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PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 111th CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

Vol. 155 WASHINGTON, TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 2009 No. 125

House of Representatives

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

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
September 8, 2009.

I hereby appoint the Honorable STEVE DRIEHAUS 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, creator of the Earth, the sea and the sky, everything is of Your making and all gives You glory.

This holiday weekend urges us to beg Your blessing upon our labors. Whether our work is handcrafted or managed by computer or machine, harvested from the field or designed in a laboratory, whether our service takes shape in public form, in aerospace or private industry, whether in courtroom, hospital, school, home, or in the halls of government, Lord, bless the work of Your people. Bless this Nation.

Our human labor drains our energy, fixes our mind, and uncovers our creativity. Daily work adds dignity and accomplishment to daily life and all human effort. When our work is expanded to others, hopefully it benefits our brothers and sisters. When offered to You as an act of worship, it becomes holy. Grant success to the work of our hands, Lord, 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 Arizona (Mrs. KIRKPATRICK) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mrs. KIRKPATRICK of Arizona 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:

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, August 4, 2009.

Hon. NANCY PELOSI,
The Speaker, 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 August 4, 2009, at 12:01 p.m.:

That the Senate passed without amendment H.R. 774.

That the Senate passed without amendment H.R. 987.

That the Senate passed without amendment H.R. 1271.

That the Senate passed without amendment H.R. 1397.

That the Senate passed without amendment H.R. 2090.

That the Senate passed without amendment H.R. 2162.

That the Senate passed without amendment H.R. 2325.

That the Senate passed without amendment H.R. 2422.

That the Senate passed without amendment H.R. 2470.

Appointments:
Ronald Reagan Centennial Commission.

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:

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,
Washington, DC, August 4, 2009.

Hon. NANCY PELOSI,
The Speaker, 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 August 4, 2009, at 3:14 p.m.:

That the Senate passed S. 748.

That the Senate passed S. 1211.

That the Senate passed S. 1314.

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:

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,
Washington, DC, August 5, 2009.

Hon. NANCY PELOSI,
The Speaker, 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 August 5, 2009, at 10:03 a.m.:

That the Senate agreed to without amendment H.J. Res. 44.

Printed on recycled paper.

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:

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,
Washington, DC, August 5, 2009.

Hon. NANCY PELOSI,
The Speaker, 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 August 5, 2009, at 4:47 p.m.:

That the Senate passed with an amendment, requests a conference with the House, and appoints conferees H.R. 2997.

That the Senate passed S. 475.

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:

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,
Washington, DC, August 6, 2009.

Hon. NANCY PELOSI,
The Speaker, 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 August 6, 2009, at 9:59 a.m.:

That the Senate passed S. 713.

That the Senate passed without amendment H.R. 1275.

That the Senate passed without amendment H.R. 2938.

That the Senate agreed to without amendment H. Con. Res. 171.

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:

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,
Washington, DC, September 3, 2009.

Hon. NANCY PELOSI,
The Speaker, 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 September 3, 2009, at 10:42 a.m.:

Appointments:

Public Interest Declassification Board

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 and joint resolutions were signed by Speaker pro tempore HOYER on Thursday, August 6, 2009:

H.R. 774, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 46–02 21st Street in Long Island City, New York, as the ''Geraldine Ferraro Post Office Building''

H.R. 987, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 601 8th Street in Freedom, Pennsylvania, as the ''John Scott Challis, Jr. Post Office''

H.R. 1271, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 2351 West Atlantic Boulevard in Pompano Beach, Florida, as the ''Elijah Pat Larkins Post Office Building''

H.R. 1275, to direct the exchange of certain land in Grand, San Juan, and Uintah Counties, Utah, and for other purposes

H.R. 1397, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 41 Purdy Avenue in Rye, New York, as the ''Caroline O'Day Post Office Building''

H.R. 2090, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 431 State Street in Ogdensburg, New York, as the ''Frederic Remington Post Office Building''

H.R. 2162, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 123 11th Avenue South in Nampa, Idaho, as the ''Herbert A Littleton Postal Station''

H.R. 2325, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1300 Matamoros Street in Laredo, Texas, as the ''Laredo Veterans Post Office''

H.R. 2422, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 2300 Scenic Drive in Georgetown, Texas, as the ''Kile G. West Post Office Building''

H.R. 2470, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 19190 Cochran Boulevard FRNT in Port Charlotte, Florida, as the ''Lieutenant Commander Roy H. Boehm Post Office Building''

H.R. 2938, to extend the deadline for commencement of construction of a hydroelectric project

H.R. 3435, making supplemental appropriations for fiscal year 2009 for the Consumer Assistance to Recycle and Save Program

H.J. Res. 44, recognizing the service, sacrifice, honor, and professionalism of the Noncommissioned Officers of the United States Army

S.J. Res. 19, granting the consent and approval of Congress to amendments made by the State of Maryland, the Commonwealth of Virginia, and the District of Columbia to the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Regulation Compact

CONGRATULATING AMY MCBROOM, 2009 RURAL TEACHER OF THE YEAR

(Mrs. KIRKPATRICK of Arizona asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. KIRKPATRICK of Arizona. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Amy McBroom of Grand Canyon, Arizona, who has been named the 2009 Rural Teacher of the Year by the National Rural Education Association.

As the only art teacher at the Grand Canyon Unified School District, Amy teaches students from kindergarten to twelfth grade. She founded a juried art show for students and led efforts to bring new international baccalaureate programs to our schools.

Like so many of our teachers, Amy's work educating our kids does not stop when the school year ends. She spends her summers helping Native American children experience different cultures, and she has led field trips to Europe and Washington, D.C.

A quality education is more important than ever to succeeding in today's global economy, and getting a quality education takes great teachers like Amy McBroom. Northern Arizona is lucky to have her.

Congratulations to Amy for this recognition for her work.

WE NEED HEALTH CARE REFORM THAT PUTS PATIENTS FIRST

(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, it was a long, hot August for many Members of Congress who returned home to face the displeasure of constituents fed up with Washington's tin ear syndrome.

Over the past month I have heard from more people than I can count who have had enough of the explosion of Washington-style big government. And of course it was no comfort that in the middle of August the White House announced that they expect $9.1 trillion in new government debt over the next 10 years. So how is it that the American people are expected to stomach a new government-run health care proposal that is estimated to cost up to $1.6 trillion?

Let's scrap the Democrat government-run health care proposal and return to the drawing board for a plan like ones that Republicans have offered that puts patients, not government, first.

CALIFORNIA DROUGHT

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

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, Congress has come back here in September and the primary focus is on health care, as it should be. But I rise today to speak

about the health of millions of Californians that are dependent upon a reliable water supply. I'm speaking on behalf of farmers, farm workers, and people who live in our cities.

This manmade—with the aid of Mother Nature—drought crisis will not go away. It could go a fourth year. We are living on borrowed time to fix California's broken water system. Wishful thinking will not wish it away.

With over 30 lawsuits pending on two biological opinions, we can't have the courts making the most important decisions. It is time that we take action. Now is the time for the Federal Government to keep its commitment to being a partner in helping to solve California's water problems. We need administrative flexibility immediately. We need near-term assistance with the Two-Gates and Intertie projects. And in the long term, we must address all the stressors that are impacting water quality and fisheries in the Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta. And finally, we need to increase our water supply.

This is not, nor should it be, a partisan issue.

GOVERNMENT HEALTH CARE FORCE-FEEDS TAX INCREASES

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

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, one of the things I heard most from my neighbors at recent town hall health care meetings is they don't want the government in charge of their health. They believe government-run health care means rationing and substandard treatment. And the people in southeast Texas don't want the additional $800 billion tax increases to pay for what is yet more government intrusion into their lives.

This massive 1,017-page bill requires heavyhanded tax increases to pay for all the new government programs that don't treat one patient, nor will they provide for a healthier America. In this time of economic hardship, no one in America should be force-fed tax increases to pay for this glittering illusion that Big Government is the answer.

America has the best health care in the world. There are problems, such as affordability and access, but complete government takeover is not the answer. Fix these problems rather than destroy American health care.

Does anyone really think the government can do a better job of running the entire medical health of this Nation? This government-run health care plan will have the competence of FEMA, the efficiency of the Post Office, and the compassion of the IRS.

And that's just the way it is.

CONGRATULATING BELLA VISTA POLICE CHIEF JIM WOZNIAK

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

Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Bella Vista Police Chief Jim Wozniak, who has devoted his life to protecting the public, upholding the law, and serving his country.

Wozniak is retiring at the end of September after 38 years in law enforcement, the last 14 as the head of the Bella Vista Police Department. He helped the department grow from nine officers to 20, and he is always looking for ways to improve the police force and the services it offers. He is proud of his department, and rightfully so, because he makes sure his staff put the people first.

His coworkers describe him as a man with a big heart, and I describe him as a friend. Bella Vista will undoubtedly be losing an amazing man who contributed to the safety of the community. We were blessed to have such caring, devoted citizens as Jim.

I commend him for his service as well as his good work and wish him continued success in the future. I ask my colleagues today to join with me in honoring Jim Wozniak, a wonderful public servant who is, and always will be, dedicated to the people of Bella Vista.

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WE'D BETTER LISTEN

(Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise in honor of the American people. I had five townhall meetings this summer. I did a teletownhall in which I had 19,000 people on the line.

With all due respect, Mr. Speaker, I saw no mobs. I saw nothing that was un-American. I saw no evil mongers out there. I saw average, everyday Americans coming to my townhall meetings in ones and twos and threes, not being bussed in by anybody. They were educated about the issue of health care. They understood what was on the floor. These people are concerned about what we might do here. They are also concerned about taxes, spending, debt, and the size of the Federal Government. No, they were not American mobs. These were real Americans, expressing what they're allowed to do under the Constitution in the best way they can, directly speaking with their Members of Congress. We'd better listen.

GOVERNMENT TAKEOVER OF HEALTH CARE AND FISCAL IRRESPONSIBILITY

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

Mr. LAMBORN. Mr. Speaker, since Democrats took control of Washington last January, they have gone on an unprecedented spending spree with the American taxpayers' credit card. It began with a $1 trillion stimulus bill, which has only stimulated more government and more debt. Then came a more than $400 billion omnibus spending bill, followed by a $3.5 trillion budget for the next fiscal year. Budget officials predict that this year's deficit will reach an historic level of nearly $2 trillion—money borrowed from our children and grandchildren.

After 6 months of fiscal irresponsibility, they are now pushing for a government takeover of health care that will grow our national debt and will do little to extend quality care to the American people. Despite raising more than $800 billion in new taxes to pay for this plan, we will also go into debt by $239 billion over the next 10 years to pay for it.

Republicans have a better plan for health care reform, one that does not saddle our children and grandchildren with a mountain of new debt.

EIGHT YEARS OF RUINOUS REPUBLICAN CONTROL

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

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise to respond to some of what I've just heard on the floor of the House of Representatives. I think it's important to know—and certainly my constituents do—that the crushing debt left behind from the last 8 years of ruinous Republican control was a debt inherited by this Congress and this administration because of Republican policies, of the refusal to pay for the programs they undertook, of the willingness to allow PAYGO legislation to expire, to provide a medical care provision in the Medicare D prescription drug benefit that was not paid for, and to have two ruinous wars in Iraq and Afghanistan that were off budget. I think it's important that our constituents understand who was responsible for the debt we now have to manage and the debt we have to get away from.

PROVIDING FOR A JOINT SESSION OF CONGRESS TO RECEIVE A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I send to the desk a privileged concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 179) and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the concurrent resolution, as follows:

H. CON. RES. 179

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That the two Houses of Congress assemble in the Hall of the House of Representatives on Wednesday, September 9, 2009, at 8 p.m., for the purpose of receiving such communication as the President of the United States shall be pleased to make to them.

The concurrent resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia). 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.

DEAFY GLADE LAND EXCHANGE ACT

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1043) to provide for a land exchange involving certain National Forest System lands in the Mendocino National Forest in the State of California, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1043

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 ''Deafy Glade Land Exchange Act''.

SEC. 2. LAND EXCHANGE, MENDOCINO NATIONAL FOREST, CALIFORNIA.

(a) LAND EXCHANGE REQUIRED.—If Solano County, California (in this section referred to as the ''County'') conveys to the Secretary of Agriculture all right, title, and interest of the County in and to four parcels of land consisting of a total of approximately 160 acres identified on the map entitled ''Fouts Springs-Deafy Glade Federal and Non-Federal Lands'' and dated July 17, 2008, the Secretary shall convey to the County, in exchange, all right, title, and interest of the United States in and to the parcel of land in the Mendocino National Forest in the State of California (including any improvements on the land) comprising approximately 82 acres and known as the Fouts Springs Ranch, as also depicted on the map.

(b) AVAILABILITY OF MAP.—The map referred to in subsection (a) shall be on file and available for public inspection in the Office of the Chief of the Forest Service. With the agreement of the County, the Secretary may make technical corrections to the map and the legal descriptions of the land to be exchanged under this section.

(c) LAND EXCHANGE PROCESS.—Section 206 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1716) shall apply to the land exchange under this section.

(d) SURVEY AND ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS.—The exact acreage and legal description of the land to be exchanged under subsection (a) shall be determined by a survey satisfactory to the Secretary. The costs of the survey and any administrative costs related to the land exchange shall be borne by the County.

(e) CONDITION ON USE OF CONVEYED LAND.—As a condition of the conveyance to the County under subsection (a), the County shall agree to continue to use the land acquired by the County under such subsection for purposes consistent with the purposes listed in the special use authorization for the Fouts Springs Ranch in effect as of the date of the enactment of this Act.

(f) EASEMENT AUTHORITY.—The Secretary may grant an easement to provide continued access to, and maintenance and use of, the facilities covered by the special use authorization referred to in subsection (e) as necessary for the continued operation of the Fouts Springs Ranch conveyed under subsection (a).

(g) MANAGEMENT OF ACQUIRED LAND.—The lands acquired by the Secretary under subsection (a) shall be added to and administered as part of the Mendocino National Forest and managed in accordance with the Act of March 1, 1911 (commonly known as the Weeks Act; 16 U.S.C. 480 et seq.) and the laws and regulations applicable to the National Forest System.

(h) ADDITIONAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS.—The land exchange under subsection (a) shall be subject to such additional terms and conditions as the Secretary and the County may agree upon.

(i) CANCELLATION OF PORTION OF UNOBLIGATED BALANCE IN FLREA SPECIAL ACCOUNT.—The amount available for obligation as of the date of the enactment of this Act from the unobligated balance in the special account established for the Forest Service under section 807 of the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act (16 U.S.C. 6806) is reduced by a total of $60,000, and the amount so reduced is hereby cancelled.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. GRIJALVA) and the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. LAMBORN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Arizona.

GENERAL LEAVE

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

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 1043 provides for a land exchange between the Forest Service and Solano County, California. Solano County currently has a special use permit from the Forest Service to operate the Fouts Springs Youth Correctional Facility on 82 acres of land in the Mendocino National Forest. The county has been working diligently for years to acquire wilderness-quality forest lands to exchange with the Forest Service in order to acquire the lands occupied by the youth correctional facility. The lands the Forest Service would acquire are wilderness-quality lands bordering the Snow Mountain Wilderness Area, and have been identified as priority areas for acquisition dating as far back as 1992. The land exchange would be for equal value.

Mr. Speaker, the chairman of the Committee on Education and Labor, Chairman GEORGE MILLER, is to be commended for his efforts on behalf of Solano County and this youth facility. An earlier version of this legislation passed the House last year by voice vote. I ask my colleagues to, once again, support the passage of this measure.

I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, the majority has adequately and has very well explained this bill. I don't believe there is anything to add at this time.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Speaker, I would yield as much time as he may consume to the chairman of the Education and Labor Committee, Mr. GEORGE MILLER, for his comments on his legislation, H.R. 1043.

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 1043, the Deafy Glade Land Exchange Act. I want to thank Chairman RAHALL and Chairman GRIJALVA of the Natural Resources Committee and the minority for bringing this legislation to the floor. As it was noted, this similar legislation passed on a voice vote in the last Congress.

The Fouts Springs Youth Facility has been managed by Solano County, Colusa County, and their partners for nearly 50 years. The bill before the House today guarantees that they can continue to do their good work. Fouts Springs has helped rehabilitate California's young offenders and has provided these young offenders from across the State with much-needed structure and significant vocational educational opportunities.

Presently, Solano County operates Fouts Springs on behalf of several other California counties under a special use authorization. This legislation, the Deafy Glade Land Exchange Act, will give Solano County the 82 acres that they use at Fouts Springs, and in exchange, it would give to the Mendocino National Forest 160 acres of nearby land known as Deafy Glade.

The Deafy Glade property has access to the Snow Mountain Wilderness Area, and it has been a high priority for acquisition by the Forest Service since at least the early 1990s. Last year, the Natural Resources Committee received testimony that the Deafy Glade parcels would be a key addition to the Mendocino National Forest's trail system.

Again, I want to thank the committee for its timely consideration of this legislation, and I urge all of my colleagues to support this matter when it comes before the House.

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

Mr. GRIJALVA. 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 Arizona (Mr. GRIJALVA) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1043, as amended.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

DOROTHY BUELL MEMORIAL VISITOR CENTER PARTNERSHIP ACT

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1287) to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to enter into a partnership with the Porter County Convention, Recreation and Visitor Commission regarding the use of the Dorothy Buell Memorial Visitor Center as a visitor center for the Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1287

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

SECTION 1. DOROTHY BUELL MEMORIAL VISITOR CENTER.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This section may be cited as the ''Dorothy Buell Memorial Visitor Center Partnership Act''.

(b) MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING.—The Secretary of the Interior may enter into a memorandum of understanding to establish a joint partnership with the Porter County Convention, Recreation and Visitor Commission. The memorandum of understanding shall—

(1) identify the overall goals and purpose of the Dorothy Buell Memorial Visitor Center;

(2) establish how management and operational duties will be shared;

(3) determine how exhibits, signs, and other information are developed;

(4) indicate how various activities will be funded;

(5) identify who is responsible for providing site amenities;

(6) establish procedures for changing or dissolving the joint partnership; and

(7) address any other issues deemed necessary by the Secretary or the Porter County Convention, Recreation and Visitor Commission.

(c) DEVELOPMENT OF EXHIBITS.—The Secretary may plan, design, construct, and install exhibits in the Dorothy Buell Memorial Visitor Center related to the use and management of the resources at Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore, at a cost not to exceed $1,500,000.

(d) NATIONAL LAKESHORE PRESENCE.—The Secretary may use park staff from Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore in the Dorothy Buell Memorial Visitor Center to provide visitor information and education.

SEC. 2. INDIANA DUNES NATIONAL LAKESHORE.

Section 19 of the Act entitled ''An Act to provide for the establishment of the Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore, and for other purposes'' (16 U.S.C. 460u–19) is amended—

(1) by striking ''After notifying'' and inserting ''(a) After notifying''; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

''(b) CONTIGUOUS CLARIFIED.—For purposes of subsection (a), lands may be considered contiguous to other lands if the lands touch the other lands, or are separated from the other lands by only a public or private right-of-way, such as a road, railroad, or utility corridor.''.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. GRIJALVA) and the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. LAMBORN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Arizona.

GENERAL LEAVE

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

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 1287 will allow the National Park Service to share visitor center facilities for the Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore with the local county's Convention, Recreation and Visitor Commission. The bill also allows the National Park Service to construct exhibits at the visitor center, and authorizes NPS employees to work there since the visitor center lies outside the established boundaries of the park.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, H.R. 1287 would clarify the definition of ''contiguous lands'' in the park's original legislation so that NPS could accept donations of contiguous land even if that land is separated by a right-of-way, such as a road, a railway line or a utility corridor.

Mr. Speaker, Congressman VISCLOSKY has been working hard on this bill for a long time and is to be commended for his diligence and persistence. The legislation passed the House last Congress by an overwhelming vote. I ask my colleagues, once again, to support this measure.

I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 1287 has been well explained by the majority, and we support this legislation.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Speaker, I would yield as much time as he may consume to the sponsor of H.R. 1287, Mr. VISCLOSKY.

Mr. VISCLOSKY. I appreciate the gentleman's yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 1287, the Dorothy Buell Memorial Visitor Center Lease Act. I am the proud sponsor of this legislation, and as I have in the previous Congress, I thank Mr. DONNELLY for joining me as a cosponsor.

I also do want to thank Chairman RAHALL, Ranking Member HASTINGS, Subcommittee Ranking Member BISHOP, and especially Subcommittee Chairman GRIJALVA for all of their hard work in ensuring that this legislation is brought to the floor.

It has been explained and I will simply say that it is my sincere hope that this legislation will enable the continuance of our efforts to protect and to enhance the Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore and to ensure that all Americans can benefit from the park. The Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore, which was established in 1966, is relatively new, but as it continues to mature, the Dorothy Buell Memorial Visitor Center will be vital in helping to provide each lakeshore visitor a complete and rewarding experience.

Mr. Speaker, we should not delay the lakeshore's ability to mature, thus allowing more people to appreciate the natural beauty of northwest Indiana.

Again, I urge my colleagues, as they did in the last Congress, to support this measure.

Mr. LAMBORN. Mr. Speaker, if there are no further speakers, then I would yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. GRIJALVA. 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 Arizona (Mr. GRIJALVA) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1287.

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.

□ 1430

SANTA CRUZ VALLEY NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA ACT

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 324) to establish the Santa Cruz Valley National Heritage Area, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 324

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the ''Santa Cruz Valley National Heritage Area Act''.

(b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents of this Act is as follows:

Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.
Sec. 2. Purposes.
Sec. 3. Definitions.
Sec. 4. Designation of Santa Cruz Valley National Heritage Area.
Sec. 5. Management plan.
Sec. 6. Evaluation; report.
Sec. 7. Local coordinating entity.
Sec. 8. Relationship to other Federal agencies.
Sec. 9. Private property and regulatory protections.
Sec. 10. Authorization of appropriations.
Sec. 11. Use of Federal funds from other sources.
Sec. 12. Sunset for grants and other assistance.

SEC. 2. PURPOSES.

The purposes of this Act include—

(1) to establish the Santa Cruz Valley National Heritage Area in the State of Arizona;

(2) to implement the recommendations of the ''Alternative Concepts for Commemorating Spanish Colonization'' study completed by the National Park Service in 1991, and the ''Feasibility Study for the Santa Cruz Valley National Heritage Area'' prepared by the Center for Desert Archaeology in July 2005;

(3) to provide a management framework to foster a close working relationship with all levels of government, the private sector, and the local communities in the region and to conserve the region's heritage while continuing to pursue compatible economic opportunities;

(4) to assist communities, organizations, and citizens in the State of Arizona in identifying, preserving, interpreting, and developing the historical, cultural, scenic, and natural resources of the region for the educational and inspirational benefit of current and future generations; and

(5) to provide appropriate linkages between units of the National Park System and communities, governments, and organizations within the National Heritage Area.

SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA.—The term ''National Heritage Area'' means the Santa Cruz Valley National Heritage Area established in this Act.

(2) LOCAL COORDINATING ENTITY.—The term ''local coordinating entity'' means the Santa Cruz Valley Heritage Alliance, Inc., which is hereby designated by Congress—

(A) to develop, in partnership with others, the management plan for the National Heritage Area; and

(B) to act as a catalyst for the implementation of projects and programs among diverse partners in the National Heritage Area.

(3) MANAGEMENT PLAN.—The term ''management plan'' means the plan prepared by the local coordinating entity for the National Heritage Area that specifies actions, policies, strategies, performance goals, and recommendations to meet the goals of the National Heritage Area, in accordance with this Act.

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

SEC. 4. DESIGNATION OF SANTA CRUZ VALLEY NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is hereby established the Santa Cruz Valley National Heritage Area.

(b) BOUNDARIES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The National Heritage Area shall consist of portions of the counties of Santa Cruz and Pima.

(2) MAP.—The boundaries of the National Heritage Area shall be as generally depicted on the map titled ''Santa Cruz Valley National Heritage Area'', and numbered T09/80,000, and dated November 13, 2007. The map shall be on file and available to the public in the appropriate offices of the National Park Service and the local coordinating entity.

SEC. 5. MANAGEMENT PLAN.

(a) REQUIREMENTS.—The management plan for the National Heritage Area shall—

(1) describe comprehensive policies, goals, strategies, and recommendations for telling the story of the heritage of the area covered by the National Heritage Area and encouraging long-term resource protection, enhancement, interpretation, funding, management, and development of the National Heritage Area;

(2) include a description of actions and commitments that Federal, State, Tribal, and local governments, private organizations, and citizens will take to protect, enhance, interpret, fund, manage, and develop the natural, historical, cultural, educational, scenic, and recreational resources of the National Heritage Area;

(3) specify existing and potential sources of funding or economic development strategies to protect, enhance, interpret, fund, manage, and develop the National Heritage Area;

(4) include an inventory of the natural, historical, cultural, educational, scenic, and recreational resources of the National Heritage Area related to the national importance and themes of the National Heritage Area that should be protected, enhanced, interpreted, managed, funded, and developed;

(5) recommend policies and strategies for resource management, including the development of intergovernmental and interagency agreements to protect, enhance, interpret, fund, manage, and develop the natural, historical, cultural, educational, scenic, and recreational resources of the National Heritage Area;

(6) describe a program for implementation for the management plan, including—

(A) performance goals;

(B) plans for resource protection, enhancement, interpretation, funding, management, and development; and

(C) specific commitments for implementation that have been made by the local coordinating entity or any Federal, State, Tribal, or local government agency, organization, business, or individual;

(7) include an analysis of, and recommendations for, means by which Federal, State, Tribal, and local programs may best be coordinated (including the role of the National Park Service and other Federal agencies associated with the National Heritage Area) to further the purposes of this Act; and

(8) include a business plan that—

(A) describes the role, operation, financing, and functions of the local coordinating entity and of each of the major activities contained in the management plan; and

(B) provides adequate assurances that the local coordinating entity has the partnerships and financial and other resources necessary to implement the management plan for the National Heritage Area.

(b) DEADLINE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 3 years after the date on which funds are first made available to develop the management plan after designation as a National Heritage Area, the local coordinating entity shall submit the management plan to the Secretary for approval.

(2) TERMINATION OF FUNDING.—If the management plan is not submitted to the Secretary in accordance with paragraph (1), the local coordinating entity shall not qualify for any additional financial assistance under this Act until such time as the management plan is submitted to and approved by the Secretary.

(c) APPROVAL OF MANAGEMENT PLAN.—

(1) REVIEW.—Not later than 180 days after receiving the plan, the Secretary shall review and approve or disapprove the management plan for a National Heritage Area on the basis of the criteria established under paragraph (3).

(2) CONSULTATION.—The Secretary shall consult with the Governor of each State in which the National Heritage Area is located before approving a management plan for the National Heritage Area.

(3) CRITERIA FOR APPROVAL.—In determining whether to approve a management plan for a National Heritage Area, the Secretary shall consider whether—

(A) the local coordinating entity represents the diverse interests of the National Heritage Area, including Federal, State, Tribal, and local governments, natural and historic resource protection organizations, educational institutions, businesses, recreational organizations, community residents, and private property owners;

(B) the local coordinating entity—

(i) has afforded adequate opportunity for public and Federal, State, Tribal, and local governmental involvement (including through workshops and hearings) in the preparation of the management plan; and

(ii) provides for at least semiannual public meetings to ensure adequate implementation of the management plan;

(C) the resource protection, enhancement, interpretation, funding, management, and development strategies described in the management plan, if implemented, would adequately protect, enhance, interpret, fund, manage, and develop the natural, historic, cultural, educational, scenic, and recreational resources of the National Heritage Area;

(D) the management plan would not adversely affect any activities authorized on Federal land under public land laws or land use plans;

(E) the local coordinating entity has demonstrated the financial capability, in partnership with others, to carry out the plan;

(F) the Secretary has received adequate assurances from the appropriate State, Tribal, and local officials whose support is needed to ensure the effective implementation of the State, Tribal, and local elements of the management plan; and

(G) the management plan demonstrates partnerships among the local coordinating entity, Federal, State, Tribal, and local governments, regional planning organizations, nonprofit organizations, or private sector parties for implementation of the management plan.

(4) DISAPPROVAL.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—If the Secretary disapproves the management plan, the Secretary—

(i) shall advise the local coordinating entity in writing of the reasons for the disapproval; and

(ii) may make recommendations to the local coordinating entity for revisions to the management plan.

(B) DEADLINE.—Not later than 180 days after receiving a revised management plan, the Secretary shall approve or disapprove the revised management plan.

(5) AMENDMENTS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—An amendment to the management plan that substantially alters the purposes of the National Heritage Area shall be reviewed by the Secretary and approved or disapproved in the same manner as the original management plan.

(B) IMPLEMENTATION.—The local coordinating entity shall not use Federal funds authorized by this Act to implement an amendment to the management plan until the Secretary approves the amendment.

(6) AUTHORITIES.—The Secretary may—

(A) provide technical assistance under the authority of this Act for the development and implementation of the management plan; and

(B) enter into cooperative agreements with interested parties to carry out this Act.

SEC. 6. EVALUATION; REPORT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 3 years before the date on which authority for Federal funding terminates for the National Heritage Area under this Act, the Secretary shall—

(1) conduct an evaluation of the accomplishments of the National Heritage Area; and

(2) prepare a report in accordance with subsection (c).

(b) EVALUATION.—An evaluation conducted under subsection (a)(1) shall—

(1) assess the progress of the local coordinating entity with respect to—

(A) accomplishing the purposes of the authorizing legislation for the National Heritage Area; and

(B) achieving the goals and objectives of the approved management plan for the National Heritage Area;

(2) analyze the Federal, State, Tribal, and local, and private investments in the National Heritage Area to determine the impact of the investments; and

(3) review the management structure, partnership relationships, and funding of the National Heritage Area for purposes of identifying the critical components for sustainability of the National Heritage Area.

(c) REPORT.—Based on the evaluation conducted under subsection (a)(1), the Secretary

shall submit a report to the Committee on Natural Resources of the United States House of Representatives and the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the United States Senate. The report shall include recommendations for the future role of the National Park Service, if any, with respect to the National Heritage Area.

SEC. 7. LOCAL COORDINATING ENTITY.

(a) DUTIES.—To further the purposes of the National Heritage Area, the Santa Cruz Valley Heritage Alliance, Inc., as the local coordinating entity, shall—

(1) prepare a management plan for the National Heritage Area, and submit the management plan to the Secretary, in accordance with this Act;

(2) submit an annual report to the Secretary for each fiscal year for which the local coordinating entity receives Federal funds under this Act, specifying—

(A) the specific performance goals and accomplishments of the local coordinating entity;

(B) the expenses and income of the local coordinating entity;

(C) the amounts and sources of matching funds;

(D) the amounts leveraged with Federal funds and sources of the leveraging; and

(E) grants made to any other entities during the fiscal year;

(3) make available for audit for each fiscal year for which the local coordinating entity receives Federal funds under this Act, all information pertaining to the expenditure of the funds and any matching funds; and

(4) encourage economic viability and sustainability that is consistent with the purposes of the National Heritage Area.

(b) AUTHORITIES.—For the purposes of preparing and implementing the approved management plan for the National Heritage Area, the local coordinating entity may use Federal funds made available under this Act to—

(1) make grants to political jurisdictions, nonprofit organizations, and other parties within the National Heritage Area;

(2) enter into cooperative agreements with or provide technical assistance to political jurisdictions, nonprofit organizations, Federal agencies, and other interested parties;

(3) hire and compensate staff, including individuals with expertise in—

(A) natural, historical, cultural, educational, scenic, and recreational resource conservation;

(B) economic and community development; and

(C) heritage planning;

(4) obtain funds or services from any source, including other Federal programs;

(5) contract for goods or services; and

(6) support activities of partners and any other activities that further the purposes of the National Heritage Area and are consistent with the approved management plan.

(c) PROHIBITION ON ACQUISITION OF REAL PROPERTY.—The local coordinating entity may not use Federal funds authorized under this Act to acquire any interest in real property.

SEC. 8. RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER FEDERAL AGENCIES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Nothing in this Act affects the authority of a Federal agency to provide technical or financial assistance under any other law.

(b) CONSULTATION AND COORDINATION.—The head of any Federal agency planning to conduct activities that may have an impact on a National Heritage Area is encouraged to consult and coordinate the activities with the Secretary and the local coordinating entity to the maximum extent practicable.

(c) OTHER FEDERAL AGENCIES.—Nothing in this Act—

(1) modifies, alters, or amends any law or regulation authorizing a Federal agency to manage Federal land under the jurisdiction of the Federal agency;

(2) limits the discretion of a Federal land manager to implement an approved land use plan within the boundaries of a National Heritage Area; or

(3) modifies, alters, or amends any authorized use of Federal land under the jurisdiction of a Federal agency.

SEC. 9. PRIVATE PROPERTY AND REGULATORY PROTECTIONS.

Nothing in this Act—

(1) abridges the rights of any property owner (whether public or private), including the right to refrain from participating in any plan, project, program, or activity conducted within the National Heritage Area;

(2) requires any property owner to permit public access (including access by Federal, State, Tribal, or local agencies) to the property of the property owner, or to modify public access or use of property of the property owner under any other Federal, State, Tribal, or local law;

(3) alters any duly adopted land use regulation, approved land use plan, or other regulatory authority of any Federal, State, Tribal, or local agency, or conveys any land use or other regulatory authority to any local coordinating entity, including but not necessarily limited to development and management of energy, water, or water-related infrastructure;

(4) authorizes or implies the reservation or appropriation of water or water rights;

(5) diminishes the authority of the State to manage fish and wildlife, including the regulation of fishing and hunting within the National Heritage Area; or

(6) creates any liability, or affects any liability under any other law, of any private property owner with respect to any person injured on the private property.

SEC. 10. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

(a) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—Subject to subsection (b), there are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this Act not more than $1,000,000 for any fiscal year. Funds so appropriated shall remain available until expended.

(b) LIMITATION ON TOTAL AMOUNTS APPROPRIATED.—Not more than $15,000,000 may be appropriated to carry out this Act.

(c) COST-SHARING REQUIREMENT.—The Federal share of the total cost of any activity under this Act shall be not more than 50 percent; the non-Federal contribution may be in the form of in-kind contributions of goods or services fairly valued.

SEC. 11. USE OF FEDERAL FUNDS FROM OTHER SOURCES.

Nothing in this Act shall preclude the local coordinating entity from using Federal funds available under other laws for the purposes for which those funds were authorized.

SEC. 12. SUNSET FOR GRANTS AND OTHER ASSISTANCE.

The authority of the Secretary to provide financial assistance under this Act terminates on the date that is 15 years after the date of enactment of this Act.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. GRIJALVA) and the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. LAMBORN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Arizona.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. GRIJALVA. 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 gentleman from Arizona?

There was no objection.

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Speaker, H.R. 324 would create the Santa Cruz Valley National Heritage Area. I introduced this legislation on January 8 and am proud that my neighbor in the valley, the gentlelady from Arizona (Ms. GIFFORDS), is an original cosponsor.

My own history began in the Santa Cruz Valley, at Canoa Ranch where my father worked. My earliest memories are of a life in that extraordinary scenic valley and they comprise an important part of who I am today.

Sharing a border with Mexico, the Santa Cruz Valley encompasses a multitude of cultures, a rich and diverse history, as well as a host of nationally recognized national treasures that are situated within its borders.

The amount of support for this proposal, both in my district and in Ms. GIFFORDS', is astounding. Every county, municipality, tribe, Federal and State park and land management agency within the proposed heritage area, plus a long list of chambers of commerce, tourism organizations, conservation and historic preservation groups, ranchers, farmers and businesses, all support H.R. 324.

The House has already approved this legislation as part of a heritage area package in the last Congress. Mr. Speaker, this bill is important to many of us and to me, to my district, and to Ms. GIFFORDS and to her constituents. I ask my colleagues to support the passage.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LAMBORN. Mr. Speaker, unfortunately, I have to rise in opposition to H.R. 324. As many of us have discovered, the National Heritage Area program, although well intended, is not a new program and has no established framework. Many of our colleagues have sought to ensure that despite a lack of guidance, heritage areas would include basic property rights protections. Unfortunately, this bill does not have sufficient protection for the property owners within the boundaries of this area, and it is likely many of them have no idea that they are to be included.

To remedy this problem, we request, and we have requested in the past, that the bill be amended to allow property owners the opportunity to remove their property from the heritage area.

While the current language allows owners to ''refrain from participation,'' nothing changes the fact that this bill places them within a new Federal designation that provides a basis for ambitious Federal land managers to claim that they now have a mandate and millions of Federal dollars to interfere with local decisions affecting their neighbors' property.

Three years ago, this point was brought to the forefront when my

friend, the sponsor of this legislation, authored legislation to reduce the size of the Yuma Crossing Heritage Area. When that heritage area was established in 2000, it was much larger than local farmers were expecting. Further exacerbating the problem, local zoning bureaucrats began to use the heritage area boundaries in planning.

Because the language designating the heritage area included no recourse for property owners who wanted out, or who never wanted to be included in the heritage area in the first place, their only option was to come to Congress to adjust the boundary and solve the zoning assault that they faced. We must not make that mistake again.

Complicating this particular proposed heritage area is the inclusion of some of the most heavily traveled human and narcotics trafficking routes in our country. We have already seen what happens when we lock up Federal border lands within Federal wilderness areas. The cartels run rampant knowing that Border Patrol is hamstrung by draconian rules making them subservient to land managers and the accompanying bureaucratic red tape. Now is not the time to place yet another layer of Federal interference over this region. The border lands are far from secure.

I urge my colleagues to support private property rights and the effort to secure the border by opposing H.R. 324.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Speaker, every time we bring up a national heritage proposal, we hear concerns expressed about private property protections. We should be clear that during the 20-plus years of this program's existence, opponents have not been able to identify a single instance in which someone has been deprived of the use of their property as a result of this designation.

Tens of millions of Americans in States across the country have lived, worked and recreated and made their living within a heritage area. Despite the best efforts of opponents of these designations, they have never found a case where property rights were violated.

The Government Accountability Office even investigated potential property rights violations and found none. Nevertheless, this bill contains extensive private property provisions. These private property protections are the same language approved by Congress in earlier bills and signed into law by both the Obama and Bush administrations. If the problem existed, the bill has the language necessary to take care of it.

The other issue, in terms of law enforcement, this designation in no way restricts local, county, State or national law enforcement from carrying out its enforcement mission and its responsibility to uphold the law. There is no restriction, no impediment, and no redesignation of their mission. The mission continues. The heritage area in no way hinders or prohibits that mission from going on.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LAMBORN. I would like to inquire if there are any additional speakers at this point from the majority, and if not, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers, and I yield back the balance of our time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. GRIJALVA) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 324.

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. LAMBORN. 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.

ROOSEVELT NATIONAL FOREST BOUNDARY ADJUSTMENT AND LAND CONVEYANCES

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1858) to provide for a boundary adjustment and land conveyances involving Roosevelt National Forest, Colorado, to correct the effects of an erroneous land survey that resulted in approximately 7 acres of the Crystal Lakes Subdivision, Ninth Filing, encroaching on National Forest System land, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1858

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

SECTION 1. BOUNDARY ADJUSTMENT AND LAND CONVEYANCES, ROOSEVELT NATIONAL FOREST, COLORADO.

(a) BOUNDARY ADJUSTMENT.—The boundaries of Roosevelt National Forest, Colorado, are hereby modified to exclude from the national forest a parcel of real property consisting of approximately 7 acres within the Crystal Lakes Subdivision as depicted on the map entitled ''Crystal Lakes Encroachment, HR 3299'' and dated July 15, 2008.

(b) CONVEYANCE OF LAND REMOVED FROM NATIONAL FOREST.—The Secretary of Agriculture shall use the authority provided by Public Law 97–465 (commonly known as the Small Tracts Act; 16 U.S.C. 521c–521i) to convey all right, title, and interest of the United States in and to the real property excluded from the boundaries of Roosevelt National Forest under subsection (a) to the landowners whose real property adjoins the excluded land and who, as of the date of the enactment of this Act, occupy the excluded land.

(c) CONSIDERATION.—The conveyances required by subsection (b) shall be made without consideration.

(d) DESCRIPTION OF REAL PROPERTY.—The exact acreage and legal description of the land excluded from the boundaries of Roosevelt National Forest under subsection (a) and conveyed under subsection (b) shall be determined by a survey satisfactory to the Secretary.

(e) CANCELLATION OF PORTION OF UNOBLIGATED BALANCE IN FLREA SPECIAL ACCOUNT.—The amount available for obligation as of the date of the enactment of this Act from the unobligated balance in the special account established for the Forest Service under section 807 of the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act (16 U.S.C. 6806) is reduced by a total of $200,000, and the amount so reduced is hereby cancelled.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. GRIJALVA) and the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. LAMBORN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Arizona.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. GRIJALVA. 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 bill under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Speaker, H.R. 1858, introduced by Representative BETSY MARKEY of Colorado, would provide for a boundary adjustment and land conveyances involving the Roosevelt National Forest in Colorado to correct the effects of erroneous land survey. The bill responds to an ongoing boundary dispute between the Forest Service and private land owners with property adjacent to the forest.

Mr. Speaker, I want to commend our colleague, Representative MARKEY, for her work on this bill. As a freshman, she has demonstrated remarkable ability to get things done on behalf of her constituents. I ask my colleagues to support passage of H.R. 1858.

I reserve the balance of my time.

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

This bill provides a legislative solution for a number of homeowners in Larimer County, Colorado, who own real property adjacent to the Roosevelt National Forest. These homeowners have occupied or improved their property in good faith and in reliance on 1975 land surveys.

It was introduced in the last Congress by Congresswoman Marilyn Musgrave. It is needed to resolve the issue fairly because a recent Forest Service resurvey now claims that a small portion of Roosevelt National Forest is occupied by these adjacent landowners.

This bill conveys approximately 7 acres occupied by the affected landowners to those landowners, and I support its passage.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Speaker, at this point let me yield as much time as she may consume to the sponsor of the legislation, Representative MARKEY.

Ms. MARKEY of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to support H.R. 1858 and for private property rights.

Imagine for a moment that the Federal Government sent you a notification that you need to repurchase land that you have owned for over 30 years. This is exactly what happened to landowners in the Crystal Lakes subdivision on the border of the Roosevelt National Forest.

When the Crystal Lakes subdivision was developed in 1975, an inaccurate land survey resulted in a 7-acre overlap with the U.S. Forest Service land. In 2006, the Crystal Lakes landowners were notified that parts of their property were on Federal land, and they would be required to purchase this land at current market price from the Forest Service.

It is simply unacceptable in these tough economic times to penalize the Crystal Lakes landowners for a mistake made through no fault of their own and a mistake the Federal Government has waited for over 30 years to rectify. The current property value is, without question, higher than it was at the time of the sale in the 1970s and 1980s.

If forced to repurchase their land, some landowners may be in danger of foreclosure. These property owners have bought their land in good faith and have been paying taxes on that land.

While I support the national forest system and the need to preserve land in the West for future generations, for the Federal Government to ask these landowners to repurchase land they have owned for decades stands against reason.

Therefore, I urge all my colleagues to vote for H.R. 1858 today to adjust the boundaries of the Roosevelt National Forest in Colorado. With your vote, we can ensure the landowners in Crystal Lakes will be able to remain on their land.

Mr. LAMBORN. Mr. Speaker, I commend my colleague from Colorado for bringing this bill. She is building on the good work that was begun by her predecessor, Congresswoman Marilyn Musgrave. This is a bill that I would urge all of my colleagues to support.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. GRIJALVA. 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 Arizona (Mr. GRIJALVA) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1858, as amended.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

HALE SCOUTS ACT

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 310) to provide for the conveyance of approximately 140 acres of land in the Ouachita National Forest in Oklahoma to the Indian Nations Council, Inc., of the Boy Scouts of America, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 310

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 ''Help to Access Land for the Education of Scouts'' or ''HALE Scouts Act''.

SEC. 2. LAND CONVEYANCE, OUACHITA NATIONAL FOREST, OKLAHOMA.

(a) FINDING.—Congress finds that it is in the public interest to provide for the sale of certain federally owned land in the Ouachita National Forest in Oklahoma to the Indian Nations Council, Inc., of the Boy Scouts of America, for market value consideration.

(b) CONVEYANCE REQUIRED.—Subject to valid existing rights, the Secretary of Agriculture shall convey, by quitclaim deed, to the Indian Nations Council, Inc., of the Boy Scouts of America (in this section referred to as the ''Council'') all right, title, and interest of the United States in and to certain National Forest System land in the Ouachita National Forest in the State of Oklahoma consisting of approximately 140 acres, depending on the final measurement of the road set back and the actual size of the affected sections, as more fully described in subsection (c). The conveyance may not include any land located within the Indian Nations National Scenic and Wildlife Area designated by section 10 of the Winding Stair Mountain National Recreation and Wilderness Area Act (16 U.S.C. 460vv–8).

(c) COVERED LANDS.—The National Forest System land to be conveyed under subsection (b) is depicted on the map entitled ''Boy Scout Land Request–Ouachita NF''. The map shall be on file and available for public inspection in the Forest Service Regional Office in Atlanta, Georgia.

(d) CONSIDERATION.—As consideration for the land conveyed under subsection (b), the Council shall pay to the Secretary an amount equal to the fair market value of the land, as determined by an appraisal approved by the Secretary and done in conformity with the Uniform Appraisal Standards for Federal Land Acquisitions and section 206 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1716).

(e) USE OF PROCEEDS.—The consideration received under subsection (d) shall be deposited in the fund established by Public Law 90–171 (commonly known as the ''Sisk Act''; 16 U.S.C. 484a). The amount so deposited shall be available to the Secretary, without further appropriation, for expenditure for the acquisition of land and interests in land in the Ouachita National Forest.

(f) SURVEY AND ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS.—The exact acreage and legal description of the land to be conveyed under subsection (b) shall be determined by a survey satisfactory to the Secretary. The Council shall pay the reasonable costs of survey, appraisal, and any administrative analyses required by law.

(g) ACCESS.—Access to the land conveyed under subsection (b) shall be from the adjacent land of the Council or its successor. Notwithstanding section 1323(a) of the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (16 U.S.C. 3210(a)), the Secretary shall not be required to provide additional access to the conveyed land.

(h) ADDITIONAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS.—The Secretary may prescribe such terms and conditions on the conveyance under subsection (b) as the Secretary considers in the public interest, including the reservation of access rights to the conveyed land for administrative purposes.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. GRIJALVA) and the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. LAMBORN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Arizona.

GENERAL LEAVE

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

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

There was no objection.

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Speaker, H.R. 310 would direct the Secretary of Agriculture to convey 140 acres of public land in Oklahoma administered by the United States Forest Service to the Indian Nations Council of Boy Scouts of America. The Boy Scouts will use the land to expand their existing camping area and will pay fair market value for the land.

H.R. 310 is identical to legislation that passed the House last year by a vote of 370–2.

Mr. Speaker, I want to commend our colleague, Representative BOREN, for his work on this legislation, and I urge our colleagues to support passage of H.R. 310.

I reserve the balance of my time.

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

The majority has explained this bill well. We are pleased to support this legislation also, which will help the young men of Oklahoma by allowing the Boy Scouts to expand their summer camp within the national forest to accommodate the fast-growing number of campers. This speaks volumes about the excellent organization that is the Boy Scouts of America.

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I strongly support this legislation, and urge all of my colleagues to do so as well.

Mr. BOREN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of this measure, H.R. 310, the HALE Scouts Act, granting the U.S. Forest Service authority to sell roughly 140 acres of land to the Indian Nations Council of Boy Scouts, which is adjacent to the Scout's summer camp, Camp Tom Hale located in Talihina, OK. The Indian Nations Council of Boy Scouts is a non-profit organization providing educational programs for boys and young adults to build character, to train in the responsibilities of citizenship, and to develop personal fitness.

Camp Tom Hale first opened in June 1930 to serve Boy Scouts in the McAlester, Oklahoma area. It was originally located at what is now Robbers Cave State Park near Wilburton, Oklahoma. In 1963, the Boy Scout Council in McAlester worked with the State of Oklahoma and the U.S. Forest Service to exchange the camp at Robbers Cave for 480 acres of wilderness area in the Ouachita National Forest.

This "new" Camp Hale has continued as a summer adventure camp serving thousands of scouts during the intervening 41 years.

In 1997, the Council board developed a strategic plan for a $3.5 million expansion and renovation of the camp. Since then, the Council has spent in excess of $1 million continually updating and expanding facilities to meet the needs of scouts. As a result, a renewed emphasis on wilderness and the outdoors has flourished, with over 6000 scouts and leaders from a five state area attending weekly sessions offered in June and July and enjoying the beautiful Ouachita Forest.

Attendance has now exceeded the maximum number of available campsites and program areas, which is causing Camp Hale to begin turning away hundreds of scouts each summer. It is now critical for camp growth that the boundaries be extended to include more area for camping and additional program & training services. Successful completion of this objective will allow the Boy Scouts to continue the expansion of outdoor & leadership training for thousands of youth living in the Central Southwest and bring additional usage and enjoyment of the Ouachita Forest to more families.

It is for the benefit of these thousands of young Oklahomans that I proudly sponsored this measure. I greatly appreciate this House's consideration of this bill, and would like to urge my colleagues to support the measure.

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

Mr. GRIJALVA. 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 Arizona (Mr. GRIJALVA) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 310.

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. LAMBORN. 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.

LEADVILLE MINE DRAINAGE TUNNEL REMEDIATION ACT OF 2009

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3123) to direct the Secretary of the Interior, acting through the Bureau of Reclamation, to remedy problems caused by a collapsed drainage tunnel in Leadville, Colorado, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 3123

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

SECTION 1. LEADVILLE MINE DRAINAGE TUNNEL REMEDIATION.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This section may be cited as the "Leadville Mine Drainage Tunnel Remediation Act of 2009".

(b) TUNNEL REMEDIATION.—The Reclamation Projects Authorization and Adjustment Act of 1992 (Public Law 102–575) is amended as follows:

(1) By striking section 705.

(2) In section 708(a)—

(A) by striking "(a)" and inserting "(a)(1)";

(B) by striking "The Secretary shall have" and inserting "Except as provided by paragraph (2), the Secretary shall have"; and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

"(2) The Secretary shall participate in the implementation of the operable unit 6 remedy for the California Gulch Superfund Site, including, but not limited to, the following actions:

"(A) Treating water behind any blockage or bulkhead in the Leadville Mine Drainage Tunnel, including surface water diverted into the Tunnel workings as part of the remedy.

