat related incident. Staff Sergeant Townsend was assigned to the 1st Battalion, 7th Special Forces Group, Airborne, Fort Bragg, NC.

SSgt Daniel L. Hansen, 24, of Tracy, CA, died February 14 while supporting combat operations in Farah province, Afghanistan. Staff Sergeant Hansen was assigned to Marine Wing Support Squadron 171, Marine Wing Support Group 17, 1st Marine Air Wing, III Marine Expeditionary Force, Iwakuni, Japan.

LT Florence B. Choe, 35, of El Cajon, CA, died March 27 when an insurgent posing as an Afghan National Army soldier opened fire on personnel assigned to Combined Security Transition Command—Afghanistan at Camp Shaheen, Mazar-E-Sharif, Afghanistan.

A1C Jacob I. Ramsey, 20, of Hesperia, CA, died April 10 of injuries sustained from a noncombat related incident in Kabul, Afghanistan. Airman First Class Ramsey was assigned to the 712th Air Support Operations Squadron, Fort Hood, TX.

CORPORAL MICHEAL B. ALLEMAN

Mr. HATCH. Madam President, I rise today to pay tribute to CPL Micheal B. Alleman of Logan, UT. Corporal Alleman died in the service to our country on February 23, 2009, of wounds suffered when insurgents attacked his unit using small arms in Iraq's Diyala Province. He was 32 years old and is survived by his parents Boyd and Susan Alleman, his wife Amy, and their two sons Kai and Kennet.

Corporal Alleman served in the 5th Squadron, 1st Cavalry Regiment, 1st Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division, Fort Wainwright, AK.

Two years ago, Micheal Alleman decided to put his teaching career on hold to enlist in the U.S. Army. When he explained this decision to his fifth grade class at Nibley Elementary School, he said he wanted to be like the Nation's first President, who left his career as a Virginia planter to take up arms against the British monarchy. He said that George Washington was his hero.

I am proud to talk about another American hero today, CPL Micheal Alleman. He defines what makes our Nation great. With absolute surety, he exhibited a devotion to duty and sense of purpose that transcends personal comfort and desire. Corporal Alleman heard his country's call to duty and in that service he gave his last full measure of devotion. He gave his life so we can continue to remain safe and free each day.

As I read accounts from his family and friends, it was readily apparent he was a tremendously selfless and caring man. He was described as a man who deeply loved his family and cared about those around him. His family would bend over backward for anyone. It is no wonder he so readily decided to serve this Nation.

Let us not forgot the sacrifice of CPL Micheal Alleman. His service should inspire everyone in this Chamber. I thank him for his service and pray for his family and friends during this tremendously difficult time. His wife Amy stated, ''My boys will always know their father stood up to defend this country.'' Well, so shall we also remember and cherish the memory of his service.

TREATMENT OF DETAINEES IN U.S. CUSTODY

Mr. LEVIN. Madam President, today we are releasing the declassified report of the Senate Armed Services Committee's investigation into the treatment of detainees in U.S. custody. The report was approved by the committee on November 20, 2008, and has, in the intervening period, been under review at the Department of Defense for declassification.

In my judgment, the report represents a condemnation of both the Bush administration's interrogation policies and of senior administration officials who attempted to shift the blame for abuse—such as that seen at Abu Ghraib, Guantanamo Bay, and Afghanistan—to low ranking soldiers. Claims, such as that made by former Deputy Secretary of Defense Paul Wolfowitz that detainee abuses could be chalked up to the unauthorized acts of a ''few bad apples,'' were simply false.

The truth is that, early on, it was senior civilian leaders who set the tone. On September 16, 2001, Vice President Dick Cheney suggested that the United States turn to the ''dark side'' in our response to 9/11. Not long after that, after White House Counsel Alberto Gonzales called parts of the Geneva Conventions ''quaint,'' President Bush determined that provisions of the Geneva Conventions did not apply to certain detainees. Other senior officials followed the President and Vice President's lead, authorizing policies that included harsh and abusive interrogation techniques.

The record established by the committee's investigation shows that senior officials sought out information on, were aware of training in, and authorized the use of abusive interrogation techniques. Those senior officials bear significant responsibility for creating the legal and operational framework for the abuses. As the committee report concluded, authorizations of aggressive interrogation techniques by senior officials resulted in abuse and conveyed the message that physical pressures and degradation were appropriate treatment for detainees in U.S. military custody.

In a May 10, 2007, letter to his troops, GEN David Petraeus said that ''what sets us apart from our enemies in this fight . . . is how we behave. In everything we do, we must observe the standards and values that dictate that we treat noncombatants and detainees with dignity and respect. While we are warriors, we are also all human beings.'' With last week's release of the Department of Justice Office of Legal Counsel, OLC, opinions, it is now widely known that Bush administration officials distorted Survival Evasion Resistance and Escape ''SERE'' training—a legitimate program used by the military to train our troops to resist abusive enemy interrogations—by authorizing abusive techniques from SERE for use in detainee interrogations. Those decisions conveyed the message that abusive treatment was appropriate for detainees in U.S. custody. They were also an affront to the values articulated by General Petraeus.

In SERE training, U.S. troops are briefly exposed, in a highly controlled setting, to abusive interrogation techniques used by enemies that refuse to follow the Geneva Conventions. The techniques are based on tactics used by Chinese Communists against American soldiers during the Korean war for the purpose of eliciting false confessions for propaganda purposes. Techniques used in SERE training include stripping trainees of their clothing, placing them in stress positions, putting hoods over their heads, subjecting them to face and body slaps, depriving them of sleep, throwing them up against a wall, confining them in a small box, treating them like animals, subjecting them to loud music and flashing lights, and exposing them to extreme temperatures. Until recently, the Navy SERE school also used waterboarding. The purpose of the SERE program is to provide U.S. troops who might be captured a taste of the treatment they might face so that they might have a better chance of surviving captivity and resisting abusive and coercive interrogations.

SERE training techniques were never intended to be used in the interrogation of detainees in U.S. custody. The committee's report, however, reveals troubling new details of how SERE techniques came to be used in interrogations of detainees in U.S. custody.

The committee's investigation uncovered new details about the influence of SERE techniques on military interrogations at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba—GTMO. According to newly released testimony from a military behavioral scientist who worked with interrogators at GTMO, ''By early October [2002] there was increasing pressure to get 'tougher' with detainee interrogations'' at GTMO. (p. 50). As a result, on October 2, 2002, 2 weeks after attending interrogation training led by SERE instructors from the Joint Personnel Recovery Agency, JPRA, the DOD agency that oversees SERE training, the behavioral scientist and a colleague drafted a memo proposing the use of aggressive interrogation techniques at GTMO. The behavioral scientist said he was told by GTMO's intelligence chief that the interrogation memo needed to contain coercive techniques or it ''wasn't going to go very far.'' (p. 50). Declassified excerpts from that memo indicate that it included stress positions, food deprivation, forced grooming, hooding, removal of clothing, exposure to cold weather or water, and scenarios designed to convince a detainee that ''he might experience a painful or fatal outcome.'' On October 11, 2002, MG Michael Dunlavey, the Commander of JTF–170 at GTMO, requested authority to use aggressive techniques. Major General Dunlavey's request was based on the memo produced by the behavioral scientists.

Major General Dunlavey's request eventually made its way to Department of Defense, DoD, General Counsel Jim Haynes' desk. Notwithstanding serious legal concerns raised by the military service lawyers, Haynes recommended that Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld approve 15 of the interrogation techniques requested by GTMO. On December 2, 2002, Secretary Rumsfeld approved Haynes' recommendation, authorizing such techniques as stress positions, removal of clothing, use of phobias—such as fear of dogs—and deprivation of light and auditory stimuli.

The committee's investigation revealed that, following Secretary Rumsfeld's authorization, senior staff at GTMO drafted a standard operating procedure—SOP—for the use of SERE techniques, including stress positions, forcibly stripping detainees, slapping, and ''walling'' them. That SOP stated that ''The premise behind this is that the interrogation tactics used at U.S. military SERE schools are appropriate for use in real-world interrogations.'' Weeks later, in January 2003, trainers from the Navy SERE school travelled to GTMO and provided training to interrogators on the use of SERE techniques on detainees. (pp. 98–104).

The influence of Secretary Rumsfeld's December 2, 2002, authorization was not limited to interrogations at GTMO. Newly declassified excerpts from a January 11, 2003, legal review by a special mission unit, SMU, Task Force lawyer in Afghanistan state that ''SECDEF's approval of these techniques provides us the most persuasive argument for use of 'advanced techniques' as we capture possible [high value targets] . . . the fact that SECDEF approved the use of the . . . techniques at GTMO, [which is] subject to the same laws, provides an analogy and basis for use of these techniques [in accordance with] international and U.S. law.'' (p. 154).

The committee's report also includes a summary of a July 15, 2004, interview with CENTCOM's then-Deputy Staff Judge Advocate, SJA, about Secretary Rumsfeld's authorization and its impact in Afghanistan. The Deputy SJA said: ''the methodologies approved for GTMO would appear to me to be legal interrogation processes. [The Secretary of Defense] had approved them. The General Counsel had approved them . . . I believe it is fair to say the procedures approved for Guantanamo were legal for Afghanistan.'' (p. 156).

The committee's report provides extensive details about how the aggressive techniques made their way from Afghanistan to Iraq. In February 2003, an SMU Task Force designated for operations in Iraq obtained a copy of the SMU interrogation policy from Afghanistan that included aggressive techniques, changed the letterhead, and adopted the policy verbatim. (p. 158). Months later, the Interrogation Officer in Charge at Abu Ghraib obtained a copy of the SMU interrogation policy and submitted it, virtually unchanged, through her chain of command to Combined Joint Task Force 7—CJTF–7—led at the time by Lieutenant General Ricardo Sanchez. On September 14, 2003, Lieutenant General Sanchez issued an interrogation policy for CJTF–7 that authorized interrogators to use stress positions, environmental manipulation, sleep management, and military working dogs to exploit detainees' fears in their interrogations of detainees.

The committee's investigation uncovered documents indicating that, almost immediately after Lieutenant General Sanchez issued his September 14, 2003, policy, CENTCOM lawyers raised concerns about its legality. One newly declassified email from a CENTCOM lawyer to the Staff Judge Advocate at CJTF–7—sent just three days after the policy was issued—warned that ''Many of the techniques [in the CJTF–7 policy] appear to violate [Geneva Convention] III and IV and should not be used . . .'' (p. 203). Even though the Bush administration acknowledged that the Geneva Conventions applied in Iraq, it was not until nearly a month later that CJTF–7 revised that policy.

Not only did SERE techniques make their way to Iraq, but SERE instructors did as well. In September 2003, JPRA sent a team to Iraq to provide assistance to interrogation operations at an SMU Task Force. The Chief of Human Intelligence and Counterintelligence at the Task Force testified to the Committee in February 2008 that JPRA personnel demonstrated SERE techniques to SMU personnel including so-called ''walling'' and striking a detainee as they do in SERE school. (p. 175). As we heard at our September 2008 hearing, JPRA personnel were present during abusive interrogations during that same trip, including one where a detainee was placed on his knees in a stress position and was repeatedly slapped by an interrogator. (p. 176). JPRA personnel even participated in an interrogation, taking physical control of a detainee, forcibly stripping him naked, and giving orders for him to be kept in a stress position for 12 hours. In August 3, 2007, testimony to the committee, one of the JPRA team members said that, with respect to stripping the detainee, ''we [had] done this 100 times, 1000 times with our [SERE school] students.'' The committee's investigation revealed that forced nudity continued to be used in interrogations at the SMU Task Force for months after the JPRA visit. (pp. 181–182).

Over the course of the investigation, the committee obtained the statements and interviews of scores of military personnel at Abu Ghraib. These statements reveal that the interrogation techniques authorized by Secretary Rumsfeld in December 2002 for use at GTMO—including stress positions, forced nudity, and military working dogs—were used by military intelligence personnel responsible for interrogations.

The Interrogation Officer in Charge in Abu Ghraib in the fall of 2003 acknowledged that stress positions were used in interrogations at Abu Ghraib. (p. 212).

An Army dog handler at Abu Ghraib told military investigators in February 2004 that ''someone from [military intelligence] gave me a list of cells, for me to go see, and pretty much have my dog bark at them. . . . Having the dogs bark at detainees was psychologically breaking them down for interrogation purposes.'' (p. 209).

An intelligence analyst at Abu Ghraib told military investigators in May 2004 that it was ''common that the detainees on [military intelligence] hold in the hard site were initially kept naked and given clothing as an incentive to cooperate with us.'' (p. 212).

An interrogator told military investigators in May 2004 that it was ''common to see detainees in cells without clothes or naked'' and says it was ''one of our approaches.'' (p. 213).

The investigation also revealed that interrogation policies authorizing aggressive techniques were approved months after the CJTF–7 policy was revised to exclude the techniques, and

even after the investigation into detainee abuses at Abu Ghraib had already begun. For example, an interrogation policy approved in February 2004 in Iraq included techniques such as use of military working dogs and stress positions. (p. 220).

A policy approved for CJTF–7 units in Iraq in March 2004 also included aggressive techniques. While much of the March 2004 policy remains classified, newly declassified excerpts indicate that it warned that interrogators ''should consider the fact that some interrogation techniques are viewed as inhumane or otherwise inconsistent with international law before applying each technique. These techniques are labeled with a [CAUTION].'' Among the techniques labeled as such were a technique involving power tools, stress positions, and the presence of military working dogs. (pp. 220–221).

Some have asked why, if it is okay for our own U.S. personnel to be subjected to physical and psychological pressures in SERE school, what is wrong with using those SERE training techniques on detainees? The committee's investigation answered that question.

On October 2, 2002, LTC Morgan Banks, the senior Army SERE psychologist warned against using SERE training techniques during interrogations in an email to personnel at GTMO, writing that:

> [T]he use of physical pressures brings with it a large number of potential negative side effects . . . When individuals are gradually exposed to increasing levels of discomfort, it is more common for them to resist harder . . . If individuals are put under enough discomfort, i.e. pain, they will eventually do whatever it takes to stop the pain. This will increase the amount of information they tell the interrogator, but it does not mean the information is accurate. In fact, it usually decreases the reliability of the information because the person will say whatever he believes will stop the pain . . . Bottom line: the likelihood that the use of physical pressures will increase the delivery of accurate information from a detainee is very low. The likelihood that the use of physical pressures will increase the level of resistance in a detainee is very high . . . (p. 53).

Likewise, the Deputy Commander of DOD's Criminal Investigative Task Force at GTMO told the committee in 2006 that CITF ''was troubled with the rationale that techniques used to harden resistance to interrogations would be the basis for the utilization of techniques to obtain information.'' (p. 69).

Other newly declassified emails reveal additional warnings. In June 2004, after many SERE techniques had been authorized in interrogations and JPRA was considering sending its SERE trainers to interrogation facilities in Afghanistan, another SERE psychologist warned: ''[W]e need to really stress the difference between what instructors do at SERE school (done to INCREASE RESISTANCE capability in students) versus what is taught at interrogator school (done to gather information). What is done by SERE instructors is by definition ineffective interrogator conduct . . . Simply stated, SERE school does not train you on how to interrogate, and things you 'learn' there by osmosis about interrogation are probably wrong if copied by interrogators.'' (p. 229).

If we are to retain our status as a leader in the world, we must acknowledge and confront the abuse of detainees in our custody. The committee's report and investigation makes significant progress toward that goal. There is still the question, however, of whether high level officials who approved and authorized those policies should be held accountable. I have recommended to Attorney General Holder that he select a distinguished individual or individuals—either inside or outside the Justice Department, such as retired federal judges—to look at the volumes of evidence relating to treatment of detainees, including evidence in the Senate Armed Services Committee's report, and to recommend what steps, if any, should be taken to establish accountability of high-level officials—including lawyers.

TRIBUTE TO LINDSEY JEWELL

Ms. SNOWE. Madam President, I rise today to recognize the 5 years of outstanding service that Lindsey Jewell has provided to me in various capacities in both my personal office, and on the Senate Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship, of which I am ranking member. Ever since Lindsey began working in my office in 2004, I have been consistently impressed with her dedication, professionalism, and hard work, and I am sad to see her leave the Senate.

While still a student at the University of Maine Orono, my alma mater, Lindsey began her Senate career as an intern in my Washington office and thereafter as a staff assistant in my Bangor office. There, she served as a key liaison between my office and Maine constituents, assisting them in solving their problems and concerns with the Federal Government. Lindsey's work on behalf of Mainers proved to be her true passion, and after graduating in 2005 with a B.A. in political science, she came back to Washington, DC, to join my staff here.

Upon arriving in Washington, Lindsey hit the ground running as a legislative correspondent, handling a hefty portfolio of issues ranging from taxes, budget, and banking to agriculture, immigration, and foreign affairs. Lindsey's stellar stand-out performance in dealing with these issues led to her earning a promotion to Director of Constituent Correspondence in 2006. In this role, she oversaw all of my office's legislative correspondents, helping me ensure that mail was responded to in a thoughtful and timely manner. Through this position, Lindsey gained immense experience dealing with a vast array of issues the Senate faces. She also proved to be a capable, talented, and amicable leader, who was a tremendous supervisor.

During the summer of 2007, Lindsey left my personal office and moved three floors up in the Russell Building to serve as Senior Research Analyst on the Senate Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship. As ranking member of that committee, I continued to benefit from Lindsey's wisdom and insight. That said, her departure certainly left a large void in my personal office. As Lindsey continued to provide me with detailed and thorough materials on a range of small business issues, she once again earned a well-deserved promotion to Professional Staff Member early in 2008. In that capacity, Lindsey advised the committee on matters relating to women-owned businesses, small business energy concerns, entrepreneurial development programs, and military base redevelopment initiatives.

Lindsey was instrumental in my recently introducing the Defense Communities Assistance Act of 2009, a key bill aimed at providing immediate economic development benefits to all base communities, for both closed and active military installations across the country. Additionally, Lindsey helped me prepare an amendment to the fiscal year 2010 budget resolution to ensure that small businesses receive adequate funding under the Energy Star program. Lindsey's versatile nature and willingness to assist her colleagues in any way possible led to her drafting statements and press releases for a variety of committee hearings, bill introductions, and small business events, covering a host of issues.

Lindsey's sense of humor and easy-goingness make her instantly likeable. But more crucially, her responsible nature and advanced analytical skills make her indispensable to anyone she is working for. And Lindsey is a true team player, never considering any task beneath her. Indeed, she was a key member of my office's softball team this past summer, someone equally feared and respected by opponents!

That is why I am deeply saddened that Lindsey will be leaving us this week. But I am thrilled for Lindsey's future, as she will be marrying her long-term boyfriend, Patrick Hughes, in just a few weeks in Portland, ME. Pat, a Marine officer, and Lindsey will be moving to the San Diego area shortly thereafter, where Pat will be stationed at Camp Pendleton. I wish them both the best in married life, and hope that they enjoy the beautiful California sunshine!

A native born Mainer, Lindsey Jewell is an incredibly talented person. Coming from hard-working, community-oriented roots in the Aroostook county town of Monticello in northern Maine, Lindsey displays the classic values of our State: solidly dependable, intellectually curious, and immensely industrious. I am proud to have had someone like Lindsey on my staff, and even prouder to have gotten to know her

over the past several years. Her sincerity, thoughtfulness, creativity, and consideration of others will be sorely missed. Lindsey, thank you for your service to Maine and America, and best wishes for your bright future.

IDAHOANS SPEAK OUT ON HIGH ENERGY PRICES

Mr. CRAPO. Madam President, In mid-June, I asked Idahoans to share with me how high energy prices are affecting their lives, and they responded by the hundreds. The stories, numbering well over 1,200, are heartbreaking and touching. While energy prices have dropped in recent weeks, the concerns expressed remain very relevant. To respect the efforts of those who took the opportunity to share their thoughts, I am submitting every e-mail sent to me through an address set up specifically for this purpose to the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD. This is not an issue that will be easily resolved, but it is one that deserves immediate and serious attention, and Idahoans deserve to be heard. Their stories not only detail their struggles to meet everyday expenses, but also have suggestions and recommendations as to what Congress can do now to tackle this problem and find solutions that last beyond today. I ask unanimous consent to have today's letters printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

I own a small construction business and, on the surface, high prices do hurt my bottom line; however, that is not such a bad thing. I have always been conscious about my personal and worldwide energy use, but the fast rate of price increase has made me even more, especially about my driving. My driving efficiency has increased, and my total mileage for the year has decreased several thousands of miles. This is a good thing especially when I consider that everybody I am talking to is thinking the same way. Statistics say Americans are driving less; that is a good thing. It is good the people get humbled and remember that every bit of energy and every material object we use was made in the natural world and refined using human intelligence; there are no freebies.

Americans need to plan a future without oil for energy. For some reason, it is taboo to mention solar energy and subsidy in the same sentence. Solar is the best hope for continuous energy yet nobody wants to subsidize the fledgling industry. Farmers and ethanol are subsidized, though they hate to admit it; the coming second nuclear program will be fully subsidized though they attempt to account around it. Even the fossil fuel industry is subsidized, among other ways, by being protected by the U.S. military. (Oil has caused all the havoc in the Middle East, so Iraq and Afghanistan and all the other military deployments acts of security for big oil). Hundreds of billions go to these fruitlessly revolving enterprises. Let us pay to get a nationwide solar plan fully off the ground. Imagine if every single house south facing roof was solar panels and all flat topped roofs were solar panels, we could power the entire country without having to build another structure. Subsidize and organize turning the entire fleet of cars over to solar/battery/electric cars. It would work. Ethanol is a joke, nuclear is a waste, wind is like putting high rise buildings far into the countryside, coal and gas and hydro could be back up to solar; to even the load.

PIKE, *Nampa*.

Our family has been working to get out of debt and have breathing room to finally start saving for retirement; but with the price of fuel going up daily, there is no way. In fact we are sinking deeper in debt. We have to really struggle with going to watch the grandchildren play ball or buy groceries. We both have to drive quite a distance to our work each week and now feel trapped. We love our home, but cannot afford the commute, but with the housing market and fuel costs, we cannot sell either! So we are still forced to commute, going straight to where we stay when we go down for our work and then our jobs and back again.

We have always been a nation of integrity, of a backbone, fueled by necessity. If our government will get out of the way and let her people do what we need to do to be self-sufficient again, we will all be better off. It is so sad that so many people think the only way we can make it is if government controls, but when government controls we lose as is shown by the dropping dollar and high fuel prices. We have our own fuel and our own ingenuity, let us use it and refine it.

NANCY.

You may not want my input on the high energy prices, because I see a lot of good coming from them. For one thing, the air is a lot cleaner. Also, I would assume there are fewer car accidents/deaths due to fewer cars on the roads. People are improving their health because they are out there walking, bicycling, etc. And I see them reaching out to help one another. It is also forcing people to be more creative in the ways that they are dealing with the higher price of products/food. They are asking themselves, is it something they want or do they actually need it. They are fixing up the things they have instead of throwing them away and filling up the landfill. To me, I see the high energy prices as a change of direction. A good change of direction.

As for all the money that is being accumulated, I think it would be best used on developing alternate forms of energy—wind, solar etc. Drilling for more oil is just going to extend the inevitable. The oil is going to run out and, while we are waiting for it to run out, we will continue to destroy the planet and ourselves.

KATHLEEN.

Thank you for asking for my experience with the recent rapid rise in gasoline/energy prices. My husband and I are in our mid-fifties, and remember the first ''energy crisis'' in the mid 1970s when fuel prices more than doubled but were still way below one dollar. I purchased my first car during that time—a Toyota Corolla that got 36 mpg. My husband reserved his Dodge van which had much lower mileage for only special needs trips; then he purchased a Ford small truck (made by Mazda) which got 35 mpg. It travelled anywhere in Montana the big 4 wheel drives did with some weight in the bed in winter. We have only driven fuel efficient vehicles since, except for the special trip farm/plow vehicles.

At this time I drive 36 miles round trip from our rural home to work at IDL in Sandpoint. The 2000 Honda CRV gets 29 mpg with windows down and 27 mpg with windows up and internal fan using heat or AC. I find I fill up every 10 days (extra errands after work) and am spending perhaps an extra $1/day on gas. Not a big deal.

My husband has telecommuted for his job as an electrical engineer for the last 13 years so he rarely drives his extremely fuel-efficient Honda Fit—a perfect commuter vehicle for one person at 35+mpg. The little Kubota tractor runs on diesel and uses perhaps 10 gallons per summer season. We can absorb that. Our house is fully electric and electric rates have stayed the same. Food at the grocery store has been increasing for a year or two so we eat smarter and raise our own meat.

By learning the lesson of the 1970s, we are not victim to the fluctuations of the fossil fuel markets or contributing greatly to the damages which result. Opening fragile and deteriorating ecosystems to offshore drilling will not bring down fuel prices—people are going to get used to them anyway, as they always have. There are still plenty of large expensive SUVs on the roads in Sandpoint.

If the country, led by Congress, would focus on funneling money to alternative fuels and technologies to get off this destructive bandwagon of the oil companies everyone could be better off. Think about it and please start being a constructive leader.

JAN.

The energy crisis is hitting us like almost everyone in Idaho. It is not bad enough that we are paying outrageous prices at the pump but we are also paying nearly twice what we were this time last year at the grocery store. In Idaho we do not have mass transit to utilize so we are stuck paying for the gas at the pump.

I did have one idea to help Idaho rely less on oil for power. My husband works at the INL and we have seen the negative publicity about nuclear power. The Federal Government owns all that land, as I understand it is about the size of Rhode Island. Why not put wind mills up out there? That would be free power after paying for the wind mills. There is probably enough area for wind mills that they could power the entire state of Idaho without the use of water or oil. You could most likely find some kind of federal grant to help fund the wind mills. It is just one idea for you to consider.

GAYLE.

I find it absolutely ridiculous that we cannot drill for oil within the United States. I find it insane that we are dependent on foreign sources. I find it ludicrous that Congress refuses to do anything about the issue. I drive forty miles to and from work each day. It is not much, but it adds up quickly at $4.00+ a gallon. I cannot even pay at the pump anymore, because the $75 limit on my credit card will not fill my tank. I fully support the Drill Here, Drill Now, Pay Less campaign. Please support any legislation that increases our energy independence and gets the price down!

DANN, *Rigby*.

This last school year 07–08 I lived in Twin Falls and attended the College of Southern Idaho. We had four girls living in our apartment. The first semester two of us had vehicles and two of my roommates received help from their parents. In January, those two roommates moved out and the two that moved in did not receive financial help from their parents either. Because of rising fuel costs we mostly walked to campus even when it was cold because we could not afford gas (campus is a good 25–35 minute walk one way). And when we did go somewhere like to the grocery store we car pooled. We only ate out if it was a special occasion but even then most of the time we had large dinner parties at our apt and we had every one bring something. But we made it! However with the rising cost of everything, partially due to the

rise in energy cost, this next year will be even harder. Yes, we could take out student loans for more than just tuition and books but having large amounts of borrowed money with no guaranteed way to pay it back is scary!

On another note, my parents now live in Las Vegas, and I have been here visiting for about a month and a half. My father, who is now 57, has worked hard all his life for our family. Now he works even harder. He gets up every morning to leave the house by 5 a.m. so he can walk 15 minutes to catch the bus and then walk for another 20 minutes to be at work by 6:30 a.m. so he can save a much-needed $200 a month in gas. It takes him at least 1.5 hours longer each day to get to and from work, that is, if the bus is not so full that he could catch the first one home and would not have to wait for the next one or the next one. He owns two older vehicles that are diesel. When he bought them, diesel was cheaper than gas and they both get 17–18 miles to the gallon. They got the best mileage of SUVs and Trucks. However, even though they are paid for and worth a bit of money, there is no longer a market for vehicles like that so he cannot sell them for close to what they are worth and so he cannot afford to buy another vehicle with better gas mileage.

In my personal opinion, the United States government may not be able to make energy cost go down but I feel that they could make them more secure. The U.S. relies largely on oil and gas from other countries. Most of those countries are in some of the most unstable parts of the world, meaning our energy supply is unstable. We need to bring it home. Yes, there are countries such as Qatar that are stable and I think we should still support them. However, for example, places such as off the coast of Nigeria (Shell and U.S.-based Chevron have had problems due to lack of stability in the region) are not only unstable for reliance of supply but are unstable for the environment. Even if energy cost will not subside, most likely the stability of supply and price would increase and the environment would be better off over all if we were more self-reliant.

EMILY, *Twin Falls.*

My wife, Michelle, and I send our heart-felt thanks for your principled stand for sound energy policy based on factual data and reality as opposed to the potentially catastrophic positions taken by the Democrat party in Congress, and its leadership.

We are solidly in favor of developing our own oil, coal and natural gas resources to reduce or eliminate our dependency on often hostile, foreign sources for the oil our economy requires. We also support an aggressive nuclear power program, and federal assistance to the nuclear power industry in preventing the array of anti-nuclear, anti-power, anti-development and anti-capitalist groups and their attorneys—as well as the dozens of federal environmental agencies—from endlessly delaying or preventing nuclear power facility construction progress.

We agree that alternative energy sources need to be developed by the private sector with as little federal interference as possible, but believe it is misguided to suggest that the oil industry should be spending their capital for R&D into alternative ''fuels''. It seems to us that actions to force the oil industry to do so is the equivalent of federally mandating a private industry to incorporate a profound conflict of interest into their business plan. Logic indicates that such a federal action would drive the oil industry to raise product prices to allow their ongoing oil product R&D activities to continue, while pursuing an alternative fuel R&D program for which the industry and its shareholders would have little, if any, business interest in advancing.

The X-Prize type concept Senator McCain recently mentioned to encourage R&D to produce a new super battery for powering vehicles is a concept I have had and shared frequently for several years, although I question why the Senator's focus was narrowed only to one type of energy, rather than offering the prize for the first ''vehicle'' to meet defined safety, performance, capability and efficiency standards and allow the private competitors to pursue hydrogen fuel-cell technology, compressed air and steam technologies, advanced internal combustion engine technologies, even micro-nuclear technologies or any combination of technologies, rather than only electrical battery technologies. (Batteries for electric cars might be a practical idea in some applications, but it is doubtful if such R&D would benefit the oil burning aviation or shipping industries.)

Anyway, we wanted to thank you for being a clear voice for logical solutions to oil supply, and for having the courage to stand against the knee-jerk reactionaries who are intent on convincing the American public that industry greed, rather than governmental interference, has caused the current spikes and the price in oil-based consumer products.

STEVE and MICHELLE, *Melba.*

What we really need to do to help our state and our country is to drill, explore, experiment, expand, and adapt. Drill more oil, explore more options for energy, and experiment with new technology to make our state and our country more independent and healthier. Our country needs to expand our public transportation system and make it easier to use. That is the biggest complaint about public transit. Finally, our whole country needs to adapt and realize that this is not the 60s, 70s, 80s or 90s anymore. The economy is different. If we can do this appropriately, then not only do we create jobs, but then we can say we did it without foreign interference.

I am a big supporter of the SUV. But yesterday, I did the hardest thing I could do. I turned in my SUV to the car lot I purchased it from and am now riding the bus system in Boise. It is not the most convenient since you have to make multiple stops and sometimes go a little out of the way to get where you are going, but for the price of two dollars a day, it is worth it. I take two buses in the morning and walk a mile to get to work every day. Every afternoon I walk a mile and take two buses. I am a mom who manages to get it done. It just takes commitment and help from our legislature to get the nation going in the right direction.

SHASTA, *Boise.*

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

25TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE LAND CONSERVANCY OF SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY

• Mrs. BOXER. Madam President, I take this opportunity to recognize the 25th anniversary of the Land Conservancy of San Luis Obispo County, LCSLO.

Created in 1984 by a group of local residents determined to protect lands throughout San Luis Obispo County, LCSLO has experienced many successes over the past 25 years in its efforts to ensure a proud legacy of scenic beauty and healthy lands throughout the county. What began as an all-volunteer group working on small conservation agreements has since grown into an established land trust with 16 professional staff members. LCSLO staff and volunteers work to set aside local lands for wildlife, farming, and ranching by preventing poorly planned development; protecting drinking water sources; restoring wildlife habitat; and promoting family farms and ranches.

Since its initial projects in Cambria and Nipomo Mesa, LCSLO has permanently protected over 10,500 acres of land in San Luis Obispo County. The organization has worked to conserve over 100 acres of streamside lands to enhance habitats of steelhead trout, purchased over 300 individual lots to protect the Monterey Pines in Cambria, and restored hundreds of acres of damaged coastal land in the Guadalupe-Nipomo Dunes. Today, five of the Conservancy's land parcels are available for public use. Parcels that are not open to the public provide space for projects that produce stunning views, protect air and water quality, and preserve local farmland.

The Land Conservancy of San Luis Obispo is a grassroots movement that empowers local farmers, ranchers, and residents to protect the land that make San Luis Obispo County so beautiful. By partnering with local organizations and offering residents the opportunity to contribute hands-on to the preservation of their own community, LCSLO is able to conserve the unique rural culture that is so closely tied to this coastal environment.

For 25 years, LCSLO has worked passionately and effectively to sustain a high quality of life for residents and visitors in a healthy natural environment. I commend LCSLO staff and volunteers for maintaining the natural beauty of San Luis Obispo County and for supporting the county's agricultural and tourism-based economy. I look forward to future generations having the opportunity to enjoy this special part of California for many years to come.•

REMEMBERING PETER K. WILSON

• Mr. CRAPO. Madam President, today I would like to note the sudden passing of Peter K. Wilson, of Lapwai, ID. A lifelong farmer, World War II veteran and father of seven, Peter was a leader in Idaho agriculture. He served as chairman of the Nez Perce County Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service, and as a member of the Idaho State Brand Board, the Nez Perce County Fair Board, the Lewiston Grain Growers Board, and the Idaho Co-op Council Board of Directors. From 1988 until his untimely death on March 30, 2009, Peter was an elected commissioner of the Port of Lewiston, and served as chairman for several terms. From 1994 to his death, Peter also served on the board of the Pacific Northwest Waterways, and was chairman from 2003–2005.

He received numerous awards and honors throughout his working life, including the Governor's Award for Lifetime Achievement in Agriculture, Nez Perce County Grassman of the Year and Nez Perce County Outstanding Farm Citizen.

Peter's love of farming, the mountain pastures he called home, and his family was well-known to many. In his contributions to the community and to Idaho agriculture, he touched many lives, working hard and providing strong, principled leadership. Peter will certainly be missed. I offer my condolences to Peter's wife, Pat, and their family at this difficult time.●

HONORING THE LET'S GET READY PROGRAM

● Mr. KERRY. Madam President, Fenway Park, America's most beloved ballpark, will play host to a different collection of superstars on April 30: the young people from cities across Massachusetts including Boston, Brockton, Lawrence, Springfield and Worcester, whose achievements are not measured in batting average or RBIs or All Star Game selections; but in SAT scores, GPA and college acceptance letters.

These young people measure their success by the number of lives they change, the number of young people they help get into college, and the dreams they help make real for hundreds of Massachusetts high school students each year.

Tonight at Fenway Park, you will not find Josh Beckett or Dustin Pedroia or Kevin Youkilis. But you will find Pat Johnson and tonight, to the people at Fenway, he is every bit the superstar David Ortiz is.

Patrick is the incoming Boston College Site Director for Let's Get Ready or LGR, an organization relying wholly on the generosity, compassion and selflessness of college students that guides low-income high school students through the dizzying and daunting college admissions process. He is joined at Fenway tonight by LGR's other volunteers and supporters and by the students and families they work so hard to help.

The college students who volunteer with LGR serve as coaches. These college coaches provide SAT preparation and assistance with all aspects of the college application process to underserved students in five Massachusetts communities. The college application process has become a multimillion-dollar industry and too often low-income students find themselves at a disadvantage. They can not afford the private SAT tutors or professional personal essay advisers more affluent high school students take advantage of. Commercial prep courses cost anywhere from $1,200 to $5,000; LGR has a direct cost of only $500 per student.

That $500 goes a very long way. LGR helps to level the playing field and ensure the remarkable opportunities that can come from a college education are not reserved for the well-to-do or well-connected. And level the playing field is exactly what the LGR coaches do. Ninety-two percent of LGR students go directly to college after high school, compared to 47 percent of low-income students nationally. LGR students increase their SAT scores an average of 110 points. LGR has provided support to over 7,500 high school students and engaged over 3,500 college students in meaningful service learning experiences.

I commend Pat and all the superstar LGR coaches at Fenway Park tonight and I thank them for their efforts to ensure no hardworking student with a dream of a college education is left on the sidelines.●

GRAND OPENING OF NUCOR CORPORATION'S DETAILING CENTER

● Mr. NELSON of Nebraska. Madam President, today I wish to recognize a major business expansion in my home State of Nebraska which will serve as an inspiration for all businesses struggling in the face of this economic recession.

The Nucor Detailing Center will celebrate its grand opening on May 1, 2009, in Norfolk. This is a state-of-the-art facility operated by Nucor Corporation, a Fortune 500 Company and national manufacturer of steel products.

Nucor's story is an impressive one. Nationally, Nucor has 20,000 employees; more than 900 of them are in Norfolk, NE. Despite a downturn in America's economy which has hit the steel industry especially hard, Nucor practices a no-layoff policy and has not closed any of its plants.

In fact, in Nebraska, Nucor is expanding with the opening of its Nucor Detailing Center. The Detailing Center is the fourth Nucor division to locate in Norfolk, which is the only city in the world claiming four Nucor divisions.

The Nucor Detailing Center started as a small group with just seven employees. Today, it employs 70 teammates with plans to grow to 200 in the near future. This grand opening, in the midst of an economic crisis, the likes of which our country has not seen since the Great Depression, is a testament to the indomitable spirit of the American businessman and to Nucor's belief in a return on its investment in its most valuable resource—workers.

Nucor has gained a reputation as North America's largest recycler and as a company which puts an emphasis on safety, the environment and social responsibility. Now, Nucor is adding to that reputation by being able to expand and excel even during troubled economic times.

Congratulations to Nucor Detailing Center on its grand opening! Nebraska is proud to have Nucor Corporation as one of our fine corporate citizens.●

TRIBUTE TO JONATHAN EDWARD KOTILNEK

● Mr. THUNE. Madam President, today I wish to recognize Jonathan Edward Kotilnek, an intern in my Washington, DC, office, for all of the hard work he has done for me, my staff, and the State of South Dakota over the past several months.

Jonathan is a graduate of T.F. Riggs High School in Pierre, SD. Currently, he is attending Marquette University Law School, where he is obtaining his juris doctor. He is a hard worker who has been dedicated to getting the most out of his internship experience.

I extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to Jonathan for all of the fine work he has done and wish him continued success in the years to come.●

TRIBUTE TO TESSA JEAN HOLKESVIK

● Mr. THUNE. Madam President, today I wish to recognize Tessa Jean Holkesvik, an intern in my Washington, DC, office, for all of the hard work she has done for me, my staff, and the State of South Dakota over the past several months.

Tessa Jean Holkesvik is a graduate of Central High School in Aberdeen, SD. Currently she is attending George Washington University, where she is majoring in political science. She is a hard worker who has been dedicated to getting the most out of her internship experience.

I extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to Tessa for all of the fine work she has done and wish her continued success in the years to come.●

TRIBUTE TO BRENNA JANE BAHR

● Mr. THUNE. Madam President, today I wish to recognize Brenna Jane Bahr, an intern in my Washington, DC, office, for all of the hard work she has done for me, my staff, and the State of South Dakota over the past several months.

Brenna is a graduate of Aberdeen Central High School in Aberdeen, SD. Currently, she is attending the Catholic University of America, where she is majoring in history. She is a hard worker who has been dedicated to getting the most out of her internship experience.

I would like to extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to Brenna for all of the fine work she has done and wish her continued success in the years to come.●

LAFOURCHE PARISH POLICE SOCIAL SERVICES SECTION

● Mr. VITTER. Madam President, today I wish to recognize and pay tribute to the heroic men and women of

the Police Social Services Section, PSS, of Lafourche Parish, LA, for their victim advocacy, courage, Federal leadership, and professional innovation in victim services. I would like to take some time to make a few remarks on their tireless efforts and work on behalf of crime victims.

National Crime Victims' Rights Week will be observed from April 26 to May 2, 2009. This year marks the 25th anniversary of the passage of the Victims of Crime Act of 1984, which created the Office for Victims of Crime and is responsible for nearly $7 billion in support for crime victim compensation, assistance, and other programs that serve victims. On Thursday, April 23, Attorney General Holder will preside over a national candlelight observance and will join victims, victim advocates, criminal justice professionals, and members of the public to remember crime victims and reflect on progress made in improving victims' rights.

On Friday, April 24, the PSS of Lafourche Parish will receive the Award for Professional Innovation in Victim Services. Team members include: LT. Karla S. Beck, Ms. Deanna Dufrene, SGT. Valerie Day, Deputy Dale Savoie, Deputy Walter Tenney, Deputy Delaune Boudreaux, Advocate Tamera Joseph, Deputy Rebecca Shaver, Deputy Amy Guillot, Deputy Pam Guedry, and Reservist Bernard Lafaso. The team is unique in their innovative and significant efforts on behalf of victim services. The PSS Elderly Services Officer is a devoted, full-time, extensive case manager, visiting the local nursing home and community Council on Aging groups to provide assistance, services, and education to older victims, their family members and caregivers. They also implemented the Crime Victims with Disabilities Program to address victims with disabilities, and also developed a model curriculum, ''Beyond the Barriers: Crisis Intervention Training,'' that has been used to educate law enforcement personnel throughout Louisiana. They were also awarded a grant in 2007 to establish Supervised Visitation Centers—a safe space for children to transition from one parent to another. Due to PSS, the Sherriff's Office has received numerous awards and national and State recognition. PSS started with one full-time deputy and one volunteer. Today, PSS has 12 full-time deputies, two auxiliary deputies, two volunteers, and administrative support, all of whom work together to improve the lives of victims in the aftermath of crime.

Today, I applaud the Lafourche Parish Sheriff's Office for being honored by the Department of Justice for their victim advocacy and thank them for their continued service to the people of Louisiana and the rest of the Nation.●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Mrs. Neiman, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The nominations received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

TRANSMITTING CERTIFICATION THAT THE EXPORT OF ONE CONTINUOUS MIXER, ONE JET MILL, AND ONE FILAMENT WINDING CELL IS NOT DETRIMENTAL TO THE U.S. SPACE LAUNCH INDUSTRY, AND THAT THE MATERIAL AND EQUIPMENT, INCLUDING ANY INDIRECT TECHNICAL BENEFIT THAT COULD BE DERIVED FROM THESE EXPORTS, WILL NOT MEASURABLY IMPROVE THE MISSILE OR SPACE LAUNCH CAPABILITIES OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA—PM 14

The PRESIDING OFFICER laid before the Senate the following message from the President of the United States, together with an accompanying report; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

To the Congress of the United States:

In accordance with the provisions of section 1512 of the Strom Thurmond National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 1999 (Public Law 105–261), I hereby certify to the Congress that the export of one continuous mixer to be used to manufacture conductive polymer compounds to be further processed to make circuit protection devices, one jet mill to be used for particle size reduction of pigments and other powder products for cosmetic formulations, and one filament winding cell to be used to manufacture fiberglass assembly shelter poles for use in tents and shelters is not detrimental to the U.S. space launch industry, and that the material and equipment, including any indirect technical benefit that could be derived from these exports, will not measurably improve the missile or space launch capabilities of the People's Republic of China.