"(B) Managing and maintaining the mine pool behind such blockage or bulkhead at a level that precludes surface runoff and releases and minimizes the potential for tunnel failure due to excessive water pressure in the tunnel.".

(3) In section 708(f), by striking "and 708" and inserting ", 708, and 709".

(4) By adding at the end of title VII the following:

"SEC. 709. TUNNEL MAINTENANCE.

"The Secretary shall take such steps to repair or maintain the structural integrity of the Leadville Mine Drainage Tunnel (LMDT) as may be necessary in order to prevent tunnel failure and to preclude uncontrolled release of water from any portion of the tunnel.".

(5) In the table of sections contained in section 2—

(A) by striking the item relating to section 705; and

(B) by inserting after the item relating to section 708 the following new item:

"Sec. 709. Tunnel maintenance.".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. GRIJALVA) and the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. LAMBORN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Arizona.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. GRIJALVA. 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 gentleman from Arizona?

There was no objection.

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Speaker, H.R. 3123, introduced by our colleague Representative LAMBORN, will direct the Bureau of Reclamation to remedy problems caused by collapses in the Leadville Mine Drainage Tunnel. Due to structural deterioration, contaminated water has backed up in the tunnel, posing a public health and environmental threat.

I ask my colleagues to support the bill's passage.

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Speaker, I submit for the RECORD the following exchange of letters between the Committee on Natural Resources and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure concerning H.R. 3123.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE,
Washington, DC, September 8, 2009.

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

DEAR CHAIRMAN RAHALL: I write to you regarding H.R. 3123, a bill to direct the Secretary of the Interior to remedy problems caused by a collapsed drainage tunnel in Leadville, Colorado.

H.R. 3123 contains provisions that fall within the jurisdiction of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure. I recognize and appreciate your desire to bring this legislation before the House in an expeditious manner and, accordingly, I will not seek a sequential referral of the bill. However, I agree to waive consideration of this bill with the mutual understanding that my decision to forego a sequential referral of the bill does not waive, reduce, or otherwise affect the jurisdiction of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure over H.R. 3123.

Further, the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure reserves the right to seek the appointment of conferees during any House-Senate conference convened on this legislation on provisions of the bill that are within the Committee's jurisdiction. I ask for your commitment to support any request by the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure for the appointment of conferees on H.R. 3123 or similar legislation.

Please place a copy of this letter and your response acknowledging the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure's jurisdictional interest in the Congressional Record during consideration of the measure on the House Floor.

I look forward to working with you as we prepare to pass this important legislation.

Sincerely,

JAMES L. OBERSTAR, M.C.
Chairman.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES,
Washington, DC, September 8, 2009.

Hon. JAMES OBERSTAR,
Chairman, Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you for your willingness to expedite floor consideration of H.R. 3123, a bill to direct the Secretary of the Interior to remedy problems caused by a collapsed drainage tunnel in Leadville, Colorado.

I appreciate your willingness to waive rights to further consideration of H.R. 3123, notwithstanding the jurisdictional interest of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure. Of course, this waiver does not prejudice any further jurisdictional claims by your Committee over this legislation or similar language. Furthermore, I agree to support your request for appointment of conferees from the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure if a conference is held on this matter.

This exchange of letters will be inserted in the Congressional Record as part of the consideration of the bill 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 reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LAMBORN. Mr. Speaker, the Leadville Mine Drainage Tunnel was

originally constructed by the Federal Bureau of Mines in the forties and fifties to facilitate the extraction of lead and zinc ore for the World War II and Korean War efforts. The Bureau of Reclamation acquired the tunnel in 1959, hoping to use it as a source of water for the Frying Pan, Arkansas, project. Although the tunnel was never used for that project, water that flows out of the tunnel is considered part of the natural flow of the Arkansas River.

With the passage and subsequent signing into law of H.R. 429 during the 102nd Congress in 1992, the Bureau of Reclamation constructed and continues to operate a water treatment plant at the mouth of the tunnel. Groundwater levels at the tunnel have fluctuated in recent years. In addition, a collapse inside the tunnel has increased the tunnel's mine pool significantly, leading to new seeps and springs in the area. Estimates suggest that at one time, up to 1 billion gallons of water may have built up within the mine pool.

In November 2007, the EPA sent a letter to the Bureau of Reclamation expressing concerns over a catastrophic blowout, and in February 2008 the Lake County Commissioners declared a state of emergency.

Emergency measures are currently being undertaken by the Environmental Protection Agency and the Bureau of Reclamation to relieve water pressure in the vicinity. Their success has been notable to date. However, many of the problems reported at this site are not new. Legislation addressing this matter and authorizing the Secretary of the Interior to rehabilitate its tunnel dates back to at least 1976.

In response to the request for action from the local community, I have again worked together in a bipartisan manner with Senator MARK UDALL from Colorado and reintroduced H.R. 3123. This bill would direct the Bureau of Reclamation to relieve water pressure behind certain blockages in the tunnel, permanently manage the mine pool behind any blockage to prevent releases of contaminated water, and manage the tunnel in such a way to prevent failure of the structure.

I look forward to seeing this situation remedied so that concerns about human safety and environmental integrity may be appropriately and responsibly addressed. I remind Members that only minor technical changes have been made since the bill was originally passed by the House of Representatives in the previous Congress.

I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. GRIJALVA. 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 Arizona (Mr. GRIJALVA) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3123, 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. GRIJALVA. 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.

HONORING RESTORATION AND RENOVATION OF BISHOP MUSEUM'S HISTORIC HAWAIIAN HALL

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 541) recognizing and honoring the restoration and renovation of the Bishop Museum's historic Hawaiian Hall, the Nation's premier showcase for Hawaiian culture and history, on the occasion of the Museum's 120th anniversary.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 541

Whereas the Bishop Museum was founded in 1889 in Honolulu, Hawai'i, by Charles Reed Bishop in memory of his beloved wife, Princess Bernice Pauahi Bishop, the great granddaughter of Kamehameha I, to house the personal legacies and bequests of the royal Kamehameha and Kalākaua families;

Whereas the mission of the Bishop Museum since its inception is to study, preserve, and tell the stories of the cultures and natural history of Hawai'i and the Pacific Ocean;

Whereas the Bishop Museum's collections include some 24,000,000 objects, collectively the largest Hawai'i and Pacific area collection in the world, including over 1,200,000 cultural objects representing Native Hawaiian, Pacific Islands, and Hawai'i immigrant life, more than 125,000 historical publications including many in the Hawaiian language, 1,000,000 historical photographs, films, works of art, audio recordings, and manuscripts, and over 22,000,000 plant and animal specimens;

Whereas a primary goal of the Bishop Museum is to serve and represent the interests of Native Hawaiians by advancing Native Hawaiian culture and education, protecting the collections and increasing access to such collections, and strengthening the Museum's connections with the schools of Hawai'i;

Whereas the national significance of the Bishop Museum's cultural collection lies in the Native Hawaiian collection, which collectively represents the largest public resource in the world documenting a unique way of life and a source of knowledge and inspiration for numerous visitors, researchers, students, Native Hawaiian craftsmen, teachers, community, and spiritual leaders over the years, especially since the Hawaiian cultural revival, which has been steadily growing and gaining in popularity in recent years;

Whereas over 300,000 people visit the Bishop Museum each year to learn about Hawaiian culture and experience Hawaiian Hall;

Whereas the primary reason for visiting the Bishop Museum, given by an average of 400,000 visitors each year, is their desire to see Hawaiian Hall and to learn about Hawaiian culture;

Whereas Hawaiian Hall is the Nation's only showcase of its size, proportions, design, and historic context that is devoted to the magnificent legacy of Hawai'i's kings and queens, and the legacies of its Native Hawaiian people of all walks of life and ages;

Whereas Hawaiian Hall, one of three interconnected structures known as the Hawaiian Hall Complex and constructed between 1889 and 1903, is considered a masterpiece of late Victorian museum design with its Kamehameha blue stone exterior quarried on site and extensive use of Native koa wood, and is one of the few examples of Romanesque Richardsonian-style museum buildings to have survived basically unchanged;

Whereas Hawaiian Hall, designed by noted Hawai'i architects C.B. Ripley and C.W. Dickey in 1898, was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1982 based on its unique combination of architectural, cultural, scientific, educational, and historical significance;

Whereas the restoration and renovation of Hawaiian Hall and its exhibits, conducted by noted Hawai'i architect Glenn Mason and noted national and international museum exhibit designer Ralph Appelbaum, is integral to the Bishop Museum's ability to fulfill its mission and achieve its primary goal of serving and representing the interests of Native Hawaiians;

Whereas the restoration and renovation of Hawaiian Hall, commenced in 2005, included the building of a new gathering place in an enclosed, glass walled atrium, improved access through the installation of an elevator in the new atrium to all three floors of the Hall and other buildings in the Hawaiian Hall Complex, improved collection preservation through the installation of new, state of the art environmental controls, lighting, security, and fire suppression systems, and restored original woodwork and metalwork;

Whereas the restoration and renovation of the Hawaiian Hall's exhibits brings multiple voices and a Native Hawaiian perspective to bear on the Bishop Museum's treasures by conveying the essential values, beliefs, complexity, and achievements of Hawaiian culture through exquisite and fragile artifacts in a setting that emphasizes their mana (power and essence) and the place in which such artifacts were created;

Whereas the new exhibit incorporates contemporary Native Hawaiian artwork illustrating traditional stories, legends, and practices, and contemporary Native Hawaiian voices interpreting the practices and traditions through multiple video presentations;

Whereas the new exhibit features over 2,000 objects and images from the Bishop Museum's collections on the open floor, mezzanines, and the center space conceptually organized to represent three traditional realms or wao of the Hawaiian world—Kai Ākea, the expansive sea from which gods and people came, Wao Kānaka, the realm of people, and Wao Lani, the realm of gods and the ali'i, or chiefs, who descended from them;

Whereas the new exhibit's ending display celebrates the strength, glory, and achievements of Native Hawaiians with a large 40-panel mural titled Ho'ohuli, To Cause An Overturning, A Change, made by students of Native Hawaiian charter schools in collaboration with Native Hawaiian artists and other students, and interpreted by Native Hawaiian artists and teachers in a video presentation; and

Whereas the people of the United States wish to convey their sincerest appreciation to the Bishop Museum for its service and devotion: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) recognizes the reopening of historic Hawaiian Hall on the 120th anniversary of the

founding of the Bishop Museum in Honolulu, Hawai'i; and

(2) honors and praises the Bishop Museum, on the occasion of its reopening and 120th anniversary, for its work to ensure the preservation, study, education, and appreciation of Native Hawaiian culture and history.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. GRIJALVA) and the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. LAMBORN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Arizona.

GENERAL LEAVE

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

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

There was no objection.

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Speaker, the Bishop Museum was founded in 1889 in Honolulu, Hawaii, and for 120 years has served as the Nation's preeminent resource documenting, preserving and educating others on Native Hawaiian culture. The museum's collection of 24 million objects is the largest Hawaiian and Pacific Island collection in the world. Over 2,000 of these objects and images are on display in the newly renovated Hawaiian Hall.

H. Res. 541, introduced by our distinguished colleague from Hawaii, Representative NEIL ABERCROMBIE, would express the appreciation of the House of Representatives to the Bishop Museum for 120 years of service to the people of Hawaii and the United States. We commend Representative ABERCROMBIE for his tireless efforts on behalf of his constituents and the preservation of Hawaiian history and culture.

We support passage of House Resolution 541 and urge its adoption in the House today.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, the resolution has been explained well by the majority. We have no objection.

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H. Res. 541, recognizing and honoring the restoration and renovation of the Bishop Museum's Historic Hawaiian Hall, the Nation's premier showcase for Hawaiian culture and history, on the occasion of the Museum's 120th anniversary.

I thank the gentleman from the State of Hawaii, my good friend, Mr. ABERCROMBIE, for his leadership on this important issue. I also want to thank Chairman RAHALL of the Natural Resources Committee for bringing this resolution for House floor consideration.

Mr. Speaker, H. Res. 541 conveys our sincerest appreciation to the Bishop Museum for its service and devotion. Founded in 1889 by Charles Reed Bishop in memory of his beloved wife, Princess Bernice Pauahi Bishop, the great granddaughter of Kamehameha I, the Bishop Museum is essential to study, preserve and tell the stories of the cultures and natural history of Hawaii and the Pacific Ocean.

Collectively, the Museum houses the largest Hawaii and Pacific area collection in the world, including 1,200,000 cultural objects representing Native Hawaiian, Pacific Islands, and Hawaii immigrant life, more than 125,000 historical publications including many in the Hawaiian language, 1,000,000 historical photographs, films, works of art, audio recordings, and manuscripts and over 22,000,000 plant and animal specimens. This cultural collection creates a significantly important public resource for academic studies and for public information.

Not only that, the Bishop Museum is also very significant because of the fact that it houses the Hawaiian Hall, the Nation's only showcase of its size, proportions, design, and historical context that is devoted to the magnificent legacy of Hawaii's kings and queens, and the legacies of its Native Hawaiian people of all walks of life and ages. Over the years lead paint and termite damage rendered the building unable to meet modern standards and requirements for any museum until in 2005, the restoration and renovation of the Hawaiian Hall commenced. Multiple parties came together to collaborate in this effort. The museum was redefined conceptually as well as given physical reconstruction. The end product stands as testament to the efforts of all those involved.

The new exhibit incorporates Native Hawaiian artwork depicting traditional stories, legends, and practices, and contemporary Native Hawaiian voices interpreting the practices and traditions through multiple video presentations. In addition, the new exhibit is conceptually organized to represent three traditional realms or wao of the Hawaiian world including: Kai Akea—the expansive sea from which gods and people came; Wao Kanaka—the realm of people; and Wao Lani—the realm of gods and the alii or chiefs, who descended from them. The new exhibit even includes a large 40–panel mural which celebrates the strength, glory, and achievements of Native Hawaiians.

Mr. Speaker, the Bishop Museum is very important to the Native Hawaiians, especially in their efforts to revive their culture and their Hawaiian traditions. I congratulate the Bishop Museum on its 120th anniversary and for its service and devotion, and I urge my colleagues to vote in support of H. Res. 541.

Ms. HIRONO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 541, recognizing and honoring the restoration and renovation of the Bishop Museum's historic Hawaiian Hall, the Nation's premier showcase for Hawaiian culture and history, on the occasion of the Museum's 120th anniversary.

Founded more than a century ago, in the memory of Princess Bernice Pauahi Bishop by her husband, Charles Reed Bishop, Bishop Museum has contributed to the world's understanding of the natural and cultural history of the Pacific and Hawai'i. It has collected and preserved nearly 25 million scientific animal and plant specimens and 2.4 million cultural objects that together help tell the full story of Hawai'i and the Pacific.

I attended the celebration of the Bishop Museum's 120th anniversary in Honolulu during our August district work period. The magnificent historic Hawaiian Hall has been beautifully restored and now serves as a more fitting setting for the irreplaceable and precious cultural and historical artifacts it showcases. Listed on the National Register of Historic Places, Bishop Museum's Hawaiian Hall has traditionally housed Hawaii's most sacred and beloved artifacts. With its volcanic stone exterior and extensive use of native koa wood, Hawaiian Hall is considered a masterwork of late Victorian museum design.

With this important renovation, hundreds of thousand visitors and local residents will enter the world of Hawai'i. They will hear the oral tradition of oli and mo 'olelo. They will experience Hawai'i's deep connection between its natural and cultural worlds. Bishop Museum has served as an essential repository and education institution for over a century.

I urge my colleagues to join me voting for H. Res. 451 and encourage you to visit the restored Hawaiian Hall when you next visit Hawaii.

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

Mr. GRIJALVA. 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 Arizona (Mr. GRIJALVA) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 541.

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.

RECOGNIZING THE SIGNIFICANCE OF HISTORIC VIRGINIA KEY BEACH PARK OF MIAMI, FLORIDA

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 361) recognizing the historical significance of Historic Virginia Key Beach Park of Miami, Florida, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 361

Whereas in the early 1900s, Historic Virginia Key Beach Park of Miami, Florida, was frequented by African-American and Caribbean settlers arriving by ferry from mainland South Florida;

Whereas in the summer of 1945, on the beach at Baker's Haulover County Park, a group of black men led by then attorney Lawson E. Thomas staged a protest against the unjust segregation laws that prohibited black people from using the public beaches in South Florida;

Whereas in response to the protest, county officials designated Virginia Key Beach Park as the ''Colored Beach'', a segregated beach site for the African-American community which opened on August 1, 1945;

Whereas, even after civil rights laws opened all the public beaches in South Florida to people of all races and ethnicities, Virginia Key Beach Park remained a popular destination for many in the African-American community for several decades;

Whereas in 1979, the site was transferred from the county to the City of Miami with the stipulation that the beach be kept open

and maintained as a public park and recreation area;

Whereas in 1982, citing the high cost of maintenance and operations, the City of Miami closed Virginia Key Beach Park shortly after assuming its responsibility;

Whereas in 1990, the City of Miami Commission responded to citizen outcry and established the Virginia Key Beach Park Trust (hereafter referred to as the ''Trust'') to restore, reopen, and preserve the site for public use;

Whereas the late M. Athalie Range, an African-American community leader and the first woman to sit on the City of Miami Commission, worked with the community to save Virginia Key Beach Park from the grasp of developers, and deliver it back to the people. She lobbied to place the property on the National Register of Historic Places, spearheaded funding for a multi-billion dollar restoration program, and planned a new museum/cultural center that would one day, impart the message of social equality and responsible citizenry for future generations;

Whereas in June 2002, the Trust successfully petitioned Federal and State government officials to place the site on the National Register of Historic Places and give it a Florida Historical Marker;

Whereas in 2003, the Dade Community Foundation established the Historic Virginia Key Beach Park Trust Fund to collect charitable donations to help restore and preserve the park; and

Whereas on February 22, 2008, after extensive renovation by the Trust, Historic Virginia Key Beach Park celebrated its grand re-opening for public use by the entire community with a ribbon cutting ceremony and community concert: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) recognizes the extraordinary historical, cultural, and recreational significance of Historic Virginia Key Beach Park of Miami, Florida;

(2) recommits its attempt to protect and preserve American history through national parks and historic sites; and

(3) acknowledges the significance of the African-American community's struggle for equality through its collaborative efforts to preserve this historic site.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. GRIJALVA) and the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. LAMBORN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Arizona.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. GRIJALVA. 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 resolution under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Speaker, in 1945 a group of black men, led by Lawson E. Thomas, courageously protested the banning of African Americans from the public beaches of south Florida. As a result, Virginia Key Beach Park was established as a ''Colored Beach'' under the segregation laws that persisted throughout the civil rights movement.

The park was transferred to the city of Miami in 1979, which attempted to close it three years later, citing a lack of operating funds. Since then, dedicated community leaders have fought to not only keep the park open, but also add it to the National Register of Historic Places and establish a trust to manage it.

With this resolution, sponsored by Representative ROS-LEHTINEN of Florida, the House of Representatives recognizes the historic significance of the site and honors the African American struggle for equality represented there.

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

I reserve the balance of my time.

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

In the 1920s, Virginia Key Beach, located about 2 miles south of Miami, Florida, became the area's public beach that was used primarily by African Americans. In 1945, Dade County officials designated the beach as a legally segregated beach for use by the African American community. Today, the beach is managed by the Virginia Key Beach Park Trust and is owned by the City of Miami.

This resolution recognizes the historical significance of Virginia Key Beach Park. I congratulate Congresswoman ROS-LEHTINEN for her work, and I urge passage of this resolution.

At this time, I yield such time as she may consume to my friend and colleague, the gentlelady from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN).

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Colorado, my good friend, Mr. LAMBORN, for the time, and I also thank Mr. GRIJALVA of Arizona. Thank you so much for bringing this resolution before us today.

I rise in strong support of House Resolution 361, which is a bipartisan bill recognizing the national significance of historic Virginia Key Beach Park, which is located in my congressional district in south Florida. I also would like to thank my dear friends and fellow south Floridians, my colleagues, Representatives KENDRICK MEEK, ALCEE HASTINGS, LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART, and DEBBIE WASSERMAN SCHULTZ for their support of this legislation.

A segregated beach during the 1900s, Virginia Key Beach Park serves as a reminder of our Nation's struggle for equality and justice for all members of our society. During World War II, the beach was a training ground for African American soldiers serving in the United States Army. Shortly following the war's end, the beach was established as the only public beach open to the African American community. In the 1950s, the beach played a prominent role in south Florida's efforts to desegregate during the civil rights movement.

In the years following desegregation, leaders of the African American community in south Florida, including the influential and late wonderful leader in our area, Athalie Range, fought tirelessly to preserve this unique site.

Today's resolution serves as a tribute to Athalie Range and to so many African American pioneers, including our former colleague, Congresswoman Carrie Meek, who authored a bill in 2001 to include Virginia Key Beach Park into the National Park System. I was honored to work with Carrie in her quest to include this beach in the National Park System, and years later I am joined by her beloved son KENDRICK in honoring the importance of this historic and often overlooked site.

I thank Congressman GRIJALVA for the time, and I thank my dear friend Mr. LAMBORN for the time to talk about this historic part of south Florida history.

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Speaker, let me also congratulate the gentlelady from Florida for the resolution.

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

Mr. GRIJALVA. 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 Arizona (Mr. GRIJALVA) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 361, 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.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

□ 1500

AKRON VETERANS MEMORIAL POST OFFICE

Ms. WATSON. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2004) 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''.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 2004

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

SECTION 1. AKRON VETERANS MEMORIAL POST OFFICE.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 4282 Beach Street in Akron, Michigan, shall be known and designated as the ''Akron Veterans Memorial 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 ''Akron Veterans Memorial Post Office''.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WATSON) and the gentleman from California (Mr. ISSA) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from California.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. WATSON. 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 gentlewoman from California?

There was no objection.

Ms. WATSON. I now yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, I am pleased to present H.R. 2004 for consideration. This legislation will designate the United States postal facility located as 4282 Beach Street in Akron, Michigan, as the Akron Veterans Memorial Post Office.

Introduced by my colleague, Representative DALE KILDEE of Michigan, on April 21, 2009, and favorably reported out of the Oversight and Government Reform Committee by unanimous consent on June 18, 2009, H.R. 2004 enjoys the support of the entire House Michigan delegation.

Mr. Speaker, the legislation before us pays tribute to the brave men and women from Akron Village, the State of Michigan, and across the United States who have served our Nation in the United States military, both at home and abroad. Over 23 million American military veterans are currently living in the United States, including approximately 742,000 living in the State of Michigan alone. They, as well as those that are no longer with us, have devoted their lives to the defense and security of our Nation, and always at a great personal risk and sacrifice. We are eternally in their debt and forever grateful for their noble and selfless dedication to our Nation and the preservation of its founding principles.

Mr. Speaker, let us pay tribute to the distinguished service of our veterans from the village of Akron, the State of Michigan, and across the country by designating the Akron post office in their honor.

I urge my colleagues to me in supporting H.R. 2004.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, I too rise in support of the renaming of the Akron, Michigan post office. From its humble beginnings on July 23, 1857, this post office has been part of the community in small town Michigan. Rather noteworthy, Mr. KILDEE has chosen a rather unusual naming for a post office, and one that I wholeheartedly support. This post office is not named after one brave American or one now-departed politician. Instead, it's named after the countless thousands of men and women of Michigan who have served in the Armed Forces or are serving today and deserve our respect as veterans.

I would urge support of this, and I would urge all of my colleagues to take note that this post office represents a symbol of service more than the symbol of any one person.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. WATSON. Mr. Speaker, in closing, I again urge my colleagues to join me in honoring America's military veterans through the passage of H.R. 2004.

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of my bill H.R. 2004, which would designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 4282 Beach Street in Akron, Michigan, as the "Akron Veterans Memorial Post Office".

The Akron Post Office was first established at the house of its first postmaster, Samuel B. Covey. At the beginning of the Civil War, the post office was moved to the home of Lucius Waldo, about 7 miles south west of Unionville, Michigan, and relocated to Akron village in 1882.

As the only Federal office in the town of Akron, Michigan, this facility should have the honor of recognizing all of the brave men and women who have served our country in uniform.

It has long been a goal of mine to honor all veterans. As a father of two sons, both of whom served as captains in the United States Army, I am a firm believer that our Nation owes an immense debt of gratitude to its armed forces veterans.

That is why I will continue to advocate for America's most important obligation, caring for its defenders and honoring they for their service.

Designating this facility will provide citizens with the opportunity to be mindful of the sacrifices our armed forces' veterans have made, and continue to make today.

I would like to thank the entire Michigan delegation for their support on this legislation and urge my colleagues support in passing this legislation.

Ms. WATSON. I yield back the remainder of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WATSON) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2004.

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.

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA HATCH ACT REFORM ACT OF 2009

Ms. WATSON. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1345) to amend title 5, United States Code, to eliminate the discriminatory treatment of the District of Columbia under the provisions of law commonly referred to as the "Hatch Act".

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1345

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 "District of Columbia Hatch Act Reform Act of 2009".

SEC. 2. EMPLOYEES OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA TO BE SUBJECT TO THE SAME RESTRICTIONS ON POLITICAL ACTIVITY AS APPLY TO STATE AND LOCAL EMPLOYEES.

(a) APPLICABILITY OF PROVISIONS RELATING TO STATE AND LOCAL EMPLOYEES.—Section 1501(1) of title 5, United States Code, is amended by striking "a State or territory" and inserting "a State, the District of Columbia, or a territory".

(b) PROVISIONS RELATING TO FEDERAL EMPLOYEES MADE INAPPLICABLE.—Section 7322(1) of such title is amended—

(1) by inserting "or" at the end of subparagraph (A);

(2) by striking "or" at the end of subparagraph (B);

(3) by striking subparagraph (C); and

(4) by striking "services;" and inserting "services or an individual employed or holding office in the government of the District of Columbia;".

SEC. 3. EFFECTIVE DATE.

The amendments made by this Act—

(1) shall take effect on the effective date of a law, enacted by the government of the District of Columbia after the date of the enactment of this Act, which places restrictions on political activities of employees of the government of the District of Columbia; and

(2) shall apply with respect to actions occurring on or after the effective date referred to in paragraph (1).

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WATSON) and the gentleman from California (Mr. ISSA) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from California.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. WATSON. 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 gentlewoman from California?

There was no objection.

Ms. WATSON. I now yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to rise for the consideration of H.R. 1345, which is designed to ensure that employees of the District of Columbia are subject to the same rules of political activity under the Hatch Act that apply to all other State and local government employees, thereby ending the discriminatory treatment they have received since 1993.

In October of 1993, Congress passed the Hatch Act Reform Amendments, allowing Federal employees to take part in political campaigns on their off-duty, personal time. The legislation of 1993 did continue to prohibit Federal employees from seeking public office in partisan elections. However, it also retained a measure which subjected D.C. employees to Federal Hatch Act provisions. This ignored the District's authority to self-govern and enact its own local laws; not to mention that employees in all other State and local jurisdictions are subjected to laws written by their own State and local governments and are not subject to the Federal Hatch Act like D.C. government employees. H.R. 1345 ends this disparate treatment by placing D.C. employees under the same Federal Hatch Act restrictions that apply to all other States and localities.

This bill was offered by the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON) on March 5, 2009. Having been considered by the Subcommittee on Federal Workforce, Postal Service and the District of Columbia, chaired

by Representative STEPHEN LYNCH, the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform under Chairman TOWNS ordered the bill reported to the full House by voice vote on June 4, 2009.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 1345 is a commonsense measure, treating employees of the District of Columbia the same way that other State and local government employees are treated. The difference in treatment under the Hatch Act has persisted for far too long. I urge my colleagues to help end the disparate treatment by supporting this measure.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, this is a bipartisan bill authored by ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON that is, in fact, timely or perhaps beyond its time. This was passed by our committee on a voice vote and is supported by all members of the committee.

Mr. Speaker, home rule by the District of Columbia will not be complete until we harmonize as many rights and responsibilities as we can to the District. Our committee is dedicated to do that harmonization, to look for inequities, either by too much or too little, much of it well-intended in the past, some of it even needed in the past. But as the District of Columbia takes on its immediate responsibilities, we must also treat it appropriately and not have it governed by special rules. This narrowly constructed change will, in fact, cause the Hatch Act to be identical in the way it is implemented throughout the country, being implemented toward the District of Columbia. I think every American appreciates that if you lived in a city in Maryland or in a city in Virginia, you would have the same expectation of the rules of national governance as you should have here in the Nation's capital if you're involved in similar activity.

□ 1515

For that reason, on a bipartisan basis, we support this simple but technically necessary fix.

I reserve my time.

Ms. WATSON. Mr. Speaker, I would like to have the distinguished Representative ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON from the great District of Columbia recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. NORTON. First off, Mr. Speaker, may I thank the gentlewoman from California for her work on this bill and for managing this bill as well and explaining it to the House.

I'm very grateful to the ranking member of the full committee for his work on this bill and his cooperation in helping us to move this bill forward.

Mr. Speaker, this is nothing more or nothing less than a holdover from the old pre-Home Rule days in the District of Columbia. The Congress passed the Home Rule Act and intended that local laws would be a matter for the District of Columbia, and somehow, this got left out of the mix. And the OPM, the Office of Personnel Management, and its council's office has been vexed—that's the only word for it—vexed by these complaints that these sometimes come and sometimes don't.

For example, advisory neighborhood commissioners, peculiar to the District of Columbia, are ''elected officials.'' They're unpaid. If you look at the council of the District of Columbia, almost all of them were advisory neighborhood commissioners. But somehow, people bring complaints against them when they run for office because they're not regarded in Federal law as elected officials. They're elected officials; unpaid, but they're elected officials. They run for office. Those are not matters that you would expect a Federal regulatory agency to pay any attention to. And I don't want the OPM, in fact, spending the time of its special council on the arcane laws of the District of Columbia.

What this law says is you, D.C., will have to have your own Hatch Act. The Hatch Act was one of the great reforms in government. Perhaps there's no reform ever in government that's been more important than the Hatch Act. This bill can't go into effect until the District of Columbia has its own Hatch Act for its own local law, the way California and all the States of the Union have their own version of the Hatch Act. As I heard the ranking member say, When you're getting Federal money and you're involved in Federal matters—and often matters in the State are Federal matters—the Hatch Act applies as always.

When you're dealing in D.C. with D.C. management, you need your own Hatch Act, and you need OPM to deal with the often more serious matters that affect the Federal Government when millions of dollars may be involved in Hatch Act violations.

I want to thank my good friends from California, both of them, for their work on this bill.

Mr. Speaker, the District of Columbia Hatch Act Reform Act of 2009 eliminates anomalous treatment of the District of Columbia which, alone among U.S. jurisdictions, still falls under the Federal Hatch Act as an uncorrected leftover provision from before the Congress made the District an independent jurisdiction that today enacts its own local laws. Fortunately, the House recognized that the present Federal Hatch Act jurisdiction over the District was inappropriate and obsolete and removed this Federal responsibility several years ago, but the Senate failed to act. H.R. 1345 will eliminate the double indignity of placing a local burden on the Federal Government while depriving the District of a responsibility that only local jurisdictions familiar with local laws can be expected to handle appropriately. H.R. 1345 retains Federal Hatch Act authority concerning prohibited partisan and political activity that applies to every State and locality upon receipt of Federal funds or functions, and importantly, requires the District to enact its own local version of the Hatch Act barring similar local violations before H.R. 1345 can become effective. Local Hatch Act violations in the District are rare, but the District needs its own Hatch Act to fully account and be responsible for local violations, with which only a local, objective body would be familiar.

H.R. 1345 leaves in place the Federal Hatch Act restrictions that apply to other jurisdictions on the use of official authority, specifically as it relates to elections; the solicitation, acceptance, or receipt of political campaign contributions; the prohibitions on running for public office in partisan elections; and the use of on-duty time and resources to engage in partisan campaign activity when Federal funds or responsibilities are involved. My bill would remove only the Federal Hatch Act jurisdiction that applies to the District of Columbia and would require the District to enact its own local Hatch Act, similar to those in other jurisdictions, instead of requiring the Federal Office of Personnel Management, OPM, and its Special Counsel to devote staff time and other resources to investigation, fact-finding and judgment of unfamiliar local matters.

In fact, OPM has asked for the Federal guidance my bill offers. In recent cases, OPM was confused by protests after citing an ANC (Advisory Neighborhood Commissioner) for violations of the Hatch Act when he ran for higher office, even though ANCs are ''elected officials'' under D.C. law and therefore should be permitted to run for higher office. As a result of the failure to clear up the confusion, the application of the Hatch Act to ANCs has been selectively enforced by OPM. For example, although OPM has filed cases charging Hatch Act violations against an ANC running for the D.C. Council, it more often has not filed when several members of the current D.C. City Council ran for the D.C. Council from positions as ANCs. These examples show the difficulty created because Congress has failed to conform D.C.'s local jurisdiction created by the Home Rule Act of 1974 with the OPM's Federal jurisdiction over Federal Hatch Act matters today.

This is an uncomplicated and straightforward bill. It is not controversial, and it has been enacted by the House before. I ask that the House approve H.R. 1345.

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, I am in support of this bill.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. WATSON. Mr. Speaker, I would like to urge my colleagues to support this much-needed measure.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WATSON) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1345.

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.

JOHNNY GRANT HOLLYWOOD POST OFFICE BUILDING

Ms. WATSON. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2760) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1615 North Wilcox Avenue in Los Angeles, California, as the ''Johnny Grant Hollywood Post Office Building''.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 2760

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

SECTION 1. JOHNNY GRANT HOLLYWOOD POST OFFICE BUILDING.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1615 North Wilcox Avenue in Los Angeles, California, shall be known and designated as the ''Johnny Grant Hollywood Post Office Building''.

(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 ''Johnny Grant Hollywood Post Office Building''.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WATSON) and the gentleman from California (Mr. ISSA) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair now recognizes the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WATSON).

Ms. WATSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 2760, a bill which I introduced to designate a post office in my district as the ''Johnny Grant Hollywood Post Office Building''.

Johnny Grant and Hollywood are synonymous. As Tinseltown's honorary mayor, he was one of the community's most enthusiastic supporters for more than 50 years. He served as chairman of the Walk of Fame Selection Committee and the Hollywood Historic Trust. He not only created what was to become part of Hollywood's history but had been a longtime supporter for preserving Cinema City's past.

Johnny Grant was also a big supporter of public diplomacy. Over the Memorial Day recess period, I took 30 films donated by Johnny Grant before he passed away to South Africa and donated them to the Rosa Parks Library and Information Center at the U.S. Embassy. The films will be accessible to the public and will be used to promote the United States' moral values, principles, and culture.

Grant was a retired major general in the California State Military Reserve. He was sought out to advise the Guard in his areas of expertise: morale, public affairs, recruiting, and special events. Though retired, he continued to be recalled by California's Adjutant General for special duties.

In 1982, the State of California showed their appreciation for Johnny Grant's 30 years of service by awarding him the Order of California, the State's highest honor. Governor George Deukmejian, in an unprecedented act, awarded Johnny Grant a second Order of California at the State Capitol in 1990. General Grant was also the recipient of the National Guard's Medal of Merit.

In June of 1999, retired Major General Johnny Grant was recalled to temporary active duty to promote and produce events saluting the California National Guard on its 150th birthday.

Mr. Speaker, thank you for the time, and I urge my colleagues to support this bill to honor Johnny Grant for a lifetime of public service.

And I just want you to know, before his sudden death, he had completed 60 trips to entertain our troops, more than any other celebrity who has gone overseas and around the country, so we honor him also for that.

I reserve the balance of my time.

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

I join with the gentlelady in supporting her legislation. Every member of the California delegation, in fact, has supported this. Because it's in Representative WATSON's district, of course, it's her bill, but Johnny Grant was bigger than Hollywood, bigger than California.

During his decades of service outside of Hollywood, Johnny Grant represented the finest in American service. After his service in the Army Air Corps during World War II, he continued supporting in many ways our men and women in uniform for the rest of his life.

In 1952, when Mr. Grant, along with Bing Crosby, Bob Hope, and Frank Sinatra, hosted the first national telethon, a fundraiser to send American Olympic athletes to the Summer Olympics in Finland, he, in fact, set a path of service in all aspects of public life continuing with the Olympics, adding to that the Boy Scouts, the USO, fire and police services and, of course, his many trips overseas.

In addition to the 60 USO trips that Mr. Grant did, I want to note two of them, because during the very difficult times in 1982 and 1983, he distinguished himself by being willing to go to Beirut to support and entertain our marines there long after many people had considered that to be out of the way. He also made two trips to Saudi Arabia during Desert Shield and Desert Storm. He continued to support the USO along with Bob Hope and his many other friends throughout his life.

Mr. Speaker, I believe we've given a lot of awards to a lot of people less deserving and who dedicated less their entire lives. Many celebrities are for causes when they're in their active career. Mr. Grant was for causes that were fully supported by the American people but fully funded by the generosity of people like him with his time and his energy for so many years.

So I join with the gentlelady in supporting H.R. 2760, urge its passage, remind all of us that, in fact, there are those who give far less that have had these honors bestowed on them, and I certainly thank the gentlelady for picking this Hollywood post office to be the ''Johnny Grant Hollywood Post Office Building''.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. WATSON. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank DARRELL ISSA, my colleague, for his words about Johnny Grant. And I want you to know, Johnny knew he would live forever, and now that we're going to have a building named after him in the new remodeled and revitalized Hollywood, he, indeed, his image, will live forever. So I thank my colleague.

And in closing, I again urge my colleagues to join me in honoring Johnny Grant through the passage of H.R. 2760.

Ms. WATSON. I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WATSON) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2760.

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 3 o'clock and 26 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 (Mrs. DAHLKEMPER) at 6 o'clock and 30 minutes p.m.

GENERAL LEAVE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, general leave to revise and extend is granted on the motion to suspend the rules on H.R. 2760.

There was no objection.

APPOINTMENT AS MEMBERS TO BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF NATIONAL URBAN AIR TOXICS RESEARCH CENTER

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to section 112 of the Clean Air Act (42 U.S.C. 7412), 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 Board of Directors of the National Urban Air Toxics Research Center:

Mrs. Herminia Palacio, M.D., M.P.H., Bellaire, Texas

Mr. John Walke, Washington, D.C.

COMMUNICATION FROM STAFF MEMBER, THE HONORABLE GEORGE RADANOVICH, MEMBER OF CONGRESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from Donna J. Dami, Special Projects, the Honorable GEORGE RADANOVICH, Member of Congress:

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, August 17, 2009.

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

DEAR MADAM SPEAKER: This is to notify you formally, pursuant to Rule VIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, that I have been served with a subpoena, issued in the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of California, for testimony in a criminal case.

After consultation with the Office of General Counsel, I have determined that compliance with the subpoena is consistent with the precedents and privileges of the House.

Sincerely,

DONNA J. DAMI,
Special Projects.

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. 324, by the yeas and nays;

H.R. 310, by the yeas and nays;

H.R. 3123, 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.

SANTA CRUZ VALLEY NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 324, 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 gentleman from Arizona (Mr. GRIJALVA) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 324.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 249, nays 145, not voting 39, as follows:

[Roll No. 687]

YEAS—249

Abercrombie
Ackerman
Adler (NJ)
Altmire
Andrews
Arcuri
Baca
Baird
Baldwin
Barrow
Bean
Becerra
Berman
Berry
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (NY)
Blumenauer
Boccieri
Boren
Boswell
Boucher
Brady (PA)
Braley (IA)
Bright
Butterfield
Cao
Capps
Cardoza
Carnahan
Carson (IN)
Castor (FL)
Chandler
Childers
Chu
Clay
Cleaver
Clyburn
Cohen
Connolly (VA)
Conyers
Cooper
Costa
Costello
Courtney
Crowley
Cuellar
Cummings
Dahlkemper
Davis (CA)
Davis (IL)
Davis (TN)
DeFazio
DeGette
DeLauro
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
Fortenberry
Foster
Frank (MA)
Frelinghuysen
Fudge
Giffords
Gonzalez
Gordon (TN)
Grayson
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Griffith
Grijalva
Hall (NY)
Halvorson
Hare
Harman
Hastings (FL)
Heinrich
Herseth Sandlin
Higgins
Hill
Himes
Hinchey
Hinojosa
Hirono
Hodes
Holden
Holt
Honda
Hoyer
Inslee
Israel
Jackson (IL)
Jackson-Lee (TX)
Johnson (GA)
Johnson, E. B.
Jones
Kagen
Kanjorski
Kaptur
Kennedy
Kildee
Kilroy
Kind
Kirkpatrick (AZ)
Kissell
Klein (FL)
Kosmas
Kratovil
Kucinich
Lance
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Lee (CA)
Levin
Lewis (GA)
Lipinski
LoBiondo
Loebsack
Lofgren, Zoe
Lowey
Luján
Lynch
Maffei
Maloney
Markey (CO)
Marshall
Massa
Matheson
Matsui
McCollum
McDermott
McGovern
McHugh
McIntyre
McMahon
McNerney
Meek (FL)
Meeks (NY)
Melancon
Michaud
Miller (NC)
Miller, George
Minnick
Mitchell
Mollohan
Moore (KS)
Moore (WI)
Moran (VA)
Murphy (CT)
Murphy (NY)
Murphy, Patrick
Murphy, Tim
Nadler (NY)
Napolitano
Neal (MA)
Nye
Oberstar
Obey
Olver
Ortiz
Pallone
Pascrell
Pastor (AZ)
Payne
Perlmutter
Perriello
Peters
Peterson
Pingree (ME)
Platts
Pomeroy
Price (NC)
Quigley
Rahall
Rangel
Reichert
Reyes
Richardson
Ros-Lehtinen
Ross
Rothman (NJ)
Roybal-Allard
Ruppersberger
Salazar
Sánchez, Linda T.
Sarbanes
Schakowsky
Schauer
Schiff
Schrader
Schwartz
Scott (GA)
Scott (VA)
Serrano
Shea-Porter
Sherman
Shuler
Sires
Skelton
Slaughter
Smith (NJ)
Smith (WA)
Snyder
Space
Speier
Spratt
Stark
Stupak
Sutton
Teague
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Tierney
Titus
Tonko
Towns
Tsongas
Van Hollen
Velázquez
Visclosky
Walz
Wasserman Schultz
Waters
Watson
Watt
Waxman
Weiner
Welch
Wexler
Whitfield
Wilson (OH)
Woolsey
Wu
Yarmuth

NAYS—145

Aderholt
Akin
Alexander
Austria
Bachmann
Bachus
Bartlett
Barton (TX)
Biggert
Bilbray
Bilirakis
Blackburn
Blunt
Boehner
Bonner
Bono Mack
Boozman
Boustany
Broun (GA)
Brown (SC)
Brown-Waite, Ginny
Buchanan
Burgess
Burton (IN)
Buyer
Calvert
Camp
Cantor
Capito
Carter
Cassidy
Castle
Chaffetz
Coble
Coffman (CO)
Cole
Conaway
Crenshaw
Culberson
Davis (KY)
Dent
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
Johnson (IL)
Johnson, Sam
Jordan (OH)
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kingston
Kline (MN)
Lamborn
Latta
Lee (NY)
Lewis (CA)
Linder
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Lummis
Lungren, Daniel E.
Mack
Manzullo
Marchant
McCarthy (CA)
McCaul
McClintock
McCotter
McHenry
McKeon
McMorris Rodgers
Mica
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Miller, Gary
Moran (KS)
Myrick
Neugebauer
Nunes
Olson
Paul
Paulsen
Pence
Petri
Pitts
Poe (TX)
Posey
Price (GA)
Putnam
Radanovich
Rehberg
Roe (TN)
Rogers (AL)
Rooney
Roskam
Royce
Ryan (WI)
Scalise
Schmidt
Schock
Sensenbrenner
Sessions
Shadegg
Shuster
Smith (NE)
Smith (TX)
Souder
Stearns
Sullivan
Terry
Thompson (PA)
Thornberry
Tiahrt
Tiberi
Turner
Upton
Walden
Wamp
Westmoreland
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Wolf
Young (FL)

NOT VOTING—39

Barrett (SC)
Berkley
Bishop (UT)
Boyd
Brady (TX)
Brown, Corrine
Campbell
Capuano
Carney
Clarke
Davis (AL)
Deal (GA)
Delahunt
Dreier
Filner
Gallegly
Gerlach
Gutierrez
Kilpatrick (MI)
Kirk
Latham
LaTourette
Markey (MA)
McCarthy (NY)
Murtha
Polis (CO)
Rodriguez
Rogers (KY)
Rogers (MI)
Rohrabacher
Rush
Ryan (OH)
Sanchez, Loretta
Sestak
Shimkus
Simpson
Tanner
Taylor
Young (AK)

□ 1902

Mrs. CAPITO, Messrs. CRENSHAW, TERRY, SCHOCK and HALL of Texas changed their vote from ''yea'' to ''nay.''

So (two-thirds not being in the affirmative) the motion was rejected.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

Stated for:

Mr. FILNER. Madam speaker, on rollcall 687, I was unable to vote, as I was away from the Capitol in my capacity as Chairman of the House Veterans Affairs Committee. Had I been present, I would have voted ''yea.''

MOMENT OF SILENCE IN REMEMBRANCE OF MEMBERS OF ARMED FORCES AND THEIR FAMILIES

The SPEAKER. The Chair would ask all present to rise for the purpose of a moment of silence.

The Chair asks that the House now observe a moment of silence in remembrance of our brave men and women in uniform who have given their lives in the service of our Nation in Iraq and in Afghanistan and their families, and all who serve in our Armed Forces and their families.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

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

There was no objection.

HALE SCOUTS ACT

The SPEAKER. The unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 310, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. DAHLKEMPER). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. GRIJALVA) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 310.

This will be a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 388, nays 0, answered ''present'' 7, not voting 38, as follows:

[Roll No. 688]

YEAS—388

Abercrombie
Ackerman
Aderholt
Adler (NJ)
Akin
Alexander
Altmire
Andrews
Arcuri
Austria
Baca
Bachmann
Bachus
Baird
Barrow
Bartlett
Barton (TX)
Bean
Becerra
Berman
Berry
Biggert
Bilbray
Bilirakis
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (NY)
Bishop (UT)
Blackburn
Blumenauer
Blunt
Boccieri
Boehner
Bonner
Bono Mack
Boozman
Boren
Boswell
Boucher
Boustany
Brady (PA)
Braley (IA)
Bright
Broun (GA)
Brown (SC)
Brown-Waite, Ginny
Buchanan
Burgess
Burton (IN)
Butterfield
Buyer
Calvert
Camp
Cantor
Cao
Capito
Capps
Cardoza
Carnahan
Carson (IN)
Carter
Cassidy
Castle
Castor (FL)
Chaffetz
Chandler
Childers
Chu
Clay
Cleaver
Clyburn
Coble
Coffman (CO)
Cohen
Cole
Conaway
Connolly (VA)
Conyers
Cooper
Costa
Costello
Courtney
Crenshaw
Crowley
Cuellar
Culberson
Cummings
Dahlkemper
Davis (CA)
Davis (IL)
Davis (KY)
Davis (TN)
DeFazio
DeGette
DeLauro
Dent
Diaz-Balart, L.
Diaz-Balart, M.
Dicks
Dingell
Doggett
Donnelly (IN)
Doyle
Driehaus
Duncan
Edwards (MD)
Edwards (TX)
Ehlers
Ellison
Ellsworth
Emerson
Engel
Eshoo
Etheridge
Fallin
Farr
Fattah
Flake
Fleming
Forbes
Fortenberry
Foster
Foxx
Franks (AZ)
Frelinghuysen
Fudge
Garrett (NJ)
Giffords
Gingrey (GA)
Gohmert
Gonzalez
Goodlatte
Gordon (TN)
Granger
Graves
Grayson
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Griffith
Grijalva
Guthrie
Hall (NY)
Hall (TX)
Halvorson
Hare
Harman
Harper
Hastings (FL)
Hastings (WA)
Heinrich
Heller
Hensarling
Herger
Herseth Sandlin
Higgins
Hill
Himes
Hinchey
Hinojosa
Hirono
Hodes
Hoekstra
Holden
Holt
Honda
Hoyer
Hunter
Inglis
Inslee
Israel
Issa
Jackson (IL)
Jackson-Lee (TX)
Jenkins
Johnson (GA)
Johnson (IL)
Johnson, E. B.
Johnson, Sam
Jones
Jordan (OH)
Kagen
Kanjorski
Kaptur
Kennedy
Kildee
Kilpatrick (MI)
Kilroy
Kind
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kingston
Kirkpatrick (AZ)
Kissell
Klein (FL)
Kline (MN)
Kosmas
Kratovil
Lamborn
Lance
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Latta
Lee (CA)
Lee (NY)
Levin
Lewis (CA)
Lewis (GA)
Linder
Lipinski
LoBiondo
Loebsack
Lofgren, Zoe
Lowey
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Luján
Lummis
Lungren, Daniel E.
Lynch
Mack
Maffei
Maloney
Manzullo
Marchant
Markey (CO)
Marshall
Massa
Matheson
Matsui
McCarthy (CA)
McCaul
McClintock
McCollum
McCotter
McDermott
McGovern
McHenry
McHugh
McIntyre
McKeon
McMahon
McMorris Rodgers
McNerney
Meek (FL)
Meeks (NY)
Melancon
Mica
Michaud
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Miller (NC)
Miller, Gary
Mitchell
Mollohan
Moore (KS)
Moore (WI)
Moran (KS)
Moran (VA)
Murphy (CT)
Murphy (NY)
Murphy, Patrick
Murphy, Tim
Myrick
Nadler (NY)
Napolitano
Neal (MA)
Neugebauer
Nunes
Nye
Oberstar
Obey
Olson
Olver
Ortiz
Pallone
Pascrell
Pastor (AZ)
Paul
Paulsen
Payne
Pence
Perlmutter
Perriello
Peters
Peterson
Petri
Pingree (ME)
Pitts
Platts
Poe (TX)
Pomeroy
Posey
Price (GA)
Price (NC)
Putnam
Quigley
Radanovich
Rahall
Rangel
Rehberg
Reichert
Reyes
Richardson
Roe (TN)
Rogers (AL)
Rooney
Ros-Lehtinen
Roskam
Ross
Rothman (NJ)
Roybal-Allard
Royce
Ruppersberger
Ryan (OH)
Ryan (WI)
Salazar
Sánchez, Linda T.
Sarbanes
Scalise
Schakowsky
Schauer
Schiff
Schmidt
Schock
Schrader
Schwartz
Scott (GA)
Scott (VA)
Sensenbrenner
Serrano
Sessions
Shadegg
Shea-Porter
Sherman
Shuler
Shuster
Sires
Skelton
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Smith (WA)
Snyder
Souder
Space
Speier
Spratt
Stearns
Stupak
Sullivan
Sutton
Teague
Terry
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Thompson (PA)
Thornberry
Tiahrt
Tiberi
Tierney
Titus
Tonko
Towns
Tsongas
Turner
Upton
Van Hollen
Velázquez
Visclosky
Walden
Walz
Wamp
Wasserman Schultz
Waters
Watson
Watt
Weiner
Welch
Westmoreland
Wexler
Whitfield
Wilson (OH)
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Wolf
Wu
Yarmuth
Young (FL)

ANSWERED ''PRESENT''—7

Baldwin
Frank (MA)
Kucinich
Miller, George
Stark
Waxman
Woolsey

NOT VOTING—38

Barrett (SC)
Berkley
Boyd
Brady (TX)
Brown, Corrine
Campbell
Capuano
Carney
Clarke
Davis (AL)
Deal (GA)
Delahunt
Dreier
Filner
Gallegly
Gerlach
Gutierrez
Kirk
Latham
LaTourette
Markey (MA)
McCarthy (NY)
Minnick
Murtha
Polis (CO)
Rodriguez
Rogers (KY)
Rogers (MI)
Rohrabacher
Rush
Sanchez, Loretta
Sestak
Shimkus
Simpson
Slaughter
Tanner
Taylor
Young (AK)

□ 1914

Messrs. GEORGE MILLER of California and KUCINICH changed their vote from ''yea'' to ''present.''

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:

Mr. FILNER. Madam Speaker, on rollcall 688, I was unable to vote, as I was away from the Capitol in my capacity as Chairman of the House Veterans' Affairs Committee. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

LEADVILLE MINE DRAINAGE TUNNEL REMEDIATION 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. 3123, as amended, 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 gentleman from Arizona (Mr. GRIJALVA) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3123, as amended.

This will be a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 206, nays 191, not voting 36, as follows:

[Roll No. 689]

YEAS—206

Aderholt
Akin
Alexander
Altmire
Arcuri
Austria
Bachmann
Bachus
Barton (TX)
Bean
Biggert
Bilbray
Bilirakis
Bishop (UT)
Blackburn
Blunt
Boccieri
Boehner
Bonner
Bono Mack
Boozman
Boren
Boucher
Boustany
Bright
Brown (SC)
Brown-Waite, Ginny
Buchanan
Burgess
Burton (IN)
Buyer
Calvert
Camp
Cantor
Cao
Capito
Carnahan
Carter
Cassidy
Castle
Chaffetz
Childers
Coffman (CO)
Cole
Conaway
Crenshaw
Culberson
Dahlkemper
Davis (KY)
Dent
Diaz-Balart, L.
Diaz-Balart, M.
Dicks
Donnelly (IN)
Ehlers
Emerson
Fallin
Fattah
Fleming
Forbes
Fortenberry
Foster
Foxx
Franks (AZ)
Frelinghuysen
Garrett (NJ)
Gingrey (GA)
Gohmert
Goodlatte
Granger
Graves
Griffith
Guthrie
Hall (NY)
Hall (TX)
Harper
Hastings (WA)
Heinrich
Heller
Hensarling
Herger
Herseth Sandlin
Higgins
Hill
Hoekstra
Hunter
Inglis
Issa
Jenkins
Johnson (IL)
Johnson, Sam
Jones
Jordan (OH)
Kaptur
Kilroy
Kind
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kingston
Kirkpatrick (AZ)
Kline (MN)
Kratovil
Lamborn
Lance
LaTourette
Latta
Lee (NY)
Lewis (CA)
Linder
Lipinski
LoBiondo
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Lummis
Lungren, Daniel E.
Mack
Manzullo
Marchant
Marshall
McCarthy (CA)
McCaul
McClintock
McCotter
McHenry
McHugh
McIntyre
McKeon
McMorris Rodgers
McNerney
Melancon
Mica
Michaud
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Miller (NC)
Miller, Gary
Minnick
Mitchell
Moran (KS)
Murphy (NY)
Murphy, Tim
Myrick
Neugebauer
Nunes
Nye
Oberstar
Olson
Paulsen
Pence
Perlmutter
Perriello
Pitts
Platts
Poe (TX)
Posey
Price (GA)
Putnam
Radanovich
Rehberg
Reichert
Richardson
Roe (TN)
Rogers (AL)
Rooney
Ros-Lehtinen
Roskam
Ross
Royce
Ruppersberger
Ryan (WI)
Salazar
Scalise
Schmidt
Schock
Sensenbrenner
Sessions
Shadegg
Shuster
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Snyder
Souder
Space
Spratt
Stearns
Sullivan
Teague
Terry
Thompson (PA)
Thornberry
Tiahrt
Tiberi
Titus
Towns
Turner
Upton
Visclosky
Walden
Wamp
Westmoreland
Whitfield
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Wolf
Young (FL)

NAYS—191

Abercrombie
Ackerman
Adler (NJ)
Andrews
Baca
Baird
Baldwin
Barrow
Bartlett
Becerra
Berry
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (NY)
Blumenauer
Boswell
Brady (PA)
Braley (IA)
Broun (GA)
Butterfield
Capps
Cardoza
Carson (IN)
Castor (FL)
Chandler
Chu
Clay
Cleaver
Clyburn
Coble
Cohen
Connolly (VA)
Conyers
Cooper
Costa
Costello
Courtney
Crowley
Cuellar
Cummings
Davis (CA)
Davis (IL)
Davis (TN)
DeFazio
DeGette
DeLauro
Dingell
Doggett
Doyle
Driehaus
Duncan
Edwards (MD)
Edwards (TX)
Ellison
Ellsworth
Engel
Eshoo
Etheridge

Farr
Flake
Frank (MA)
Fudge
Giffords
Gonzalez
Gordon (TN)
Grayson
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Grijalva
Halvorson
Hare
Harman
Hastings (FL)
Himes
Hinchey
Hinojosa
Hirono
Hodes
Holden
Holt
Honda
Hoyer
Inslee
Israel
Jackson (IL)
Jackson-Lee (TX)
Johnson (GA)
Johnson, E. B.
Kagen
Kanjorski
Kennedy
Kildee
Kilpatrick (MI)
Kissell
Klein (FL)
Kosmas
Kucinich
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Lee (CA)
Levin
Lewis (GA)
Loebsack
Lofgren, Zoe
Lowey
Luján
Lynch
Maffei
Maloney
Markey (CO)
Massa
Matheson
Matsui
McCollum
McDermott
McGovern
McMahon
Meek (FL)
Meeks (NY)
Miller, George
Mollohan
Moore (KS)
Moore (WI)
Moran (VA)
Murphy (CT)
Murphy, Patrick
Nadler (NY)
Napolitano
Neal (MA)
Obey
Olver
Ortiz
Pallone
Pascrell
Pastor (AZ)
Paul
Payne
Peters
Peterson
Petri
Pingree (ME)
Pomeroy
Price (NC)
Quigley
Rahall
Rangel
Reyes
Rothman (NJ)
Roybal-Allard
Ryan (OH)
Sánchez, Linda T.
Sarbanes
Schakowsky
Schauer
Schiff
Schrader
Schwartz
Scott (GA)
Scott (VA)
Serrano
Shea-Porter
Sherman
Shuler
Sires
Skelton
Slaughter
Smith (WA)
Speier
Stark
Stupak
Sutton
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Tierney
Tonko
Tsongas
Van Hollen
Velázquez
Walz
Wasserman Schultz
Waters
Watson
Watt
Waxman
Weiner
Welch
Wexler
Wilson (OH)
Woolsey
Wu
Yarmuth

NOT VOTING—36

Barrett (SC)
Berkley
Berman
Boyd
Brady (TX)
Brown, Corrine
Campbell
Capuano
Carney
Clarke
Davis (AL)
Deal (GA)
Delahunt
Dreier
Filner
Gallegly
Gerlach
Gutierrez
Kirk
Latham
Markey (MA)
McCarthy (NY)
Murtha
Polis (CO)
Rodriguez
Rogers (KY)
Rogers (MI)
Rohrabacher
Rush
Sanchez, Loretta
Sestak
Shimkus
Simpson
Tanner
Taylor
Young (AK)

□ 1922

Messrs. CARSON of Indiana and LANGEVIN and Ms. McCOLLUM changed their vote from ''yea'' to ''nay.''

Messrs. JOHNSON of Illinois and CRENSHAW changed their vote from ''nay'' to ''yea.''

So (two-thirds not being in the affirmative) the motion was rejected.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

Stated for:

Mr. FILNER. Madam Speaker, on rollcall 689, I was unable to vote as I was away from the Capitol in my capacity as Chairman of the House Veterans' Affairs Committee. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Ms. CLARKE. Madam Speaker, today, I experienced unavoidable travel delays while returning to Washington from my congressional district and regretfully missed three rollcall votes. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on all three bills: H.R. 324—Santa Cruz Valley National Heritage Area Act; H.R. 310—HALE Scouts Act; H.R. 3123—Leadville Mine Drainage Tunnel Remediation Act of 2009.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. GUTIERREZ. Madam Speaker, I was unavoidably absent from this Chamber today. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall votes 687, 688 and 689.

RYAN WHITE REAUTHORIZATION

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

Mr. QUIGLEY. Madam Speaker, welcome back. I rise today to urge my colleagues to act swiftly to reauthorize the Ryan White HIV/AIDS Act before it sunsets at the end of this month.

Nineteen years ago, Ryan White, a young man who contracted HIV from a routine blood transfusion for his hemophilia, died from AIDS. Out of Ryan's death came life in the form of the Ryan White HIV/AIDS Treatment Modernization Act, which now provides care to 500,000 victims of AIDS and their families each year. The Ryan White Act is considered the ''payer of last resort,'' providing assistance to those who would otherwise go without care.

Reauthorizing the Ryan White Treatment Modernization Act is imperative, and so is passing health care reform. While Ryan White is gone, we owe it to work together to swiftly pass the Ryan White Act and health care reform.

HISTORIC TURNOUTS FOR TOWNHALLS

(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. Madam Speaker, during August, people all across America stood up to have their voices heard on the issue of health care.

In South Carolina, I was grateful to host four townhalls with the largest turnout in the history of our State. We had 1,700 people at Keenan High School in Columbia, 1,500 people at Lexington High School, 1,500 people at Beaufort High School, and 1,200 people at Hilton Head High School. The discussions were lively, but respectful, with over 95 percent of constituents opposed to the government takeover of the health care system. They want to see health insurance reform.

Every quarter during my 25-year service in the State Senate and Congress I have hosted townhalls, but this August the turnout was absolutely historic. It is important to share with the American people that there is another choice for reform. Republicans offered positive reforms, including the Empowering Patients First Act, H.R. 3400. This will fix what is failing in our health care system while protecting the doctor-patient relationship. We want to expand affordability and accessibility without adding billions to our Nation's debt and eliminating 1.6 million jobs, as cited by the NFIB.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and we will never forget September the 11th in the global war on terrorism.

9/11 HEALTH AND COMPENSATION ACT

(Mr. BISHOP of New York asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BISHOP of New York. This Friday, we remember the Americans whose lives were taken 8 years ago as well as those sickened by the ensuing rescue and recovery efforts.

In the wake of that horrific crime, America's first responders did not back down or turn away. However, we as a Nation have not honored them with the same care and commitment and have yet to repay their sacrifices.

I wish to call to the attention of my colleagues and the entire Nation the services of firefighter and 9/11 first responder, John McNamara. A 10-year veteran of the New York Fire Department, John was a first responder who assisted the rescue efforts following September 11 and answered the call again for the citizens of Louisiana during the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina.

For years John fought for the passage of legislation to help his fellow sick first responders even as he himself was dying from colon cancer, which he was diagnosed with in 2006. John was 44 when he passed away earlier this year, leaving behind his wife, Jennifer, and 2-year-old son, Jack.

Like John McNamara, many of the brave first responders who served at Ground Zero are struggling with debilitating diseases as a result of their courageous efforts. Too many people have moved on from 9/11, but the first responders and their families whose health is suffering cannot move on, and neither should we until we have kept our promise. We must pass the 9/11 Health and Compensation Act this year and take care of these heroes.

In the words of one of John McNamara's fellow first responders, ''Until his last day, John made us promise that we would carry on what he started. John's work is not done, and neither is ours.''

HONORING OFFICER CRITTENDEN

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

Mr. PAULSEN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a great Minnesotan who lost his life in the line of duty yesterday, Officer Richard Crittenden.

A 9-year veteran of the North St. Paul Police Department, Officer Crittenden dedicated his life to protecting others. Part of his life of service included being a 4-year deputy with the Wabasha County Sheriff's Department, and before that an enforcement officer for the Hennepin County Parks Department. And if that wasn't enough, he also served our Nation as a member of the U.S. Army. Unfortunately, when Officer Crittenden responded to a domestic disturbance call, things went tragically awry and we lost one of Minnesota's finest.

This husband, father and grandfather chose a life of service, protecting and defending his friends, neighbors, and the public. His life and work demonstrate a public service of the highest caliber. With this loss, I offer my prayers and deepest sympathies to the family and friends of Officer Crittenden, and I urge all Americans to take the time to thank those who put their lives in danger every day in order to protect us.

□ 1930

ADDRESSING HEALTH CARE AND ECONOMIC ISSUES

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

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I want to thank the 85 Members of the House who signed onto H.R. 676, the bill which JOHN CONYERS and I authored, which establishes Medicare for all. It's very clear that there is only one way that you can control costs and can make it possible for people to have the doctor of choice. That legislation, H.R. 676, accomplishes that.

I would like to suggest that the underlying angst that we have seen reflected across this country in the last couple of months at townhall meetings and in individual confrontations is not simply about health care, and we ignore at our peril the underlying economic issues that are confronting this country. The fact that there are 15 million Americans out of work, the fact that so many people have lost their investments, that so many people have lost their pensions is what is moving the American people to revolt against their own government.

So we need to look at this in a broader way, not only to address the health care issue but also to address the underlying economic questions.

QUIT TALKING—START LISTENING

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

Mr. GOHMERT. Madam Speaker, the President of the United States was addressing a group yesterday, and he came after, once again, the critics of his health care proposal. We got the health care bill that was filed in the House, and that's what we've been working from. He has said that, if you like your policy, you can keep it. Obviously, he hasn't read the policy. I would recommend he read page 16, and he'll find out that what he's saying is not true.

He went on and is quoted in talking about his critics as saying, ''You've heard all the lies. I've got a question for all those folks: What are you going to do? What's your answer? What's your solution? And you know what? They don't have one.''

Madam Speaker, I would like to encourage the President to quit talking so much and listen. There are lots of proposals out there. Read Human Events today. You'll see there are plenty of proposals. Quit talking. Start listening.

HEALTH CARE REFORM WITH A PUBLIC OPTION

(Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Madam Speaker, it is a delight to be back with my colleagues, but more importantly, it was enriching to be with my constituents at some 10 townhall meetings and at any number of personal appearances before organizations to talk about changing America's health care system for the better of all Americans. After 60 years, we now have an opportunity to address the question of the uninsured and to make sure that those who have insurance can keep it.

I have read page 16. What it says is that your private insurance is grandfathered in and that, if your insurance in 5 years does not meet basic standards, we'll require your insurers to do so. There is nothing on page 16 that says anything about eliminating your insurance, but it does reform the insurance industry of America—no preexisting disease; preventative care. We can pay for it. The Congressional Budget Office said so.

So today, Madam Speaker, I am here gladly to stand with the President and to join him in the question: What will you do? It's time to move on health care reform with a vigorous public option.

RESPECTING THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

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

Mr. CAO. Madam Speaker, the Office of the President of the United States is higher than the individual who occupies the seat. It is a symbol of freedom, respect and of the enduring values of our Republic.

Like every American, the President has the right to speak freely. In fact, it is his duty to address the American people. So, as I watched the events this past weekend, which suggested that his words would be subversive, controversial or otherwise inappropriate, I was very disappointed. Every American President has had the opportunity to speak to schoolchildren. President Obama is no exception.

The President's address to students this morning promoted students setting high standards, supporting our teachers and principals and reforming our schools. He encouraged students to take advantage of educational opportunities for successful careers and the opportunities to achieve the American Dream.

I ask that we, as Americans, learn to make the distinction between our disagreements with the man in the Oval Office and our history of respecting the office, itself.

THE PRESIDENT FOR ALL AMERICANS AND HEALTH COVERAGE FOR ALL

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

Mr. ENGEL. Madam Speaker, I would like to commend my colleague who just spoke before me because I think he hit the nail right on the head.

President Obama spoke to schoolchildren today. I listened to it. It was very moving. It was very good to see the President of the United States talk directly to America's youth, and it was disgraceful to see, during the past week, parents, some teachers and some schools saying that they weren't going to allow their children to listen to the President of the United States. What a sad day it is when people can talk that way.

The President of the United States is to be respected by all. He is all of our President, not just the President for the people who voted for him. I voted for him, and I'm proud that I did, but he is everybody's President; he is every Americans' President.

I believe that tomorrow, as he did today with schoolchildren, the President will make a very, very good speech on health care—highlighting health care, why we need health care reform, why it's important to have it. There are 40 million Americans who have no health insurance coverage whatsoever—47 million—and it will soon be 60 and 70 million. That's why we need health coverage, and I welcome the President's speech tomorrow.

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.

REMEMBERING AND HONORING THE LIFE OF SVEND AUKEN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. HOYER. Madam Speaker, I rise to mark the death of a good friend and of a good friend of America—Svend Auken—who died last month after a long struggle with cancer.

Svend was the first Vice President of the Danish Parliament, the Folketing, and he was a political legend in his country. I had the opportunity to meet and work closely with Svend on many occasions, most recently when he was one of my gracious hosts on a trip to Denmark this May.

Each time, I was impressed by the vitality, the sense of humor and the idealism of this man who devoted his life to public service from the day he entered politics at the age of 28, right up to his death a few weeks ago. Svend was a kind, wise and insightful friend, and I will miss him.

Today, I rise to offer my condolences to his wife, Anne, to his children and to other friends and family whom he left behind. I also, of course, rise to pay him tribute.

Svend's country is home to a proud political tradition. It stretches from the solidarity Danes showed when they protected their Jewish fellow citizens from the onslaught of the Holocaust to the foresight Denmark proved by becoming entirely energy independent.

Svend Auken was a real humanitarian and a visionary political thinker who was worthy of his proud heritage. As leader of the Social Democrats and as a long-serving minister for the environment and energy, Svend left a powerful mark on his country and on Europe, and he became an inspiration to leaders around the world who are struggling to confront common threats such as global warming.

As a leading Danish paper wrote, ''The country's landscape, specked with the thousands of windmills that have become a symbol of Denmark, can be traced back to Auken's efforts.'' Svend deserves credit for his country's secure retirement system as well.

Svend's friendship wasn't just meaningful to me on a personal level; the relationships and respect he cultivated on both sides of our political aisle helped to cement the powerful friendship between America and its key NATO ally, Denmark.

As a Danish-American myself and as a Member of Congress, I have been proud to support and nurture this key alliance. I chair the Congressional Friends of Denmark Caucus, along with my friend HOWARD COBLE, and I meet frequently with visiting Danish leaders, whose inquisitive and analytical approach in meetings is always very notable.

Though Svend is gone, I know that the progress he made for his country and the friendship he helped sustain with ours will be among his lasting legacies. I also know that he lived a full, committed and creative life.

As Svend said when he announced his decision to continue serving despite his cancer, ''The amount of time you have left to live, be it short or long, is life, itself, and you shouldn't squander it.'' Svend did not squander his life. I believe that Svend died secure in the knowledge that he made everything he could of the time he was given, and there is no better end than that.

I pay respect to a friend, a colleague, a great Danish leader, a great European leader, a great international citizen—Svend Auken.

U.S. PRESENCE IN AFGHANISTAN

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. Madam Speaker, on June 25, 2009, I joined Congressman JIM MCGOVERN in offering an amendment to the National Defense Authorization Act. The amendment would have required the Secretary of Defense to submit a report to Congress which outlines an exit strategy for our Armed Forces in Afghanistan.

During the floor debate that day, I, along with other Members, talked about the history of Afghanistan and about the difficulties that other nations have had there—from Alexander the Great to England and Russia. As just one measure of the hazardous conditions facing our troops in Afghanistan, 99 American servicemembers have been killed in Afghanistan since June 25, 2009—the day we debated the amendment.

While I regret that the amendment was not approved, I still believe it is critical for the current administration to clearly articulate benchmarks for success and an end point to its war strategy in Afghanistan.

Last week, on September 1, 2009, conservative columnist George Will wrote an op-ed, titled ''Time to Get Out of Afghanistan.'' In it, he shares his insights on our Nation's current strategy in Afghanistan.

I submit the full text of this op-ed for the RECORD.

[From the Washington Post, Sept. 1, 2009]

TIME TO GET OUT OF AFGHANISTAN

(By George F. Will)

''Yesterday,'' reads the e-mail from Allen, a Marine in Afghanistan, ''I gave blood because a Marine, while out on patrol, stepped on a [mine's] pressure plate and lost both legs.'' Then ''another Marine with a bullet wound to the head was brought in. Both Marines died this morning.''

''I'm sorry about the drama,'' writes Allen, an enthusiastic infantryman willing to die ''so that each of you may grow old.'' He says: ''I put everything in God's hands.'' And: ''Semper Fi!''

Allen and others of America's finest are also in Washington's hands. This city should keep faith with them by rapidly reversing the trajectory of America's involvement in Afghanistan, where, says the Dutch commander of coalition forces in a southern province, walking through the region is ''like walking through the Old Testament.''

U.S. strategy—protecting the population—is increasingly troop-intensive while Americans are increasingly impatient about ''deteriorating'' (says Adm. Mike Mullen, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff) conditions. The war already is nearly 50 percent longer than the combined U.S. involvements in two world wars, and NATO assistance is reluctant and often risible.

The U.S. strategy is ''clear, hold and build.'' Clear? Taliban forces can evaporate and then return, confident that U.S. forces will forever be too few to hold gains. Hence nation-building would be impossible even if we knew how, and even if Afghanistan were not the second-worst place to try: The Brookings Institution ranks Somalia as the only nation with a weaker state.

Military historian Max Hastings says Kabul controls only about a third of the country—''control'' is an elastic concept—and '''our' Afghans may prove no more viable than were 'our' Vietnamese, the Saigon regime.'' Just 4,000 Marines are contesting control of Helmand province, which is the size of West Virginia. The New York Times reports a Helmand official saying he has only ''police officers who steal and a small group of Afghan soldiers who say they are here for 'vacation.'''' Afghanistan's $23 billion gross domestic product is the size of Boise's. Counterinsurgency doctrine teaches, not very helpfully, that development depends on security, and that security depends on development. Three-quarters of Afghanistan's poppy production for opium comes from Helmand. In what should be called Operation Sisyphus, U.S. officials are urging farmers to grow other crops. Endive, perhaps?

Even though violence exploded across Iraq after, and partly because of, three elections, Afghanistan's recent elections were called ''crucial.'' To what? They came, they went, they altered no fundamentals, all of which militate against American ''success,'' whatever that might mean. Creation of an effective central government? Afghanistan has never had one. U.S. Ambassador Karl Eikenberry hopes for a ''renewal of trust'' of the Afghan people in the government, but the Economist describes President Hamid Karzai's government—his vice presidential running mate is a drug trafficker—as so ''inept, corrupt and predatory'' that people sometimes yearn for restoration of the warlords, ''who were less venal and less brutal than Mr. Karzai's lot.''

Mullen speaks of combating Afghanistan's ''culture of poverty.'' But that took decades in just a few square miles of the South Bronx. Gen. Stanley McChrystal, the U.S. commander in Afghanistan, thinks jobs programs and local government services might entice many ''accidental guerrillas'' to leave the Taliban. But before launching New Deal 2.0 in Afghanistan, the Obama administration should ask itself: If U.S. forces are there to prevent reestablishment of al-Qaeda bases—evidently there are none now—must there be nation-building invasions of Somalia, Yemen and other sovereignty vacuums?

U.S. forces are being increased by 21,000, to 68,000, bringing the coalition total to 110,000. About 9,000 are from Britain, where support for the war is waning. Counterinsurgency theory concerning the time and the ratio of forces required to protect the population indicates that, nationwide, Afghanistan would need hundreds of thousands of coalition troops, perhaps for a decade or more. That is inconceivable.

So, instead, forces should be substantially reduced to serve a comprehensively revised policy: America should do only what can be done from offshore, using intelligence, drones, cruise missiles, airstrikes and small, potent Special Forces units, concentrating on the porous 1,500–mile border with Pakistan, a nation that actually matters.

Genius, said de Gaulle, recalling Bismarck's decision to halt German forces short of Paris in 1870, sometimes consists of knowing when to stop. Genius is not required to recognize that in Afghanistan, when means now, before more American valor, such as Allen's, is squandered.

□ 1945

I would like to highlight just a couple of Will's key points. He wrote, ''The war already is nearly 50 percent longer than the combined U.S. involvement in two world wars, and NATO assistance is reluctant.

''The U.S. strategy is 'clear, hold and build.' Clear? Taliban forces can evaporate and then return, confident that U.S. forces will forever be too few to

hold gains. Hence nation-building would be impossible even if we knew how, and even if Afghanistan were not the second-worst place to try.''

Will further states, ''Counterinsurgency theory concerning the time and the ratio of forces required to protect the population indicates that, nationwide, Afghanistan would need hundreds of thousands of coalition troops, perhaps for a decade or more. That is inconceivable.''

Madam Speaker, on this same morning this op-ed was published, the retired Marine general Chuck Krulak, the 31st commandant of the Marine Corps, responded by writing an e-mail to Will.

Madam Speaker, I submit the full text of the e-mail for the RECORD.

SEPTEMBER 1, 2009.

Subject: Afghanistan

SIR, I would imagine that your article, ''Time to Get Out of Afghanistan'' will result in some ''incoming'' on your Command Post. First and foremost, let me say that I am in total agreement with your assessment. Simply put, no desired end state has ever been clearly articulated and no strategy formulated that would lead us to achieve even an ill defined end state.

A few points:

1. The strategy of ''clear, hold and build'' would lead one to believe that the US and its Allies are capable of coordinating the elements of national power needed to affect such a strategy. Nothing could be further from the truth. Just getting DOS and DOD on the same page is difficult enough . . . getting NGO's and nation building expertise into the fight is simply a non-starter in a country as dysfunctional as Afghanistan.

2. Your point about troop strength required to ''protect'' the population and carry out effective counterinsurgency operations is spot on. Instead of a surge of 21,000 troops, McChrystal would need a surge of hundreds of thousands. Not only would our Nation not support such a surge but, MOST distressing, the Military could not support such a surge. Not only are our troops being run ragged but, equally important and totally off most people's radar screens, our equipment is being run ragged. At some point in time, the bill for that equipment will come due and it will be a very large bill.

3. Typical of the 21st Century fight, we are fighting ideas as well as warriors. You cannot defeat ideas with bullets . . . you must defeat them with better ideas. For many reasons such as the dysfunction found in the Karzai government, the tribal nature of the country, the abject poverty of the average citizen, the inextricable link to Pakistan, we have been unable to come up with better ideas. We are systematically destroying the poppy fields . . . the country's major source of revenue. At the same time, we are trying to encourage other agricultural efforts. This is one of our ''better ideas''?? Sad as it is to say, we would do better to buy the poppy crop ourselves . . . ridding the world of a source of drugs and maintaining the Afghan economy.

4. What in Afghanistan is deemed in our Nation's vital interest? Seriously? Who is the enemy? Seriously? Is the enemy of the United States the Taliban? Is the enemy al Queda? We need to determine the answer to those questions immediately. One would think we would have answered them already but none of our actions to date would indicate that we have.

Finally, your recommendation is sound. I would put ''hunter-killer teams'' along the borders and in suspected al Queda strongholds. I would support them with intelligence, logistics thru the use of parasail's, responsive airpower (need to be close), armed and unarmed (fitted with cameras, infrared, etc) drones, ''reach back'' capability for cruise missiles, and other capability as needed. The H–K Teams should be given minimal rules of engagement . . . when they identify the bad guys, they need to be empowered to take them out.

Again, don't be dismayed by the people who disagree with you. There are many retired and active duty military who feel you hit the bull's eye.

Semper Fidelis,

CHUCK KRULAK,
General, USMC (Ret),
31st Commandant of the Marine Corps.

In the e-mail General Krulak expressed his ''total agreement'' with Will's assessment and concluded, ''There are many retired and active-duty military who feel you hit the bull's eye.''

The general also wrote, ''Simply put, no desired end state has ever been as clearly articulated and no strategy formulated that would lead us to achieve even an ill-defined end state. Instead of a surge of 21,000 troops, McChrystal would need a surge of hundreds of thousands. The military could not support such a surge. You cannot defeat ideas with bullets. You must defeat them with better ideas.''

Madam Speaker, President Obama is in the midst of reviewing a report by the U.S. commander in Afghanistan, General Stanley McChrystal. It is expected that this review will determine whether or not the President decides to alter the number of U.S. troops to Afghanistan.

The men and women of our military who have served in Iraq and Afghanistan have done a magnificent job. Many have been deployed four and five times. Their desire to serve is greater than ever, but the stress placed on our all-volunteer forces and their families cannot continue forever. That's why it is so important for the current administration to articulate an end point to its war strategy rather than simply ordering another surge of troops.

With that, Madam Speaker, I close by asking God to please bless our men and women in uniform. I ask God to please bless the families who have given a child dying for freedom in Afghanistan and Iraq.

And I close by asking God, please, God, please, God, please continue to bless America.

U.S. POLICY IN AFGHANISTAN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. MCGOVERN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Madam Speaker, I rise to express my strong concern over U.S. policy in Afghanistan. I worry that we are getting sucked deeper and deeper into a war with no end. Our mission continues to grow and grow, with no clear sense of where we are ultimately going. It has been 8 long years. We have lost too many brave men and women, and we have spent billions and billions of dollars.

The Government of Afghanistan, led by President Hamid Karzai, is incompetent and corrupt. The Afghan president has formed alliances with warlords and drug-lords who have no interest in a better Afghanistan. His military is not reliable and his police are a mess. By all accounts, forces close to Mr. Karzai stuffed ballot boxes in the most recent elections.

Madam Speaker, if this fraud had occurred in virtually every other country in the world, the condemnations from Congress and the administration would be loud and forceful.

After all the sacrifices our troops have made, after all the financial and development assistance, after all the training and military aid, is this the best that we can expect? Don't we deserve better? Don't the Afghan people deserve better?

At a very minimum, we must insist that any aid be contingent on a responsible Afghan government. Without that, then all our investments and good intentions could achieve very little that is sustainable.

The United States has an incredible and magnificent team assembled in Afghanistan. I had the pleasure of meeting many of them during a brief visit to the country over the recess. Both the military and State Department personnel are impressive. I only wish they were in place 8 years ago.

But even a brilliant team can't make up for the inadequacies of the current Afghan government. Our troops are exceptional. I had the privilege of eating dinner with many of them from Massachusetts. I am in awe of their courage and commitment and their patriotism. We owe them a policy that is worthy of their sacrifice. Everyone, Madam Speaker, from the President on down, agrees that a political solution is the only path for a successful, stable Afghanistan.

During consideration of the Department of Defense authorization bill a few months ago, I, along with my colleague, Walter Jones, offered an amendment that would have simply required the Secretary of Defense to report to Congress by the end of the year what our exit strategy for Afghanistan was. We are not asking for a date certain, we are not advocating an immediate withdrawal, but we wanted an answer to this fundamental question: At what point has our military contribution to the political solution in Afghanistan come to an end so that we can bring our troops home?

I don't believe that the United States should enter into a war without a clearly defined mission, and that means a mission with a beginning, a middle, a transition period and an end. Without that definition and clarity, we will continue to drift from year to year, from administration to administration. Madam Speaker, we need an exit strategy for Afghanistan.

I believe that sending thousands more American troops into Afghanistan, as some in the administration appear to be urging, is a mistake. An escalation of U.S. military forces would further create the impression of an occupation and, in turn, provide a powerful rallying point for those we are trying to defeat.

In last Sunday's New York Times, Nicholas Kristoff cites a statement by many former U.S. intelligence officials warning that the more troops we put in, the greater the opposition.

Madam Speaker, I am not suggesting that we walk away from Afghanistan. We, along with the international community, should help with development aid, investments in education, school feeding, training of their police and military and help with strengthening their civilian institutions.

I also understand the threat from al Qaeda. I still strongly believe that we should hold those responsible for September 11, the attacks of September 11, accountable; and we should be committed to defeating them. I voted for the authorization to use military force after the terrorist attacks.

But, Madam Speaker, al Qaeda is more of a problem in Pakistan than in Afghanistan. And for those who justify our expanded military presence in Afghanistan as a way to prevent al Qaeda from ever coming back and establishing a safe haven, I would ask, are we going to send more troops to Somalia and Sudan and other countries that have provided safe havens for al Qaeda in the past?

Madam Speaker, there are no easy answers in Afghanistan. It is a complicated place, from its people to its geography. I don't pretend to have all the answers.

But I do feel deeply that an escalation of American military forces there would be a mistake and would not solve the many problems and challenges of that country. I fear it would only further complicate matters at a very high cost to our troops and our country.

[From the New York Times, Sept. 6, 2009]

THE AFGHANISTAN ABYSS

(By Nicholas D. Kristof)

President Obama has already dispatched an additional 21,000 American troops to Afghanistan and soon will decide whether to send thousands more. That would be a fateful decision for his presidency, and a group of former intelligence officials and other experts is now reluctantly going pubic to warn that more troops would be a historic mistake.

The group's concern—dead right, in my view—is that sending more American troops into ethnic Pashtun areas in the Afghan south may only galvanize local people to back the Taliban in repelling the infidels.

''Our policy makers do not understand that the very presence of our forces in the Pashtun areas is the problem,'' the group said in a statement to me. ''The more troops we put in, the greater the opposition. We do not mitigate the opposition by increasing troop levels, but rather we increase the opposition and prove to the Pashtuns that the Taliban are correct.

''The basic ignorance by our leadership is going to cause the deaths of many fine American troops with no positive outcome,'' the statement said.

The group includes Howard Hart, a former Central Intelligence Agency station chief in Pakistan; David Miller, a former ambassador and National Security Council official; William J. Olson, a counterinsurgency scholar at the National Defense University; and another C.I.A. veteran who does not want his name published but who spent 12 years in the region, was station chief in Kabul at the time the Soviets invaded Afghanistan in 1979, and later headed the C.I.A.'s Counterterrorism Center.

''We share a concern that the country is driving over a cliff,'' Mr. Miller said.

Mr. Hart, who helped organize the anti-Soviet insurgency in the 1980s, cautions that Americans just don't understand the toughness, determination and fighting skills of the Pashtun tribes. He adds that if the U.S. escalates the war, the result will be radicalization of Pashtuns in Pakistan and further instability there—possibly even the collapse of Pakistan.

These experts are not people who crave publicity; I had to persuade them to go public with their concerns. And their views are widely shared among others who also know Afghanistan well.

''We've bitten off more than we can chew; we're setting ourselves up for failure,'' said Rory Stewart, a former British diplomat who teaches at Harvard when he is not running a large aid program in Afghanistan. Mr. Stewart describes the American military strategy in Afghanistan as ''nonsense.''

I'm writing about these concerns because I share them. I'm also troubled because officials in Washington seem to make decisions based on a simplistic caricature of the Taliban that doesn't match what I've found in my reporting trips to Afghanistan and Pakistan.

Among the Pashtuns, the population is not neatly divisible into ''Taliban'' or ''non-Taliban.'' Rather, the Pashtuns are torn by complex aspirations and fears.

Many Pashtuns I've interviewed are appalled by the Taliban's periodic brutality and think they are too extreme; they think they're a little nuts. But these Pashtuns also admire the Taliban's personal honesty and religious piety, a contrast to the corruption of so many officials around President Hamid Karzai.

Some Taliban are hard-core ideologues, but many join the fight because friends or elders suggest it, because they are avenging the deaths of relatives in previous fighting, because it's a way to earn money, or because they want to expel the infidels from their land—particularly because the foreigners haven't brought the roads, bridges and irrigation projects that had been anticipated.

Frankly, if a bunch of foreign Muslim troops in turbans showed up in my hometown in rural Oregon, searching our homes without bringing any obvious benefit, then we might all take to the hills with our deer rifles as well.

In fairness, the American military has hugely improved its sensitivity, and some commanders in the field have been superb in building trust with Afghans. That works. But all commanders can't be superb, and over all, our increased presence makes Pashtuns more likely to see us as alien occupiers.

That may be why the troop increase this year hasn't calmed things. Instead, 2009 is already the bloodiest year for American troops in Afghanistan—with four months left to go.

The solution is neither to pull out of Afghanistan nor to double down. Rather, we need to continue our presence with a lighter military footprint, limited to training the Afghan forces and helping them hold major cities, and ensuring that Al Qaeda does not regroup. We must also invest more in education and agriculture development, for that is a way over time to peel Pashtuns away from the Taliban.

This would be a muddled, imperfect strategy with frustratingly modest goals, but it would be sustainable politically and militarily. And it does not require heavy investments of American and Afghan blood.

VAN JONES' RADICAL PAST

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. Madam Speaker, one of the important functions of a President is to make sure that the people he puts into important positions have no real background problems that will cause the administration to founder. This administration, this President, has appointed a whole bunch of czars and special assistants to the President, and they really haven't been vetted. They haven't been checked out thoroughly.

One of those is a gentleman who was appointed a special environmental adviser to the President. And, Mr. Jones, who we have all heard about in the last few days, has been found to be an admitted radical communist and leader. Now, that does not reflect well on the administration, and it does not reflect well on the entire Government of the United States because we are not supportive of the communist philosophy.

Now, Mr. Jones said that he was slandered when he resigned, and that was the reason he resigned. So tonight I would like to put some things in the RECORD that show exactly why he should not have been appointed in the first place. And I think it's important that my colleagues understand that these czars and these people that are being appointed really need to be properly vetted. And we certainly don't want people that have a radical agenda being put in positions of leadership.

Jones was a founder and leader of the communist revolutionary organization called Standing Together to Organize a Revolutionary Movement, or STORM. That organization had its roots in a grouping of black people organizing to protest the first Gulf War. STORM was formally founded in 1994, becoming one of the most influential and active radical groups in the San Francisco Bay Area.

The leftist blog Machete 48 identifies STORM's influences as ''third-world Marxism (an often vulgar Maoism).''

Speaking to the East Bay Express, Jones said he first became radicalized in the wake of the 1992 Rodney King riots, during which time he was arrested. He said, ''I was a rowdy nationalist on April 28, and then the verdicts came down on April 29. By August, I was a communist.

''I met all of these young radical people of color—I mean really radical:

communists and anarchists. And it was, like, 'This is what I need to be a part of.' I spent the next 10 years of my life working with a lot of those people I met in jail, trying to be a revolutionary.''

Trevor Loudon, a communist researcher and administrator of the New Zeal Blog, identified several Bay Area communists who worked with STORM, including Elizabeth Martinez, who helped advise Jones' Ella Baker Human Rights Center, which Jones founded to advocate civil justice. Jones and Martinez also attended a ''Challenging White Supremacy'' workshop together challenging white supremacy.

Martinez was a long-time Maoist who went on to join the Communist Party USA breakaway organization Committees of Correspondence for Democracy and Socialism, the CCDS, in the early 1990s. According to Loudon, Martinez still serves on the CCDS council and is also a board member of the Movement for a Democratic Society, where she sits alongside former Weathermen radicals Bill Ayers and Bernadine Dorhn.

One of STORM's newsletters featured a tribute to Amilcar Cabral, the late Marxist revolutionary leader of Guinea-Bissau and the Cape Verde Islands. The tribute is noteworthy because Jones reportedly named his son after Cabral and repeatedly concludes every e-mail with a quote from the communist leader.

Jones then, of course, moved on to environmentalism, and that's the position that he took with the administration. But there is no question he is a radical and a member of the Communist Party and has been for a long time and supported their goals and approaches to government.

So I just would like to say, if I were talking to the President tonight, Mr. President, please be careful who you are appointing to these positions of leadership. It's important for the country; it's important for your administration and the image of the United States throughout the world as a beacon of freedom, justice and democracy.

MOST AMERICANS SAY WAR IN AFGHANISTAN IS NOT WORTH FIGHTING

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WOOLSEY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. WOOLSEY. Madam Speaker, I rise to express my deep concern about the recent developments in Afghanistan. Sadly, 51 American troops were killed in August, making it the deadliest month for the United States since the conflict began 8 years ago.

August also was the deadliest month of the war for the combined coalition force. Many innocent civilians were tragically killed in the air strikes during the month of August, and there is growing evidence that the recent elections may have been marred by fraud.

Madam Speaker, for over 8 years we have relied almost exclusively on the military to stop violent extremism in Afghanistan. But these recent events show that this strategy isn't giving us a victory on the ground or political solutions to the problem. The American people are beginning to recognize that relying on the military option alone isn't the best way to go.

The latest Washington Post-ABC poll shows that 45 percent of the American people want to reduce our forces in Afghanistan, while only 24 percent want to increase our forces. This latest poll from the McClatchy Newspapers came up with similar results.

□ 2000

It is clearly time, Madam Speaker, to develop a new strategy and a new mission for America in Afghanistan. We must begin to use all of the tools of ''smart power.''

Smart power means improving police and intelligence work in the communities where extremists hide. Well-trained Afghan policemen, who are familiar with local people, with customs and conditions, can often do the best job of hunting down extremists. Smart power also includes regional diplomatic efforts, education, better governance, and a civilian surge of experts and workers to support economic development in Afghanistan. These are the things that will give the Afghan people real hope for their future and eliminate the root causes of violent extremism.

As National Security Advisor James L. Jones has said, This war will not be won by the military alone. We tried that for years. The piece of our strategy that has to work in the next year is economic development. If that is not done right, there are not enough troops in the world to succeed.

I know that President Obama and Secretary of State Clinton agree that improving the lives of the Afghan people is the key to victory. They have pledged to do everything they can to help rebuild Afghanistan and show the Afghan people that we offer them a better future than the Taliban.

Madam Speaker, I and other Members of the House who oppose our occupation of Iraq watched for years as Congress did nothing to prevent that disaster. But we still have time to get it right when it comes to Afghanistan. This time, let's use smart power. It will save lives, save money, and make our country safer.

PRESIDENT SHOULD HOST CONGRESSIONAL TOWNHALL

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. Madam Speaker, Congress will gladly welcome the President tomorrow night to speak to a joint session of Congress about health care. All of us here have been asked hundreds of questions by our constituents over the past month. The President is an innovator in communications. He tries new ideas and is a trendsetter when it comes to new ways to be in touch with the American people.

So as the President addresses Congress on his health care ideas tomorrow night, why doesn't he take some health care questions from Members of Congress, questions that have been asked by the people we represent? After all, we call this the People's House, so why not address questions the American people have?

The questions could be submitted before the President speaks and he can choose the ones he wants to address. This could be a congressional townhall hosted by the President.

Here are just some of the questions I have been asked by the people of Texas.

One: The health care bill seems to cost too much. How are we going to pay for it? This question brought much concern to the people in my district. The Congressional Budget Office says that the pending House bill will cost anywhere from billions to even $1 trillion to just implement.

Tax increases are in the current plan to pay for this bill, more spending of what we don't have. I made a pledge to my constituents not to vote for a bill that will raise taxes, and I haven't. So how do we pay for this without a force-fed tax increase on the American people?

Two: Why is this bill so confusing? It is written in a way that even the most reasonable people from even the same political party can honestly disagree on its meaning. The 1,017-page bill, if it passes, will then allow the bureaucrats to determine the meaning of the bill. Also, Texans don't want unelected bureaucrats in this city making their medical decisions on what services they get and don't get. Can we get a clearly written bill that everyone can understand?

Three: Why shouldn't Congress, the czars and members of the Cabinet be required to sign up for the public option? If it is going to be so good for the American people, shouldn't everyone supporting this plan be required to be under the public option, like government officials?

Four: People on Medicare are scared and afraid they are not going to receive any medical treatment. What is in the plan to make sure there is no rationing of medical care for the elderly?

Five: Why not eliminate the hundreds of billions of dollars of fraud and waste in our current Medicare system before we tackle anything else?

Six: All of the amendments offered in committee that would specifically require proof of citizenship to sign up for this new government-run health care were defeated. Americans and legal residents should not be required to pay for the health care of illegals. The bill is confusing on this issue since it doesn't require proof of citizenship.

Seven: Small business owners are afraid they will have to lay off people or shut their doors altogether if they

are hit with more new taxes. What is the plan to protect small business from bearing the brunt of new taxes for this health care idea?

Madam Speaker, these are seven of the questions I have been asked by the people I represent, and I would hope the President could address some them and questions by other Members of Congress.

Madam Speaker, does anyone really believe that big government can do a better job of running health care? It is a glittering illusion to think our health care problems can be solved by more expensive, big-bureaucratic government. We do need reform, but a government takeover will only add to the problems we have now. We need to fix what is broken, not break what already works.

So, Madam Speaker, since our President is an innovator of new communication ideas, I respectfully submit that a townhall meeting between the President and Congress might just be the way to cut to the chase in this health care debate and allow the President time to answer the questions of the American people.

And that's just the way it is.

THE AMERICAN ECONOMY IS THE ISSUE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. KAPTUR) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. KAPTUR. Madam Speaker, our economy is the issue. Today, the World Economic Forum released its annual Global Competitiveness Report. Switzerland has now replaced the United States as the most competitive economy in the world. The United States fell out of first place due to its weakened financial markets and macroeconomic instability.

This, Madam Speaker, is another wake-up call for our country, if anyone is listening. Due to the global economic crisis, precipitated by irresponsible U.S. financial institutions, nations throughout the world continue to struggle managing their financial futures.

Let's take note of an important fact: Switzerland maintains a positive trade balance, not a trade deficit. In 2008, Switzerland enjoyed a $17 billion trade surplus, a third straight record year. And yet the nation is also now ranked as the most competitive in the world. We have almost a trillion-dollar trade deficit.

Now, think about this: Free trade fundamentalists here in the United States would say that it is not possible, that you can't be competitive while running an enormous trade surplus. Some of them even try to tell us that trade deficits are good.

Well, here in the United States, the free trade fundamentalists would have us believe we have to roll over for the Chinese or anyone else who wants to dominate our domestic market in order to be competitive. But facts are facts. Switzerland is both the world's most economically competitive nation, according to the World Economic Forum, while enjoying an enormous trade surplus.

Madam Speaker, we have a lot of work to do here in our country and in this Congress to help our Nation regain its world-leading position in the competitiveness ranking. We now rank, shockingly, 108th in the world in the soundness of our banks. Switzerland fell in that category too, down to 44th, but not as far as the United States.

In regulation of securities exchanges, the United States ranked a dismal 47th in the world, compared to Switzerland's third-place ranking.

In property rights, Switzerland was first, and the United States 30th.

In infrastructure, that is, roads, bridges and so forth, Switzerland was first. The United States, 14th.

In math and science education, Switzerland was fifth and the United States 48th.

In infant mortality, the United States ranked 36th. Doesn't that speak to a decent health insurance program in this country?

In life expectancy, we were 30th. In the quality of primary education, 30th.

Madam Speaker, we have a lot of work to do. Our Nation is losing ground internationally. Second place overall isn't bad, but we have to make the necessary investments in our physical and social infrastructure or we will fall even further.

One the authors of the World Economic Report, Dr. Sala-i-Martin, a professor of economics at Columbia, put it this way: ''Amid the present crisis, it is critical that policymakers not lose sight of long-term competitiveness fundamentals amid short-term urgencies. Competitive economies are those that have in place the factors driving productivity enhancements on which their present and future prosperity is built. A competitiveness-supporting economic environment can help national economies to weather business cycle downturns and ensure that the mechanisms enabling solid economic performance going into the future are in place.''

We have a lot of work to do as a Congress. We need strong reform of the financial sector to restore strength to our banks, not cosmetic changes; we need investments in infrastructure and education; and we need health insurance reform. Our economic competitiveness as a nation and our ability to create jobs hang in the balance.

Madam Speaker, it is time for Congress to take the reins and stop this stampede of greed, to provide leadership that will help our Nation and help our people through these tough times. We want the United States to be a world leader again in job creation, innovation and economic competitiveness. We can do it, but not unless the financial industry is a part of the team, pulling in the same direction, making our country stronger, not putting us further at risk, and not taking huge bonuses while 15 million Americans remain unemployed.

Madam Speaker, the economy is the issue. The American people know that. The President and Congress have our work cut out for us.

IMPLEMENTING A PROPER U.S. APPROACH TO HONDURAS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to express my deep concern regarding the most recent strong-arm tactics of the U.S. Government to coerce the people of Honduras into accepting the return of former President Manuel Zelaya into power.

Have some U.S. officials forgotten what democracy really is? Democracy does not belong to nor is defined by one man nor one government. It cannot survive without respect for the rule of law. Yet this has been forgotten.

The U.S. and the international community failed the Honduran people and Honduran democracy as Zelaya violated the constitution and took unilateral actions to extend his hold on power. Our government said and did nothing as democracy came under attack in the months leading up to Zelaya's removal from office. Yet when the Honduran Supreme Court, the Attorney General, the National Congress and the human rights ombudsman took the necessary steps in accordance with the constitutional tenets, then the U.S. and the amorphous international community quickly sprung into action to defend Zelaya and punish Honduran democratic institutions and virtually all of Honduran civil society.

With no apparent regard for U.S. security or political or economic interests, the United States is doing all we can to ensure that Zelaya is put back in charge. The U.S. has terminated millions of dollars in U.S. assistance to the people of Honduras. We have stopped critical counternarcotics cooperation. We have suspended necessary visa services. Last week, the State Department declared that the presidential elections to be held in late November in Honduras will not be recognized unless Zelaya is returned to power.

As the U.S. has been employing its harshest tactics against the Honduran government and the Honduran people, the U.S. has also at the same time eased restrictions on the Cuban dictatorship, pushed for engagement and dialogue with the Cuban, Syrian and Iranian regimes, while failing to hold Chavez and Correa accountable for the blatant violations of freedom of expression and other fundamental rights of their citizens.