BARACK OBAMA.

THE WHITE HOUSE, *April 21, 2009*.

MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR

The following bill was read the second time, and placed on the calendar:

H.R. 131. An act to establish the Ronald Reagan Centennial Commission.

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and were referred as indicated:

EC–1286. A communication from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Thiamethoxam; Pesticide Tolerances'' (FRL–8407–8) as received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 3, 2009; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC–1287. A communication from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Modification of Pesticide Tolerance Revocation for Diazinon'' (FRL–8410–1) as received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 9, 2009; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC–1288. A communication from the Acting Assistant Secretary of the Army (Acquisition, Logistics and Technology), transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the Product Improvement Pilot Program (PIPP); to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC–1289. A communication from the Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; Bombardier Model CL–600–2B19 (Regional Jet Series 100 & 440) Airplanes'' ((RIN2120–AA64) (Docket No. FAA–2008–0888)) as received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 3, 2009; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–1290. A communication from the Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; Bombardier Model CL-600-2B19 (Regional Jet Series 100 & 440) Airplanes'' ((RIN2120–AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2008–0521)) as received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 3, 2009; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–1291. A communication from the Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Establishment of Class E Airspace; Death Valley, CA'' ((Docket No. FAA–2008–0137) (Airspace Docket No. 08–AWP–2)) as received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 3, 2009; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–1292. A communication from the Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Modification of Class E Airspace; Reno, NV'' ((Docket No. FAA–2008–1108) (Airspace Docket No. 08–AWP–11)) as received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 3, 2009; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–1293. A communication from the Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Model A310 Series Airplanes and Model A300–600 Series Airplanes'' ((RIN2120–AA64) (Docket No. FAA–2008–0018)) as received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 3, 2009; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–1294. A communication from the Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; Rolls-Royce Deutschland Ltd & Co KG (RRD) BR700–715A1–30, BR700–715B1–30, and BR700–715C1–30 Turbofan Engines'' ((RIN2120–AA64) (Docket No. FAA–2008–0224)) as received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 3, 2009; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–1295. A communication from the Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Model A318, A319, A320, and A321 Airplanes'' ((RIN2120–AA64) (Docket No. FAA–2008–1327)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 21, 2009; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–1296. A communication from the Program Analyst, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Average Fuel Economy Standards Passenger Cars and Light Trucks Model Year 2011'' ((RIN2127–AK29) (Docket No. NHTSA–2009–0062)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 21, 2009; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–1297. A communication from the Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; Boeing Model 747–100, 747–100B, 747–100B SUD, 747–200B, 747–200C, 747–200F, 747–300, 747–400, 747SR, and 747SP Series Airplanes'' ((RIN2120–AA64) (Docket No. FAA–2008–1072)) as received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 3, 2009; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–1298. A communication from the Chairman of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the Government in the Sunshine Act; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC–1299. A communication from the General Counsel, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Version Two Facilities Design, Connections and Maintenance Reliability Standards'' ((Docket No. RM08–11–000) (Order No. 722)) as received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 7, 2009; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC–1300. A communication from the Attorney of the Office of Assistant General Counsel for Legislation and Regulatory Law, Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, Department of Energy, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Energy Conservation Program: Energy Conservation Standards for Certain Consumer Products (Dishwashers, Dehumidifiers, Microwave Ovens, and Electric and Gas Kitchen Ranges and Ovens) and for Certain Commercial and Industrial Equipment (Commercial Clothes Washers)'' (RIN1904–AB49) as received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 13, 2009; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC–1301. A communication from the Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Migratory Bird Permits; Revision of Expiration Dates for Double Crested Cormorant Depredation Orders'' (RIN1018–AW11) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 2, 2008; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–1302. A communication from the Acting Chair of the Federal Subsistence Board, Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Subsistence Management Regulations for Public Lands in Alaska – 2009–10 and 2010–11 Subsistence Taking of Fish Regulations'' (RIN1018–AV72) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 2, 2009; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–1303. A communication from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Kansas; Update to Materials Incorporated by Reference'' (FRL–8760–9) as received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 3, 2009; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–1304. A communication from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''National Priorities List, Final Rule No. 46'' (RIN2050–AD75) as received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 3, 2009; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–1305. A communication from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Determination of Attainment of the One-Hour Ozone Standard for the Southern New Jersey Portion of the Philadelphia Metropolitan Nonattainment Area'' (FRL–8775–5) as received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 9, 2009; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–1306. A communication from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (Recovery Act) Supplemental Funding for Brownfields Revolving Loan Fund (RLF) Grantees'' (FRL–8791–3) as received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 9, 2009; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–1307. A communication from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans and Operating Permits Program; State of Missouri'' (FRL–8791–6) as received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 13, 2009; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–1308. A communication from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Ocean Dumping; Designation of Ocean Dredged Material Disposal Site Offshore of the Rogue River, Oregon'' (FRL–8791–2) as received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 13, 2009; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–1309. A communication from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Wisconsin: Final Authorization of State Hazardous Waste Management Program Revision'' (FRL–8788–9) as received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 13, 2009; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–1310. A communication from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Withdrawal of NPDES Voluntary Permit Fee Incentive for Clean Water Act Section 108 Grants; Allotment Formula'' (FRL–8792–3) as received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 13, 2009; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–1311. A communication from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Delaware; Update to Materials Incorporated by Reference'' (FRL–8789–7) as received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 16, 2009; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–1312. A communication from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Georgia; Enhanced Inspection and Maintenance Plan'' (FRL–8892–8) as received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 16, 2009; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–1313. A communication from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Wisconsin: Final Authorization of State Hazardous Waste Management Program Revision'' (FRL–8789–6) as received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 16, 2009; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–1314. A communication from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; New Jersey; Diesel Idling Rule Revisions'' (FRL–8757–6) as received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 16, 2009; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–1315. A communication from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Revisions to the California State Implementation Plan, Approval of the Ventura County Air Pollution Control District—Reasonably Available Control Technology Analysis'' (FRL–8784–2) as received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 17, 2009; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–1316. A communication from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; North Dakota; Update to Materials Incorporated by Reference'' (FRL–8892–7) as received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 17, 2009; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–1317. A communication from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled

''Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Minnesota'' (FRL–8894–1) as received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 17, 2009; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–1318. A communication from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Amendment to Requirements for Providing Information on the Delegation of the Administrator's Authorities and Responsibilities for Certain States'' (FRL–8893–7) as received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 17, 2009; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–1319. A communication from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Texas; Reasonable Further Progress Plan, Motor Vehicle Emissions Budgets, and 2002 Base Year Emissions Inventory; Houston-Galveston-Brazoria 1997 8-Hour Ozone Nonattainment Area'' (FRL–8895–3) as received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 17, 2009; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–1320. A communication from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; South Carolina; NOx SIP Call Phase II'' (FRL–8894–8) as received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 17, 2009; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–1321. A communication from the Director, Office of Human Resources, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, (13) reports relative to vacancy announcements, changes in previously submitted reported information, and designation of acting officers, as received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 9, 2009; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–1322. A communication from the Director, Office of Human Resources, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, (2) reports relative to vacancy announcements, nominations, action on nominations, and designation of acting officers, as received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 9, 2009; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–1323. A communication from the Inspector General, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled ''Use of Funds Appropriated to the Office of Inspector General for Medicaid-Related Program Integrity Activities''; to the Committee on Finance.

EC–1324. A communication from the Program Manager of the Center for Medicaid and State Operations, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Medicaid Program; State Flexibility for Medicaid Benefit Packages'' (RIN0938-AP72) as received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 9, 2009; to the Committee on Finance.

EC–1325. A communication from the Program Manager, Administration for Children and Families, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''State Parent Locator Service; Safeguarding Child Support Information: Proposed Delay of Effective Date'' (RIN0970-AC01) as received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 16, 2009; to the Committee on Finance.

EC–1326. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Section 911(d)(4)—2008 Update'' (Rev. Proc. 2009-22) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 2, 2009; to the Committee on Finance.

EC–1327. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Nonconventional Source Fuel Credit, Section 45K Inflation Adjustment Factor, and Section 45K Reference Price'' (Notice 2009-32) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 2, 2009; to the Committee on Finance.

EC–1328. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Request for Comments on Certain Section 263A Rules Relating to Property Acquired for Resale'' (Notice 2009-25) as received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 9, 2009; to the Committee on Finance.

EC–1329. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Qualified Energy Conservation Bond Allocations for 2009'' (Notice 2009-29) as received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 16, 2009; to the Committee on Finance.

EC–1330. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Premium Assistance for COBRA Benefits'' (Notice 2009-27) as received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 16, 2009; to the Committee on Finance.

EC–1331. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Home Affordable Modification Program'' (Rev. Proc. 2009-23) as received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 16, 2009; to the Committee on Finance.

EC–1332. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Qualifying Advanced Coal Project Program'' (Notice 2009-24) as received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 16, 2009; to the Committee on Finance.

EC–1333. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Qualifying Gasification Project Program'' (Notice 2009-23) as received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 16, 2009; to the Committee on Finance.

EC–1334. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''ARRA Update to Annual Indexing Revenue Procedures'' (Rev. Proc. 2009-21) as received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 16, 2009; to the Committee on Finance.

EC–1335. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''2009 Automobile Inflation Adjustments'' (Rev. Proc. 2009-24) as received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 16, 2009; to the Committee on Finance.

EC–1336. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Update of Weighted Average Interest Rates, Yield Curves, and Segment Rates'' (Notice 2009-39) as received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 16, 2009; to the Committee on Finance.

EC–1337. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Request for Comments on Revenue Procedure for Section 403(b) Prototype Plans'' (Announcement 2009-34) as received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 16, 2009; to the Committee on Finance.

EC–1338. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Build America Bonds and Direct Payment Subsidy Implementation'' (Notice 2009-26) as received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 16, 2009; to the Committee on Finance.

EC–1339. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Tax Effects of the Acquisition of Instruments by the Treasury Department Under Certain Programs Pursuant to the Emergency Economic Stabilization Act of 2008'' (Notice 2009-38) as received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 16, 2009; to the Committee on Finance.

EC–1340. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Qualified Zone Academy Bond Allocations for 2008 and 2009'' (Notice 2009-30) as received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 16, 2009; to the Committee on Finance.

EC–1341. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Qualified School Construction Bond Allocations for 2009'' (Notice 2009-35) as received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 16, 2009; to the Committee on Finance.

EC–1342. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''New Clean Renewable Energy Bonds Application Solicitation and Requirements'' (Notice 2009-33) as received during adjournment of the Senate in

the Office of the President of the Senate on April 16, 2009; to the Committee on Finance.

EC–1343. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Phase-out of Credit for New Qualified Hybrid Motor Vehicles and New Advanced Lean Burn Technology Motor Vehicles'' (Notice 2009-37) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 21, 2009; to the Committee on Finance.

EC–1344. A communication from the Acting Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to the Arms Export Control Act, the certification of a proposed technical assistance agreement for the export of defense articles, including technical data, and defense services in the amount of $50,000,000 or more with Israel; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC–1345. A communication from the Acting Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to the Arms Export Control Act, the certification of a proposed manufacturing license agreement for the manufacture of significant military equipment abroad and the export of defense articles or defense services in the amount of $100,000,000 or more with Japan; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC–1346. A communication from the Acting Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to the Arms Export Control Act, the certification of a proposed agreement for the export of defense articles or defense services in the amount of $100,000,000 or more with Greece; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC–1347. A communication from the Acting Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to the Arms Export Control Act, the certification of a proposed manufacturing license agreement for the manufacture of significant military equipment abroad and the export of defense services and defense articles in the amount of $100,000,000 or more with the Republic of Korea; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC–1348. A communication from the Acting Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to the Arms Export Control Act, the certification of a proposed manufacturing license agreement for the manufacture of significant military equipment abroad and the export of defense services and defense articles in the amount of $100,000,000 or more with South Korea; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC–1349. A communication from the Acting Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to the Arms Export Control Act, the certification of a proposed manufacturing license agreement for the manufacture of significant military equipment abroad and the export of defense articles and defense services in the amount of $100,000,000 or more with Japan; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC–1350. A communication from the Acting Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to the Arms Export Control Act, the certification of a proposed license for the export of defense articles that are firearms controlled under Category I of the United States Munitions List sold commercially under a contract in the amount of $1,000,000 or more to Canada; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC–1351. A communication from the Acting Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to the Arms Export Control Act, the certification of a proposed technical assistance agreement for the export of defense articles, including technical data, and defense services in the amount of $50,000,000 or more with the United Arab Emirates; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC–1352. A communication from the Deputy Secretary of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the activities of the Western Hemisphere Institute for Security Cooperation; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC–1353. A communication from the Assistant Legal Adviser for Treaty Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to the Case-Zablocki Act, 1 U.S.C. 112b, as amended, the report of the texts and background statements of international agreements, other than treaties (List 2009-0036 - 2009-0046); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC–1354. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the waiver of Section 907 of the FREEDOM Support Act; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC–1355. A communication from the Acting Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to the Arms Export Control Act, the certification of a proposed technical assistance agreement for the export of technical data, defense services, and defense articles in the amount of $50,000,000 or more with Sweden; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EXECUTIVE REPORT OF COMMITTEE

The following executive report of a nomination was submitted:

By Mr. BAUCUS for the Committee on Finance.

*Kathleen Sebelius, of Kansas, to be Secretary of Health and Human Services.

*Nomination was reported with recommendation that it be confirmed subject to the nominee's commitment to respond to requests to appear and testify before any duly constituted committee of the Senate.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. LUGAR:

S. 838. A bill to provide for the appointment of United States Science Envoys; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. CASEY (for himself, Mr. KAUFMAN, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. SANDERS, and Mr. BEGICH):

S. 839. A bill to assist States in making voluntary high quality universal prekindergarten programs available to 3- to 5-year olds for at least 1 year preceding kindergarten; to the Committee on Health, Education , Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. VOINOVICH (for himself, Mr. PRYOR, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. BAYH, Mr. BOND, Mr. DORGAN, Mr. MARTINEZ, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. BURR, and Mr. LUGAR):

S. 840. A bill to establish a Development and Commercialization Committee on Clean and Efficient Energy Technologies within the Asia-Pacific Partnership on Clean Development and Climate Program Office, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. KERRY (for himself and Mr. SPECTER):

S. 841. A bill to direct the Secretary of Transportation to study and establish a motor vehicle safety standard that provides for a means of alerting blind and other pedestrians of motor vehicle operation; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. KERRY:

S. 842. A bill to repeal the sunset of certain enhancements of protections of servicemembers relating to mortgages and mortgage foreclosures, to amend title 38, United States Code, to authorize the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to pay mortgage holders unpaid balances on housing loans guaranteed by Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. LAUTENBERG (for himself, Mr. REED, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. KERRY, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. LEVIN, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. CARDIN, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, and Mr. MENENDEZ):

S. 843. A bill to establish background check procedures for gun shows; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. LAUTENBERG (for himself and Mr. ISAKSON):

S. 844. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to prevent and treat diabetes, to promote and improve the care of individuals with diabetes, and to reduce health disparities relating to diabetes within racial and ethnic minority groups, including African-American, Hispanic American, Asian American, Native Hawaiian and other Pacific Islander, and American Indian and Alaskan Native communities; to the Committee on Health , Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. THUNE (for himself, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. BEGICH, Mr. BENNETT, Mr. BROWNBACK, Mr. BURR, Mr. CHAMBLISS, Mr. COBURN, Mr. COCHRAN, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. DEMINT, Mr. ENSIGN, Mr. ENZI, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. HATCH, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. ISAKSON, Mr. MARTINEZ, Mr. RISCH, Mr. ROBERTS, Mr. VITTER, and Mr. WICKER):

S. 845. A bill to amend chapter 44 of title 18, United States Code, to allow citizens who have concealed carry permits from the State in which they reside to carry concealed firearms in another State that grants concealed carry permits, if the individual complies with the laws of the State; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. DURBIN (for himself, Mr. BENNETT, Mr. KERRY, Mr. CASEY, Ms. SNOWE, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. BINGAMAN, Mr. FEINGOLD, Mr. ENZI, and Mr. PRYOR):

S. 846. A bill to award a congressional gold medal to Dr. Muhammad Yunus, in recognition of his contributions to the fight against global poverty; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. WEBB:

S. 847. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide that utilization of survivors' and dependents' educational assistance shall not be subject to the 48-month limitation on the aggregate amount of assistance utilizable under multiple veterans and related educational assistance programs; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mr. BROWN (for himself and Mr. VOINOVICH):

S. Res. 106. A resolution celebrating the outstanding athletic accomplishments of the University of Findlay men's basketball team for winning the National Collegiate Athletic Association Division II Championship; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. DODD (for himself and Mr. LIEBERMAN):

S. Res. 107. A resolution commending the University of Connecticut Huskies for their historic win in the 2009 National Collegiate Athletic Association Division I Women's Basketball Tournament; considered and agreed to.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 144

At the request of Mr. KERRY, the names of the Senator from Idaho (Mr. RISCH) and the Senator from Montana (Mr. TESTER) were added as cosponsors of S. 144, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to remove cell phones from listed property under section 280F.

S. 292

At the request of Mr. SPECTER, the name of the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BURR) was added as a cosponsor of S. 292, a bill to repeal the imposition of withholding on certain payments made to vendors by government entities.

S. 343

At the request of Mrs. LINCOLN, the name of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. LEAHY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 343, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for Medicare coverage services of qualified respiratory therapists performed under the general supervision of a physician.

S. 358

At the request of Mr. CORNYN, the name of the Senator from Florida (Mr. MARTINEZ) was added as a cosponsor of S. 358, a bill to ensure the safety of members of the United States Armed Forces while using expeditionary facilities, infrastructure, and equipment supporting United States military operations overseas.

S. 386

At the request of Mr. LEAHY, the names of the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW) and the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS) were added as cosponsors of S. 386, a bill to improve enforcement of mortgage fraud, securities fraud, financial institution fraud, and other frauds related to federal assistance and relief programs, for the recovery of funds lost to these frauds, and for other purposes.

S. 408

At the request of Mr. INOUYE, the names of the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) and the Senator from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) were added as cosponsors of S. 408, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to provide a means for continued improvement in emergency medical services for children.

S. 428

At the request of Mr. DORGAN, the names of the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. PRYOR) and the Senator from Virginia (Mr. WEBB) were added as cosponsors of S. 428, a bill to allow travel between the United States and Cuba.

S. 456

At the request of Mr. DODD, the names of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. LEAHY) and the Senator from Georgia (Mr. ISAKSON) were added as cosponsors of S. 456, a bill to direct the Secretary of Health and Human Services, in consultation with the Secretary of Education, to develop guidelines to be used on a voluntary basis to develop plans to manage the risk of food allergy and anaphylaxis in schools and early childhood education programs, to establish school-based food allergy management grants, and for other purposes.

S. 462

At the request of Mrs. BOXER, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. BURRIS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 462, a bill to amend the Lacey Act Amendments of 1981 to prohibit the importation, exportation, transportation, and sale, receipt, acquisition, or purchase in interstate or foreign commerce, of any live animal of any prohibited wildlife species, and for other purposes.

S. 468

At the request of Ms. STABENOW, the names of the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. VITTER) and the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) were added as cosponsors of S. 468, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to improve access to emergency medical services and the quality and efficiency of care furnished in emergency departments of hospitals and critical access hospitals by establishing a bipartisan commission to examine factors that affect the effective delivery of such services, by providing for additional payments for certain physician services furnished in such emergency departments, and by establishing a Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services Working Group, and for other purposes.

S. 476

At the request of Mrs. BOXER, the names of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. BURRIS), the Senator from Georgia (Mr. CHAMBLISS) and the Senator from Maryland (Mr. CARDIN) were added as cosponsors of S. 476, a bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to reduce the minimum distance of travel necessary for reimbursement of covered beneficiaries of the military health care system for travel for specialty health care.

S. 491

At the request of Mr. WEBB, the name of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. UDALL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 491, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow Federal civilian and military retirees to pay health insurance premiums on a pretax basis and to allow a deduction for TRICARE supplemental premiums.

S. 535

At the request of Mr. NELSON of Florida, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. DODD) was added as a cosponsor of S. 535, a bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to repeal requirement for reduction of survivor annuities under the Survivor Benefit Plan by veterans' dependency and indemnity compensation, and for other purposes.

S. 538

At the request of Mrs. LINCOLN, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 538, a bill to increase the recruitment and retention of school counselors, school social workers, and school psychologists by low-income local educational agencies.

S. 546

At the request of Mr. REID, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. DODD) was added as a cosponsor of S. 546, a bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to permit certain retired members of the uniformed services who have a service-connected disability to receive both disability compensation from the Department of Veterans Affairs for their disability and either retired pay by reason of their years of military service or Combat-Related Special Compensation.

S. 565

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 565, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide continued entitlement to coverage for immunosuppressive drugs furnished to beneficiaries under the Medicare Program that have received a kidney transplant and whose entitlement to coverage would otherwise expire, and for other purposes.

S. 567

At the request of Mr. CRAPO, the name of the Senator from Missouri (Mr. BOND) was added as a cosponsor of S. 567, a bill to repeal the sunset on the reduction of capital gains rates for individuals and on the taxation of dividends of individuals at capital gains rates.

S. 581

At the request of Mr. BENNET, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ) was added as a cosponsor of S. 581, a bill to amend the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act and the Child Nutrition Act of 1966 to require the exclusion of combat pay from income for purposes of determining eligibility for child nutrition programs and the special supplemental nutrition program for women, infants, and children.

S. 590

At the request of Ms. SNOWE, the name of the Senator from Maine (Ms.

COLLINS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 590, a bill to assist local communities with closed and active military bases, and for other purposes.

S. 597

At the request of Mrs. MURRAY, the names of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) and the Senator from Alaska (Mr. BEGICH) were added as cosponsors of S. 597, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to expand and improve health care services available to women veterans, especially those serving in operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom, from the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

S. 614

At the request of Mrs. HUTCHISON, the names of the Senator from Florida (Mr. NELSON) and the Senator from Georgia (Mr. ISAKSON) were added as cosponsors of S. 614, a bill to award a Congressional Gold Medal to the Women Airforce Service Pilots (''WASP'').

S. 634

At the request of Mr. HARKIN, the names of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ), the Senator from Indiana (Mr. BAYH), the Senator from Ohio (Mr. BROWN), the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. AKAKA) and the Senator from Wisconsin (Mr. KOHL) were added as cosponsors of S. 634, a bill to amend the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 to improve standards for physical education.

S. 645

At the request of Mrs. LINCOLN, the names of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. ISAKSON) and the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. BYRD) were added as cosponsors of S. 645, a bill to amend title 32, United States Code, to modify the Department of Defense share of expenses under the National Guard Youth Challenge Program.

S. 662

At the request of Mr. CONRAD, the names of the Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY) and the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. BINGAMAN) were added as cosponsors of S. 662, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for reimbursement of certified midwife services and to provide for more equitable reimbursement rates for certified nurse-midwife services.

S. 693

At the request of Mr. HARKIN, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW) was added as a cosponsor of S. 693, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to provide grants for the training of graduate medical residents in preventive medicine.

S. 711

At the request of Mr. BAUCUS, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 711, a bill to require mental health screenings for members of the Armed Forces who are deployed in connection with a contingency operation, and for other purposes.

S. 714

At the request of Mr. WEBB, the names of the Senator from Montana (Mr. TESTER) and the Senator from Delaware (Mr. CARPER) were added as cosponsors of S. 714, a bill to establish the National Criminal Justice Commission.

S. 718

At the request of Mr. HARKIN, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 718, a bill to amend the Legal Services Corporation Act to meet special needs of eligible clients, provide for technology grants, improve corporate practices of the Legal Services Corporation, and for other purposes.

S. 727

At the request of Ms. LANDRIEU, the names of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. BURRIS) and the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. KENNEDY) were added as cosponsors of S. 727, a bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to prohibit certain conduct relating to the use of horses for human consumption.

S. 749

At the request of Mr. COCHRAN, the names of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS), the Senator from Florida (Mr. MARTINEZ) and the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) were added as cosponsors of S. 749, a bill to improve and expand geographic literacy among kindergarten through grade 12 students in the United States by improving professional development programs for kindergarten through grade 12 teachers offered through institutions of higher education.

S. 772

At the request of Mr. BOND, the name of the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 772, a bill to enhance benefits for survivors of certain former members of the Armed Forces with a history of post-traumatic stress disorder or traumatic brain injury, to enhance availability and access to mental health counseling for members of the Armed Forces and veterans, and for other purposes.

S. 775

At the request of Mr. VOINOVICH, the name of the Senator from Nebraska (Mr. JOHANNS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 775, a bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to authorize the availability of appropriated funds for international partnership contact activities conducted by the National Guard, and for other purposes.

S. 781

At the request of Mr. ROBERTS, the name of the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. INHOFE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 781, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for collegiate housing and infrastructure grants.

S. 790

At the request of Mr. BINGAMAN, the name of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. LUGAR) was added as a cosponsor of S. 790, a bill to improve access to health care services in rural, frontier, and urban underserved areas in the United States by addressing the supply of health professionals and the distribution of health professionals to areas of need.

S. 802

At the request of Mr. JOHNSON, the names of the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI) and the Senator from Montana (Mr. TESTER) were added as cosponsors of S. 802, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow Indian tribes to transfer the credit for electricity produced from renewable resources.

S. 809

At the request of Mr. CASEY, the name of the Senator from Florida (Mr. MARTINEZ) was added as a cosponsor of S. 809, a bill to establish a program to provide tuition assistance to individuals who have lost their jobs as a result of the economic downturn.

S. 816

At the request of Mr. CRAPO, the name of the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BURR) was added as a cosponsor of S. 816, a bill to preserve the rights granted under second amendment to the Constitution in national parks and national wildlife refuge areas.

S. 818

At the request of Mr. BINGAMAN, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) was added as a cosponsor of S. 818, a bill to reauthorize the Enhancing Education Through Technology Act of 2001, and for other purposes.

S. 832

At the request of Mr. NELSON of Florida, the name of the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BURR) was added as a cosponsor of S. 832, a bill to amend title 36, United States Code, to grant a Federal charter to the Military Officers Association of America, and for other purposes.

S. RES. 84

At the request of Mr. LEVIN, the name of the Senator from Wisconsin (Mr. FEINGOLD) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 84, a resolution urging the Government of Canada to end the commercial seal hunt.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. LUGAR:

S. 838. A bill to provide for the appointment of United States Science Envoys; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

Mr. LUGAR. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the text of the bill was ordered to be placed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 838

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. FINDINGS.

Congress finds the following:

(1) The United States is the world's leader in scientific research and discovery.

(2) The United States has produced more Nobel Laureates than any other nation, including—

(A) 90 of the 192 Nobel Laureates in Medicine;

(B) 81 of the 183 Nobel Laureates in Physics;

(C) 43 of the 62 Nobel Laureates in Economics; and

(D) 59 of the 153 Nobel Laureates in Chemistry.

(3) Consistent polling and scholarly research has shown that—

(A) the nations of the world seek a relationship with the United States that is based on mutual respect; and

(B) many of these nations, even nations that disagree with some aspects of United States foreign policy, admire the United States for its leadership in science and technology.

(4) Science and technology provide an external reference around which nations can converge to foster an atmosphere of cooperation and mutual respect based upon the recognition that advances in science and technology are universally beneficial.

(5) International scientific cooperation enhances relationships among participating countries by building trust and increasing understanding between countries and cultures through the collaborative nature of scientific dialogues.

(6) The United States' commitment to technological advances—

(A) displays our Nation's commitment to improving lives throughout the world;

(B) mitigates some political controversy; and

(C) offers other countries a tangible incentive to cooperate with the United States to improve the health and well-being of their citizens.

(7) Short-term visits from renowned and respected American scientists can dramatically affect the standing of the United States among foreign countries.

(8) International scientific cooperation—

(A) produced successful engagements between United States and Soviet scientists throughout the 1970s and 1980s; and

(B) assisted United States outreach efforts with the People's Republic of China before official diplomatic ties were fully established.

(9) Various nongovernmental organizations in the United States have been engaged in international scientific cooperation programs. These organizations include the American Association for the Advancement of Science, the Richard Lounsbery Foundation, and many major United States academic institutions.

SEC. 2. EDUCATIONAL AND CULTURAL EXCHANGE PROGRAMS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Under the authority, direction, and control of the President, the Secretary of State, in accordance with the Mutual Educational and Cultural Exchange Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2451 et seq.), may increase the number of educational and cultural exchange activities involving persons from scientific, medicine, research, and academic sectors by—

(1) establishing new programs under that Act; and

(2) expanding the coverage of existing programs under that Act.

(b) SCIENTIFIC ENVOY.—The Secretary of State shall appoint United States Science Envoys to represent the commitment of the United States to collaborate with other countries to promote the advancement of science and technology throughout the world based on issues of common interest and expertise.

By Mr. CASEY (for himself, Mr. KAUFMAN, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. SANDERS, and Mr. BEGICH):

S. 839. A bill to assist States in making voluntary high quality universal prekindergarten programs available to 3- to 5-year olds for at least 1 year preceding kindergarten; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

Mr. CASEY. Mr. President, I rise today to speak about the well-being of our children, both now, today, and also into the future. That is why today I am reintroducing my bill, Prepare All Kids, along with Senator KAUFMAN of Delaware and Senator WHITEHOUSE of Rhode Island.

I believe—and I know this is a belief shared by many people in our country—every child in America is born with a light inside and it is our responsibility to keep that light burning ever brightly. This bill will help States to provide at least 1 year of voluntary prekindergarten education to children between the ages of 3 and 5. The Prepare All Kids Act will also provide funding for important programs that serve the needs of children from birth to age 3, a most critical time in the development of children.

The research is irrefutable. Investing in children in their earliest years greatly improves their life outcomes, and conservative estimates put the savings to our economy at about $7 for every $1 we invest. So this is about two things: It is certainly about our obligation, our abiding obligation to our children, but it is also about our economy, the obligation to our economy that we have to develop skilled workers to compete in a world economy.

There is no question that for some of the most disadvantaged children there is an achievement gap between them and their more privileged peers that sometimes never closes. One study shows that before entering kindergarten, the average cognitive scores of preschool-age children in the highest socioeconomic group were 60 percent above the average scores of children in the lowest socioeconomic group. I believe investing in children is the right thing to do, and it is the smart thing to do. Sometimes the oldest sayings are the truest because years of scientific research on early childhood programs has proven without a doubt that an ounce of prevention is indeed worth a pound of cure—certainly when it comes to investing in our children.

Earlier this year, I was proud to advocate for investments in our children in this year's recovery bill and prouder still when those investments remained intact with passage. Programs such as Early Head Start, Head Start, and childcare programs are receiving desperately needed increases right now, as working parents all across the country struggle to maintain jobs, keep their homes, and ensure their children are well cared for while they take care of their responsibilities. It is critical that working families can depend upon these investments in the years to come.

The Presidency, the administration of Barack Obama, has an important budget blueprint for further recognizing the wisdom of investing in our children. In addition to the recovery bill investments, the President's Zero to Five initiative highlights the importance of investments during the critical period of time between birth and age 5: investments in early learning, nurse home visitation, and creating neighborhoods in which low-income and disadvantaged children can receive the help and assistance they need to succeed in life.

I want to emphasize very clearly today as it relates to the bigger picture of giving children what they need in the early years, my bill, the Prepare All Kids Act, focuses on prekindergarten, but it also focuses on programs that serve infants and toddlers. It is also about investing in and preparing all kids—not just some but all—who are about to enter kindergarten. It is absolutely imperative that we don't see children in pieces, that we not create silos as we begin to focus on the kinds of investments our children need. We cannot allow that to be ''siloed'' that way, not childcare versus Head Start versus prekindergarten. These programs should not have to compete with one another, and in my bill I make sure they don't.

We also have to remember that investing in children cannot suddenly begin when they are 3 or 4 years old. It must begin from the earliest days of a child's life, literally beginning before they are born. The Obama administration, in outlining its vision of early childhood, shows a wise commitment to streamlining and coordinating a system of early childhood programs and investments. I could not agree more with the need for such streamlining.

We are also fortunate indeed to have Secretary Duncan and, hopefully very soon, the confirmation of Governor Sebelius as Secretary of Health and Human Services—both of whom really get it, as the President said to a joint session in speaking of another part of our priorities in terms of getting it, understanding what we have to do. When it comes to the continuum of early childhood development and education, both of these officials, as well as the President and Vice President and their team, all get this, and they understand it. That is why they have made Zero to Five such a high priority.

Let me turn to an economic summary of the Prepare All Kids Act. First of all, in this bill we assist States in providing at least 1 year of high-quality prekindergarten education to children. Under my bill, prekindergarten programs must adhere to high-quality standards. That includes a research-based curriculum that supports children's cognitive, social, emotional, and

physical development and individual learning styles. Experts tell us that at the preschool stage, social and emotional learning can be as important and perhaps even more important than cognitive learning. That is where early socialization takes place—learning to share, pay attention, work independently, and express feelings. All these are critical to successful childhood development.

Classrooms in our bill will have a maximum of 20 children and children-to-teacher ratios of no more than 10 to 1. Children need individualized and quality attention to thrive, and these requirements provide that. The bill helps States that want to expand pre-K programs to full-day programs as well as extend their programs year round. This supports both children and working parents who need high-quality programs for their children during the workday and in the summer.

Prekindergarten teachers will be required to have a bachelor's degree at the time they are employed, but we give them sufficient time, 6 years, in order to get it. We also allow States to use funds for professional development for teachers. But we want highly qualified and committed teachers in our pre-K programs.

States must create a monitoring plan that will appropriately measure individual program effectiveness. And, one more point: infant and toddler programs will receive a significant portion of the funding—15 percent. These programs typically receive the lowest dollars of all early childhood programs, making it difficult for parents, many of them single moms, to find quality childcare for the youngest of our children.

We have to recognize in this bill and other places as well the critical role of parents in the education of their young children by strongly encouraging parental involvement in programs and assisting families in getting the supportive services they may need.

Children come in families. To truly help children, we have to involve and support their parents. We have to involve the whole family. More important, children cannot succeed without the active involvement of their parents. I believe we have an obligation to our children and to our future workforce.

Compared to children who attend high-quality preschool, those who do not attend such programs are five times more likely to be chronic lawbreakers as adults and more likely to abuse illegal drugs. Children who attend high-quality preschool are more successful in school, more likely to graduate from high school, and thus more likely to become productive adults who contribute to the U.S. economy.

But for anyone who needs additional reasons, decades of research on life outcomes of children who have attended early childhood programs proves the wisdom of this investment. Conservative estimates are that we save $7 for every $1 invested—in crime, welfare, and education costs. Some studies have shown as much as $17 in savings.

We must ensure that the light in every child—really, their potential—burns brightly. It is my deep conviction that as elected public servants we have a sacred responsibility to ensure we invest in our children by providing early learning and development, nutrition and health care—these three: nutrition, health care, and early learning. That is why I am committed to serving the children of this Nation and why I am reintroducing the Prepare All Kids Act.

I look forward to working with President Obama and Democrats and Republicans in the Congress who share these priorities. I look forward to giving our children the good start they deserve, to keep their light shining brightly.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the text of the bill was ordered to be placed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 839

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the ''Prepare All Kids Act of 2009''.

SEC. 2. HIGH QUALITY PREKINDERGARTEN PROGRAMS.

Title I of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6301 et seq.) is amended—

(1) by redesignating part I as part J; and

(2) by inserting after part H the following:

''PART I—HIGH QUALITY PREKINDERGARTEN PROGRAMS

''SEC. 1841. FINDINGS.

''Congress makes the following findings:

''(1) Investments in children and early childhood development education should be a national priority.

''(2) State-funded preschool is the most rapidly expanding segment of the United States educational system, but in many States a lack of stable funding poses an enormous threat to the provision or continuation of high quality preschool.

''(3) Researchers, educators, and economists have long noted an achievement gap for low-income and minority students as compared to their more advantaged peers that is often already evident when children enter school for the first time.

''(4) One study showed that before entering kindergarten, the average cognitive scores of preschool-age children in the highest socioeconomic group are 60 percent above the average scores of children in the lowest socioeconomic group.

''(5) For low-income preschoolers, research shows that high quality early education and development is vital to closing the achievement gap between them and their more advantaged peers.

''(6) Numerous studies have shown that high quality preschool programs—

''(A) improve a number of specific life outcomes for children; and

''(B) are cost effective.

''(7) The provision of high quality prekindergarten is a cost-effective investment for children and for the Nation. Research shows that for every $1 invested in high quality early childhood programs, taxpayers save up to $7 in crime, welfare, remedial and special education, and other costs.

''(8) High quality early education increases academic success for schoolchildren who received that education by—

''(A) improving skills in areas such as following directions and problem solving;

''(B) improving children's performance on standardized tests;

''(C) reducing grade repetition;

''(D) reducing the number of children placed in special education; and

''(E) increasing high school graduation rates.

''(9) High quality early education promotes responsible behavior by teens and adults who received that education by—

''(A) reducing crime, delinquency, and unhealthy behaviors such as smoking and drug use;

''(B) lowering rates of teen pregnancy;

''(C) leading to greater employment and higher wages for adults; and

''(D) contributing to more stable families.

''(10) High quality prekindergarten programs prepare children to—

''(A) succeed in school;

''(B) achieve higher levels of education; and

''(C) become citizens who—

''(i) earn more in adulthood;

''(ii) compete in the global economy; and

''(iii) contribute to our national prosperity.

''SEC. 1842. DEFINITIONS.

''In this part:

''(1) FULL-DAY.—The term 'full-day', used with respect to a program, means a program with a minimum of a 6-hour schedule per day.

''(2) POVERTY LINE.—The term 'poverty line' has the meaning given the term in section 673(2) of the Community Services Block Grant Act (42 U.S.C. 9902(2)) and includes any revision required by that section.

''(3) PREKINDERGARTEN.—The term 'prekindergarten' means a program that—

''(A) serves children who are ages 3 through 5;

''(B) supports children's cognitive, social, emotional, and physical development and approaches to learning; and

''(C) helps prepare children for a successful transition to kindergarten.

''(4) PREKINDERGARTEN TEACHER.—The term 'prekindergarten teacher' means an individual who

''(A) has a bachelor of arts degree with a specialization in early childhood education or early childhood development; or

''(B) during the 6-year period following the first date on which the individual is employed as such a teacher under this part, is working toward that degree.

''(5) QUALIFIED PREKINDERGARTEN PROVIDER.—The term 'qualified prekindergarten provider' includes a provider of a prekindergarten program, a Head Start agency, a provider of a child care program, a school, and a for-profit or nonprofit organization that—

''(A) is in existence on the date of the qualification determination; and

''(B) has met applicable requirements under State or local law that are designed to protect the health and safety of children and that are applicable to child care providers.

''SEC. 1843. PROGRAM AUTHORIZATION.

''(a) PREKINDERGARTEN INCENTIVE FUND.—The Secretary, in collaboration and consultation with the Secretary of Health and Human Services, shall create a Prekindergarten Incentive Fund, to be administered by the Secretary of Education.

''(b) GRANTS.—In administering the Fund, the Secretary shall award grants to eligible States based on a formula established by the Secretary in accordance with subsection (c),

to pay for the Federal share of the cost of awarding subgrants to qualified prekindergarten providers to establish, expand, or enhance voluntary high quality full-day prekindergarten programs.

''(c) MINIMUM ALLOTMENT.—No State shall receive a grant allotment under subsection (b) for a fiscal year that is less than one-half of 1 percent of the total amount made available to carry out this part for such fiscal year.

''SEC. 1844. STATE APPLICATIONS AND REQUIREMENTS.

''(a) DESIGNATED STATE AGENCY.—To be eligible to receive a grant under this part, a State shall designate a State agency to administer the State program of assistance for prekindergarten programs funded through the grant, including receiving and administering funds and monitoring the programs.

''(b) STATE APPLICATION.—In order for a State to be eligible to receive a grant under this part, the designated State agency shall submit an application to the Secretary at such time, in such manner, and containing such information as the Secretary may reasonably require, including—

''(1) an assurance that the State will award subgrants for prekindergarten programs that are sufficient to provide a high quality prekindergarten experience;

''(2) an assurance that not less than 25 percent of the qualified prekindergarten providers receiving such subgrants will be providers of community-based programs;

''(3) a description of the number of children in the State who are eligible for the prekindergarten programs and the needs that will be served through the prekindergarten programs;

''(4) a description of how the State will ensure that the subgrants are awarded to a wide range of types of qualified prekindergarten providers;

''(5) a description of how the designated State agency will collaborate and coordinate activities with the State Advisory Council on Early Childhood Education and Care, State-funded providers of prekindergarten programs, providers of federally funded programs such as Head Start agencies, local educational agencies, and child care providers;

''(6) a description of how the State will ensure, through a monitoring process, that qualified prekindergarten providers receiving the subgrants provide programs that meet the standards of high quality early education, and use funds appropriately;

''(7) a description of how the State will meet the needs of the most disadvantaged students, including families at or below 200 percent of the poverty line;

''(8) a description of how the State will meet the needs of working parents; and

''(9) a description of how the State will assist in providing professional development assistance to prekindergarten teachers and teacher aides.

''(c) FEDERAL SHARE.—The Federal share of the cost described in section 1843(b) shall be 50 percent. The State shall provide the non-Federal share of the cost in cash.

''(d) SUPPLEMENTARY FEDERAL FUNDING.—Funds made available under this part may be used only to supplement and not supplant other Federal, State, local, or private funds that would, in the absence of the funds made available under this part, be made available for early childhood programs.

''(e) MAINTENANCE OF EFFORT.—A State that receives a grant under this part for a fiscal year shall maintain the expenditures of the State for early childhood programs at a level not less than the level of such expenditures of the State for the preceding fiscal year.

''SEC. 1845. STATE SET ASIDES AND EXPENDITURES.

''(a) INFANT AND TODDLER SET ASIDE.—Notwithstanding sections 1842 and 1843, a State shall set aside not less than 15 percent of the funds made available through a grant awarded under this part for the purpose of funding high quality early childhood development programs for children who are ages 0 through 3. Funds made available under this subsection may also be used for professional development for teachers and teacher aides in classrooms for children who are ages 0 through 3.

''(b) EXTENDED DAY AND EXTENDED YEAR SET ASIDE.—Notwithstanding section 1843, a State shall set aside not less than 10 percent of the funds made available through a grant awarded under this part for the purpose of extending the hours of early childhood programs to create extended day and extended year programs.

''(c) ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES.—Not more than 5 percent of the funds made available through such a grant may be used for administrative expenses, including monitoring.

''SEC. 1846. LOCAL APPLICATIONS.

''To be eligible to receive a subgrant under this part, a qualified prekindergarten provider shall submit an application to the designated State agency at such time, in such manner, and containing such information as the agency may reasonably require, including—

''(1) a description of how the qualified prekindergarten provider will meet the diverse needs of children in the community to be served, including children with disabilities, whose native language is not English, or with other special needs, children in the State foster care system, and homeless children;

''(2) a description of how the qualified prekindergarten provider will serve eligible children who are not served through similar services or programs;

''(3) a description of a plan for actively involving parents and families in the prekindergarten program and the success of their children in the program;

''(4) a description of how children in the prekindergarten program, and their parents and families, will receive referrals to, or assistance with, accessing supportive services provided within the community;

''(5) a description of how the qualified prekindergarten provider collaborates with the State Advisory Council on Early Childhood Education and Care and providers of other programs serving children and families, including Head Start agencies, providers of child care programs, and local educational agencies, to meet the needs of children, families, and working families, as appropriate; and

''(6) a description of how the qualified prekindergarten provider will collaborate with local educational agencies to ensure a smooth transition for participating students from the prekindergarten program to kindergarten and early elementary education.

''SEC. 1847. LOCAL PREKINDERGARTEN PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS.

''(a) MANDATORY USES OF FUNDS.—A qualified prekindergarten provider that receives a subgrant under this part shall use funds received through the grant to establish, expand, or enhance prekindergarten programs for children who are ages 3 through 5, including—

''(1) providing a prekindergarten program that supports children's cognitive, social, emotional, and physical development and approaches to learning, and helps prepare children for a successful transition to kindergarten; and

''(2) purchasing educational equipment, including educational materials, necessary to provide a high quality prekindergarten program.

''(b) PERMISSIBLE USE OF FUNDS.—A qualified prekindergarten provider that receives a subgrant under this part may use funds received through the grant to—

''(1) extend part-day prekindergarten programs to full-day prekindergarten programs and year-round programs;

''(2) pay for transporting students to and from a prekindergarten program; and

''(3) provide professional development assistance to prekindergarten teachers and teacher aides.

''(c) PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS.—A qualified prekindergarten provider that receives a subgrant under this part shall carry out a high quality prekindergarten program by—

''(1) maintaining a maximum class size of 20 children, with at least 1 prekindergarten teacher per classroom;

''(2) ensuring that the ratio of children to prekindergarten teachers and teacher aides shall not exceed 10 to 1;

''(3) utilizing a prekindergarten curriculum that is research- and evidence-based, developmentally appropriate, and designed to support children's cognitive, social, emotional, and physical development, and approaches to learning; and

''(4) ensuring that prekindergarten teachers meet the requirements of this part.

''SEC. 1848. REPORTING.

''(a) QUALIFIED PREKINDERGARTEN PROVIDER REPORTS.—Each qualified prekindergarten provider that receives a subgrant from a State under this part shall submit an annual report, to the designated State agency, that reviews the effectiveness of the prekindergarten program provided. Such annual report shall include—

''(1) data specifying the number and ages of enrolled children, and the family income, race, gender, disability, and native language of such children;

''(2) a description of—

''(A) the curriculum used by the program;

''(B) how the curriculum supports children's cognitive, social, emotional, and physical development and approaches to learning; and

''(C) how the curriculum is appropriate for children of the culture, language, and ages of the children served; and

''(3) a statement of all sources of funding received by the program, including Federal, State, local, and private funds.

''(b) STATE REPORTS.—Each State that receives a grant under this part shall submit an annual report to the Secretary detailing the effectiveness of all prekindergarten programs funded under this part in the State.

''(c) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—The Secretary shall submit an annual report to Congress that describes the State programs of assistance for prekindergarten programs funded under this part.

''SEC. 1849. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

''There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this part such sums as may be necessary for fiscal years 2010 through 2014.''.

SEC. 3. CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.

(a) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents in section 1(b) of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 is amended—

(1) by striking the item relating to the part heading for part I of title I and inserting the following:

''PART J—GENERAL PROVISIONS'';

and

(2) by inserting after the items relating to part I of title I and inserting the following:

''PART I—HIGH QUALITY FULL-DAY PREKINDERGARTEN PROGRAMS

''Sec. 1841. Findings.

''Sec. 1842. Definitions.
''Sec. 1843. Program authorization.
''Sec. 1844. State applications and requirements.
''Sec. 1845. State set asides and expenditures.
''Sec. 1846. Local applications.
''Sec. 1847. Local prekindergarten program requirements.
''Sec. 1848. Reporting.
''Sec. 1849. Authorization of appropriations.''.

(b) PROVISIONS.—Sections 1304(c)(2) and 1415(a)(2)(C) of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6394(c)(2), 6435(a)(2)(C)) are amended by striking ''part I'' and inserting ''part J''.

By Mr. KERRY (for himself and Mr. SPECTER):

S. 841. A bill to direct the Secretary of Transportation to study and establish a motor vehicle safety standard that provides for a means of altering blind and other pedestrians of motor vehicle operation; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

Mr. KERRY. Mr. President, today I am introducing the Pedestrian Safety Enhancement Act of 2009 with Senator SPECTER. This bill is designed to ensure that those with limited or no vision are able to identify electric and hybrid vehicles as they travel down the road. I am a strong supporter of increasing the number of electric and hybrid electric vehicles on our roads because they will limit our dependence on foreign oil and help limit pollution. However, the silent operation of hybrid vehicles has created a potentially hazardous situation for some pedestrians with limited or no vision. Too often, vision impaired individuals are unable to hear hybrid cars as they pass by them. This makes it more difficult for them to get around.

While I am thankful that there will be less noise on the street, we should be fair to those among us who use senses other than sight to navigate the streets. The bill directs the Secretary of Transportation to study and establish a motor vehicle safety standard that provides for a means of alerting vision impaired pedestrians of motor vehicle operation. This bill requires that solutions to this problem are studied and the best of these solutions is implemented in a timely manner.

I ask all my colleagues to support this legislation.

By Mr. LAUTENBERG (for himself, Mr. REED, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. KERRY, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. LEVIN, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. CARDIN, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, and Mr. MENENDEZ):

S. 843. A bill to establish background check procedures for gun shows; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

Mr. LAUTENBERG. Mr. President, I rise because yesterday marks 10 years since the shootings at Columbine High School in Littleton, CO, and on this 10th anniversary, we need to speak about the problems with our Nation's gun laws.

Whether it is Columbine, Virginia Tech, Mexican gun trafficking or the recent killings in Pittsburgh, Binghamton, and Oakland we are reminded over and over again that our gun laws are not strong enough, and it is time we said—not another day.

Not another day should we allow the gun show loophole to stand.

Not another day should we allow gun dealers to sell firearms without conducting a background check.

Not another day should we allow terrorists, criminals, gun traffickers and the mentally ill to buy firearms.

It is as easy as ever for criminals to buy guns—easier, in fact, than it is to get a library card.

What happened at Columbine High School 10 years ago was a tragedy none of us can forget.

Two shooters went on a rampage and killed 12 students and 1 teacher.

But here is what a lot of people do not realize: all of the firearms used by the shooters were bought at gun shows.

That means, because of the gun show loophole, they were bought without a background check, and they were bought ''cash and carry,'' no questions asked.

Those 13 people never should have died because those teenagers never should have had those guns.

Just think: the young woman who bought the guns for the shooters said she wouldn't have done it had a background check been required.

In 1999, I introduced legislation to close the gun show loophole and keep guns from falling into the wrong hands.

In the aftermath of Columbine, the Senate passed my legislation, with Vice President Al Gore casting the tie-breaking vote.

It was a great victory, but it was short lived. The gun lobby stripped my legislation in conference.

Ten years later, this gap in our law still remains.

We were reminded of that last Thursday when we marked the second anniversary of the Virginia Tech shootings.

In that tragedy, a mentally deranged man killed 32 students and faculty in the worst mass shooting in American history.

The Virginia Tech shooter was able to obtain his guns from licensed gun dealers because the records of his mental illness were not in the background check database as they were supposed to be. But if a background check stopped him from buying his guns from a gun dealer, he could have walked to a gun show and purchased the guns with no background check.

Yesterday we marked the 14th anniversary of the Oklahoma City Bombing—the Nation's worst domestic terrorist attack.

The men responsible for that despicable act frequently bought and sold firearms at gun shows.

Gun trafficking to Mexico is another reminder of the dangers of the gun show loophole.

We know that as many as 30 percent of the firearms traveling across our border into Mexico originate from gun shows.

We have an opportunity to save lives—and that is why I am reintroducing legislation today to close the gun show loophole once and for all.

Closing the gun show loophole will not adversely affect licensed gun sellers and it will not place a burden on law-abiding gun owners.

It simply ends a dangerous, unnecessary exemption so that the Brady Law is applied equally.

But that difference—the difference between buying a gun with a background check and not—is everything.

It is the difference between saving lives and putting more at risk, between keeping guns out of the wrong hands and letting terrorists and others have easy access to guns, and the difference between upholding the rule of law or allowing loopholes to undermine it.

Specifically, my legislation would take several steps to make gun show transactions safer for all Americans: gun shows are defined to include any event at which 50 or more firearms are offered or exhibited for sale. This definition includes not only those events where firearms are the main commodity sold, but also other events where a significant number of guns are sold, such as flea markets or swap meets.

Gun show promoters would be required to register with the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms, ATF, maintain a list of vendors at all gun shows, and ensure that all vendors acknowledge receipt of information about their legal obligations.

The bill requires that all firearms sales at gun shows go through a Federal Firearms Licensee, FFL. If a nonlicensed person is selling a weapon, they would use an FFL at the gun show to complete the transaction. The FFL would be responsible for conducting a Brady check on the purchaser and maintaining records of the transaction.

FFLs would be required to submit information including the manufacturer/importer, model, and serial number of firearms transferred at gun shows to the ATF's National Tracing Center, NTC. However, no personal information about either the seller or the purchaser would be given to the ATF. Instead, as under current law, FFLs would maintain this information in their files. The NTC would request this personal information from an FFL only in the event that a firearm subsequently becomes the subject of a law enforcement trace request.

I am proud to be joined in introducing this legislation by Senators REED, WHITEHOUSE, SCHUMER, KERRY, KENNEDY, DURBIN, LEVIN, CARDIN, GILLIBRAND, FEINSTEIN, and MENENDEZ.

Ten years ago we lost 12 students and a teacher to gun violence in Littleton, CO.

One of the best ways to honor those we lost and those who have suffered is

to make sure a tragedy like Columbine never happens again.

We owe that—and nothing less—to the young people who died 10 years ago and the young people who count on us today.

By Mr. DURBIN (for himself, Mr. BENNETT, Mr. KERRY, Mr. CASEY, Ms. SNOWE, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. BINGAMAN, Mr. FEINGOLD, Mr. ENZI, and Mr. PRYOR):

S. 846. A bill to award a congressional gold medal to Dr. Muhammad Yunus, in recognition of his contributions to the fight against global poverty; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the text of the bill was ordered to be placed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 846

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. FINDINGS.

The Congress finds that—

(1) Dr. Muhammad Yunus is recognized in the United States and throughout the world as a leading figure in the fight against poverty and the effort to promote economic and social change;

(2) Muhammad Yunus is the recognized developer of the concept of microcredit, and Grameen Bank, which he founded, has created a model of lending that has been emulated across the globe;

(3) Muhammad Yunus launched this global movement to create economic and social development from below, beginning in 1976, with a loan of $27 from his own pocket to 42 crafts persons in a small village in Bangladesh;

(4) Muhammad Yunus has demonstrated the life-changing potential of extending very small loans (at competitive interest rates) to the very poor and the economic feasibility of microcredit and other microfinance and microenterprise practices and services;

(5) Dr. Yunus's work has had a particularly strong impact on improving the economic prospects of women, and on their families, as over 95 percent of microcredit borrowers are women;

(6) Dr. Yunus has pioneered a movement with the potential to assist a significant number of the more than 1,400,000,000 people, mostly women and children, who live on less than $1.25 a day, and the 2,600,000,000 people who live on less than $2 a day, and which has already reached 155,000,000, by one estimate;

(7) there are now an estimated 24,000,000 microenterprises in the United States accounting for approximately 18 percent of private (nonfarm) employment and 87 percent of all business in the United States, and the Small Business Administration has made over $318,000,000 in microloans to entrepreneurs since 1992;

(8) Dr. Yunus, along with the Grameen Bank, was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 2006 for his efforts to promote economic and social opportunity and out of recognition that lasting peace cannot be achieved unless large population groups find the means, such as microcredit, to break out of poverty; and

(9) the microcredit ideas developed and put into practice by Muhammad Yunus, along with other bold initiatives, can make a historical breakthrough in the fight against poverty.

SEC. 2. CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL.

(a) PRESENTATION AUTHORIZED.—The Speaker of the House of Representatives and the President pro tempore of the Senate shall make appropriate arrangements for the presentation, on behalf of the Congress, of a gold medal of appropriate design to Dr. Muhammad Yunus, in recognition of his many enduring contributions to the fight against global poverty.

(b) DESIGN AND STRIKING.—For purposes of the presentation referred to in subsection (a), the Secretary of the Treasury (hereafter in this Act referred to as the ''Secretary'') shall strike a gold medal with suitable emblems, devices, and inscriptions, to be determined by the Secretary.

SEC. 3. DUPLICATE MEDALS.

The Secretary may strike and sell duplicates in bronze of the gold medal struck pursuant to section 2, under such regulations as the Secretary may prescribe, at a price sufficient to cover the cost thereof, including labor, materials, dies, use of machinery, and overhead expenses, and the cost of the gold medal.

SEC. 4. STATUS OF MEDALS.

(a) NATIONAL MEDALS.—The medals struck pursuant to this Act are national medals for purposes of chapter 51 of title 31, United States Code.

(b) NUMISMATIC ITEMS.—For purposes of sections 5134 and 5136 of title 31, United States Code, all medals struck under this Act shall be considered to be numismatic items.

SEC. 5. AUTHORITY TO USE FUND AMOUNTS; PROCEEDS OF SALE.

(a) AUTHORITY TO USE FUND AMOUNTS.—There are authorized to be charged against the United States Mint Public Enterprise Fund, such amounts as may be necessary to pay for the costs of the medals struck pursuant to this Act.

(b) PROCEEDS OF SALE.—Amounts received from the sale of duplicate bronze medals authorized under section 3 shall be deposited into the United States Mint Public Enterprise Fund.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 106—CELEBRATING THE OUTSTANDING ATHLETIC ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF FINDLAY MEN'S BASKETBALL TEAM FOR WINNING THE NATIONAL COLLEGIATE ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION DIVISION II CHAMPIONSHIP

Mr. BROWN (for himself, and Mr. VOINOVICH) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 106

Whereas on March 28, 2009, the University of Findlay men's basketball team, known as the Oilers, won the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) Division II Championship, marking the first time in the history of the university that the basketball program achieved this mark;

Whereas the Oilers' undefeated record marks the first time a NCAA Division II basketball program has recorded 36 wins and 0 losses;

Whereas in winning the Division II National Championship, the Oilers have cemented their role as a symbol of pride for the past and present members of the University of Findlay community;

Whereas the Oilers have finished with a winning record for the past 24 seasons;

Whereas the University of Findlay athletic program strives to improve the academic quality of the university by fostering pride, unity, and academic scholarship to help its members contribute to their community in a significant manner;

Whereas each person, coach, and contributor to the team remained committed to ensuring the Oilers achieved this historic accomplishment; and

Whereas all supporters of the University of Findlay are to be praised for their dedication to, and pride in, the university's basketball program: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) congratulates the University of Findlay men's basketball team for achieving their first ever Division II National Championship; and

(2) recognizes the University of Findlay athletic program for its accomplishments in both sports and academics.

SENATE RESOLUTION 107—COMMENDING THE UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT HUSKIES FOR THEIR HISTORIC WIN IN THE 2009 NATIONAL COLLEGIATE ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION DIVISION I WOMEN'S BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT

Mr. DODD (for himself and Mr. LIEBERMAN) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 107

Whereas on April 7, 2009, the University of Connecticut Huskies defeated the University of Louisville Cardinals 76 to 54 in the final game of the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) Division I Women's Basketball Tournament in St. Louis, Missouri;

Whereas the Huskies were undefeated in the 2009 season, with a record of 39–0, and bested each opposing team by at least double digits;

Whereas the Huskies have won 6 national titles, the second most in the history of NCAA Division I women's basketball;

Whereas sophomore forward Maya Moore was chosen as the Naismith Award winner, the Wooden Award winner, the State Farm Wade Trophy winner, the United States Basketball Writers Association player of the year, and the Associated Press player of the year;

Whereas senior point guard Renee Montgomery was chosen as the winner of the Nancy Lieberman award, which is given to the top point guard in the Nation;

Whereas junior center Tina Charles was chosen as the Women's Final Four Most Valuable Player;

Whereas sophomore forward Maya Moore, senior point guard Renee Montgomery, and junior center Tina Charles were chosen as State Farm First Team All-Americans;

Whereas sophomore forward Maya Moore, senior point guard Renee Montgomery, and junior center Tina Charles were chosen as members of the Final Four First All Tournament Team;

Whereas Head Coach Geno Auriemma was chosen as the Associated Press Coach of the Year;

Whereas the University of Connecticut women's basketball program has a 100 percent graduation rate among 4-year players, exemplifying the commitment of the team to achievement in the classroom as well as on the court;

Whereas each player, coach, athletic trainer, and staff member of the University of

Connecticut Huskies dedicated their time and tireless efforts to the perfect record of the team and the NCAA women's basketball championship title; and

Whereas the residents of Connecticut and Huskies fans worldwide are to be commended for their longstanding support, perseverance, and pride in the University of Connecticut Huskies: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) commends the University of Connecticut Huskies for their historic win in the 2009 National Collegiate Athletic Association Division I Women's Basketball Tournament;

(2) recognizes the achievements of the players, coaches, students, and support staff who were instrumental in the Huskies' victory; and

(3) respectfully requests the Secretary of the Senate to transmit a copy of this resolution for appropriate display to the President of the University of Connecticut, Michael Hogan, and the head coach of the University of Connecticut Huskies, Geno Auriemma.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 981. Mr. THUNE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 371, to amend chapter 44 of title 18, United States Code, to allow citizens who have concealed carry permits from the State in which they reside to carry concealed firearms in another State that grants concealed carry permits, if the individual complies with the laws of the State; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 981. Mr. THUNE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 371, to amend chapter 44 of title 18, United States Code, to allow citizens who have concealed carry permits from the State in which they reside to carry concealed firearms in another State that grants concealed carry permits, if the individual complies with the laws of the State; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary, as follows:

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the ''Respecting States Rights and Concealed Carry Reciprocity Act of 2009''.

SEC. 2. RECIPROCITY FOR THE CARRYING OF CERTAIN CONCEALED FIREARMS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 44 of title 18, United States Code, is amended by inserting after section 926C the following:

''§ 926D. Reciprocity for the carrying of certain concealed firearms

''Notwithstanding any provision of the law of any State or political subdivision thereof:

''(1) A person who is not prohibited by Federal law from possessing, transporting, shipping, or receiving a firearm, and is carrying a valid license or permit which is issued pursuant to the law of any State and which permits the person to carry a concealed firearm, may carry a concealed firearm in accordance with the terms of the license or permit in any State that allows its residents to carry concealed firearms, subject to the laws of the State in which the firearm is carried concerning specific types of locations in which firearms may not be carried.

''(2) A person who is not prohibited by Federal law from possessing, transporting, shipping, or receiving a firearm, and is otherwise than as described in paragraph (1) entitled to carry a concealed firearm in and pursuant to the law of the State in which the person resides, may carry a concealed firearm in accordance with the laws of the State in which the person resides in any State that allows its residents to carry concealed firearms, subject to the laws of the State in which the firearm is carried concerning specific types of locations in which firearms may not be carried.''.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections for chapter 44 of title 18 is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 926C the following:

''926D. Reciprocity for the carrying of certain concealed firearms.''.

SEC. 3. EFFECTIVE DATE.

The amendments made by this Act shall take effect 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act.

NOTICE OF HEARING

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Mr. BINGAMAN. Mr. President, I would like to announce for the information of the Senate and the public that a legislative hearing has been scheduled before the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources. The hearing will be held on Tuesday, April 28th, at 10 a.m., in room SD–366 of the Dirksen Senate office building.

The purpose of the hearing is to receive testimony regarding legislation to improve the availability of financing for deployment of clean energy and energy efficiency technologies and to enhance United States' competitiveness in this market through the creation of a Clean Energy Deployment Administration within the Department of Energy. A joint discussion draft of the bill is posted on the Committee's website.

Because of the limited time available for the hearing, witnesses may testify by invitation only. However, those wishing to submit written testimony for the hearing record should send it to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, U.S. Senate, Washington, DC 20510–6150, or by e-mail to rachel_pasternack@energy.senate.gov.

For further information, please contact Rachel Pasternack at (202) 224–0883 or Michael Carr at (202) 224–8164.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

AD HOC SUBCOMMITTEE ON CONTRACTING OVERSIGHT

Mr. DODD. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Ad Hoc Subcommittee on Contracting Oversight of the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, April 21, 2009, at 2:30 p.m. to conduct a hearing entitled, ''Improving the Ability of Inspectors General to Detect, Prevent, and Prosecute Contracting Fraud.''

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

AD HOC SUBCOMMITTEE ON STATE, LOCAL, AND PRIVATE SECTOR PREPAREDNESS

Mr. DODD. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Ad Hoc Subcommittee on State, Local, and Private Sector Preparedness and Integration of the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, April 21, 2009, at 10:30 a.m. to conduct a hearing entitled, ''Counternarcotics Enforcement: Coordination at the Federal, State, and Local Level.''

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION

Mr. DODD. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, April 21, 2009, at 2:30 p.m., in room 253 of the Russell Senate office building.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Mr. DODD. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Finance be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on April 21, 2009, at 10 a.m. in room 216 of the Hart Senate office building.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

Mr. DODD. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Foreign Relations be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, April 21, 2009, at 2:30 p.m.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR AND PENSIONS

Mr. DODD. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate, to conduct a hearing entitled ''Empowering Workers to Rebuild America's Economy and Longer-Term Competitiveness: Green Skills Training for Workers'' on Tuesday, April 21, 2009. The hearing will commence at 10:30 a.m. in room 430 of the Dirksen Senate office building.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

Mr. DODD. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Select Committee on Intelligence be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on April 21, 2009 at 2:30 p.m.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON TERRORISM AND HOMELAND SECURITY

Mr. DODD. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate Committee on the Judiciary, Subcommittee on Terrorism and Homeland Security, be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate, to conduct a hearing entitled ''Protecting National Security and Civil Liberties: Strategies for Terrorism Information Sharing'' on Tuesday, April 21, 2009, at 2:30 p.m., in room SD–226 of the Dirksen Senate office building.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

PRIVILEGES OF THE FLOOR

Mr. KERRY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that Andrew Keller, who is detailed to the Foreign Relations Committee from the State Department, be granted privileges of the floor for the duration of the debate on the Christopher Hill nomination.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that Craig Bryant, a fellow in my office, be granted the privilege of the floor for the remainder of the day.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

PUBLIC SERVICE RECOGNITION WEEK

Ms. KLOBUCHAR. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 48, S. Res. 87.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 87) expressing the sense of the Senate that public servants should be commended for their dedication and continued service to the Nation during Public Service Recognition Week, May 4 through 10, 2009.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Ms. KLOBUCHAR. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table, with no intervening action or debate, and that any statements related thereto be printed in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 87) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 87

Whereas Public Service Recognition Week provides an opportunity to recognize and promote the important contributions of public servants and honor the diverse men and women who meet the needs of the Nation through work at all levels of government;

Whereas millions of individuals work in government service in every city, county, and State across America and in hundreds of cities abroad;

Whereas public service is a noble calling involving a variety of challenging and rewarding professions;

Whereas Federal, State, and local governments are responsive, innovative, and effective because of the outstanding work of public servants;

Whereas the United States of America is a great and prosperous Nation, and public service employees contribute significantly to that greatness and prosperity;

Whereas the Nation benefits daily from the knowledge and skills of these highly trained individuals;

Whereas public servants—

(1) defend our freedom and advance United States interests around the world;

(2) provide vital strategic support functions to our military and serve in the National Guard and Reserves;

(3) fight crime and fires;

(4) ensure equal access to secure, efficient, and affordable mail service;

(5) deliver Social Security and Medicare benefits;

(6) fight disease and promote better health;

(7) protect the environment and the Nation's parks;

(8) enforce laws guaranteeing equal employment opportunity and healthy working conditions;

(9) defend and secure critical infrastructure;

(10) help the Nation recover from natural disasters and terrorist attacks;

(11) teach and work in our schools and libraries;

(12) develop new technologies and explore the earth, moon, and space to help improve our understanding of how our world changes;

(13) improve and secure our transportation systems;

(14) promote economic growth; and

(15) assist active duty service members and veterans;

Whereas members of the uniformed services and civilian employees at all levels of government make significant contributions to the general welfare of the United States, and are on the front lines in the fight against terrorism and in maintaining homeland security;

Whereas public servants work in a professional manner to build relationships with other countries and cultures in order to better represent America's interests and promote American ideals;

Whereas public servants alert Congress and the public to government waste, fraud, abuse, and dangers to public health;

Whereas the men and women serving in the Armed Forces of the United States, as well as those skilled trade and craft Federal employees who provide support to their efforts, are committed to doing their jobs regardless of the circumstances, and contribute greatly to the security of the Nation and the world;

Whereas public servants have bravely fought in armed conflict in defense of this Nation and its ideals and deserve the care and benefits they have earned through their honorable service;

Whereas government workers have much to offer, as demonstrated by their expertise and innovative ideas, and serve as examples by passing on institutional knowledge to train the next generation of public servants;

Whereas May 4 through 10, 2009, has been designated Public Service Recognition Week to honor America's Federal, State, and local government employees; and

Whereas Public Service Recognition Week is celebrating its 25th anniversary through job fairs, student activities, and agency exhibits: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) commends public servants for their outstanding contributions to this great Nation during Public Service Recognition Week and throughout the year;

(2) salutes government employees for their unyielding dedication and spirit for public service;

(3) honors those government employees who have given their lives in service to their country;

(4) calls upon all generations to consider a career in public service; and

(5) encourages efforts to promote public service careers at all levels of government.

CELEBRATING ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF FINDLAY MEN'S BASKETBALL TEAM

Ms. KLOBUCHAR. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of

S. Res. 106 submitted earlier today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 106) celebrating the outstanding athletic accomplishments of the University of Findlay men's basketball team for winning the National Collegiate Athletic Association Division II Championship.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Ms. KLOBUCHAR. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table, with no intervening action or debate, and any statements related to the resolution be printed in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 106) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, is as follows:

S. RES. 106

Whereas on March 28, 2009, the University of Findlay men's basketball team, known as the Oilers, won the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) Division II Championship, marking the first time in the history of the university that the basketball program achieved this mark;

Whereas the Oilers' undefeated record marks the first time a NCAA Division II basketball program has recorded 36 wins and 0 losses;

Whereas in winning the Division II National Championship, the Oilers have cemented their role as a symbol of pride for the past and present members of the University of Findlay community;

Whereas the Oilers have finished with a winning record for the past 24 seasons;

Whereas the University of Findlay athletic program strives to improve the academic quality of the university by fostering pride, unity, and academic scholarship to help its members contribute to their community in a significant manner;

Whereas each person, coach, and contributor to the team remained committed to ensuring the Oilers achieved this historic accomplishment; and

Whereas all supporters of the University of Findlay are to be praised for their dedication to, and pride in, the university's basketball program: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) congratulates the University of Findlay men's basketball team for achieving their first ever Division II National Championship; and

(2) recognizes the University of Findlay athletic program for its accomplishments in both sports and academics.

COMMENDING THE UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT HUSKIES

Ms. KLOBUCHAR. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. Res. 107 submitted earlier today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 107) commending the University of Connecticut Huskies for their historic win in the 2009 National Collegiate Athletic Association Division I Women's Basketball Tournament.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. DODD. Madam President, I rise today with my colleague and friend, Senator LIEBERMAN, to congratulate the University of Connecticut Women's Basketball team for winning the 2009 NCAA Division I Women's Basketball Tournament. I know that I speak for the entire Connecticut Congressional Delegation when I say how proud I am to be able to stand here and acknowledge the accomplishments of this magnificent group of young women.

I have had the privilege of coming to the floor on numerous other occasions to applaud the Huskies for winning the NCAA Division I Tournament. In fact, this is the sixth time that the University of Connecticut Women's Basketball team has won this championship, the second highest number of wins in all of women's Division I history.

As they did in 1995 and 2002, the Huskies went the entire 2009 season undefeated. In addition to this incredible achievement, this year's team added another accomplishment that is truly unique in the history of the NCAA, as it has never before been achieved by any NCAA basketball team—they bested each and every one of their challengers by double digits. This tremendous accomplishment undoubtedly means that this year's team is not only among the best to play at UCONN, but one of the best college teams ever.

Numerous factors contributed to the Huskies' historic win, not the least of which is the steadfast dedication and well-honed skills of the individual players. Every player deserves special recognition for her work, and I would like to take a moment to specifically point out the achievements of the impressive trio of stars that led this year's team. Sophomore Maya Moore, senior point guard Renee Montgomery, and junior center Tina Charles all played critical roles in UCONN's victory. In recognition of their efforts, all three women have won numerous awards. Maya Moore was chosen as the Naismith Award winner, the Wooden Award winner, the State Farm Wade Trophy winner, the United States Basketball Writers Association player of the year, and the Associated Press player of the year. For her part, Renee Montgomery was chosen as the winner of the Nancy Lieberman award, an honor that is reserved for the top point guard in the Nation. And Tina Charles, who had a staggering 25 points and 19 rebounds in the championship game, was honored as the Women's Final Four Most Valuable Player.

All three players were named State Farm First Team All-Americans and members of the Final Four First All Tournament Team. These are impressive awards and acknowledgments, but none of this could have been done without the other members of the team. These women, all of whom could be starters or stars at other programs, helped to deliver this year's national championship to UCONN. They are without question an impressive squad who have left an indelible mark upon the history of the Huskies basketball program. I would be remiss if I didn't take a moment to acknowledge the great play and important role that these women played. They are: Heather Buck; Lorin Dixon; Caroline Doty; Jacquie Fernandes; Meghan Gardler; Kalana Greene; Tiffany Hayes; Cassie Kerns; Jessica McCormack; Kaili McLaren; and Tahirah Williams.

In addition to the impressive talents of the young women who make up the team, one must not forget Geno Auriemma, who has led the Huskies to six national championships and three undefeated seasons during his tenure as head coach. For his efforts, Coach Auriemma has once again been picked as the Associated Press Coach of the Year, a well-deserved honor for such an accomplished and hard-working coach. And to add another honor to his impressive resume, Coach Auriemma was just named head coach of the U.S. Women's Olympic Team. I am sure he will bring the same dedication and skill to bringing us another gold medal as he has to UCONN. Also, Chris Dailey, associate head coach; Jamelle Elliott, assistant coach; and Shea Ralph, assistant coach, contributed immensely to the success of the team.

However, I firmly believe that the most important factor that led the UCONN women to victory this year is the character of each of the team's players. Make no mistake about it, these young women are very dedicated, and have worked extremely hard to get to where they are now. However, their tireless dedication and perseverance extend well beyond the basketball court. You may be interested to know that the UCONN women's basketball program has a 100-percent graduation rate among 4-year players. This statistic is truly astounding given the amount of time each of these women must spend meticulously perfecting her skills on the court. Clearly, each of these women possesses an unquenchable desire to succeed in everything she attempts, a characteristic that makes the team's triumph all the sweeter.

Madam President, thank you for the opportunity to speak about the accomplishments of the Huskies, a committed group of young women, whom, it is safe to say, are the pride of the State of Connecticut. Nothing demonstrates this better than the parade that was held in Hartford recently to honor the Huskies on their victory. A staggering 25,000 people came out to thank the coaches and team for their season. In Connecticut, the Huskies are as beloved, if not more so, than any other sports team. We are so proud of their victory and all these impressive young women have accomplished both on and off the court. So from all the fans of the UCONN Huskies in Connecticut and throughout the country and indeed the world, I say congratulations on a tremendous season and a wonderful accomplishment.

Ms. KLOBUCHAR. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table, with no intervening action or debate, and any statements related to the resolution be printed in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 107) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, is as follows:

S. RES. 107

Whereas on April 7, 2009, the University of Connecticut Huskies defeated the University of Louisville Cardinals 76 to 54 in the final game of the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) Division I Women's Basketball Tournament in St. Louis, Missouri;

Whereas the Huskies were undefeated in the 2009 season, with a record of 39-0, and bested each opposing team by at least double digits;

Whereas the Huskies have won 6 national titles, the second most in the history of NCAA Division I women's basketball;

Whereas sophomore forward Maya Moore was chosen as the Naismith Award winner, the Wooden Award winner, the State Farm Wade Trophy winner, the United States Basketball Writers Association player of the year, and the Associated Press player of the year;

Whereas senior point guard Renee Montgomery was chosen as the winner of the Nancy Lieberman award, which is given to the top point guard in the Nation;

Whereas junior center Tina Charles was chosen as the Women's Final Four Most Valuable Player;

Whereas sophomore forward Maya Moore, senior point guard Renee Montgomery, and junior center Tina Charles were chosen as State Farm First Team All-Americans;

Whereas sophomore forward Maya Moore, senior point guard Renee Montgomery, and junior center Tina Charles were chosen as members of the Final Four First All Tournament Team;

Whereas Head Coach Geno Auriemma was chosen as the Associated Press Coach of the Year;

Whereas the University of Connecticut women's basketball program has a 100 percent graduation rate among 4-year players, exemplifying the commitment of the team to achievement in the classroom as well as on the court;

Whereas each player, coach, athletic trainer, and staff member of the University of Connecticut Huskies dedicated their time

and tireless efforts to the perfect record of the team and the NCAA women's basketball championship title; and

Whereas the residents of Connecticut and Huskies fans worldwide are to be commended for their longstanding support, perseverance, and pride in the University of Connecticut Huskies: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) commends the University of Connecticut Huskies for their historic win in the 2009 National Collegiate Athletic Association Division I Women's Basketball Tournament;

(2) recognizes the achievements of the players, coaches, students, and support staff who were instrumental in the Huskies' victory; and

(3) respectfully requests the Secretary of the Senate to transmit a copy of this resolution for appropriate display to the President of the University of Connecticut, Michael Hogan, and the head coach of the University of Connecticut Huskies, Geno Auriemma.

APPOINTMENTS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair, on behalf of the President pro tempore, pursuant to Public Law 106–398, as amended by Public Law 108–7, in accordance with the qualifications specified under section 1238(b)(3)(E) of Public Law 106–398, and upon the recommendation of the Republican leader, in consultation with the ranking members of the Senate Committee on Armed Services and the Senate Committee on Finance, appoints the following individuals to the United States-China Economic Security Review Commission: Dennis Shea, of Virginia, for a term expiring December 31, 2010, and Robin Cleveland, of Virginia, for a term expiring December 31, 2010, vice Mark Esper of Virginia.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENT—JOINT REFERRAL OF NOMINATION

Ms. KLOBUCHAR. Madam President, as if in executive session, I ask unanimous consent that the nomination of Francisco J. Sanchez, to be Under Secretary of Commerce for International Trade, received in the Senate on April 20, be jointly referred to the Committees on Finance and Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ORDERS FOR WEDNESDAY, APRIL 22, 2009

Ms. KLOBUCHAR. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until 10 a.m. tomorrow, Wednesday, April 22; that following the prayer and the pledge, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the morning hour be deemed to have expired, the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day, and there be a period of morning business for up to 30 minutes, with the time equally divided and controlled between the two leaders or their designees, with the Republicans controlling the first half and the majority controlling the final half; further, I ask that following morning business, the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. 386, the Fraud Enforcement and Recovery Act of 2009, as previously ordered.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 10 A.M. TOMORROW

Ms. KLOBUCHAR. Madam President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that it adjourn under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 6:06 p.m., adjourned until Wednesday, April 22, 2009, at 10 a.m.

NOMINATIONS

Executive nominations received by the Senate:

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

JONATHAN STEVEN ADELSTEIN, OF SOUTH DAKOTA, TO BE ADMINISTRATOR, RURAL UTILITIES SERVICE, DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, VICE JAMES M. ANDREW, RESIGNED.

OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH REVIEW COMMISSION

THOMASINA ROGERS, OF MARYLAND, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH REVIEW COMMISSION FOR A TERM EXPIRING APRIL 27, 2015. (REAPPOINTMENT)

IN THE AIR FORCE

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be colonel

GEORGE E. LOUGHRAN

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be lieutenant colonel

RAYMOND B. ABARCA

THE FOLLOWING NAMED INDIVIDUAL FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE REGULAR AIR FORCE UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 531(A):

To be major

IAN C. B. DIAZ

THE FOLLOWING NAMED INDIVIDUALS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE REGULAR AIR FORCE UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 531(A):

To be major

WILLIAM T. HOUSTON
BETTY TASIE
DAVID L. WELLS II

IN THE ARMY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be major

ELIZABETH M. SHERR

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be major

ERIN T. DOYLE

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY MEDICAL CORPS UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 624 AND 3064:

To be major

SCOTT A. BIER

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be colonel

ROBERT G. YOUNG

THE FOLLOWING NAMED ARMY NATIONAL GUARD OF THE UNITED STATES OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 12203 AND 12211:

To be colonel

GEORGE R. BERRY
KIM D. JACKSON
PERRY W. SARVER, JR.

THE FOLLOWING NAMED ARMY NATIONAL GUARD OF THE UNITED STATES OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 12203 AND 12211:

To be colonel

MICHAEL G. AMUNDSON
MICHAEL L. DEGER
STEVE D. ELLIOTT
DAVID M. FARLEY
TROY J. MOORE
ROBERT S. PARHAM
AUBREY L. RUAN, JR.
LARRY E. SPRUILL
PAUL C. THORN

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY AS CHAPLAINS UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 624 AND 3064:

To be major

BUSTER D. AKERS, JR.
ALWYNMICHAEL S. ALBANO
THOMAS E. ALLEN
GEOFFREY N. BAILEY
DOUGLAS H. BALL II
MICHAEL W. BAUMANN
PAUL T. BERGHAUS
WILLIAM C. BLACK
THOMAS D. BRUCE
RICKEY W. BRUNSON
STACY K. BUFFINGTON
HARRY E. BYRD, JR.
JOHN C. CAREY
DAVID H. CERUTTI
DARREN J. CHESTER
EDWARD I. CHOI
RALPH O. CLARK
JAMES E. COMBS
DAVID R. CROMEENES
ROBERT J. CROWLEY
DAVID P. CURLIN
BRIAN D. CURRY
CHRISTOPHER E. DICKEY
THOMAS J. FAICHNEY
CHRISTOPHER D. FLORO
RAYMOND E. FOLSOM
EDWARD H. FRANKLIN
DOUGLAS D. GIBSON
KENNETH M. GODWIN, JR.
THOMAS M. GORRELL
JOHN M. GRAUER
ALFRED C. GRONDSKI, JR.
DARRICK M. GUTTING
MATTHEW A. HALL
STEPHEN M. HOMMEL
JOHN F. JENSEN
SOON C. JUNG
MICHAEL KEIFMAN
MICHAEL A. KELLY
JOSEPH M. KILONZO
SUK KIM
MATTHEW S. KREIDER
ANDREW F. LAWRENCE
EUGENE K. MACK
JOHN P. MANUEL
JAMES R. MCCAY, JR.
MICHAEL F. MCDONALD
DEREK W. MURRAY
MASAKI NAKAZONO
KEVIN J. NIEHOFF
KENNETH W. NIELSON
KYEREMEH S. OBENG
CHRISTOPHER E. OFFEN
GLENN A. PALMER
SE W. PARK
TOMMIE L. PICKENS
CHARLES J. POPOV
BRIAN D. REED
TIMOTHY R. REYNOLDS
CHRISTOPHER D. RICE
ROGER B. RODRIQUEZ
ANDREW ROPP
DAMON D. SAXTON
DAVID R. SCHLICHTER
CHARLES N. SEARL IV
KEVIN S. SEARS
VERNON L. SHACKELFORD
GEORGE W. SHAFFER
KENNETH C. SHARPE
STEVE SHIN
STANLEY V. SMITH
MATTHEW T. STUART
ROGER A. TAYLOR
KELVIN A. TODD
KYLE L. WELCH
CLINTON A. WHITE
MICHAEL T. WILLIAMS
JON C. WILSON
MICHAEL T. ZELL

IN THE MARINE CORPS

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR REGULAR APPOINTMENT IN THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C. SECTION 531:

To be major

JOHN W. HAHN IV

STEPHANIE L. MALMANGER

IN THE NAVY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be commander

MICHAEL T. ECHOLS

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be lieutenant commander

GREGORY J. HAZLETT

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be lieutenant commander

BRIAN J. ELLIS, JR.

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be lieutenant commander

JESUS S. MORENO

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

to be lieutenant commander

COLLEEN L. JACKSON

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be lieutenant commander

GREGORY P. MITCHELL

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR TEMPORARY APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 5721:

To be lieutenant commander

JONATHAN V. AHLSTROM
TY D. BATHURST
SARA C. BERNARD
JOSEPH C. BROWN III
RICKY G. BURNETT
CHRISTOPHER J. CARTER
STEVEN A. DAWLEY
JASON W. DEBLOCK
WILLARD E. DUFF III
WILLIAM M. DULL
DAVID K. DUWEL
RAFAEL E. DUYOS
JOSEPH E. FALS
ANDREW K. FORTMANN
RAY A. GLENN
BRIAN K. HAMEL
ERIC D. HICKS
SHAWN W. IRISH
GARY M. JOY
RYAN R. KENDALL
ERIC M. KIRLIN
JOHN J. KITT
ROBERT M. LAIRD, JR.
RICHARD T. LESIW
SEAN P. LEWIS
STEVEN L. LIBERTY
ARRON M. MCGRATH
ALEJANDRO R. NELSON
JONATHAN P. NELSON
CHARLES W. PHILLIPS
ETHAN M. RULE
JARED SEVERSON
ROGER R. SOMERO, JR.
NATHAN L. SPURGEON
JOSHUA C. STEWART
ADAM J. THOMAS
ROBERT WEBSTER
DAVID W. WHITSITT
THOMPSON XIAO
JOEL E. YODER

CONFIRMATION

Executive nomination confirmed by the Senate, Tuesday, April 21, 2009:

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

CHRISTOPHER R. HILL, OF RHODE ISLAND, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF CAREER MINISTER, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE REPUBLIC OF IRAQ.