The U.S. has crossed a dangerous threshold by announcing, as I stated, that we will not acknowledge the upcoming Honduran elections unless the

current democratic government of Honduras accepts Zelaya's return to power. This threat not only deliberately ignores the rule of law and the checks and balances carefully crafted in the Honduran constitution to prevent the rise of tyranny, but it also seeks to replace them with mandates from outside actors who are carrying water for Chavez, for Castro, for Zelaya and the like. The U.S. position undermines the fundamental right of the Honduran people to elect their own leaders in multiparty, transparent democratic elections, free from coercion.

How our present course of action serves our interests or supports Honduran democracy remains an important yet unanswered question. Elliot Abrams, currently at the Council of Foreign Relations and a former official with the Reagan Administration, recently wrote it was Zelaya who wanted to mess around with that election and hold a referendum on that date, allowing him to be reelected in perpetuity, just as his mentor Chavez had done in Venezuela, and now that Hondurans want to go back to regular elections, what does the U.S. do? The United States won't allow them to do so.

The presidential candidates in Honduras, Madam Speaker, have not changed since Zelaya was removed from office. The dates of the election have not changed. The presidential term has not been moved or modified. The Supreme Electoral Tribunal is taking steps to ensure that this is the most transparent election in Honduran history.

□ 2015

The U.S. should be assisting rather than undermining the preparations for the upcoming elections to ensure that there is no interference with the democratic electoral process in Honduras. Mary Anastasia O'Grady of the Wall Street Journal wrote, ''A lot of Hondurans believe that the U.S. isn't using its brass knuckles to serve their democratic aspirations at all, but quite the opposite, the aspirations of a neighborhood thug. Though some in our country believe that being popular among Latin America's left-wing dictators is the key to a successful U.S. policy in our hemisphere, freedom must be and must remain our driving force.'' Freedom, Madam Speaker. If it is not, the U.S. would have not only forgotten the meaning of democracy but would have forgotten what our Nation is, what we stand for and what defines us. Freedom.

HONORING ERNIE HARWELL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. MCCOTTER) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. MCCOTTER. Madam Speaker, I quote:

''For, lo, the winter is past,
The rain is over and gone;
The flowers appear on the earth;
The time of the singing of birds is come,
And the voice of the turtle is heard in our land.''

Every April, we Michiganders heard Ernie Harwell recite these lines from the Song of Solomon from his broadcast booth; and we welcomed him and another season of Detroit Tigers baseball back into our homes. Ernie Harwell is not only a part of our culture; he is a part of our families.

For 42 summers around radios and sand lots throughout Michigan and America, Ernie's voice embodied and expressed the grace, skill, triumphs and travails of the greatest of American games—baseball. Everyone either tried or knew someone who tried to mimic his legendary calls of ''long gone,'' ''he stood there like a house by the side of the road,'' or ''that foul ball was caught by a youngster from''—and on pins and needles we'd wait to hear from what city the lucky fan hailed. Of course, down inside we knew no one, including Ernie, knew where the fan was from, but it didn't matter. We knew where Ernie's heart was. It was and is with baseball and with us.

But a heart as big as Ernie's is not confined solely to Detroit or to baseball. Across the country, generations of sports fans grew up listening to Ernie. He announced games for both NCAA and pro football teams; for the Masters golf tournament in his native State of Georgia; for the Major League Baseball All Star Game and World Series; for the Brooklyn Dodgers, New York Giants, Baltimore Orioles, and yes, for the Detroit Tigers, who, in gratitude and admiration, placed Ernie's statue in the main concourse at Comerica Park.

Yes, Ernie is also a part of the Detroit Tigers' family, as Tiger Hall of Famer Al Kaline affirmed: ''Ernie is probably the most beloved person who has ever been in Detroit with the Detroit Tigers. He is loved by everybody and rightfully so. He's a great broadcaster, but an even better person.''

Yet while we and the Tigers and sports fans across the Nation embrace him, no one, of course, loves Ernie more than his wife of 68 years, Lulu, and their children, grandchildren and great grandchildren. So blessed with their love and support, and faithful and thankful to God for bestowing this bounty upon him, Ernie now courageously faces the recent diagnosis that he is afflicted with incurable bile duct cancer. Viewing his condition not as an end, but as a beginning, Ernie says, ''Whatever's in store, I'm ready for a new adventure. That's the way I look at it.''

Madam Speaker, may we all honor this man, savor his company amongst us in the time God grants, and greet all of our lives' challenges with the faith, equanimity and dignity of Ernie Harwell.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. NEUGEBAUER) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. NEUGEBAUER addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

ESCALATION OF THE CZARS DEBATE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. SOUDER) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. SOUDER. With the embarrassing demise of Mr. JONES, the czars debate has escalated even beyond where it was when we left for the July break. Depending on how you count, there are some 30 czars. It's been said, in many different places actually, that there are more czars in this administration than the Romanovs who ruled Russia for three centuries had czars. There's an energy czar, an urban czar, an infotech czar, a faith-based czar, a TARP czar, a stimulus accountability czar, a nonproliferation czar, a terrorism czar, a regulatory czar, a Guantanamo closure czar, a climate czar, a cyberspace czar, many more. They even had for a while a de facto car czar, Steve Ratner, who wasn't a czar but ultimately he became the car czar even though initially they said there wasn't going to be a car czar.

Now, the challenge here is that this appears to be an extra-constitutional approach. Now, the Constitution says government officers with significant authority, principal officers of the government, are to be appointed by the President subject to approval by the Senate.

Now, this has been interpreted, with the expansion of government, even to go five layers down; that they're expected to have delineated duties, deputy secretaries, assistant deputy secretaries, directors of different offices, come up to congressional committees, come up to the Hill, if not actually to get approved by the Senate, but at least to be accountable for what they do. We have it in the Government Reform and Oversight Committee, we call in many of these different people who have all sorts of delineated duties.

Now, a clear way to avoid the checks and balances of this system is to put them under the White House rather than having a delineated position. This gives them potentially a consulting position as though they were a policy person at the White House, even though they're moving through the bureaucracy. The motive behind this obviously is that many things are not just in one department. For example, almost any of these different categories; obviously faith-based czar, there are departments in each part of the administration. TARP crossed multiple things. Terrorism crosses many of the departments. So the question is, when you have a traditional line structure, what do you do when you have things kind of stove-piped, and how do you interrelate with this?

Well, it's one thing to have advisers in the White House. Quite frankly, the Bush administration was pushing the edges of this in their faith-based office that went from an office inside the White House to then appointing a faith-based office in each department that then the faith-based policy person had some influence over, although it wasn't as direct.

By calling somebody a czar presumably means they have the power of the President to go behind and use their staff authority as though they were line, which is exactly what the founding fathers were debating about. There's a great new book, Plain Honest Men—The Making of the American Constitution, by Richard Beeman, a professor at the University of Pennsylvania. It's the first update probably in about 30 years of actual minutes, letters and things during the constitutional debates. And one thing through that book you constantly see is they couldn't agree on what powers the President was supposed to have. They went back and forth. Alexander Hamilton got so mad because he wanted it to be a permanent position that went basically for life, like a Supreme Court Justice, and he stormed out of the convention for nearly 30 days, only came back to sign it. So clearly there was a debate, and Hamilton lost, for accountability and a checks and balances of the system. And the czar approach is avoiding those checks and balances.

Now, my friend and colleague, Congressman KINGSTON has introduced a bill, the Czar Accountability and Reform Act, the CZAR Act, that has three simple points to it. The person has to have advice and consent of the Senate. He is to not be exempted from the competitive service by reason of confidential, policy-determining, policy-making or public-advocating character, which is kind of the debates we've had on the task forces around health care. With the former President Clinton it came up in multiple debates in the last White House where they say that Congress can't get e-mail oversight, we can't call certain people up because it's a policy-making decision, advice to the President. This bill would say it doesn't apply to a czar.

And also if they perform or delegate functions which but for the establishment of such task force, council, or similar office would be performed or delegated by an individual in a position to which the President appoints an individual by and with advice and consent of the Senate, which basically means a czar can't take authorities from people who would have been approved by the Senate.

Now, we actually have a model for this. It's the Office of the National Drug Control Policy. The so-called drug czar was the first czar. But we actually have legislation that guides his budget, that even gives the duties and delineation of his duties and the deputy director's duties and other people underneath it. It says which things he has line authority for. As chairman of the committee that did the last five-year reauthorization of this, we had all sorts of how high-intensity drug trafficking areas are supposed to be used; the national youth anti-drug media campaign; the counter drug technology assessment center. We had appropriations for his staff and how much he would have for his staff and how much for his appropriations. We had specifics on how he was going to relate to the Department of Interior, the Department of Agriculture, the Attorney General, homeland security, defense. We had guidelines of what reports come to Congress and of the different relevant committees. Because while Government Reform had primary jurisdiction over the drug czar, it also went to Judiciary, to Energy and Commerce and other committees, so there were different reporting strategies. In fact, czar was a slang term up until this administration.

For example, in high intensity drug trafficking area it says, ''Designation—The director, upon consultation with the Attorney General, Secretary of Treasury, Secretary of Homeland Security, heads of the National Drug Control Program agencies and the Governor of each applicable State may designate any specified area of the United States as a high-intensity drug trafficking area.'' That's explicit. That's not somebody wandering around with undefined authority. He's got a specific budget and so on.

Here's the great irony. We had one czar who was in the cabinet, approved with the advice and consent of the Senate with a specific budget. And our current director of the Office of National Drug Control, Gil Kerlokowski, is a good man and would have been clearly cleared. But this administration chose to take the one czar that was approved with advice and consent of the Senate and take him out of the Cabinet, and now he's not certified either. So now even the one czar who has descriptions, who was following the pattern under this administration, has been changed. And the danger here is we do not know how the interrelationships between the people cleared by the United States Senate are working with noncleared people. We run into background check problems like Mr. JONES. But we run into other huge questions, and that is so much power centered in one place that's not accountable to Congress, that it's not even clear how we do oversight of that function.

I criticized the last administration when they did too much of this and we had some back and forth about why they wouldn't appear in front of the different committees, even on policy advisers. We need to have direct, aggressive oversight in this House and in the Senate to find out how this is working, how decisions are being made, who's commanding what, and are the people now running the agencies' hands tied. The people who we delineated their duties, who were cleared with advice and consent of the Senate, are their hands now tied by a bunch of people who haven't gone through this process, who haven't been vetted, who do not have clear line authority, but are using the staff power coming out of the President of the United States to usurp the constitutional power of those who are designated principal officers and commanded by the Constitution to report to the House and Senate.

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 addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Kansas (Mr. MORAN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. MORAN of Kansas addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

HEALTH CARE REFORM

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. BARTLETT) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. BARTLETT. Madam Speaker, I believe that we can all agree the health care reform proposals ignited debates in homes and workplaces all over the country. The intense interest in health care policy by so many Americans made this August district work period unusually exciting. My offices were busy taking phone calls, e-mails, and having people drop by voicing their concerns. This healthy health care debate has led many Americans to become involved in politics for the first time.

Whenever we in Congress do something really important, we need to get outside the Beltway because that's where the great wisdom in our country lies. All of us in the Congress share three goals for health care reform legislation: We want to make health care insurance more affordable and accessible. We want to improve the quality of health care. We want to reduce the cost of health care. Where we disagree is how to accomplish these goals.

I would like to share some of what I did and learned concerning health care over the recess period. As a scientist and engineer, I seek out the facts to guide my decisions. I also earned my master's and doctorate degrees in human physiology, the basic medical science.

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This training led me to a 20-year career teaching anatomy and physiology to both medical and nursing students. That's why one of the things I did and that my staff did was to read the House leadership bill, H.R. 3200, and the amendments by three House committees.

I'm very proud that so many of my constituents were also interested in learning what proposed health care reform bills would do and exactly what they say. That's why I posted on my Web site the House Majority Bill 3200 with information about the approved amendments.

I also posted on my Web site an alternative bill that I support, H.R. 3400, the Empowering Patients First Act, developed out of suggestions by my colleagues in the Republican Study Committee. For those constituents without computer access, I provided hard copies of these bills to eight libraries and my four district offices.

Besides reading legislation, I also engaged in a lot of listening and dialogue. I visited with local doctors in my district to get their perspective about health care.

At the recommendation of one of my constituents, Dr. John Vitarello, who is a cardiologist who practices at Frederick Memorial Hospital in my district, I toured the cardiac catherization ''cath'' labs at Washington Adventist Hospital on August 27. I was invited to tour the lab by Dr. Mark Turco, an interventional cardiologist. Dr. Turco is also a leader of the three-member physician team from Washington Adventist Hospital which volunteered to supervise and assist a joint training venture for physicians in Frederick Memorial Hospital so they could also perform innovative procedures in cath labs that shorten patients' recoveries and hospital stays compared to traditional surgical repairs.

While I was there in scrubs and mask, I observed a procedure called an endograft. An endograft is an innovative procedure in this case used to repair an aneurysm in the patient's aorta.

In the image-guided endovascular repair, a stent graft, a woven polyester tube with a metallic skeleton, was compressed inside a carrier catheter. While viewed on an x-ray monitor, the endograft was inserted through a small incision in the patient's groin and threaded through the catheter through arteries to the site of the aneurysm. The stent graft was then placed across the aneurysm and released. As the stent graft expanded, it gripped the normal arterial wall on both ends of the aneurysm, bypassing the bulge from the inside.

As I observed this procedure, I marveled at both the advances of our medical research and technology as well as the dedication in caring for human lives represented by this joint venture between Frederick Memorial Hospital and Washington Adventist Hospital. This procedure cuts down the recovery time for patients as well as the time required for patients to be in the hospital.

One of my greatest concerns about health care reform is that we don't curtail the innovations in health care that are invented predominantly here in the United States.

There is also a lot of concern about competition in health care. Competition is important. Competition always does two things: It drives down costs and increases quality. However, there is also a lot of cooperation in medical care today. Here, I observed physicians at one hospital helping physicians at another local hospital to increase the availability, the competition, for innovative medical treatments that benefit patients with improved outcome and less time in the hospital.

I am 83 years old. I have seen in my own career and life and that of my family that innovation in modern medicine, American style, moves at an astonishing speed. It is this innovation that has so improved the quality of our lives as well as extending the lifespans of Americans.

By far, the most enlightening and informative exercise was three nights of teletownhalls that I held during the break. On two nights, Dr. John Vitarello joined me as a guest for these townhall meetings. Over 180,000 telephone calls were placed; almost 20,000 people were home and listened to some part of the townhall.

Madam Speaker, I believe that the prescription for health care reform in the present bill will make it worse and more expensive. These changes are the opposite of what we need and Americans want.

HONORING BILL HEFNER

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2009, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. KISSELL) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. KISSELL. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

It is truly with mixed emotions that I rise tonight on the floor of the House of Representatives. It's a sadness in noting that last week we lost Congressman W.G. Bill Hefner, a Congressman from North Carolina for 24 years from 1974 to 1998. And we truly give our condolences and our regards to his daughters Stacye and Shelly and to his wonderful wife, Nancy.

But the legacy of Bill Hefner did not end last week, as we're going to see tonight as we spend some time remembering and talking about and telling stories of Bill Hefner, that his memory will go forth because of the things he did, the person he was, and the Congressman that represented his district in North Carolina so well.

Now, I have to tell you, Madam Speaker, that tonight I shall refer to Congressman Hefner as ''Mr. Hefner'' quite often because I was raised in a time and a place when the ultimate respect that you could give to someone is to call him ''Mister.'' And while his wonderful, loving, lovely wife, Nancy, convinced me that I could call her ''Nancy,'' I could not bring myself to call Bill Hefner anything but ''Mr. Hefner'' because that's the respect that people in the district had for him.

And, Madam Speaker, as some might be saying, you know, Why is a freshman Congressman from North Carolina the first one to speak tonight? It's because Bill Hefner, Mr. Hefner, was my Congressman from the Eighth District of North Carolina. And with all of the reconfiguring that took place from time to time in my home county, Montgomery County, North Carolina, was always in Mr. Hefner's district. And it was the way that Mr. Hefner represented us and, once again, who he was that we want to talk about tonight.

Madam Speaker, I believe that one of the greatest ways we can remember is by telling stories, and tonight we're going to talk about Mr. Hefner. And I have several colleagues and friends of not only myself but who knew Mr. Hefner at the time, and they have been so generous with their time to be here tonight to help us remember.

And I just want to start out very briefly by just letting the story of Bill Hefner be told a little bit.

Bill Hefner was born in Tennessee. He went to Alabama. He was a son of a sharecropper. He saw that his way out of poverty was through a gift that he had been given by God, and that's through the singing of gospel music. And he was very good, and he received an invitation to come to North Carolina.

And this was the time period of the late 1950s and early 1960s where television was much different than it is today, when there was only just a few stations there in North Carolina, and they often filled their time in the afternoon with gospel singing.

And Mr. Hefner was so good and his group was so good that they were asked to be part of three television stations in North Carolina. Now, we didn't have that many stations, so this was a great majority of the stations that were represented, and he became known to the people in North Carolina with his group, The Harvesters.

He eventually was successful enough and a good businessman that he bought a radio station. And at some point in time, a former Congressman came in and was interviewed by Mr. Hefner, and Mr. Hefner went home and told his wife, You know, I believe I can do that, because Mr. Hefner had never been elected to a public office, never sought public office. He was the president of his PTA and that was his background, but his background was much stronger. He had the background of knowing the people of his district.

So he went out, Madam Speaker, and he ran for Congress. And without any political background other than knowing the people and caring about the people and having a sense of who the people were, he was elected in a landslide.

So that's the background as to this man W.G. Bill Hefner that I want everybody to be aware of.

Now we want to fill it in with some personal stories, and I would like to

start out by recognizing DAVID OBEY from Wisconsin.

Mr. OBEY. I thank the gentleman for the time.

Let me simply say that I see Bill in two ways. First of all, I see him as a legislator. He was a good, solid legislator, a member of the Appropriation's Committee, and I watched him day after day conduct his business with grace and with courage. It was not popular to oppose some of the tax and budget proposals that President Reagan was pushing, for instance, in the 1980s. I know in my district at the time, 70 percent of the country favored those changes. Bill Hefner had courage enough to point out that the numbers just didn't add up and that he carried on his conviction, and eventually facts proved him to be correct.

Bill was also a person who respected this institution. He respected the Congress, he respected the country, he respected his party, he respected the other party, and he respected virtually every person in this institution, and it showed in the way he dealt with others in this body.

But my greatest and fondest memory of Bill is rooted in his gospel singing. I happen to like bluegrass, and I belong to a bluegrass band called The Capitol Offenses, and I learned to love gospel music. And on many occasions, Bill would sing and I and members of my band would back him up. And I have to say, he was one of the best singers we ever performed with. He knew a wide range of gospel but he also had a solid voice, and he had fun doing it. He loved it, and anyone who listened to him knew that he loved it.

He was a man of courage. He had a terrific sense of humor, and he could find a lot of ways to get things done by simply charming people in this place. If logic wouldn't work, if substance wouldn't work, there was always the Hefner charm to push things over the edge.

□ 2045

I was greatly saddened to learn of his death last week. I have to say that I am proud to have served in the same institution with a man of his courage, with a man of his integrity, and with a man of his good humor. I'm certain that he will be missed by his family and his friends. I very much am grateful for the fact that I was able to know him and to work with him for all of those years. I thank the gentleman for the time.

Mr. KISSELL. Thank you, Mr. OBEY. I would like to add there about Mr. Hefner and his showbiz background. One of the descriptions that was given of Mr. Hefner at one time that I think he enjoyed the most was that it would be recognized that he had a showbiz background, but he was a workhorse, not a show horse. That summed his career up very appropriately, and he did enjoy that comparison.

His humor and his ability to charm were pointed out to me one time on the House floor. Evidently, there was quite a serious debate taking place between two sides of the aisle, and Mr. Hefner somehow got the attention, Madam Speaker, of the Speaker at the time, and got the attention of the full House and looked at his watch and supposedly said, How much longer is this going to go on? Because I have to get home to watch the ''Andy Griffith Show.'' And in North Carolina there is no higher calling than to go watch the ''Andy Griffith Show.''

At this point in time, I would like to yield to CHET EDWARDS of Texas for the time he may consume.

Mr. EDWARDS of Texas. Madam Speaker, I consider myself blessed to have known Congressman Bill Hefner. He was a good, decent and caring person, and I will miss him dearly. While this man of faith has gone on to a better place now, his work here on Earth will continue to enrich the lives of millions of American citizens. There are untold thousands of our troops and families who are living in better housing today because Bill Hefner was their champion. He not only worked hard for his beloved Fort Bragg, North Carolina; he fought for a better quality of life for servicemen and -women and their families wherever they might live in the world. As chairman of the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Military Construction, Chairman Hefner saw to it that the service and sacrifice of our troops would be honored in a meaningful way.

While Members of Congress sometimes take ourselves too seriously, Bill Hefner was a voice of self-deprecating humor and humility. He took his work seriously, but never himself too seriously. In doing so, he helped us keep our proper perspective on ourselves and our work here. He used to joke that he had worked hard for over 20 years to take a perfectly safe Democratic seat in North Carolina and turn it into a marginal one. That was a reflection of his humor and his humility, because the truth was that any political challenges that Bill Hefner might have ever faced were because he was a person of courage.

As Mr. OBEY pointed out, in 1981 he was one of the very few Southern Democrats who voted against the popular Reagan tax cuts because he felt they would lead to large Federal deficits and ultimately undermine programs important to everyday working Americans. As long as I knew him, he always did what he thought was right for his district, for our great country and for average working families.

In an age of special interests, Bill Hefner's cause was to fight for the interests of everyday, hardworking families, the kind of people who fight our fires, protect our streets, defend our shores, educate our children and make our factories run. He believed to his core in the dignity of hardworking everyday American citizens.

Even after he retired from Congress, Bill would often call me, and he called when he was concerned that the views of working Americans were not being considered in Washington, D.C. Whether in office or out of office, Bill Hefner lived his faith by always being his brother's keeper.

Bill Hefner was a special personal friend and a mentor to me. While I cannot fill his shoes or come close to it, I'm a better Congressman and a better person for having known him and having learned from him. I cherish the many, many personal conversations we had right here on the floor, Madam Speaker. I will always be grateful to the very sage advice he gave me on a golf course one day when he and I happened to be partnered against then-President Clinton and the President's partner, when on the 15th hole in a very close match, the President had about a 3½-foot putt. I was not going to give it to the President, and Chairman Hefner called me over and put me under his arm and said, Son, let me just tell you something. Right now we have this line item veto in existence, and the Military Construction bill is sitting on the President's desk for signature, and you represent Fort Hood. I gave the President his putt, and the Fort Hood soldiers got their barracks thanks to the sage advice of Bill Hefner.

The moment of so many wonderful moments, but the moment I shall never forget, was on June 4 of 1998 when Bill Hefner stood in this very same spot. We were debating an issue of the school prayer constitutional amendment. And I, consistent with my belief in the constitutional principle of church-State separation, was opposing the Istook constitutional amendment. During that process I was personally attacked by one particular faith-based group that claimed by not wanting to amend the First Amendment to the Constitution I was somehow un-American and even worse yet, I was accused of being un-Texan. Leave it to Bill Hefner, the man of the South, the gentleman from North Carolina who sang gospel music his entire life, a man of deep faith, leave it to him to come to this very spot to stand up and defend the integrity of his colleague who had been challenged. That was Bill Hefner, a man of deepest integrity. And that is why I will always revere him and what he stood for.

To Stacye and Shelly, his daughters, and to Nancy, his widow, I would simply say that if my two sons had every right to be half as proud of me as you have a right to be proud of your father and your husband, I would consider my life a success.

May God forever keep our friend, our colleague, and a great American, Bill Hefner, forever in His loving arms. Thank you.

Mr. KISSELL. Madam Speaker, to kind of point out the legacy of how Mr. Hefner influenced people continues today to reflect that, I had not been sworn in but a matter of hours before I got a phone call from Representative

EDWARDS telling me what a great influence that Bill Hefner was on him and how that mentorship and role model is not forgotten. It continues from year to year to year.

At this point in time, I would like to yield to our friend from South Carolina, Representative JOHN SPRATT.

Mr. SPRATT. Madam Speaker, I came here in 1983. And as I did, Bill Hefner was just coming into his own. Speaking of his name, you want to call him only ''Mr. Hefner.'' I will never forget one night we got on an airplane, as we did many nights, US Airways, and someone spoke to him as Congressman this and Congressman that. And the stewardess said, I didn't know you were a Member of Congress. What's your name? He said, Bill Hefner. She said, I don't believe I've ever heard of you. He said, well, you probably know my brother Hugh. He was always ready for a quip like that.

I rise to salute this wonderful guy with great sadness learning of his passing. I didn't know him well, but I knew him when I came here because from the time I was a boy I had watched the Harvesters on WBTV in Charlotte, North Carolina, right after Arthur Smith. He was the lead tenor on the Harvesters, and they were good. And they stayed that good harmonizing for the next 50 years. You couldn't beat them. They were just top rate.

HOWARD COBLE got into a little fray with Bill sometime back because he went into his district and spoke against him in an election. Next election, Bill returned the compliment. This time, he was not speaking, though, he was singing. He went in and made three to four gospel singing experiences and packed the houses and everything, and HOWARD called him up and said, I was awfully surprised to see you come directly into my district. He said, HOWARD, you came into my district. Let's just have this understanding. If you come back, next time, I'm not coming in by myself. I'm bringing the whole quartet and we're going to sing you right out of that seat, too. From there after, they had a mutual accord that the one would stay out of the other's district. That's the kind of guy this is that we're talking about, a wonderful guy.

He put on the airs of being a populist sometimes, but he was a lot smarter than he put on, and a lot richer for that matter. He looked at the Reagan tax cuts that probably would have profited him and a lot of his constituents, and said, it's not the right time. It will only add to the deficit. And he was proven only too right. We were debating in our caucus one morning years ago another tax cut that was not nearly the same size, and he finally got up and said, I don't know why we are spending so much time talking about this tax cut. It ain't going to benefit anybody but two people in this caucus. One of them is Norm Sisisky, and the other is JOHN SPRATT.

I got up and I said, point of personal privilege, Mr. Chairman, this poor-mouthing populist owns the second largest Cadillac dealership in North Carolina and a radio station in Concord. He loved it. He never let me forget it. He never jumped me again for benefiting from tax cuts either.

He became a voice that people listened to because he could get up and speak to something and go right to the pith of it. It's really a gift. He had that gift. As I said, he was a lot smarter than he let on being.

One of my favorite recollections of Bill's debate, we were debating the B2 bomber. He got up and said, you know, if this bomber is so stealthy as everybody says it is and you can't see it, you can't find it, radar can't even see it, what I would suggest is we save ourselves $50 billion. Let's don't build it, but let's tell the Russians we have built it, and they will go crazy trying to find it. That's the kind of humor he brought to the people's House, talking like that all the time with a humorous cover to it but a for-real serious substance to it as well.

He was a great guy. This place has been known through the centuries as the House of the people. Bill Hefner helped this House earn its reputation as a House of the people. We will miss him greatly. He served here with real distinction. He deserves every word of praise being said about him tonight.

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Mr. KISSELL. Thank you, Mr. SPRATT.

Madam Speaker, if we had opened this up to everybody who knew Congressman Hefner who could have been here tonight, we couldn't have come close to getting this in within an hour. There are so many people that he affected, and I certainly appreciate the colleagues that are with us tonight.

Next I would like to recognize a fellow Congressman from North Carolina, Mr. DAVID PRICE.

Mr. PRICE of North Carolina. I thank my colleagues for scheduling this time tonight for us to remember our friend and colleague, Bill Hefner, to honor his memory.

I first got to know Bill when I came to this body in 1987. He was already a fairly senior Member. He became an important mentor to me and a valued friend and colleague. As many have said already, Bill came from a humble background. He never lost touch with working people. He had a natural empathy and understanding of people who were struggling in life, great sympathy for the underdog. He was a man of great compassion, and that compassion was not feigned. It was something that came naturally to Bill, an innate sense, I think, in Bill, of fairness and decency. There is not going to be a speaker here tonight, I promise you, that doesn't refer to Bill's sense of humor. He was the funniest man probably that ever served in this Chamber. He could cut through tense moments in these overheated debates in a way that was a marvel to behold.

Sometimes, as Mr. EDWARDS said, he showed great courage in the way he dealt with those debates. I have a memory very similar to CHET EDWARDS. This one comes earlier when I had been here only a year or so. It was a debate of the so-called ''Grove City'' bill which was a proposal that unfortunately would have put an adverse interpretation on civil rights laws. And it was a bill the effect of which was being greatly exaggerated by a prominent figure of the religious right of that time. He said that if this bill was passed, churches would have to, and I'm quoting him here, to hire a practicing active homosexual drug addict with AIDS to be a teacher or youth pastor.

Well, Bill Hefner was watching this go on, and like all of us, he was getting his switchboard flooded with calls coming in alarmed about this from well-meaning people who didn't know what to make of this. I wrote a book a couple of years later and remembered, looked back at this episode because it impressed me so much at the time. In my chapter on religion and politics, I quoted Bill Hefner, what he said coming to this floor and cutting through that debate, and the words I'm going to read don't do justice to the effect he had just in his commonsense way. Bill said, I find reprehensible not those thousands of people who have made the phone calls, but the people that have instigated this misinformation. If it means I lose my position in the U.S. House of Representatives if I do not cave in and base my vote on what people believe to be true but what I know not to be true, I say to my colleagues, this job is not worth that to me. I remembered that and looked it up. And it still stands for me as a memory of effective debate in this House, effective not just rhetorically but because of its being said from the heart and its being said with true conviction.

Bill was a member of the Appropriations Committee, chairman of the Subcommittee on Military Construction, a champion of our servicemen and -women, of their housing and of their quality of life. An elementary school at Fort Bragg bears his name, as does the Salisbury Veterans Administration Hospital.

Bill was a mentor to many of us. He gave me pep talks on more than one difficult vote. He could put everything in perspective. I valued that mentorship, that support, and that encouragement.

□ 2100

He helped me get on the Appropriations Committee, and then he helped me figure out how to get things done once I got on the Appropriations Committee.

He was a mainstay of our delegation, one of our most influential Members, yes, but also a Member who helped us all stick together, whom we all liked and respected. We enjoyed his company. And I think it's fair to say that Bill's role in our delegation has never quite been filled since he left.

I remember very well the dinner that was given for Bill shortly before his retirement. The Harvesters Quartet, pretty elderly gentlemen by that time, they were gathered from all over the country, they came in and sang one more time. And Bill's friends and associates and colleagues got up one after the other and told many stories like those we heard tonight. It was one of the most enjoyable and heart-warming evenings I have ever experienced in this city or anywhere else.

So I'm pleased to join tonight in honoring Bill, in recalling our friendship, our common labors with him. He served North Carolina and this Nation faithfully and well in ways that continue to inspire.

Mr. KISSELL. Thank you, DAVID. And I think, as was just pointed out, that while we have memories of Mr. Hefner and how he could turn serious conversations with humor and charm, that when necessary he stood up for his beliefs and effectively stated those in a way that spoke of the core being that he was.

Madam Speaker, I would like to next recognize another gentleman from North Carolina, Representative BOB ETHERIDGE.

Mr. ETHERIDGE. Madam Speaker, I would like to thank my colleague, Representative KISSELL, for organizing this Special Order this evening for a good friend and, as all of you already heard, a 12-term Member of this body.

Bill Hefner, who passed away on Wednesday, September 2 of this year, provided a selfless service to our State of North Carolina and to this Nation, as you heard from a number of my colleagues already. But in his passing, we've lost a good friend; North Carolina has lost an outstanding citizen and a man who was instrumental not only in this body, but in his community, in his State, in everything he did; Nancy has lost a devoted husband; and Stacy and Shelly have lost a loving father. He was a grandfather, also, who loved children. You've heard he was a native of Tennessee.

The first time I remember meeting Bill Hefner was more years ago than either one of us want to admit. I was running for State superintendent, and if you run in North Carolina, it's an elected office. So you run, and anybody who has a good size group, you wanted to be there. And I went to the Eighth District, they were having an Eighth District rally. And it was the largest group I went to I think all year, other than one where all the educators get together, and Bill Hefner was doing his own singing at his own rally. And I note that's the most unusual political rally I had ever been to.

I heard of Bill, but I hadn't met him. I learned very quickly he knew how to politic in a unique way. Those people who left that gospel sing that he was singing at, it made no difference to them whether he was Democrat, Republican, liberal, or conservative; they loved Bill Hefner. He was their man. And there were people at that rally I didn't see at any other rally I went to all year. It was because he had a message. They believed in him, and he made a difference in their lives.

Yes, he was president and owner of a radio station, and he made a difference. And he was a bright person, much smarter than he wanted to admit. And yes, he had more resources than he would ever acknowledge. You would think he was the poorest guy in the room if you were around him, but he did okay.

He was the leader of the Harvesters Quartet, yes, but the last time I remember hearing Bill sing—I enjoyed the meeting as Congressman PRICE talked about—he came to my district, held a gospel sing, and he called me ahead of time to let me know he was going to be there. He said, Now if you can be available, you might want to show up. He said, I might say a good word for you. Well, I recognized if Bill came to your district, you better show up—he filled up the Civic Center. And Bill enjoyed that as much as he loved his family, as he loved being in this body. And he was a businessman at heart because as soon as he finished on that stage he was selling those cassettes. He had a delightful time and the people loved him. But that was Bill Hefner. Bill Hefner enjoyed what he was doing, whether he was legislating or whether he was singing or telling a good story.

As I came to know Bill over the years—and I only served with him here two—I understood that his political service really was an extension of his gospel singing, which really was what he loved to do. He cared about people. He cared about what he did. But he cared about his religion. And both of those were powerful ways for him to serve his fellow man.

Many of the members of the North Carolina delegation, as you already heard from Congressman PRICE, learned the ropes of effectively advocating for our constituents here in Washington from Bill. When I first came—any Member who is a freshman here, you get a lot better services now than you did when I came 14 years ago, even though people tried to help you—Bill was the first one to offer. He said, If you need a place to meet with folks, you can use my office.

Well, you know, somebody who is coming up here, hadn't been to Washington much even though I served at the State level, that meant a lot. He opened the doors of his office; I used it to meet constituents and other people. But that's what Bill Hefner was about; he was about making you feel at home. He led by example, both as a public official and later as a private citizen.

He was known for his passionate support of our military veterans, as you've already heard this evening. He only represented Fort Bragg in the last few years it was in his district of his years here in Congress, but he represented them every day as a Member of this body. And that's why you have a school on that base named for him and you have military hospitals named for him, because they knew that Bill Hefner was a friend of veterans, he was a friend of the small business owners, and as you've heard this evening, he really was a friend of the working poor as well as the working class.

His life of service will continue to inspire all that knew him. And his love for North Carolina can be seen through his work on our highways, in our schools, in our veterans hospitals, and yes, in the laws that he helped pass in this body.

He retired from Congress almost a decade ago, but his work and influence will not be forgotten. He was a respected legislator, a dedicated public servant, and a great North Carolinian. It is fitting that we honor Bill Hefner and his family this evening.

Madam Speaker, I would like to thank my colleague Representative KISSELL for organizing this Special Order in honor of a good friend and twelve-term Member of this House of Representatives. Former Eighth District Congressman Bill Hefner, who passed away on Wednesday, September 2, 2009, provided selfless service to our State of North Carolina and to this Nation. In his passing, I lost a friend and North Carolina lost an outstanding citizen; a man who was instrumental in his community, county, State, and country.

A native of Elora, Tennessee, Bill moved to North Carolina after graduating from the University of Alabama and became the president and owner of radio station WRKB in Kannapolis from 1954 to 1967.

I met Bill Hefner at a political rally in North Carolina decades ago while he was with the radio station. He was the lead singer in the 'Harvesters Quartet', a gospel music group, and he led that political rally with his voice because he just loved to sing. As I came to know him through the years, I understood that his political service was an extension of his gospel singing. Both were powerful ways for him to be of service to his fellow man.

Many members of the North Carolina congressional delegation learned the ropes of effectively advocating for our constituents while in Washington, DC, from Bill Hefner. Bill lead by example, both as a public official and later as a private citizen. Congressman Hefner was known for his passionate support for military veterans. In fact, the Veterans Affairs Medical Center in Salisbury, North Carolina, was named in his honor in 1999. He was a friend to veterans, small business owners, the working poor, and the middle class. His life of service will continue to inspire all who knew him. His love for North Carolina can be seen through his work on our highways, our schools, our veterans' hospitals, and in our laws.

Bill Hefner retired from Congress almost a decade ago, but his work and influence will never be forgotten. He was a respected legislator, a dedicated public servant, and a great North Carolinian. It is fitting that we honor him and his family today.

Madam Speaker, I join his family and our State in mourning a great legislator and a tremendous human being. I yield back.

Mr. KISSELL. Thank you, BOB.

Madam Speaker, continuing the North Carolina trend, I would like to recognize Representative BRAD MILLER from North Carolina.

Mr. MILLER of North Carolina. Madam Speaker, I also rise to honor Congressman Bill Hefner, and I appreciate Mr. KISSELL organizing this tribute tonight.

Congressman Hefner had a downhome style that never changed. Some folks in Washington thought it didn't really fit with their idea of what an influential Member of Congress, an effective Member of Congress is supposed to be like, but that was always their problem, not his problem. He never changed.

Everyone who spoke tonight has spoken of the Harvesters, his gospel music group that he continued to sing in. His political rallies continued to be gospel sings, the Harvesters performing. Now, that sounds like something out of the 1930s from the movie, ''O Brother, Where Art Thou?'', but this was still in the '90s that he was doing this. That was long past the era that was dominated by political consultants, smart guys who read polls and produced TV ads. And political rallies at that time were supposed to be three people who were sitting in front of their television when a political ad came on. During that period Bill Hefner was still doing political rallies that were gospel sings and packing large halls.

And it wasn't just at political rallies. He had the Harvesters come perform at veteran hospitals, including the one in Salisbury that is now named after him, and was very popular with the veterans who were in those hospitals. And he did become a great advocate for veterans, a great advocate for our men and women in uniform. He visited military installations, saw the conditions in which our military were living, and became a crusader for better housing for our troops.

Bill Hefner ran for Congress on the promise to be a spokesman, a representative, a voice for the common man. He remained faithful to that promise. He never changed. He was the same guy when he ended his service after 24 years, one of the most influential members of the Appropriations Committee, a subcommittee chairman, a cardinal. He was the same guy as he was when he was elected.

He understood working Americans because he was one. He may eventually have done very well, but that's where he started and that's where his heart always was. He always understood what life was like for ordinary Americans.

I am proud to be here tonight to honor Bill Hefner. And I am very grateful that he is an example for all of us who still represent North Carolina in Congress.

Mr. KISSELL. Madam Speaker, at this point in time I would like to recognize Majority Leader STENY HOYER.

Mr. HOYER. Madam Speaker, ladies and gentlemen of the House, and my friend, LARRY KISSELL, who is doing a wonderful job representing the District that Bill Hefner loved and whose people loved Bill Hefner, I came to Congress in 1981. Bill had been here for 6 or 7 years when I got here. He was on the Appropriations Committee; I went on the Appropriations Committee not too long after coming here.

Bill Hefner has been regaled by all of his friends from North Carolina. And I know Chairman OBEY, who served with Bill on the Appropriations Committee as I did for well over a decade, can tell, I'm sure, numerous stories late into the night about Bill Hefner. And what warm memories I have of Bill Hefner sitting on the aisle back here. And all my colleagues remember he would sit on the aisle and you would go by and Bill would sort of look up with a twinkle in his eye and he would tell you story after story after story.

I remember one night I was going to give a speech and I wanted a few jokes, so I called Bill Hefner up and he gave me a couple of jokes, and I used them, and they worked very well. So I can say Bill Hefner was my writer, I suppose. But he was a wonderful, wonderful representative, and he was a representative in the best sense of that term. He represented his people. He represented North Carolina. He represented his country. He represented the men and women in our Armed Forces whom he loved and whom he served with great fervor and affection. Bill Hefner loved his country, he loved his colleagues, and his colleagues loved Bill Hefner.

It's been talked about how he loved to play golf. I like to play golf as well—I'm not very good, but I love to play, like so many other hundreds of thousands, maybe millions of people in this country who like to say we play golf. We play at it, I suppose. But Bill was a good golfer. And he had a tournament down at Pinehurst every year. And I used to go down and play at Pinehurst with Bill. And you not only went down to play golf, you just went down to have this warm, gracious, outreaching human being make you feel good about serving with him in the Congress and make you feel good about North Carolina and your country.

Bill Hefner was a great resource of North Carolina. He then moved further south and became a county commissioner for a little bit, my good friend is telling me.

Bill Hefner will be missed. Bill Hefner used to tell me, he said, You know, STENY, I was elected in my district; it was a safe district then, and I've worked very hard and I've turned it into a marginal district.

I think you all heard him say that. That was one of his favorite sayings, LARRY.

□ 2115

Now, the good news for you, Mr. KISSELL, is you're going to do the opposite. You're going to take a district that could have gone either way, and you're going to turn it into a safe district. I appreciate that, but nobody would have appreciated it more than Bill Hefner. My friend BRAD MILLER, a friend of Bill Hefner's and a colleague from North Carolina, told a story.

Bill Hefner was a singer. He was a real talent. He loved to sing, and he loved to entertain, and he loved to be a comedian, and he loved to make people, as I said, feel good. He accomplished that with great frequency and with great ability. We'll miss Bill Hefner. Bill Hefner was what's good about our country, which he loved so dearly.

As I said, he loved the men and women who served in the Armed Forces, and he served them so well as chairman of the Military Construction Committee. I remember I had the opportunity to travel to Germany and to some other NATO allies in Europe with him in the 1980s, and it was clear that he was extraordinarily knowledgeable about the needs of our men and women stationed overseas in terms of the quality of their lives. He mirrored IKE SKELTON or IKE SKELTON mirrors Bill Hefner in terms of his commitment to our men and women in the Armed Forces.

So I am pleased, LARRY KISSELL, to join you, your colleagues from North Carolina, my chairman—I served on the committee for 23 years—Chairman OBEY, and my good friend CHET EDWARDS, who now chairs the same subcommittee that Bill Hefner chaired. Bill was also a member of the Armed Services Committee, of course. So I thank you for letting me know that you were doing this Special Order to rise in memory, respect and deep affection for a wonderful American, for a wonderful advocate of his faith, for a wonderful family man, and for a wonderful Member of this body.

God blessed America when he gave us William G. Hefner. I yield back.

Mr. KISSELL. Thank you, STENY.

Madam Speaker, I am going to conclude now, but you don't finish when you talk about Bill Hefner, because, as we've seen tonight, the legacy will not end. It will continue for all the good things he did, but I want to talk a little bit about the personal side of Bill Hefner and what he meant to me.

There are all of these things we've heard tonight, and as I mentioned earlier, he was my Congressman. I must say that, while those many years he represented us, I wasn't involved in party politics. I never ran for public office like Mr. Hefner, and there came a time when I felt that maybe that was what people like me should do because that's what Bill Hefner had done. He was a man of the people. He recognized the working people, and he stood up for those people.

I said, you know, we have seen in our district, the wonderful Eighth District of North Carolina, that, if you go out to the people and if you tell them who you are and if they recognize in you the knowledge that you know who they are and if they know that you respect

them and that you are concerned about them, as we saw for 24 years, those people will reward you by sending you to Congress. So it was with knowledge of what Mr. Hefner had done that I ran for Congress. I come from a very small town, Biscoe, North Carolina—1,500 people—and needless to say, it wasn't exactly a turning moment in North Carolina politics when I announced that I would run for Congress. It is with the legacy, though, of Mr. Bill Hefner that people look to the person for what he says and not who he is and not where he comes from.

One time in my home county, Montgomery County, which is also a small county, President Bill Clinton was coming to visit our local hospital. He was accompanied by Mr. Hefner, and together they went visiting there in the hospital. I heard this story, and I think it kind of sums up everything about Bill Hefner. They went into the room. The President and Mr. Hefner went into the room of a patient's.

Mr. Hefner said, I'm Bill Hefner, and this is President Clinton.

The gentleman, the patient, said, You're Bill Hefner? I've been wanting to meet you all my life. You're a wonderful Congressman. I've even sent you a little bit of money, and I love the way you sing. You're the best singer ever.

He never once recognized that the President of the United States was also in the room. It was all about Bill Hefner. Bill Hefner's favorite song was ''If I Can Help Someone.''

Mr. Hefner, Shelly, Stacye, and Nancy, please know that you have helped many people. Thank you so much, and God bless Bill Hefner.

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

THE RULE OF LAW AND THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. MARKEY of Colorado). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2009, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. CARTER) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. CARTER. Thank you, Madam Speaker, for recognizing me for this hour.

For many weeks now, I've been coming to the floor with my colleagues to talk about something that, I think, is the glue that holds our Republic together, and that is the fact that the rule of law does and should prevail in this Nation. By ''the rule of law,'' it means that we are able, as a people, to establish a set of rules. Whether they be legal rules, whether they be ethical rules, whether they be rules of this House or rules of this Nation, we agree to abide by those rules, and those rules cover every element of our lives. There is the rule of contract. We don't violate criminal laws. We have laws that govern this House. We have rules that govern this House, and they're the glue that holds a society together.

When we see the society having people or events that cause the glue to weaken, I think it's our duty and our responsibility as Members of this House to step up and say, hey, this is out of control; this has got to stop; the rule of law has to prevail. We have rules. We have responsibilities to keep those rules, and we as a Congress should hold each other to those rules.

The Congress of the United States, like many other bodies in this country, has a set of rules, and we police ourselves up. We're not the only group of people who does this. The medical associations do it. The bar associations do it. They have, within their own memberships, committees that police up the activities of their own members. The whole purpose is so that they can correct issues before they get out of hand and, if something is out of hand, so that they can have the strength of their convictions of their associations to stand for what is right even if it's difficult and to do the right thing even if it's difficult.

I've been raising issues on the floor of this House with the help of my colleagues now for about 10 weeks. Of these issues, there is one in particular with which I've had some amount of fun. Actually, I've created what's called the Rangel Rule to put a spotlight on some issues that involve the chairman of the Ways and Means Committee; but over this August break, after talking about all of the things that were not resolved by our present Ethics Committee concerning Chairman RANGEL, more things have arisen which raise the issues to such a level that they just absolutely cannot be ignored anymore.

We have an Ethics Committee, and the American people should demand that, if we are going to set up a system where we police up this House, then we need to get behind the business of policing up this House. If it has to do with a Member who, by his own admission, has either through error or intent broken the rules of this House, then the Ethics Committee should not be deadlocked on political lines but should resolve this issue. If it's not going to be done, then the leadership of this House should take control of this House. The Speaker of the House was given the authority to be in charge of this House of Representatives, and it's her job. It's the job she signed onto. It's the responsibility she took to make sure that this House runs by certain rules. When blatant issues come forward and when newspapers across this Nation are crying out that some kind of justice needs to be done on an issue, if we're not going to do it, we're failing the very foundation of our Republic.

Tonight, I am joined by my colleagues—and there may be many of them here tonight—and we're going to talk about some of these issues that involve our friend. I want to say that specifically. I have no personal animosity whatsoever against Mr. RANGEL. In fact, I will tell you he has been nothing but kind to me since I've been in this House, and I've tried to be kind back, but there is an issue that needs to be resolved, and it should not be resolved just by saying on the floor of this House ''I'm sorry.'' It should be resolved by following the rules established by this House, and that's what this is all about. It is not personally aimed at anyone. It is about this institution and about the fact that the American people are more and more distrusting of this Congress for reasons just like the reason we're talking about tonight. They see things that upset them and that would upset them in their workplaces if they were to have that happen, so they ask: Why aren't the people we sent to Washington resolving this issue? What is wrong with those people? Now we need to ask those questions of ourselves. So I want to make it clear that this is not personal. This is about the rule of law and about the responsibility of this House.

I am joined by my good friend VIRGINIA FOXX, who is going to talk to us. She is from North Carolina. She is going to talk to us a little bit tonight. I yield her as much time as she may consume.

Ms. FOXX. I want to thank my colleague from Texas for having begun this dialogue and this talk tonight about the rule of law.

I often say when I'm speaking to groups, particularly of young people, that what has made our country so great are several things, but underlying all of those is the rule of law. I think the three most outstanding are the rule of law, our Judeo-Christian heritage, and our capitalistic society—our economic system. We couldn't have our ability to worship God as we please and our capitalistic economic system if it weren't for the rule of law undergirding those.

When you look at other countries in this world, at other countries in this hemisphere, you will see that Mexico, for example, has been in the news a lot lately. They have many, many natural resources, as we do here, but what has created the problems for Mexico is that it is such a corrupt system. They do not operate by the rule of law. Most Americans just accept what we have in this country as something that exists everywhere. It doesn't. If we allow the rule of law to be torn down, then we really undermine our entire country and our entire culture.

I want to tell a little story, because I agree with Congressman CARTER on everything that he has said tonight. None of this is personal. This is all about the very strong and positive feelings that all of us have for the House of Representatives and for our government.

□ 2130

And I may get choked up in telling this story, but it was a great thing that happened today, because it allows me

to explain to people why I feel so strongly about what has happened.

I was on my way over here this afternoon a little after 6 o'clock to vote, and I was coming a little bit early, because I like to watch the news at 6 o'clock, and I was coming a little early so I could get in between commercials and watch a little bit more of the news before we had to come in to vote.

But as I was coming up the steps towards the Capitol, I noticed this couple, I don't know their age, I would say middle-age couple, since I don't want to guess people's ages. And I noticed that the woman spoke to one of our great security guys out there. And then I saw her walk up to the Capitol Building, up on the steps, and touch the building and then walk away.

And I could tell that she had asked permission to do that. And so I walked over to her husband and I said to her, Would you all like to go inside the Capitol? And she got very emotional, and she said, Well, you know, we have never been to Washington before. This is our first time here. And she said, All I thought that I had the hope of doing was touching the outside of the building. She said, I just, I don't have the words to express what a thrill it would be to go inside the building.

I asked them if I could use their names, it was Gary and Vicki Klassen from Oregon. And so they said, yes, they would like to come in. And so I brought them up, brought them up into the Members gallery and explained a little bit about the gallery here and told them that we were about to vote. And I explained some things to them and answered their questions and told them that between the first and second vote I would come back and answer the rest of their questions.