THE ABOVE NOMINATION WAS APPROVED SUBJECT TO THE NOMINEE'S COMMITMENT TO RESPOND TO REQUESTS TO APPEAR AND TESTIFY BEFORE ANY DULY CONSTITUTED COMMITTEE OF THE SENATE.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

CONGRATULATING MS. ALICIA FOX

HON. JIM GERLACH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 21, 2009

Mr. GERLACH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Chester County resident Alicia Fox on her installation as Governor of the Northeast Potomac District of Pilot International.

Alicia has earned the promotion to this distinguished post with more than 22 years of dedicated service to her community and a faithful commitment to the mission of Pilot International.

Admired by peers in the Pilot Club of Valley Forge for her willingness to provide countless hours of volunteer service, Alicia has taught 4H students the craft of sewing, started and supervised an after-school program for local elementary school students and served several years on the board of a local Boy Scout Troop.

She also has selflessly served her church by teaching Sunday school, preparing children for sacraments, caring for the linens and as a member of the Finance Committee.

Alicia will become Governor of the Northeast Potomac District during a ceremony on May 3, 2009.

Madam Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me today in congratulating Alicia Fox on this tremendous achievement and recognizing her outstanding volunteer spirit and drive to improve the quality of life in her community.

FAMILY SMOKING PREVENTION AND TOBACCO CONTROL ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. DAVID WU

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 1, 2009

Mr. WU. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 1256, the Family Smoking Prevention and Tobacco Control Act.

Statistics are handed out on this floor like candy. Because numbers are often passed off as nothing more than empty words, we fail to recognize how staggering they are. For instance, smoking-related diseases cause an estimated 440,000 American deaths each year. Smoking costs the United States over $150 billion annually in health care costs. And a 2004 study by the CDC's National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion found that cigarette smoke contains over 4,800 chemicals, 69 of which are known to cause cancer.

Ninety percent of adult smokers are addicted to tobacco before they reach the age of 18; 50 percent before the age of 14. Currently the average age of initiation to tobacco is 11.

48 million adults smoke in the U.S., which is 22.9 percent of the population overall, and 33 percent of youth currently smoke.

To be quiet honest Madam Speaker, these statistics are more than staggering—they are atrocious.

It was Irving Selikoff, a medical researcher who co-discovered a cure for tuberculosis who said, ''Statistics are real people with the tears wiped away.''

Those real people are our parents and children, our family and friends, who suffer the consequences of addiction to tobacco. I want my children to grow up healthy and to make healthy decisions. To help that happen, H.R. 256 will put in place the proper authority for the Food and Drug Administration to establish regulations over tobacco products. We need the FDA to protect our population from the harmful effects of cigarettes and tobacco products by being able to provide sound, scientific regulations governing these products.

Even with all the warnings, and the money spent on education campaigns, kids are still picking up smoking at the alarming rate of 3,000 a day in the United States.

The health concerns that will face these children are costly, painful, and deadly. But they are also ultimately preventable.

I ask my colleagues to please pass H.R. 1256, the Family Smoking Prevention and Tobacco Control Act.

TRIBUTE TO CAROL LAFLEUR

HON. MICHELE BACHMANN

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 21, 2009

Mrs. BACHMANN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to share the inspirational story of Carol LaFleur, a resident of Brooklyn Park, MN who changed her life and is now working to change others' lives for the better as well. Mrs. LaFleur has experienced a great deal of hardship throughout her life, but after discovering the gift of education, she completely turned her life around.

Mrs. LaFleur uses her life experiences to guide others and advocate for education. In her time outside of the classroom, she speaks and mentors on issues of mental health, sexual abuse, and disability. In addition, she volunteers for these and multiple other causes. She sets a great example for all Americans, giving her time without asking for anything back.

In addition to all of her accomplishments and hours of volunteerism, she has found an outlet in writing about her experiences. She has been honored by the Arts in Recovery Program, who chose her essay to be in its exhibit booth online and at the St. Paul Art Crawl.

Madam Speaker, Carol LaFleur is an inspiration, a positive influence for so many who need hope, and a true public servant. She is a great example of the enduring American spirit.

HONORING MAITLAND KEILER OF SUMTER COUNTY

HON. GINNY BROWN-WAITE

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 21, 2009

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Maitland Keiler, one of my accomplished constituents who dedicated his life to improving health services in his community and beyond.

Mr. Keiler was born in 1933 in Royal, Florida to Will and Melbira Keiler. In the early 1970's, he moved to Apopka, Florida where he earned a living picking oranges. He then met four Catholic sisters who had worked to found a health clinic for farmers and migrant workers in the area, the West Orange Farmer's Clinic. Working with the sisters and at the clinic began a new chapter in Mr. Keiler's life. He eventually became one of the first African-Americans appointed to serve on the board of the West Orange Farmer's Clinic.

Wishing to bring similar services to his community which was also in dire need, Mr. Keilier approached Mr. Ellery Gray, director of the West Orange Clinic, about opening a clinic in Sumter County. In collaboration with the county, Mr. Grey and Mr. Keiler succeeded in opening ''Project Health'' in 1974. Once a simple, modest clinic, Project Health is today the Thomas E. Langley Medical Center. The Center has expanded to more than 41,000 square feet of combined medical, dental, behavioral health, radiology, pharmacy and administrative services

Madam Speaker, men and women like Meitland Keiler are the ones truly making a difference in their communities because of their passion and their drive. Mr. Keiler's story should serve as an inspiration to others, and I am proud to know that one of my constituents worked so hard to make his dream a reality and the lives of his fellow citizens better and healthier.

HONORING DR. ELSA GESKUS

HON. JIM GERLACH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 21, 2009

Mr. GERLACH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a dedicated educator whose outstanding leadership and guidance has prepared countless teachers for rewarding classroom careers. Dr. Elsa Geskus will be retiring from Kutztown University in Berks County, Pennsylvania after serving the last 12 years as Chairwoman of the Elementary Education Department. She has earned the respect of her fellow faculty members for excellent leadership, scholarship and service.

Colleagues also praised Dr. Geskus for securing national accreditation for the Department and authoring an accreditation report

used as a model for colleges and universities throughout the country by the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education.

Another highlight of her tenure at Kutztown was establishing the Philadelphia Masters in Elementary Education Graduate Program. This program helped 64 Philadelphia teachers obtain master degrees from Kutztown and led to developing similar programs for teachers in Reading and Allentown.

Outside of the classroom, Dr. Geskus was active in several national organizations, including the Middle States Steering Committee, National Council of Teachers of Mathematics and the College of Education.

Madam Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me today in honoring the distinguished career of Dr. Elsa Geskus and all who commit themselves to teaching others.

HONORING THE 11 WOMEN EMISSARIES OF MEMPHIS MUSIC

HON. MARSHA BLACKBURN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 21, 2009

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Madam Speaker, it is a privilege to rise today to honor and recognize 11 truly inspirational women who have each played a part in making the music of Memphis world renown. Memphis's music heritage has been called the ''soundtrack of America'' and these talented artists deserve our thanks and are extremely justified in the recognition bestowed on them today by the Memphis and Shelby County Music Commission.

The esteemed emissaries are Jo Bridges, Joyce Cobb, Jackie Johnson, Susan Marshall, Judy Peiser, Di Anne Price, Reba Russell, Linn Sitler, Pat Kerr Tigrett, Deanie Parker and Ruby Wilson.

Tennessee is the home of country and blues music and the birthplace of the ''rock and roll.'' We are also proud of the thousands of singers, songwriters, performers, producers, and other music industry professionals that make their homes and livelihood within the state and allow Tennessee to compete with New York and California as a hub of creativity and entertainment.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in both thanking and congratulating the new Emissaries of Memphis Music for their dedication and devotion for enriching our lives with wonderful sound and music. These 11 women are truly worthy recipients of this outstanding honor.

CONGRATULATING THE UNIVERSITY OF FINDLAY OILERS ON WINNING THE 2009 NCAA DIVISION II MEN'S BASKETBALL CHAMPIONSHIP

HON. JIM JORDAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 21, 2009

Mr. JORDAN of Ohio. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the University of Findlay Oilers on the occasion of their winning the 2009 NCAA Division II men's basketball championship. The Oilers defeated the Cal Poly Pomona Broncos for the championship on Saturday, March 28, 2009, in Springfield, Massachusetts.

The Oilers ended their perfect 36–0 season in overtime when senior guard Tyler Evans hit a fade-away three-point shot as time expired, clinching the university's first ever basketball title. With this win, the Oilers become only the fourth perfect championship team in Division II men's basketball history. The Oilers are also the most winning team in Division II of the past decade, with a record of 238–46.

I would also like to congratulate Head Coach Ron Niekamp and his coaching staff for their outstanding commitment to Oilers basketball. Coach Niekamp was named the 2009 Molten Division II Bulletin Coach of the Year. In addition, senior forward Josh Bostic was named the 2009 Division II Player of the Year.

I am honored to join the chorus of well-wishers as the University of Findlay and the broader community celebrates this remarkable achievement. I join with my colleagues in wishing them all continued success.

REGARDING DUTCH AMERICAN FRIENDSHIP DAY

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 21, 2009

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Madam Speaker, I rise to commemorate the 227th anniversary of formal diplomatic relations between the Netherlands and the United States of America.

On the 19th of April, 1782 in the City of The Hague, the Ambassadorial credentials of John Adams were officially recognized by Prince William V of Orange, thus establishing formal diplomatic ties between the new Government of the United States and the Republic of the Netherlands.

For centuries, the people of the Netherlands and the United States have shared a bond that has influenced the culture of our two nations and contributed to our mutual prosperity.

In September, we will celebrate the 400th anniversary of Henry Hudson's voyage up what would become known as the Hudson River in New York. Hudson's voyage led to the establishment of New Amsterdam and the New Netherlands colony. Celebrations commemorating this important event have already begun.

As we reflect today on the commercial bond and strategic partnership we have established with the people of the Netherlands over these many years, let us not forget how the strength of our alliance and the endurance of our friendship has helped make both our countries wealthy and stronger and the world more secure as a result.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF THE VOLUNTEER MEDICAL SERVICES CORPS

HON. JIM GERLACH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 21, 2009

Mr. GERLACH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor an ambulance corps that is celebrating 65 years of faithfully serving communities in southeastern Pennsylvania.

Volunteer Medical Services Corps of Lower Merion, Narberth, Conshohocken and West Conshohocken provides critical care services in a 49 square-mile area and responds to more than 7,200 calls for help each year.

The dedicated and highly-skilled first responders stand ready to answer calls at all hours, in the sweltering heat of summer and the frigid depths of winter, and on some of suburban Philadelphia's most heavily traveled highways, including the Schuylkill Expressway and the Blue Route.

Since its founding in 1944, Volunteer Medical Services Corps has remained true to its mission of providing the highest quality care to each patient its members transport with compassion and dignity.

The Corps owes a large measure of its success to more than 70 volunteers who selflessly give approximately 8,000 hours of service each year.

Madam Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me today in congratulating Volunteer Medical Services Corps of Lower Merion, Narberth, Conshohocken and West Conshohocken on its 65th anniversary and acknowledging the tremendous commitment and service of its volunteers and professional staff.

RYAN JAMES

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 21, 2009

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Ryan James, a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 75, and by earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Ryan has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Ryan has shown an extraordinary commitment to scouting as evidenced by earning several merit badges. Ryan demonstrated a tremendous work ethic in earning his personal merit badge by incorporating his own lawn mowing business.

Ryan's Eagle Scout service project consisted of painting the kitchen and fellowship hall of the United Methodist Church in Maryville, Missouri. This project continues the long tradition of community service established by the Boy Scouts of America.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Ryan James for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

A TRIBUTE IN RECOGNITION OF THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF LOS ANGELES NEIGHBORHOOD HOUSING SERVICES, INC.

HON. LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 21, 2009

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Los Angeles Neighborhood Housing Services, Inc. (LA NHS), a non-

profit lender and community developer dedicated to building stronger neighborhoods throughout Los Angeles County, on the occasion of its 25th Anniversary.

Incorporated in 1984, LA NHS has catapulted itself from a small housing agency to the largest, non-profit affordable homeownership provider in Southern California. LA NHS focuses on specific target neighborhoods in Los Angeles County. In addition to the Boyle Heights/East Los Angeles areas in the 34th Congressional District, the organization targets Central Los Angeles, Crenshaw, Pacoima, San Pedro-Wilmington and Carson.

Over the last 25 years, LA NHS has reinvested more than $2 billion into neighborhoods throughout the county and region. The organization has developed and rehabilitated more than 11,000 housing and commercial units, put 1.9 million families on the road to homeownership, created 175 block clubs, and employed 200 neighborhood youth. As a lender to underserved communities, LA NHS has maintained a loan portfolio with a 3 percent or less delinquency ratio and no foreclosures.

Since 2007, LA NHS, along with its partners through the Los Angeles County NeighborWorks® Center for Foreclosure Solutions, has been on the frontline of the mortgage crisis. The LA NHS 25th Anniversary Gala Dinner Concert & Silent Auction, scheduled for April 30, 2009, will commemorate the partners that have worked tirelessly to keep families in their homes in the midst of this crisis.

As a Community Development Financial Institution during the last fiscal year, Los Angeles Neighborhood Housing Services working with its affiliates, NHS Neighborhood Redevelopment Corporation and NHS Neighborhood Lending Services, reinvested nearly $97 million into Los Angeles neighborhoods, providing nearly $70 million in loans to local residents to improve housing conditions, create homeownership opportunities, and combat predatory lending. In addition, during that time, LA NHS reinvested more than $9.8 million through real estate services and $1.5 million through neighborhood revitalization projects.

Through aggressive foreclosure prevention efforts, LA NHS assisted more than 59,000 families over the last fiscal year to preserve their homes and prevent foreclosure. This ongoing multi-faceted initiative includes post-purchase education fairs, clinics and workshops, affordable lending, loan modifications, comprehensive loss mitigation initiatives, and other LA NHS programs.

I had the privilege of seeing firsthand the extraordinarily helpful services provided by LA NHS to residents of the 34th Congressional District. Last July, more than 500 homeowners attended a LA NHS organized-foreclosure prevention fair in the City of Downey. Credit counselors and lenders were on hand at the free event to offer on-site assistance, one-on-one counseling, and information on viable options to avoid foreclosure. Housing, tax and financial professionals also provided presentations to help homeowners understand the foreclosure process, guard against fraud and scams, address tax issues and rebuild their credit. Representatives from the LA County NeighborWorks Center for Foreclosure Solutions, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, and area banks also participated in the workshop.

LA NHS credits the tremendous efforts of its community volunteers during the last fiscal year for the success of its outreach efforts, including the Downey foreclosure prevention fair. More than 800 volunteers spent more than 6,400 hours participating in the LA NHS sponsored foreclosure prevention fairs, clinics, workshops, and Neighborhood Pride Day events. The two Pride Day events involved more than 400 volunteers who gave their time and labor to refurbish homes and plant flowers in underserved neighborhoods. In total during the last fiscal year, these community outreach events assisted more than 10,000 families to preserve their homes and prevent foreclosure.

Madam Speaker, on the occasion of Los Angeles Neighborhood Housing Services, Inc. 25th Anniversary, I join today with fellow leaders from throughout the state in recognizing President and Chief Executive Officer Lori Gay, Board Chairman Sal Mendoza, the Board of Directors, and the organization's 40 employees for their tireless work to help families throughout Los Angeles County. I extend my thanks on behalf of the residents of the 34th Congressional District for their passion and determination to revitalize communities, build stronger neighborhoods and help families of modest means actualize their dream of homeownership, and I wish them many years of continued success.

HONORING MAYOR TONY ARREDIA OF DES PLAINES, ILLINOIS

HON. PETER J. ROSKAM

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 21, 2009

Mr. ROSKAM. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a dedicated public servant from my Congressional District, Mayor Tony Arredia of Des Plaines. After nine years as Mayor, Tony has decided to retire.

Tony was born and raised on the west side of Chicago, and he attended Mount Carmel High School. In the private sector, Tony brought his talents and relational skills to bear as he worked for Continental Bank and the Asbury Court Retirement Community.

In his first experience with elected public office, Tony served two terms as the 8th Ward Alderman of Des Plaines. Then, in 2000, Tony was appointed to replace Mayor Paul Jung. Over the years, Tony has been an insightful observer, keen in his understanding of the long-term challenges facing the City. Throughout his career, he has tackled these challenges with deft skill, deep understanding, and strong personal integrity.

While constant change has brought a steady stream of new difficulties for Des Plaines to confront, one thing has remained the same. Mayor Arredia has kept a steady hand to the wheel, advising the City Council and working tirelessly for the benefit of the community and her residents.

Tony Arredia has been an advocate for the people of Des Plaines since his very first days in office. Tony truly embodies the meaning of a public servant as he approaches his job with compassion and humility. In his time with the City, he has shown true leadership to bring economic development to the area and to achieve important progress in flood preparedness and relief. Tony has improved all of our lives and left an indelible impression on the City of Des Plaines.

Madam Speaker and Distinguished Colleagues, Tony Arredia is a remarkable leader who has dedicated his life to serving the people of Des Plaines. Please join me in recognizing his extraordinary service and wishing him every happiness in the well deserved respite of his retirement.

IN HONOR OF COACH BRUCE SNYDER

HON. HARRY E. MITCHELL

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 21, 2009

Mr. MITCHELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the exemplary and inspirational life of Coach Bruce Snyder. Diagnosed with cancer just last year, Coach Snyder passed away early in the morning on Monday, April 13, 2009. He was 69 years old.

Coach Snyder will always be remembered for his many successes as the head football coach at Arizona State University from 1992–2000, and before that at the University of California. Under his leadership, the Sun Devils won 58 games and made four bowl appearances. More than 40 of Coach Snyder's players were drafted into the NFL, and he produced over 100 All-Pac-10 honorees.

ASU alumni the world over remember the magical 1996 season. Bruce Snyder coached the Sun Devils to one of their best seasons in history, going 11–1, upsetting many highly ranked championship teams, and coming heartbreakingly close to a NCAA national championship. He was named Coach of the Year, an honor that could not have been more appropriate.

Coach Snyder's time at ASU is incredibly impressive, and has certainly left a lasting impression on me. But the ultimate record of his work lies in the positive and lasting impact he has made upon the hearts and minds of the people he touched. Players, family and friends recall Coach Snyder as a man of tremendous personal integrity, culture and caring for those around him. He imparted life lessons on his players that went far beyond the field. As one former player so aptly put it upon learning of Coach Snyder's passing, "He was a good coach, but a better man."

Madam Speaker, please join me and Bruce's wife and children in mourning the loss and honoring the legacy of Bruce Snyder.

RECOGNIZING DR. RUTH PERSON

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 21, 2009

Mr. KILDEE. Madam Speaker, on April 17 the University of Michigan-Flint will install Dr. Ruth Person as their new chancellor. The inaugural ceremony and a public reception will be held on campus that day to celebrate this event.

Dr. Ruth Person received her bachelor's degree from Gettysburg College in Pennsylvania, and her master's and Ph.D. from the University of Michigan. She also earned a master's

degree in administration from George Washington University School of Business and Public Management. She also attended the Harvard University Institute of Educational Management.

Prior to coming to the University of Michigan-Flint, Dr. Person was the Chancellor of Indiana University at Kokomo; and she was Vice President of Academic Affairs and Professor of Business Administration at Angelo University in San Angelo, Texas. She has also held positions as Vice President for Academic Affairs at the University of Missouri-St. Louis, dean of the college of Library Science at Clarion University in Pennsylvania, associate dean and faculty member of the School of Library and Information Science at the Catholic University of America. She was an American Council on Education Fellow and served as chief academic officer with the Arizona Board of Regents. Dr. Person is a member of Phi Alpha Theta, Beta Phi Mu, Pi Lambda Theta, Psi Chi, Kappa Delta Pi, Beta Gamma Sigma and is listed in a number of Who's Who publications. The University of Michigan Board of Regents approved her appointment as Chancellor of the Flint campus on June 19, 2008.

Madam Speaker, under Dr. Person's leadership, the University of Michigan-Flint is a vibrant, expanding campus of 7,200 students. The faculty, staff and students are integrating the academic and urban landscapes to develop a unique, unparalleled educational experience. Her vision of the campus-community synergy promises to enhance the quality of life for everyone involved and Dr. Person is guiding the school to be a cornerstone of development and revitalization in the Flint of tomorrow. I ask the House of Representatives to join me in welcoming her to this position and wish her the best as she shapes our future leaders.

HONORING THOMAS KILLIAN

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 21, 2009

Mr. RADANOVICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Thomas Killian upon his retirement from the California Highway Patrol after twenty-seven years of service. Mr. Killian officially retired on February 13, 2009.

As a young man Mr. Killian joined the United States Marine Corps and served with honor for three years. Upon leaving the Marines he decided to join the California Highway Patrol (CHP); he reported to the CHP Academy in Sacramento for training as a cadet in May 1982. Five months later he graduated from the academy and was immediately promoted to traffic officer in the San Jose Area Office.

During his twenty seven years with the CHP Mr. Killian has held a variety of positions. While in San Jose he was a Field Training Officer; training many young officers who have gone on to have great careers. He was also assigned to the Golden Gate Dignitary Protection Team, where he provided security to former President Ronald Reagan, former Secretary of State George Shultz and many foreign dignitaries. In October 1985 he was transferred to the Modesto Area Office and remained there until his retirement.

In the Modesto Area Office, Mr. Killian was involved in establishing the Modesto CHP Explorer Post in 1991. He continued to mentor the young members, many of which have become law enforcement officers, until the Post disbanded in 2006. He was also the first of two officers assigned to develop a new program in the Modesto area known as "Community Policing." This program provided Mr. Killian the opportunity to serve the smaller communities in Stanislaus County and become personally involved with the people in those communities. In November 2000, Mr. Killian became the Public Information Officer for the Modesto area. He remained in this position until his retirement in February.

Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend and congratulate Thomas Killian upon his retirement from the California Highway Patrol. I invite my colleagues to join me in wishing Mr. Killian many years of continued success.

BILLBOARDS AS "WANTED" POSTERS

HON. JAMES L. OBERSTAR

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 21, 2009

Mr. OBERSTAR. Madam Speaker, in 2006, I brought to the attention of the House of Representatives the use of billboards as "wanted" posters. Since then, donated billboards have become a common tool for law enforcement, including the new digital billboards that can be changed quickly via computer.

The Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) has been a pioneer in the use of digital billboards to help apprehend suspected criminals. After initial success in Philadelphia, the FBI has been using digital billboards across the country. To date, 18 fugitives have been apprehended because they were featured on these high-tech "wanted" signs.

On March 20, 2009, FBI Director Robert S. Mueller presented a 2008 Director's Community Leadership Award to Clear Channel Outdoor, Lamar Advertising, Adams Outdoor Advertising and the Outdoor Advertising Association of Georgia. Together, these entities provide access to more than 1,000 digital billboards to the FBI.

Director Mueller said to those receiving the awards: "Whatever the motivation—an unfilled need, a tragic occurrence, a desire to give back—these are people who make things happen and enlist others in their cause. They are activists who have earned their prestige through good works."

The FBI cites these cases:

On November 12, 2008, Richard Franklin Wiggins, Jr., was arrested for money laundering and for ties to a drug trafficking organization—just three weeks after both Lamar Advertising and Adams Outdoor ran his image on their digital billboards in the Norfolk, Virginia area. Wiggins reportedly turned himself in at the insistence of his family and friends.

On October 24, 2008, Walter Haskell was arrested for an armed robbery in New Jersey that he had committed several months earlier. After the robbery, he fled to Minnesota. His image was plastered on digital billboards across the state, generating tips that led to his apprehension. "If we have a crack at over a quarter-million people seeing that photo every day, then we have a very good chance at catching the person we're after," said Special Agent Sean Quinn, a spokesman for the FBI in Newark. "The exposure gets us started."

On November 9, 2008, Christopher Ellis was apprehended for a multi-state crime spree that included a bank robbery in Kentucky, a kidnapping and carjacking in Georgia, and a home invasion in Tennessee. Our partners placed a photo of Ellis and the truck he was driving on billboards in multiple states across the region. The publicity generated by the digital billboards contributed to a larger campaign which generated the tip that led to his arrest.

As I pointed out in 2006, "wanted" posters are part of American history, including the pictures I saw in the United States Post Office growing up in Chisholm, MN. The success story of "wanted" billboards—and the recent recognition from the FBI—serves to remind us that outdoor advertising is a significant medium of communication.

Madam Speaker, I close with a summation that appears on the website of the FBI: "Long story short: the billboards are working and working well. And that means a safer America for all."

INTRODUCTION OF THE CHILDREN'S HOSPITALS EDUCATION EQUITY ACT

HON. PATRICK J. KENNEDY

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 21, 2009

Mr. KENNEDY. Madam Speaker, our nation is currently experiencing a shortage of child and adolescent mental health professionals. This means that many children and adolescents are not getting the care they need, forcing some families to travel great distances or wait on long waiting lists for their child to receive the mental health services they need. Enhancing the mental health workforce is critical to addressing this problem.

In 1980, the Graduate Medical Education National Advisory Committee recommended that the number of child and adolescent psychiatrists be increased by 8,000 to 10,000 by 1990, in order to meet the projected needs for treatment of child mental disorders. In 1990, the Council of Graduate Medical Education reported that the nation would need more than 30,000 child and adolescent psychiatrists by 2000. Yet in 2009, there are only 7,000 child and adolescent psychiatrists practicing nationwide, and few are located in medically-underserved, rural and urban areas. The U.S. Bureau of Health Professions projects that the number of child and adolescent psychiatrists will increase by about 30 percent to 8,312 by 2020, if funding and recruitment remain stable. This is still far less than the estimated number needed to meet the demand.

Today, I am introducing legislation in an effort to address this crisis. The Children's Hospitals Education Equity Act would allow children's psychiatric hospitals to qualify for Medicare Children's Hospital Graduate Medical Education (GME) funding, giving these vital hospitals more of the resources they need to care for our nation's children and adolescents. Current law excludes children's psychiatric hospitals from receiving funding that is used to cover the expense of educating residents, including time attending doctors spend training

residents, space and other administrative costs, and equipment use.

The legislation I am introducing today would expand the definition of a ''children's hospital'' to include certain children's psychiatric hospitals, thus giving them the essential resources they need to build the supply of trained child and adolescent psychiatrists, to advance the quality of training for child psychiatrists, and to provide care for some of our nation's most vulnerable children and adolescents. This change is essential in order to improve the quality of mental health care our children receive.

I thus urge your swift full consideration of this legislation.

CONGRATULATING CIARA PETRONZIO ON HER PRUDENTIAL SPIRIT OF COMMUNITY AWARD

HON. HARRY E. MITCHELL

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 21, 2009

Mr. MITCHELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Ciara Petronzio, recipient of the 2009 Prudential Spirit of Community Award. This award recognizes Ciara's outstanding leadership achievements and her contributions to improving the conditions of sick and abused animals in Arizona.

Ciara has volunteered for Rescue A Golden, an organization devoted to rescuing and providing care to golden retrievers left homeless in Arizona. She has helped ensure that a countless number of golden retrievers have been given the love and attention that they have lacked throughout their short lives. By taking the dogs on walks and giving them their needed medication, Ciara has truly made a difference in their lives.

Her passion for helping animals began at an early age as her family lost a valued member of their family when they had to put their dog to sleep. Her enthusiasm and excitement has made it possible for sheltered dogs to receive the necessary care and help that they require.

A community's quality of life is determined by many factors, such as the policies set by city government and the programs available to its citizens. However, I believe that a community rises and falls on the shoulders of its citizens, and the contributions they make to that community. Ciara exemplifies this commitment and raises the bar for everyone around her.

Madam Speaker, please join me in recognizing Ciara Petronzio's continued work and advocacy for sick and abused golden retrievers in Arizona.

HONORING THE MTA LONG ISLAND RAIL ROAD

HON. CAROLYN McCARTHY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 21, 2009

Mrs. McCARTHY of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the MTA Long Island Rail Road, LIRR, for 175 years of service to Long Island and the surrounding metropolitan area. As a subsidiary of New York State's Metropolitan Transportation Authority, the LIRR has been an essential component to the development of Long Island communities and has served as a gateway into the economic growth of the region.

Chartered in 1834, the LIRR continues to be the oldest railroad in the United States still operating under its original name. Connecting communities stretching from Montauk, on the east end of Long Island, to Penn Station, in the heart of Manhattan, the LIRR serves 124 stations in Nassau, Suffolk, Queens, Brooklyn and Manhattan; and with 700 miles of track on 11 different branches, the Long Island railroad is the busiest commuter railroad in North America, serving over 87 million customers annually.

Throughout its 175 years, the LIRR has been a vital component of the New York metropolitan region's transportation infrastructure, leading to the development of the Long Island communities it serves. Without the LIRR trains, more than 100,000 additional cars would use the roads into New York City each weekday.

Madam Speaker it is my pleasure to acknowledge and thank the Long Island Rail Road and wish them the best of luck in the future.

HONORING THE LIFE OF GIUSEPPE PETROSINO

HON. STEVE ISRAEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 21, 2009

Mr. ISRAEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the life of Lt. Detective Giuseppe Petrosino on the 100th anniversary of his death. Lt. Detective Petrosino was a pioneer in the fight against organized crime, and was the first New York City Police officer to be killed on foreign soil.

An emigrant from Padula, Italy, Petrosino joined the New York City Police Department on October 18, 1883. His relentless pursuit of gangsters and the mafia garnered him the reputation of ''the Detective in the Derby.'' Petrosino was the architect of many programs designed to combat organized crime. These programs, including the Bomb Squad, the Canine Squad, and the Undercover Squad, are all techniques that are still used today.

In 1895, Theodore Roosevelt, who at the time was the police commissioner of New York City, promoted Petrosino to Detective Sergeant in charge of the department's Homicide Division. He became the first Italian-American to lead this division. In 1908, he was promoted to Lieutenant and headed the Italian Squad, which was an elite corps of Italian-American detectives organized to deal with gangster criminal activities.

Lt. Detective Petrosino's service with the Italian Squad was exemplary. In one instance, Petrosino countered a blackmail attempt on the life of the famous Italian tenor, Enrico Caruso. In another instance, Petrosino infiltrated the Italian based anarchist organization that assassinated King Umberto I of Italy. During this mission, he discovered evidence that the organization intended to assassinate President William McKinley during his trip to Buffalo. Petrosino's warning to the Secret Service went unheeded, and President McKinley was tragically assassinated.

Lt. Detective Petrosino's service led him to Italy on a top secret mission. Petrosino's commendable career came to a tragic end, when he was murdered while waiting for who he thought was an informant.

The day of his burial in New York City was declared a holiday to allow citizens to pay their respects. The Manhattan funeral was attended by 250,000 people, a true testament to the honorable service Petrosino paid his community.

On this anniversary of his passing, I remember and applaud the dedication with which Lt. Detective Petrosino protected the citizens of New York. I am proud to honor him today.

HONORING RICHARD A. BERMAN

HON. NITA M. LOWEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 21, 2009

Mrs. LOWEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the accomplishments of Richard A. Berman, the tenth President of Manhattanville College located in Purchase, New York.

A graduate of the University of Michigan, Richard Berman has spent his career serving his community at the federal, state, and local levels. Before joining Manhattanville College, Mr. Berman served as executive vice president of the New York University Medical Center and was appointed to 2 New York State cabinet positions by Governor Hugh Carey.

In 1995, Manhattanville College was in financial trouble. Unable to meet its obligations and running annual shortfalls triple the size of its endowment, the college's buildings were in disarray and low enrollment left dormitories half empty. Under Richard Berman's passionate and pragmatic leadership, the college has more than doubled its enrollment, balanced its books, and earned top-tier recognition in college ranking guides.

In a 2003 article entitled ''The Man Who Turned Manhattanville Around,'' The New York Times recognized Richard Berman as a driving force behind the revitalization of Manhattanville College. Within a decade, the college was transformed from a failing institution into a thriving, top-rated undergraduate liberal arts college committed to offering its students a rigorous academic experience within a nurturing and diverse environment. Later this year, Richard Berman will retire from Manhattanville College, leaving it a stronger and more sustainable institution than he found it.

Never one to limit his efforts to his local community, Richard Berman has projected his passion for peace and mutual understanding around the world. As chairman of the board of Seeds of Peace, he has worked to empower young leaders from regions of conflict with the leadership skills to work toward reconciliation and lasting peace. He has also provided strategic planning and leadership training at Kabale University in Africa, the only secular university in Uganda's Western Region.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to recognize my friend Richard A. Berman for his remarkable service as president of Manhattanville College and his lifelong commitment to enriching the lives of others. I urge my colleagues to join me in honoring his tremendous accomplishments.

CONGRATULATING MARK PHILLIPS ON HIS PRUDENTIAL SPIRIT OF COMMUNITY AWARD

HON. HARRY E. MITCHELL

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 21, 2009

Mr. MITCHELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Mark Phillips, recipient of the 2009 Prudential Spirit of Community Award. This award recognizes Mark's outstanding leadership achievements and his contributions to improving the quality of life for special-needs children in Arizona.

Mark founded the Red Nose Club, a community service organization devoted to raising awareness and opportunities for children with serious illnesses. Through his efforts, Mark has helped raise over $21,000 for local food banks and hospitals to provide care for sick children.

His passion for helping others began at an early age. His brother was born with a serious heart ailment and Mark has been a champion for children with similar illnesses. His enthusiasm and excitement has spread throughout the state with creative projects that have made it possible for sick children to receive the necessary care and help that they require.

A community's quality of life is determined by many factors, such as the policies set by city government and the programs available to its citizens. However, I believe that a community rises and falls on the shoulders of its citizens, and the contributions they make to that community. Mark exemplifies this commitment and raises the bar for everyone around him.

Madam Speaker, please join me in recognizing Mark Phillips' continued work and advocacy for children with serious illnesses in Arizona.

HONORING ASSISTANT CHIEF GREGORY A. BULANOW OF THE NORTH CHARLESTON FIRE DEPARTMENT

HON. HENRY E. BROWN, JR.

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 21, 2009

Mr. BROWN of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate one my constituents in South Carolina, Assistant Chief Gregory A. Bulanow of the North Charleston Fire Department, for successfully completing the Executive Fire Officer Program, or EFOP, on February 27th of this year.

The EFOP is an intensive program designed to give senior fire officers a broad perspective on various aspects of fire administration by providing them with knowledge that they can to apply during emergency situations that occur in their own communities.

It is no small feat to complete such a program, as it is made up of four extensive courses, stretching over a span of years.

As an ardent supporter of all of our nation's fire fighters and emergency personnel, I speak for the people of Charleston and the surrounding areas in saying that we are lucky to have well trained and skilled individuals like Assistant Chief Bulanow looking out for us every day.

I commend Assistant Chief Bulanow on his achievements and thank him for his devotion to the protection of the people of South Carolina.

HONORING WOMEN IN SERVICE AND ENTERPRISE AWARD WINNERS

HON. JEB HENSARLING

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 21, 2009

Mr. HENSARLING. Madam Speaker, for the past seven years, the greater Mesquite area has embraced the opportunity to honor many exceptional women in the community through the Women in Service and Enterprise (WISE) Award Luncheon and Style Show. Today I would like to honor this year's award recipient, Mrs. Jana Hunter-Kovar, who is a shining example of a committed community advocate and servant. I would also like to recognize honorees Barbara Dunn, Lois Buford and Adrianna Harris for their valuable service and commitment to their community.

Jana Hunter-Kovar has dedicated her life and energy to the Mesquite community for many years. She began her work as a home sales advisor before retiring to care for her family and volunteer full time. Through her participation in the Leadership Mesquite Class of 1996, the Mesquite Citizen's Police Academy Class of 1998, as well as her service on the Mesquite Chamber of Commerce Board, Parks & Recreation Board, Mesquite Services League Board, Mesquite Symphony Orchestra Association Board, Mesquite Symphony Guild Board, and the Mesquite Social Services Board, Jana has truly had an integral hand in shaping Mesquite into the successful city it is today.

In recognition of her many hours of service and sacrifice, Jana has been honored with the 2004 Mesquite Social Services' Outstanding Commitment & Achievement Award, the 2003 and 2006 Mesquite Social Services' Star Board Member Award and the 2005–2006 Mesquite Independent School Board's Volunteer of the Year award. In addition to her many civic activities, Jana has been married to her husband, Mike, for 21 and 1/2 years and they are the proud parents of two daughters, Kyleigh and Kaitlyn.

Past WISE Award winners have served in a variety of ways, but they are united by the long-lasting impact they have made on their community. Their service, community involvement and dedication to enterprise continue to inspire younger generations.

Today, I would like to recognize all of the WISE honorees for their outstanding service and congratulate them on their awards. Thank you, ladies, for helping make our community, state and country a better place.

A TRIBUTE TO MR. PATRICK REED

HON. BRETT GUTHRIE

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 21, 2009

Mr. GUTHRIE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Superintendent Patrick Reed, the superintendent of Mammoth Cave National Park, for winning the Superintendent of the Year for Natural Resource Stewardship award from the National Park Service.

Mr. Reed established a collaborative framework for science-informed decisionmaking. This includes disseminating scientific research to park staff, other areas overseen by the National Park Service, local citizens, academic and government partners, and people around the world.

Mr. Reed's effort to develop local, national, and international partners exemplifies how creating a consortium can be a productive method to share information, techniques, and research to aid cave and karst areas around the world. His efforts have initiated sister-park relationships with cave and karst areas in China, Slovenia, and Spain.

Mr. Reed's passion for Mammoth Cave National Park and commitment to better managing the park's world-class natural resources is an example for all to follow. I thank Mr. Reed for his commitment to the people of the Second District and one of our nation's greatest treasures.

TRIBUTE TO ''THE GREATEST GENERATION'' OF LOUISIANA

HON. RODNEY ALEXANDER

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 21, 2009

Mr. ALEXANDER. Madam Speaker, it is with distinct honor that I pay tribute today to the living veterans of World War II—''The Greatest Generation.'' On behalf of all the residents of the 5th District of Louisiana, I offer our deepest appreciation.

World War II was a defining moment for our country. Over six decades ago, 16 million selflessly fought to protect and preserve our country's liberty, leaving school, jobs, friends and families behind. We must always remember the sacrifices made by these brave men and women.

At the time when I was growing up, my generation would often hear World War II stories from our fathers or uncles. Today, these stories are becoming more and more precious to hear firsthand.

I would like to thank the American Legion Post 53 of West Carroll Parish for providing an opportunity to reflect on the gallantry of those who served and those who died to protect our freedom in World War II.

Our World War II veterans exemplify the strength and spirit of our country's ''Greatest Generation.'' The men and women who served in uniform during that war dedicated their lives to guiding our nation through some of its most trying hours.

I remain committed to ensuring that all our veterans receive the benefits and honor that they greatly deserve. They have touched every life in some way.

Madam Speaker, please join with me and all Louisianians in paying tribute to the living veterans of World War II. There will be a special place in our hearts for each one of these brave soldiers.

TRIBUTE TO KENNY PERRY

HON. ED WHITFIELD

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 21, 2009

Mr. WHITFIELD. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the extraordinary accomplishments and contributions of Kentucky native Kenny Perry. Earlier this month, Mr. Perry gave a memorable performance at the 73rd Masters Tournament in Augusta, Georgia. Looking to become the oldest golfer to win a major championship at the age of 48 years and 8 months, Mr. Perry played superbly during the Masters Tournament and finished second in the tournament following two exciting playoff holes. Throughout the tournament, he exhibited the same grace and class he has always shown throughout his auspicious career.

Mr. Perry grew up in Kentucky's First Congressional District, attending Franklin-Simpson High School and eventually graduating from Lone Oaks High School in Paducah. He played golf at both schools before attending Western Kentucky University where he continued to excel at the sport. In 1982, Mr. Perry turned professional and has spent the past 27 years building a solid reputation for himself both as a professional golfer and a community leader. He donates a percentage of his winnings to Lipscomb University in Nashville, TN, to provide scholarships to students. Mr. Perry built Country Creek, a public course in his hometown of Franklin. In 1995, he bought 142 acres of land to design and build the only public course in the town. He designed it for mid-to-high handicappers and kept it affordable so that the game of golf could be accessible to all. Mr. Perry is a member of Western Kentucky University Hall of Fame and Kentucky Golf Hall of Fame. In 2002, he received the Charles Bartlett Award, given to a professional golfer for his unselfish contributions to the betterment of society by the Golf Writers Association of America.

On the course, Mr. Perry currently ranks 3rd in All-Around Ranking on the Professional Golfers Association (PGA) tour. In 2008, when the Ryder Cup was held in Kentucky, Mr. Perry dedicated himself to qualifying for the event. His hard work paid off when he helped the United States retake the cup for the first time since 1999.

Mr. Perry's contributions both on and off the golf course serve as a shining example of what professional athletes should be and I am pleased to have this opportunity to honor him.

HONORING REVEREND DR. HENRY L. FULLER, JR.

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 21, 2009

Mr. KILDEE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Reverend Dr. Henry L. Fuller, Jr. as he celebrates his 11th year as pastor of Mt. Calvary Missionary Baptist Church. A banquet was held on Saturday, April 18th to celebrate this occasion.

In 1999 and 2002, Reverend Dr. Fuller was elected Moderator of the Great Lakes Baptist District Association and held this post until 2007. He is also a member of the Board of Trustees of the American Baptist College of A.B.T.S., Nashville; a member of the Strategic Planning Committee of the National Baptist Congress of Christian Education; President of the United Bible Institute of Flint; Member At-large of the Executive Board of the National Baptist Convention, USA, Incorporated; Treasurer of the Todd-Phillip Children's Home; a member of the Mayor's Community Advisory Board in Flint; and Governor Jennifer Granholm named him to the State of Michigan Faith Based State Wide Steering Committee. In 2007 he was elected President of the Wolverine State Baptist Missionary Convention at its 88th Annual Session.

Madam Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to rise with me and applaud the work of Reverend Dr. Henry L. Fuller, Jr. I pray that he will continue to bring the good news of Our Lord, Jesus Christ to the Flint community for many, many years to come.

2009 14TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT ART COMPETITION

HON. MICHAEL F. DOYLE

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 21, 2009

Mr. DOYLE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the artistic ability of a young woman from my Congressional District, Steph Goodrow of West Mifflin Area High School. Ms. Goodrow is the winner of the 2009 14th Congressional District of Pennsylvania's High School Art Competition, ''An Artistic Discovery.'' Ms. Goodrow's artwork, a chalk, pastel, and charcoal composition entitled ''A Walk,'' was selected from a number of outstanding entries to this year's competition.

In fact, fifty-five works from twelve different schools in Pennsylvania's 14th Congressional District were submitted to our panel of respected local artists. It's a real tribute to her skill and vision that her work was chosen as the winner of this year's competition. I am certain that Ms. Goodrow's family is proud of her artistic talents and this impressive accomplishment.