And they just kept on exclaiming, We are so thrilled to be in this building. We are in such awe of the building. We are in such awe of our government.

And, you know, I thought, we need more people like that in our country. We need more people who feel in awe of our government. We need people who get a thrill out of walking inside the Capitol.

After voting, I gave them a little bit more of a tour, and they just stayed that way. They were so grateful to me.

But I was grateful to them because when we meet people like that, we need to cherish that because these are folks who understand what this country is all about, and they feel an awe toward their government.

And I don't want people to stop feeling that way. And if we as Members of Congress don't uphold the highest standards amongst ourselves, then the majority of the people will stop feeling that way about our country, and we will lose our country.

You know, Mr. Franklin was asked when they signed the Constitution, What kind of country have you given us, and what kind of government have you given us? And he said, A Republic, if you can keep it. Well, if we are going to maintain our Republic, if we are going to maintain what's good about this country and we are going to maintain the rule of law, then we cannot have a double standard.

I agree with the President in his comment: we cannot have two sets of standards, one for powerful people and one for ordinary folks.

It is bad policy to have different rules for Members of Congress than for the rest of the public. And I have told the people I represent, I will never, ever vote for anything knowingly giving a different set of rules for people in Congress than we have for everybody else. We shouldn't have a double standard. And I am very concerned.

I also point out to people when we come into this room, the ancient law givers whose faces are in profile around the top of the Chamber here, I know C–SPAN doesn't show them. But what I point out to them they are all in profile except one, and that's the one over the center door, and that's Moses looking down on us.

When Moses brought us the Ten Commandments, they weren't divided into A and B. They weren't divided into saying, you know, some people shalt not but others may because they have power. All of those 10 commandments apply to all of us.

And it's very important that we make sure that we pay attention to the fact that Moses is looking down on us every day and that we have a responsibility to the people of this country to live by the laws that have been set for everyone in this country.

And like my colleague from Texas, I have personally a good relationship with Mr. RANGEL, as far as I know. He is a very affable person, always smiling or almost always smiling, always jovial. So this is nothing to do with him personally. It is that the Congress and the House of Representatives in particular must abide by our own laws.

And if we establish laws that say, particularly here, that we have to report our income, that we have to report our assets, it is not right for some Members to leave things out and other Members to report everything. We must uphold the rules and the laws.

And so I want to commend again my colleague from Texas for putting together this Special Order tonight. And I know that there are others here who will add to the discussion that we are having.

Mr. CARTER. We have a poster here that has a picture of our President. And as the gentlelady just pointed out, he points out, I campaigned on changing Washington and bottom-up politics. I don't want to send a message to the American people that there are two sets of standards, one for powerful people and one for ordinary folks who are working every day and paying their taxes.

I think that's a commendable statement by the President of the United States. And the issue we are talking about here today is an issue that involves what some would argue is the most powerful chairmanship in the House of Representatives, and that is the chairmanship of the Ways and Means Committee.

I have a brief exhibit that we can talk about of some of the allegations that concern Mr. RANGEL: underreporting income and assets in 2007 by more than half, including failure to report income from his Caribbean resort property again. And those who have been listening will recall this all started because the chairman got up here on the floor of the House and told us that he had failed to report rental incomes for certain years on his Caribbean property.

And he said, But I paid the taxes. And if they assess any penalties and interest, I will pay the penalties and interest.

And it seemed to me very curious that after a long time of not—this is an income tax situation—and after a long time of not paying income tax on income, that no penalties and interest were assessed. And so I came up with the idea of the Rangel Rule, which said that if the chairman of the Ways and Means can be excused of his penalties and interest for failing to pay his taxes, then any other American who fails to pay theirs and goes in and pays those taxes and catches up can exercise the Rangel Rule and have the penalties and interests waived.

I did that to point out what the President of the United States said he did not want to happen in this country: people of power are getting special treatment over ordinary folks.

And so the purpose of it was to point out, it looked like to me that's what was going on here. So that's happened again, underreporting of income and assets by Rangel aides.

Not only did the chairman not report these things, but people he is responsible for didn't report them. Lease of a—multi rent-controlled apartments in Harlem, a special lease. RANGEL's use of a House parking spot for long-term storage of his Mercedes. Failure to report and pay taxes on rental income on his resort villa in the Dominican Republic. Alleged quid pro quo trading legislative action in exchange for donations to a center named for RANGEL at the City College of New York, and a gift rule violation on a trip to a Caribbean resort by the Carib News Foundation in 2007 and 2008. These are a list of some of the allegations that are going on.

And there is more. There is more to be discussed.

I am joined by many of my colleagues, and I am glad to see my friend LYNN WESTMORELAND from Georgia is here with us. I yield to my friend, Mr. WESTMORELAND.

Mr. WESTMORELAND. I want to thank my friend from Texas in the spirit that you are doing this. And I think you are doing this in the right spirit, that it is nothing personal against anybody. All we are saying is

that we feel like what the President said back in February of this year should be lived up to by the Members of his party that are in control of this House.

It is interesting that you brought up the Caribbean trip and the fact that the chairman of the investigation of this Caribbean trip to my friend from Texas was a participant in one of these Caribbean trips. That seems to be a little bit of a conflict of interest in itself.

And then, as you mentioned, some of these are in the hands of the House Ethics Committee; they are being investigated. But Mr. RANGEL has given political contributions to three of the five Democrats that are on this panel that are investigating him.

And so there seems to be some conflict of interest. And as the gentleman stated and my friend from North Carolina stated, I think the American people want to be free from any sort of insinuation that there could be some corruption, not only from his filings or his reporting of his assets and liabilities as we are required by the House rules, but in this investigation.

And I think it's very interesting that, and I am sure the gentleman from Texas will get into it later, but I would like to bring up that under H.R. 3200, when this bill, the health care bill, went through Mr. RANGEL's committee, the Ways and Means Committee, who was looking for revenue to pay for this, that it was interesting that they came up with some new tax laws that would actually punish those who failed to alert the IRS to potentially questionable tax exemptions, those people who are willing to come clean and kind of tell them yourself if they find out that something has been in error, bar the IRS from waiving penalties against taxpayers who clearly erred in good faith.

And I think this goes back to what my friend from Texas was talking about and the fact that Mr. RANGEL has acknowledged that this was a mistake, and that he paid his taxes, but there was no penalty and interest. Yet, it seems unbelievable that in this legislation that came out of his committee that he wants to almost double the fines in those instances.

In fact, one provision of the measure would double the fine against the taxpayer from 20 percent of the underpayment to 40 percent. And this goes back to what the President's statement said, you know, we don't need to have one set of standards for those people who are powerful. And nobody can deny the power of the chairman of the Ways and Means Committee in this House versus that of the ordinary person, the guy that works every day and is paying his taxes and that may have made some type of mistake. We all make mistakes.

That brings us back to the House rules. And we are talking about being a country of laws. And this body certainly should live by the laws that it sets for itself in the reporting.

And I am sure that many of us in here have had to amend these things or think of something and will amend it. But when you amend it for twice of what it was of things that you forgot, and there is a whole list of the things that Chairman RANGEL said that he had just forgot to list, but some of those were pretty eye-opening things that he had forgotten.

And it not only goes to him, but his staff that help him write legislation. And certainly one of them, I think, is his legal staff, one is his chief, that have gone back and actually filed amendments back since 2002. And so I think that just under the cloud of this suspicion, that the right thing for Chairman RANGEL to do would be to step down until this investigation is complete. And I don't think that's too much to ask.

And there is a lady that writes for the Atlanta Journal-Constitution that I have not agreed with a lot. But in this case, I do agree with her. Her name is Cynthia Tucker.

□ 2145

I would like to read for the RECORD the comment that she made on September 4 of this year.

''Rangel ought to do the honorable thing and step down. Just last week, he amended financial disclosure forms to report hundreds of thousands of dollars in income he earned between 2002 and 2006. He forgot a Merrill Lynch account valued between $250,000 and $500,000.''

I don't know about my friend from Texas, but if I had that much money, I don't know that I would forget about it.

''He neglected to mention tens of thousands in rent from a New York brownstone he once owned, and his ownership of tens of thousands of dollars in municipal bonds also slipped his mind.''

This comes from a very liberal writer for the AJC, and there are many more from the Buffalo News, the Washington Post and so on and so on, of people that see this for what it is and the fact that under this cloud of suspicion, the right thing for the chairman to do would be to step aside until the air can be cleared and this investigation can be completed.

Again, I want to thank my friend from Texas for bringing this up and the spirit in which he is bringing it up. I have had a lot of constituents ask me if they could claim the ''Rangel rule'' on their tax.

So my friend from Texas has certainly got that message out. We don't know what the outcome of this will be, but I think the eyes of this country are on this one particular interest, to see how we handle it and how we handle ourselves.

With that, I yield back.

Mr. CARTER. I thank the gentleman for yielding back. I want to point out the timeline so everyone has a clear picture.

It was almost a year ago when the chairman took this floor and told us about the first event where he had failed to pay taxes on rental income. He said he inadvertently did it. He didn't realize how he had it structured, that he was actually getting income from it, and that he was paying the taxes and that he did not expect any penalties and interest to be assessed.

Now, that was a year ago. What the gentleman from Georgia was just describing was a provision that was placed in this health care bill that we are debating today and we are going to hear from the President of the United States on tomorrow, and we have been discussing for the entire August recess. We have been discussing this in town hall meetings across this country. I did 10, one of which was a TEA party.

Thousands of people showed up to talk about this, and they are talking about this bill. And I think that is what really should upset you is to realize that when the chairman did not have penalties and interest assessed against him in his misfiling, he is putting a provision in the law that they, the Democrats, are trying to pass through Congress right now which would mean the ordinary person would pay double penalties and interest for failing to alert the IRS of potential questionable tax exemptions and that would bar the IRS from waiving penalties. They wouldn't be able to waive penalties, like they did for Chairman RANGEL.

By his own provision in the bill that he placed in there, there would be double fines under certain circumstances. I don't know what those circumstances are, but obviously if this keeps going on and on and on and on in the chairman's life, at some point in time it would seem to me that someone would say this is getting blatant. And yet the American people will have double fines, and we are seeing the chairman having no penalties and no interest being assessed against him.

That is what we are talking about. That is what the President of the United States said. That is what he wanted for the American people, is that ordinary people and people who have positions of influence in this country should be treated exactly the same under the law.

That is what the rule of law is all about. We establish rules, and those rules will be for everybody and there will be no exception for the prince nor the pauper. That is the way it is supposed to be. This prince of the House has actually written new rules into this bill. Another reason not to vote for this bill, as far as I am concerned, is because it doesn't treat the American people as fairly, if this is fair, as he got treated.

So when we are talking about the rule of law, we are trying to tell you that this cement binds us together as a people.

One of my good friends is here from the State of Georgia, another great Georgian—you know, the one thing is Georgians will answer the call, they

are always there—is my friend PHIL GINGREY, a physician from the great State of Georgia, one of my classmates and personal friends. I yield to him on this issue.

Mr. GINGREY of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Texas for yielding. It pains me in a way to be on the floor tonight to join with Representative CARTER and Representative WESTMORELAND, my colleague from Georgia who just spoke, and Representative VIRGINIA FOXX, a great Member on our side of the aisle from North Carolina, and the gentleman from Texas, another gentleman from Texas, another judge from Texas, which we will be hearing from in a few minutes.

But as painful as it is, Madam Speaker, to discuss a subject of this manner and this magnitude, I think it is important that we do it. I think it is important that we have the courage to do it, because I think the American people are watching what we do.

I think that this recent district work period, the month of August, the traditional time when Members are back in the district meeting with their constituents holding these town hall meetings, and this is something that didn't just happen this August, by the way, Madam Speaker, it has been a tradition probably, I don't know, for 100 years. People this year though, while we might typically have 25 or 50 or on a really good day 75 people, it was 500 and 1,000 and 1,500 and it was unbelievable how engaged the American people are now, who want desperately to be heard.

Madam Speaker, this business of ''being out of control'' and ''being a gang'' and ''being a mob,'' no, no. They are patriots, is what they are, Madam Speaker. They are mostly seniors who are worried about losing their coverage under Medicare.

When they hear, particularly if they are on Medicare Advantage, that that program is going to be cut about 17 percent per year over the next 10 years, I think $170 billion taken out of that one program, where 20 percent of seniors, by the way, like that so much that that is what they choose to receive their health care is Medicare Advantage and not Medicare fee-for-service.

So the point I am making is people are outraged. They are so frustrated that powerful Members of Congress are not listening to them. And it is not always their Member, but it is the leadership. It is the committee chairs that have control over significant pieces of legislation, such as the America's Affordable Health Choices Act of 2009, H.R. 3200.

They know that Mr. WAXMAN is chairman of the Energy and Commerce Committee, where most of the bill was written. They know that Representative CHARLES RANGEL from New York, a long-serving Member since 1971, chairs the most powerful Ways and Means Committee. They know that George Miller, the gentleman from California, a long-serving senior Member, chairs the Education and Labor Committee. So they are very frustrated and want to be heard.

So here we are talking tonight about grave concerns that we fellow Members have in regard to the ethical standards and behavior of people in this body who are in the highest positions. My goodness, the two most powerful standing committees of the House of Representatives are probably the Appropriations Committee and the Ways and Means Committee. On the one hand, the Appropriations Committee is charged with spending the $3 trillion or so a year in the Federal budget, and the Ways and Means Committee, led by the chairman, is charged with raising the money to fund all these Federal Government programs.

People are getting a little concerned and upset with $787 billion stimulus packages and deficit spending in the year 2009 of $1.8 trillion, and a deficit that is calculated, not by me, not by my Republican colleagues, but by the Office of Management and Budget, which is the number cruncher, the Ph.D. economists hired by and who are part of the Obama administration, that says that over the next 10 years there is going to be $9 trillion of deficit in the aggregate, that much more debt, $20 trillion worth of debt at the end of the next 10 years. So people are very concerned about the integrity, the honesty and the fair play of these powerful Members.

Our colleague from North Carolina (Ms. FOXX) is so outstanding, and she was talking just a few minutes ago about the Old Testament and Moses and the commands, and she can turn a phrase better than I think most every Member in this body.

But, I was reading recently in the Old Testament in the Book of Deuteronomy, and Moses was saying to the Jewish people, look, God gave me these laws to give to you. These are not suggestions, these are commands, and you are not to add to them and you are not to take away from them. You are to follow them exactly as God has commanded and has given that command to me to give to you. Well, you know, that is pretty sacred stuff, the ultimate sacred stuff, I should say.

But here in the House of Representatives, the rules of behavior, the standards of official conduct, indeed, the House Committee on Standards of Official Conduct, are pretty darn sacred too, Madam Speaker. And they are not suggestions. They are really there so that every Member is treated fairly, from the least to the greatest, from the freshman Member to the Member that has served 35 years and is chairing one of the most powerful committees in this House of Representatives.

So when we see things like this and what Representative CARTER has brought out in regard to these new findings of, oops, I just overlooked $600,000 worth of income, it was a stock account that I had forgotten about, well, you know, you don't forget about things like that. You don't forget about it.

To make sure, Madam Speaker, that everybody understands, when we have to fill out these financial disclosure reports on an annual basis as required by the standards of official conduct, my chief of staff will come to me and say, Congressman, we need to go through this 401(k), this IRA that you have had when you were working as a physician, and, of course, it is kind of frozen now because you are not continuing to put any money into it, but we have to look at every mutual fund and go through each one and see on each individual stock within a mutual fund, and you may have six or eight or ten different mutual funds in a 401(k) or an IRA, and my chief of staff says to me, Congressman, every stock in this, you have to list whether it gained money or lost money, whether something was bought or something was sold.

It is very time-consuming and rather painful, but it is for a good purpose, because the American people want to know, they want to be able to look in a very transparent way. They want to know who are the wealthiest Members of Congress, and they also want to know who are those who have absolutely no assets, no wealth other than their annual salary they receive from the taxpayer from this House of Representatives.

□ 2200

It's a point for a lot of people to try to understand that, to follow the dollar and see where maybe influences are applied and why people vote in the way—or if there's any suggestion that someone might cast their vote based on contributions or anything of that sort and that no one is in here enriching themselves at the expense of John Q. Public who is struggling every day just to maintain a job and to feed his family and support his children and hope that they get to go to college some day. And unfortunately, in this deep recession that we're in, some 6 million have lost their jobs over the last couple of years.

So this is a very, very serious issue that Judge CARTER, Madam Speaker, brings before us, and I think that the gentleman from New York who chairs this powerful committee should step aside while the House Committee on Standards of Official Conduct is doing its investigation.

Now, to his credit, he asked the committee to look into this over a year ago. But, Madam Speaker, I feel that he should have stepped aside at that point. But now here we are a year later and all of a sudden this additional ''Oops, I forgot.'' Well, you know, if he won't voluntarily do this, then I think it's the responsibility of the leadership, and ultimately the leadership of this body, Madam Speaker, as you know, is the Speaker whose seat you're sitting in right now as her designee this evening. And she will be there tomorrow night sitting right beside the

President of the Senate, the gentleman from Delaware, Mr. BIDEN, and of course we will be hearing from President Obama. We don't want this body, this House, this Chamber to be tainted.

And I think it's time for the gentleman from New York to be strong. Maybe he will be found to have not violated any ethical rules of this Chamber. We're not certainly putting him on trial here tonight, and I'm sure my colleagues would agree with that, but I think it's the right thing to do. I think it's courageous for Judge CARTER to bring this forward. And none of us are perfect, but every one of us needs to be honest with the American people and explain our actions or have others who are officially designated to do that look into it and let's get to the bottom of it.

With that, I will yield back to my friend from Texas.

Mr. CARTER. I thank my friend from Georgia, and reclaiming my time, I want to point out it's something that is part of this forum that we're discussing here today, because this is—I want to say something that's very important. This weekend, I had a couple of opportunities where I was interviewed by national news organizations on television. One of the questions that was asked of me was that at least there's been some inference that this is a racially motivated situation that I am in right here. And my statement—and I stick to this statement because it's the truth—this issue is not about race. This issue is about responsibility and meeting the responsibilities of this House. Mr. RANGEL needs to meet his responsibilities and, quite frankly, the Speaker of the House needs to meet her responsibilities.

I will refer you to the Buffalo News, ''Rangel Should Resign,'' and it tells us what we've been talking about. And it says if he won't, Speaker NANCY PELOSI needs to push him.

Last year he tells us he had $75,000 worth of unreported income. Now it gets worse. RANGEL failed to report at least half a million dollars in assets in 2007, and his net worth is about twice of what he claimed in 2008. The odds of simple error fall to near zero when it happens twice and when both times are in your financial favor.

This is PELOSI's sternest test. She should give RANGEL a week to do the right thing, and then if he doesn't, she must.

So this is about responsibility, and that's what we're talking about, being responsible to the rules of this House and to the rules of law. And there are two individuals here that have the opportunity to do what is right and be responsible, and that is the chairman and the Speaker.

Mr. GINGREY of Georgia. If the gentleman would yield for just a second.

Mr. CARTER. Yes, I will.

Mr. GINGREY of Georgia. You've hit on a point I've got to address.

The President spoke to the American schoolchildren today, and I think the President did a fine job. The speech, I know early on there may have been concerns about curriculum recommendations, that sort of thing, but I heard the Secretary of Education over the weekend, Secretary Arne Duncan, talk about this upcoming speech, and I couldn't agree more with what he said on Sunday morning; very logical, made sense to me. And the President, of course, gave a very powerful speech to America's schoolchildren and taught just what Judge CARTER just mentioned about personal responsibility and doing the right thing even when it's tough, even when it's hard to do that.

And golly, if our leaders in the highest positions of our country can't do that, how can we expect kids in the fifth grade to do it? How can I expect my 11-year-old twin granddaughters who are in the fourth grade—and I talk to them all the time about the personal responsibility of going a little beyond what's required, doing more, getting up earlier if you need to to do your homework, turn that television off at night or that video game. The President said the same thing, and I commend him for that.

But he's talking to all of us, Madam Speaker, about personal responsibility and doing the right thing.

You know, I don't know—and I will yield back quickly, Judge. But it may be that the gentleman from New York, the chairman of the Ways and Means Committee, wishes his boss, the Speaker of this House, would ask him to temporarily step aside while this investigation was ongoing. Maybe he doesn't want to do it himself. He's a World War II veteran, a Korean war veteran, in fact, a hero. I read part of his book. As has been mentioned here earlier, he's a very likable individual, without question. You can understand how he keeps getting reelected with such overwhelming majorities. But he may, as a soldier, as a hero, he may feel that, gosh, you know, I don't want to be the one to step aside, but I sure wish my boss would tell me to step aside.

So, as you point out, there are two people here that have a responsibility. And I'm glad you brought that up, because that's—I mean, you know, it was Harry Truman, a Democratic President, back in 1948 or so, who says, Hey the buck stops on my desk. Well, the buck stops on the Speaker of the House of Representatives' desk in regard to this issue.

I yield back.

Mr. CARTER. I would like to recognize my good friend and fellow judge, former judge LOUIE GOHMERT from Texas to speak and use as much time as he wishes to consume.

Mr. GOHMERT. I appreciate my friend, also the former judge from Texas, in pointing out some of the problems that are being created by the inaction. And I know this was touched on earlier, but this New York Post article, editorial dated September 2 of this year talking about some of the hypocrisy here with this bill and provisions that were added coming out of the Ways and Means Committee, and I think it's important for people to understand also that Chairman RANGEL doesn't get to act by himself. The majority party that controls the Ways and Means Committee has authority to overrule the chairman. They've got enough members on their side to overrule the chairman and let him know there is a problem. There is a responsibility for the members of those committees. They're not supposed to be empty suits and dresses. They were elected by their constituents to come up here and do the right thing and not be hypocrites on any issue.

□ 2210

So I hope we won't have that experience.

When you look at some of the things this article points out, it says in the editorial, in fact, the provisions that were added to this health care bill increase fines, in some cases even for honest mistakes, this expert added, even punishing those who fail to alert the IRS to potentially questionable tax exemptions, bar the IRS from waiving penalties against taxpayers who clearly erred in good faith. The article goes on and talks about the provisions, it says here, that would prevent the IRS from waiving punishment in cases where tax officials thought the penalty was clearly excessive.

It also adds that under another provision, the IRS would require that taxpayers self-report areas where they may have gone over the line seeking tax advantages, and if they fail to self-report and problems are not found, the tax penalties would skyrocket. As this article says, the IRS becomes judge, jury and executioner. One provision says the measure doubles the fine against the taxpayer from 20 percent of the underpayment to 40 percent. So there is a problem here.

With regard to the issue of race, I cannot tell you how much I look forward to the day when there is not an application in this country that has a provision for race, because it doesn't matter. People don't care. We finally experienced the dream that Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., talked about when we are judged by the content of our character and not by the color of the skin. That's the way it's supposed to be.

And in fact, I have got recently called a racist by information I was told by one reporter who called over the Posey bill that does something very simple, and I know there are people out there who are conservatives, maybe radicals, that think that there is some kind of conspiracy theory behind the President, that he is not really supposed to be President, that he is not qualified. Look, he is President. He is going to be President at least until another election.

But the Posey bill actually is implementing legislation that brings out the fact that the Constitution requires

these, and since The New York Times and The Washington Post pointed out a year and a half ago that they thought JOHN MCCAIN may not be qualified because he was born in the Panama Canal Zone that this legislation, it's just simply two or three pages that says anybody running for President beginning in 2012 will have to show that they're qualified.

It's not ex post facto. It doesn't do anything like that. It is implementing legislation. There are some judicial officials and experts that believe unless there is implementing legislation like this, even if everybody in the country knew that a candidate was born in Moscow, you still couldn't raise it because nobody would have standing unless we do some kind of implementing legislation. So the bill very simply just says that beginning in 2012 you have to show you're qualified.

Well, all of a sudden, I start getting calls. I even got mentioned in Doonesbury by name, and they're using the same language. One reporter says that she got it from a high source at the White House that I was trying to delegitimize the President and was trying to throw him out of office. When I recommended the reporter read the bill, and she did, we didn't have any more about it. But it concerns me.

I have also gotten all kinds of information. Apparently this information, supposedly some of it came from the White House, and they have now branded me a racist. And now I think it is appropriate to note, with my apologies to the Texas former Senator Phil Gramm, who I really appreciate his politics, I liked Alan Keyes better in 1996. I voted for Alan Keyes for President in 1996. And somebody has mentioned that he doesn't happen to be white. I didn't care. I liked his politics. Race didn't matter. But there are sources here in Washington trying to brand people racist when it has no application whatsoever. That is one example.

I will tell you another example is I came down here on the floor and raised the issue with the chairman of the budget over the Justice Department if since he recused himself 2 years ago over the budget process for the Justice Department if it wouldn't be appropriate to do that now. He said 2 years ago that he was recusing himself, would step aside and not handle the budget for the Justice Department while he was being investigated. Well, there's no indication that that investigation has ended. And yet this time there was no stepping aside.

My understanding was one reporter who asked for a comment from me said that they didn't think it was a big story like they did 2 years before when he did step aside because he had said, well, he wasn't actually going to preside over the FBI's budget, the people that were investigating. So it's okay to preside over the budget for the bosses of the FBI, the Justice Department, but not okay to supervise the FBI budget?

I mean, if we want to talk about the appearance of a problem, good grief, can you imagine anyone being a judge over a case and they are going to rule or preside over a case of somebody that gets to cut off their funds if they don't like what the judge does? It's just absurd. Anybody would look and go, there is an appearance of a problem here, and it destroys the reputation of this body.

Here again, it was the President who has continued to demand that Americans listen. And he has had town halls, listen to me, let me tell you, and he has had some listening sessions where they ship in people and it appears that some of them even have prepared questions to ask him that were given to them. It's not exactly listening to the people if you tell them what questions to ask.

In any event, we keep being told we have to listen because the President has a plan, and the bill that we have had, we discussed, because that's what's in front of us, we are told if you like your insurance you get to keep it. And yet page 16 of the bill that we are given says, if your insurance policy changes at all, any term or condition, you lose it. Then that doesn't seem to be all that honest of an approach, which to give the benefit of the doubt, apparently just means he didn't read it.

But now, the President wants to come in here and talk to us again because apparently we haven't been listening well enough, so he wanted to come speak. So he gets the invitation. He is going to come talk to us about health care.

Well, do you know what? There was another President that did the same thing on September 22 of 1993 because he didn't think that Americans were listening well enough about what he had to say about health care. So we had a joint session, and President Clinton told us, America, he told people in this room that they needed to listen and do what he was saying about health care reform. And so here we are, all these years later, and now we're going to have to listen again, September 9, it is actually 13 days short of where President Clinton was when he came and started telling people about it.

There is a problem when you don't listen to other people. And some of us have gotten an earful out there listening. I love to comment about one of my constituents when he says, look, he is telling us there are 45 million or 46 million people that don't have insurance, 15 percent of Americans don't have insurance, and so there is a problem. Well, you don't throw out the whole system to change that. In fact, one constituent said, look, when my ice maker broke, I didn't remodel the whole kitchen. And I think when you listen to Americans across the country, it's amazing the wisdom you get.

□ 2220

And I think it is a problem in this body when all we do is talk and we don't listen.

Well, I tell you, I know my friends, and Madam Speaker, that we've all gotten an earful over August, and I loved it. I enjoyed hearing what people had to say because they had given it a lot of thought. So this is what we need to do: Listen. And some great points have been made.

We need to preserve the appearance of propriety and protect against the appearance of impropriety, and that appearance is all over here. And some of the same people who are refusing to do anything about an appearance of impropriety are the same people we listened to my first 2 years rightfully talk about a problem when there is an appearance of impropriety. Well, it's high time they went back and listened to themselves 4 years ago and do what they said 4 years ago and quit ignoring the damage that's being done to this body when there is important business that needs to be done.

I would also encourage those same people who say that people on this side have no answers. If they would read a little bit, listen a little bit, they would find out there are all kinds of proposals. They are just so caught up in trying to fight against reform that would fix the appearance of impropriety that they're not actually doing the business this body ought to be doing. And with that, I yield back to my friend.

Mr. CARTER. Reclaiming my time, I would like to point out that as I've been talking about some of these issues, just so we can make it very clear, this is not just about Chairman RANGEL; I've also talked about JOHN MURTHA, AL MOLLOHAN, JIM MORAN, PETE VISCLOSKY. All these are issues that are before the Ethics Committee or the Justice Department in some form or fashion. And so we are clearly saying we have appearances that are concerning us at every level.

30-SOMETHING WORKING GROUP

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2009, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MEEK) is recognized for half the remaining time until midnight.

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Madam Speaker, it is an honor to be before the House once again.

As many Members of the House know, we've had an opportunity to go back not only to our districts, but to our States to deal with the issues in our districts and also talk to a number of our constituents. And I wanted to come before the House tonight with some of my colleagues to talk about one of the main issues that were discussed during the break. But as you know, when I come to the floor, I always like to bring to the attention of the House, so that we will never forget,

that we do have men and women in harm's way. As of September 8, 1:30 p.m. today, the total American military deaths in Iraq is 4,341, wounded in action returned back to duty is 17,623, and wounded in action and did not return to duty is 3,872. And I think it is very important to not only have that in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, but also for all of us here that are passing not only policy, but also appropriations, make sure that we remember the families and those individuals that continue to serve to allow us to salute under one flag. So as policymakers, we have to pay very close attention.

Madam Speaker, I come to the floor tonight because I believe now more than ever, since I've been here for 7 years, that we need leadership not only in this House, but in the Congress in general, and that's including the Senate. And I think when we look at this issue of health care, there has been a lot said by many people, but there are only 535 some odd people in this country, including the President of the United States and members of his Cabinet, that are going to have to implement and provide this leadership on behalf of a country that needs people to man up and woman up and leader up and stop just saying, well, we shouldn't do anything about health care because every man and woman for themselves. Well, you know, that's not the American spirit. And it pushes against logic because when you look at rising health care costs, when you're looking at small business men and women that are having issues of being able to provide health care for themselves, leave alone the employees that they have, at affordable rates, when their employees are able to have health care that they can afford for their families, it's one thing to have health care, it is another thing to be able to afford it. And I brought a couple of personal testimonies from my State that I think it's important for people to pay very close attention to.

Now, tomorrow night we know that this Chamber will be filled with policymakers. We will have a number of the President's Cabinet here. And the President will walk down this center aisle just like other Presidents have done in the past. And Americans will definitely tune in, the world will tune in to see if we're willing to be able to do what we must do to be able to keep this country competitive. This is bigger than just ideology or a public plan, or no plan at all, or I'm going to score political points because it's an issue that is a landmark piece of legislation and only leaders can play in that room so I'm going to stand on our side and throw rocks at the building and break as much glass as I can and hopefully, hopefully I may confuse people enough to where when they're confused they will just say no, I don't necessarily think that we need to carry out this health care issue.

I want to know who's hiding and who's running around here in the dark saying, oh, let's bring this thing up with health care. Hello. The whole 2008 election was based on health care. Some issues that some Members thought would come up—immigration reform, the war will play more of a substantial role, qualifications of how long you serve will play a major role—no, it was health care. And it was Democrats and Republicans and Independents and first-time voters that were voting for hope and just believing this time that something good will come out of their vote.

Now I'm going to tell you something. I'm from Florida. I'm from one of those States that over 3,600 Floridians lose their health care every week, every week. And it's kind of good for me to be here in Washington, D.C., along with my colleagues, all of them. And we all have health care, so there is no urgency on our side. There are no letters that are written by Members of Congress saying, oh, woe is my copayment; oh my goodness, the premiums have gone up, I can't afford it, I've been denied as a Member of Congress of an operation that I desperately need or a family member. That doesn't happen in our world; it doesn't happen in the House, it doesn't happen in the Senate, but it definitely happens in America and it definitely happens to Floridians that show up at town hall meetings. And I had some constituents saying, Kendrick, I would love to come to your town hall meeting, but I'm not into the whole bodily harm thing if I come. And that's something else that we have to pay attention to. So I think it's very, very important.

For those of us that came to Congress to make sure that our representation and our presence here is about representing people, people that are counting on us to do the right thing, people that are making sure that they don't find themselves in a situation to where that—well, I'm going to vote for my Member of Congress so he or she can have health care and I'll sit by and be a part of a debate over a public plan or a nonpublic plan. Hello. In the State of Florida you have 20 percent of the individuals that are under the age of 65 that are uninsured. Guess what, ladies and gentlemen. Eighty percent of us that have health care insurance are paying more every year because of the 20 percent. People want to talk about, well, you know, somebody has to do this and this is not guaranteed. Well, you know something? When you show up and you make that phone call, when you find out your child is sick or you find out that your husband now has to get that operation that you weren't able to detect every time you all had breakfast, but finally this kind of ache in his side or what have you has now become a situation that now you have to deal with and now you're spending $3,000 of a copay that you don't have already, we can't prioritize it then and say, oh, I care about health care.

So I wanted to come tonight with my colleagues—and I see that they have joined me—because I did talk with my neighboring colleague in Florida, Chairwoman WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, about the fact that we have to come back to the floor even though we have families, we have leadership positions in the House, we have major pieces of legislation moving through our committees, to come back here in the middle of the night like we did when we beat back the forces who wanted to privatize Social Security.

□ 2230

Think about it. Just think about it, Madam Speaker, if we'd listened to those voices when they had wanted to privatize Social Security. Hello again. Not only would the people over the age of 65 have had a lot to worry about, but there would have been a lot of young people who would have taken their money and put it out in this unregulated Wall Street and would have lost even their Social Security benefits.

So I'm here to tell you that I look forward to coming back to the floor with my colleagues to talk about this issue of health care. We know the President will come tomorrow and will, in his best effort, try to bring Republicans, Democrats and the two Independents, who serve in the Senate, together to bring about quality health care on behalf of all Americans.

When we talk about health care, I am talking about every person who lives in the United States of America. This will affect you. If you are insured, this will affect you, and it will affect you, hopefully, in a positive way because, every time you pay a premium, it's higher. Every time you pay a copay, it's higher. Folks are talking about the public plan issue, and I'll just close with this and then will yield to my colleagues.

I had a young lady call my office. I pick up the phone from time to time when it's ringing, and, you know, she was like, Well, Congressman, I just want to tell you that I'm against the public plan.

Okay. Well, tell me: What are you against? I want to know. You know, tell me a little bit about it.

I wasn't trying to be intimidating by, you know, going into sections and chapters.

Tell me.

Well, you know, I don't know if I want, you know, the government in the business of health care.

Well, that sounds like something that might have been said on the radio and not necessarily something that I felt that I failed her on because I didn't do what I was supposed to do as a Member of Congress and as a member of the Ways and Means Committee in saying that, if there's another plan out there that will achieve bringing the private insurance companies' costs down, knowing that they're charging every last one of us with the monopoly that they have, then we will find ourselves in a better situation. But guess what? No one has a plan that will bring that cost down like a public plan will.

As I close, the U.S. Postal Service is a public plan, the last I checked. If the U.S. Postal Service went out of business tomorrow, do you think folks would be complaining? If you think they're complaining about the price of a stamp now, wait until you allow just the private sector to run by itself something that has broad application and that so many people have to deal with. See where that cost goes.

Medicare, the last time I checked, was a public plan for those over the age of 65. The public plan that we're talking about now is even far more conservative than that plan because, regardless of what your income may be or what it may not be, you're eligible for it. This public plan will be paid for with just premiums and not with taxpayer dollars.

Now, you know, I'm not one of these Members who says, Oh, my goodness. Without a public plan, I don't know if I can vote for this. I'm saying, if there's nothing else there—and I do mean nothing else there—that will bring down the cost of health care for everyday Floridians and Americans, then the public plan is the option to be able to deal with those issues and to be able to make sure that we make health care affordable.

Members of Congress, we don't have a problem. We have health care, and we will have health care, and we will not be denied an operation, and we will not wait in long lines. So I want to make sure that every American, regardless of your party affiliation and regardless of the fact if you've ever voted before in your life, pays attention to what I'm saying. It's not about those of us who are here. We're fine. It's about you and it's about your family.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Thank you. Thank you so much to my good friend and colleague, Mr. MEEK from Florida. It is great to be back here in the 30-Something Working Group.

Mr. MEEK of Florida. We're pushing the ''something'' far.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. We're pushing that ''something'' far—exactly—given that your birthday was the other day, mine is in 2 weeks and that we're a little bit past 30-something. I like to say that we're the ''something'' in ''30-something,'' so I'm hanging my hat on that.

We have been reconvened by you, under your chairmanship of this working group, because yet again it is time to make sure that we can be clear and straight and direct with the American people. This is the season now of hard bargaining and of hard choices, and we have an opportunity for the first time in our lifetimes and in the lifetime of our generation to really, finally, achieve comprehensive health care reform.

What does that mean?

That is a term that has been thrown around for weeks and weeks now, and we've gotten to the point probably where most people's eyes glaze over or where they turn the channel or where they, you know, just begin to tune out, but it's to their peril if people tune out to this debate and to this discussion, because we have the best opportunity for reform that we've had in American history. We have brought health care reform the furthest that it has ever been brought.

Five of six House and Senate committees have passed legislation reforming the health care system—to do what?—to ensure that never again will an insurance company be able to drop you or to deny you coverage based on a preexisting condition and to ensure that never again will your insurance and your health care be tied to your job instead of to you. We'll make that insurance coverage portable so that wherever you go and whatever decisions are made either to continue to employ you or if you move on to another job that health care will be attached to you.

Never again will we have to deal with health care-related bankruptcies or deaths as a result of not having health insurance, both of which happen now because people are facing catastrophic illness and because they don't have health insurance coverage. They have to wait until they're so sick that they have to use the most expensive ways of getting their health care treatment, whether it's the emergency room or because they are so sick that they have much more significant costs to their health care, and as a result, are bankrupted directly as a result of their health care problems.

There were 1,210 health care-related bankruptcies, Mr. MEEK, in my congressional district last year. I know we have the numbers for every congressional district; 1,210 individuals went bankrupt because of their health care problems. Families USA talked about how we had six health care-related deaths in Florida directly attributable to the fact that people did not have health insurance. How did they come to that conclusion? Because, if you don't have health insurance and if you have a basic health care problem, a simple health care problem, you can't afford to go to the doctor, so you get sicker and sicker until, one day, some folks just die because they become so sick that they can't get the problem taken care of, and then the problem overwhelms them even when they are able to access emergency care. So this directly attributes death to the lack of health care coverage. In 2009 in America, that is just unconscionable.

Over the last few weeks, I have spent a lot of time in my district going around and speaking to small business owners and individuals who either have preexisting conditions or who face astronomically high health care insurance premiums. They're frustrated. They say it's long past time that we get a handle on these costs; but what is the response on the other side?

You know, there are a lot of folks who are friends of ours on the other side of the aisle who are saying that they're for reform, that they support health care reform—and this is the nice version—but that they just don't like the direction that we're taking it. They don't want socialized medicine. They don't want the government takeover of health care or the government to get in between you and your doctor.

Let me read you this passage, my colleagues, and just see what you think about this expression of sentiment. This is a voice on a record, urging listeners to write their Members of Congress and to ask them to oppose this legislation:

''And, if you don't do this and if I don't do it, one of these days, you and I are going to spend our sunset years telling our children and our children's children what it was once like in America when men were free.''

Now, does that sound familiar? It does sound familiar because it sounds like what our friends on the other side of the aisle are doing to scare people, particularly senior citizens, into believing that somehow they're going to be giving up their freedom if we pass health care reform. Well, actually, that was Ronald Reagan back in 1961 when he was trying to scare seniors and scare doctors and scare Americans into believing that somehow Medicare was going to be the end of the health care system and of health care coverage as they knew it.

□ 2240

And now it would be to any of our peril if we went home and suggested that people be separated from their Medicare, because it's been one of the most successful health care programs in American history covering seniors who would have certainly died if not for having that health care coverage. And we have got to make sure that we have this discussion in this debate in a responsible manner.

We are not going to get in between you and your doctor, Americans and their doctor. On the contrary, we want to make sure that the people who are between you and your doctor, which are the insurance company bureaucrats, who are looking more at the bottom line than they are at making sure you stay healthy, that they are moved aside and we can have health care reform and health care coverage that ensures that people stay healthy, that they can get the access to health care that they and their health care provider decide is appropriate, that we bring down the cost of that health care and that we make sure that we force, especially in some of the communities—not that you and I represent, because the three of us represent fairly urban areas, but in the places in this country where there is maybe one or two private plans and very little competition.

So they can charge whatever they want. They can include whatever they want in those policies, that side by side, with the private plans, is a public

option that keeps those private plans honest, that forces them to be more innovative, forces them, in order to hold on to those customers, to provide coverage that's more comprehensive and more affordable.

Mr. MURPHY of Connecticut. I thank the gentlewoman and I thank Representative MEEK for convening here tonight.

Here is how I look at the issue of the public option. First of all, I think it has gotten a lot more attention in the debate than it takes up in the bill. There are a lot of very important pieces to this health care reform bill, and public option is one of them; but I look at it this way: I have faith in my constituents. I think that if we give them choice, they are going to make the right choice for themselves and for their families.

And just like in countries in Europe, where you may only have one choice, you have got to buy, take public insurance, in this country we also have only one choice as well: you have to take private insurance.

And this notion that we shouldn't give our constituents the choice, up to them, as to whether they want to stay on their private plan or for a variety of reasons, they think it might be better to be on a publicly offered plan, I think that shows a lack of faith in the American people.

And I think if it's good enough for every single Member of Congress, if it's good enough for every Federal employee and State employee in this country, if it's good enough for our veterans, if it's good enough for our soldiers, sailors, airmen and marines, and if it's good enough for every single individual in this country over 65, well then maybe our constituents should have a choice of whether it's good enough for them or not.

So to me it just comes down to choice, as was mentioned about the lack of choice that's out there right now. If you are working, odds are that you might have one choice, maybe two choices, maybe three choices. But you are lucky if you have that many.

If you live in a State like Connecticut, we have one insurer that covers over 50 percent of the people in our State. That's 50 percent of the States in this Nation where one insurer has over half the market, 70 percent of States in this country have two insurers that cover 70–75 percent of the market. There is not enough choice out there as it stands right now.

So I just have faith that my constituents are going to be able to make the right choice for themselves.

And for all those people that say, you know, well, the government can't run anything, but the public option is going to run private insurers out of business, those arguments don't work together, right. Because if the government can't run anything, then they are not going to be able to run an insurance plan, nobody is going to join. But it should be up to people whether they do that. That's how you put competition back in a very, very broken marketplace.

And so to me, to me the one unifying theme that when I was home this August, as it has been throughout the entire time that I have been doing this job for the last 2½ years, that has united the people who support this specific proposal and the people that are undecided and the people who don't like it is cost.

I mean, everybody agrees that the system costs too much right now. I mean, over and over again, I hear the same story that you, Mr. MEEK, Mr. RYAN heard, business owners talking about a 20 percent increase last year in their health insurance premiums, individuals looking down the barrel in Connecticut of a 30 percent increase in our major insurance plan. Employees having seen wage increases be put off year after year after year because their employers are taking all the extra money they are making and putting it to health insurance premium increases.

And everybody understands that we need to tackle costs here. Well, guess what. The Congressional Budget Office, right, which Republicans and Democrats alike hate because they think it's too nonpartisan, that budget office, which we listened to, which guides our decisions here, says that the public option is going to save our health care system $100 billion, $100 billion because it's going to offer something cheaper to people and it's going to put pressure on the private insurers to bring their costs down.

So if we really care about costs, and this has to be part of the discussion, there is a lot of other things we can do here. We will talk about the insurance exchange which is going to force insurance companies to compete against each other, the tax credits we are going to give to businesses to try to have them offer insurance to their employees. But when all is said and done, we should be keeping every possible tool in the tool box that can bring the costs down. That's one of the things amongst many that can unite us in this building, in this Chamber and throughout this country.

And I think if there is one thing that I found when I was home, it is that when you really got down beyond some of the shouting, beyond the rhetoric, beyond the talking points that both sides were handing out, that there was actually a lot more that united us here.

And I think our job here, as we hit that witching hour on this bill, is to distill that down to something we can all be proud of when we go home.

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. I appreciate it. One of the things—we have got a little old school thing going here too that I ought to mention. But one of the things that I think is very important that everyone I talked to in August, Canfield Fair, St. Mathias, Slovak Festival, Irish plans, Italian-American Festival, every single time people were understanding the fact that they are paying for all of these uninsured people right now.

They get it. They know this $1,800 a year increase they are going to get next year is because there are going to be another 50 million people going to the emergency rooms. Doesn't make any sense. But I think one of the things too that we need to remember when we were talking to seniors about Medicare is that we have this population, especially, I think, in the industrial Midwest where people are 55, 60 years old, have lost their jobs, lost their insurance. Maybe they are still working, but the insurance company or their employer is not going to pay for their insurance anymore.

We have a very unhealthy segment of our population going into the Medicare program. And so if you are living in northeast Ohio, and if you are 55 or 60 years old, you lose your health care, a lot of people are saying to themselves, I am going to wait until I get into Medicare to get my heart surgery. I am going to wait until I get into Medicare to get my hip surgery. Or I am going to wait until I get into Medicare for you name it.

And so from 60 to Medicare age, a lot of things go wrong that you probably could have managed better. So we have this very unhealthy population going into the Medicare program.

So what our seniors need to know because our friends on the other side who don't want any kind of health care reform at all are saying, well, they are going to cut Medicare. Well, it's nice to see a few Republicans stand up and actually have some concern about Medicare because Newt Gingrich and Grover Norquist and these guys are talking about letting it wither on the vine and those kinds of things.

But it's going to save Medicare money if we have this 50-, 55-, 60-year-old population getting the kind of preventive, manageable care so that they don't all of a sudden say, I am going to wait until I get into Medicare. And then you go into Medicare and you need something that costs hundreds of thousands of dollars more. That's what is hurting our Medicare system more. So we need to bring some of those costs down.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Just to continue your point to its next logical step, shifting this health care system from a sick care system to what it is now, to a prevention and wellness-based system, ensuring that people can get their health care needs and their checkups taken care of before they get sick, is going to prevent those catastrophic, maybe not completely preventible catastrophic illness, but stave off chronic and catastrophic illness so that the actual health care that people go and get is less expensive health care, is preventive-based health care, and we will have a generally healthier population.

□ 2250

I will add to that the description that you provided of 60- to 65-year-olds.

There are many people in that category, and you can extend it actually down to about age 50, people who are sort of past their quality working years and should be retiring, maybe continuing to work and wearing themselves down. It is going to actually make them more sick, but because they have preexisting conditions and they are not yet Medicare-eligible and the only insurance many of them have is tied to their job, they are anchored to those jobs.

My own mom is one of those individuals. She has a preexisting condition and she gets her insurance coverage through her work. She is 63 years old and is not Medicare-eligible yet, so she has to continue to work full time in order to keep the coverage. There are countless stories like that in America. And she is the mother of a Member of Congress.

Just to show you, people are bandying about how privileged we are and our families. We have good coverage, decent coverage, but basic coverage, and our family members are just like any other family members across America. We all can list out countless examples of people who would benefit from comprehensive health care coverage.

Before I yield back to the gentleman, I want to go back to our friends on the other side of the aisle, because it has been frustrating to me as I have debated, and I am sure each of you has debated colleagues of ours on the other side of the aisle on this subject over the last few weeks, to hear them say that they are for reform, because, quite frankly, I just don't think that passes the smell test.

They were in charge here for 12 years. The last eight, they were in charge of everything. They had the opportunity. The ball was in their court. They certainly could have taken the ball and run with it. But health care reform was not a priority for them. It never has been, and it isn't now.

It is disingenuous for them to suggest that they are for reform, but not the reform that we are proposing. If they were for reform, they could have gotten it done. The reform that they offered the American people was some lame prescription drug part D program for Medicare that left a giant doughnut hole that thousands and thousands, tens of thousands of senior citizens are falling into that our health care reform proposal would fill and make sure that people wouldn't have to decide not to stop taking their medicine once they fall into it, and be able to again focus on getting people well and keeping them well instead of spiraling ever downward into a more sickly state.

Mr. MURPHY of Connecticut. Let me just add to that, that for all of the talk we have heard on this floor from our Republican friends about fiscal responsibility with respect to health care and respect to the overall budget, when that bill came up for debate, when they made their one foray into health care, a bill written for the drug industry and the insurance industry which have made record profits off of this program and many others, they didn't pay for a dime of it. They borrowed every cent in order to fund that Medicare prescription drug benefit.

You want to talk about the things that added to the deficit that Barack Obama inherited? Right at the top of that list is the only major effort that the Republican House and the Republican Senate made to health care.

So not only when they constructed the Medicare benefit did they get it wrong, but for all of their talk about making sure that this health care bill is deficit neutral, which is a commitment, a commitment from this President and from the House and from the Senate, when they had the opportunity to do it, they borrowed every single dime to do health care.

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. It may sound good to say if we just fix this or fix that, fix this and fix that, we will be okay. The problem we have now is we have this patchwork system that we just have been constantly patching up, and it is not addressing one of the main problems, and that is we have got all of these uninsured people. Some people say it is 10 million, some people say 15 million, so it is probably somewhere in between.

But the bottom line is, Mr. MEEK, all these people are going to the emergency room. That makes no sense to anybody. So you go in with your insurance card, you are paying for the person who is walking in there. What we are asking people to do in this reform package is for people who are now using the emergency room as their primary care doctor, that they will have to pay something now. They will have skin in the game. They will have a copay, they will have a premium. You are going to get something out of them.

That is how we are going to help build this new system, is by having people who are now getting something for nothing will have to pay and have skin in the game and take money out of their own pocket, Mr. MEEK, and pay for their health care, and that will help everybody.

Mr. MEEK of Florida. You know, Mr. RYAN, it is just so good to see Mr. MURPHY and you and Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ here back on the floor again, and the fact that some of the arguments that you hear, that I don't think we are here for some big, let's-build-the-government-even-more, you know, that the reason why we are here is to make sure that the government gets bigger and more control, that that is what we ran for.

No. We are here because we care about the people that sent us here. I said it earlier when I was here on the floor, just me at the top of this hour, when I said, you know something? No one came up to me and said, Congressman, I woke up at 7 a.m. in the morning voting for representation. I am so happy to send you, your wife and your two kids to Washington so you can have health care that I will never have. Okay?

The bottom line is I am sitting here, I am going to put these testimonials on my web site that some people have e-mailed to me and some I got from my town hall meeting.