Ms. Goodrow's artwork will represent the 14th Congressional District of Pennsylvania in the national exhibit of high school students' artwork that will be displayed in the United States Capitol over the coming year. I encourage my colleagues as well as any visitor to Capitol Hill to view Ms. Goodrow's artwork, along with the winning entries from the high school art contests held in other Congressional Districts, that will be on display in the Capitol tunnel. It is amazing to walk through this corridor and see the interpretation of life through the eyes of these young artists from all across our country.

I would like to recognize all of the participants in this year's 14th Congressional District High School Art Competition, ''An Artistic Discovery:'' from Brashear High School, Nour Qutyan; from the Pittsburgh High School for the Creative and Performing Arts, Sarah Axtell, George Cessna, Dana Laskowski, and Nicolette Santercangelo; from Carlynton High School, Christina Chiccitt; from Carrick High School, Jessica Dietz, Kristin May, Kaci Scheidter, and Mandy Tice; from Montour High School, Dominique Dabecco, Diane Elbel, and Hilary Wirkowski; from Northgate High School, Linzie Bussard, Crystal Flora, Alicia Patak, and James Silay; from Penn Hills High School, Julian McClain Hubbard, Carly Otte, Chloe Regan, Lauren Tucci, Sidney Turba, and Chloe Weiss; from South Allegheny High School, Angelia Bianchi-Faiello, Rhett Bilec, Bre Graham, Hollah Brielle Graham, Mollie K. Kish, and Brett Nolfi; from Taylor-Allderdice High School, Shelby Gitchel, Joseph Godovshik, Jasmine Manguel, Juan Melena-Robles, Casey Snyder, and Yajie Yang; from West Mifflin Area High School, Steph Goodrow, Elyse M. Larouere, Rachel Lynn Playso, and James Vautier; from the Wilson Christian Academy, Elora Boyd; and from Woodland Hills High School, Candace Davis, Alessandra DeChancie, Elijah Johnson, Sarah Morgan, Maddy Moyta, and Sara Savage.

I would like to thank these impressive young artists for allowing us to share and celebrate their talents, imagination, and creativity. The efforts of these students in expressing themselves in a powerful and positive manner are no less than spectacular.

I hope that all of these individuals continue to utilize their artistic talents, and I wish them all the best of luck in their future endeavors.

COMMEMORATING YOM HASHOAH, HOLOCAUST REMEMBRANCE DAY

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 21, 2009

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Madam Speaker, today I remember the millions of souls who died at the hands of the Nazis and, specifically, the approximately six million Jews who perished in the Holocaust. I remember the approximately one and a half million children who were brutally murdered by the Nazis and their collaborators. In the United States Congress and all over the world, we embrace this solemn day of remembrance. It is Yom HaZikaron laShoah ve-laGvura, 'Remembrance Day for the Holocaust and Heroism,' known commonly in Israel and abroad as Yom HaShoah or Holocaust Remembrance Day.

I have always aspired to stand by the saying 'Never be a bystander.' For that reason, I find it appropriate to recall the story which took place on the 27th of the Hebrew month Nisan, which is the day in 1951 the Israeli parliament, the Knesset, designated as Yom HaShoah. On this day in 1943, a small group of less than one thousand Jewish rebels in Poland's Warsaw Ghetto were in the midst of fighting back against the elite Waffen-SS soldiers who had been tasked with ''liquidating'' the Ghetto. With only a few firearms, a tiny supply of ammunition, and a small number of makeshift explosives, it took the Nazis nearly a month to defeat the small band of Jewish fighters. Better known as 'the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising,' this was the most significant act of Jewish resistance during the Holocaust. They never lost hope and, although the story ultimately ended tragically, it remains today an inspiration to us all of the unshakable will of human beings to live in freedom.

I quote my friend, the fifth Prime Minister of Israel, Yitzhak Rabin, when he spoke at the Central Memorial Assembly in Warsaw on the 50th Anniversary of the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising in 1993: 'There were those who believed

that, with the fall of the Nazis, racism would be abolished from the earth. They were mistaken. Fifty years after the fall of Hitler, his successors have arisen in various corners of the world.'

Today is a time for reflection, but it is not enough to simply remember. We must continue to fight hatred and intolerance wherever it exists, for human freedom depends on the presence of justice, the justice that was denied to so many during the dark days of World War II. To ignore that lesson is unforgivable.

Today in the Darfur region of Sudan, genocide is taking place. This conflict has engulfed millions of people and cost hundreds of thousands of lives. Innocent people are being murdered, starved, and driven from their homes simply because of the color of their skin.

As we commemorate Yom HaShoah, it is my hope that all people will banish the sort of dark hatred that gave rise to the Holocaust and, more recently, to the events in Darfur. May our consciences prevent us always from being bystanders in times and places where that sort of evil is present. Today I remember the past and take a stand for our future.

CONGRATULATING CHRIS GATLIN, 2009 LOUISIANA NURSE OF THE YEAR

HON. RODNEY ALEXANDER

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 21, 2009

Mr. ALEXANDER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Chris Gatlin, RN, OCN, MHA, a nursing director at the Baton Rouge General, for being named 2009 Nurse of the Year by the Louisiana State Nurses Association.

Chris is a long-time nurse at the Baton Rouge General, and her colleagues and friends state that she is representative of a true leader. From her work as an oncology nurse, to her service to those well beyond the hospital walls, Chris demonstrates the art and caring as a nurse by her promotion of this profession through example and participation.

In addition to being one of the most compassionate caregivers, Chris is involved with many programs, projects, and initiatives related to oncology nursing. From promoting her profession through college classroom visits and national speaking engagements, to teaching classes to help nurses at the Baton Rouge General receive the highest certifications in oncology nursing, Chris is a constant advocate for the profession and a mentor to many.

But one of Chris' most important and meaningful achievements was spearheading an initiative to increase awareness about the management of pain for cancer patients. As an oncology nurse, Chris saw how pain affected the daily lives of those suffering with this terminal disease. With a simple commitment to help her patients, she shepherded resources and stakeholders—creating the Louisiana Pain Initiative. Through this group, she secured grant money from the Pain Foundation to conduct the first Survey on Pain in Louisiana. She was also able to gain support around the state and participated in countless interviews for the ''Power Over Pain Louisiana Campaign.'' Chris continues to work closely with the group, making a difference in the lives of many in our state.

Chris is also highly involved with the American Cancer Society (ACS). She participates annually, usually as a team leader, in the Relay for Life event and serves as a member of ACS's board of directors. She is also active in the community by promoting skin and prostate cancer screenings, breast self-exams, lung cancer awareness, and smoking cessation education.

Anyone who knows Chris quickly learns of her excitement and enthusiasm for nursing and zest for life. Colleagues at the Baton Rouge General look to Chris as an example of how the power of one dedicated person can change the world for many. And though Chris would never seek out this type of recognition for her amazing work, everyone at Baton Rouge General believes she earns the right and privilege to be named Louisiana's Nurse of the Year.

I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Chris Gatlin for being named Louisiana's Nurse of the Year. This truly amazing and selfless individual has proven that one person can change the world for many.

INTRODUCTION OF THE MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION FEDERAL CHARTER ACT

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 21, 2009

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Madam Speaker, today I rise to introduce, along with my colleague WALTER JONES, a bill to grant a federal charter to the Military Officers Association of America.

The MOAA is an independent, non-profit, non-partisan organization that plays an active role in military personnel matters while working with Congress to propose legislation affecting our active duty, National Guard and Reserve forces, the retired community, veterans and survivors of the uniformed services.

The MOAA is the largest professional association for military officers and the fourth largest veterans group in the nation with nearly 370,000 members. Nonetheless, MOAA remains the only major veterans organization in the country without a Congressional Charter.

Although a Federal Charter does not confer any specific rights or benefits, it provides public recognition to membership organizations that serve the public interest. A Charter also will enable some state-level MOAA affiliates to represent veterans on Governor-level veterans advisory councils from which they are presently excluded.

MOAA has established a distinguished 80 year history of service to the military community, veterans, survivors and their families by offering career transition assistance, military benefits counseling, and educational assistance to children of military families.

I am proud to stand in support of MOAA with my colleague Representative JONES and with our Senate colleagues BILL NELSON and SUSAN COLLINS, who introduced the bi-partisan companion bill.

After eight decades of service to our men and women in uniform, the MOAA richly deserves congressional support for a federal charter—not only for their benefit but for the benefit of those whom they serve and represent.

DEAN ROBERT ROSEN

HON. HOWARD L. BERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 21, 2009

Mr. BERMAN. Madam Speaker, I am honored to pay tribute to Dean Robert Rosen, outgoing Dean of the internationally acclaimed UCLA School of Theater, Film and Television. A world renowned archivist, recognized for his contribution to the restoration and preservation of films, Bob is to be commended for his work in the preservation of this American art form.

Bob has dedicated thirty years to guiding the growth of the UCLA Film & Television Archive. Evolving from a small study collection to the world's largest university-based holding of original film and television materials second only to the Library of Congress, Bob's dedication has certainly paid off. He has cemented his stature as an international leader in film preservation, first as director of the UCLA Film and Television Archive (1975–99) and since then as Dean of the UCLA School of Theater, Film and Television. Under Bob's leadership, the National Center for Film and Video Preservation at the American Film Institute was founded.

His involvement in the field of film is extensive as he dedicates his time and efforts to serving on numerous boards such as the executive committee of the International Federation of Film Archives and the National Film Preservation Board of the Library of Congress. Along with Martin Scorsese, Bob created the Film Foundation, and today he is the Chair of the Film Foundation's Archivists Advisory Council. His interests extend beyond film with his service as a Board Member of the Geffen Playhouse and the Latino Theater Company.

His many contributions and commitment to film preservation and restoration have not gone unnoticed. In 2008, he received the Film Foundation's John Huston Award from the Directors Guild of America. His work has also been honored internationally, including recognition by the French government as an Officer of Arts and Letters and his receipt of the International Documentary Association's Career Achievement Award for Scholarship and Preservation.

Madam Speaker and distinguished colleagues, I ask you to join me in saluting Dean Robert Rosen for his impressive tenure at UCLA and for the indelible mark he has left on the film industry.

RECOGNIZING JOHN M. CONNALLY, JR.

HON. RALPH M. HALL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 21, 2009

Mr. HALL of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of John M. Connally, Jr., who recently was honored for his contributions to the insurance and financial services industry.

The National Association of Insurance and Financial Advisors-Dallas named John the 2007 Advisor of the Year at their awards ceremony last June. This organization encourages

and facilitates the professional growth of insurance and financial services providers and promotes their public image. This award is presented to individuals who have demonstrated outstanding service to their industry and their community.

John began his career in 1963 and has been a major contributor both to his own company as well as to NAIFA. He is currently president and CEO of Financial Protection Life and Annuity Corporation. As a Life Underwriter Training Council Fellow, he serves as secretary of the NAIFA-Dallas Board of Directors, chairman of the Governmental Relations Committee, and will become President of the Association in 2010. He is a life member of the Million Dollar Round Table and has served on the boards of directors of the Dallas Association of Life Underwriters, the El Paso Association of Life Underwriters, and the El Paso General Agents and Managers Association, where he also was president.

Additionally, John has served as a member of the Richardson City Council, a founder of Richardson Sports Incorporated, and has served on various other community boards. He was the Regional Director for John B. Connally for President, Campaign Manager for Wayne Connally for Lieutenant Governor and Preston Smith for Governor. He also served as a Lay Leader for Custer Road United Methodist Church.

John and his wife, Erna, have been married for 35 years. Their family includes Kelle, Katie, Dan, Jaelyn and Brad. John is a Texas Tech graduate, where he earned a BBA in finance, played football on an athletic scholarship and was a member of the Pi Kappa Alpha Fraternity.

Madam Speaker, I commend John M. Connally, Jr., for his service and commitment to the financial industry, his family and his community. He comes from a great Texas family that has contributed so much to our state and Nation, and their legacy continues in his life and in the lives of his children.

IN RECOGNITION OF QUALITY ROAD, OWNER-BREEDER EDWARD P. EVANS AND SPRING HILL FARM IN CASANOVA, VIRGINIA

HON. ROBERT J. WITTMAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 21, 2009

Mr. WITTMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize Quality Road, the winner of the Florida Derby on March 28, 2009. Breaking a track record for nine furlongs with his 1:47.72 performance and winning by 1¾ lengths, Quality Road emerged the number one seed from the Southeast Regional for the Kentucky Derby.

Quality Road was foaled on March 23, 2006 at Spring Hill Farm. The three year-old Virginia Thoroughbred colt gets his speed from his sire, Elusive Quality, who was not only a world-class miler, but also sired Smarty Jones, the 2004 Kentucky Derby winner and Raven's Pass, last year's Breeders' Cup Classic winner. His damsire, Strawberry Road, was a worldwide multiple Group I winner, and his dam's full sister, Ajina, won the 1997 Breeders' Cup Distaff and Coaching Club American Oaks.

Located in Casanova, Virginia, Spring Hill Farm is owned by Mr. Edward P. Evans and is recognized nationally and internationally for its accomplishments in Thoroughbred breeding and racing. Mr. Evans has bred leading sires and broodmares in the Thoroughbred industry for more than thirty-five years including Horse of the Year Saint Liam.

The impressive win at the Florida Derby displayed Quality Road's ability to win at the 1⅛-mile distance and establishes him as a formidable contender for the Kentucky Derby.

Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend and congratulate Edward P. Evans and Spring Hill Farm on the accomplishments of an impeccably-bred horse, Quality Road. I invite my colleagues to join me in wishing Quality Road continued success in the 135th running of the Kentucky Derby and the first leg of the 2009 Triple Crown Series.

HONORING THE BATON ROUGE GENERAL

HON. RODNEY ALEXANDER

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 21, 2009

Mr. ALEXANDER. Madam Speaker, I am proud to honor the Baton Rouge General for earning the tremendous honor—for the fifth time—as the Hospital of the Year by the Louisiana State Nurses Association.

The Baton Rouge General, established more than 100 years ago as the first hospital in the Baton Rouge area, is still committed to serving the residents of this community. This hospital boasts a legacy rich in clinical achievement, timely and responsive technological advancement, and dependable yet creative approaches to the delivery of quality care and services to those it serves.

The Baton Rouge General aids a nine-parish region as a teaching hospital for both physicians and nurses, and provides the community with an extensive range of services, including one of only two Regional Burn Centers in the state of Louisiana.

Moreover, the Baton Rouge General's Pennington Cancer Center became the first in the nation to treat patients using the ARTISTE™ the most advanced cancer-fighting technology available today. This technology allows cancer patients to remain close to home for treatment—surrounded by friends and family—and still receive the best cancer treatment available anywhere in the country.

In addition to ARTISTE™ the hospital's Pennington Cancer Center has become known for developing the most comprehensive and advanced cancer treatment program in the region, including inpatient, outpatient, surgical and medical oncology services; radiation treatment; and cancer research programs at both campuses of the Baton Rouge General. Also, through the Baton Rouge General's Womack Heart Center, the hospital provides complete cardiac care—recognized by many national organizations for the highest quality and outcomes.

Again, the Baton Rouge General's dedication to excellence was highlighted nationally in 2008 when it was named one of the nation's Top 25 Most Connected Hospitals in America by Health Imaging and IT Magazine. The hospital is in the final stages of developing a $16 million, state-of-the-art information technology system, which has been the subject of multiple national articles.

As the Baton Rouge General forges into the new millennium, the hospital is more committed than ever to providing exceptional care from the region's best nurses, physicians and clinical professionals.

I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the Baton Rouge General as it continues to provide needed medical services, life-saving, state-of-the-art technology and the best care to its community.

HOLOCAUST REMEMBRANCE DAY

HON. HENRY A. WAXMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 21, 2009

Mr. WAXMAN. Madam Speaker, today is Holocaust Remembrance Day, Yom Hashoah, which is marked by ceremonies this week in the United States, Israel and around the world. It is a solemn day commemorating the Hebrew anniversary of the beginning of the Warsaw Ghetto uprising and each year it is an opportunity to revisit the lessons of the Holocaust and the innocent lives and vibrant communities that were destroyed by the Nazis.

Decades have passed since the Nazis and their willing counterparts committed mass genocide of European Jewry. Tragically, despite a clear historical record, Holocaust denial has become a favored platform for anti-Zionism and anti-Semitism. The threat grows greater as the eyewitnesses who survived the Holocaust pass on.

In a new chapter of struggle, these eyewitnesses increasingly face a different kind of daily challenge for survival. Of the approximately 100,000 Holocaust survivors living in the United States, at least 25 percent live below the federal poverty level. Tragically, the current economic crisis is pushing this already vulnerable population to even further financial uncertainty. In Los Angeles, home to approximately 15,000 survivors, the Holocaust Survivor Program at Jewish Family Services has reported a sharp increase in requests for emergency financial assistance. Those who receive public benefits have already seen a cut in their Social Security payments, and are expecting additional cuts to their medical benefits, and the In-Home Supportive Services program that will go into effect this summer.

Around the country, Holocaust survivors are facing the loss of their homes of many years to foreclosure, at least in part because they have drawn on the equity in their homes to help meet daily expenses. Such displacement is distressing for any senior citizen, but the impact on survivors is often exacerbated by physical and mental health ailments from their wartime experience. It is clear that indigent survivors in Los Angeles, the United States and around the world are in dire need.

The United States and the international community have the opportunity to deliver justice and aid for these survivors at the upcoming ''Holocaust Era Assets Conference,'' which will be hosted in June by the Government of the Czech Republic in Prague. The objective of the conference is to assess the progress made since a similar conference was convened in Washington in 1998.

Key working groups organized for the Prague Conference will focus on property restitution in countries like Poland that still have no applicable laws, looted art and Judaica, and Jewish cultural property. There will also be a special session on ''Caring for Victims of Nazism and Their Legacy,'' which will examine the pressing humanitarian and social needs survivors face.

Those who survived the Holocaust and overcame horrific trauma to rebuild their shattered lives deserve to live their final years with dignity. We cannot talk about remembrance and restitution without addressing survivor destitution. I am hopeful that the Prague forum will answer this urgent call to action.

CONGRATULATING THE WASHINGTON HIGH SCHOOL LADY PANTHERS

HON. JOE DONNELLY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 21, 2009

Mr. DONNELLY of Indiana. Madam Speaker, today I wish to extend my congratulations to the South Bend Washington High School Lady Panthers, 2009 State Runners-Up in the 4A girls basketball division.

During their remarkable season, the Lady Panthers won 26 games on their way to finishing second in national rankings by ESPN. In a state championship game that will be remembered as one of the best in Indiana high school basketball history, South Bend Washington lost 71-69 to Ben Davis High School of Indianapolis, the nationally top-ranked squad, on a last second shot. Through their determination, effort, and outstanding achievements, the Lady Panthers can be proud of all that they have done for girls basketball in the state of Indiana.

The South Bend Washington team consisted of 12 young ladies, including: Seniors Skylar Diggins, Alandrea Pfeifer-Nailon, Karis Phillips, Rakeesha Lane, Takoia Larry, Jasmine Watson, and Jazmine Watson; Junior Avante Newsome-Gunn; Sophomores Porscha Hill and Terran Scott; and Freshmen Brytney Bennett and Shareita Patton.

Head Coach Maurice Scott was assisted by Don Coddens. In addition to the Washington High School student body, alumni, and parents, officials such as Mayor Steve Lueke, School Superintendent James Kapsa, Washington Principal George McCullough, Jr., and Athletic Director Marilyn Coddens lent support and encouragement throughout the season.

After averaging 29 points per game, South Bend Washington senior guard Skylar Diggins was named the 2009 Gatorade and Naismith National High School Player of the Year, and was also the winner of the 2009 Indiana Miss Basketball award.

The city of South Bend and the surrounding area rallied behind the Lady Panthers. For the fourth consecutive year, thousands of fans traveled to Indianapolis, where they made the State Championship game feel like a home contest.

Again, I offer my hearty congratulations to the members of the South Bend Washington High School girls basketball team on their Semi-State title, their extraordinary effort in the State Championship game, and for all of their accomplishments this season.

HONORING DONALD NORCROSS UPON HIS RECEIPT OF THE FIRST CIVIC LEADERSHIP AWARD FROM CAMDEN COUNTY COLLEGE

HON. ROBERT E. ANDREWS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 21, 2009

Mr. ANDREWS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Donald Norcross, who was the recipient of the inaugural Camden County Civic Leadership and Responsibility Award on April 2, 2009. Mr. Norcross received this award in recognition of his tireless efforts championing the causes of local laborers and their families, ensuring that the needs of local social service organizations and their clients are met, and spearheading efforts toward the renewal of the City of Camden.

While a student at Camden County College, Mr. Norcross began his career as an apprentice electrician. Today he is the president of the Southern New Jersey AFL–CIO Central Labor Council, vice president of the Southern New Jersey Building Trades Council, and assistant business manager of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 351.

Madam Speaker, Mr. Norcross has also worked to make his community better through his civic endeavors. For more than ten years he has served as a member of the executive board of the United Way of Camden County. He founded the Home Port Alliance, a group of South Jersey veterans, activists and elected officials. This group successfully worked to bring the retired USS *New Jersey*, the most decorated battleship in United States history, to the Camden waterfront. This proud ship now serves as a monument to the brave sailors who served on her during her long and distinguished career as well as an exciting attraction that contributes to the economic development of Southern New Jersey. In light of these considerable achievements, it is fitting that Mr. Norcross was honored with the inaugural Camden County Civic Leadership and Responsibility Award. He is an excellent example for all Camden County College graduates and students. I congratulate Mr. Norcross for receiving the award and wish him the best of luck in his future endeavors.

TRIBUTE TO MURRAY STATE UNIVERSITY SYMPHONIC WIND ENSEMBLE

HON. ED WHITFIELD

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 21, 2009

Mr. WHITFIELD. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the talented Murray State University Symphonic Wind Ensemble from Kentucky's First Congressional District. Tonight, the wind ensemble has been invited to perform at the world renowned John F. Kennedy Center. I have no doubt that these gifted students will represent western Kentucky well in our nation's Capital.

Under the direction of Mr. Dennis L. Johnson, the Murray State University Symphonic Wind Ensemble has gained a reputation for excellence both here in the United States and abroad. This reputation has allowed them to perform in some of the most prestigious venues and events in the world. In 2000 and 2005, they were invited for special performances at Carnegie Hall. In 2001 they were the only ensemble from the United States selected to perform at the International Wind Band Conference in Manchester, England. This year they appeared in a special concert at the state Kentucky Music Educators Association Conference in Louisville. The ensemble has also been selected by competitive audition to perform at the prestigious College Band Director's National Association Conferences.

The Symphonic Wind Ensemble is one of the premiere performing organizations for the highly respected Murray State University Department of Music. Each year the wind ensemble presents a series of concerts featuring international performing artists-conductors and premieres compositions by composers from throughout the world.

Madam Speaker, these students and musicians have shown an unwavering commitment to both their studies and their music. Their performance this evening at the Kennedy Center is a true testament to their dedication to training and practice. The achievements of Murray State University's Wind Ensemble are noteworthy, and I ask the entire United States Congress to join me in congratulating them for receiving the great honor of being asked to perform at the Kennedy Center. I would also like to commend Murray State University as a whole for their commitment to excellence over the past 87 years. The wind ensemble is a shining example of the many incredible programs the university offers.

HONORING VINCI RICCHIUTI

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 21, 2009

Mr. RADANOVICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Vinci Ricchiuti upon being named one of the ''2009 Common Threads Honorees'' by California State University, Fresno. Mrs. Ricchiuti will be honored at the 13th Annual Common Threads Luncheon to be held on Friday, April 3, 2009.

The Common Threads Award recognizes women who have made a remarkable and visible contribution to the enhancement of their communities. Vinci Ricchiuti was born and raised in Fresno, California, and spent her childhood on and around her family's farm. Her grandparents farmed tree fruit and almonds. She married Patrick Ricchiuti in 1981 and became a member of another farming family; she quickly became an ambassador for fresh fruit and nuts. Even with her role as a businesswoman and mother, she continues to make time for community involvement.

Mrs. Ricchiuti has volunteered for 10 different committees with California State University; including Foundation Board of Governors, Budget Committee Chair, Ambassador for Higher Education Committee, Comprehensive Campaign Leadership Committee and Alumni Board Past Director. She is also a Foundation board member for Community Regional Medical Center, an advisory board member for the Nazareth House and a past president for Fort Washington Elementary School. Between Mrs.

Ricchiuti's volunteerism and her philanthropic spirit, the time and produce that she has donated has benefited multiple organizations in the Fresno area including numerous schools within the Clovis Unified School District, the Fresno Art Museum, Fresno Metropolitan Museum, Junior League of Fresno and Assistance League of Fresno. She has made donations to various California State University organizations and the not-for-profit hospitals in the region.

For Mrs. Ricchiuti's commitment and dedication to her community, she has been recognized as the "California State University, Fresno Alumni of the Year" from the School of Arts and Humanities, the "Arthur Safstrom Award for Outstanding Service to Fresno State." She has also been named the California State University, Fresno Alumni Association "Top Dog," the Association of Fundraising Professionals "Volunteer Fundraiser of the Year," and the Foundation for Clovis Schools "Guardian of the Year."

Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend and congratulate Vinci Ricchiuti upon being named a "2009 Common Threads Honoree" by California State University, Fresno. I invite my colleagues to join me in wishing Mrs. Ricchiuti many years of continued success.

HONORING DOCTOR CHARLES JOHNSON

HON. JIM McDERMOTT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 21, 2009

Mr. McDERMOTT. Madam Speaker, on the occasion of the honoring of his lifetime achievement by one of Seattle's historic organizations and keeper of the arts, the Rainier Club, the people of the State of Washington hold up as a national inspiration the work of one of the world's most distinguished authors, Seattle's own Dr. Charles Johnson.

Dr. Johnson made the journey to Seattle from Long Island in 1976 to teach at the University of Washington. He noted in Smithsonian Magazine in 2008 that Seattle is "an ideal environment for nurturing innovation, individualism and the creative spirit." It is in this setting that Dr. Johnson has made a uniquely rich array of contributions to the arts and letters, and became one of his generation's most distinguished African American authors.

While his works are too numerous to list, Madam Speaker, Dr. Johnson counts among his literary gems four novels, Faith and the Good Thing, Oxherding Tale, Middle Passage, and Dreamer; as well as short stories, screenplays, aesthetics, comic art, and King: The Photobiography of Martin Luther King, Jr. His awards and honors are as abundant as they are approbative.

Dr. Johnson noted in Seattle's Post-Intelligencer on April 27, 2007 that American society is threatened by a "diminished literary culture," the cure for which is "the experience of complex, well-wrought, visionary books that challenge our assumptions, our intellectual laziness, and transform as well as deepen our perceptions of the world and ourselves." While he probably intended otherwise, this describes Dr. Johnson's own pivotal role in our literary ethos, as his works consistently have challenged readers' assumptions and intellectual laziness while transforming and deepening our world view and our self-knowledge.

Dr. Johnson's influence is international, but it is our honor that his presence is local to Washington State's 7th Congressional District.

IN HONOR OF THE PERFORMING ANIMAL WELFARE SOCIETY (PAWS)

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 21, 2009

Mr. FARR. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor the 25th anniversary of the founding of The Performing Animal Welfare Society, PAWS, which continues to valiantly lead efforts to protect all animals and to ensure proper humane sanctuary for wildlife who have experienced the inhumanity of the exotic and performing animal trades.

In 1984, Pat Derby and Ed Stewart founded PAWS, sharing their commitment to develop a pristine sanctuary for abused, neglected and retired wildlife. Throughout the last 25 years, I am proud to have worked with PAWS to ensure improved, humane standards for captive wildlife. An early success for PAWS and animal rights activists was celebrated in 1985 with the passing of California Assembly Bill 1620 which introduced humane standards for the care and handling of wildlife. Following that initial success, more support was garnered which led the California Assembly to pass the Elephant Bill in 1995. This historic statute mandated that elephants be provided minimum adequate space to move freely and prohibited the use of chains for confinement.

Building on previous accomplishments, PAWS forged a bipartisan partnership with Congress in 1997 to pass the Asian Elephant Conservation Act. In another watershed moment for animal protection advocates, this important legislation provided financial assistance for projects intended to protect Asian elephants and blocked funding for captive breeding programs. As a co-sponsor of the original Act, and having twice voted to fully fund the Asian Elephant Conservation Reauthorization Acts of 2001 and 2007, I understand the importance and deeply appreciate the beneficence of PAWS. In addition to protecting elephants, PAWS has successfully implemented solutions to rescue and relocate over 35 tigers and other animals from breeding facilities.

Through The Performing Animal Welfare Society's extraordinary accomplishments, which now includes over 2,400 acres of natural protected sanctuaries, countless captive animals have been rescued from hazardous and inhumane conditions and have been provided with healthy and sustainable environments in which to live quality lives. Without their steadfast support and dedication for the humane treatment of wildlife, our nation's efforts to protect these animals would be drastically impaired.

Madam Speaker, it is with the upmost respect and gratitude that I rise to honor the 25th anniversary of PAWS and especially to pay tribute to Pat Derby and Ed Stewart.

TRIBUTE TO THE BOOKER T. WASHINGTON HIGH SCHOOL CLASS OF 1949

HON. KENDRICK B. MEEK

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 21, 2009

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Madam Speaker, I am pleased to recognize and extend my congratulations to the Booker T. Washington High School Class of 1949 as they prepare to celebrate their 60th class reunion. Booker T. Washington High School is located in Overtown, Miami, Florida, which is in my congressional District.

Founded in 1926 for African-American students residing from West Palm Beach to Key West, Booker T. Washington High School has served as a stalwart in the Miami-Dade County community since its inception. By 1949, Booker T. Washington High School was one of three African-American high schools in Miami-Dade County and since then has become a vital center for cultural activities in Overtown.

The Class of 1949 was the first high school alumni group in South Florida to honor Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday as a holiday. Additionally, the Class of 1949 has been the sole alumni group in the country to file and successfully conclude a Civil Rights Action, specifically a public accommodation lawsuit against a commercial establishment. Moreover, many "49ers" have engaged in charitable endeavors including granting educational scholarships, annual contributions and support to the United Negro College Fund, the Black Archives and the Sickle Cell Anemia Foundation.

Noteworthy achievements by the "49ers" include: the first African-American elected to public office in Miami-Dade County as a County Commissioner, the first African-American to serve as chairman of a board in Miami-Dade County the Fair Housing and Employment Commission and the first African-American to serve as a head coach at a fully integrated public high school in Miami-Dade County.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to commemorate Booker T. Washington High School for its remarkable role in fostering education among African-Americans and implore its alumni to ensure that future generations have educational access to foster the skills to face complex challenges. I once again extend my congratulations to the members of the Booker T. Washington High School Class of 1949 as they prepare to celebrate their 60th class reunion.

CONGRATULATING THE ROCHESTER HIGH SCHOOL BOYS BASKETBALL TEAM

HON. JOE DONNELLY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 21, 2009

Mr. DONNELLY of Indiana. Madam Speaker, today I rise to extend my congratulations to the Rochester High School Boys Basketball Team. The Zebras succeeded in placing second in the IHSAA 3-A State Tournament on March 28, 2009 at Conseco Field House in Indianapolis. After making it to the championship

game, they suffered a narrow 79–81 double-overtime loss against the Princeton Tigers.

Returning only two starters from the previous year, the Rochester Zebras enjoyed an incredible season, showing a strong work ethic in their practices and throughout the regular season in order to advance to the IHSAA 3-A State Tournament. The Zebras played brilliantly during the tournament and despite their close loss in the final game, their great effort capped off an impressive 23–4 season.

The Rochester team has 13 members including seniors Bruce Grimm, Jr., Brody Schoen, Austin Lowe and Jason Smith; Juniors Garrett Winegar, Marc Bowers and Colt Meadows; and Sophomores Nate Basham, Evan Hoff, Collin Harris, Cameron Screeton, Cahner Thompson and Chris Messersmith. The Zebras are led by senior Bruce Grimm, Jr., who averaged an impressive 25.2 points per game and had 40 points in the championship game.

During the championship game, the Rochester Zebras completed 15 three-point shots, setting a new IHSAA record.

I also want to acknowledge the wonderful support the team had from Head Coach Rob Malchow and Assistant Coaches Rex Reinholt, Sean Kelly, Dewayne Stiles, Mike Malchow and Mike Barnett. They helped guide the Zebras to victory. I would also like to thank Principal Dan Ronk, Assistant Principal Jana Vance, Athletic Director Mark Miller and above all, the fans in the community, many of whom traveled to Indianapolis for the game and gathered to welcome the team home upon their return.

I offer my hardy congratulations to the members of the boys' basketball team of Rochester High School, the coaching staff, the school administration, and the community for their accomplishments this season on the road to their second place finish in the IHSAA 3-A State Basketball Tournament.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE JUDGE CHARLES J. VALLONE SCHOLARSHIP DINNER DANCE

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 21, 2009

Mrs. MALONEY. Madam Speaker, I rise to pay honor to the organizers of the Judge Charles J. Vallone Scholarship Dinner, to the dinner's honorees and to the students who receive scholarships as a result of the generosity of dinner attendees. The scholarship, named for the late Charles J. Vallone, has awarded over half a million dollars to graduating high school seniors from Astoria, making it possible for these bright students to enroll in the colleges of their choice.

Judge Charles Vallone, father of former City Council Speaker Peter Vallone and grandfather of City Councilmember Peter Vallone Jr., founded the Astoria Civic Association with a group of concerned neighbors in 1928. The association was incorporated by the state of New York in 1933 and Judge Vallone served as its first executive chairman. After Judge Vallone died in 1967, his widow, Leah Vallone, founded the scholarship fund in his memory. The Vallone Scholarship fund has grown to be one of the largest private scholarship funds in New York state.

This month, the Astoria Civic Association holds its annual Judge Charles J. Vallone Scholarship Dinner Dance at the Riccardo's by the Bridge in Astoria, Queens. George Alexiou and Gloria DeMarco Aloise, two extraordinary people who are truly pillars of the community, will be this year's honorees. They each have demonstrated remarkable leadership and have been instrumental in supporting the Astoria Civic Association's vital mission.

George Alexiou embodies the American immigrant success story. He was born and raised in Greece. Following his service in the Greek Army, he went to the Hotel Manager School in Heidelberg, Germany, where he studied for two years. He then worked for two years at the Hilton Hotel in Dusseldorf, Germany, and also worked in the hotel business in Paris and London. In 1972, Mr. Alexiou moved to Astoria, New York. For ten years, Mr. Alexiou worked in top restaurants and hotels before leaving the hospitality industry to start his own business. He established Century 21 Alexiou Realty, which helps Queens residents find housing and enables many to begin the American dream of home ownership. Mr. Alexiou is honorary President of the Greek American Homeowners Association, and is a member of Queens Community Board 1 and the Astoria/Long Island City Kiwanis Club. He resides in Astoria with his lovely wife, Elpida.

Gloria DeMarco Aloise grew up in a political family and has spent a lifetime involved in Queens politics, particularly through the Taminent Democratic Club. Ms. Aloise is a Democratic District Leader for 36th Assembly District, and has provided organizational skills and guidance to every local elected official in Western Queens. Ms. Aloise has also been an inspiration to countless community leaders through her tireless efforts to improve the quality of life of all the residents of Astoria, New York. Ms. Aloise is active in many community organizations, including the Martin De Porres School, where she has served as a teacher and a caseworker. She is supported by her devoted husband Edward, and by her children and grandchildren.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to all those who have made the Judge Charles J. Vallone Scholarship Dinner possible and in recognizing the accomplishments of its sponsor, the Astoria Civic Association, and its distinguished 2009 honorees.

RECOGNIZING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF ALTERNATIVE HOUSE

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 21, 2009

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize an outstanding organization serving at-risk youth in Fairfax County. Alternative House was founded in 1972 as the first emergency shelter for runaway teenagers in Northern Virginia. Through counseling, shelter, crisis intervention and neighborhood outreach, Alternative House provides support to at-risk young children, teens and their families. Recognizing the interdependence of families, Alternative House programs seek to empower young children, teens, and families to work together and build on their strengths.

Alternative House has grown organically from its origins in a trailer on the grounds of Lewinsville Presbyterian Church to a renovated house located on Gallows Road in Dunn Loring. While Alternative House's programs have grown, the organization continues to focus on those most in need of assistance and those with the greatest possibility for making life-altering changes.

In 1993, Alternative House embarked on an aggressive outreach program for at-risk youth. The effort consisted of a mobile unit with two counselors who walked through our neighborhoods to provide young people with support, resources, and guidance. Since its origins, the Community Outreach Program has expanded to include additional recreation and education services designed to help children and teens stay in school.

In 2002, Alternative House expanded its assistance outreach by opening the Assisting Young Mothers program. This program seeks to provide shelter, education, counseling and support to young women who are homeless, pregnant or already parenting. These programs give young people hope for brighter futures.

In 2008, Alternative House's Emergency Shelter for Teenagers provided safe shelter, food and counseling to an average of more than eighteen young people each month, totaling 220 for the year. In just the past twelve months, Alternative House provided neighborhood-based counseling, outreach, food and after-school programs to more than 1,800 at-risk youth in Fairfax County.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the consistently growing and increasingly significant contributions of Alternative House to at-risk young people in Fairfax County. From both its origins to its current efforts, Alternative House is truly an exemplar for community-based assistance programs.

LEGISLATION TO CODIFY TITLE 53, U.S. CODE—SMALL BUSINESS

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 21, 2009

Mr. CONYERS. Madam Speaker, Ranking Member LAMAR SMITH and I are introducing a bill to codify into positive law as title 53, United States Code, certain general and permanent laws related to small business. This bill was prepared by the Office of the Law Revision Counsel, as part of its ongoing responsibility under 2 U.S.C. § 285b to prepare, and submit to the Committee on the Judiciary one title at a time, a complete compilation, restatement, and revision of the general and permanent laws of the United States.

The bill restates the Small Business Act and the Small Business Investment Act of 1958, along with related provisions in other Acts, as a new positive law title of the United States Code. The new positive law title replaces the existing provisions, which are repealed by the bill.

This bill is not intended to make any substantive changes in the law. As is typical with the codification process, a number of nonsubstantive revisions are made, including the reorganization of sections into a more coherent

overall structure, but these changes are not intended to have any substantive effect.

The bill, along with a detailed section-by-section explanation of the bill, can be found on the Law Revision Counsel website at http://uscode.house.gov/cod. Interested parties are invited to submit comments to Tim Trushel, Assistant Counsel, Office of the Law Revision Counsel, U.S. House of Representatives, H2–304 Ford House Office Building, Washington, D.C., 20515–6711, (202) 226–2411, as well as to the Committee.

HOLOCAUST REMEMBRANCE DAY

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 21, 2009

Mrs. MALONEY. Madam Speaker, yesterday evening marked the beginning of Yom Hashoah, Holocaust Remembrance Day, the day set aside to remember the six-million Jewish victims of the Holocaust. In Israel, it is a national memorial day.

The atrocities of the Holocaust are horrific and unforgivable. Those who perished live on in the memories of those who survived. Today, I would like to recognize one such individual, Fanya Gottesfeld Heller, a survivor and a remarkable woman, who lives in my district and who I am privileged to represent.

Fanya's presence here represents the victory of life over death, of light over darkness, and of goodness over evil. She is a member of the last generation of Holocaust survivors. With the survivor population growing older, with most in their 70s, 80s and beyond, there is an urgent need to record the events of this most tragic period in human history.

Fanya grew up in a tiny village on the Polish-Ukrainian border called Skala. Prior to the war, the Jews, Poles and Ukrainians lived in different worlds with very little interaction. The Nazis were able to take advantage of this lack of communication and centuries' old hatred to turn average citizens—shopkeepers, doctors, lawyers and teachers—into willing participants in the war against the Jews. They brainwashed the public with a media campaign of lies, at a time when there were no jobs, no money and no food. People wanted someone to blame and Hitler took advantage of this anger and frustration and convinced an entire nation to wage a genocidal war against the Jews.

A Polish peasant farmer named Sidor, one of the poorest in the village of Skala, risked his life and that of his wife and young daughter to save Fanya's family. He dug a cave for them under his chicken coop, where Fanya, along with her parents and little brother, hid and remained in a crouching position for nearly two and a half years. They had little air and no light and subsisted on whatever meager rations Sidor was able to share with them. Lice and rats were their constant companions.

Jan, a Ukrainian shoemaker who became a militiaman during the war, was the only other person to help them. Jan had taken a particular romantic interest in Fanya and, because of his love for her, throughout this entire period, he risked his life—hiding them at times in the attic of his family's barn—to save their lives. He brought them food and bits of news from the warfront whenever possible.

Because of the help he gave Fanya's family in hiding, Jan was teased and called a ''Jewish Uncle.'' His own mother turned him in to the Nazis, who in turn beat him mercilessly in order to try to find the Gottesfelds.

Fanya's contributions to the community are multifold. She has raised a wonderful family, three children, eight grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren. In 1998, the New York State Board of Regents awarded her the Louis E. Yavner Citizen Award in recognition of her outstanding contributions to teaching about the Holocaust and other assaults on humanity. Fanya holds a B.A. and an M.A. in psychology from the New School for Social Research and honorary degrees from Yeshiva University and Bar-Ilan University. She serves on the boards of numerous institutions and charitable organizations, many of which focus on Jewish education and the empowerment of women.

She is the author of Love in a World of Sorrow, a candid memoir of her experiences during the Holocaust and a public record of one woman's witness to the Holocaust. After publication, Fanya also began to teach. Speaking to young people, mostly not Jewish, Fanya puts a face to the suffering they had read about in their textbooks, providing a message of hope and an emotional connection that can only come from hearing a first person account. There is also a study guide published alongside Fanya's book to help educators present the issue of genocide.

Fanya is committed to helping others understand the power of goodness in a world of evil, the power of just one person, of each individual—that individuals can and must make the right choices instead of remaining bystanders in the face of evil. Fanya wants to insure that these and future generations better understand the tragedy of the past and work to make sure that, in each lifetime, fairness, justice and love will win out over indifference, evil and hatred.

HONORING JIM SAXTON FOR HIS MANY YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE STATE OF NEW JERSEY

HON. ROBERT E. ANDREWS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 21, 2009

Mr. ANDREWS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Jim Saxton for his service to the United States House of Representatives. I was pleased to have the opportunity to previously honor Mr. Saxton at a dinner in Cherry Hill on March 15, 2009.

Since his time as an elementary school teacher and a small business owner, Representative Saxton has worked tirelessly to help the people of New Jersey. He served in the New Jersey General Assembly and the New Jersey Senate. He served the State of New Jersey in the House of Representatives for more than twenty-three years. He became the Ranking Member of the Armed Services and Resources Committee. He has been instrumental in efforts to keep military bases in New Jersey, to stop beach erosion, and to support New Jersey hospitals.

Madam Speaker, Jim Saxton has a proud record of service to the State of New Jersey and I am proud to call him my friend. I congratulate Mr. Saxton for all his accomplishments and wish him the best of luck in all of his future endeavors.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. TODD RUSSELL PLATTS

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 21, 2009

Mr. PLATTS. Madam Speaker, I rise to announce the projects that I have requested for my Congressional District within the Fiscal Year 2010 Appropriations bills. My office is regularly contacted by non-profit and other organizations within the 19th Congressional District, as well as state and local government entities, to request federal funding as part of the eleven annual appropriations bills. This year sixty-five funding requests were submitted to my office and were reviewed by a ten member advisory board comprised of community leaders throughout the 19th District. The breakdown of members from the three counties was done on an approximate per capita basis.

Based on the recommendations of the board, the following are domestic projects which will be forwarded to the House Appropriations Committee for consideration. If more than five requests were received for a particular appropriations bill, rankings by the board were used to reduce the number of requests to five or—in the event of a tie—six.

All of the projects listed below will compete against all of the other projects submitted by Members of Congress for consideration by the Appropriations Committee. Their appearance on this list does not guarantee that they will receive funding, nor that any funding they receive will be in the amount requested.

Labor-Health-Education Appropriations Bill:

Goodling Advanced Skills Center: The William F. Goodling Regional Advanced Skills Learning Center is a non-profit 501(c)(3) training center providing industry-led training to incumbent workers, dislocated workers, and new entrants into the workforce. Training is also provided to high school seniors. The Advanced Skills Learning Center would use this funding to create the Goodling Innovation and New Technology (GIANT) Center. The GIANT Center will help private industry leverage their idle intellectual properties by matching them with existing companies and start-up businesses in need of those technologies, thereby serving as the link between technology excess and technology success. Additionally, funding would be used for startup costs of this initiative, allowing the GIANT Center to develop a resource network in the region, and assist with administrative costs, staffing needs, and marketing initiatives. This is a good use of taxpayer funds because, due to the increasingly competitive nature of the global economy, firms must innovate in order to survive by developing new technologies, products, and processes. The GIANT Center would play a critical role in working with companies, allowing them to remain competitive. ($300,000)

William F. Goodling Regional Advanced Skills Center, 2101 Pennsylvania Avenue, York, PA 17404.

Hanover Hospital: Hanover Hospital would use this funding to convert all paper records at the hospital to an electronic medical record system. This is a good use of taxpayer dollars because the use of such records is proven to

improve clinical outcomes and enables health systems to better define, measure, monitor, and reward quality care. Electronic medical records create efficiencies for patients, physicians, and the hospital. ($1 million)

Hanover Hospital, 300 Highland Avenue, Hanover, PA 17331.

Holy Spirit Hospital: Holy Spirit Hospital would use this funding to provide improved outpatient mental health services for older adults within their Seniors' Behavioral Health Services Outreach Program. Funding would be used to partially support the salary costs of trained psychotherapists providing education and support services and registered nurses providing medical support in lieu of the psychiatrist. In addition, funding would be used to produce educational materials specific to mental health issues concerning older adults. This is a good use of taxpayer funds because current barriers to mental health treatment remain significant, and the mental health needs of older adults in the Cumberland, York and Adams County areas remain largely unmet. ($100,000)

Holy Spirit Hospital, 503 North 21st Street, Camp Hill, PA 17011

Memorial Hospital: Memorial Hospital would use this funding to purchase a new Digital Mammography Unit for the Memorial Hospital Breast Center. The unit would allow for high quality digital breast images to provide earlier diagnosis and treatment of breast cancer. This is a good use of taxpayer funds because breast cancer continues to be on the rise in York County and across the nation. Early detection through mammography is key to early treatment and survival of women diagnosed. ($100,000)

Memorial Hospital, 325 Belmont Street, York, PA 17403.

WellSpan Health: WellSpan Health would use this funding to purchase a remote monitoring system for the York Hospital Emergency Transitional Care Unit, allowing physicians to monitor patients in a distant location without physically leaving the main Emergency Department. This is a good use of taxpayer funds because the remote monitoring system would create remote access using video/audio conferencing technology so that a physician could monitor multiple patients at one time. In addition, while caring for a patient in the main emergency department, the physician could answer questions and communicate with patients and families who are waiting in the Emergency Transitional Care Unit, eliminating the constant disruption of walking back and forth. ($99,500)

WellSpan Health, 912 South George Street, York, PA 17403.

York College of Pennsylvania: York College of Pennsylvania is a private, four-year institution of higher education serving over 5,600 students. This is a good use of taxpayer funds because York College would use this funding to expand their existing Nursing Department. Specifically, funds would be used to refurbish laboratories and purchase equipment related to the project. This is a good use of taxpayer funds because York College operates one of the largest bachelorette nursing programs in the region. York College's ability to continue providing a pool of highly educated and trained nursing graduates helps fill the critical demand for nurses, both locally and nationally. ($500,000)

York College of Pennsylvania, 441 Country Club Road, York, PA 17403.

Homeland Security Appropriations Bill:

Carroll Valley Borough: Carroll Valley Borough of Pennsylvania is located in Adams County and is a self-governing incorporated borough. Carroll Valley would use this funding to create a Southwest Adams Regional Fleet Fueling Station for First Responders. This above-ground fuel tank system would be accessible to regional first responders on a 24 hour basis to refuel their vehicles. This is a good use of taxpayer funds because it would assist the Fairfield Regional Emergency Management Agency (FREMA) in providing resources to first responders during a declared disaster/emergency. ($80,700)

Carroll Valley Borough, 5685 Fairfield Road, Fairfield, PA 17320.

Cumberland County Government: Cumberland County would use this funding to construct a new facility for the Department of Public Safety, the Office of Emergency Preparedness (including the Emergency Operations Center), and the 911 Public Safety Answering Point. This is a good use of taxpayer funds because the County is a critical regional player in emergency planning and response and this facility would assist Cumberland County in executing these responsibilities. ($1 million)

Cumberland County Government, 1 Courthouse Square, Room 200, Carlisle, PA 17013.

Agriculture Appropriations Bill:

Nutricore Northeast: NutriCore Northeast, a not-for-profit alliance of corporations, industry organizations, research universities, and municipal communities, was established in 2003 as the National Center of Excellence in Food and Nutrition Research. This alliance funds nutrition research programs and coordinates services to both industry and government agencies to maximize their investments in food or nutrition research and development. NutriCore would use these funds for research projects as well as staffing and overhead costs. This is a good use of taxpayer funds because food manufacturing and food safety are critical components in our national economy and society. NutriCore NorthEast is directly supporting the development of healthier foods, and providing technological and scientific resources to farmers and food processors that were previously unavailable to them. ($500,000)

NutriCore NorthEast, 144 Roosevelt Avenue, York, PA 17401.

Penn State University—Improved Dairy Management Practices: Penn State is a public university. Some of the most important challenges facing the dairy industry today lie in the areas of nutrient and emission management. Penn State faculty will use this funding to research nutrient management through cow nutrition modification and the impacts of emission from dairy operations. In addition, funding will be used to develop new technologies to address problems associated with dairy production in Pennsylvania in an effort to improve water quality, lower impacts of air emissions, and use energy more efficiently. This is a good use of taxpayer funds because the sale of dairy products accounts for nearly half the farm gate value of Pennsylvania's agricultural income. The profitability of Pennsylvania dairy farms is inextricably tied to management decisions that are being made by farmers. ($550,000)

Penn State University, 117 Old Main, University Park, PA 16802.

Penn State University—Integrated Bioenergy Farm: Penn State would use this funding to create an Integrated Bioenergy Farm. Bioenergy crops would be integrated into food production cropping systems relevant to the Northeast. Initially six systems would be implemented at field-scale to demonstrate the opportunities and challenges associated with reducing fossil energy dependence and greenhouse gas production of farming systems. This is a good use of taxpayer funds because Bioenergy crops harvested from these fields would be converted into biodiesel at Penn State's student run biodiesel pilot plant, ethanol (including cellulosic) at a nearby Bioenergy International pilot plant, or pelletized at the Penn State Energy Institute. ($1 million)

Penn State University, 117 Old Main, University Park, PA 16802.

Penn State University—Milk Safety Program: Penn State would use this funding to identify issues in milk and dairy products safety and seek interventions that can be transferred to producers, processors, distributors, and retailers to continue to improve consumer confidence in the quality of their food supply. This is a good use of taxpayer funds because dairy is the single largest economic component of the Pennsylvania agricultural portfolio. ($800,000)

PENN STATE UNIVERSITY, 117 OLD MAIN, UNIVERSITY PARK, 16802.

Penn State University—Sustainable Agriculture and Natural Resources: Penn State University would use this funding to create a new collaborative research and education program that will help diverse farm operations better adopt more sustainable farming practices. Investment in this special grant would increase field research and demonstration to increase the exposure of farm advisors and farmers to sustainable cropping system practices. Practices to be further investigated include: crop species and cultivars for inclusion in crop rotations that improve the performance of sustainable and organic cropping systems, especially for the Northeast; fine-tuning of management guidelines for mechanical control of cover crops and weeds in conservation and no-tillage systems to reduce or eliminate herbicides; factors that better promote conservation of biological control organisms and beneficial soil microorganisms for weed seed predation and management of other pests; and practices that increase soil organic matter. This is a good use of taxpayer funds because the demand for increased farmer understanding and adoption of sustainable farming practices continues to be a high priority in the agricultural community. ($400,000)

Penn State University, 117 Old Main, University Park, PA 16802.

Commerce, Justice, Science Appropriations Bill:

Adams County Department of Emergency Services: Adams County Department of Emergency Services is the Public Safety Answering Point for Adams County. The entity provides Public Safety Communications to all Emergency Response Agencies within Adams County. Adams County would use this funding to develop a new, standards based wireless communication system that will operate in the 700 MHz and 800 MHz bands. This is a good use of taxpayer funds because the system would be capable of supporting all public safety operations in the County and would allow for increased interoperability. ($200,000)

Adams County Department of Emergency Services, 230 Greenamyer Lane, Gettysburg, PA 17321.

Carlisle Borough: Carlisle Borough is a municipal government located in Cumberland County. Carlisle Borough would use this funding to acquire between 25 and 50 surveillance cameras to be installed in public areas in downtown Carlisle. The cameras would be operated remotely at the Carlisle Police Department. Cameras would be of a mobile, wireless variety so that they can be relocated if necessary. This is a good use of taxpayer funds because Carlisle has experienced an increase in crime, specifically robberies, which pose a public safety threat. The project is expected to deter crime and assist in the apprehension of suspects. ($200,000)

Carlisle Borough, 53 West South Street, Carlisle, PA 17013.

Cumberland County Government: Cumberland County would use this funding to relocate and replace communications infrastructure that is essential to the operation of the Department of Public Safety, the Office of Emergency Preparedness (including the Emergency Operations Center), and the 911 Public Safety Answering Point. This is a good use of taxpayer funds because the County is a critical regional player in emergency planning and response and this facility would assist Cumberland County in executing these responsibilities. ($200,000)

Cumberland County Government, 1 Courthouse Square, Room 200, Carlisle, PA 17013.

Survivors, Inc: Survivors, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization which supports individuals who experience domestic violence or sexual assault. Survivors, Inc. provides a 24-hour crisis counseling hotline, shelter services, transitional housing, supportive counseling, support groups, and legal advocacy for individuals affected by domestic violence or sexual assault. Survivors, Inc. would use this funding to partially fund staff salaries, on-call stipends, and expenses for hotline provision. This is a good use of taxpayer funds because safety is one of the most essential needs to both individuals and society. When an individual is not safe in their own home they must have resources available to them to meet their needs. ($25,000)

Survivors, Inc., 233 West High Street, Gettysburg, PA 17325.

York County Children's Advocacy Center: The York County Children's Advocacy Center is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization that works to reduce the trauma of child abuse investigations, foster professional collaboration and cooperation, and promote education and advocacy regarding the prevention of child abuse within the community. The York County Children's Advocacy Center would use this funding to establish the Sexual Assault Forensic Examiners (SAFE) Team. SAFE Team members are registered nurses who have advanced education and clinical preparation in forensic examination of sexual assault victims. The SAFE Team would provide compassionate care to victims of child abuse by simultaneously gathering evidence of a crime. Funds would be used to purchase medical supplies and cover exam costs. This is a good use of taxpayer funds because York County ranks as the third highest county in our Commonwealth for substantiated cases of child abuse. Currently, less than 10% of the children involved in substantiated cases receive a forensic medical exam. ($60,000)

York County Children's Advocacy Center, 28 South Queen Street, York, PA 17403.

Interior, Environment Appropriations Bill:

Adams County Historical Society: Adams County Historical Society is a private, nonprofit organization that identifies, preserves, and tells the stories of people, organizations, businesses, and events that have shaped Adams County, Pennsylvania. Adams County Historical Society would use this funding to restore Schmucker Hall, a building that was constructed in 1832 for use as a campus building for the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Gettysburg. After its restoration, Schmucker Hall will be used as a museum. This is a good use of taxpayer funds because Schmucker Hall is nationally significant to United States history, and elements of the building are in poor condition. Its national significance has been recognized by its listing on the National Register of Historic Places. ($400,000)

Adams County Historical Society, 111 Seminary Ridge, Gettysburg, PA 17325.

Carlisle Borough: Carlisle Borough is a municipal government located in Cumberland County. Carlisle Borough would use this funding to upgrade its wastewater treatment plant facility to achieve the point source effluent nutrient cap loads targeted by the Department of Environmental Protection's Chesapeake Bay Tributary Strategy. This is a good use of taxpayer funds because this project is mandated by the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection and the United States Environmental Protection Agency to benefit the Chesapeake Bay. ($160,000)

Carlisle Borough, 53 West South Street, Carlisle, PA 17013.

Gettysburg National Military Park: Gettysburg National Military Park is a unit of the National Park Service that preserves and protects the resources associated with the Battle of Gettysburg and the Soldiers' National Cemetery. Gettysburg National Military Park would use funding to develop plans and implement activities which enhance and preserve the resources of the historic district. This is a good use of taxpayer funds because technical assistance funding for the Gettysburg Battlefield Historic District helps accomplish vital historic preservation goals of the National Park Service and the Gettysburg community. ($100,000)

Gettysburg National Military Park, 1195 Baltimore Pike, Suite 100, Gettysburg, PA 17325.

York City Sewer Authority: The York City Sewer Authority is a public, municipal authority providing wastewater services for residential, commercial, and industrial users in an eight-municipality service area. The York City Sewer Authority would use this funding to construct a new headworks facility, which includes the replacement of the building's heating and ventilation system and replacement of the activated carbon bed in the building's odor control system. This is a good use of taxpayer funds because the combined improvements provide the most cost-effective solution for updating infrastructure for the authority's residents and businesses. ($160,000)

York City Sewer Authority, 1701 Blackbridge Road, York, PA 17402.

York County Government: York County Government would use this funding to create a digital Countrywide Geographic Information Systems (GIS) database that will contain all of the major water system features in York County, along with their location and attributes. This information would be standardized throughout the county and could be shared with all participating water companies and all levels of government. This is a good use of taxpayer funds because the water infrastructure within York County continues to rapidly expand to meet the requirements of high development pressure, while the need to maintain its aging components must be fulfilled. It is critical to know where the water infrastructure is located and attributes, such as age, size, and capacity of each component. ($125,000)

York County Government, 28 East Market Street, York, PA 17401.

Energy, Water Appropriations Bill:

Renewable Energy (Photovoltaic) Project: If this project is funded, PPG Industries would be expected to compete for the contract. PPG Industries is a diversified manager that supplies paints, coatings, chemicals, optical products, specialty materials, glass, and fiber glass. PPG is a publically traded company located in Carlisle, Pennsylvania. PPG would use this funding to develop advanced, in-line process technologies to fabricate thin-film solar cells. This is a good use of taxpayer funds because thin-film technologies could be directly integrated into current manufacturing glass processes in order to reduce the cost per watt while optimizing the photovoltaic supply chain to accelerate the introduction of alternative energy sources in the market. ($1 million)

PPG Industries, 400 Park Drive, Carlisle, PA 17301.

Transportation, Housing, and Urban Development Appropriations Bill:

Carlisle Borough: Carlisle Borough is a municipal government located in Cumberland County. The Borough of Carlisle would use this funding to carry out the recommendations of the Downtown Traffic Safety and Mobility Project, a comprehensive traffic study of downtown Carlisle. Funding would be used to: reduce High and Hanover Streets from two lanes to one lane in each direction; add bicycle lanes to both sides of High and Hanover Streets; install camera-activated traffic signals; install ''bump-out'' curbs at all intersections; and implement a truck mitigation program to reduce truck traffic. This is a good use of taxpayer funds because it would improve vehicular and pedestrian safety, calm traffic, reduce air and noise pollution, encourage multi-modal transportation, and revitalize downtown Carlisle. ($1 million)

Carlisle Borough, 53 West South Street, Carlisle, PA 17013.

Cumberland County Government: Cumberland County would use funding to engineer, design, and replace Craighead Bridge. Craighead Bridge is a 110 year-old steel thru truss bridge that carries nearly 2000 vehicles per day across the Yellow Breeches Creek. This is a good use of taxpayer funds because Craighead Bridge has been named one of the worst bridges in Pennsylvania and is functionally obsolete, structurally deficient, and has an estimated remaining life span of four years. ($1 million)

Cumberland County Government, 1 Courthouse Square, Room 200, Carlisle, PA 17013.

Cumberland County Government: Cumberland County would use funding to engineer, design, and replace Orr's Bridge. Orr's Bridge is a 52-year-old pre-stressed non-composite adjacent box beam structure that carries over 12,000 vehicles per day across the Conodoguinet Creek. This is a good use of taxpayer funds because the current design has been proven to accelerate deterioration of the bridge's structural system and in turn increases its susceptibility to sudden collapse. ($1 million)

Cumberland County Government, 1 Courthouse Square, Room 200, Carlisle, PA 17013.

Rabbittransit: The York County Transportation Authority (Rabbittransit) is the public transportation provider for York County. Rabbittransit would use this funding to relocate its facility to a location that could house all 86 buses. The current location can only house 65 buses. Due to rapid growth over the past decade, Rabbittransit has been providing increasingly valuable service to the community. However, because of the growth, Rabbittransit is completely out of parking space and the bus facility has become overcrowded. This is a good use of taxpayer funds because the project would provide Rabbittransit with the ability to continue to meet the needs of the community. ($1 million)

Rabbittransit, 1230 Roosevelt Avenue, York, PA 17404.

Springettsbury Township: Springettsbury Township is a local government located within York County, Pennsylvania. Springettsbury Township would use this funding to improve the intersection of Northern Way and East Market Street. Specifically, the funding would be used to add a westbound right turn lane to Northern Way. This is a good use of taxpayer funds because it would provide a safe access point to the Township's retail, entertainment, and industrial center, while strengthening and enhancing the commercial and industrial redevelopment in the area. ($930,732)

Springettsbury Township, 1501 Mount Zion Road, York, PA 17402.

West Manheim Township Park and Recreation Board: West Manheim Township Park and Recreation Board is a non-profit organization dedicated to the planning for and funding of a 113 acre recreation park in West Manheim Township in Hanover, Pennsylvania. The Board would use this funding to outfit two regulation-sized baseball fields with backstops, bases, scoreboards, specialized infield dirt, field drainage systems, and fencing. The funding would also be used to purchase two sets of restroom facilities. This is a good use of taxpayer funds because the facilities in the park will provide a safe outlet for the activities of the local youth population. The West Manheim Recreation Park will be a premier destination for Southern Pennsylvania and Northern Maryland residents. ($300,000)

West Manheim Township Park and Recreation Board, 15 Waterview Road, Hanover, PA 17331.

The board also approved forwarding the following defense projects to the House Appropriations Committee for consideration:

Defense Appropriations Bill:

5″ Extended Range Insensitive Munition Projectile: This request would provide funding to produce Extended Range Insensitive Munition (ERIM). ERIM projectile is a promising technology for providing extended range and accuracy improvement for the 5″ Naval Gun system. This is a good use of taxpayer funds because extended range and accuracy will enable the Naval warfighter to confidently engage specific point targets in both rural and urban terrains. The munition is produced in part by the General Dynamics facility located in Red Lion, Pennsylvania. ($4 million over the President's Budget)

General Dynamics, 200 East High Street, Red Lion, PA 17356.

EFSS Precision Extended Range Munition: The EFSS is a close fire support, all-weather, quick responsive indirect fire system supporting Marine Expeditionary Units. The system is produced in part by the General Dynamics facility located in Red Lion, Pennsylvania. This is a good use of taxpayer funds because it would provide Research, Development, Test & Evaluation dollars to greatly expand the munition range for the EFSS system. ($10 million over the President's Budget)

General Dynamics, 200 East High Street, Red Lion, PA 17356.

Future Medical Shelter System: This project would fund the production of a successor to the current tent-based field hospital that has served the Army well but is currently marked for phase-out. This is a good use of taxpayer funds because the 21st Century Military Hospital System is a mobile medical unit that incorporates superior quality in medical care. Gichner Shelter Systems, located in Dallastown, Pennsylvania would design and manufacture the specialty ISO containers used in the mobile medical units ($9.5 million over the President's Budget)

Gichner Shelter Systems, 490 East Locust Street, Dallastown, PA 17313.

Improved Recovery Vehicle (M88A2): This project would fund the remanufacturing and upgrade of the M88A1 to provide safe and effective recovery capability for the M1 Abrams Tanks. The Abrams Tanks are manufactured in part by the BAE Systems facility located in York, Pennsylvania. This is a good use of taxpayer funds because the tanks are used extensively in Operations Iraqi Freedom and these upgrades will satisfy major deficiencies identified during Operation Desert Storm. ($72.8 million above the President's Budget)

BAE Systems, 1100 Bairs Road, York, PA 17405.

Paladin Integrated Management (PIM): This project would fund the completion of testing and evaluation of the PIM self-propelled howitzer and companion ammunition resupply vehicle. These vehicles are manufactured in part by the BAE Systems facility located in York, Pennsylvania. This is a good use of taxpayer funds because the changes to this vehicle will reduce the logistics footprint thereby reducing operational and support costs. ($9 million above the President's Budget)

BAE Systems, 1100 Bairs Road, York, PA 17405.

Military Construction Appropriations Bill:

York Readiness Center: Funding would be provided to the Pennsylvania Army National Guard to provide soldiers with modern facilities in which to assemble and train in York, Pennsylvania. It would also allow the Guard to close two undersized, inadequate armories now in use. This is a good use of taxpayer funds because the facility will incorporate sustainable design features to achieve LEED NC 2.2 USGBC Silver Certification and improved energy efficiencies. In addition, the new site would implement required Anti-Terrorism/Force Protection. ($12.8 million)

York Eden Road RC, York, PA.

Members of the advisory board included:

Adams County: Steve Niebler, Director, Adams County Office for Aging, and John R. Peters, Adams County Farm Bureau. Cumberland County: Dean Clepper, Principal (retired), South Middleton School District; John Connolly, Former Chief Clerk, Cumberland County; and Jerry Nailor, Former State Representative, 88th Legislative District. York County: Carl Anderson, President, Community Progress Council Board of Directors, Metro York; Eric Menzer, Wagman Construction, Metro York; Steve Nickol, Former State Representative, 193rd Legislative District; Mario Pirritano, Supervisor, Fairview Township; and Peg Weaver, Former President, Gettysburg-Adams Chamber of Commerce.

RECOGNIZING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF GLENDA BOOTH

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 21, 2009

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Glenda Booth, an outstanding environmental activist from Fairfax County. On Saturday, April 25th Ms. Booth will receive the Liz Hartwell Conservation Award for her decades of service to her community.

Ms. Booth has served as Chair of the Wetlands Board of Fairfax County, and spearheaded the first program in the state to implement Living Shorelines to protect the upper tidal reaches of the Potomac River, reducing erosion and nutrient pollution that would flow to the Chesapeake Bay.

She has promoted environmental stewardship through the Audubon Society of Northern Virginia, Virginia Conservation Network, Friends of Westgrove Park, Mount Vernon Council of Citizens Associations, Friends of Huntley Meadows Park, Friends of Dyke Marsh, and numerous watershed management advisory committees. She was instrumental in helping me develop and implement Fairfax County's environmental agenda, which the Board of Supervisors adopted shortly after I was elected Chairman. This comprehensive environmental plan addresses topics ranging from natural landscaping to the reduction of endocrine disruptor pollution. Without Ms. Booth's extraordinary scientific expertise and political acumen the County's environmental policies would not be as inclusive or effective as they are today.

Ms. Booth also is an able advocate at the state and federal levels. By leading the Friends of Dyke Marsh, she has spearheaded efforts to protect wildlife and aquatic life at this remarkable marsh in Fairfax. Through her participation in the Virginia League of Conservation Voters, she has championed stronger environmental policy at the statewide level. Prior to her wide-ranging volunteerism in the community, Ms. Booth served as staff to Senator DIANNE FEINSTEIN of California. This professional experience equipped her to be a highly effective community activist.

Advocates like Ms. Booth have initiated every significant environmental legislative achievement in the past, whether it is legislation to clean up toxic waste at sites such as Love Canal or protect local habitats in Dyke Marsh and Mason Neck. I am grateful for her service, which is more valuable than ever as federal, state, and local governments confront environmental challenges ranging from climate change to restoration of the Chesapeake Bay. Madam Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join with me in congratulating Glenda Booth on receiving the Liz Hartwell Conservation Award to recognize three decades of environmental activism.

WE MUST PREVENT ANOTHER HOLOCAUST

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 21, 2009

Mr. SCHIFF. Madam Speaker, at ten o'clock this morning, the nation of Israel observed two minutes of silence in observance of Yom Hashoah, Holocaust Remembrance Day. For those two minutes, all activity in the country ceased to honor of the six million Jews who were murdered by the Nazis during the madness of the Final Solution. For Israelis, the Holocaust remains the crucible that produced their state and its impact is felt daily across Israeli society—from politics to the arts.

Here in the United States, the Holocaust is more remote. The GIs who helped to liberate the Nazi death camps more than six decades ago are fading into history and the grainy black and white footage of the victims images that stunned the world in the 1940s—now seem distant to many Americans.

For Israelis, though, the Holocaust serves as an omnipresent reminder of the historical insecurity of the Jewish people for whom persecution and exile have characterized two millennia of wandering from their ancient homeland. Coupled with Israel's mainly hostile and fundamentally unstable neighbors, the memory of Hitler's attempt to exterminate European Jewry has served to make Israelis extraordinarily vigilant in the face of constant security threats.

Israeli security analysts have focused their concern in recent years on Iran, which they see as the most critical existential threat to the Jewish state.

Through its support for Hezbollah in Lebanon and Hamas in Gaza and the West Bank, Tehran has taken up positions along Israel's borders and its proxies have repaid their Iranian masters handsomely by provoking large-scale military actions by Israel in 2006 and December of last year.

Through its relentless pursuit of the nuclear fuel cycle, Iran's radical regime seeks to dominate the region and to erect a permanent threat to Israel's security and the Israeli people.

Through its statements and the virulence of state-controlled media, Iranian leaders, particularly President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad are clearly fixated on the demonization and destruction of Israel. Just yesterday, the Iranian president sparked a walkout at a United Nations racism conference in Geneva when he launched into a rambling rant against Israel and Jews. The prospect of Ahmadinejad with nuclear weapons is one that keeps many Israelis up at night and should be keeping many of us awake as well.

Given the potential consequences, the United States must make the prevention of Iran developing the bomb a cornerstone of both its strategy for the Middle East and its nonproliferation agenda. To do otherwise would place Israel in Iran's nuclear crosshairs and likely spur a regional arms race as Saudi Arabia, Egypt and the United Arab Emirates could seek to match any Iranian nuclear weapons capability.

I support President Obama's decision to reach out to Tehran and I believe that tough, concerted diplomacy can be effective in getting the Iranian government to reassess its nuclear policy. But to be effective, that diplomacy must include a wide range of both inducements and disincentives. And it must take into account the character and nature of the current Iranian regime. And, finally, those charged with executing the policy must be willing to consider other alternatives should diplomacy fail.

Tehran's current declared enrichment activities at its Natanz facility are subject to regular inspections by the International Atomic Energy Agency, which should be able to spot diversion or any attempt to produce weapons grade material before it can be turned into a weapon. As long as the IAEA can maintain its surveillance of the Natanz facility, any Iranian intention to produce weapons-grade material there is likely to be frustrated.

What concerns many senior officials in Israel, here in the United States and in Europe, is the possibility that Iran, which continues to withhold a lot of information about its nuclear program, may have a parallel, secret nuclear program that is beyond the reach of the IAEA and western intelligence monitoring. As David Albright, the President of the Institute for Science and International Security, told the Financial Times last week, aside from Natanz "we don't know anything about what they are doing, how many centrifuges they have made, or whether they are ready to go with a duplicate facility that would allow them to produce fissile material."

The juxtaposition of renewed diplomatic overtures and the unease over the extent of what we do not know about Iran's capabilities or its intentions, may strengthen our hand with the other permanent members of the UN Security Council plus Germany, who are working to produce a collective response to the Iranian nuclear challenge. If our international partners perceive a new American willingness to explore seriously the prospect for a negotiated resolution to the Iran problem, they may also be ready to consider the more robust coercive measures that may become necessary if Iran is shown to be pursuing a nuclear weapons capability.

International cohesion will be absolutely vital if we are to resolve this standoff without resorting to force. Tehran has been adroit at exploiting differences between the United States and its international partners, some of whom have been unwilling to consider the possibility that President Ahmadinejad's vitriol is not merely intended for domestic consumption but is a real reflection of his murderous intentions. This could prove a tragic mistake.

Seventy-five years ago, Europeans, Americans and even many German Jews dismissed Hitler's threats against the Jews as political posturing. How could Germany, a nation with a rich and distinguished culture, whose cities embodied the best of cosmopolitan Europe, follow a depraved Austrian corporal into the depths of hatred? Humanity paid an enormous price for its passivity and the world pledged "never again."

We may now be faced with a similar threat from another society with a rich culture going back thousands of years and a sophisticated citizenry. Do we dismiss Mahmoud Ahmadinejad as a hate-filled demagogue, or do we take his threats seriously? All of us—Americans, Israelis, Europeans and Russians—would be well advised to remember the past, even as we work towards what we hope will be a safer tomorrow.

RECOGNIZING 22ND ANNIVERSARY OF THE INLAND EMPIRE HISPANIC NEWS

HON. JOE BACA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 21, 2009

Mr. BACA. Madam Speaker, in October 1987 the first issue of the Inland Empire Hispanic News was published. To date, we celebrate the 22nd Anniversary of this initial publication. The paper has been widely accepted by both the Hispanic public and the Inland Empire as the premier publication in the distribution areas, with a probable 4.5 person readership per individual paper. The Inland Empire Hispanic News has continually published the tabloid on a bimonthly basis for the past 22 years and has successfully reached out to the Inland Empire communities of Redlands, Rialto, San Bernardino, Colton, Fontana, Rancho Cucamonga, Ontario, Upland, Riverside, and Corona. Since its incorporation, the Inland Empire Hispanic News has been recognized with well over 35 awards varying from congressional, state, city, and other civic and non-profit organizations for its journalistic contributions to the Hispanic community and the Inland Empire.

The newspaper was founded by Mr. Graciano Gomez, who saw an urgent need for a newspaper that would exemplify the positive Hispanic attributes, and further the education, socio-economic and business issues prevalent in the Inland Empire. Mr. Gomez understood that in order to advocate for the greater Hispanic community, he needed to provide a common unified communication vehicle that highlighted both the positive accomplishments within the greater community, as well as the public policies and issues at hand. Mr. Gomez organized a meeting with diverse community leaders and founded the Board of Directors consisting of Ray Abril Jr., Aurelio De La

Torre, Esther Mata, Arthur Milian, George Martinez, Ray Nieves, and of course Mr. Graciano Gomez as Chairperson and Publisher. The Board established that the major goals of the Inland Empire Hispanic News would be the advocacy of education, economic development, volunteerism, and political activity that were of critical interest to the greater Hispanic community.

The Inland Empire Hispanic News has since been one of the leading newspapers to highlight important public and social policies in regards to health, education, economic development, and business news. It captures the heart of the greater Inland Empire community by sharing the inspiring stories of outstanding role models of leaders in the community, business, education, and non-profit sectors, and individuals and families who are making positive contributions to our society. The paper has also become a primary source for many interested in current issues, news events, advocacy opportunities and available resources.

With the hard work and commitment of Mr. Gomez and his wife of 30 years, Mrs. Trini Gomez, the Inland Empire Hispanic News provided input from elected officials, governmental agencies, community based organizations, individuals, business and other sources relative to issues and interests of the greater Hispanic community. Since the publication's inception, Mrs. Trini Gomez has played a vital role in the development and on going operation of the newspaper. Together they have made this dream of a creating a vital resource for the Hispanic population within the Inland Empire a reality.

However, the dream of this newspaper, its mission and great accomplishments would not have been possible without Mr. Graciano Gomez. Mr. Gomez was raised in the Inland Empire, graduating from Redlands High School in 1943. Immediately following graduation he was called into the United States Air Force, serving in the India/Burma Theater of War. After being honorably discharged in 1946 he was employed at Norton Air Force Base. In 1952, he resigned in order to accept a position in the County of San Bernardino. He served 34 years with the County of San Bernardino and associated agencies and was recognized for his civil service career by state and county officials.

Since his military discharge in 1946, Mr. Gomez has established himself as a professional pillar of the Inland community, while also continuing a passion and commitment for community service.

After experiencing many injustices, Mr. Gomez is driven to advocate for the Hispanic community within the Inland Empire. He is dedicated to promoting quality education for all youth, and encouraging civic volunteerism, as well as political and socio-economic involvement. His continual service to the Inland Empire has been recognized with over 73 awards varying from the diocese, congressional, state, city, and other civic and nonprofit organizations.

One of his greatest accomplishments however, is the establishment of the Inland Empire Hispanic News in 1987. In honor and celebration of the 22 years of publication of the Inland Empire Hispanic News, we would like to congratulate Mr. Graciano Gomez for his life long service and commitment to the greater Hispanic community. The Inland Empire Hispanic News has demonstrated an ability to outreach and bring to light the important issues affecting the Hispanic community and by doing so has been an inspirational influence of positive change within the Inland Empire.

TRIBUTE TO GUY EMANUELE

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 21, 2009

Mr. STARK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay a special tribute to Guy Emanuele, former Superintendent of the New Haven Unified School District in Union City, California. On April 24, 2009, the New Haven Schools Foundation will host its 2nd Annual Scholarship luncheon. Friends, colleagues and admirers of Mr. Emanuele will gather at the luncheon to recognize his many years of service to the New Haven Community.

Mr. Emanuele has spent 49 years as a teacher, counselor, administrator and school district trustee. He began his teaching career in 1956 at Barnard Junior High School, now Barnard-White Middle School in Union City. After working as counselor and administrator for several years, he was hired as the school district's superintendent in 1976.

When he took the post, the New Haven school district had existed for only 11 years, and there had already been three superintendents. Guy Emanuele, according to Union City Mayor Mark Green, "found New Haven a district of bricks and he left it a district of marble . . . He was the most important person in the school district's history."

Under Mr. Emanuele's 22-year tenure as superintendent, New Haven created an alternative high school, passed several bond measures and focused on educating students through athletics, arts and extracurricular activities, in addition to academics. As a superintendent and school board member, he maintained a vision of holistic education and advocated for top-notch extracurricular activities to keep students engaged throughout the day and after school. He believes it is cost effective to establish athletics and arts programs on campuses because they keep students engaged and out of trouble.

Guy Emanuele also established the New Haven Schools Foundation in 1981 to provide an alternative source of funds for co-curricular and extra-curricular programs. The Foundation also provided much of the initial funding for cutting-edge technology for the New Haven School District that made New Haven a model for other California school districts.

He retired as superintendent of the New Haven Unified School District in 1998. After leaving New Haven, Guy Emanuele, a longtime Fremont, California resident, was elected to the Fremont Unified School Board, where he served until 2006.

Guy Emanuele has earned the respect of educators as well as the community for his exemplary contributions to students. I join in expressing appreciation to him for his commitment and dedication.

RECOGNIZING HOLOCAUST REMEMBRANCE DAY

HON. CONNIE MACK

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 21, 2009

Mr. MACK. Madam Speaker, I rise today, April 21, 2009, to recognize the Holocaust Remembrance Day and to remember and honor the 6 million Jews, among them one-and-a-half million children, who perished during one of mankind's worst atrocities.

As we remember those who were persecuted and who lost their lives, it is also important to honor the countless numbers of people, who at great risk to both themselves and their families, risked everything to come to the aid of the Jews of Europe.

Today we must also pay tribute to the American soldiers, who as a result of their heroic service, liberated a continent besieged by terror and helped to extinguish the flames of the Holocaust.

The wounds of the Holocaust still remain and we must be vigilant in this day and age to confront those who deny the Holocaust or continue to foment agendas of hate and anti-Semitism.

I also want to recognize The Holocaust Museum of Southwest Florida which is located in my district. The museum, and others like it around the country, exists so that this generation of Americans can learn the importance of tolerance and vigilance. The museum has begun a program where the community's students can meet and reflect with the estimated 100 Holocaust Survivors who call Southwest Florida home. In addition, thousands of students from Southwest Florida visit the museum each year in order to learn and remember the Holocaust and its lessons.

Madam Speaker, I urge all of our colleagues to recognize the importance of the Holocaust Remembrance Day. In doing so, we will continue to fulfill our vow of, "never again."

RECOGNIZING THE 250TH ANNIVERSARY OF FAUQUIER COUNTY, VIRGINIA

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 21, 2009

Mr. WOLF. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the commemoration of the 250th Anniversary of Fauquier County, Virginia, on May 1, 2009. I am honored to represent a portion of this county as part of the 10th District of Virginia.

Fauquier County has a rich and venerable history. The land known as Fauquier County dates back to the early days of our nation, originally described in 1608 as part of the Northern Neck proprietary. It was formed from part of Prince William County in 1759, and named for the Lieutenant Governor Francis Fauquier, who served the Commonwealth from 1758 to 1768. Militiamen fought in the French and Indian Wars in defense of the British Colony, and later participated in the creation of a new nation during the American Revolution.

Supreme Court Chief Justice John Marshall, the father of judicial review and America's

most esteemed judge, was a native son of Fauquier County. It was the scene of many important military engagements during the Civil War and served as the base of operations for Colonel John S. Mosby. The county contributed hundreds of soldiers, including five generals, to the Confederate Army during that conflict. Sons and daughters of Fauquier have served with distinction in every armed conflict of the 20th century.

Fauquier County is renowned for its pastoral scenery, agriculture and equine industries, and its open space. Visitors from other states and countries around the world come to enjoy its rich history, warm hospitality and recreational offerings. Madam Speaker, please join me in recognizing and celebrating the rich history of Fauquier County, Virginia, and in congratulating its citizens upon its 250th anniversary.

HONORING MASTER SERGEANT ROBERT MORRELL FOR HIS MANY YEARS OF SERVICE IN THE MARINE CORPS AND TO THE UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE

HON. ROBERT E. ANDREWS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 21, 2009

Mr. ANDREWS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Master Sergeant Robert Morrell of Marine Wing Support Squadron 472 of Willow Grove, PA for his service to the Marine Corps and to the U.S. Postal Service. At fifty-eight years old, he is preparing to deploy to Iraq.

Master Sergeant Morrell joined the Marine Corps in 1969 and spent four years on active duty. He earned the Vietnam Service Medal for his service in the South China Sea. He was also deployed in the Mediterranean. Master Sergeant Morrell became a letter carrier for the United States Postal Service in 1979. He now serves as the financial secretary of The National Association of Letter Carriers Branch 540 Camden NJ Merged. He retired from the postal service on August 31, 2007.

Madam Speaker, Master Sergeant Morrell rejoined the Marine Corps Reserves in 1990. During his two Marine Corps careers he has earned a Selected Marine Corps Reserve medal, a Navy Meritorious Unit Commendation, the Marine Corps Good Conduct medal, and the National Defense Service medal. In 2007, he was promoted to Master Sergeant in the Marine Corps. When his retirement date from the Marine Corps loomed close, Master Sergeant Morrell chose instead to continue with his unit. He is now getting ready to serve his country in Iraq, just as he served in Vietnam. He is an excellent example for all Americans. I congratulate Mr. Morrell on his tremendous dedication to this country and wish him the best of luck in his future endeavors.

CHIEF TECHNOLOGY OFFICER ACT OF 2009

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 21, 2009

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Madam Speaker, this past weekend President Obama appointed Aneesh Chopra, Virginia's Secretary of Technology, to serve as our nation's Chief Technology Officer.

It was an excellent choice to fill a very important position.

On February 25, the gentleman from Virginia, Mr. MORAN, and I wrote a letter to President Obama urging him to appoint Mr. Chopra because we believed his public and private sector experience made him eminently qualified for the post.

As we make unprecedented investments in innovative technology through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, Mr. Chopra's leadership will help us save taxpayer dollars, make government more efficient, ensure accountability, and reinvigorate our economy.

I recently introduced a bill to make it a permanent position by statute. I urge my colleagues to join me in cosponsoring H.R. 1910 to ensure that the Presidentially-appointed Chief Technology Officer will be part of future administrations.

TRIBUTE TO REVEREND DR. GEORGE EDWARD McRAE

HON. KENDRICK B. MEEK

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 21, 2009

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Madam Speaker, I am pleased to recognize and extend my congratulations to my pastor, Reverend Dr. George Edward McRae on his 50th anniversary in the ministry and 20 years at Mount Tabor Missionary Baptist Church.

Located in the heart of Miami, Florida's Liberty City at 1701 Northwest 66th Street, this citadel of faith has been and continues to be a beacon of comfort and hope in our community while dedicating itself to providing spirituality, service and guidance.

A native son of Florida, Rev. Dr. McRae graduated from Central Academy High School in Palatka; received his Bachelor of Arts Degree from Bethune-Cookman College in Daytona Beach; Master of Divinity from the Interdenominational Theological Center in Atlanta; and Doctor of Ministry Degree from Columbia Theological Seminary in Atlanta where his doctoral dissertation was entitled, The Triangle of Death in the African-American Community: Drugs, Prison, and HIV/AIDS.

Under the leadership of our beloved, Rev. Dr. McRae, Mt. Tabor has taken an active and progressive role in directly addressing the temporal, as well as spiritual needs of our neighbors. I want to commend him for his tireless apostolate in ministering to those who were imprisoned, to the hungry and to all those seeking the love and solace of a Church that seeks to affirm and confirm their dignity as God's children.

Rev. Dr. McRae's humanitarian spirit is evidenced by his tireless efforts in establishing an HIV/AIDS ministry at Mt. Tabor to comfort and solace those suffering from HIV/AIDS. Moreover, Narcotics Anonymous, Alcoholics Anonymous and Prison, Feeding, Shoebox, Job, Sick and Shut-In ministries are all under his guidance and leadership.

My pastor's anniversary in the ministry and at Mt. Tabor takes on a meaning much greater than the passage of time, for Rev. Dr. McRae and the Church have met the spiritual needs of thousands of people who came before us, and through the grace of God will continue to do so for another century to come. It is a magnificent legacy we will celebrate.