I am looking at Robert here from Wellington, Florida. He says as a self-employed person, I am not eligible for any group coverage. Therefore, I must pay $4,000 a year for my family of four, and I have deductibles totaling up to $7,000 out-of-pocket before anything gets covered, in his plan that he has now.

In this current economy, my income has been greatly reduced, but I cannot change for a less expensive plan until the open enrollment period comes around, and that is almost a year away. It is nuts.

He says, in a nutshell, health care could well bankrupt me, even without a medical catastrophic event taking place, and I am trying to figure out what will the new Congress and the President do for me. That was his e-mail to me as a Congressman.

Now, I am not his Congressman, but he is just reaching out to Members of Congress. And the bottom line is there are real people out there that are dealing with it.

Mr. RYAN, you make so much sense when you say folks walk through—I know that is kind of hard for you to believe, me saying that—walk through the doors of an emergency room getting care, and you are watching these public hospitals going under. Think about it. They are reducing staff.

I was in Daytona the other day at a Labor Day picnic. A lady came up to me and said, Congressman, this is my first time meeting you. I have a mother in a hospital, the public hospital there in Volusia County, and we have to take turns being in the room with her because of the staff cuts that are there.

This is all coming from uncompensated health care that is driving up the costs, not only for public hospitals and private hospitals, but also driving up the costs for us who pay premiums and copays and all of those things.

So I would say this also to my friends that live in rural communities. I heard you talk about Ohio, and, of course, we can all talk about our States. But I can tell you this: In rural communities right now in this bill we incentivize doctors to stay in those communities. They are communities that are in need and they don't have specialists there.

We also look at addressing the disparities as they relate to rural America. Right now we have individuals that have to drive for miles and miles and miles. That is not okay, especially when you are in need of care.

So when we look at this whole comprehensive piece, we are looking at something that is going to bring about better coverage for all Americans,

make sure that those of us that have insurance, that we bring our costs down, making sure that people who have preexisting or family conditions, God forbid this gentleman from Bradenton, if something was to happen, one of his family members, he discovered his daughter had some sort of illness to where that she has to go operation to operation, and then that insurance that he has, which is not as good as mine, runs out, he is on his own, by himself. And folks can't say well, that is his personal problem. No, that is going to be my problem too and it is going to be the individual's problem who has health care, because he or she is going to pay for the fact that he can't get coverage and he works and provides, he is a business person and he just wants to insure his family.

□ 2300

Mr. RYAN, I'm going to say this, and then I'm not going to say anything else during this hour, but we'll yield back when that time comes, 10 minutes after the hour.

I will tell you this: that those of us in this Chamber didn't know better, because all while I was listening to people throughout the State of Florida during the break, I couldn't help but—like a lady posed a question to me in a townhall meeting: Congressman, what are you going to do to bring about the kind of change we need in Washington, D.C.? Are you going to be on the fence? Are you going to say, Well, you know, I don't want to necessarily say anything, don't want to do anything? I'm going to run in the back of the Chamber, put my card in and run out the door. Or am I going to come here and fight for those individuals who sent me here to fight for them.

And those are businesspeople, and those are individuals, and those are people who are listening to us right now that have a health care crisis or have an imminent health care crisis coming and wondering if they're going to have insurance. I would much rather go down fighting for them than sitting here trying to be safe and trying to score political points and win a couple more seats in Congress because it will help my political ideology. We're beyond that right now.

We are dealing with the real deals that are crippling our multinational companies that are here, based here in the United States, to compete with other countries who have health care reform and have a policy to where that doesn't bankrupt big and small companies.

So I'm just asking my colleagues, be they either Democrat or Republican, be a man, be a woman, be a leader, come here to Washington, D.C., and speak fact and not fiction and make sure that we fight, because we're as close as we have ever been to doing this right now, DEBBIE, and I think it's important that if we're going to go down, we're going to go down fighting. And I tell you if I have anything to do with it, we're not going down. That's one. Two, people are going to get health care. And in the final analysis, they're going to look at the leaders, either Democrat or Republican, and say, You know something? I'm glad they fought. They did not retreat.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. You know, Mr. MEEK, I can't help in listening to you but think of this debate through my eyes as a mom. There's nothing more important to moms than making sure that your children stay healthy, and there's nothing that tears out a mother's heart worse than looking at your child, knowing they're sick and knowing that you can't do anything to make them well, and you would do anything to make your child well if you could.

Imagine layering on top of that angst for a mother the fact that she wasn't covered by health insurance nor were her children, and as a result, she couldn't even take her child to the doctor when they first got sick and she has to wait and wait and wait until her child gets sicker and sicker and sicker until she has to use the emergency room as her primary access point for health care for her child.

Now, for me, we are at the point in this country in our Nation's history where you should not be separated from our ability to provide for the health and well-being of your child due to the difference in your wealth.

When a child turns 5 years old in this county, Mr. MEEK, Mr. RYAN, Mr. MURPHY, no parent has to worry about whether they're going to be able to pay for their children's education because we have education that's universal in America. It's a given. It was decided over 100 years ago. Everyone gets equal access to education and the government pays for it.

We're not even going that far here. What we're saying is health care should be a right and should not be a privilege.

Mr. RYAN, one of the things that just galls me, which is why I keep going back to it, is how disingenuous our colleagues on the other side of the aisle have been.

Let me quote one of our colleagues, and I won't name her. She said this last week to a conservative organization, and this was reported in the newspaper. A colleague of ours, in talking about their views on health care reform said, "What we have to do today is make a covenant, to slit our wrists, be blood brothers on this thing. This will not pass. We will do whatever it takes to make sure this doesn't pass." And then she continued, "Right now, we are looking at reaching down the throat and ripping the guts out of freedom, and we may never be able to restore it if we don't man up and take this one on."

That is a direct quote from one of our colleagues who I won't name, but, Madam Speaker, I would like to enter this into the RECORD.

TALKING POINTS MEMO: 9/1

Rep. Michele Bachmann (R–MN) spoke yesterday to the right-wing Independence Institute, the Colorado Independent reports, and she called on conservative to really come together in the fight against President Obama on health care.

"What we have to do today is make a covenant, to slit our wrists, be blood brothers on this thing," said Bachmann. "This will not pass. We will do whatever it takes to make sure this doesn't pass."

The sanguinary rhetoric continued. "Right now, we are looking at reaching down the throat and ripping the guts out of freedom," she said. "And we may never be able to restore it if we don't man up and take this one on."

Bachmann also denounced a system under which some Americans pay half their income in taxes: "It's nothing more than slavery."

We don't even have to deal with transparency because it's clear that the stakes are so high for them. If I hadn't read it myself, I wouldn't have believed it. The stakes are so high here. They know that if we're successful at finally reforming the health care system and covering everyone, that politically next year they won't be able to be too successful in the elections. And that's what it's about for them, it's about power.

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. I want to say two things and then I will be done for the night, too.

There was this interesting article in Newsweek this week. It was about a book about William F. Buckley and about the battle between the extreme right wing of the Republican Party and the William F. Buckley National Review kind of wing, and there was this little battle post-New Deal.

But it's interesting to note that right after Roosevelt got in, there was this extreme reaction, very similar to what we're seeing where every critique of what Roosevelt was doing was socialism, communism, and all of these fancy names. But there were also these vigilante minutemen who would show up at these events carrying their guns, and it was amazing, because that's exactly what we're dealing with here.

There's no solution. There are just these critiques of how the train is moving down the track. The American people want to go in another direction.

But I wanted to share this story because I think this is what we're all talking about.

I ran into this woman at the Canfield Fair. I stood outside the Democratic Party tent. This is one of the biggest fairs in Ohio over Labor Day. I stood there for 4 hours, 4 hours, just south of Youngstown, Ohio. I had two people out of all the entire time come up to me and say, What are you doing with this socialist—and they're also against the energy bill, so it was totally the right wing talk radio crowd that was like inundating them with this stuff. Two people came up against this.

But what this one woman said, she's 35 years old, married, kid. Husband just lost a job. They made about $58,000 a year when he worked. They now make $32,000 a year. She is working. He, after

he lost his job, is going back to school. No income, trying to better their life. The daughter was in the stroller there.

This woman is telling me this story. She has a condition. She's got to take medication. It's very expensive. She can't afford it. Now they're paying out of pocket. She makes $32,000 a year, down from $58,000 because the husband lost the job. And she said, Do you want me to go on welfare and go on Medicaid? Because that's what I'm forced to do.

Now, if there's any value we respect here in America, it's somebody that wants to work. She wants to work. She wants to provide for her kids, her husband. She wants to have a nice family. She wants to have the dignity of work. And the system now is set up that that really may be the best decision for her and her family is to go on Medicaid and take welfare benefits. That's not what we want.

And what we're saying is why should this woman who's working her rear end off, her husband is going back to school to get retrained, those are the people we want to help. That's what this whole thing, the whole thousand pages that everyone keeps talking about, that's what this whole thing is about. It's about helping that woman, her husband, and that kid.

And that's why, DEBBIE, as you said, the stakes are high. KENDRICK, the stakes are high, and we need to pass this thing.

Mr. MURPHY of Connecticut. If our friends on the other side of the aisle want to have a debate about freedom, let's have a debate about freedom.

Listen, we don't legislate on anecdote here. We legislate on data and statistics and evidence. But the anecdotes are powerful because they're representative of what the data tells us.

And I think about the woman in my district who raised her hand at an event I had at Town Green last week, and she said, Listen. I work for an employer who's downsizing and looking to cut costs wherever they can, and I've got a child with a very serious illness. She's on this employer's health care plan, and I know that I am targeted. I know that if they can get rid of me and get rid of the expenses associated with my daughter, they've just saved a lot of money. And I know if I lose this job, I'm not going to be able to find another one because there's no way that somebody is going to pick me up if they have to cover the cost of my daughter who has an illness through no fault of her own, no fault of mine.

What kind of freedom is that?

I think about the guy who raised his hand and told me the story about the fact that he had been working for a new company that had just hired him in New Britain, Connecticut, a couple of years ago. He had had a good, steady income for 2 years, but he got diagnosed with gallbladder cancer and he couldn't show up for work any longer, and they fired him. They fired him and he lost his health insurance.

□ 2310

Now he spends every single dime that he makes off of his unemployment checks to pay for cancer treatment. What kind of freedom is that? When we want to talk about freedom, health care reform, giving freedom to people who have insurance and want to keep it, giving freedom to people who lose it and need to get medical care, let's have a debate about freedom, because the proponents of reform are going to win that debate, Mr. MEEK.

Mr. MEEK of Florida. We have 30 seconds left.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. I just appreciate being together again and knowing that on a regular basis over the next several weeks and months we will be getting together to press for health care reform for everyone.

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Absolutely. Madam Speaker, with that, from these Members that came before the House tonight, we want to definitely let other Members know that we will be coming to the floor. We will be sharing accurate information as we have done over the years, and we will continue to do it good or bad. We look forward to the President coming and addressing us tomorrow in a joint session.

With that, we yield back the balance of our time. Thank you.

HEALTH CARE REFORM

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2009, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BURGESS) is recognized for the remaining time until midnight.

Mr. BURGESS. I thank the Speaker for the recognition. I almost feel like now that I have got equal time for a reply from the last 45-minute segment, I would remind my friends on the majority that they are in the majority. This is the House of Representatives of the United States. Any bill can pass on the floor of this House with 218 votes. As I recall the last numbers, we have 177 Members on the Republican side, you have 258 members on the Democratic side. That means you can pass pretty much whatever you want whenever you want as long as you keep only 40 Members of your party from straying, and you can only lose 40 Members from your side and you can pass whatever you want.

Now we read some articles in the paper today where there are 23 Democrats who say no way are they voting for this health care bill after they have been through the summer that they have had. Okay, you still have a comfortable margin of 20 votes to pass whatever bill you want. So, please, don't set this up as a straw man Republican versus Democratic argument. The Republican Party in the House of Representatives in this Congress cannot stop you from passing anything that you want to pass. We do not have the numbers. We do not have the organization. Some might argue we don't have the leadership to block anything that you want to pass.

So your argument is an internal argument. It is Democrat versus Democrat. Bring the bill to the floor of the House that you want to bring. Bring it to the Rules Committee. You certainly have done it plenty of times. Bring it to the floor of the House. We will have our obligatory 2 hours of debate. We will have the vote, win the vote, and send it over to the Senate. You have 60 votes on the Senate side. This should not be a challenge for you. Send it down to the White House. You have a President who will sign virtually anything you send down to him.

This is not an argument that you are having with Republicans. This is an argument you are having internally within your own caucus. And why are you having that argument internally within your own caucus? Because you have not sold this proposal to the American people. And you felt that acutely during the August recess.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman is reminded to address his remarks to the Chair and not to others in the second person.

Mr. BURGESS. Absolutely. I will refer to the Chair.

Madam Speaker, this is because the other side did not make the sale to the American people. They did not engage the American people from the bottom up, from the grass-roots up, which is the way you have to do tough legislative proposals, transformative legislative proposals. You don't start at the top and work down. That's the Soviet style of doing things, Madam Speaker. This is America. We go from the grass-roots up.

Our friends on the Democratic side chose not to do it that way. Instead, they would rather vilify Republicans because, after all, that's what helps them raise money and win votes. And after all, isn't it all about just winning votes and maintaining your majority? You're not really held to account by the American people as to whether or not you pass your agenda or not, apparently, if we are to believe the poll numbers.

But, Madam Speaker, I do not believe this can be done from the top down. I do believe this has to come from the grass-roots up. We saw a Member of Congress, a Democrat in one of the midwestern States, plaintively ask her audience on YouTube during the month of August during one of the August town halls, don't you trust me? And the response she got back from her audience was, well, apparently not. The audience didn't trust her.

All across this country, Members of Congress have heard the voices of August. The question is, the real question for this House is, was anyone listening to those voices as they were speaking to us?

Right now, this Congress has historic low credibility ratings. We have some of the lowest credibility ratings in the

last 26 years. Two years ago, 2½ years ago, when the Senate tried to pass massive immigration reform, they found because of the very low credibility levels that they had that no one trusted the United States Senate to pass this type of immigration reform. As a consequence, despite the backing of two very powerful Senators, one on the Republican side and one on the Democratic side, despite that very powerful backing, they were unable to pass sweeping immigration reform in 2007. The American people recoiled in horror when they saw what was happening, flooded the Senate switchboard, shut down the Senate servers, and the Senate got the message and very quickly went on to other things that might occupy their time for the rest of that summer.

Well, this summer has been no different. Switchboards have been shut down. Servers have been overwhelmed. The American people have weighed in on this issue, and it is overwhelmingly opposed to what the Speaker of the House has pushed through the three committees here on the House side.

Now, if we do not have the credibility to do a sweeping proposal, a sweeping legislative proposal such as has been before us, to essentially allow the government to claim one-seventh of the Nation's economy, if we don't have the credibility to do that, should we just do nothing? Or should we, in fact, try to achieve some deliverables for the American people? I think every one of us heard that the American people are interested in us effecting some reforms. We heard some of them mentioned just in the last hour on the Democratic side. There are things on which we do agree. There are things on which we can work. And there are deliverables we can accomplish for the American people.

But the fact of the matter is the American people do not trust us, do not trust us to undertake this type of sweeping reform and transform the way health care is delivered in this country such that many people may not even recognize it.

Now, I do take some exception to some of the comments that I heard in the last hour. I was a physician. For 25 years, I practiced medicine. There are plenty of times I got up in the middle of the night, and I knew that delivery I was going to do or that operation I was going to perform was something for which I would never be compensated. That's just part of the job. American physicians, men and women, show up all hours of the day and night to render this type of care, and they don't ask where the payment is coming from.

People get taken care of in this country in a timely and respectful manner, and it happens every day of the week. And quite honestly, I am very tired of hearing the type of rhetoric we just heard on this House floor where America's physicians are seemingly indifferent to the plights of people who happen to be ill and uninsured. Patients are taken care of all the time across this country in clinics, in hospitals and in emergency rooms by caring physicians, caring nurses and caring hospital staff without regard for that patient's ability to pay. It happens every day of the week.

It is so frustrating to hear people talk about the only way to pay for health care in this country is either through a private insurance or a government program. There is plenty of care that is just donated by the generosity of America's physicians, America's nurses and America's hospitals.

In fact, the only thing standing in the way of this sweeping health care reform that the President is going to come talk to us about tomorrow night is, again, an internal conflict on the Democratic side. If we had done this bill in July, as had been proposed, if, in fact, we had voted on this bill on July 31, which was what the chairman of the three committees desired, which is what the President at the White House desired, had we voted on this bill by the 31st of July, we would have gone home to face our town halls; but it would have been a different equation because the bill would have already been passed and would be off to the Senate. But we didn't do that.

A funny thing happened on the way to ramming this thing through, and many Members on the Democratic side began to hear from their constituents and began to hear that this was not perhaps such a good idea after all.

Do bear in mind, Madam Speaker, 218 votes are what are required to pass any bill out of the floor of this House under a rule. The Rules Committee is the Speaker's Committee. The Speaker has a 9–4 advantage in that committee. The Speaker could get any rule pushed through the Rules Committee that she wishes. She could bring any bill to the floor that she wishes. We have seen it time and time and time again; 218 votes are what is required.

□ 2320

Do not tell me, do not continue to perpetuate the fantasy that somehow 177 Republicans are able to prevent this bill from coming to the floor. And again, I would reiterate, you have the magic 60 votes in the Senate. You don't need reconciliation; you don't need a fancy procedural maneuver, you have the votes, 60 votes in the Senate, to pass whatever you care to pass. And of course you have a President who has already committed to signing this bill.

One of the things that I heard a lot back home was a concern about the cost. And this is something that is going to continue to come up and continue to be problematic for anyone who wants to undertake a bill that is as sweeping as the one that we had before our committees last month. The bill itself had very little in the way of cost containment contained within the bill. Oh, sure, there were some physician cuts—we always rely on those—there were some cuts to home health care, there were some cuts to our radiologists and imaging, but in general there was very little in the way of cost containment in the bill.

Now, we do hear a lot of talk and there is a lot of rhetoric on the issue of preventive care. Preventive care, preventive medicine, you bet, I'm for that. The cost savings from preventive care, though, are much less certain and the timeline to achieving those cost savings is also uncertain. In fact, the Congressional Budget Office in its report to our committee in July delineated the very low rate of return on those savings and the fact that it might be years before those cost containments were achieved. That doesn't mean that it's not worthwhile, it doesn't mean that it's not worth doing, but to go to the American people with the statement that we're going to do all of these things and we're going to be able to pay for all this additional care by not cutting anyone's services, but because we're going to do things better, faster, cheaper, smarter just, in fact, does not square with the facts and the American people have seen through that.

Now, many of the studies have shown that in fact in the early years, by increasing the preventive regimen, the cost may in fact increase. And you would expect this to be the case because there is going to be more spent on the infrastructure necessary, more spent on the clinics, the exam rooms, professional personnel, nurse practitioners, paramedics, the physician extenders that are going to be necessary to see the increased numbers of patients who will be coming through those clinics as we increase the throughput through those clinics. So it is going to cost more money up front. I think there is broad recognition of that.

Now, we did hear some concern about the Medicare part D program. I would just simply remind people that Medicare part D, when it was passed in this House of Representatives back in 2003, Medicare part D was a prevention-based strategy. It only made sense, if you were going to cover the doctor's expense, if you were going to cover the hospitalization as was covered under Medicare's part A and B at the time and you did not allow for the coverage of a prescription drug benefit, that it was going to be much harder to deliver on the promise of preventative care without the medicines available to prevent the illnesses that you wish to prevent. It seemed relatively simple and straight forward in 2003, it seems relatively simple and straightforward now.

I think this Congress, I think the people who have written this bill would have done well to look at some of the things from the Medicare part D program that actually have worked very well. And true enough, there were some problems with Medicare part D as it was passed. There were some problems with implementation, I don't think

anyone would deny that. But the fact of the matter is that under the Medicare part D program, remember, there was no mandate. There was never a mandate that said a senior had to take a certain type of prescription drug coverage. Different levels of coverage were available to every senior. Every senior was encouraged to have some type of credible coverage for prescription drugs. There was a cut-off date beyond which there would be an increased cost for buying into the insurance program if someone did not enroll during the open enrollment period, but it did not come to us under the mantle of a mandate.

There was no requirement that every senior buy coverage. There was simply the recommendation that every senior have credible coverage under the plan. In fact, there were some benefits for people if they went ahead and established that credible coverage by a certain cut-off date. And what that meant was that the companies that were involved in providing the coverage then were competitive on the basis of trying to create programs that people actually wanted rather than saying we know you've got to buy this, so we're just going to put one or two programs out there and you can pick or choose from one or two and take it or leave it. Dr. McClellan, Mark McClellan, who at the time was head of Medicare and Medicaid Services, said there were going to be six protected classes of drugs within the program. Within each of those six classes there have to be at least two different choices. And with those relatively simple parameters, the companies were allowed to go out and construct programs and go out there and compete in the marketplace.

Now, we were told early on when we talked about this type of change in the Medicare part D program that in fact you will never get companies showing up to provide these products; you would have to mandate something, otherwise people just simply won't have any program at all from which to choose. But Dr. McClellan stuck to plan, and as a consequence, in some States we have well over 40 different plans that were there making available different types of Medicare part D coverage. In fact, we were criticized a year into the plan that there were too many choices, people couldn't possibly decide what to buy because there was too much choice out there. Well, in fact, it was a good problem to have. And as a consequence, now we have the Medicare part D program where the coverage rate is in excess of 90 percent, the satisfaction rate is in excessive 90 percent.

And it rivals any insurance program with a mandatory or coverage mandate, whether it be an individual or employer mandate. By creating the type of program that people actually want, that is actually useful, that actually matters to them in their lives, we have been able to provide more coverage to more people at lower costs than anyone thought possible back in 2003 when the legislation was passed.

Now, we heard very many compelling anecdotes in the past 45 minutes about people with difficult problems in tough medical situations. And no one would argue that those are not compelling stories. I would just remind people that are studying this issue that the bill that we had before us that came out of the three committees, the bill that will likely come to the floor sometime this month, while it does provide for a public option and it does provide for a public option for coverage, those methods of coverage do not become generally available to the general population until 2013, 3 years after the enactment of the bill. So those are not going to be immediate benefits that are going to be accessible by any of the tough situations that you've heard described here in the last hour. In fact, those programs are going to lag significantly behind the start-up time of that bill.

Well, what can we expect in January when the bill starts if the bill is passed and signed as is planned? What can we count on in January? Well, you can count on the taxes occurring. Those certainly will. The taxes will begin January 1 of 2010. An 8 percent payroll tax on small business in this country. An 8 percent payroll tax may will be the largest single employment tax that has ever been passed in this country.

This may be the largest single job-killing event to occur in this young century. This is something that we need to be very, very careful about as we go about enacting this legislation because we are in the midst of a recession. We are hopeful that the recession is ending, but one of the difficult things about ending a recession, as we found in my early years here in 2003 and 2004, that as a recession ends, job growth does not necessarily follow immediately. What is the major engine of job growth in this country? Well, it's small business. So if we don't do anything to encourage small business and in fact we go so far as to hurt small business, it will be very, very difficult to grow those jobs that are actually going to be what ultimately lifts us out of this recession.

None of us likes to look forward to a jobless recovery, and yet that seems to be what's in the cards for us right now. This is a very serious situation and something to which this Congress should best place some heed because the absence of job growth in this economy will lead to that double dip or W-shaped recession that many economists talk about.

I did have several meetings with small business owners in my district. I conducted forums with small business owners just to hear their concerns about what Congress was doing. And yes, we heard some on the energy bill that was passed earlier this year and how that would be a job killing piece of legislation, but a lot of concern over what is happening in health care. And even more to the point, there is so much uncertainty out there in the country right now. No one knows what we're going to do, Madam Speaker. Are we going to pass this bill? Are we going to put an 8 percent payroll tax on top of the taxes that small businesses already pay?

□ 2330

Many employers with whom I spoke told me, Yeah, the recession may be ending. We see some signs. Things seem to be easing up a little bit.

Well, are you going to expand your business? Are you going to be adding jobs? Are you going to be bringing back some of those jobs that you outsourced or laid off?

Well, I'm not so sure about that because the environment out there is kind of unsettled right now. We don't know what you're going to do with this health care bill. We don't know what you're going to do with that energy bill. As a consequence, we're going to put our expansion plans on hold for right now.

I heard this over and over and over again.

Now, to be sure, every business that I talked to was, perhaps, talking about adding one or two or three jobs, and they put those plans on hold, but when small businesses across the country are putting on hold plans of adding one, two or three jobs, spread over the entire country and over the entire economy, that's a significant number of jobs that are right now being held in limbo because, again, employers are not certain about what Congress is going to do next.

Well, I think one of the things that came through loud and clear for me in listening to my constituents during the month of August was that Congress fundamentally lacks the trust of the American people to do something this large, and it is very, very difficult to do this in a top-down centralized fashion. We really do need to recruit, to encourage and to educate the American people as to what we are trying to do and as to where the value for them is in it on what we are trying to do rather than to just simply superimpose this large government program on the American people.

You've heard it over and over again: Have you read the bill? Who can read the bill? It's too big. It's too complex. No one can understand it.

This is a valid complaint, and it's reflective of the fact that this legislation is large, that it is sweeping and that people do not trust the Congress to make those kinds of changes on a portion of their lives that is that important to them. People do not trust the Congress to be able to do the right thing.

We've heard over and over again from our constituents: Hey, if this is not even good enough for Members of Congress, why should we sign up for it? Why should we accept what you won't even take yourselves?

Now, to be sure, during the debates in the committees, there were a number

of amendments that were offered. Some suggested that whatever the public option is and whatever it turns out to be should be the type of insurance that Members of Congress and that members of the administration and their staffs are required to take. That is, if it is good enough for the American people, it ought to be good enough for the governing class as well. I don't disagree with that. That amendment was knocked out on a technicality in our committee, and we never had the chance to vote for it. That ruling was appealed, and the appeal of the motion of the Chair was upheld on a party-line vote. So, essentially, every Democrat said, Hey, we don't want this coverage for ourselves. Every Republican said that we should at least have the debate, that we should at least hear the amendment and that we should hear from both sides on this issue, but we weren't allowed to do it. It was shut down in committee on a party-line vote.

I had an amendment that would have made Medicaid available to every Member of Congress. Congress could be a mandatory population under Medicaid, so every Member of Congress would be covered under the Medicaid system, and every Member of Congress would then understand what it is like to try to find a physician—doctor—for themselves or for a family member in the Medicaid system. It can be very difficult to do that. Why is that? Because reimbursement rates under Medicaid are so low that members of the medical profession simply cannot afford to take large numbers of Medicaid patients into their practices for fear that they won't be able to cover their overhead and for fear that they will not be able to keep their practices open.

Again, on a technicality, this was prevented from a vote, and it just underscores the hubris of the United States Congress when it will consider doing things to the American people, those things it would never consider doing to Members of Congress. People see that and they resent that. They can feel that it is not right that a Member of Congress would vote on a type of bill that would require Americans to take a certain type of insurance when that Member of Congress would have no intention of taking that insurance himself.

We heard it in some of the townhalls that were conducted by the White House: Is this insurance something that will be good enough for members in the White House and for members of their staffs?

No, not necessarily. We want something good for members of the White House.

It is exactly that type of hubris that has gotten people so upset. We could deal with that. We could deal with that by requiring that any public option or that even Medicaid is something that is not just made available but required of Members of Congress, but we won't have that discussion. We won't have that debate. It somehow seems to be demeaning or beneath us to have that debate, but certainly that's a problem we could fix and that we could fix pronto.

There was nothing in this bill that dealt with liability reform. As a physician, I will tell you that that is one of the single largest issues that faces physicians in this country. It is the constant threat of medical litigation, the expense of medical liability insurance and the cost of defensive medicine that drives the cost of the practice of medicine literally through the roof.

A study back in 1996 by Dr. McClellan from Stanford University at that time estimated a cost of nearly $30 billion for two diagnoses in the Medicare system because of defensive medicine. Well, that was in dollars of 12 or 13 years ago. Imagine what those dollars have grown to today in our current liability climate.

This is something that the American people understand needs to be fixed, and they simply do not understand why Congress will not at least consider entertaining the debate. What they see is that this is something that is being blocked by special interests and that this is something that is being blocked by a certain lobbyist group that is being prevented from even being discussed in a congressional committee. The American people look at that and say, Well, that's not right. We cannot possibly believe anything else that's in that bill, because we don't trust you to have a rational discussion about this.

I dare say, if liability reform and fairness in the physician compensation system had been on the table at the very beginning, you might well have had some Republicans on board for this bill right from the start.

What I do know is that you never tried. Never did any of the committee chairmen, Madam Speaker, and never did the President or the White House seriously try to achieve any type of bipartisan balance in this bill. It simply was of no interest to them because—and I'll go back to my early remarks about the arithmetic in the House—they can lose 40 votes in the House and still pass a bill. They have 60 votes in the Senate. They can cut off debate at any time and pass a bill and send it down to the White House and get it signed into law.

We heard over and over again in our townhalls this summer about the problems with preexisting conditions and about the problems with insurance recision. We're talking about insurance reform. That is something that we could accomplish. Yes, there are some thorny issues to be addressed, but it's certainly no more difficult than anything else we've taken on. We could have solved that problem. We could have debated that problem. We could have voted on that problem before we went home for the August recess, and we could have shown the American people that, in fact, we were serious about taking care of a very serious problem that affects 8 to 10 million people in this country, a problem that prevents them from getting the health care coverage they would like to have.

Yes, there are going to be some difficult arguments to have over rating bans. Yes, there are going to be some difficult arguments as to whether or not there is a premium cap or whether or not there is a premium to be paid for someone's not having had insurance before someone got a tough diagnosis. We can have those arguments. There perhaps could be new moneys made available in State and Federal subsidies for people who can't afford the cost of a State high-risk pool. Nevertheless, we could have those debates. We could have those arguments. We could look at those figures and decide what a correct number would be. Again, that is something that is easily within our level of achievement, and this House could have done it before we went home for August, but for some reason, we chose not to.

On the issue of portability, we could have dealt with that before we went home for the August recess. One of the biggest problems that people are having right now is job loss because of the recession. Yes, if someone loses his job and he has employer-sponsored insurance, it becomes tough to continue that insurance. Under COBRA, employer-sponsored insurance has to be offered for the next 18 months, but it's extremely expensive. For someone who has just lost his job, to be able to cover his portion and the employer's portion and an administrative fee becomes terribly difficult, but we could have dealt with that. The fact of the matter is we chose not to. We chose to go home for the August recess with our work being undone, and the American people saw right through that. That's why they were so frustrated with us in the month of August.

Now, we heard on one of the Sunday shows this weekend that the President's main adviser said, In some States, why, there is no competition. There's only one insurer.

Well, how do you deal with that if there is only one insurer in some States? Do you really make the situation measurably better by adding a second insurer? Well, maybe. If it's a government-run program, then maybe that's a good thing. Maybe it's a bad thing. Maybe you run out the one insurer who was there already, and you're back to one insurer which is now the public option. There are 1,300 different insurance companies out there. If we would simply relax some of the restrictions against selling across State lines, we could open those markets up, not to one other insurer, not to ten other insurers, but to hundreds of other insurers.

□ 2340

That's real competition in the marketplace. The same type of competition you see today for car insurance

and for life insurance and with the power of the Internet, those costs have come down significantly for those two products. We could have achieved the same type of success in the health insurance market if we were just clever enough to have the discussion and begin to negotiate how we would go about putting the protections in place so that people weren't taken advantage of in that situation, and that's well within our power to do that, Madam Speaker.

I again come back to the concept that Members of Congress were not willing to take the very insurance that they were requiring the American people to take. When you talk about hubris, that's one of the things I heard over and over again. The bill is too big; nobody knows what's in it. You haven't even read the darn thing and why won't; if it's so darn good, why won't a Member of Congress sign up for it?

We heard those same comments over and over and over again. And what did they tell us? It's a big bill. People are frightened of Congress' ability to actually deliver on a bill like this or ability to deliver on a promise like this. And if it is so darn good, then why aren't you willing to step up and take it yourself?

And that really distills the arguments that we heard during the month of August. Now, unfortunately, coupled with all of this—and we heard some of the comments in the last hour when the Democrats had the floor—you heard the comment made, Madam Speaker, that it's the right-wing talk radio crowd that's causing the objections to this health care bill, otherwise it would be done.

I submit to you the right-wing talk radio crowd is my crowd. They talk to Republicans. But it's only 177 Republicans in the House of Representatives. You have got 258 Democrats. The right-wing talk radio crowd doesn't talk to the 258 Democrats, and you can still lose 39 Democrats and pass almost any bill that you want out of the House.

So, please, it is not a Republican that is preventing you from doing this. Recognize what's happening here. It is the fact that you have not sold this bill to the American people. That's what's preventing this from being done.

Now, the other unfortunate thing this summer was the Speaker of the House took it upon herself and the majority leader took it upon himself to write a joint op-ed piece for USA Today where they vilified the American people. Well, you know, if you are trying to build a grass-roots consensus for what you are trying to do, for something as big as transforming the delivery of health care in this country, is it really a smart idea to vilify the very people whom you are trying to recruit to help you to do this project? I don't think so.

I mean, that's Politics 101. That's one of the first tenets. You don't, you don't, you don't irritate the very people that you are going to be asking to help you pass a bill of this magnitude.

I do believe it is possible, that it is reasonable for us to get down and work on some of these things that I have outlined tonight. I suspect there are others out there that people on both sides of the aisle might like to see. These are just mine that came up during my town halls.

I would like to see us have some serious discussions on this. I think the American people really do want to see this done in a bipartisan fashion.

Now, tomorrow night we are going to have a big speech here in the House. The President will come down; all of our friends from the Senate will be here. We may well have members of the Cabinet here as well to hear what the President is going to say.

Will there be something new brought up tomorrow night? I don't know. Will we simply see, hear a rehash of the same things? Will we hear criticisms of Republicans for not working with Democrats on this issue? We might.

I would just simply again offer that we don't have the numbers to stop anything; and when I made overtures to the other side early this year, in fact, even during the transition period before the President was sworn in on inauguration day, completely rebuffed by the chairman of my committee, by the President's transition team. No one seemed interested in any Republican input at that point.

We have got the votes, we won the election, we can do it all and so we shall.

Well, it's August. It was a hot month; things got a little heated at home. And now that we are back here in the fall working on this, perhaps it is time to rethink this.

I saw it on one of the Web sites the other day: maybe it's time for the President to hit the reset button. Maybe that's not a bad idea. This is a big, big change in the way things are being handled in America in regards to health care.

The benefits in this bill don't go into effect for 3 years' time. There is no rush to do this thing this month. There is time for us to get this right.

And, you know, like the old saying goes, if you don't have time to do it right when are you going to find time to do it over? Or as one of my surgery professors used to tell me years ago, this is so important, let's go slowly. We don't have time to be in a hurry.

Well, I think those are words that might serve us well as we continue to work on this legislation.

We are going to hear from the President tomorrow night. I, for one, am looking forward to what he is going to say. I would welcome the fact that perhaps we can all get back together and work on some of these things. My concept would be on let's keep it a little bit simpler so that we do build some trust back with the American people.

Certainly the President enjoys a much higher popularity figure, much higher poll numbers than any of us in the United States House of Representatives have. But, on the other hand, that popularity is waning as well.

I think it's important that the American people see that we can work together on this, that we can produce deliverables for the country. And I, for one, would be happy to get on with that work.

With that, Madam Speaker, I am going to yield back the balance of my time.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York (at the request of Mr. HOYER) for today and the balance of the week on account of recovering from back surgery.

Mr. RODRIGUEZ (at the request of Mr. HOYER) for today on account of travel issues.

Mr. TANNER (at the request of Mr. HOYER) for today and September 9 on account of attending a funeral.

Mr. DREIER (at the request of Mr. BOEHNER) for today on account of events in the district.

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 Ms. WOOLSEY) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. HOYER, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. WOOLSEY, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. MCGOVERN, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. KAPTUR, for 5 minutes, today.

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. POE of Texas) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. JONES, for 5 minutes, today, September 9, 10, 14 and 15.

Mr. BURTON of Indiana, for 5 minutes, today, September 9 and 10.

Mr. POE of Texas, for 5 minutes, today, September 9, 10, 14 and 15.

Mr. MCCOTTER, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN, for 5 minutes, today and September 14.

Mr. NEUGEBAUER, for 5 minutes, today and September 10.

Mr. SOUDER, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. INGLIS, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. MORAN of Kansas, for 5 minutes, today, September 10, 14 and 15.

Mr. BARTLETT, for 5 minutes, today.

SENATE BILLS REFERRED

Bills of the Senate of the following titles were taken from the Speaker's table and, under the rule, referred as follows:

S. 713. An act to require the Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency to quickly and fairly address the abundance of surplus manufactured housing units stored by the Federal Government around the country at taxpayer expense, the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

S. 748. An act to redesignate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 2777 Logan Avenue in San Diego, California, as the ''Cesar E. Chavez Post Office''; the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

S. 1211. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 60 School Street, Orchard Park, New York, as the ''Jack F. Kemp Post Office Building''; the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

Lorraine C. Miller, Clerk of the House, reported and found truly enrolled bills and a joint resolution of the House of the following titles, which were thereupon signed by the Speaker pro tempore, Mr. HOYER, on Thursday, August 6, 2009:

H.R. 774. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 46–02 21st Street in Long Island City, New York, as the ''Geraldine Ferraro Post Office Building''.

H.R. 987. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 601 8th Street in Freedom, Pennsylvania, as the ''John Scott Challis, Jr. Post Office''.

H.R. 1271. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located 2351 West Atlantic Boulevard in Pompano Beach, Florida, as the ''Elijah Pat Larkins Post Office Building''.

H.R. 1275. An act to direct the exchange of certain land in Grand, San Juan, and Uintah Counties, Utah, and for other purposes.

H.R. 1397. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 41 Purdy Avenue in Rye, New York, as the ''Caroline O'Day Post Office Building''.

H.R. 2090. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 431 State Street in Ogdensburg, New York, as the ''Frederic Remington Post Office Building''.

H.R. 2162. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 123 11th Avenue South in Nampa, Idaho, as the ''Herbert A Littleton Postal Station''.

H.R. 2325. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1300 Matamoros Street in Laredo, Texas, as the ''Laredo Veterans Post Office''.

H.R. 2422. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 2300 Scenic Drive in Georgetown, Texas, as the ''Kile G. West Post Office Building''.

H.R. 2470. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 19190 Cochran Boulevard FRNT in Port Charlotte, Florida, as the ''Lieutenant Commander Roy H. Boehm Post Office Building''.

H.R. 2938. An act to extend the deadline for commencement of construction of a hydroelectric project.

H.R. 3435. An act making supplemental appropriations for fiscal year 2009 for the Consumer Assistance to Recycle and Save Program.

H.J. Res. 44. Joint resolution recognizing the service, sacrifice, honor, and professionalism of the Noncommissioned Officers of the United States Army.

SENATE ENROLLED JOINT RESOLUTION SIGNED

The Speaker pro tempore, Mr. HOYER, announced his signature on Thursday, August 6, 2009 to an enrolled joint resolution of the Senate of the following title:

S.J. Res. 19. Joint resolution granting the consent and approval of Congress to amendments made by the State of Maryland, the Commonwealth of Virginia, and the District of Columbia to the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Regulation Compact.

BILLS PRESENTED TO THE PRESIDENT

Lorraine C. Miller, Clerk of the House reports that on August 4, 2009 she presented to the President of the United States, for his approval, the following bill.

H.R. 3357. To restore sums to the Highway Trust Fund, and for other purposes.

Lorraine C. Miller, Clerk of the House also reports that on August 6, 2009 she presented to the President of the United States, for his approval, the following bill.

H.R. 3435. Making supplemental appropriations for fiscal year 2009 for the Consumer Assistance to Recycle and Save Program.

Lorraine C. Miller, Clerk of the House also reports that on August 11, 2009 she presented to the President of the United States, for his approval, the following bills.

H.R. 2938. To extend the deadline for commencement of construction of a hydroelectric project.

H.R. 1275. To direct the exchange of certain land in Grand, San Juan, and Uintah Counties, Utah, and for other purposes.

H.J. Res. 44. Recognizing the service, sacrifice, honor, and professionalism of the Noncommissioned Officers of the United States Army.

H.R. 2470. To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 19190 Cochran Boulevard FRNT in Port Charlotte, Florida, as the ''Lieutenant Commander Roy H. Boehm Post Office Building.''

H.R. 2325. To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1300 Matamoros Street in Laredo, Texas, as the ''Laredo Veterans Post Office.''

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H.R. 987. To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 601 8th Street in Freedom, Pennsylvania, as the ''John Scott Challis, Jr. Post Office.''

H.R. 774. To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 46–02 21st Street in Long Island City, New York, as the ''Geraldine Ferraro Post Office Building.''

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 11 o'clock and 45 minutes p.m.), the House adjourned until tomorrow, Wednesday, September 9, 2009, at 10 a.m.

EXPENDITURE REPORTS CONCERNING OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL

Reports concerning the foreign currencies and U.S. dollars utilized for speaker-authorized official travel during the second quarter of 2009 pursuant to Public Law 95–384 are as follows:

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, KAY A. KING, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN APR. 14 AND APR. 20, 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]
Kay A. King	4/14	4/15	Cyprus		424.85		(3)				424.85
	4/15	4/19	India		1,392.74		(3)				1,392.74
	4/19	4/20	Italy		331.76		(3)				331.76
Committee totals											2,149.35

[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.
[3] Military air transportation.

KAY A. KING, May 14, 2009.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON THE BUDGET, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN APR. 1 AND JUNE 30, 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. JOHN M. SPRATT, Jr., Chairman, July 13, 2009.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON RULES, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN APR. 1 AND JUNE 30, 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. LOUISE M. SLAUGHTER, Chairwoman, July 16, 2009.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON STANDARDS OF OFFICIAL CONDUCT, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN APR. 1 AND JUNE 30, 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. ZOE LOFGREN, Chairwoman, July 17, 2009.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON TAXATION, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN APR. 1 AND JUNE 30, 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. CHARLES B. RANGEL, Chairman, July 27, 2009.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 2 of Rule XXIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

3012. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Pasteuria usage; Temporary Exemption From the Requirement of a Tolerance [EPA-HQ-OPP-2008-0881; FRL-8429-1] received July 29, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

3013. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Alkyl Alcohol Alkoxylate Phosphate and Sulfate Derivatives; Exemption from the Requirement of a Tolerance [EPA-HQ-OPP-2009-0131; FRL-8424-6] received July 29, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

3014. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Methl Poly(Oxyethylene)C8-C18 Alkylammonium Chlorides; Exemption from the Requirement of a Tolerance [EPA-HQ-OPP-2009-0042; FRL-8424-4] received July 29, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

3015. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — N-alkyl (C8-C18) Primary Amines and Acetate Salts; Exemption from the Requirement of a Tolerance [EPA-HQ-OPP-2009-0046; FRL-8428-9] received July 29, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

3016. A letter from the Director, Regulation Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Sodium salts of N-alkyl (C8-C18)-beta-iminodipropionic acid; Exemption from the Requirement of a Tolerance [EPA-HQ-OPP-2009-0098; FRL-8425-5] received July 29, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

3017. A letter from the Under Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting a letter providing ''the waiver, the determination, and the reasons for the determination'', in reference to the Department's June 11, 2009 letter required by Department of Defense Instruction 5000.02, and in accordance with title 10 U.S.C. section 2366b(a)(1)(B) and (D); to the Committee on Armed Services.

3018. A letter from the Comptroller, Department of Defense, transmitting the Department's quarterly report entitled, ''Acceptance of contributions for defense programs, projects, and activities; Defense Cooperation Account'', for the period ending June 30, 2009, pursuant to 10 U.S.C. 2608; to the Committee on Armed Services.

3019. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting authorization of an officer to wear the authorized insignia of the grade of rear admiral, pursuant to 10 U.S.C. 777; to the Committee on Armed Services.

3020. A letter from the Under Secretary, Acquisition, Technology and Logistics, Department of Defense, transmitting the Department's annual report on the Acquisition Challenge Program for Fiscal Year 2008, pursuant to 10 U.S.C. 2359 (B) (J); to the Committee on Armed Services.

3021. A letter from the Acting General Counsel, Government Accountability Office, transmitting the Office's legal opinion on whether the Department of Defense violated appropriations prohibitions on publicity or propaganda activities by offering special access to prominent persons in the private sector who serve as media analysts, pursuant to Public Law 110-417, section 1056(c); to the Committee on Armed Services.

3022. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Housing and Urban Development, transmitting notification that it is estimated that the limitation on the Government National Mortgage Association's (Ginnie Mae's) authority to make commitments for a fiscal year will be reached before the end of that fiscal year, pursuant to 12

U.S.C. 1721 nt.; to the Committee on Financial Services.

3023. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs, Department of the Treasury, transmitting the Department's report covering the activities of the Office of Financial Stability and the TARP during the period of June 1, 2009 to June 30, 2009; to the Committee on Financial Services.

3024. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Financial Stability, Department of the Treasury, transmitting the Department's summary of response to the Special Inspector General for the Troubled Asset Relief Program's (SIGTARP) April 21, 2009 recommendations; to the Committee on Financial Services.

3025. A letter from the Office of the Inspector General for the Troubled Asset Relief Program, transmitting the Office's quarterly report to Congress of the Office of the Special Inspector General for the Troubled Asset Relief Program SIGTARP, for the period ending June 30, 2009; to the Committee on Financial Services.

3026. A letter from the Secretary, Securities and Exchange Commission, transmitting the Department's final rule — Amendments to Regulation SHO [Release No. 34-60388; File No. S7-19-07] (RIN: 3235-AK22) received July 28, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

3027. A letter from the Special Inspector General For The Troubled Asset Relief Program, transmitting the Office's quarterly report on the actions undertaken by the Department of the Treasury under the Troubled Asset Relief Program, the activities of SIGTARP, and SIGTARP'S recommendations with respect to operations of TARP, for the period ending June 30, 2009; to the Committee on Financial Services.

3028. A letter from the Assistant General Counsel for Regulatory Services, Department of Education, transmitting the Department's final rule — Enhancing the Health and Wellness of Individuals With Neuromuscular Diseases and Enhancing the Health and Wellness of Individuals with Arthritis — received July 29, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Education and Labor.

3029. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting renewal of the April 26, 2009 determination of a public health emergency existing nationwide involving Swine Influenza A (now called 2009 — H1N1 flu), pursuant to 42 U.S.C. 247d(a) Public Law 107-188, section 144(a); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

3030. A letter from the General Counsel, Department of Commerce, transmitting draft legislation to implement several proposals included in the President's Fiscal Year 2010 Budget that will improve management of the radio spectrum and represent sound economic policy; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

3031. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agnecy's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Texas; Control of Emissions of Nitrogen Oxides (NOx) [EPA-R06-OAR-2009-0214; FRL-8939-4] received July 29, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

3032. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; West Virgina; Clean Air Interstate Rule [EPA-R03-OAR-2009-0033; FRL-8939-7] received July 29, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

3033. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of State Air Quality Plans for Designated Facilities and Pollutants, West Virgina; Control of Emissions from Commercial and Industrial Solid Waste Incinerator Units, Plan Revision [EPA-R03-OAR-2009-0482; FRL-8938-6] received July 29, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

3034. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of State Air Quality Plans for Designated Facilities and Pollutants, West Virgina; Control of Emissions from Hospital/Medical/Infectious Waste Incinerator Units, Plan revision [EPA-R03-OAR-2009-0463; FRL-8938-8] received July 29, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

3035. A letter from the Director, Regulation Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Prevention of Significant Deterioration (PSD) and Nonattaiment New Sourse Review (NSR): Reconsideration of Inclusion of Fugitive Emissions [EPA-HQ-OAR-2004-0014; FRL-8937-8] received July 29, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

3036. A letter from the Director, International Cooperation, Department of Defense, transmitting Pursuant to Section 27(f) of the Arms Export Control Act and Section 1(f) of Executive Order 11958, Transmittal No. 06-09 informing of an intent to sign a Project Agreement, pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 2767(f); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

3037. A letter from the Special Inspector General, Afghanistan Reconstruction, transmitting the July 2009 Quarterly Report on reconstruction efforts in Afghanistan, pursuant to Public Law 110-181; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

3038. A letter from the Director, International Cooperation, Department of Defense, transmitting Transmittal No. 09-09, the Department's intent to sign Memorandum of Understatnding with Canada Concerning Special Forces Equipment Capability, pursuant to Section 27(f) of the Arms Export Control Act Section 1(f) of Executive Order 11958; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

3039. A letter from the Director, International Cooperation, Department of Defense, transmitting the Department's intent to sign Amendment Number 9 to the Memorandum of Understanding Concerning the Cooperative Framework for System Development and Demonstration of the Joint Strike Fighter, Transmittal No. 05-09, pursuant to Section 27(f) of the Arms Export Control Act Section 1(f) of Executive Order 11958; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

3040. A letter from the Director, International Cooperation, Department of Defense, transmitting Pursuant to Section 27(f) of the Arms Export Control Act and Section 1(f) of Executive Order 11958, Transmittal No. 08-09 informing of an intent to sign a Project Agreement with Canada and the United Kingdom; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

3041. A letter from the Deputy Director, Defense Security Cooperation Agency, Department of Defense, transmitting Transmittal No. 09-42, pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

3042. A letter from the Acting Director, Defense Security Cooperation Agency, Department of Defense, transmitting Transmittal No. 09-20, pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as Amended; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

3043. A letter from the Vice Admiral, USN, Director, Defense Security Cooperation Agency, Department of Defense, transmitting Transmittal No. 09-33, pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

3044. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting pursuant to section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act, certification regarding the proposed technical assistance agreement to include the export of technical data, defense services, and defense articles (Transmittal No. DDTC 047-09); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

3045. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting a report concerning an amendment to Section 123.17(f) of the International Traffic in Arms Regulations (ITAR), promulgated pursuant to the Arms Export Control Act, 22 U.S.C. Section 2778, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

3046. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting pursuant to section 36(c) and 36(d) of the Arms Export Control Act certification of a proposed manufacturing license agreement for the manufacture of significant military equipment abroad and the export of defense articles and defense services, (Transmittal No. DDTC 060-09); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

3047. A letter from the Acting Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting correspondence from Speaker Luka Bebic of the Croatian Parliament; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

3048. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting pursant to section 36(c) and 36(d) of the Arms Export Control Act, certification of a proposed manufacturing license agreement for the export of defense articles, including technical data, and defense services, Transmittal No. DDTC 049-09; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

3049. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting pursuant to section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act, certification of a proposed technical assistance agreement to include the export of technical data, defense services, and defense articles, Transmittal No. DDTC 048-09; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

3050. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting pursuant to section 3(d)(3) of the Arms Control Act, certification of a proposed transfer of technical data, defense services, and defense articles, Transmittal No. DDTC 034-09; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

3051. A letter from the Acting Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting the Department's 2009 Report on Achieving Maximum Compatibility among Foreign Service Agencies (pursuant to Section 601(c)(4) of the Foreign Service Agencies) and the Five-Year Workforce Plan for Fiscal Years 2008 through 2012; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

3052. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting the Department's report entitled, ''Advancing Freedom and Democracy'', pursuant to Public Law 110-53, section 2121; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

3053. A letter from the Maj. Gen. USMC (ret.), Special Inspector General for Afghanistan Reconstruction, transmitting the

fourth quarterly report on the Afghanistan reconstruction, pursuant to Public Law 110-181, section 1229; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

3054. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Commerce, transmitting the Inspector General's semiannual report to Congress for the reporting period October 1, 2008 through March 31, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. app. (Insp. Gen. Act) section 5(b); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

3055. A letter from the Auditor, District of Columbia, transmitting a report entitled, ''Fiscal Year 2008 Annual Report on Advisory Neighborhood Commissions'', pursuant to D.C. Code section 47-117(d); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

3056. A letter from the Deputy General Counsel, Department of Agriculture, transmitting a report pursuant to the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

3057. A letter from the Deputy General Counsel, Department of Agriculture, transmitting a report pursuant to the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

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3078. A letter from the Deputy General Counsel, Department of Agriculture, transmitting a report pursuant to the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

3079. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's report on competitive sourcing efforts for FY 2008, in accordance with Section 647(b) of Division F of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, FY 2004, Pub. L. 108-199, and the Office of Management and Budget Memorandum M-09-04; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

3080. A letter from the Associate General Counsel, Peace Corps, transmitting a report pursuant to the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

3081. A letter from the Secretary, Department of the Interior, transmitting a report to Congress on a gift of Land in Socorro County, New Mexico, from the Friends of Bosque del Apache National Wildlife Refuge, pursuant to Public Law 93-632; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

3082. A letter from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Taking and Importing Marine Mammals; Taking Marine Mammals Incidental to the Port of Anchorage Marine Terminal Redevelopment Project, Anchorage, Alaska [Docket No.: 090206146-91055-02] (RIN: 0648-AX32) received June 30, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

3083. A letter from the Acting Fiscal Assistant Secretary, Department of the Treasury, transmitting the Department's FY 2008 Report to Congress U.S. Government Receivables and Debt Collection Activities of Federal Agencies, pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 3716(c)(3)(B); to the Committee on the Judiciary.

3084. A letter from the transmitting the Department's final rule — Safety Zone; Missouri River, Mile 028.2 to 028.8 [COTP Upper Mississippi River-08-004] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received July 30, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

3085. A letter from the Attorney Advisor, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Safety and Security Zones, Sabine Bank Channel and Sabine Pass Channel, Sabine, TX [COTP Port Arthur 08-015] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received July 30, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

3086. A letter from the Attorney Advisor, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Safety Zone; Gulf Intracoastal Waterway, Mile 357.3 Galvaston, TX [COTP Houston-Galveston-07-025] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received July 30, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

3087. A letter from the Attorney Advisor, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Safety Zone; Gulf Intracoastal Waterway, Mile 357.3 Galveston, TX [COTP Houston-Galveston-07-019] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received July 30, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

3088. A letter from the Attorney Advisor, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — 2009 Rates for Pilotage on the Great Lakes [Docket No.: USCG-2008-1126] (RIN: 1625-AB29) received July 29, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

3089. A letter from the Attorney—Advisor, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Safety Zone; Friends of Fireworks Celebration, Lake Huron, St. Ignace, MI [Docket No.: USCG-2009-0649] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received July 29, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

3090. A letter from the Attorney—Advisor, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Safety Zone, Kinnickinnic River Sediment Removal Project, Milwaukee, WI [Docket No.: USCG-2009-0399-] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received July 29, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

3091. A letter from the Attorney—Advisor, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Safety Zone; Atlantic Intracoastal Waterway, Oak Island, NC [Docket No.: USCG-2009-0565] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received July 29, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

3092. A letter from the Attorney — Advisor, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Drawbridge Operation Regulation; Ernest Lyons (SR A1A), Stuart FL, and Memorial Clearwater Causeway (SR 60), Clearwater, FL [Docket No.: USCG-2007-0129] (RIN: 1625-AA09) received July 29, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

3093. A letter from the Attorney — Advisor, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting Safety Zone; James River, Navy Live Fire and Explosive Training [Docket No.: USCG-2009-0568] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received July 29, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

3094. A letter from the Attorney — Advisor, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Safety Zone; Fireworks Display at the Craneway Building, Richmond, CA [Docket No.: USCG-2009-0521] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received July 29, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

3095. A letter from the Attorney, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Safety Zones; Fireworks displays within the Captain of the Port Pudget Sound Zone [Docket No.: USCG-2009-0532] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received July 29, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

3096. A letter from the Attorney — Advisor, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Safety Zone; Norfolk Tides Post-Game Fireworks Displays, Elizabeth River, Norfolk, VA [Docket No.: USCG-2009-0274] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received July 29, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

3097. A letter from the Attorney — Advisor, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Drawbridge Operation Regulation; Manasquan River, NJ [Docket No.: USCG-2009-0233] (RIN: 1625-AA09) received July 29, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

3098. A letter from the Attorney Advisor, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Safety Zone; Intercoastal Waterway, Mile 418 Sargent, TX [COTP Houston-Galveston-07-0028] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received July 30, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

3099. A letter from the Attorney Advisor, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Safety Zone; Gulf Coast Intracoastal Waterway, Mile 357.3 Galveston, TX [COTP Houston-Galveston-08-001] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received July 30, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

3100. A letter from the Attorney Advisor, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Safety Zone; Gulf Intracoastal Waterway, Mile 357.3 Galveston, TX [COTP Houston-Galveston-08-002] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received July 30, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

3101. A letter from the Attorney Advisor, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Safety Zone; Gulf Intracoastal Waterway, Mile 357.3 Galveston, TX [COTP Houston-Galveston-08-003] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received July 30, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

3102. A letter from the Attorney Advisor, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Safety Zone; Gulf Intracoastal Waterway, Mile 357.3 Galveston, TX [COTP Houston-Galveston-08-004] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received July 30, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

3103. A letter from the Attorney Advisor, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Safety Zone; Gulf Intracoastal Waterway, Mile 357.3 Galveston, TX [COTP Houston-Galveston-08-005] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received July 30, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

3104. A letter from the Attorney Advisor, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule—Safety Zone, Northeast Cape Fear River and Holly Shelter Creek, Pender County, North Carolina [CGD05-09-114] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received July 30, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

3105. A letter from the Attorney Advisor, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Safety Zone; Gulf Intercoastal Waterway, Mile 357.3 Galveston, TX [COTP Houston-Galveston-08-006] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received July 30, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

3106. A letter from the Attorney Advisor, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Safety Zone; Gulf Intracoastal Waterway, Mile 357.3 Galveston, TX [COTP Houston-Galveston-08-007] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received July 30, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

3107. A letter from the Attorney Advisor, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Safety Zone; Ohio River, Mile Marker 598.0 to Mile Marker 605.0, Louisville, KY [Docket No.: COTP Ohio Valley 08-006] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received July 30, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

3108. A letter from the Attorney Advisor, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Safety zone; Houston Ship Channel, Houston, TX [COTP Houston-Galveston-06-007] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received July 30, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

3109. A letter from the Attorney Advisor, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Safety Zone; Ohio River, Mile Markers 602.5 to 603.5, Louisville, KY [COTP Ohio Vally-08-008] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received July 30, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

3110. A letter from the Attorney Advisor, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Safety Zone; Gulf Intracoastal Waterway, Mile 357.3 Galveston, TX [COTP Houston-Galveston-06-0010] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received July 30, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

3111. A letter from the Attorney Advisor, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Safety Zone; Tennessee River Mile Marker 602.3 to 603, Lenoir City, TN [Docket No.: COTP Ohio Valley-08-009] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received July 30, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

3112. A letter from the Attorney Advisor, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Safety Zone; Gulf Intracoastal Waterway, Mile 357.3 Galveston, TX [COTP Houston-Galveston-06-0032] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received July 30, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

3113. A letter from the Attorney Advisor, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Safety Zone; Sabine River, Orange, TX [COTP Port Arthur-07-014] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received July 30, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

3114. A letter from the Attorney Advisor, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Safety zone; Gulf Intracoastal Waterway, Mile 357.3 Galveston, TX [COTP Houston-Galveston-06-0033] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received July 30, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

3115. A letter from the Attorney Advisor, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Safety Zone; Sabine River, Orange, TX [COTP Port Arthur-07-015] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received July 30, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

3116. A letter from the Attorney Advisor, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Safety Zone; Gulf Intracoastal Waterway, Mile 357.3 Galveston, TX [COTP Houston-Galvaston-06-0034] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received July 30, 2009), pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

3117. A letter from the Attorney General, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Safety Zone; Gulf Intracoastal Waterway, Mile 357.3 Galveston, TX [COTP Houston-Galveston-06-0035] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received July 30, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

3118. A letter from the Attorney Advisor, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Safety Zone; Gulf Intracoastal Waterway, Mile 357.3 Galveston, TX [COTP Houston-Galveston-07-001] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received July 30, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

3119. A letter from the Attorney Advisor, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Safety Zone; Gulf Intracoastal Waterway, Mile 357.3 Galveston, TX [COTP Houston-Galveston-07-0002) received July 30, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

3120. A letter from the Attorney Advisor, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Safety Zone; Ohio River Mile Marker 845.5 to 846.5, J. T. Myers Lock and Dam, IN [COTP Ohio Valley-08-005] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received July 30, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

3121. A letter from the Attorney Advisor, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Safety Zone; Gulf Intracoastal Waterway, Mile 357.3 Galveston, TX [COTP Houston-Galveston-07-012] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received July 30, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

3122. A letter from the Attorney Advisor, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Safety

and Security Zones, Sabine Bank Channel and Sabine Pass Channel, Sabine, TX [COTP Port Arthur 08-014] (RIN: 1625-AA87) received July 30, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

3123. A letter from the Attorney Advisor, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Safety Zone; Houston Ship Channel, Houston, TX [COTP Houston-Galveston-07-017] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received July 30, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

3124. A letter from the Attorney Advisor, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Safety Zone; Lower Mississippi River, Mile Marker 363.0 to 405.0 [Docket No.: COTP Lower Mississippi River 08-010] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received July 30, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

3125. A letter from the Attorney Advisor, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Safety Zone; Lower Mississippi River, Mile Marker 585 to 581 [Docket No.: COTP Lower Mississippi River 08-019] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received July 30, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

3126. A letter from the Attorney Advisor, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Safety Zone; Gulf Intracoastal Waterway, Mile 357.3 Galveston, TX [COTP Houston-Galveston-07-020] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received July 30, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

3127. A letter from the Attorney Advisor, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's Final Report—Safety Zone; Upper Mississippi River, Mile 839.8 to 840.2 [COTP Upper Mississippi River-07-035] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received July 30, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

3128. A letter from the Attorney Advisor, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Safety Zone; Gulf Intracoastal Waterway, Mile 357.3 Galveston, TX [COTP Houston-Galveston-07-024] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received July 30, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

3129. A letter from the Attorney Advisor, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Safety Zone; Upper Mississippi River, Mile 211.0 to 212.0 [COTP Upper Mississippi River-07-036] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received July 30, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

3130. A letter from the Attorney Advisor, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Safety Zone; Lake of the Ozarks, Mile 012.8 to 013.2 [COTP Upper Mississippi River-08-001] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received July 30, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

3131. A letter from the Attorney Advisor, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Safety Zone; Gulf Intracoastal Waterway, Mile 357.3 Galveston, TX [COTP Houston-Galveston-07-027] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received July 30,2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

3132. A letter from the Attorney Advisor, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Safety Zone; Sabine River, Orange, TX [COPT Port Arthur-08-001] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received July 30, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

3133. A letter from the Attorney Advisor, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Safety Zone; Upper Mississippi River, Mile 403.7 to 404.3 [COPT Upper Mississippi River-08-006] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received July 30, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

3134. A letter from the Attorney Advisor, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Safety Zone; Upper Mississippi River, Mile 633.7 to 634.3 [COTP Upper Mississippi River-08-007] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received July 30, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

3135. A letter from the Attorney Advisor, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Safety Zone; Upper Mississippi River, Mile 772.4 to 772.8 [COTP Upper Mississippi River-08-008] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received July 30, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

3136. A letter from the Attorney Advisor, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Safety Zone; Upper Mississippi River, Mile 697.5 to 698.5 [COTP Upper Mississippi River-08-014] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received July 30, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

3137. A letter from the Attorney Advisor, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Safety Zone; Illinois River, Mile 118.7 to 119.3 [COTP Upper Mississippi River-08-020] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received July 30, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

3138. A letter from the Attorney Advisor, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Safety Zone; Upper Mississippi River, Mile 849.7 to 852.9 [COTP Upper Mississippi River-08-036] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received July 30, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

3139. A letter from the Attorney Advisor, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule—Safety Zone; Lake of the Ozarks, Mile 13.7 to 14.3 [COTP Upper Mississippi River-08-09] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received July 30, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

3140. A letter from the Attorney Advisor, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Safety Zone; Lake of the Ozarks, Mile 13.7 to 14.3 [COTP Upper Mississippi River-08-10] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received July 30, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

3141. A letter from the Attorney Advisor, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Safety Zone; Lake of the Ozarks, Mile 13.7 to 14.3 [COTP Upper Mississippi River-08-11] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received July 30, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

3142. A letter from the Attorney Advisor, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Safety Zone; Missouri River, Mile 364.5 to 365.5 [COTP Upper Mississippi River-08-12] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received July 30, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

3143. A letter from the Attorney Advisor, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Safety Zone; Lake of the Ozarks, Mile 006.5 to 007.5 [COPT Upper Mississippi River-08-13] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received July 30, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

3144. A letter from the Attorney Advisor, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Safety Zone; Ohio River Mile Marker 729 to 731, Troy, IN [Docket No.: COTP Ohio Valley-07-045] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received July 30, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

3145. A letter from the Attorney Advisor, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Safety Zone; Ohio River Miles 182.2 to 184.2, Parkersburg, West Virginia [Docket No.: COTP Ohio Valley 08-001] received July 30, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

3146. A letter from the Attorney Advisor, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Safety Zone; Tennessee River Mile Marker 206.7 to 208, Pickwick, TN [Docket No.: COTP Ohio Valley-08-002] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received July 30, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

3147. A letter from the Attorney Advisor, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Safety Zone; Kanawha River Miles 59.4 to 61.9, Charleston, West Virginia [Docket No.: COTP Ohio Valley 08-003] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received July 30, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

3148. A letter from the Attorney Advisor, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Safety Zone; Ohio River, Mile 602.5 to 605.0, Louisville, KY [Docket No.: COTP Ohio Valley 08-004] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received July 30, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

3149. A letter from the Attorney Advisor, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Safety Zone; Gulf Intracoastal Waterway, Mile 357.3 Galveston, TX [COTP Houston-Galveston-08-008] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received July 30, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

3150. A letter from the Attorney Advisor, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Safety Zone; Gulf Intracoastal Waterway, Mile 357.3 Galveston, TX [COTP Houston-Galveston-08-009] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received July 30, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

3151. A letter from the Attorney Advisor, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Safety Zone; Gulf Intracoastal Waterway, Mile 357.3 Galveston, TX [COTP Houston-Galveston-08-010] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received July 30, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

3152. A letter from the Attorney Advisor, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Safety Zone; Gulf Intracoastal Waterway, Mile 357.3 Galveston, TX [COTP Houston-Galveston-08-010] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received July 30,2009,

pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

3153. A letter from the Attorney Advisor, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Safety Zone; Freeport Entrance Channel, Between Green Buoy #3 and Red Buoy #4, Freeport, TX [COTP Houston-Galveston-08-013] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received July 30, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

3154. A letter from the Attorney Advisor, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Safety Zone; Gulf Intracoastal Waterway, Mile 357.3 Galveston, TX [COTP Houston-Galveston-08-014] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received July 30, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

3155. A letter from the Attorney Advisor, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Safety Zone; Gulf Intracoastal Waterway, Mile 357.3 Galveston, TX [COTP Houston-Galveston-08-015] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received July 30, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

3156. A letter from the Attorney Advisor, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Safety Zone; Gulf Intracoastal Waterway, Mile 357.3 Galveston, TX [COTP Houston-Galveston-08-016] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received July 30, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

3157. A letter from the Attorney Advisor, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Safety Zone; Gulf Intracoastal Waterway, mile marker 328 to 330 [COTP Houston-Galveston-08-017] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received July 30, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

3158. A letter from the Attorney Advisor, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Safety Zone; Gulf Intracoastal Waterway, Mile 357.3 Galveston, TX [COTP Houston-Galveston-08-018] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received July 30, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

3159. A letter from the Attorney Advisor, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Safety Zone; Gulf Intracoastal Waterway, Mile 357.3 Galveston, TX [COTP Houston-Galveston-08-019] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received July 30, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

3160. A letter from the Attorney Advisor, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Safety Zone; Lower Mississippi River, MM 653 to 650, Westover Landing [COTP Lower Mississippi River-08-011] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received July 30, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

3161. A letter from the Attorney Advisor, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Safety Zone; Lower Mississippi River (LMR), Mile Marker 433.0 to 439.0 [COTP Lower Mississippi River-08-012] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received July 30, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

3162. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Amendment of Class E Airspace; Minneapolis, MN [Docket No.: FAA-2009-0062; Airspace Docket No. 09-AGL-2] received July 28, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

3163. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Amendment of Class E Airspace; Sioux City, IA [Docket No.: FAA-2008-1104; Airspace Docket No. 08-ACE-2] received June 4, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

3164. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Amendment of Class E Airspsace; Columbus, OH [Docket No.: FAA-2008-1185; Airspace Docket No. 08-AGL-11] received June 4, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

3165. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Amendment of Class E Airspace; Milwaukee, WI [Docket No.: FAA-2008-1291; Airspace Docket No. 08-AGL-20] received June 4, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

3166. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's fifth report on the breakdown of the disability-related complaints that U.S. and foreign passenger air carriers operating to and from the U.S. received during 2008, pursuant to Section 707 of the Wendell H. Ford Aviation Investment and Reform Act for the 21st Century; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

3167. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Amendment of Class E Airspace; Ankeny, IA [Docket No.: FAA-2009-0187; Airspace Docket No. 09-ACE-3] received July 28, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

3168. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; McDonnell Douglas Model DC-10-10, DC-10-10F, DC-10-15, DC-10-30, DC-10-30F (KC-10A and KDC-10), DC-10-40, DC-10-40F, MD-10-10F, MD-10-30F, MD-11, and MD-11F Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2008-0735; Directorate Indentifier 2008-NM-085-AD; Amendment 39-15803; AD 2009-03-02] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received June 4, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

3169. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Establishment of Class E Airspace; Umiat, AK [Docket No.: FAA-2008-0455; Airspace Docket No. 08-AAL-14] received June 4, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

3170. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Gippsland Aeronautics Pty. Ltd. Model GA8 Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2009-0155; Directorate Indentifier 2009-CE-007-AD; Amendment 39-15825; AD 2009-05-01] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received June 4, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

3171. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Establishment of Class E Airspace; Tower, MN [Docket No.: FAA-2008-1186; Airspace Docket No. 08-AGL-12] received June 4, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

3172. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Amendment of Class E Airspace; Medford, WI [Docket No.: FAA-2008-1211; Airspace Docket No. 08-AGL-13] received June 4, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

3173. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Standard Instrument Approach Procedures, and Takeoff Minimums and Obstacle Departure Procedures; Miscellaneous Amendments [Docket No.: 30647, Amdt. No. 3304] received June 4, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

3174. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Standard Instrument Approach Procedures, and Takeoff Minimums and Obstacle Departure Procedures Miscellaneous Amendments [Docket No.: 30648; Amdt. 3305] received June 4, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

3175. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Rolls-Royce Deutschland Ltd & Co KG, BR700-715A1-30, BR700-715B1-30, and BR700-715C1-30 Turbofan Engines [Docket No.: FAA-2007-0169; Directorate Identifier 2007-NE-45-AD; Amendment 39-15819; AD 2009-04-13] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received June 4, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

3176. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Viking Air Limited Model DHC-6-1, DHC-6-100, DHC-6-200, and DHC-6-300 Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2008-1267; Directorate Identifier 2008-CD-069-AD; Amendment 39-15815; AD 2009-04-09] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received June 4, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

3177. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; PILATUS AIRCRAFT LTD. Model PC-12/47E Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2009-0146; Directorate Identifier 2009-CE-009-AD; Amendment 39-15820; AD 2009-04-14] (RIN: 2120-AA64), pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

3178. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Model A300-600 Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2008-0613; Directorate Identifier 2008-NM-066-AD; Amendment 39-15794; AD 2009-02-04] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received June 4, 2004, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

3179. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Standard Instrument Approach Procedures, and Takeoff Minimums and Obstacle Departure Procedures; Miscellaneous Amendments [Docket No.: 30650; Amdt. 3307] received June 4, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

3180. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Standard Instrument Approach Procedures, and Takeoff Minimums and Obstacle Departure Procedures; Miscellaneous Amendments [Docket No.: 30649; Amdt. No. 3306] received

June 4, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

3181. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Standard Instrument Approach Procedures, and Takeoff Minimums and Obstacle Departure Procedures; Miscellaneous Amendments [Docket No.: 30676; Amdt. No. 3330] received July 28, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

3182. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Bombardier Model DHC-8-102, DHC-8-103, DHC-8-106, DHC-8-201, DHC-8-202, DHC-8-301, DHC-8-311, and DHC-8-315 Airplanes Equipped with a Cockpit Door Electronic Strike System Installed in Accordance with Supplemental Type Certificate (STC) ST02014NY [Docket No.: FAA-2009-0313; Directorate Identifier 2008-NM-144-AD; Amendment 39-15769; AD 2008-26-03] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received July 28, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

3183. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Model A310 Series Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2008-1201; Directorate Identifier 2008-NM-007-AD; Amendment 39-15922; AD 2009-11-12] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received July 28, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

3184. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Standard Instrument Approach Procedures, and Takeoff Minimums and Obstacle Departure Procedures; Miscellaneous Amendments [Docket No.: 30677; Amdt. No. 3331] received July 28, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

3185. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Honeywell International Inc., T5313 and T5317 Series Turboshaft Engines [Docket No.: FAA-2008-1311; Directorate Identifier 2007-NE-48-AD; Amendment 39-15976; AD 2009-15-13] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received July 28, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

3186. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Boeing Model 747-400 and -400D Series Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2007-28988; Directorate Identifier 2007-NM-047-AD; Amendment 39-15975; AD 2009-15-12] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received July 28, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

3187. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Model A319, A320, A321 Series Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2008-1365; Directorate Identifer 2008-NM-076-AD; Amendment 39-15970; AD 2009-15-07] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received July 28, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

3188. A letter from the Dir, Regulation Policy & Management, Department of Veterans Affairs, transmitting the Department's final rule — Elimination of Requirement for Prior Signature Consent and Pre- and Post-Test Counseling for HIV Testing (RIN: 2900-AN20) received July 28, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

3189. A letter from the Chief, Trade and Commercial Regulations Branch, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Cargo Conatiner and Road Vehicle Certification Pursuant to International Conventions: Designated Certifying Authorities (RIN: 1651-AA78) received July 23, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

3190. A letter from the Federal Register Liaison, Department of the Treasury, transmitting the Department's final rule — Liquor Dealer Recordkeeping and Registration, and Repeal of Certain Special (Occupational) Taxes [Docket No.: TTB-2009-0003; T.D. TTB-79; Re: Notice No. 96] (RIN: 1513-AB63) received July 3, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

3191. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule — Section 126.-Certian Cost-Sharing Payments Forest Health Protection Program [Rev. Rul. 2009-03] received July 28, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

3192. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule — Treatment of Fails Charges for purposes of sections 871, 881, 1441 and 1442 [Notice 2009-61] received July 28, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

3193. A letter from the Chairman, International Trade Commission, transmitting a report entitled, ''The Year in Trade 2008'', pursuant to Section 163(c) of the Trade Act of 1974; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

3194. A letter from the Acting Associate Administrator, Office of Congressional and Intergovernmental Relations, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting a draft of proposed legislation to collect certain fees under the Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA) and the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA), as indicated in the President's Fiscal Year 2010 Budget; jointly to the Committees on Energy and Commerce and Agriculture.

3195. A letter from the Inspector General, Special Inspector General for Iraq Reconstruction, transmitting the Special Inspector General for Iraq Reconstruction (SIGIR) July 2009 Quarterly Report and Semiannual Report, pursuant to Public Law 108-106, section 3001; jointly to the Committees on Foreign Affairs and Appropriations.

3196. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Commerce, transmitting the annual report on the activites of the Economic Development Administration for Fiscal Year 2008, pursuant to 42 U.S.C. 3217; jointly to the Committees on Transportation and Infrastructure and Energy and Commerce.

3197. A letter from the Acting Assistant Secretary of the Army, Department of Defense, transmitting Proposal to imporove the way the Nation raises the revenues need to cover the non-Federal share of capital costs of inland and intracoastal waterways projects; jointly to the Committees on Ways and Means and Transportation and Infrastructure.

3198. A letter from the Regulation Coordinator, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's final rule — Medicare Program; Hospice Wage Index for Fiscal Year 2010 [CMS-1420-F] (RIN: 0938-AP45) received July 30, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); jointly to the Committees on Ways and Means and Energy and Commerce.

3199. A letter from the Director, Office of National Drug Control Policy, Executive Office of the President, transmitting the Office's 2009 Report on the Technology Transfer Program (TTP) for the Previous Year, pursuant to ONDCP Reauthorization Act of 2006; jointly to the Committees on Oversight and Government Reform, the Judiciary, and Energy and Commerce.

3200. A letter from the Administrator, FEMA, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's report on the Preliminary Damage Assessment information on FEMA-1842-DR for the state of Alabama, pursuant to Public Law 110-329, section 539; jointly to the Committees on Homeland Security, Transportation and Infrastructure, and Appropriations.

3201. A letter from the Administrator, FEMA, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's report on the Preliminary Damage Assessment information on FEMA-1841-DR for the Commonwealth of Kentucky, pursuant to Public Law 110-329 section 539; jointly to the Committees on Homeland Security, Transportation and Infrastructure, and Appropriations.

3202. A letter from the Acting Fiscal Assistant Secretary, Department of the Treasury, transmitting the annual reports that appear on page 119-144 of the March 2009 ''Treasury Bulletin'', pursuant to 26 U.S.C. 9602(a); jointly to the Committees on Ways and Means, Transportation and Infrastructure, Natural Resources, Energy and Commerce, Agriculture, and Education and Labor.

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. OBERSTAR: Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure. H.R. 3193. A bill to designate the United States courthouse under construction at 101 South United States Route 1 in Fort Pierce, Florida, as the ''Alto Lee Adams, Sr., United States Courthouse'' (Rept. 111–245). Referred to the House Calendar.

Mr. OBERSTAR: Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure. H.R. 2121. A bill to provide for the transfer of certain Federal property to the Galveston Historical Foundation; with amendments (Rept. 111–246). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union.

Mr. OBERSTAR: Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure. House Concurrent Resolution 136. A resolution authorizing the use of the Capitol Grounds for a celebration of Citizenship Day (Rept. 111–247). Referred to the House Calendar.

Mr. GORDON of Tennessee: Committee on Science and Technology. H.R. 3165. A bill to provide for a program of wind energy research, development, and demonstration, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 111–248). 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 Mr. BURGESS:

H.R. 3533. A bill to amend the Consumer Product Safety Act to clarify and ensure the effective implementation of certain children's product safety provisions added by the Consumer Product Safety Improvement Act of 2008; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. RAHALL:

H.R. 3534. A bill to provide greater efficiencies, transparency, returns, and accountability in the administration of Federal mineral and energy resources by consolidating administration of various Federal energy minerals management and leasing programs into one entity to be known as the Office of Federal Energy and Minerals Leasing of the Department of the Interior, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York (for herself, Mrs. LOWEY, and Mr. CUMMINGS):

H.R. 3535. A bill to amend title 23, United States Code, to reduce the amount of Federal highway funding available to States that do not enact a law prohibiting an individual from sending or receiving text messages while operating a motor vehicle; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York (for herself, Mr. KILDEE, Ms. FUDGE, Mr. FILNER, Mr. PETERS, Mr. ROTHMAN of New Jersey, Mr. BOUCHER, Mr. COSTELLO, Mr. HARE, and Mr. BISHOP of New York):

H.R. 3536. A bill to provide for an increase of $150 in social security benefits for one month in 2010 to compensate for the lack of a cost-of-living adjustment for that year; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. ORTIZ (for himself and Mr. BROWN of South Carolina):

H.R. 3537. A bill to amend and reauthorize the Junior Duck Stamp Conservation and Design Program Act of 1994; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. SIMPSON (for himself and Mr. MINNICK):

H.R. 3538. A bill to authorize the continued use of certain water diversions located on National Forest System land in the Frank Church-River of No Return Wilderness and the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness in the State of Idaho, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. SIRES (for himself, Mr. LANCE, Mr. ROTHMAN of New Jersey, Mr. LOBIONDO, Mr. PALLONE, Mr. ANDREWS, Mr. ADLER of New Jersey, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. HOLT, Mr. PASCRELL, Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN, Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, and Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey):

H.R. 3539. A bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 427 Harrison Avenue in Harrison, New Jersey, as the ''Patricia D. McGinty-Juhl Post Office Building''; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Mr. STUPAK:

H.R. 3540. A bill to modify a land grant patent issued by the Secretary of the Interior; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia:

H. Con. Res. 179. Concurrent resolution providing for a joint session of Congress to receive a message from the President; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. KENNEDY (for himself, Mr. TIM MURPHY of Pennsylvania, Mr. MOORE of Kansas, Mr. WU, and Mr. GONZALEZ):

H. Con. Res. 180. Concurrent resolution expressing support for designation of the period beginning on September 21, 2009, and ending on September 25, 2009, as ''National Health Information Technology Week''; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. LEWIS of California:

H. Res. 721. A resolution expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that any major health care reform bill considered on the floor of the House should be available for viewing for 30 calendar days; to the Committee on Rules.

By Mr. HOYER (for himself and Mr. BOEHNER):

H. Res. 722. A resolution expressing the sense of the House of Representatives regarding the terrorist attacks launched against the United States on September 11, 2001; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, and in addition to the Committees on Foreign Affairs, Armed Services, Transportation and Infrastructure, the Judiciary, Homeland Security, and Intelligence (Permanent Select), 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.

MEMORIALS

Under clause 4 of Rule XXII, memorials were presented and referred as follows:

161. The SPEAKER presented a memorial of the Senate of the State of Louisiana, relative to SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 114 memorializing the Congress of the United States to take such actions as are necessary to maintain the private, dual charter banking system as well as to preserve the thrift charter and mutuality; to the Committee on Financial Services.

162. Also, a memorial of the House of Representatives of the State of Michigan, relative to House Resolution No. 102 memorializing the United States Congress to enact H.R. 521, the Stillbirth Awareness and Research Act of 2009; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

163. Also, a memorial of the House of Representatives of the State of Illinois, relative to House Resolution No. 339 memorializing that the President of the United States and the Congress to work together with the State of Illinois to ensure the viability of the Chrysler plant in Belvidere; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

164. Also, a memorial of the Senate of the State of Arizona, relative to Senate Concurrent Resolution 1004 memorializing the United States Congress to pass the American Sovereignty Restoration Act; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

165. Also, a memorial of the House of Representatives of the State of Arizona, relative to House Concurrent Memorial 2006 memorializing the United States Congress to refrain from enacting any legislation affecting Arizona's Public Lands; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

166. Also, a memorial of the House of Representatives of the State of Louisiana, relative to HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 208 memorializing the United States Congress to take such actions as are necessary to oppose changes in the federal tax policy and to reject these changes in the President's Budget in order to avoid catastrophic damage to Louisiana's oil and gas industry; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

167. Also, a memorial of the Senate of the State of North Dakota, relative to Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 4022 memorializing the Congress of the United States and the President to enact federal legislation to repeal perverse federal tax subsidies to United States companies that move manufacturing operations and American jobs offshore; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

168. Also, a memorial of the Senate of the State of Hawaii, relative to Senate Resolution No. 36 memorializing the Department of the Interior and the Congress of the United States to provide additional aid to the State of Hawai'i for state services to migrants from the Compact of Free Association Nations; to the Committee on Select Comm Narcotics Abuse & Control.

169. Also, a memorial of the Senate of the State of Hawaii, relative to Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 62 memorializing the Department of the Interior and the United States Congress to provide additional federal aid to the State of Hawai'i for the provision of various state services to migrants from the Compact of Free Association Nations; to the Committee on Select Comm Narcotics Abuse & Control.

170. Also, a memorial of the Senate of the State of Hawaii, relative to Senate Resolution No. 67 memorializing the United States Cognress to oppose specified proposed rule amendments for the Developmental Disabilities Programs that implement the Developmental Disablities Assistance and Bill of Rights and to support new sections in the upcoming reauthorization; jointly to the Committees on Energy and Commerce and Education and Labor.

171. Also, a memorial of the Senate of the State of Hawaii, relative to Senate Resolution No. 90 memorializing the United States Congress to oppose specified proposed rule amendments for the Developmental Disablities program and to support new sections in the upcoming reauthorization; jointly to the Committees on Energy and Commerce and Education and Labor.

172. Also, a memorial of the House of Representatives of the State of Louisiana, relative to HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 215 memorializing the United States Congress to take such actions as are necessary to promptly consider and pass the New Alternative Transportation to Give Americans Solutions Act of 2009 (H.R. 1835) and to urge each member of the Louisiana congressional delegation to express their support for the Act by becoming a cosponsor; jointly to the Committees on Ways and Means, Oversight and Government Reform, and Science and Technology.

173. Also, a memorial of the Senate of the State of Louisiana, relative to SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 158 memorializing the Congress of the United States to support the American Clean Energy and Security Act of 2009; jointly to the Committees on Energy and Commerce, Foreign Affairs, Ways and Means, Financial Services, Science and Technology, Education and Labor, Transportation and Infrastructure, Natural Resources, Agriculture, Oversight and Government Reform, and the Judiciary.

PRIVATE BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 3 of rule XII,

Ms. WATERS introduced a bill (H.R. 3541) for the relief of Rafael Camacho, Rosa B. Camacho, and Rosa Camacho; 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. 17: Mr. COLE.

H.R. 55: Mr. QUIGLEY.

H.R. 163: Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi.

H.R. 235: Mr. GOODLATTE and Ms. CASTOR of Florida.

H.R. 303: Mr. GUTIERREZ and Mr. CHANDLER.

H.R. 330: Mr. SESTAK.

H.R. 370: Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia.

H.R. 426: Mr. SESTAK.

H.R. 537: Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas, Mr. PAYNE, and Mr. SESTAK.

H.R. 571: Mr. BONNER, Mr. INSLEE, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. ANDREWS, Mr. PRICE of Georgia, Mr. CAO, Mr. ROONEY, and Mr. COBLE.

H.R. 614: Mr. PLATTS.
H.R. 615: Mr. MCCOTTER.
H.R. 618: Ms. LEE of California and Mr. KILDEE.
H.R. 621: Mr. FATTAH, Mr. WAMP, Mr. FRANKS of Arizona, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. MCCAUL, Mr. TOWNS, Mr. AL GREEN of Texas, Mr. EDWARDS of Texas, Ms. BEAN, Mr. DOGGETT, Mr. Harper, Mr. ROGERS of Alabama, Mr. ROYCE, Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, Mr. ELLSWORTH, Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. RUPPERSBERGER, and Ms. SPEIER.
H.R. 622: Mr. ROSKAM.
H.R. 690: Mr. MCCOTTER, Mr. CARNEY, Mr. ROSS, and Mr. LEVIN.
H.R. 716: Mr. HONDA, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, and Mr. MCCOTTER.
H.R. 881: Ms. FALLIN, Mr. BURTON of Indiana, Mr. LUCAS, and Mr. ROGERS of Michigan.
H.R. 916: Mr. MURPHY of Connecticut and Mr. YOUNG of Alaska.
H.R. 930: Mr. SHULER, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. CUMMINGS, Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts, and Mr. BOUCHER.
H.R. 932: Mr. TURNER, Mr. FATTAH, and Mr. DOYLE.
H.R. 953: Mr. ROONEY and Mr. HINOJOSA.
H.R. 965: Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia.
H.R. 997: Mr. BONNER, Mr. MICA, Mrs. EMERSON, and Mr. PENCE.
H.R. 1020: Mr. CUMMINGS and Mr. CARNAHAN.
H.R. 1086: Mr. PLATTS.
H.R. 1101: Mr. YOUNG of Alaska.
H.R. 1135: Mr. WEXLER and Mr. HARE.
H.R. 1173: Mr. POE of Texas and Mr. BOYD.
H.R. 1179: Mr. MARSHALL, Mr. CHANDLER, Mr. ROONEY, and Mr. SHUSTER.
H.R. 1182: Mr. GUTIERREZ, Mr. BOSWELL, Mr. HONDA, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. FILNER, Mr. SABLAN, and Ms. GIFFORDS.
H.R. 1189: Mr. MCCOTTER.
H.R. 1193: Mr. FATTAH.
H.R. 1203: Mr. SHULER, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Ms. SPEIER, Mr. MINNICK, Ms. PINGREE of Maine, Ms. CASTOR of Florida, and Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin.
H.R. 1207: Mr. LANGEVIN and Mr. GORDON of Tennessee.
H.R. 1215: Mr. MARKEY of Massachusetts, Mr. ISRAEL, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. COHEN, and Mr. SERRANO.
H.R. 1230: Mr. ENGEL, Mr. STARK, Mr. HINCHEY, and Mrs. MILLER of Michigan.
H.R. 1254: Mr. MASSA.
H.R. 1327: Mr. BURTON of Indiana, Mr. SHULER, Ms. KILROY, Mr. WITTMAN, Mr. WAMP, Mr. HENSARLING, Mr. GONZALEZ, Mr. BUYER, and Mr. KINGSTON.
H.R. 1392: Mr. MASSA, Mr. EHLERS, and Mr. HIMES.
H.R. 1409: Ms. CHU.
H.R. 1410: Mr. WAXMAN.
H.R. 1441: Mr. DAVIS of Kentucky.
H.R. 1443: Mrs. DAHLKEMPER and Ms. DELAURO.
H.R. 1458: Mr. LEVIN, Mr. MCDERMOTT, Mr. ROGERS of Michigan, Mr. CONYERS, and Mr. BOUCHER.
H.R. 1499: Mr. SESTAK.
H.R. 1505: Mr. SESTAK.
H.R. 1507: Mr. DOGGETT.
H.R. 1521: Mr. BOOZMAN and Mr. MCCOTTER.
H.R. 1523: Mr. OLVER and Mr. MOORE of Kansas.
H.R. 1526: Mr. GRIJALVA.
H.R. 1544: Ms. SUTTON.
H.R. 1547: Mr. LATOURETTE, Mrs. BONO MACK, and Mr. GINGREY of Georgia.
H.R. 1549: Mr. ISRAEL and Mr. MARKEY of Massachusetts.
H.R. 1558: Mr. KUCINICH.
H.R. 1587: Mr. COSTELLO.
H.R. 1588: Mr. BONNER and Mr. TIAHRT.
H.R. 1597: Mr. CARNEY.
H.R. 1608: Mr. MCDERMOTT and Ms. TSONGAS.
H.R. 1614: Mr. LARSEN of Washington.
H.R. 1670: Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California and Mr. TIAHRT.
H.R. 1685: Mr. HONDA and Mr. SERRANO.
H.R. 1700: Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California and Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas.
H.R. 1707: Mr. CALVERT.
H.R. 1708: Mr. BISHOP of New York, Mr. CHANDLER, and Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART OF Florida.
H.R. 1710: Mr. SESTAK.
H.R. 1719: Mr. ISRAEL and Mr. HONDA.
H.R. 1744: Mr. LEE of New York, Mr. BRIGHT, Mr. MARIO DIAZ-BALART of Florida, and Mr. WOLF.
H.R. 1751: Ms. CHU, Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, Mr. TONKO, Ms. BALDWIN, and Mr. HEINRICH.
H.R. 1815: Mr. LATHAM.
H.R. 1816: Mr. DAVIS of Illinois.
H.R. 1835: Mr. SESTAK, Mr. JONES, Mr. BERRY, and Mr. ELLISON.
H.R. 1844: Mr. MILLER of North Carolina and Mr. ALTMIRE.
H.R. 1866: Mr. COHEN.
H.R. 1887: Mr. MORAN of Virginia.
H.R. 1894: Mr. PLATTS, Mr. BACA, and Mr. BARROW.
H.R. 1895: Mr. COHEN, Mr. RANGEL, and Mr. GERLACH.
H.R. 1927: Mr. SESTAK, Mr. BOUCHER, Mr. ELLISON, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. ROSS, and Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas.
H.R. 1993: Mr. HINCHEY and Ms. BORDALLO.
H.R. 2017: Mr. TAYLOR, Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia, Mr. SHULER, Mr. MARCHANT, Mr. MICA, Mr. BOUCHER, and Mr. HEINRICH.
H.R. 2055: Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA, Mrs. CHRISTENSEN, and Mr. STARK.
H.R. 2058: Mr. BOUCHER and Mr. PAYNE.
H.R. 2084: Mr. KUCINICH and Mr. SESTAK.
H.R. 2085: Mr. HONDA.
H.R. 2103: Mr. SESTAK, Mr. HOLT, and Ms. BALDWIN.
H.R. 2139: Mr. DAVIS of Kentucky, Ms. FUDGE, Mr. CLAY, Mrs. BIGGERT, and Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia.
H.R. 2149: Mr. DENT, Mr. ROTHMAN of New Jersey, and Mr. JONES.
H.R. 2214: Mr. ELLISON, Mr. FILNER, Mr. WU, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. HODES, and Mr. FARR.
H.R. 2215: Mr. EHLERS and Mr. SCHAUER.
H.R. 2239: Mr. PAYNE.
H.R. 2243: Mr. BARROW, Mr. CARTER, and Mr. PLATTS.
H.R. 2261: Mr. BROWN of South Carolina.
H.R. 2269: Mr. CLAY and Mr. HINCHEY.
H.R. 2276: Ms. LEE of California.
H.R. 2329: Mr. PAYNE and Mr. SOUDER.
H.R. 2332: Mr. SESTAK.
H.R. 2358: Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas and Ms. CASTOR of Florida.
H.R. 2387: Mr. MANZULLO.
H.R. 2404: Ms. HARMAN and Mr. PETERS.
H.R. 2408: Mr. GORDON of Tennessee, Mrs. MALONEY, Mr. RYAN of Ohio, Mr. MCHUGH, Mr. TOWNS, and Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN.
H.R. 2414: Ms. CHU, Mr. HIGGINS, and Mr. HINCHEY.
H.R. 2478: Mr. HINCHEY, Mr. TIAHRT, and Mr. SESTAK.
H.R. 2480: Ms. SHEA-PORTER.
H.R. 2492: Mr. DAVIS of Kentucky, Mr. ELLISON, Mr. MCDERMOTT, Mr. SARBANES, and Mrs. NAPOLITANO.
H.R. 2499: Mr. BACA.
H.R. 2523: Mrs. CHRISTENSEN.
H.R. 2547: Ms. HERSETH SANDLIN.
H.R. 2558: Mr. CAO.
H.R. 2560: Mr. FORBES, Mr. BRALEY of Iowa, and Mr. SESTAK.
H.R. 2563: Mr. WEXLER.
H.R. 2567: Mr. PAUL, Ms. SPEIER, and Mr. TIERNEY.
H.R. 2612: Mr. ISRAEL.
H.R. 2690: Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin.
H.R. 2709: Mr. COHEN, Mr. TOWNS, Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California, and Mr. LEWIS of Georgia.
H.R. 2721: Mr. COHEN.
H.R. 2724: Mr. HONDA and Mr. HALL of New York.
H.R. 2737: Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida, Mr. OLVER, Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. HEINRICH, Mr. DOGGETT, Mr. PRICE of North Carolina, Mr. HOLDEN, Mr. MORAN of Virginia, Mr. STARK, Mr. MORAN of Kansas, Mr. SENSENBRENNER, Mr. SOUDER, Mr. PETERSON, Mr. CAO, Mr. LATHAM, Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California, Mr. JOHNSON of Illinois, Mr. BISHOP of Utah, Mr. ROSKAM, Mr. ALEXANDER, and Mr. VAN HOLLEN.
H.R. 2756: Mr. DEFAZIO and Ms. BALDWIN.
H.R. 2766: Mr. SESTAK.
H.R. 2802: Mr. MARKEY of Massachusetts.
H.R. 2819: Ms. LEE of California and Mr. ENGEL.
H.R. 2840: Mr. RAHALL.
H.R. 2842: Mr. FLEMING.
H.R. 2859: Mrs. CAPPS.
H.R. 2866: Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts, Mr. PLATTS, Mr. BONNER, Mr. FILNER, Mr. BOUCHER, and Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California.
H.R. 2882: Ms. EDWARDS of Maryland, Ms. SPEIER, and Mr. WAXMAN.
H.R. 2891: Mr. ELLISON.
H.R. 2906: Mr. COURTNEY and Mr. COHEN.
H.R. 2935: Mr. PLATTS, Mr. SHERMAN, Mr. WEXLER, Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida, Mr. JONES, Mr. TIERNEY, and Ms. BALDWIN.
H.R. 3008: Mr. SESTAK.
H.R. 3010: Mr. MCGOVERN.
H.R. 3012: Ms. RICHARDSON.
H.R. 3017: Mr. SARBANES and Mr. BACA.
H.R. 3040: Mr. COHEN.
H.R. 3042: Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York, Mr. LEWIS of Georgia, Ms. NORTON, Mr. RYAN of Ohio, and Mrs. MALONEY.
H.R. 3044: Mrs. HALVORSON, Mr. MCKEON, Mr. CALVERT, Mr. BROWN of South Carolina, Mr. ROHRABACHER, Mr. NEAL of Massachusetts, Mr. BOUCHER, Mr. PLATTS, Mr. PRICE of Georgia, Ms. FOXX, Mr. ABERCROMBIE, Ms. GRANGER, Mr. HEINRICH, Mr. PERRIELLO, Mr. STEARNS, Mr. HONDA, and Mr. PETERS.
H.R. 3046: Mr. MINNICK.
H.R. 3127: Mr. PAYNE.
H.R. 3140: Mr. MANZULLO.
H.R. 3165: Mr. BRALEY of Iowa and Mr. SESTAK.
H.R. 3177: Mr. SESTAK.
H.R. 3188: Ms. FALLIN.
H.R. 3191: Ms. BALDWIN.
H.R. 3225: Mr. SCOTT of Virginia and Mr. SESTAK.
H.R. 3226: Mr. ROONEY, Mr. CLAY, Mr. BONNER, Mr. ADERHOLT, Ms. JENKINS, Mr. GOHMERT, Mr. FRANKS of Arizona, Ms. FOXX, Mr. WESTMORELAND, Mr. MCCOTTER, Mr. TIBERI, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. SOUDER, Mrs. BONO MACK , Mr. AUSTRIA, and Mr. WAMP.
H.R. 3227: Mr. SESTAK and Mrs. EMERSON.
H.R. 3242: Ms. SHEA-PORTER.
H.R. 3246: Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, Mr. DINGELL, and Mr. SCHAUER.
H.R. 3249: Mr. ABERCROMBIE and Mr. QUIGLEY.
H.R. 3250: Ms. WATSON, Mr. MASSA, Mr. HINCHEY, Mr. SESTAK, and Mr. HALL of New York.
H.R. 3287: Mr. SESTAK.
H.R. 3308: Mr. PLATTS, Mr. LEWIS of California, and Mr. GERLACH.
H.R. 3322: Mr. HALL of New York.
H.R. 3339: Mr. SESTAK.
H.R. 3348: Mr. ROGERS of Alabama, Mr. BONNER, Mr. MARIO DIAZ-BALART of Florida, Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA, Mr. HONDA, and Mr. REHBERG.
H.R. 3400: Mr. BROWN of South Carolina, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Mr. DUNCAN, and Mrs. BLACKBURN.
H.R. 3401: Mr. KILDEE, Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California, Mr. HOLDEN, Mr. MOORE of Kansas, and Ms. BALDWIN.