Madam Speaker and my colleagues, I ask that you join me in honoring Reverend Dr. George Edward McRae, a humble servant of God, a true beacon of hope and a guiding light in the 17th Congressional District of Florida.

TRIBUTE TO LULU MAE TURNER HOOVER

HON. ED WHITFIELD

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 21, 2009

Mr. WHITFIELD. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize one of Kentucky's most esteemed residents and community servants, Lulu Mae Turner Hoover. Born on January 28, 1938 in Wayne County, she was the third of 12 children born to Clyde and Wilmuth Penticuff Turner. She married Welby Hoover on April 8, 1956 and the couple had three children.

Throughout her life Mae contributed greatly to not only her community, but the entire Commonwealth of Kentucky. She started the annual Food for the Needy Drive in Russell County which now feeds nearly 300 families every year at Christmas time. Together with her husband Welby, they started the Lakefest Celebration on the square in Jamestown which is held every 4th of July. From 1987 to 1988, she served as State Representative for Russell, Clinton, Wayne and Cumberland counties, a post also held by her husband and son. Mae was President of the Kentucky Federation of Republican Women; a member of the Board of Directors of the Russell County Chamber of Commerce and the Lake Cumberland Area Development District; a member of the Russell County Jaycee Hall of Fame and Chamber of Commerce Hall of Fame; Russell County Business and Professional Women's Club "Woman of the Year;" received the Russell County Tourism Commission "Distinguished Service Award;" and served as a Delegate to the 1992 Republican National Convention in New Orleans.

Mae passed away on June 6, 2008. For all her accomplishments, Mae treasured her family above all else. Her life serves as a shining example to us all of the importance of giving back to your community and living life to the fullest.

IN HONOR OF MARVIN BUCHHOLZ OF HAM LAKE, MINNESOTA

HON. MICHELE BACHMANN

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 21, 2009

Mrs. BACHMANN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Marvin Buchholz of Ham Lake, Minnesota for his 40 years of dedicated service to the Ham Lake Fire Department. A resident of Ham Lake his entire life, Marvin is the last remaining charter member of the department.

Since its inception in 1969, the Ham Lake Fire Department has seen many firefighters

come and go, but every one of them has known Marvin. Marvin's first firefighting experience was as a high school student. As his school bus passed by a grass fire, members of the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources asked the bus riders to help put the blaze out.

As the close-knit community expanded, the fire department was established and its responsibilities grew. They started with grass fires and are now trained to handle natural disasters and domestic terrorism. In a way familiar to many Ham Lake residents, Marvin explains, "The fire department is advancing further and further and further than just putting the wet stuff on the red stuff."

Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Marvin Buchholz for demonstrating honor and loyalty to the Ham Lake Fire Department for 40 years. As a District Chief, Marvin has seen more calls to service than any other department firefighter and deserves our sincerest appreciation.

HONORING PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION RECIPIENT EDWARD J. TINNEY OF SPRING HILL, FL

HON. GINNY BROWN-WAITE

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 21, 2009

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor an American hero and distinguished recipient of the Presidential Unit Citation. Mr. Edward J. Tinney of Spring Hill, Florida was a proud member of the Alpha Troop, First Squadron, 11th Armored Calvary Regiment in South Vietnam. The unit was awarded the rare and prestigious citation in recognition of their determination under extremely dangerous and hazardous conditions.

In 1970 in the Republic of South Vietnam, Mr. Tinney's unit distinguished itself through a series of daunting combat missions over many months. After a five-year review, the Department of Defense recommended this small unit for the Citation, a very rare honor. The professional skill and personal devotion displayed by Mr. Tinney and his unit reflect their immense commitment and sacrifice.

Since its inception in 1941, the Citation has been awarded fewer than 100 times to include the Second World War, the Korean War, the Cold War, the war in Vietnam, Operation Iraqi Freedom and Afghanistan and only five units as small as Mr. Tinney's have received the Citation. To be singled out in this manner is a distinct honor.

Madam Speaker, soldiers like Mr. Tinney should be recognized for their service to our nation and for their commitment and sacrifices in battle. I am honored to congratulate Mr. Tinney and his unit on their long overdue Presidential Unit Citation. His family, friends and loved ones should know that we truly consider him one of America's heroes.

HONORING THE ASSYRIAN DEMOCRATIC MOVEMENT

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 21, 2009

Mr. RADANOVICH. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor the thirtieth anniversary of the Assyrian Democratic Movement in Iraq.

The Assyrian Democratic Movement (ADM) is an ethnic Assyrian political party that was established on April 12, 1979. The party was formed in response to the oppressive brutality of the Al-Baath regime and its attempt to forcibly remove ethnic Assyrians from their native lands. Under the leadership of Yonadam Kanna the struggle came to a head in 1982 when the group began an armed battle against the Iraqi regime.

After two decades of building the ADM, former President George W. Bush officially designated the group as a recognized Iraqi opposition movement. In December 2002 this designation allowed for President Bush to invoke articles four and five of the Iraqi Liberation Act of 1998 as a means of allowing the United States government to provide financial resources to the ADM. Yonadam Kanna has served as an integral member of the movement and he has participated in meetings and conferences with world leaders to pursue the ideology of the ADM. Mr. Kanna served on the temporary Iraqi Governing Council that was established after the fall of Saddam Hussein and is currently serving as president of the party.

Today, the party stands for the same political goals that it stood for thirty years ago; to defend their people and to create a free democratic Iraq. The movement calls for the recognition of the rights of all Assyrians and to unify the various individual identities, including Chaldean, Syriac and Assyrian.

Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend the Assyrian Democratic Movement on thirty years of commitment to creating a free and democratic Iraq. I invite my colleagues to join me in wishing the Assyrian Democratic Movement many years of continued success.

RECOGNIZING OUTSTANDING STUDENTS IN NORTHERN VIRGINIA

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 21, 2009

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the achievements of several students in Northern Virginia. These students have participated and excelled in programs administered by their local Parent Teacher Associations and Parent Teacher Student Associations.

Parent Teacher Associations (PTA) and Parent Teacher Student Associations (PTSA) serve a critical role in helping to provide the best possible educational environment for our students. The Northern Virginia District PTA consists of a region with more than 220 schools. Schools located throughout Northern Virginia are consistently recognized as being among the very best schools in our country. I strongly believe one factor in the excellent education received by our students is the high level of involvement and encouragement provided by parents through the PTA and PTSAs. At its annual meeting and dinner, the Northern Virginia District PTA recognized the following students for their outstanding achievements:

In the category of District PTA Citizenship Essay Awards—High School Division the winners are Paul Capp, a senior at McLean High School, and Lisa Pang, a senior at Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology.

In the category of District PTA Citizenship Essay Awards—Middle School Division the winners are Cali Willcockson, a seventh grader at Liberty Middle School, and Ji Soo Song, an eighth grader at Rocky Run Middle School.

A separate special congratulations goes to Paul Capp of McLean High School for placing 3rd in the Virginia State PTA Citizenship Essay Contest—High School Division and to Ji Soo Song who won 1st place in the Virginia State PTA Citizenship Essay Contest—Middle School Division.

The following students were recognized in the category of Virginia PTA Outstanding Interpretation Awards, which recognize artistic achievement: Literature: Senior Division—Alexander Kopenhaver, (9th grade), Washington-Lee High School. Music Composition: Primary Division—Pierre Quan, (2nd grade), Forestville Elementary School; Intermediate Division—Kyle Gatesman, (3rd grade), Canterbury Woods Elementary School. In Photography: Middle/Junior Division—Courtney E. Brown, (6th grade), Bull Run Elementary School. In Visual Art: Primary Division—Kaitlin Phan, (2nd grade), Colin Powell Elementary School; Intermediate Division—Jamie H. Chang, (5th grade), Union Mill Elementary School; Senior Division—William W. Park, (11th grade), Langley High School.

The Frieda M. Koontz Scholarship Award has been awarded to Monica Choudhury, a senior at James Madison High School in Vienna. This scholarship awarded by the Virginia PTA will provide $1,200 to Ms. Choudhury as she begins her studies at the University of Virginia.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join with me today to recognize the outstanding achievements of these students. I also ask that we recognize the Northern Virginia District PTA, in partnership with the Virginia PTA, as they work diligently to develop the diversity of talents and skills of students attending schools throughout Northern Virginia. It gives me great pleasure to acknowledge the achievements of these students and the Parent Teacher Associations that support them.

FAMILY SMOKING PREVENTION AND TOBACCO CONTROL ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. VIRGINIA FOXX

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 1, 2009

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, "The Family Smoking Prevention and Tobacco Control Act," which is before us today, contains a so-called "special rule for cigarettes" in Section 907 of the bill that would ban flavored cigarettes—with the exception of menthol flavored cigarettes.

Since the legislation allows the sale of menthol cigarettes, which are produced in the United States and in my home State, while banning clove cigarettes, which are imported primarily from Indonesia, the Indonesian Government has made it clear that it considers this provision an attempt to discriminate against imported clove cigarette products in favor of a competing U.S. product—and thus section 907 in the bill runs contrary to the free-trade commitments the United States has made as part of the WTO.

According to WTO rules Mr. Speaker, an imported ''good'' (clove cigarettes) should receive treatment that is ''no less favorable than that provided to a domestic good.'' Adhering to this principle would appear to require that clove cigarettes be treated no less favorably than menthol cigarettes and thus under this bill both should be exempt from the prohibition on flavored cigarettes or both should be banned in order to ensure there is no unfair discrimination in the treatment of the two products. The latter option is not an option at all in my opinion but neither is ignoring the concerns of our ally Indonesia, a country well known to our President.

For years now, senior officials of the Indonesian Government have repeatedly and doggedly attempted to communicate their country's concerns to U.S. legislators and executive branch policy-makers alike—to no avail. The communique from the Indonesian Ambassador to Chairman WAXMAN, as well as the Indonesian Trade Minister's dispatch to former Ambassador Schwab clearly articulate the imperative the Indonesian Government places on the trade violation contained in ''The Family Smoking Prevention and Tobacco Control Act.''

Last year, the HHS Secretary sent a letter to Congress expressing various concerns about Mr. WAXMAN's bill on behalf of the Administration. Among his concerns he included the following statement about the bill's prohibition on imported clove cigarettes that reflects the concerns expressed by the Indonesian Government:

There is a further issue regarding the bill that I would like to bring to your attention. Our trading partners believe that by banning the sale of clove cigarettes but not prohibiting the sale of menthol cigarettes, the bill raises questions under U.S. international trade obligations. The government of Indonesia has repeatedly objected to the bill on the ground that this disparate treatment is unjustified and incompatible with WTO trade rules. Accordingly, I would recommend that the Committee further review the relevant language in this light to ensure the bill is consistent with U.S. trade obligations.

Mr. Speaker, Congress is increasingly—and rightly—calling on our United States Trade Representative and the Administration to more strenuously enforce the WTO and other trade agreements to ensure that our trade partners are playing by the rules and not discriminating against our products and services. I think that it is only right that we abide by the same standards that we expect of our trade partners when the question is as clear as this situation. It would have been my hope that the minor changes needed to correct this avoidable trade complication in the bill could have be made before the legislation was brought to the floor for consideration, but that was not the case. Section 907 affects a de facto ban on the importation of clove cigarettes from Indonesia. It is another troublesome example of serious flaws overlooked by Mr. WAXMAN in his bill.

EMBASSY OF THE
REPUBLIC OF INDONESIA,
Washington, DC, July 25, 2008.

Hon. HENRY A. WAXMAN,
Chairman, Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, 1102 Longworth House Office Building, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN WAXMAN: I extend my personal best wishes for your continued service in the United States House of Representatives and particularly as the Chairman of the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform. My government has been communicating with appropriate members of the U.S. Congress and the Executive Branch since 2004 regarding our opposition to a proposed prohibition on the sale of clove cigarettes in the United States. This prohibition has most recently been included as part of H.R. 1108—the ''Family Smoking Prevention and Tobacco Control Act''—which was reported out of the House Energy and Commerce Committee just this month on July 17th.

In this regard, I am enclosing a letter that the Minister of Trade in Indonesia, Mari Elka Pangestu, gave to U.S. Trade Representative Susan Schwab on this issue when they met at the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) summit in Sydney, Australia last September. I also want to bring your attention to the recent letter U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Secretary Michael O. Leavitt sent Energy and Commerce Committee Ranking Member Joe Barton in response to the Congressman's inquiries about H.R. 1108.

Secretary Leavitt raised the following reservation about H.R. 1108 regarding Indonesia's grave trade concerns on the clove cigarette issue:

There is a further issue regarding the bill that I would like to bring to your attention. Our trading partners believe that by banning the sale of clove cigarettes but not prohibiting the sale of menthol cigarettes, the bill raises questions under U.S. international trade obligations. The government of Indonesia has repeatedly objected to the bill on the ground that this disparate treatment is unjustified and incompatible with WTO trade rules. Accordingly, I would recommend that the Committee further review the relevant language in this light to ensure the bill is consistent with U.S. trade obligations.

As you may know, the U.S. does not produce traditional clove cigarettes while Indonesia produces over 99% of the clove cigarettes imported into the U.S. This is why Minister Pangestu felt it necessary to personally express to Ambassador Schwab our government's great concern that the proposed prohibition on clove cigarettes in the U.S. would unjustifiably discriminate against Indonesia's cigarette exports to the U.S. in favor of competing, domestically produced U.S. cigarette products under World Trade Organization and other international trading standards.

We hope the attached letter from Minister Pangestu to Ambassador Schwab will help to more fully inform you as to the international trading standards and rules which serve as the basis for our objections to the proposed prohibition in H.R. 1108. In addition, we hope you will also consider Secretary Leavitt's concerns as a measure of the seriousness with which your own government views the potential trade problems in this regard. We respectfully ask that the bill be modified prior to final passage by the House so that clove and menthol cigarettes are treated equally under the legislation.

Sincerely yours,

SUDJADNAN PARNOHADININGRAT.

MINISTER OF TRADE
OF THE REPUBLIC OF INDONESIA,
Jakarta, 28 Agustus 2007.

H.E. Ambassador SUSAN C. SCHWAB,
U.S. Trade Representative
Washington, DC.

Re: The ''Family Smoking Prevention and Tobacco Control Act'' (S. 625).

DEAR AMBASSADOR SCHWAB: It was a pleasure meeting with you a few months ago in Washington DC, in which I had enjoyed discussing with you about the increasingly strong relationship between our two countries in trade and investment sectors. I would like to take this opportunity to thank you again for the excellent arrangements made during my visit to Washington, DC.

I am writing to you to raise my Government's concern over an introduction of a draft legislation entitled the ''Family Smoking Prevention and Tobacco Control Act'' (S. 625), which currently is being considered in the U.S. Congress. This draft Act contains a provision, which if enacted as currently drafted, will unjustifiably discriminate against Indonesia's cigarette exports in favor of competing, domestically produced U.S. cigarette products. We understand that Senator Kennedy, who has been supportive of addressing our concerns with appropriate legislative language, has written to you about this matter.

Specifically, the ''special rule for cigarettes'' in section 907 of the legislation states that, beginning 3 months after the date of enactment:

(a) In General—

(1) SPECIAL RULE FOR CIGARETTES—A cigarette or any of its component parts (including the tobacco, filter, or paper) shall not contain, as a constituent (including a smoke constituent) or additive, an artificial or natural flavor (other than tobacco or *menthol*) or an herb or spice, including strawberry, grape, orange, *clove*, cinnamon, pineapple, vanilla, coconut, licorice, cocoa, chocolate, cherry, or coffee, that is a characterizing flavor of the tobacco product or tobacco smoke.

The United States does not produce clove cigarettes at all. Indonesia produces cigarettes containing cloves and over 99% of the clove cigarettes imported into the United States come from Indonesia. That entire volume of imports would be prohibited under section 907 of the proposed bill.

In direct contrast, cigarettes containing menthol sold in the U.S. are almost exclusively produced in the United States as imports of menthol cigarettes are negligible. However, menthol cigarettes are explicitly excluded from the prohibition in section 907.

The fact that Section 907 would prohibit the importation and sale of clove cigarettes from Indonesia while arbitrarily permitting domestic production and sale of menthol cigarettes reuses serious concerns about the consistency of this proposed provision with the United States' obligation under the agreements of the World Trade Organization. In particular, the WTO Agreement on Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT Agreement) obligates the United States to ensure that, in respect of its technical regulations, products imported from the territory of any WTO Member shall be accorded treatment no less favorable than that accorded to domestic like products and to like products originating in any other country. The Agreement also obligates the United States to ensure that its technical regulations are not more trade-restrictive than necessary, thereby creating unnecessary obstacles to international trade. In that regard, the TBT Agreement requires that the United States take account of scientific and technical information, as well as the special development and trade needs of developing country

Members, such as Indonesia. Similar obligations exist under the WTO Agreement on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (SPS Agreement) and the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade 1994.

A stated purpose of the standards in the proposed U.S. legislation is to restrict advertising and promotional practices most likely to entice youth into tobacco use, while affording ample opportunity to market tobacco products to adults. Like menthol cigarettes (and unlike other flavored cigarettes), clove cigarettes are not targeted at youth smokers. Clove cigarettes are estimated to account for only 0.1% of the total number of cigarettes consumed in the United States and only approximately 0.8% of youth smokers have smoked clove cigarettes and that number of youths is declining based on recent studies. Menthol cigarettes, on the other hand, are estimated to account for approximately 26% of the cigarettes consumed in the United States and approximately 29.7% of youth smokers smoke menthol cigarettes. Moreover, there is no scientifically supportable evidence or risk assessment establishing specific human health risks associated with clove cigarettes that would justify banning those cigarettes while continuing to permit the sale of menthol cigarettes.

These facts are compelling. Imports of Indonesia's clove cigarettes are prohibited for no reason other than they contain a natural herbal additive, while U.S. cigarettes containing menthol—a processed herbal additive—are explicitly exempted from the prohibition. The Government of Indonesia firmly believes that such discriminatory treatment is inconsistent with the United States international obligations and, if enacted, will have a significant adverse effect on Indonesian trade.

The Government of Indonesia therefore respectfully asks that you carefully consider our concerns and, in the interest or our positive trade relationship, ensure that both the spirit and the requirements of the WTO agreements are observed, Further, absent elimination of the prohibition on imports of clove cigarettes, pursuant to Article 2.5 of the TBT Agreement and Article 5.8 of the SPS Agreement, we ask the United States to explain how that prohibition is justified

As you are aware, Indonesia has expressed concern over the Bill at previous meetings of the Indonesia-U.S. Trade and Investment Council.

We trust that your government would understand the difficulties we are faced with, as well as the severity and the urgency of this matter to our people whose livelihood very much depends on the existence of the cigarettes industry. We would be very appreciative of your attention to this matter and would welcome the opportunity to discuss it further with you, at your convenience.

We look forward to an opportunity in building and strengthening the robust relationship between our two countries. Thank you.

Your sincerely,

MARI ELKA PANGESTU.

TEXAS' PORTABLE HOSPITALS

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 21, 2009

Mr. POE of Texas. Madam Speaker, over the past several years, Southeast Texas has been the target during Hurricane Season. Hurricane Katrina and Hurricane Rita hit in 2006 and the very recent Hurricane Ike in September 2008. Not to mention Hurricane Gustav, which did not cause a disaster in Texas, many believe it was just a trial run before Hurricane Ike. Hurricane Ike came along two weeks later on September 13, 2008.

These hurricanes have taught emergency management officials to be prepared in time of a disaster. Through their preparedness they are able to assist and help other individuals evacuate the city in a timely manner. The most recent development is the Portable Inflatable Hospital presented by the East Texas Gulf Coast Regional Trauma Advisory. With the help of the emergency management officials, numerous area hospitals and others, this incredible development was established. State and federal Grants help fund the hospital that cost around 1.5 million. This portable hospital is a great way for medical personnel to assist patients during a disaster and for the patients to get the quick response medical help they need. The medical assistance can range from distributing medications to on site emergency care. The facility can operate as one or three separate facilities. It is equipped with beds, living areas, and other units. This project has had a great response from individuals willing to donate, but still needs any help it can get from our local Southeast Texans. The medical personnel and emergency officials are very grateful for this newly facility. It will be located in Southeast Texas, but can be set up across the state. The hospital will cost five thousand dollars to operate daily plus an additional twelve thousand dollars to generate the portable hospital.

Emergency preparedness is very crucial in time of a disaster. With our great response teams in Southeast Texas the portable hospital will be ready in time of need. I would like to thank the individuals who spend endless hours preparing for Hurricane Season.

HONORING MR. JACOB TANENBAUM

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 21, 2009

Mr. ENGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Jacob Tanenbaum, an outstanding constituent and educator from the 17th Congressional District of New York, for his exemplary efforts in bringing real scientific research to the classroom.

Jacob Tanenbaum, an elementary school teacher at the South Orangetown schools in Rockland County, New York, was chosen by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) Teacher at Sea Program to participate in a two-week research cruise in the North Atlantic this past fall to study Atlantic fisheries while aboard NOAA Ship HENRY B. BIGELOW.

Embarking from Newport, Rhode Island, Mr. Tanenbaum's research cruise followed a track off the United States' northeastern coast. Mr. Tanenbaum not only researched fisheries, but also wrote a daily blog, took photographs, interviewed scientists, and engaged in dialogue with his students, fellow teachers, and the general public. Mr. Tanenbaum became an integral part of the research team and ship's crew and established relationships that will give him and his colleagues access to scientific resources for many years to come. With his at-sea experience, Mr. Tanenbaum has been able to enrich his curriculum and excite his students about science.

In one of his blogs, Mr. Tanenbaum wrote, "Through NOAA's Teacher at Sea Program, students are not just learning about exciting research projects at sea, they are witnesses to them, and on some level, participants in them. The Teacher at Sea program is about something far more important than test scores and text books. It is about inspiration and excitement. Inspiring learning and creating excitement about learning are not just simple hoped-for extras in an educational setting—they are the most essential parts of a culture of learning."

I congratulate Mr. Tanenbaum on his spirit of adventure in the name of education, his willingness to try new things, and his ability to bring this experience back into the classroom. NOAA's Teacher at Sea program has afforded Mr. Tanenbaum an unparalleled opportunity to provide his students with hands-on scientific education, grounded in his unique experience. The lessons he learned on the BIGELOW will stay with Mr. Tanenbaum for the rest of his teaching career, acting as a source from which he will always be able to draw inspiration and creativity.

INTRODUCTION OF THE CONFLICTED INVESTMENT ADVICE PROHIBITION ACT OF 2009

HON. ROBERT E. ANDREWS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 21, 2009

Mr. ANDREWS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce the "Conflicted Investment Advice Prohibition Act of 2009, CIAPA, which would restore the Employee Retirement Income Security Act's, ERISA, prohibition on self-interested investment advisers providing advice to employer-sponsored retirement accounts; thereby, safeguarding the retirement savings of millions of hardworking Americans.

On the eve of the inauguration of President Barack Obama, the Bush administration attempted to finalize a regulation concerning the Employee Retirement Income Security Act, ERISA, that raised substantial questions of law and policy. Essentially, the final rule issued would have allowed conflicted financial advice to workers with regard to their 401(k) and other types of defined contribution plans. Fortunately, thanks to letters of opposition from Chairman MILLER and me, as well as several other Members of Congress, as well as consumer advocacy groups and several financial industry insiders who serve in the interest of investors, the Obama administration has delayed the effective date of the regulation for further examination of its intent.

I believe in the value of providing American workers with access to investment advice, so long as the advice is independent and free from conflict—serving in the interest of the worker, rather than the interest of the financial advisor. During a time where American workers have already lost $2 trillion in assets due to last year's market downturn, exposing their hard-earned retirement savings to greater risk by allowing advisers to offer them conflicted

advice is irresponsible and imprudent. During consideration of the Pension Protection Act of 2006, many of my colleagues were well intended with respect to ensuring that if workers were to receive investment advice with respect to their retirement savings, it would be independent. Despite their good intentions, the process of the bill's consideration created a statutory loophole; at the end of the regulatory process, conflicted advice could be offered to workers.

In lieu of exposing workers to conflicted investment advice, CIAPA would permit independent investment advisers to provide advice to workers regarding their retirement goals. Furthermore, it would maintain the allowance of the computer model arrangement so long as an independent expert or agency certifies the model.

I strongly encourage my colleagues to cosponsor and support the Conflicted Investment Advice Prohibition Act of 2009.

RECOGNIZING OUTSTANDING PARENT SUPPORT FOR SCHOOLS

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 21, 2009

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and pay tribute to the contributions of Parent Teacher Associations (PTA) and Parent Teacher Student Associations (PTSA) in Northern Virginia. These associations serve a critical role in helping to provide the best possible educational environment for our students.

Schools located throughout Northern Virginia are consistently recognized as being among the very best in our country. I strongly believe one factor in the excellent education received by our students is the high level of involvement and encouragement provided by parents through PTAs and PTSAs. Parent volunteers exist in a number of capacities within each school ranging from providing planning and implementation help for social events to helping ensure that teachers have the classroom resources they need to succeed.

The Northern Virginia District PTA represents a region with more than 220 schools. Maintaining a healthy and strong organization is an important part of allowing these groups to have the greatest possible impact on the students they serve. To encourage such strength, it is important to note the individual PTAs that excel in this mission.

I am pleased to present the following recognitions for 2008–2009 school year:

PTA Schools of Excellence designations have been awarded to the Lake Anne Elementary School PTA and Lake Braddock Secondary School PTSA.

The PTAs at Mantua Elementary School and Oakton Elementary School were acknowledged by the National Parent Teacher Association for their outstanding participation in Take Your Family to School Week.

Eight schools have achieved a PTA membership level exceeding one member per student attending the school. Those associations are Chesterbrook Elementary PTA, Falls Church Elementary PTA, Flint Hill Elementary PTA, Haycock Elementary PTA, Langley High School PTSA, Nottingham Elementary PTA, Waynewood Elementary PTA, and Wolftrap Elementary PTA. All members involved should recognize that these remarkably high levels of parental involvement suggest a strong commitment to ensure a quality public education within our school systems.

The growth and expansion of PTAs is an important part of sustaining the impact of the associations. The Virginia PTA provided a charter for the Quander Road School PTSA in Alexandria. Kelly Greenwood, who serves as President of Quander Road School PTSA, and the school's principal, William Files, should be commended for their efforts to engage parents to participate in this association's founding.

Of particular note are the contributions of three individuals to their respective schools' PTAs: Kristen Arseneau, of Terra Centre Elementary School PTA, was awarded the District Outstanding Achievement Award;

Sue Bernstein, of Hollin Meadows Elementary PTA, has been named District Volunteer of the Year for Primary Schools;

Robin Harris, of George C. Marshall High School PTSA, was named District Volunteer of the Year for Secondary Schools.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join with me in recognizing the outstanding achievements of these individuals and the organizations with which they work. Dedicated involvement from so many parents reflects a strong commitment to public education and community service that students in our schools are fortunate to experience. I offer my strong support for these organizations and their dedicated volunteers.

REMEMBERING THE HONORABLE BILL ORTON

HON. JOHN S. TANNER

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 21, 2009

Mr. TANNER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to remember our friend and former colleague William ''Bill'' Orton, who served with distinction in this chamber from 1991 to 1997. I had the great honor of serving alongside Bill and working closely with him in the early days of the Blue Dog Coalition.

During his time in this body and—before that, working in the executive branch—Bill proved himself to be thoughtful and honorable, and those of us who had the pleasure to serve with him know that he entered public service for the right reasons. He cared deeply about the future of this country and understood the importance of ensuring fiscal sustainability for the generations of Americans who come after us.

Betty Ann and I, along with many others in Congress and across our country, were deeply saddened to learn of Bill's passing. Our thoughts and prayers are with Bill's wife Jacquelyn and their sons Will and Wesley during this difficult time.

Madam Speaker, we appreciate you and our colleagues joining us to remember Bill's service to our nation and offer our condolences to his family and to all Utahns.

U.S. NAVY SEALS

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 21, 2009

Mr. POE of Texas. Madam Speaker, I stand in this hall that is a symbol for the world of our country's freedom. Americans have fought and paid the ultimate price for this nation and the freedoms we value so deeply.

That is why it is such an honor for me to stand before you today Madam Speaker, because today I am standing to say thank you and to cheer from the gallery for the world to hear—All hail the men and women of the United States Navy and all hail the brave men of the Navy SEALs.

For all the flags we fly and yellow ribbons we tie, for all the times we stand in support of the job carried out by our service men and women. Rarely does a moment come when we as a nation get a chance to thank these individuals whose duty and job it is to go far beyond the limits and demands of a normal soldier.

Rare is the chance this nation gets to see and understand exactly how good these men are at their job, till now.

On Wednesday April 8th a crew of pirates took hostage an unarmed American merchant ship. Captured was Captain Richard Phillips and for 5 days this Sea Captain was held at gun point on a small boat drifting at sea.

On Easter Sunday after many days of unrest, a team of Navy SEALs were sent in to rescue Captain Phillips. It only took 3 shots from sniper rifles and a matter of minutes for the SEALs to disable all the 3 pirates on the ship and free Captain Phillips.

These brave Navy SEALs take the responsibility to continuously put themselves in the thick of the most dangerous situations the world presents. These SEALs risk their lives to protect Americans and they do it not for their gain and not for glory. They do it out of love for a country and fellow Americans.

In 1962, President John F. Kennedy stood before this nation and talked about the ever changing world that we lived in, how war itself was changing and in order for this country to continue to thrive and protect its own interests this country needed to establish a small, elite military force that could conduct covert missions and battle unconventional warfare. To that end the United States created one of the most highly trained and skilled unit in our armed forces, the Navy SEALs.

A SEAL spends two years training in the harshest conditions simply for the right to do this job. A SEAL's life is one of just being a step ahead of death. These brave men begin a mission and all too often only their failures are ever known.

An opportunity for this nation to stop and thank these SEALs for all that they have done does not come around that often and I for one am glad that today I get this chance.

We need more people like these SEALs in this country, people who are willing to put this nation first and their petty differences aside for the greater good.

We need more people in this country who are willing to stand for all that is right and honorable in this world and be willing to defend those that are weak, held down or scared to fight for themselves.

We need to stop expecting someone else to do the tough jobs for us and start doing them ourselves.

These SEALs are heroes, plain and simple and the debt we owe them, I fear we will never truly be able to repay them. God bless these SEALs, God Bless the men and women who protect this nation each and every day and God Bless America.

And that is just the way it is.

IN MEMORY OF RICHARD ROGGE

HON. ELTON GALLEGLY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 21, 2009

Mr. GALLEGLY. Madam Speaker, I rise in memory of Richard Rogge, a G-man's G-man, an FBI supervisor on the John F. Kennedy assassination, a man of integrity who stood up to years of accusations from conspiracy theorists, and longtime friend to my wife, Janice, and me.

Richard, who died last week at age 82, worked for the Federal Bureau of Investigation for 30 years. He was serving in the Criminal Division at FBI headquarters on November 25, 1963, when FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover summoned him and told him to fly to Dallas to supervise the investigation into President John F. Kennedy's assassination.

For the next 10 months, Richard and his fellow G-men worked 16–hour days following every lead and theory and disproving many that later became fodder for the conspiracists. After an exhaustive investigation, Richard and his team determined that a lone gunman seeking personal fame fired the shots that felled a president. He never wavered from that conviction.

Richard returned to Washington, DC, and later served as assistant special agent in charge in Los Angeles, an inspector in Washington, DC, and special agent in charge in Honolulu, Hawaii, Richmond, Virginia, and Buffalo, New York.

Richard and his family moved to Southern California upon his retirement from the FBI in 1977.

Prior to joining the FBI, Richard joined the Marine Corps. He was 17 at the time and served in World War II's Pacific Theater. Among the battles he fought was the invasion of Iwo Jima.

He was attending New York University studying law when he joined the FBI. Studying at night, he switched majors and graduated college with a degree in business.

Madam Speaker, Richard Rogge was an FBI agent at a time when only shoe leather, brain power, grit and determination solved crimes, before the investigative techniques and technology we now take for granted were developed. He was a man of integrity and passion and served his country with honor. Barbara, his wife of 47 years, died in 1995, but I know my colleagues will join Janice and me in offering our condolences to their children, Veronica, Richard Jr., Christopher and Meredith, to their family, and to all who called Richard a friend.

Godspeed, Richard.

CONGRATULATING MILDRED ''MIDGE'' SLATER

HON. BRUCE L. BRALEY

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 21, 2009

Mr. BRALEY of Iowa. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate my good friend Mildred ''Midge'' Slater on her recent retirement as a Representative for the Communications Workers of America (CWA). Midge has spent the last 30 plus years in the social justice and labor movements. After spending time in the Pittsburgh and upstate New York areas, Midge settled in Iowa and forged a commitment to fighting for civil rights, women's rights and worker's rights.

Midge became active in the CWA, serving in many capacities including Chief Steward, Vice President and President. She went on to serve many years as a CWA International Representative fostering and mentoring many into the fight for social and economic justice while forming strong bonds with those she came to know.

I'm happy to report that despite being retired she still remains active in CWA as she continues to go to the Iowa Capital advocating for others. She has also taken on the task of organizing other retirees to continue to advocate for others.

Midge continues to be active on her church board and serves on many other boards across the state, including the Iowa Federation of Labor, the AFL–CIO and the Iowa Citizens Action Network. I congratulate her on all of her success and wish her the best in all of her future endeavors.

STATE AND LOCAL PREDATORY TOWING ENFORCEMENT ACT

HON. JAMES P. MORAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 21, 2009

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Madam Speaker, since the mid-1990's the authority to regulate the towing industry had been in limbo. Through a provision slipped into the Federal Aviation Administration Act of 1994 that defined the tow truck industry as an interstate carrier, state and local regulatory authority of tow truck operations has been preempted. One year later, passage of the Interstate Commerce Termination Act struck down the federal regulatory body that oversaw the towing industry.

With no federal regulator and confusing restrictions and conflicting court rulings on what states and localities are permitted to regulate, no level of government has been able to adequately regulate the towing industry. This lack of regulatory authority has led to more than a decade of major consumer abuses by some unscrupulous towing companies across the country. These bad actors have continued to taint an otherwise much needed and respectable profession.

Complaints about exorbitant towing fees and abusive operators grew so bad that in 2005, Congress agreed, through an amendment to the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act—a Legacy of Users (SAFETEA–LU), to allow some limited state regulation in the area on non-consensual towing. The amendment also directed the Secretary of Transportation to conduct a study to identify additional means to protect the rights of individuals whose vehicles are towed.

That study offers some recommendations that track with conclusions I made several years ago, that consumers and tow truck operators would be better served by removing the last vestiges of federal preemption. It notes that consumers needing redress for overcharges today or other unfair treatment would: no longer be in the Catch-22 position of having their State case thrown out on preemption grounds only to find that they may have no real recourse at the Federal level either. Since business practices vary from place to place, it may also be more practical to have non-consensual towing regulated by the States rather than by the Federal Government.

States are the more logical place to regulate towing. They already have an established body of law in place to do so. This legislation I am introducing today will bring those laws back into effect.

I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

TRIBUTE TO THE LIFE OF MICHAEL STERN

HON. JOHN P. MURTHA

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 21, 2009

Mr. MURTHA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to mourn the passing of philanthropist Michael Stern and to pay tribute to his life of helping others and supporting our military families.

Michael Stern began his career as a journalist, writing for newspapers and magazines before joining the U.S. Army in 1943 as a war correspondent. He traveled with American forces through Sicily and southern Italy; entering Rome a day before the Allies took control in June of 1944. He remained in Italy for the next 50 years, continuing to write articles, publishing a book, and producing several Italian-made films.

Through his friendship with developer Zachary Fisher, the two men started the Intrepid Museum Foundation in 1978. The USS Intrepid (CVS–11), a World War II aircraft carrier in the Pacific Theater, was decommissioned in 1974 and planned to be scrapped. Stern and Fisher led a fundraising campaign to save the carrier, and in 1982 the Intrepid Sea, Air, and Space Museum opened to the public. It became a National Historic Landmark four years later.

In the early 1990s, the men established the Fisher House program to provide our service members and their families with temporary lodging at military bases and VA medical facilities all across the United States. This unique private-public partnership enables families to stay together while undergoing long-term medical treatment from injury or illness. Over 10,000 military families are guests at a Fisher House every year, and their expenses are taken care of by the Foundation.

Stern and Fisher also created the Fisher Center for Alzheimer's Research Foundation at Rockefeller University, where Stern served as President and CEO of the Board of Trustees. Since 1995, the Foundation has been on

the cutting-edge of Alzheimer's treatment and research. Shortly after Mr. Fisher's death in 2001, Stern created the Michael Stern Parkinson's Research Foundation, which has provided over $18 million for Parkinson's research.

Madam Speaker, I knew Michael Stern through his work with the Fisher House program and the Intrepid Museum. I've had the privilege of visiting Fisher Houses throughout our nation, and speaking with hundreds of our military families who are forever grateful because of their generosity and support.

At 98 years old, Michael Stern lived a full and envious life. My thoughts and prayers are with his children, Margaret and Michael Jr., who are truly blessed by knowing that their father dedicated his entire life to helping others, and inspiring us all with his story.

HOLOCAUST REMEMBRANCE DAY

HON. DOUG LAMBORN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 21, 2009

Mr. LAMBORN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Holocaust Remembrance Day in Israel and the many sacrifices of the Jewish community. It has been sixty-four years since the Allies forced an end to the atrocities of World War II and the genocide of two-thirds of the 9 million European Jewish men, women and children.

Over the centuries, the Jewish people have persevered through hardships and seemingly insurmountable persecutions. In spite of these hardships, they have triumphed and today have a stable democracy in an important and volatile region. Still, they are surrounded by often hostile neighbors, some of whom have vowed to seek Israel's destruction and deny their very right to exist. Israel is a beacon of hope to Jews and freedom-loving people around the world.

Peace can never be achieved by asking Israel to risk its security. It is vital to our national interests to support Israel and work for peaceful relations in the region.

While a lasting peace has been elusive for Israel, one thing is certain—it will only come when every country in the region feels secure and safe from outside threats. I am proud, and America must be proud, to call Israel an ally and friend.

On this day of remembrance in Israel, I stand to ask every Member of this body to take a moment to reflect on the tragedy of genocide—and in particular the suffering of our Jewish allies.

HONORING JAMES M. HENRY

HON. ZACH WAMP

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 21, 2009

Mr. WAMP. Madam Speaker, today I rise to honor James "Jim" M. Henry of Kingston, Tennessee. The citizens of Roane County have chosen Jim for its Lifetime Achievement Award because of his demonstrated commitment to the county as a former City Councilman, Mayor and member of the State Legislature in addition to his dedication to children and adults with special needs.

Jim was born on February 22, 1945, in Jefferson City, Tennessee, to Scobey and Lorene Henry. He and his wife Pat were married in December 1988 and have three children, John, Jimmy Jr., and Liesa. Jim is quick to credit his wife Pat as the driving force in his life and the real secret to his continued success.

In 1971 at the age of 26, Jim was elected city councilman in Kingston, Tennessee, and served in that capacity until 1973 when he was elected Mayor of Kingston, an office which he held until 1978. He was elected to the Tennessee House of Representatives from the 32d Legislative District in 1978 where he served until 1990. In his first term, he served as the chairman of the Republican caucus (1978–1980), and he was elected as the House Minority Leader in 1980, a position he held until 1986. While in the Legislature, Jim Henry also served as the Chairman of the Tennessee Republican Party from 1984 to 1988.

Jim was an early advocate and supporter of the Michael Dunn Center, a school and center in Roane County for special needs children. Jim Henry is currently the President and CEO of Omni Visions, Inc., a business that provides services to developmentally disabled and troubled children and adults. Omni Visions currently supports more than 1,000 children and adults in four states including Tennessee, North Carolina, Kentucky and Georgia.

Jim Henry is a man of integrity, loyalty and outstanding leadership who has truly distinguished himself through his commitment and service. The citizens of Roane County are very fortunate to have a man of his caliber as a pillar of the community. So today I honor my friend, Jim Henry for this award.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL DAY PROGRAM

HON. STEVEN R. ROTHMAN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 21, 2009

Mr. ROTHMAN of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, I rise in recognition of the Holocaust Memorial Day program, which commemorates the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising of April 19, 1943 and Yom HaShoah, a day of remembrance for the six million Jews who were killed in the Holocaust. The event, which will be held in my Congressional District, specifically honors six survivors: Jeannette Adler of Glen Rock, Gunther Apfel of Elmwood Park, Ray Fischler of Wayne, Marion Coti of Bergenfield, and Joseph Grabczk and Leoni Salomon of Fair Lawn, New Jersey.

MICROFINANCE CAPACITY BUILDING ACT OF 2009

HON. JOHN BOOZMAN

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 21, 2009

Mr. BOOZMAN. Madam Speaker, today my colleague Mr. MEEKS and I are introducing the Microfinance Capacity Building Act of 2009. This bi-partisan effort aims to build the human capacity of microfinance networks working to empower the poor in developing countries across the globe.

Microcredit—the provision of small, collateral-free loans to the poor in developing nations enable poor families to increase their income and have an immediate and lasting impact on quality of life—the ability to afford food, shelter, education and healthcare. As business income increases, the business is able to expand, and the effect spreads beyond the family into the local community, through employment and contribution to the local economy. Thus, the benefits of microfinance help grow not just businesses, but stronger communities as well.

It is widely recognized that the lack of human capital is the greatest constraint to the growth of practitioner organizations in the microfinance industry. According to some industry estimates, in order to meet the anticipated demand for microfinance, the industry will have to hire 1.6 million new loan officers alone in Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Near East, assuming a loan officer to client ratio of 1:300. And that figure does not include the skilled middle and senior managers that microfinance organizations are struggling to find and retain.

The microfinance capacity-building activities supported by this legislation are intended to drive innovation and provide comprehensive solutions that address the lack of human capacity in developing countries, particularly in sub-Saharan Africa. These activities will provide a 'framework for a regional and sub-regional approach to maximizing economies of scale and should focus predominately on educating and training country nationals in order to build capacity in the microfinance industry in developing countries.

Through its strategic investment in building microfinance human capacity, this bill would make it possible for more of the world's poor to access financial services to enable them to start or expand a business, develop a steady income and create jobs for their neighbors.

IN MEMORY OF JOHN SPOOR BROOME

HON. ELTON GALLEGLY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 21, 2009

Mr. GALLEGLY. Madam Speaker, I rise in memory of John Spoor "Jack" Broome, a member of one of Ventura County, California's pioneer families; a successful rancher; a generous philanthropist; an adventurer; and a friend to my wife, Janice, and me.

Jack Broome lived 91 productive and enjoyable years before suffering several strokes this year and passing away earlier this month at the Oxnard Plain ranch he loved and managed since 1946.

As a rancher, Jack's feet were firmly on the ground—but that did not keep him from flying solo for the first time at age 17, serving as a pilot trainer and pilot for the Army Air Force's Air Transport Command over the North Atlantic during World War II, flying for American Airlines, flying a solo round-trip flight across the Atlantic at age 68 and continuing to pilot until just recently.

Nor did it keep him from competing in the Trans-Pacific Yacht Race from Los Angeles to Honolulu three times.

But it's on Ventura County's land that Jack's impact will be felt for generations to come. Rancho Guadalasca, the Mexican land grant Jack's family purchased in 1880, sits adjacent to what is now California State University, Channel Islands. A private man, Jack tried to make a $5 million anonymous donation to establish a library at the university in 1999—one of the largest in Ventura County history. He was persuaded to go public only after trustees argued that his donation would spur others. It did. The university named the library after him.

Jack also was an original initiator and supporter of Casa Pacifica, a home for neglected, abused and emotionally disturbed children; founder of the Conejo Savings and Loan Association; chairman of the Ventura County Harbor Commission; chairman of the Camarillo State Hospital Board of Trustees (where the university is now sited); and member of the boards for Pepperdine University and the House Ear Institute in Los Angeles, among others.

Madam Speaker, I know my colleagues will join Janice and me in offering our condolences to Patricia, his wife of more than 60 years; to their children, John Jr., Elizabeth and Ann; their eight grandchildren, and all who knew him, called him a friend and benefited from his spirit and generosity.

Godspeed, Jack.

BIPARTISAN IRAN DIPLOMATIC ENHANCEMENT ACT

HON. MARK STEVEN KIRK

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 21, 2009

Mr. KIRK. Madam Speaker, the U.N. Security Council has voted five times highlighting the violations of Iran, a party to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, for its uranium enrichment activities.

According to the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), as of January 31, 2009, Iran has produced more than 1,000 kilograms of low-enriched uranium hexafluoride, which is 30 percent higher than previous IAEA estimates.

If we are serious about stopping the emergence of a nuclear Iran, our window for effective diplomacy is starting to close.

Former Secretary of State Madeleine Albright is a strong proponent of ''enhanced diplomacy.'' History teaches that negotiations in the absence of effective sanctions are likely to fail. Negotiations following effective sanctions are likely to succeed.

When it comes to Iran, we already know the most effective sanction: a gasoline restriction.

A close look at Iran's economy reveals a significant weakness. This top OPEC nation lacks the required refining capacity to meet domestic demand for fuel and must import some 40 percent of its gasoline.

That's right: Iran depends on foreign gasoline.

Nearly all of Iran's imported gasoline is provided by just five European companies—the Swiss firm Vitol, the Swiss/Dutch firm Trafigura, the French firm Total, the Swiss firm Glencore, and British Petroleum. The majority of tankers carrying gasoline to Iran are insured by Lloyds of London. An interruption in the supply of gasoline to Iran would considerably impact the Iranian economy and significantly bolster diplomatic initiatives.

Just last year, then-Senator Obama suggested ''banning the export of refined petroleum to Iran,'' and said such a restriction ''starts changing their cost benefit analysis'' and ''starts putting the squeeze on them.''

That is why I am joining with Congressman BRAD SHERMAN in introducing the bipartisan Iran Diplomatic Enhancement Act of 2009, which would extend current sanctions to any activity—including production, brokerage, insurance, and tanker delivery services—that contributes to Iran's ability to import gasoline or refine petroleum domestically.

Only from a position of strength can we expect diplomacy to succeed. A restriction of gasoline deliveries to Iran offers the best chance to stop Iran's uranium enrichment program using the soft power of the United States and our allies.

CELEBRATING THE GRAND OPENING OF THE ILLINOIS HOLOCAUST MUSEUM AND EDUCATION CENTER

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 21, 2009

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Madam Speaker, on Sunday, April 19th, over 10,000 people gathered in Skokie, Illinois, joining special guests President Bill Clinton, Elie Wiesel, and Governor Pat Quinn to celebrate the grand opening of the new Illinois Holocaust Museum and Education Center. President Obama personally offered his congratulations on a recorded video. I had the great opportunity to participate in the opening of this beautiful new museum, which will share the history of the Holocaust and teach the importance of combating hatred, indifference, and genocide to current and future generations across the Midwest.

Skokie, located in my district, is a community that knows the importance of preserving memories and teaching history. In the wake of World War II, the community offered an attractive haven to Jewish families, including Holocaust survivors searching for a new life in America. Between 1945 and 1955, an estimated 3,000 Jewish families came to Skokie, building a vibrant Jewish community.

Children who grew up in Skokie during this time recall daily life carrying an underpinning of trauma. They share stories of parents unable to sleep, panicking when their children returned home late, and refusing to take showers. However, while they describe seeing tattooed numbers on arms as commonplace, the Holocaust wasn't something survivors wanted to talk about. Many Skokie Jews remember not knowing which of their friends had survived gas chambers.

That changed in the mid-1970s. In 1976, neo-Nazi Frank Collin threatened to march in the town, distributing fliers proclaiming ''we are coming'' and telling the Chicago Sun-Times, ''I hope they're terrified.'' Survivors, who had worked for decades to rebuild a sense of personal security, suddenly found themselves threatened once again.

The people of Skokie, led by the survivor community, fought back against Collin. The case ultimately went to court and, after uproar from around the world, the march was held elsewhere.

In the wake of those events, Chicago-area survivors founded the Holocaust Memorial Foundation of Illinois, a group dedicated to fighting hatred through education. The group has educated school and community groups since 1981, and the first museum was opened in 1985. In large part due to the organization and advocacy of the survivor community, in 1990 Illinois became the first state where Holocaust education is mandatory.

Today, there are an estimated 7,000 Holocaust survivors still living in the Chicago area, and as many as 1,000–2,000 of them currently live in Skokie. Most are now in their 70s, 80s, or 90s. Like the town of Skokie itself, the Illinois Holocaust Museum and Education Center would not have been possible without their active involvement and input. Its permanent exhibits show hundreds of artifacts, many which have been collected in recent years from local residents. The museum will also present thousands of video interviews with survivors, conducted and donated by Steven Spielberg and his Shoah Foundation.

Madam Speaker, the Illinois Holocaust Museum and Education Center may be one of the last Holocaust museums to be built in collaboration with survivors. The new 65,000-square foot museum will have the capacity to serve over 250,000 annual visitors, and will teach countless people, young and old, the importance of actively fighting hatred and prejudice. In a world where genocide continues, despite decades of pledging ''never again,'' these are priceless lessons.

SCRAP IRON

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 21, 2009

Mr. POE of Texas. Madam Speaker, it is that time of year again; backyards and ballparks are back in swing. I remember when it only cost a few bucks to go to a ball game. Recent news reports show that it costs nearly $200 for a family of four to go to a major league baseball game these days—that is if you want to park your car, eat a hot dog, drink a Coke and maybe buy your kids a baseball cap.

I remember going to the Houston Buff's games over on the Gulf Freeway, where Finger's is now, and to Colt Stadium to watch the Colt 45s. When the wind blew, the wooden bleachers at Colt Stadium would sway. It was a big deal back then to go to a game. Most of the time, we listened to the broadcast on a transistor radio. (Are there any of those left?) Okay, now I am sounding really old, but there's still nothing better than listening to a game on the radio.

I will never forget the first game in the Eighth Wonder of the World—the Astrodome. I was there, as a high school student, on April 9, 1965, to see the Astros beat the Yankees, 2–1 in 12 innings. Governor John Connally threw out the first pitch and President Lyndon B. Johnson and First Lady Lady Bird joined Astros President Roy Hotheinz in his suite.

There were so many flashes going off it was blinding. It was a marvel to the world, the ushering in of indoor baseball.

I've got to say, there was nothing else like the Dome. I remember the players would stand in centerfield and hit balls straight up to see if they could hit the roof. And who could forget the gun slinging cowboy on the scoreboard? It was the best.

My kids remember going to the games, wearing Nolan Ryan's number 34, and cheering for players like Terry Puhl, Joe Niekro, Craig Reynolds, Alan Ashby, Billy Doran and yelling out Jose Cruni-u-u-u-u-z. Of course we have had many greats along the way, including Biggio, Bagwell and Berkman—the Killer B's. But one of my all-time favorite players happens to be none other than Kingwood's own, ''Scrap-Iron'' Phil Garner. You may not have known it, but we have been living amongst a legend right here in our own backyard.

Phil Garner was known for his hard-nosed style of baseball. His defense as an infielder, playing both second and third base in his career, earned him the nickname ''Scrap-Iron.'' He was known for breaking up double plays, diving for balls, and always playing tough. He left it all on the field every play, every game. He didn't start his career in Texas, but like I say about all great transplants—he got here as fast as he could. And lucky for us he did.

As a two-time All-American for the Tennessee Volunteers, he was drafted by Oakland in 1971. Ten years, three All-Star appearances and a .500 average in a World Series victory with the Pirates later, he landed in Houston. After hanging up his cleats, he hired on as an assistant coach under then Astros Manager Art Howe. He went on to later become manager for the Detroit Tigers and Milwaukee Brewers before coming back to Houston. And like I said, lucky for us he did.

As Skipper for the Astros, Garner led the team to greater success than any other manager in franchise history. Among the many successes the team had under his leadership, nothing was greater than the team's first and only World Series appearance. Even though I lost the bet with a Chicago Congressman and had to send them some real Texas barbeque from the ''Tin Roof'' Bar-B-Q when the White Sox beat the Astros, I went down swinging with ''Scrap Iron.''

I have known Phil and his family for many years. His example and character has had a tremendous impact on my son, Kurt, as well as many other young people that have had the pleasure of knowing him. The Astros, and the entire city of Houston, are lucky to call him one of our own.

The great thing about baseball is everyone can enjoy the game. You don't have to be the biggest or the fastest to play. And if you don't want to take out a loan to go to a major league game, there's still plenty of ball to been seen. You will be hard pressed not to find a little league, high school or college game just about any day of the week and I can assure you our local talent won't disappoint and won't break the bank.

I can't wait to start baseball all over again—this time as a grandfather and take my grandsons and granddaughters to the ''National Pastime.'' I wish all the area youth leagues, high schools, colleges and of course, the 'Stros the best of luck this season. Now, let's play ball!

And that's just the way it is.

AN ACCURATE ESTIMATE OF THE COST OF A CAP AND TRADE PROGRAM

HON. ROBERT E. ANDREWS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 21, 2009

Mr. ANDREWS. Madam Speaker, I would like to bring attention to a letter sent by John M. Reilly, of the MIT Joint Program on the Science and Policy of Global Change, to Minority Leader JOHN BOEHNER. During the debate on the FY10 Budget Resolution, the cost of a cap and trade program became a major point of contention. Mr. Reilly, in this letter, clearly explains the methodology used by MIT to determine the approximate cost to an average family of a cap and trade proposal. As the letter makes evident, the actual cost to the average American family will likely be far less than estimated by our friends on the other side of aisle.

JOINT PROGRAM ON THE SCIENCE AND POLICY OF GLOBAL CHANGE, MASSACHUSETTS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY,

Cambridge, MA, April 1, 2009.

Representative JOHN BOEHNER (R–OH),

Office of the House Republican Leader, Washington, DC.

It has come to my attention that an analysis we conducted examining proposals to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, Report No. 146, Assessment of U.S. Cap-and-Trade Proposals, has been misrepresented in recent press releases distributed by the National Republican Congressional Committee. The press release claims our report estimates an average cost per family of a carbon cap and trade program that would meet targets now being discussed in Congress to be over $3,000, but that is nearly 10 times the correct estimate which is approximately $340. Since the issue of legislation to control greenhouse gases is now under consideration, I wanted to take an opportunity to clear up any misunderstanding created by this press release and to avoid further confusion.

Why is this amount so different? As far as I can tell the $3,000+ is based on the potential auction revenue the government could collect by auctioning the allowances over the period through 2050 where a simple average over all years from 2015 to 2050 was computed. The tax revenue collected through such an auction, the costs of reducing greenhouse gas emissions, and the average impact on a household are very different concepts. Thus, there are several things wrong with this calculation. First, the auction revenue is determined by the CO_2 price and how many allowances are issued—allowances tell us how many tons of CO_2 (or more broadly greenhouse gases) will continue to be emitted. The cost of reducing emissions depends on how much emissions are reduced not on how much continues to be emitted. Second, the CO_2 price reflects the cost of the last ton of emissions reduced but there are many options that cost much less than avoiding the last ton and so using the CO_2 price multiplied by the number of tons (either reduced or emitted) is also wrong. Third, the average cost to a household depends on how allowances or the allowance revenues are distributed. Fourth, the costs are borne over time and it is wrong to produce a simple average of such costs as that does not take account of the time value of money.

We assumed in the analysis we did that the revenue is returned to households. From data in the report we can calculate the economic cost in each year (percentage loss times the base welfare level in each year), and divide this by the U.S. population, and then multiply this amount by four to estimate the cost for a representative family of four. We further apply an economic discount rate of 4 percent to get the Net Present Value (NPV) cost in each year in the future. Doing this we find that the NPV cost per family of four starts at about $75 in 2015, rises to nearly $510 by 2025, and then falls to $205 by 2050. We can calculate the average annual NPV cost per family by summing over all years and dividing by the number of years, and this shows the average annual net present value cost to be about $340—only a part of which would be actual energy bill increases. This $340 includes the direct effects of higher energy prices, the cost of measures to reduce energy use such as adding insulation to homes, the higher price of goods that are produced using energy, and impacts on wages and returns on capital. The cost per household will vary from our hypothetical average family of four depending on the household's circumstances. Those households with large heating and cooling bills because of the climate in which they live or who drive more than average will face higher costs. Those with smaller homes who live in benign climates will have lower costs. The higher energy prices encourage reductions in energy use by increasing the payback on improvements in energy efficiency, and through such investments households can avoid paying more for energy. Jobs and wages in fossil fuel industries are likely to decline but job opportunities will increase in industries that produce alternative energy sources or that provide ways to save energy.

While the $340 average annual cost we estimate for a family is just one tenth of the $3000+ cited in the misleading press release, Congress should address the costs of this transition for middle and lower income families while developing Cap-and-Trade legislation. In another paper (Report 160, Analysis of U.S. Greenhouse Gas Tax Proposals) we make some calculations on the burdens of a GHG tax on families at different income levels. Our Report 160 shows that the costs on lower and middle income households can be completely offset by returning allowance revenue to these households.

Climate change poses severe risks for the U.S. and the world. It will take efforts in the U.S. and abroad to reduce emissions substantially to avoid the most serious risks of climate change. One of the perplexing aspects of the problem is that the solution involves using cleaner energy sources that are more costly then conventional fossil fuels. And the higher energy prices needed to cover the higher costs will fall disproportionately on the poorer members of society in the U.S. and in the world. However, the less wealthy members of our economy also stand to suffer most from climate change—whether it is through the risks of increased food prices if climate change disrupts crops, the lack of access to air conditioning under extreme heat, or vulnerability to other extreme weather and storm events such as hurricanes which may increase with climate change. Many of the proposals currently being considered by Congress and as proposed by the Administration have been designed to offset the energy cost impacts on middle and lower income households and so it is simplistic and misleading to only look at

the impact on energy prices of these proposals as a measure of their impact on the average household. Concern about the cost impacts on middle and low income families needs to be focused on making sure allowance or tax revenue is used to offset cost impacts on these households rather than as an excuse for not proceeding with measures that would help avert dangerous climate change.

Sincerely,

JOHN M. REILLY.

HONORING CONGRESSMAN JIM SAXTON'S CAREER

HON. JOHN H. ADLER

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 21, 2009

Mr. ADLER of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, my predecessor, former Congressman Jim Saxton faithfully represented the 3rd Congressional District of New Jersey for 24 years. His lifelong dedication to public service and integrity made him one of the most respected Members of the House of Representatives.

As a senior member of the House Committee on Armed Services, Congressman Saxton was able to save 17,000 jobs and create 1,500 new ones by pushing through legislation to create the country's first Army-Air Force-Navy megabase by combining Fort Dix, McGuire AFB and Lakehurst Naval Air Station.

Congressman Saxton also left a lasting environmental legacy for New Jersey and for the United States. As a high ranking member of the House Natural Resources Committee and co-founder of the bipartisan Congressional Wildlife Refuge Caucus, the Congressman was dedicated to preserving the county's natural treasures and safeguarding the environment for future generations.

Congressman Jim Saxton's career is a shining example of bipartisanship and public service. I am humbled to represent the district that elected such a worthy and honorable man for over two decades.

In honor of Congressman Saxton's service to the residents of New Jersey's 3rd Congressional District I have sponsored legislation, H.R. 986, which would name the post office in Mount Holly, New Jersey after him. I hope my colleagues will cosponsor this legislation to honor their former colleague.

STOP MARKETING TOBACCO PRODUCTS TO KIDS

HON. MARY JO KILROY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 21, 2009

Ms. KILROY. Madam Speaker, for far too long, there has been a lack of oversight and regulation of a product that causes more than 392,000 deaths in the U.S. each year. Our constituents, I'd contend, would be shocked to know what little oversight actually exists over tobacco products—the fuel driving the leading cause of preventable death in the United States.

Today I want to tell you about a new, despicable product being sold in 3 cities around the country, including my hometown of Columbus, Ohio. Reynolds America is currently using my constituents in Columbus as guinea pigs and testing a smokeless tobacco product that looks like a mint. How is a child supposed to tell the difference between a mint that freshens your breath and one that gives you cancer?

According to an article in a suburban Columbus newspaper, many high school students are using smokeless tobacco during school hours. The American Lung Association has confirmed with school janitors that they are finding smokeless tobacco pouches in the trash—confirming that kids are using smokeless tobacco in class. These new forms of tobacco will only make it easier for children to get access to tobacco products and become lifelong addicts. They won't even have to dispose of the evidence.

What we need is for Congress to finally pass into law the Family Smoking Prevention and Tobacco Control Act. This legislation would finally give the U.S. Food and Drug Administration authority to regulate deadly tobacco products. Among other items in this bill, the FDA would be granted authority to regulate these appalling new smokeless, dissolvable tobacco products that are now hitting the market in Columbus.

Chairman WAXMAN stated the other day that he intends to move this legislation "very, very soon." I thank him for his leadership and urge this chamber to do just that so we can reduce the addiction, disease, and death caused by these products.

CORRECTION

Daily Digest

Senate

Chamber Action

Routine Proceedings, pages S4469–S4525

Measures Introduced: Ten bills and two resolutions were introduced, as follows: S. 838–847, and S. Res. 106–107. **Pages S4513–14**

Measures Passed:

Public Service Recognition Week: Senate agreed to S. Res. 87, expressing the sense of the Senate that public servants should be commended for their dedication and continued service to the Nation during Public Service Recognition Week, May 4 through 10, 2009. **Page S4522**

Celebrating Accomplishments of University of Findlay Men's Basketball Team: Senate agreed to S. Res. 106, celebrating the outstanding athletic accomplishments of the University of Findlay men's basketball team for winning the National Collegiate Athletic Association Division II Championship. **Page S4522**

Commending University of Connecticut Women's Basketball Team: Senate agreed to S. Res. 107, commending the University of Connecticut Huskies for their historic win in the 2009 National Collegiate Athletic Association Division I Women's Basketball Tournament. **Pages S4523–24**

Appointments:

United States-China Economic Security Review Commission: The Chair, on behalf of the President pro tempore, pursuant to Public Law 106–398, as amended by Public Law 108–7, in accordance with the qualifications specified under section 1238(b)(3)(E) of Public Law 106–398, and upon the recommendation of the Republican Leader, in consultation with the ranking members of the Senate Committee on Armed Services and the Senate Committee on Finance, appointed the following individuals to the United States-China Economic Security Review Commission:

Dennis Shea of Virginia, for a term expiring December 31, 2010, and

Robin Cleveland of Virginia, for a term expiring December 31, 2010, vice Mark Esper of Virginia. **Page S4524**

Fraud Enforcement and Recovery Act—Agreement: A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that the cloture motion relative to the motion to proceed to consideration of S. 386, to improve enforcement of mortgage fraud, securities fraud, financial institution fraud, and other frauds related to Federal assistance and relief programs, for the recovery of funds lost to these frauds, be withdrawn, and that at approximately 10:30 a.m., on Wednesday, April 22, 2009, Senate begin consideration of the bill. **Pages S4524, S4498**

Message From the President: Senate received the following message from the President of the United States:

Transmitting, pursuant to the provisions of section 1512 of the Strom Thurmond National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 1999 (Public Law 105–261), certification that the export of one continuous mixer, one jet mill, and one filament winding cell is not detrimental to the U.S. space launch industry, and that the material and equipment, including any indirect technical benefit that could be derived from these exports, will not measurably improve the missile or space launch capabilities of the People's Republic of China; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations. (PM–14) **Page S4510**

Sanchez Nomination Referral—Agreement: A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that the nomination of Francisco J. Sanchez, of Florida, to be Under Secretary of Commerce for International Trade, received in the Senate on April 20, 2009, be jointly referred to the Committee on Finance and the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs. **Page S4524**

Nomination Confirmed: Senate confirmed the following nomination:

By 73 yeas 23 nays (Vote No. EX. 159), Christopher R. Hill, of Rhode Island, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Iraq. **Pages S4471–98**

Nominations Received: Senate received the following nominations:

Jonathan Steven Adelstein, of South Dakota, to be Administrator, Rural Utilities Service, Department of Agriculture.

Thomasina Rogers, of Maryland, to be a Member of the Occupational Safety and Health Review Commission for a term expiring April 27, 2015.

Routine lists in the Air Force, Army, Marine Corps, and Navy. **Pages S4524–25**

Measures Placed on the Calendar: **Page S4469, S4510**

Executive Communications: **Pages S4510–13**

Executive Reports of Committees: **Page S4513**

Additional Cosponsors: **Page S4514**

Statements on Introduced Bills/Resolutions: **Pages S4515–21**

Additional Statements: **Page S4508**

Amendments Submitted: **Page S4521**

Notices of Hearings/Meetings: **Page S4521**

Authorities for Committees To Meet: **Pages S4521–22**

Privileges of the Floor: **Page S4522**

Record Votes: One record vote was taken today. (Total—159) **Page S4498**

Adjournment: Senate convened at 10 a.m. and adjourned at 6:06 p.m., until 10 a.m. on Wednesday, April 22, 2009. (For Senate's program, see the remarks of the Acting Majority Leader in today's Record on page S4524.)

Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

NOMINATIONS

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the nominations of Cameron Kerry, of Massachusetts, to be General Counsel, and April S. Boyd, of the District of Columbia, to be an Assistant Secretary, both of the Department of Commerce, who were introduced by Senator Kerry, Dana G. Gresham, of the District of Columbia, to be an Assistant Secretary, Roy W. Kienitz, of Pennsylvania, to be Under Secretary for Policy, Peter Appel, of Virginia, to be the Administrator of Research and Innovative Technology Administration, and Robert Rivkin, of Illinois, to be General Counsel, and Joseph C. Szabo, of Illinois, to be Administrator of the Federal Railroad Administration, who were introduced by Senator Durbin, all of the Department of Transportation, and Sherburne B. Abbott, of Texas, to be an Associate Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy, Executive Office of the President, after the nominees testified and answered questions in their own behalf.

HEALTH CARE DELIVERY SYSTEM

Committee on Finance: Committee concluded a hearing to examine reforming America's health care delivery system, after receiving testimony from Glenn M. Hackbarth, Chairman, Medicare Payment Advisory Commission; Lewis Morris, Chief Counsel, Office of Counsel to the Inspector General, Department of Health and Human Services; Paul Diaz, Kindred Healthcare, Inc., Louisville, KY; Allan M. Korn, Blue Cross Blue Shield Association, Mark B. McClellan, Brookings Institute, Debra Ness, National Partnership for Women and Families, and Richard J. Umbdenstock, American Hospital Association, all of Washington, DC; Peter V. Lee, Pacific Business Group on Health, San Francisco, CA; Mary D. Naylor, University of Pennsylvania School of Nursing, and John Tooker, American College of Physicians, both of Philadelphia, PA; Frank G. Opelka, Louisiana State University Health Science Center, New Orleans; Glenn Steele, Jr., Geisinger Health System, Danville, PA; and Ron Williams, Aetna Inc., Hartford, CT.

BUSINESS MEETING

Committee on Finance: Committee ordered favorably reported the nomination of Kathleen Sebelius, of Kansas, to be Secretary of Health and Human Services.

U.S. DIPLOMATIC CAPACITY IN AFRICA

Committee on Foreign Relations: Subcommittee on African Affairs concluded a hearing to examine U.S. diplomatic capacity in Africa, after receiving testimony from Thomas R. Pickering, former Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs, Princeton N. Lyman, Council on Foreign Relations, and Howard Wolpe, Woodrow Wilson Center, all of Washington, DC.

COUNTERNARCOTICS ENFORCEMENT

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs: Ad Hoc Subcommittee on State, Local, and Private Sector Preparedness and Integration concluded a hearing to examine counternarcotics enforcement, focusing on coordination at the Federal, State, and local level, after receiving testimony from John Leech, Acting Director, Office of Counternarcotics Enforcement, Department of Homeland Security; Frances Flener, Arkansas State Drug Director, Little Rock; and Douglas C. Gillespie, Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department, Las Vegas, NV, on behalf of Major Cities' Chiefs Association.

CONTRACTING FRAUD

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs: Ad Hoc Subcommittee on Contracting Oversight concluded a hearing to examine improving the ability of inspectors general to detect, prevent, and prosecute contracting fraud, after receiving testimony from Brian D. Miller, Inspector General, General Services Administration; Richard L. Skinner, Inspector General, Department of Homeland Security; Charles W. Beardall, Deputy Inspector General for Investigations, Department of Defense; and J. Anthony Ogden, Inspector General, Government Printing Office, on behalf of the Council of the Inspectors General on Integrity and Efficiency.

GREEN SKILLS TRAINING FOR WORKERS

Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions: Committee concluded a hearing to examine empowering workers to rebuild America's economy and long-term competitiveness, focusing on green skills training for workers, after receiving testimony from Hilda D. Solis, Secretary of Labor; Joan K. Evans, Wyoming Department of Workforce Services, Cheyenne; Lee Lambert, Shoreline Community College, Shoreline, WA; Dean Allen, McKinstry Company, Seattle, WA; Mark H. Ayers, AFL–CIO, Washington, DC; and Phil Lou, Vashon, WA.

TERRORISM INFORMATION SHARING

Committee on the Judiciary: Subcommittee on Terrorism and Homeland Security concluded a hearing to examine protecting national security and civil liberties, focusing on strategies for terrorism information sharing, after receiving testimony from former Senator Gorton; J. Thomas Manger, Montgomery County Chief of Police, Rockville, MD; Zoe Baird, Markle Foundation Task Force on National Security in the Information Age, New York, NY; and Caroline Frederickson, American Civil Liberties Union Washington Legislative Office, Washington, DC.

INTELLIGENCE

Select Committee on Intelligence: Committee held closed hearings on intelligence matters, receiving testimony from officials of the intelligence community.

Committee recessed subject to the call.

House of Representatives

Chamber Action

Public Bills and Resolutions Introduced: 39 public bills, H.R. 1980–2018; 1 private bill, H.R. 2019; and 21 resolutions, H. Con. Res. 100–103; and H. Res. 334–350 were introduced.

Pages H4579–82

Additional Cosponsors: Pages H4582–84

Reports Filed: Reports were filed today as follows:

H.R. 1580, to authorize the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency to award grants for electronic waste reduction research, development, and demonstration projects, with amendments (H. Rept. 111–75);

H.R. 1145, to implement a National Water Research and Development Initiative, with an amendment (H. Rept. 111–76);

H.R. 749, to amend the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 to permit candidates for election for Federal office to designate an individual who will be authorized to disburse funds of the authorized campaign committees of the candidate in the event of the death of the candidate (H. Rept. 111–77);

H.R. 1139, to amend the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 to enhance the COPS ON THE BEAT grant program, with an amendment (H. Rept. 111–78);

H. Res. 269, supporting the goals of Motorcycle Safety Awareness Month (H. Rept. 111–79);

H. Res. 313, supporting the goals and ideals of National Public Works Week (H. Rept. 111–80); and

H.R. 1747, to authorize appropriations for the design, acquisition, and construction of a combined buoy tender-icebreaker to replace icebreaking capacity on the Great Lakes (H. Rept. 111–81).

Page H4579

Speaker: Read a letter from the Speaker wherein she appointed Representative Larsen (WA) to act as Speaker Pro Tempore for today. Page H4527

Commission To Study the Potential Creation of a National Museum of the American Latino—Appointment: The Chair announced the Speaker's appointment of the following members on the part of the House of Representatives to the Commission to Study the Potential Creation of a National Museum of the American Latino: As voting members: Mr. Luis Cancel of San Francisco, CA; Ms. Eva Longoria Parker of San Antonio, TX; and Mr. Henry Munoz of San Antonio, TX; and as a nonvoting

member: Ms. Lorraine Garcia-Nakata of San Francisco, CA. **Page H4527**

Suspensions: The House agreed to suspend the rules and pass the following measures:

Revolutionary War and War of 1812 Battlefield Protection Act: H.R. 1694, amended, to amend the American Battlefield Protection Act of 1996 to establish a battlefield acquisition grant program for the acquisition and protection of nationally significant battlefields and associated sites of the Revolutionary War and the War of 1812; **Pages H4528–30**

Agreed to amend the title so as to read: ''To authorize the acquisition and protection of nationally significant battlefields and associated sites of the Revolutionary War and the War of 1812 under the American Battlefield Protection Program.''. **Page H4530**

Crane Conservation Act of 2009: H.R. 388, to assist in the conservation of cranes by supporting and providing, through projects of persons and organizations with expertise in crane conservation, financial resources for the conservation programs of countries the activities of which directly or indirectly affect cranes and the ecosystems of cranes, by a ⅔ yea-and-nay vote of 288 yeas to 116 nays, Roll No. 193; **Pages H4530–33, H4548–49**

Great Cats and Rare Canids Act of 2009: H.R. 411, amended, to assist in the conservation of rare felids and rare canids by supporting and providing financial resources for the conservation programs of nations within the range of rare felid and rare canid populations and projects of persons with demonstrated expertise in the conservation of rare felid and rare canid populations, by a ⅔ yea-and-nay vote of 290 yeas to 118 nays, Roll No. 194; **Pages H4533–37, H4450**

Lake Hodges Surface Water Improvement and Reclamation Act of 2009: H.R. 1219, to make amendments to the Reclamation Projects Authorization and Adjustment Act of 1992, by a ⅔ yea-and-nay vote of 362 yeas to 43 nays, Roll No. 195; **Pages H4537–38, H4551**

Repealing section 10(f) of Public Law 93–531, commonly known as the ''Bennett Freeze'': S. 39, to repeal section 10(f) of Public Law 93–531, commonly known as the ''Bennett Freeze''; **Pages H4538–39**

Honoring the Life and Achievements of Dr. John Hope Franklin: H. Res. 320, to honor the Life and Achievements of Dr. John Hope Franklin; **Page H4539**

Recognizing the designation of March 2009 as Irish American Heritage Month: H. Res. 254, amended, to recognize the designation of March 2009 as Irish American Heritage Month and to honor the significance of Irish Americans in the history and progress of the United States; **Pages H4543–44**

Agreed to amend the title so as to read: ''Recognizing the contributions of Irish-Americans in the history and progress of the United States.''. **Page H4544**

Recognizing the efforts of the countless volunteers who helped the Commonwealth of Kentucky recover from the ice storm of January 2009: H. Res. 214, to recognize the efforts of the countless volunteers who helped the Commonwealth of Kentucky recover from the ice storm of January 2009; and **Pages H4544–47**

Sergeant Marcus Mathes Post Office Designation Act: H.R. 1516, to designate the facility of the U.S. Postal Service located at 37926 Church Street in Dade City, FL, as the ''Sergeant Marcus Mathes Post Office''. **Pages H4547–48**

Recess: The House recessed at 4:02 p.m. and reconvened at 6:30 p.m. **Page H4548**

Oath of Office—Fifth Congressional District of Illinois: Representative-elect Mike Quigley presented himself in the well of the House and was administered the Oath of Office by the Speaker. Earlier, the Clerk of the House transmitted a facsimile copy of a letter from Mr. Daniel White, Executive Director, Illinois State Board of Elections, indicating that, according to the unofficial returns of the Special Election held April 7, 2009, the Honorable Mike Quigley was elected Representative to Congress for the Fifth Congressional District, State of Illinois. **Pages H4549, H4576**

Whole Number of the House: The Speaker announced to the House that, in light of the administration of the oath to the gentleman from Illinois, Mr. Quigley, the whole number of the House is adjusted to 433. **Page H4550**

Moment of Silence: The House observed a moment of silence in honor of Bill Orton, former Member of Congress. **Page H4551**

Presidential Message: Read a message from the President certifying that export of certain items to the People's Republic of China is not detrimental to the U.S. space launch industry—referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs and ordered printed (H. Rept. 111–32). **Page H4548**

Senate Messages: Messages received from the Senate by the Clerk and subsequently presented to the House today appear on pages H4527, H4549.

Senate Referrals: S. 735 was referred to the Committee on Ways and Means and S. Con. Res. 13 was held at the desk. **Page H4576**

Quorum Calls—Votes: Three yea-and-nay votes developed during the proceedings of today and appear on pages H4548–49, H4550, H4551. There were no quorum calls.

Adjournment: The House met at 2 p.m. and adjourned at 11:20 p.m.

Committee Meetings

NATIONAL RECONNAISSANCE OFFICE AND NATIONAL GEOSPATIAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Select Intelligence Oversight Panel met in executive session to hold a hearing on the National Reconnaissance Office, NRO, and the National Geospatial Intelligence Agency, NGA. Testimony was heard from MG Ellen Pawlikowski, USAF, Acting Director, NRO; and ADM Robert B. Murrett, USN, Director, NGA, Department of Defense.

AMERICAN CLEAN ENERGY SECURITY ACT OF 2009

Committee on Energy and Commerce: and the Subcommittee on Energy and Environment began joint hearings on the American Clean Energy Security Act of 2009.

Hearings continue tomorrow.

BAYER'S FATAL CHEMICAL PLANT EXPLOSION

Committee on Energy and Commerce: Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations held a hearing entitled "Secrecy in the Response to Bayer's Fatal Chemical Plant Explosion." Testimony was heard from John Bresland, Chairman, Chemical Safety and Hazard Investigation Board; RADM James Watson, USCG, Director, Prevention Policy and Marine Safety, Security and Stewardship, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security; the following officials of West Virginia: Michael Dorsey, Chief, Homeland Security and Emergency Response; and Pamela Nixon, Environmental Advocate, both with the Department of Environment Protection; and Joseph Crawford, Chief of Police, St. Albans; and public witnesses.

NEWSPAPER COMPETITION

Committee on the Judiciary: Subcommittee on Courts and Competition Policy held a hearing on A New Age for Newspapers: Diversity of Voices, Competition and the Internet. Testimony was heard from Carl Shapiro, Deputy Assistant Attorney General, Economics, Antitrust Division, Department of Justice; and public witnesses.

Joint Meetings

SYSTEMIC THREATS OF LARGE FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS

Joint Economic Committee: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the systemic threats of large financial institutions, after receiving testimony from Joseph E. Stiglitz, Columbia University, former Chairman, Council of Economic Advisers, New York, NY; Simon Johnson, Massachusetts Institute of Technology Sloan School of Management, Cambridge; and Thomas M. Hoenig, Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City, Kansas City, MO.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR WEDNESDAY, APRIL 22, 2009

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Senate

Committee on Armed Services: Subcommittee on Strategic Forces, to hold hearings to examine environmental management stimulus funding, 9:30 a.m., SR–222.

Subcommittee on Readiness and Management Support, to hold hearings to examine the current readiness of U.S. ground forces, with the possibility of a closed session following in SVC–217, 10 a.m., SR–232A.

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources: to hold hearings to examine S. 548, to amend the Public Utility Regulatory Policies Act of 1978 to establish a Federal energy efficiency resource standard for retail electricity and natural gas distributors, 10 a.m., SD–366.

Committee on Environment and Public Works: to hold an oversight hearing to examine the General Services Administration and energy efficiency in public buildings, 10 a.m., SD–406.

Committee on Foreign Relations: to hold hearings to examine global climate change, focusing on U.S. leadership for a new global agreement, 9:30 a.m., SD–419.

Full Committee, to hold hearings to examine the nominations of Susan Flood Burk, of Virginia, to be Special Representative of the President, with the rank of Ambassador, and Ivo H. Daalder, of Virginia, to be U.S. Permanent Representative on the Council of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, both of the Department of State, 2:30 p.m., SD–419.

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs: to hold hearings to examine the nomination of William Craig Fugate, of Florida, to be Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency; to be immediately followed by a hearing to examine the nomination of John Morton, of Virginia, to be an Assistant Secretary for Immigration and Customs Enforcement, both of the Department of Homeland Security, 10 a.m., SD–342.

Subcommittee on Federal Financial Management, Government Information, Federal Services, and International

Security, to hold hearings to examine eliminating waste and fraud in Medicare and Medicaid, 3 p.m., SD–342.

Committee on Veterans' Affairs: to hold hearings to examine pending health related legislation, 2:30 p.m., SR–418.

House

Committee on Agriculture, Subcommittee on General Farm Commodities and Risk Management, hearing to review producers' views on the effectiveness and operations of the Federal crop insurance program, 10 a.m., 1300 Longworth.

Committee on Appropriations, Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies, on Member Requests, 10 a.m., 2362–A Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Defense, executive, on Supplemental Request, 10 a.m., H–140 Capitol.

Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development, and Related Agencies, on Members Requests, 10 a.m., 2362–B Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Homeland Security, on U.S. Coast Guard: Measuring Mission Needs, 10 a.m., 2359 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Interior, Environment and Related Agencies, on Bureau of Indian Affairs: Law Enforcement and Violence, 9:30 a.m., and on Member Requests, 1:30 p.m., B–308 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Legislative Branch, on U.S. Capitol Police, and GPO, 1 p.m., H–144 Capitol.

Subcommittee on Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies, on Base Realignment and Closure, 10 a.m., H–143 Capitol.

Committee on Armed Services, Subcommittee on Readiness, on Air Sovereignty Alert Operations, 10 a.m., 2118 Rayburn.

Committee on Education and Labor, Subcommittee on Health, Employment, Labor and Pensions, hearing on the 401(k) Fair Disclosure for Retirement Security Act of 2009, 10:30 a.m., 2175 Rayburn.

Committee on Energy and Commerce, and the Subcommittee on Energy and Environment, to continue joint hearings on The American Clean Energy Security Act of 2009, 9:30 a.m., 2123 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Health, hearing on H.R. 847, James Zadroga 9/11 Health and Compensation Act of 2009, 10 a.m., 2322 Rayburn.

Committee on Financial Services, to consider H.R. 627, Credit Cardholders' Bill of Rights Act of 2009, 9:30 a.m., 2128 Rayburn.

Committee on Foreign Affairs, hearing on New Beginnings: Foreign Policy Priorities in the Obama Administration, 9:30 a.m., 2172 Rayburn.

Committee on the Judiciary, to mark up the following bills: H.R. 1913, Local Law Enforcement Hate Crimes Prevention Act of 2009; H.R. 1748, Fight Fraud Act of 2009; H.R. 1788, False Claims Act Correction Act of 2009; H.R. 1676, PACT Act; H.R. 1667; War Profiteering Prevention Act of 2009; and H.R. 1741, Witness Security and Protection Grant Program Act of 2009, 10:15 a.m., 2141 Rayburn.

Committee on Natural Resources, to mark up the following bills: H.R. 31, Lumbee Recognition Act; H.R. 1385, Thomasina E. Jordan Indian Tribes of Virginia Federal Recognition Act of 2009; H.R. 860, Coral Reef Conservation Act Reauthorization and Enhancement Amendments of 2009; and H.R. 934, To convey certain submerged lands to the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands in order to give that territory the same benefits in its submerged lands as Guam, the Virgin Islands, and American Samoa have in their submerged lands, 10 a.m., 1324 Longworth.

Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, Subcommittee on Federal Workforce, Postal Service and the District of Columbia, hearing entitled ''Public Service in the 21st Century: An Examination of the State of the Federal Workforce,'' 10 a.m., 2154 Rayburn.

Committee on Rules, to consider H.R. 1145, National Water Research and Development Initiative Act of 2009, 3 p.m., H–313 Capitol.

Committee on Science and Technology, hearing on Monitoring, Measurement and Verification of Greenhouse Gas Emissions II: The Role of Federal and Academic Research and Monitoring Programs, 10 a.m., 2318 Rayburn.

Committee on Small Business, hearing entitled ''The Importance of Technology in an Economic Recovery,'' 1 p.m., 2360 Rayburn.

Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, Subcommittee on Aviation, hearing on Oversight of Helicopter Medical Services, 10 a.m., 2167 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Railroads, Pipelines, and Hazardous Materials, hearing on Railroad Rehabilitation and Improvement Financing Program, 2 p.m., 2167 Rayburn.

Committee on Ways and Means, to continue hearings on reforming the health insurance market, 10 a.m., 1100 Longworth.

Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, executive, briefing on AFRICOM Update, 1:30 p.m., and, executive, briefing on FBI Update, 4 p.m., 304–HVC.

Subcommittee on Intelligence Community Management, executive, briefing on Global Climate Change, 2:30 p.m., 304 HVC.

Next Meeting of the **SENATE**

10 a.m., Wednesday, April 22

Senate Chamber

Program for Wednesday: After the transaction of any morning business (not to extend beyond 10:30 a.m.), Senate will begin consideration of S. 386, Fraud Enforcement and Recovery Act.

Next Meeting of the **HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

10 a.m., Wednesday, April 22

House Chamber

Program for Wednesday: Consideration of the following suspensions: (1) H.R. 749—To amend the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 to permit candidates for election for Federal office to designate an individual who will be authorized to disburse funds of the authorized campaign committees of the candidate in the event of the death of the candidate; (2) H. Con. Res. 86—Authorizing the use of Emancipation Hall in the Capitol Visitor Center for the unveiling of a bust of Sojourner Truth; (3) H.R. 586—Civil Rights History Project Act; (4) H.R. 1679—House Reservists Pay Adjustment Act; (5) S.J. Res. 8—A joint resolution providing for the appointment of David M. Rubenstein as a citizen regent of the Board of Regents of the Smithsonian Institution; (6) H. Con. Res. 101—Providing for the acceptance of a statue of Ronald Wilson Reagan from the people of California for placement in the United States Capitol; (7) H.R. 1580—Electronic Waste Research and Development Act; (8) H.R. 957—Green Energy Education Act; (9) H.R. 1139—COPS Improvements Act; (10) H.R. 1626—Statutory Time-Periods Technical Amendments Act; (11) H.R. 1824—Best Buddies Empowerment for People with Intellectual Disabilities Act; (12) H. Res. 247—Expressing support for ''National Rehabilitation Counselors Appreciation Day''; and (13) H. Res.—Acknowledging and Commending National Library Week.

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