H.R. 3407: Mr. RODRIGUEZ.
H.R. 3415: Mrs. CAPPS.
H.R. 3416: Mr. HINOJOSA.
H.R. 3467: Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania, Mr. LOEBSACK, and Mr. SMITH of New Jersey.
H.R. 3488: Mr. PRICE of North Carolina, Ms. TITUS, and Mr. SESTAK.
H.J. Res. 61: Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN, Mr. CUMMINGS, Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York, and Ms. BEAN.
H. Con. Res. 22: Mr. HOEKSTRA and Mr. MANZULLO.
H. Con. Res. 98: Mr. SESTAK and Ms. BORDALLO.
H. Con. Res. 149: Mr. ROSKAM.
H. Con. Res. 151: Mr. PITTS, Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, and Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts.
H. Con. Res. 163: Mr. BUTTERFIELD, Mr. SESTAK, Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN, Mr. ALTMIRE, Mr. LEWIS of Georgia, Mr. WELCH, and Mr. PAYNE.
H. Con. Res. 178: Mr. EHLERS, Mr. BROWN of South Carolina, Mr. TOWNS, Mr. MANZULLO, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. CROWLEY, Mr. DOGGETT, Mr. HINCHEY, Mr. HALL of New York, and Mr. ACKERMAN.
H. Res. 90: Mr. LARSEN of Washington.
H. Res. 167: Mr. HOLT, Mr. MOORE of Kansas, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. WHITFIELD, Mr. OLVER, Mr. ETHERIDGE, Mr. MEEK of Florida, and Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania.
H. Res. 231: Mr. DICKS.
H. Res. 236: Mr. ISRAEL.
H. Res. 267: Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas.
H. Res. 383: Mr. KUCINICH.
H. Res. 447: Mr. DENT, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Mrs. HALVORSON, Mr. BROWN of South Carolina, Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia, Mr. PERRIELLO, Mr. SHUSTER, Mr. CALVERT, Mr. FRANKS of Arizona, Mr. MORAN of Virginia, Mr. LOBIONDO, Mr. ISRAEL, Mr. BISHOP of New York, Mr. EHLERS, Mr. CAO, Mr. HILL, and Mr. COBLE.
H. Res. 486: Mr. GUTIERREZ and Mr. ROYCE.
H. Res. 494: Mr. SESTAK.
H. Res. 577: Mr. SESSIONS.
H. Res. 581: Mr. ROGERS of Alabama, Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida, and Mr. DAVIS of Alabama.
H. Res. 615: Mr. FLAKE, Mr. NEUGEBAUER, Mr. GOODLATTE, Mr. BACHUS, Mr. DAVIS of Kentucky, Mrs. MYRICK, Mr. INGLIS, Mr. DENT, Mr. SULLIVAN, Mr. BROWN of South Carolina, Ms. JENKINS, Mr. CHAFFETZ, Mr. HARPER, Mr. HERGER, and Mr. SHADEGG.
H. Res. 619: Mr. GALLEGLY and Mr. GINGREY of Georgia.
H. Res. 641: Mr. ALEXANDER, Mr. LATTA, and Mr. CONAWAY.
H. Res. 676: Ms. BALDWIN and Mr. HOLDEN.
H. Res. 679: Ms. BERKLEY, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. CARNEY, Mrs. CHRISTENSEN, Mr. COSTELLO, Mr. CROWLEY, Mr. ELLISON, Mr. FORTENBERRY, Ms. FOXX, Mr. HALL of New York, Mr. HELLER, Mr. HIMES, Mr. HODES, Mr. HONDA, Mr. ISRAEL, Ms. MATSUI, Mr. MURPHY of New York, Mr. PRICE of Georgia, Mr. ROE of Tennessee, Mr. ROONEY, Mr. SHIMKUS, Mr. TIAHRT, Mr. WU, Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN, Mr. SCALISE, Mr. MEEK of Florida, Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, and Mr. EHLERS.
H. Res. 686: Mr. CAPUANO, Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania, Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California, and Mr. SESTAK.
H. Res. 695: Mr. GRIJALVA and Mr. REYES.
H. Res. 700: Mr. COURTNEY, Mr. SESTAK, and Mr. MORAN of Kansas.
H. Res. 701: Ms. HIRONO and Mr. MCCOTTER.
H. Res. 703: Mr. RUSH.
H. Res. 707: Mr. ROE of Tennessee, Mr. LANGEVIN, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. ROSS, Mr. MARKEY of Massachusetts, Mr. GORDON of Tennessee, Mr. MCGOVERN, and Mr. KUCINICH.
H. Res. 718: Mr. PRICE of North Carolina, Mr. PLATTS, Mr. EHLERS, Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York, Mr. ABERCROMBIE, Mr. ARCURI, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. BERMAN, Ms. BORDALLO, Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida, Mr. BUTTERFIELD, Mrs. CAPPS, Mr. CARDOZA, Mr. CARNEY, Mr. CARSON of Indiana, Ms. CASTOR of Florida, Mrs. CHRISTENSEN, Ms. CHU, Ms. CLARKE, Mr. CLAY, Mr. CONYERS, Mr. COURTNEY, Mr. CROWLEY, Ms. DELAURO, Ms. FUDGE, Ms. GIFFORDS, Mr. HALL of New York, Mrs. HALVORSON, Mr. HARE, Ms. HARMAN, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. HODES, Mr. HOLT, Mr. HONDA, Mr. ISRAEL, Mr. LANCE, Mr. LEE of New York, Mr. LEWIS of Georgia, Mr. LOEBSACK, Mrs. MALONEY, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. MCMAHON, Mr. MCNERNEY, Mr. MELANCON, Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California, Mr. MITCHELL, Mr. MOORE of Kansas, Mr. MORAN of Virginia, Mr. MURPHY of New York, Mr. OLVER, Mr. PALLONE, Mr. PASCRELL, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. PERRIELLO, Mr. SABLAN, Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. SCHAUER, Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, Mr. SERRANO, Mr. SESTAK, Mr. SIRES, Ms. SLAUGHTER, Mr. SPACE, Mr. THOMPSON of California, Mr. TIERNEY, Mr. WAXMAN, Mr. WOLF, and Mr. HASTINGS of Florida.

PETITIONS, ETC.

Under clause 1 of Rule XXII,

65. The SPEAKER presented a petition of City of Miami Commission, Florida, relative to City of Miami Legislation Resolution: R-09-0282 petitioning for the immediate enactment of the Administration's Health Care Reform Principles; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

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PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 111th CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

Vol. 155 WASHINGTON, TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 2009 No. 125

Senate

The Senate met at 2 p.m. and was called to order by the Honorable THOMAS R. CARPER, a Senator from the State of Delaware.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

O merciful Lord, we thank You for the refreshment and accomplishments of our time away and for Your clear, shining inward light that directs our steps. May the Members of this body feel Your peace and power today. Restrain wandering thoughts and break in pieces those temptations that lead them away from Your will. Lord, join our Senators to Yourself with an inseparable bond of love, for You alone truly satisfy. Grant that their love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight, so that they may be able to discern what is best, and may be pure and blameless when they stand before You.

Lord, this is the first time in nearly 50 years that the Senate will convene without Senator EDWARD KENNEDY as one of its Members. Thank You for his life and legacy.

We pray in Your sovereign name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable THOMAS R. CARPER 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, September 8, 2009.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, section 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable THOMAS R. CARPER, a Senator from the State of Delaware, to perform the duties of the Chair.

ROBERT C. BYRD,
President pro tempore.

Mr. CARPER 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 be in a period of morning business until 4:30 this afternoon, and Senators will be allowed to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

Following morning business, the Senate will resume consideration of S. 1023, the Travel Promotion Act, with the time until 5:30 equally divided and controlled between the two leaders or their designees. I designate Senator DORGAN to control the time on our side.

At 5:30, the Senate will proceed to a cloture vote on the Dorgan amendment No. 1347, which was provided for in an agreement reached prior to the recess. If cloture is invoked, upon the use or yielding back of the debate time, the Dorgan amendment will be agreed to and the Senate will proceed to vote on passage of the bill, as amended. That vote is expected to occur tomorrow.

MOVING AMERICA FORWARD

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I welcome my colleagues back to the Senate after an August work period that saw passionate and profound sadness across our country. Each of us has heard from our constituents over the past few weeks. In Nevada, I heard from citizens across my State who are ready for us to pick up where we left off. They are ready for us to get back to the hard work of legislating. They are ready for us to move forward on one of the most critical issues of our time and the life's cause of our late colleague, Senator TED KENNEDY, making it easier to afford a healthy life in America.

MOMENT OF SILENCE IN HONOR OF THE LATE SENATOR EDWARD M. KENNEDY

I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now observe a moment of silence in memory of our friend and departed colleague, the late Senator EDWARD KENNEDY.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

[Moment of silence.]

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I have to acknowledge that as I came into the Chamber this afternoon, I came upon Senator KENNEDY's desk, which is covered with the traditional black velvet, with the flowers and his favorite poem on the desk. I read the poem and a tear came to my eye.

I cherish the time that I can spend with the people of Nevada when I go home and talk with them and learn from them. The people in Nevada care about the volatility of our turbulent economy.

Nevadans see as clearly as anyone in America that we are going forward. In fact, we are getting back on our feet after long years of neglect. They watched as Wall Street went wild, foreclosures reached record highs, and jobs vanished into thin air. But thanks to the leadership of President Obama, the hard work of the Congress, and the unwavering determination of our constituents, they now are seeing these wounds beginning to heal.

This Senate has risen to the challenges we inherited. In the face of unprecedented conditions, we responded

● This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

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with the most significant collection of accomplishments in recent history. We are proud of our important efforts to revive our economy, strengthen our national security, protect our environment, demand accountability, and promote equality and ensure progress.

In the first months of this year, we passed an economic recovery plan that is creating jobs as we speak, strengthening the middle class, and investing in our future. Just last week, the Wall Street Journal acknowledged that the plan we passed is helping us recover from the recession faster than expected.

We also put people ahead of big business by protecting credit card users, cracking down on mortgage scams, and rooting out corporate fraud.

We helped millions of children stay healthy by making it easier for them to get the care they need; that is, the CHIP program, Children's Health Insurance Program, and by making it harder for tobacco companies to prey on our kids.

We made it easier for Americans to serve their country like our heroes of generations past, and we protected our public lands for generations to come.

We passed overdue appropriations bills, new appropriations bills, and an honest, responsible budget that makes sound investments in every part of our country.

This Congress also made history by pursuing justice and ensuring equality for every single American. We stood up for those who are victims of violence because of race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, and for those who are targets of discrimination in the workplace because of gender or background—Lily Ledbetter.

The Senate confirmed President Obama's outstanding nominee for the Supreme Court. Sonia Sotomayor will become the first Hispanic and only the third woman to sit on the highest bench in the land. I think tomorrow the first argument she will participate in will take place.

This is an impressive record for any Congress. I am particularly proud that we have accomplished all of this in little more than 6 months.

How did we get there? We did each of these critical things because we found ourselves in exceptional circumstances. We faced daunting tests and unparalleled problems.

As in any emergency, it is important to understand how we got here. I am not interested in looking backward to place blame on others or pointing fingers. But it is important to learn from past mistakes so we don't repeat them. As I see it, there are two primary reasons we found ourselves in such a deep hole. The first is that for far too long we have put off today's problems until tomorrow. Second is that too many focus only on where we differ, not where we agree. We no longer have the luxury of doing either. Only by working together—not as Democrats or Republicans but as Americans, not as partisans but as partners—can we put the jobless back to work, make sure everyone can afford to stay healthy, and create a new clean energy economy for this new century.

Health care. Learning those two lessons—that we can no longer put off today's problems until tomorrow and that we cannot afford to focus only on where we disagree—will be the difference between reforming health insurance in a meaningful way or letting the status quo and scare tactics hold us back.

Thanks to Chairman BAUCUS and Senator DODD, we have made progress toward passing comprehensive health reform. Four out of five congressional committees responsible for this issue have reported bills, and we will soon see the same from the Finance Committee.

While many important choices remain, we are as committed as ever to a plan that will protect what works, fix what doesn't, and help the middle class get ahead. We will stabilize health insurance for those who have it and secure it for those who do not. We will keep the insurance industry honest and lower costs to ensure that every American can afford to stay healthy. And we are determined to pass a good, bipartisan bill this year.

I have listened to hard-working Nevadans across my State who know the difference between fact and fiction. They know the difference between the misinformation spread by opponents of progress and the reality that our vision of reform means patients and their doctors should be the only ones making decisions about their medical care. Those decisions belong to the people, not to the insurance industry or to government bureaucrats.

The American people know our vision of reform means keeping insurance companies honest and not letting them deny you care because you have a preexisting condition. The way things are now, if you have anything from heart disease to high cholesterol to hay fever, you might be out of luck. That is not right.

They know our vision of reform means not allowing health insurance companies to drop your coverage if you become seriously ill. It means ensuring that if you change or lose your job, you will have affordable options to cover your family.

They know we are fighting for reform that will make quality, affordable care available to every single American citizen.

It is easy to focus only on the part of the road we have yet to go, but it is essential to remember the great distance we have traveled to get to this point, and the common ground we already share.

We have heard a lot from opponents of progress. One of their main arguments is that they think we cannot afford health insurance reform. My response is simply this: We cannot afford not to make it easier to live a healthy life in America.

The American people have rejected those who pretend things are fine the way they are. They know that unless we get this done, they could lose their health care, and so much more along with it. They know America has no place for those who hope for failure.

Inaction is not an option. We have already seen what happens when we do nothing. Over the past 8 years of inaction, the costs of health care rose to record levels and the number of Americans who cannot afford insurance has done the same.

For the millions of families who file foreclosure because they cannot afford both their house and their health care, not acting is not an option.

For the millions of Americans who file for bankruptcy because their medical bills grow higher and higher, not acting is not an option.

For the millions of Americans who skip doctor visits or treatments they need to stay healthy or who never fill the prescriptions their doctor gives them because health care is simply too expensive, not acting is not an option.

Our health care system is not healthy. Americans' physical health and America's fiscal health are at stake, and not acting is not an option. We have to work in good faith. This past April, I sent my Republican counterpart a letter outlining our priorities for the health care debate. I wrote, of course, that Democrats are committed to lowering health care costs, expanding access, and improving the quality of care. I said in that letter we looked forward to a dialog about how to prevent disease, reduce health disparities, and encourage early detection and effective treatments that save lives.

But in the letter of more than 4 months ago, I also said that in order to help struggling Americans, we cannot drown in distractions and distortions.

I made clear bipartisanship depended on Republicans demonstrating a sincere interest in legislating, offering concrete and constructive proposals, and working together in our common interest rather than against each other and against the interests of the American people.

I stand by that assessment as strongly today as I did this spring, 4 months ago. It is painfully clear to everyone who heard this debate's disturbing turns and dishonest tactics that, more than ever, we now need people willing to work together in good faith.

Today is the first day since January 2, 1953, that a man named Kennedy does not have a desk on the floor of the Senate or in the Oval Office at the White House.

When I think of all the groundbreaking progress we have made over those 56½ years—in civil rights, education, health care, America's global leadership—I know we have no choice but to keep going. Now is no time to let up.

Tomorrow night, the President of the United States will stand on the other side of the Capitol and tell a joint session of Congress his vision for the

health care debate that is ensuing. He will do that, and then over the coming weeks and months, we will contemplate and think about what he said.

It is not insignificant that President Obama will be speaking to such a gathering. We will come together in a joint session because we share a joint future and a joint destiny. We are all in this together—Republicans, Democrats, and Independents, every American citizen and each of their representatives here, Members of Congress, Senators, and the President of the United States.

Senator TED KENNEDY said last December, just months ago:

> We know the future will outlast all of us, but I believe that all of us will live on in the future we make.

This is a historic moment. This is our time to shape our future. We stand closer to real health insurance reform than ever before. We are closer than ever to getting this right. We will not give up. We will not bet on failure. We will not let fear obscure the facts. We will not let the priorities of the partisan overpower those of the people.

We have goal lines ahead of us. I say to the Presiding Officer, a member of the Finance Committee, we have to do everything we can to join together to do health care reform that is meaningful to this country. I think I speak for everyone in Nevada and I think I speak for everyone on this side of the aisle and I am confident my friend, the distinguished Republican leader, agrees with me.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Republican leader is recognized.

SENATOR TED KENNEDY

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, the Senate grieves the loss of one of its giants and one of our great friends. All of us were, of course, moved by the many tributes that have poured in since Senator KENNEDY's passing. We will make time later in the week for Senators, including myself, to deliver tributes of our own on the Senate floor.

HEALTH CARE REFORM

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I previously had an opportunity to welcome my friend, the majority leader, back and welcome all our other colleagues from an active month in August. I know we always enjoy spending this time with our constituents and hearing their particular concerns. This year, most of us got an earful, and I hope the experience has an effect on our work as we move forward.

Health care reform is clearly a critical issue for many Americans, and I think we have an obligation to show them we have been listening closely to their concerns.

At this point, there should be no doubt about where the American people stand: The status quo is not acceptable but neither are any of the proposals we have seen from the White House or the Democrats in Congress so far.

The White House has attempted to retool its message on health care many times. It should be clear by now that the problem is not the sales pitch. The problem is what they are selling.

Over the past several weeks, I have visited with a lot of doctors, nurses, seniors, hospital workers, small business men and women and a whole lot of other citizens across Kentucky and, for that matter, throughout the country. None of them would call our current health care system perfect. But all of them are worried about so-called reforms that would undermine the things they like about the American health care system.

The American people are asking us to start over. They want reforms, but they want the right reforms, not some grand scheme that increases the national debt, expands the Federal Government, raises taxes, cuts seniors' benefits, and forces Americans off the plans they currently have and like. They want reforms that work within the system we have.

We have a lot of work to do in the weeks ahead, but these past few weeks have given us all something valuable. They have given us real clarity about the direction Americans want us to take and, as importantly, the direction they do not want us to take. Now it is our turn to show them we have been listening and to act.

Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. President, I believe I have 15 minutes, and I would ask the Chair to let me know when 2 minutes remains.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Chair will do so.

LISTENING TO THE PRESIDENT

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. President, we have two speeches by the President of the United States today and tomorrow. The speech today is to the schoolchildren of America, and the one tomorrow night is to us—to a joint session of Congress and to the country.

For the last several days, there has been a small uproar about the President's speech to schoolchildren. In some ways, that is very understandable. The country is very wary right now of more Washington takeovers. We have seen takeovers of banks and insurance companies and car companies and student loans and even farm ponds and health care, and all of a sudden some people may have thought the President was intending to take over the classrooms of America as well. That was compounded by the fact that the early lesson plans—probably drawn up by someone either in the White House or the Department of Education—made the speech seem more about the President than about the children and inviting the children to help the President fulfill his goal of the way he wants to transform America.

Well, all that has been changed. The lesson plan has been altered. The President has released a copy of his speech. I read it this morning in Tennessee on my way coming up. It is a good speech. It is about the importance of studying and education. It is about how the President grew up, which is an inspiring story, as is the case with almost all of our Presidents.

So I am glad the President has spoken to the schoolchildren of this country. Of course, the President of the United States ought to be able to speak to the schoolchildren of America. President Reagan did it. Not long after he was elected, he talked about how our country was founded. When I was Education Secretary in 1991, the first President Bush did it. He talked primarily about drugs, with a warning about the dangers of drug use. Presidents should speak to our students, but, of course, parents and teachers should decide whether the children hear the speech and in what context they hear it.

Tomorrow night, when the President addresses the country, no one has to listen to him, except those of us, perhaps, who volunteered to serve in the Congress. We will be here. Millions will listen out of respect to the office, but some could turn off their televisions, some could just read about it, some could listen to the commentators talk about it, and some could watch it on the Web. Children have a different situation. They are captive in their classrooms and they are inexperienced, so we rely on parents and teachers to use their good judgment to decide whether any speech is appropriate for children to hear and in what context.

If I were a teacher, I would jump at the chance to take advantage of this speech. I believe I would put up a picture of Reagan and one of FDR and one of Abraham Lincoln, and I would talk about the Presidency and I would talk about how he is the agenda setter and how the President's election—this President and other Presidents—represents the unique American characteristic that anything is possible for any American of any background. I would point out that there is a Congress as well and the Congress often disagrees with the President. And then I would put up a picture of the leader of North Korea, and I would say: There is the dear leader of North Korea. If you criticize him, you go to jail. If you

criticize the President of the United States, you have a constitutional right to do that.

I believe we need more teaching of U.S. history and civics in our classrooms so our children can grow up to learn what it means to be an American. The lowest scores high school seniors have in America are not in math, they are not in science, they are in U.S. history. So we ought to take advantage of opportunities for children to learn about history and about civics, but parents and teachers ought to be in charge of it. They should decide in what context it is done, and I hope a great many have taken advantage of that and will take advantage of that.

There is a second speech, tomorrow night, which the country is looking forward to, and that is about health care. Here are my hopes for that speech.

First, respectfully, I would say to the President, I hope he says: My fellow Americans, let's start over. It is obvious we need health care reform, but it is also obvious that most Americans, or at least a majority, aren't comfortable with the direction in which we are going. So since this affects 17 or 18 percent of our economy, since it affects the 250 million Americans who have health insurance, let's start over. This has gone from being an issue to being something personal, or as we say in Tennessee, they have gone from preaching to meddling. That is why at the town meetings, which would normally attract 30 people, we have had a thousand people show up, because their health is at issue and they want to know what is going on. So it is a very healthy thing for people to show up and ask questions, and I hope that the President has heard the American people and that we start over.

Next, I hope the President says: We will start with cost—the cost to you, Mr. and Miss American, the cost to your government. Health care costs too much for you to buy your policy, and it is about to bankrupt the government unless we do something about it. So that is where we will start.

Third, I hope the President will say: One of the lessons I think we have learned—not just during the last several months while I have been President—if I were President Obama—but in President Bush's time and before that is that we don't do comprehensive very well. We found that out in immigration. We had a bipartisan effort here on immigration. We tried hard to solve a problem only the Congress can solve, and we failed. By the time it came up for a vote, it just fell around our necks. We have tried it with health care. We have tried to bite off the whole thing at once, and I think it is more than we can chew. We have been trying it with economy-wide cap and trade for climate change, and it looks as if we are biting off more than we can chew there as well. That should be no big surprise. This is a huge country—300 million people—an economy that produces 25 percent of all the wealth in the world, so diverse that if we were to put ourselves all in one room, it would explode, which is why it is such a good reason we have such a big country.

So I hope the President will say we don't do comprehensive well. We have heard the American people, so let's see if we can agree on a few things. Let's go step by step in the right direction, which is one good way to get where you want to go—step by step to re-earn the trust of the American people, starting with health care.

I can think of some things on which I believe we have bipartisan agreement in the Senate which would make a difference: Small business health insurance—allow small businesses to pool their resources. It has been estimated that you could offer insurance to a million more workers at a lower cost. That is one thing. Make it possible for people not to lose their insurance. If they are able to buy insurance, make it possible for them to buy insurance if they have a preexisting health condition—we could probably do that. Allow people to buy insurance across State lines. The Presiding Officer and I were both Governors. We are jealously protective of States' responsibilities and rights. But maybe we need to allow insurance to be bought more often across State lines to make it available to more people and less expensive. Junk lawsuits against doctors—that increases the cost of health care from 1 percent to 10 percent, depending on whom you believe. But we could take that step. It is an important step in the right direction. As far as those who are uninsured, about 20 percent of those who are uninsured are already eligible for existing programs. We could see if we could find ways to help them sign up for programs that already exist. Step by step in the right direction will help us get where we need to go in health care. Step by step will re-earn the trust of the American people.

Fourth, I would hope the President would say: Let's do this in a bipartisan way. There is some talk of just ramming this through the Senate with a bare majority of votes. I hope that doesn't happen. It would be bad for the country and it would be bad for the majority party, if I may say so. The reason it would be bad for the country is it would be a bad bill.

The way our rules work, the Parliamentarian, who is a very wise individual, would end up writing the health care bill because he would have to make all these decisions about what was germane and about what fit in the bill. For example, he might have to say: Well, you can't put a provision about preexisting conditions in the bill under the Senate rules. All you can vote on is whether to raise taxes or cut Medicare. Now, that would be a very unappetizing vote, I would think, for many Members of the Senate, and it would be a very bad health care bill, which would cause me to think that such an unappetizing vote would be bad medicine for those who insisted on ramming it through. But it would be bad medicine for another reason. It would be thumbing our nose at the people of America who have been trying to say to us over the last several weeks: Whoa. Slow down. This is my health care you are talking about. Let's make sure we do this right. Start over, and let's take it step by step.

Health care is not the only issue. Health care is the entry into a larger issue, which is too many takeovers, too much debt, too many czars, and the American people would like for us to settle down and deal with this issue. Some of the people have said over the last few weeks that the American people didn't know what they were talking about; that they thought there weren't any real issues out there. I am afraid that is wrong. When you have the Mayo Clinic and the Democratic Governors and the Congressional Budget Office telling you that you are headed in the wrong direction, maybe you are. When you read about a new trillion-dollar debt added to a debt that is already going to double in the next 4 or 5 years, maybe you are going in the wrong direction. When the New York Times editorial says the new program is going to be paid for about half by cuts in Medicare, that is a serious issue for the 40 million people on Medicare.

There are 177 million people with employer insurance, and they worry they might lose that employer insurance. People are worried that they might be dumped, if they are low-income, into a government program that already exists called Medicaid, which 40 percent of the doctors won't serve because they are underpaid, or they are worried they might be dumped into a new government program, if they are middle income, and they might not want to be dumped into a government program. There is worry, especially among older Americans, because someone might say: You are 70 years old and you can't have a hip replacement. And there are employers who in a recession aren't interested in paying more of an employer tax. And the Democratic Governors and the Republican Governors have said: Don't send us more costs for Medicaid or we won't be able to afford it here. We will have to raise taxes. And Federal taxes would go up.

Those are real issues. Those aren't made-up issues. Those are all part of the bills that are making their way through Congress, and that is why people are saying: Whoa.

Finally, I hope President Obama will say: I am the President. I am the agenda setter. I am going to take charge of this debate.

The President and his team are very smart. We admire them very much. But in some ways, it reminds me of a Harvard Law Review meeting, with everyone sitting around the room thinking of very bright ideas and nobody getting anything done. When you are dealing with a big and complex issue such as health care, the President needs to

clear the decks, set the agenda, tell us what to do, and sit down with the Democratic leader and the Republican leader and say: What can we do? And then the President, I respectfully suggest, needs to say—as President Eisenhower did half a century ago when he said, ''I shall go to Korea''—that health care is the issue. I am the President, here is what I think we should do, and I am going to stay on this issue until it is done. Now, a Governor knows—and most Presidents know—that if they say that and do that and stick to it for as long as it takes, they can very usually wear everybody else out. The President may not get exactly what he wants. Of course, he probably won't. But there might be improvements to the bill. When the Democratic majority in Tennessee used to improve my proposals, I could either attack them or say: You have improved my proposals. I usually said: You have improved my proposals, gave them credit, and went on to the next issue.

So people all over America are alarmed, some are even scared about Washington takeovers, debt doubling and tripling, and I suggest the right course for us is for the President to say: Let's start over with health care. Let's go step by step to re-earn the trust of the American people. Careful steps in the right direction are a very good way to get where we want to go, and I hope he tells us exactly what those steps should be.

I made a statement at the 75th anniversary of the Great Smoky Mountains National Park last Wednesday. It is our most visited national park. Secretary Salazar was there. He did a beautiful job, only exceeded by Dolly Parton, who was there and who made all the rest of us completely irrelevant by her performance. But to have that great park for 75 years in the Eastern United States, where 9 million people visit—three times as many visiting our great western parks—is a great advantage for our country. I am grateful to the Secretary for coming, and I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD a copy of my remarks.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

STATEMENT OF U.S. SENATOR LAMAR ALEXANDER AT THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE GREAT SMOKY MOUNTAINS NATIONAL PARK

NEWFOUND GAP, TENN.—U.S. Senator Lamar Alexander (R–Tenn.) delivered the following remarks here today at the 75th Anniversary of the Great Smoky Mountains National Park:

''Governors Bredesen and Perdue, Secretary Salazar, Dolly Parton, my colleagues in Congress, fellow friends of the Smokies, in 1934 a ranger wrote a memo identifying the wildlife he had found in this new park. There were 100 black bears. Today there are 1,600. There were 315 wild turkeys then. The other day I saw 21 outside my home two miles from the park boundary. 75 years ago there were 12 whitetail deer in Tennessee and six in North Carolina. Today they're everywhere. Then there were no peregrine falcons, no river otters, no elk in the Great Smokies, but they are all here today.

''25 years ago, as Governor, I spoke at the 50th anniversary. There was no law then controlling acid rain and no organization called 'Friends of the Smokies.' Today, acid rain laws are working and the 'Friends' have contributed $28 million.

''So what should we hope for as we look to the 100th anniversary? I hope we have finished cleaning the air so that, instead of seeing smog, we can always see the blue haze about which the Cherokee sang; and that we will have done more to celebrate the way of life of families who lived here; that we will have become better students of the remarkable environmental diversity here—more different kinds of trees than in all of Europe, new species discovered every year; that we do a better jobs of creating picturesque entrances and encouraging conservation easements along the park boundaries to protect the wildlife and the magnificent views. And I hope there are more private contributions and federal dollars to protect and maintain one of the dozen most visited places in the world.

''India has its Taj Mahal, Italy has its art, England its history, but we have the Great American Outdoors. Ken Burns says our national Parks are 'America's Best Idea.' Well, then the Great Smokies must be the very best idea of all because so many more people come here.

''Just as remarkable, I believe, is how we who live here feel about the park. We feel like we own it because our families did. We love it because we grew up hiking here or adopted it as home. And we are proud we gave this park to the country for others to enjoy.

''The psalmist wrote, 'I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills.' There are 151 cemeteries in the Great Smokies, usually on a hilltop, closer to God. The headstones face east because, as mountaineers will tell you, 'You don't want to have your back to Jesus when he comes again.'

''There was a reverential feeling among the thousands who came to Cades Cove on a beautiful Sunday afternoon in June to hear fiddles imitate bagpipes as the Knoxville Symphony played 'Amazing Grace.' At the 50th anniversary, I tried to explain that feeling this way: 'These mountains . . . (Blount County) . . . my home . . . are where I enjoy being, where I swap people for nature and feel closer to God . . . when I am here, it helps get the rest of my life in a little better order.'

''That is why I celebrate the 75th anniversary of the Great Smoky Mountains National Park.''

MORNING BUSINESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will proceed to a period of morning business until 4:30 p.m., with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The Senator from Illinois is recognized.

JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, 45 minutes ago exactly, history was made in America just across the street, not far from the steps of the Senate. If you go to those steps at this moment and look directly to the east, you will see the U.S. Supreme Court building. At 2 o'clock eastern time in that building the 111th Justice appointed to the U.S. Supreme Court received her official investiture. It was a moment of great historic significance because the elevation of Sonia Sotomayor to serve on the U.S. Supreme Court marks the first time in our history that a person of Hispanic descent will serve on the highest Court of our land. In the course of our history, with 111 Supreme Court Justices, if my memory serves, only four have not been White males—two African Americans, two women, and now Justice Sotomayor.

The ceremony was very short. The President of the United States was there, the Vice President, a number of Members of Congress, and of course the other eight Supreme Court Justices and the retiring Justice Souter. There was a very stately, dignified, gracious presence as the Court was convened. After Eric Holder, the Attorney General, read the commission which authorizes the investiture of Justice Sotomayor, the oath was administered to her by the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, John Roberts. The entire ceremony took 4 minutes. One of the Senators standing next to me, MEL MARTINEZ, who will retire from the Senate this week, said it would have taken longer if they had television cameras here. Those of us who serve in the Senate and served in the House know of what he speaks.

But the fact is, in that 4-minute period of time a page was turned in American history. We are offering an opportunity now for a person to serve on the Supreme Court—immensely qualified, a person with a great background in her life and her achievement to serve on the highest Court of the land.

Across America, in neighborhoods and towns and communities and schools, perhaps a child will look up and, when they learn of the appointment and ascension of Sonia Sotomayor to the Supreme Court, realize that the great promise of America continues, that this still is a land of opportunity, and that door to opportunity was opened a little wider just across the street at the U.S. Supreme Court about 45 minutes ago.

RESPECTING THE PRESIDENTIAL OFFICE

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, earlier today the President of the United States went back to school. He went to a local high school in the DC area to give a speech. It turned out that this speech became controversial.

I thought about that over the weekend because my wife and I went down to Mount Vernon, in Virginia, to the home of George Washington. It was a trip I promised my wife because the first time we went down there when I was a college student and drove down there in my little VW bug back in the 1960s, I got there to find out I did not have enough money for admission so we had to turn around and leave. I always told her: Loretta, we are going to

get back down here someday. It took a few years, but we made it.

Touring the grounds there as well as the education and learning center, learning a little bit more about our first President, you realize what an opportunity he had to define the institution of the Presidency. One of the first things they asked of George Washington, the first President, was: What do we call you? Your Excellency? Your Highness? He said: Just call me Mr. President.

His decision at that moment created a tradition, not just a formal tradition of how we address the President of the United States, but, more importantly, a tradition of how we view the President of the United States. He is not royalty nor is he to be treated as royalty. He is to be treated as another American, but one who at this moment in time, by the will of the American people, serves in the highest office in the land. So George Washington established a standard, a standard of respect but not awe, when it comes to the office of President.

I thought of that over the years. In my lifetime there have been Presidents I genuinely admired, their politics and personalities, and others I was more critical of, but I always believed the office deserved respect whoever occupies that office. If you believe in this form of government and you believe in this Nation, the election to that office at the least—at the least—should gather the respect that each American owes to the office.

This President announced he wanted to speak to the schoolchildren of America today on what is roughly the first day of school across our Nation. He was not the first President to make that suggestion. President Ronald Reagan offered a speech to the schoolchildren of America; President George Herbert Walker Bush the same. I can't recall any controversy associated with the addresses by either of those previous Presidents, but for reasons I cannot understand, critics came forward criticizing President Obama for wanting to speak to our schoolchildren. Even in my home State of Illinois, the President's home State, some school districts made a conscious decision that they would not broadcast or make available the President's speech. Others allowed children to opt out if their parents didn't want them to hear the President's speech.

I think that is unfortunate. It is unfortunate and I am happy to say there are those of both political parties who said that. Senator LAMAR ALEXANDER, from Tennessee, a Republican, was just on the floor—a former Secretary of Education, former Presidential candidate. He spoke out and said of course the President should be allowed to speak to schoolchildren across America. Laura Bush, the former First Lady, said that this morning. Others have said the same.

I think they understand two things: first, respect for the institution of the Presidency, and, second, the fact that the President speaking may have some impact on young people across America. The President gave his speech. I hope his critics have been silenced because, as a parent and now as a grandparent, as I read his speech I would like every kid in America to hear it. He explained his own background and the tough times he went through growing up, the sacrifices made by his single mom, the fact that his father left at an early age, the fact that education became an important part of their lives even as they traveled around the world.

Barack, now President Obama, used to tell the story here in the Senate of his mother waking him up early in the morning when he lived overseas and saying: Let's get ready for school. When he would whine and cry about 5:30 in the morning and he is doing homework, his mom would say: It's no picnic for me either, buddy. She was a parent who cared, a mother who cared, and he a son who profited and benefited from her caring.

When I read his speech and elements of it today, I am glad the President spoke these words to the students of Virginia, and those school districts that decided their children should not hear this ought to stop and reflect on whether that was the right decision. When the President says:

> But at the end of the day, the circumstances of your life—what you look like, where you come from, how much money you have, what you've got going on at home—that's no excuse for neglecting your homework or having a bad attitude. That's no excuse for talking back to your teacher, or cutting class, or dropping out of school. That's no excuse for not trying. Where you are right now doesn't have to determine where you'll end up.

The President said:

> No one's written your destiny for you. Here in America, you write your own destiny. You make your own future.

He talked to these students not only about doing their homework and reading, getting involved in extracurricular activities, volunteering in their community, deciding to

> . . . stand up for kids who are being teased or bullied because of who they are or how they look, because you believe, like I do, that all kids deserve a safe environment to study and learn.

The President went on to say:

> No one is born being good at things. You become good at things through hard work.

And then he said:

> And even when you're struggling, even when you're discouraged, and you feel like other people have given up on you—don't ever give up on yourself. Because when you give up on yourself, you give up on your country.
>
> The story of America isn't about people who quit when things got tough. It's about people who kept going, who tried harder, who loved their country too much to do anything less than their best.

That speech by President Obama to the schoolchildren of America was a positive thing. It was a good thing. Some said it was a way to promote his socialist agenda, it was political propaganda. I find nothing political about these comments. This is good advice to any child, any student across this country, and I am glad the President took this opportunity to use whatever influence he has over these young people to guide them in the right path as they start out in their school year.

HEALTH CARE REFORM

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, the last issue I wish to address for a moment is the August recess. August is a blazing hot month in the Midwest, with high temperatures and high humidity—though they were tempered a little this year, a little cooler than usual, a little wetter than is usual, but we had our hot days. But the hottest days were reserved for the political scene because in town meetings across the Midwest and across the Nation many times tempers flared, people were upset, there was shoving and shouting going on at these town meetings. If you have been on the political scene you know there are moments when the emotions of the American people are raised to a high fever pitch. Fortunately for us, the reason for this interest was genuine. We are talking about an issue, the changing of the health care system in America, which literally affects every person in our country. It is rare that we would tackle an issue that is that all embracing, that touches everybody. It is understandable that people have legitimate questions about what it means to their lives.

I found the same thing in Illinois. I traveled around the State. I met with doctors and nurses and hospital administrators, small business people, average folks, patients struggling with illness and disease, those who had been turned down by health insurance companies, even people coming up to me in restaurants and folks at the airport talking to me about their life's experience when it came to health care. It is an issue we all share in common and an issue we all care about.

But, sadly, there was an organized effort to disrupt many of these town meetings. These were not people who wanted to express their opposition to any pending legislation so much as to end the meeting, to try to raise their voices above all others and to stop the dialog that is so important as part of this. I don't think that point of view prevailed at the end of the day.

There are still legitimate, tough questions on health care reform, questions that will have to be answered directly and honestly as we proceed in this debate. But there is no question in my mind that the majority of the American people understand that we need to make some changes in our health care system.

There are some things that are very troubling. The cost of health insurance is going up three times faster than the wages of working Americans. We know what this means. It will reach a point

where more and more of your take-home pay will pay for health insurance which sadly will not provide as much coverage next year as it did this year. We also know that sometimes the people who have health insurance find out it is not there when they need it.

I ran into that. I had a gentleman in Quincy, IL, at one of my meetings the other day. He and his wife both lost their jobs. For 19 years he had been at the local bank, with health insurance, and he lost his job. Because he and his wife had a special needs child, they paid the COBRA premium. If you understand how this works, once you have lost a job you can keep your health insurance if you will pay the employer and employee portions. Even though we have made that more reasonable in cost, it is still very expensive, but because of the special needs child he decided he and his wife had to dip into their savings to keep the health insurance coverage for their kids and the family, even while they are unemployed.

Sadly, during this period of time of unemployment his son fell down the stairs and needed brain surgery. They shipped him across the river into Iowa where he was successfully operated on. That is the good news here. The father kept looking for a job, only to learn that the insurance company was going to deny their claim for this brain surgery. It would have been extremely expensive if the insurance company failed to pay. But now this man, unemployed, looking for a job, with a son who does have those special needs and a wife who is trying to find substitute teaching jobs to help out, has to spend a good part of his day fighting with the insurance company over whether his son is going to be covered for that emergency surgery.

It is not rare. In fact, it is too common that the average person, when they need the coverage of health insurance, finds out that they are in a battle, not with their doctor, a battle with someone who works for a health insurance company who says no.

That has to change. One of the things I hope both sides agree on, Republican and Democratic, is that people should not be denied health insurance coverage because of a preexisting condition. You should not be denied health insurance coverage when it turns out you are sick and you need it. You should also be able to take your health insurance from one job to another. You should not have a cap on the total amount of coverage in your lifetime. Your children should not be high and dry at 23 when they have to pay for their own health insurance or they are completely unprotected. These are things most people agree should be part of health insurance reform and I hope we can make it part of a common bipartisan effort when we talk about this issue.

There is another issue and it is one that I will address as I talk about this issue later in the week, and I think it is a fundamental issue of social justice, that 47 million Americans today have no health insurance. We have about 300 million people in our country. About 100 million of them are under some sort of government health plan— Medicaid for the poor and disabled; Medicare for those in advanced years, which I am soon approaching; people covered by veterans' health care, and those who are covered in other forms, by children's health insurance programs.

So take the 100 million under government health programs aside, and in the remaining 200 million people in America, about 1 out of 4 has no health insurance. They are not the poorest people in America because the poorest people in America have Medicaid. They are not the fortunate like those of us who already have health insurance. They are people who get up and go to work every single day and have no health insurance.

I met plenty of them as I traveled around the State of Illinois. I do not understand—I do understand, but I certainly sympathize with the situation where you wake up in the morning and look at those children in that bed as a father and realize they are one accident or one diagnosis away from a medical catastrophe that could threaten their lives and wipe out your savings. That is what people without health insurance face every single day.

So in addition to the cost, in addition to whether the health insurance is there when you need it, is the fundamental question about whether if everybody in America should be drawn in under the protection of health insurance. I believe they should. The people without health insurance, when they reach a critical time in their lives and are desperate, show up at a hospital, and our hospitals treat them and pass along the expense of treating them to everyone else.

It would be far better in America for us to provide coverage and protection for everyone and to help those in the lowest income categories pay for that protection. I think that is fundamentally just. It is American. It is good, sound policy so that this have and have-not situation would not apply to circumstances of life and death, which is the way it does today.

Finally, we have to find a way to change this health care system when it comes to incentives. Currently, we have something called fee for service, which means if a doctor or hospital comes up with a new procedure or a new service, they are paid more. It creates an extra incentive to do more than may be necessary. We have to change that. And I think we can. We have to try to stress preventive care and wellness. We do not do enough of that, instead of just in rescue care and sickness, which is the hallmark of our current system.

Preventive care and wellness means having access to clinics and primary care providers across the United States. And I want to salute the Association of Family Physicians. They have joined me in every town in my State. They fully support this. They understand that health care reform is essential if families are going to have a fighting chance for good health care.

Well, those are the basics in the debate. There are all sorts of separate questions about a public option and individual mandates and many other issues with which we are going to have to wrestle. Senator ALEXANDER of Tennessee, whom I mentioned earlier in my comments, said a moment or two ago: Well, it is time for us to start over when it comes to the health care debate and engage both sides of the aisle in the debate.

I would say to Senator ALEXANDER: We have spent a lot of time learning a lot of things about the health care challenges in America and how to reach them, the way to deal with them. We have kept the door open for those on the other side of the aisle who are willing to come forward and discuss it. Some have said, no; they are not interested for a variety of reasons. Today, to date, only three have stepped into the bipartisan conversation, three Republican Senators. I hope more will. It would be healthy and positive.

The worst thing we can do is to walk away from this issue, to say that because some town meetings were disrupted or some people have strong emotional feelings about this issue we need to walk away from it, because the current health care system in America is unsustainable. It is too expensive. We spend twice as much per person for health care in America as any nation on Earth. Although there are positive things to point to in terms of our health care in our country, some countries spending far less, and get much better results in many areas. We can do better.

Secondly, who would oppose health insurance reform? I would hope everyone understands that at the end of the day what needs to be done should be done on a bipartisan basis. I hope there are those who feel we should create opportunities for those who are uninsured to have basic health insurance protection.

Those who criticize the cost of health care reform overlook the obvious: If we do not help low-income families and individuals in America pay for health insurance, they will not have it. If they do not have that coverage, we will be right where we are today, with one-fourth of those not covered by government plans having no health insurance protection whatsoever.

We need to change the system to focus on prevention and wellness. That means encouraging more primary care physicians and health care professionals to reach out to families in communities across Illinois and across the Nation. If we do not do something about this, I am not sure we can sustain the system much longer.

Just a few years ago, one out of three people filing for bankruptcy in America did so because of medical costs—

one out of three. Today it is two out of three. Two out of every three personal bankruptcies are over medical costs. Listen to this: 78 percent of the people filing for bankruptcy because of medical costs, 78 percent of them have health insurance. It is not very good. It does not protect them when they need it. It leaves them high and dry when major medical bills come through.

So those who are watching this debate saying: I am sorry people do not have health insurance, I am sorry some people are complaining, but I am OK, I am covered, they should pause and reflect for a moment that many of the people in bankruptcy court today facing bankruptcy and the loss of virtually all of their assets are people who also had health insurance and were also in the belief and security——

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. UDALL of Colorado.) The Senator's time has expired.

Mr. DURBIN. Let me conclude by saying that we have a chance in the coming weeks, after the President's speech tomorrow night, to come together on a bipartisan basis. I hope Republicans and Democrats who listen carefully at home understand that despite the anger and the temper and the emotions that we cannot leave the current system as it is. If we do not make a positive change, it is unsustainable.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from South Carolina.

TRAVEL PROMOTION ACT

Mr. DEMINT. Mr. President, if you were like me, you probably held a number of townhalls. I know a number of our colleagues over the holidays did. I saw a number of them on television and saw the many thousands of Americans who came to townhalls, as they did to mine, who were very concerned about the direction of our country.

Frankly, in South Carolina, I had several thousand people come to different townhall meetings, all with a very similar point of view. They thought this government had gotten too big, was spending too much money, or taxing too much and taking over too much of our economy.

A lot of people were very concerned, not just about health care. I cannot agree with the Senator. There are many things we need to do, but the last thing we should do is have this government take it over. There are many things we can do to make sure people get more insured. But the people who came to my townhalls and across the country in many other townhalls were not just concerned about one issue. They looked back over the last year, over a Republican and Democratic President, to see two failed stimulus bills, two bailouts—which many believe were unconstitutional—the proposed takeover of the energy and health care industries, and the actual takeover of banks and insurance companies and carmakers.

People are fed up. The Federal Government is simply too big. The debts we are looking at now for ourselves and our children and our grandchildren are truly unsustainable. People do not know where the money is coming from. They wonder what we are thinking about.

The amazing thing is, after what we saw over the break, the genuine outrage and concern by the American people, the very first item of business we are going to vote on in this Senate today after the August break is to vote to start another government program, to spend $400 million, to increase taxes, to get the Federal Government involved in another private sector business.

What did we learn over our summer vacation? If we vote to pass this bill, we obviously learned very little. What I am talking about is the Travel Promotion Act. Many of you here in the gallery and around the country think I am probably making this up; that after what we saw across America we would actually have the nerve to bring up a bill that forms a new government-sponsored enterprise, a la Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac, and it is going to be a government-sponsored enterprise that promotes travel and tourism in America. I guess we can call it Fannie Travel.

Well, now, let me tell you a little bit about the idea because the idea is that travel and tourism in America is a very important industry, which it is. It is the No. 1 industry in South Carolina. It is actually one of the most prosperous. That is the main reason we do not want the Federal Government to get involved.

But the idea is, that we are going to charge a $10 fee for everyone who comes to visit America in order to pay for this advertising program that will promote America to people all over the world. All these fees would be pooled, and they would be matched by some of the major tourism industries such as Disney, and we would have a government-sponsored enterprise that is promoting tourism.

But they are saying it will not cost Americans anything because this is a tax on foreigners coming to this country. But I have a letter in my office from the European Union and other allies of this country that says this is violating the agreements we have with them, and if we do this they are going to add a similar fee to Americans visiting their country. We are going to start a war with some of our friends. It will ultimately end up costing Americans money. It will create another government entity.

Folks, it is not a crisis. This is not one of those emergencies that we have to do ''this week.'' Why, when we have all of this debt, would we create another program with another tax that this Federal Government is going to run? Maybe it is Fannie Travel, maybe it is Cash for Tourism, but, folks, the problem with tourism in America is not that people do not know we are here. The problem is we have one of the most notoriously unfriendly customs and immigration services in the world. We also are one of the most difficult countries to get a visa for.

I have a major international employer back in my home State who regularly needs to bring people from other parts of the world to train American workers. But they cannot get visas, so they send American workers to other countries to get the training they need because it is so much trouble to get the visas to get them here.

Major industries have trade shows outside of this country because they cannot get the visas for customers coming in looking at our products. The problem is not that people do not know we are here, it is that the government involvement that is already involved with tourism and travel in our country is not doing a good job.

When you have problems with the quality of your product, the last thing you do is raise your prices and increase advertising, which is what we are talking about doing with this bill. The first thing we need to do is make sure we have the most friendly and efficient customs system in the world and that people who want to come to our country can get a visa and a very quick background check so that we know the people who are coming here are safe.

But we are not going to solve those problems with hundreds of millions of dollars of advertising from a new government agency that is run by major corporate sponsors in our country. Tourism is too important to turn over to the government.

A lot of people around the country are concerned, as they look at what we are spending and the level of debt we are creating, that we are ignoring the constitutional principles we swore an oath to, and they are going to ask us when we vote on this bill: Where in the Constitution of the United States do we find the authority to run travel promotion?

Major tourism companies such as Disney are not having trouble. In fact, I think Disney reported a $4 billion profit from last year, and they bought Marvel Comics for $4 billion. Certainly, our economy has put a strain on tourism, but the Federal Government is the last entity that needs to try to bail them out. We don't have any money. We are going to have to borrow money or tax someone to create this new government program.

This is a debate that gets back to what does the Constitution allow us to do? One can't read the Constitution without seeing some very severe limits on what is expected of the Federal Government. Certainly, the bailout and cash for clunkers and this new travel and tourism agency they are starting has nothing to do with our constitutional functions.

We have over $11 trillion in debt already. We are projecting to almost double that over the next 10 years with

what we already have on the books. With Social Security and Medicare alone, the unfunded liability out many years is like $100 trillion. We have no idea where we are going to get all this money. How can we even discuss starting a new government entity when the ones we have started are at the heart of our economic problems. One can't understand our economy without seeing that Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac played a key role in bringing the worldwide economy to its knees. We don't have to look back but 1 month to see what the last government program we created in cash for clunkers did. It was going to be a $1 billion, 6-month promotion to sell a lot of cars. We were out of money in 1 week, and we voted to pass another $2 billion. A couple weeks later, they canceled the program. We can't run the travel and promotion industry from Washington, DC.

I have to draw a very difficult conclusion. Any of my fellow Senators who vote for this either don't understand the severity of our economic and fiscal problems or they don't care. They certainly didn't hear the millions of Americans speaking over the August break and telling us they want us to get back to the business of a constitutional form of government and stop trying to win votes by bringing home the bacon—wasteful spending, earmarks, and new government programs, all the false, empty promises based on government solutions.

I encourage colleagues, let us get the rest of the year started off in a reasonable way. Let's talk about how to fix health care. Let's talk about how to create jobs. For heaven's sake, let's not create a new government program as the first vote we take in the Senate.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Arizona.

HEALTH CARE REFORM

Mr. McCAIN. Mr. President, today Congress returns from the August recess. Perhaps one of the most important issues of recent times affecting one-sixth of America's gross domestic product and rising to as much as one-fifth, the issue of health care and health care reform, will be front and center, including a highly unusual appearance tomorrow night before a joint session of Congress by the President. The last time such a joint session of Congress was called for, aside from the regular one, was by former President Bush concerning the events surrounding the attacks on the United States of 9/11.

During the recess, I had, similar to all my colleagues, a very busy schedule of meetings addressing various issues, including travel to Iraq and Afghanistan. That visit will be the subject of other statements on the floor. But in Arizona, I hosted townhall meetings with my constituents. I also attended meetings and forums with health care providers in Missouri, North Carolina, and Florida so I could, along with my colleagues, better understand America's thoughts and ideas on reforming our Nation's health care system. I have no doubt there is a peaceful revolution going on out in America. I have not seen, in the years I have been a Member of Congress, such anger and dissatisfaction with the way the Congress and we in Washington are doing business. We all know the President's approval numbers continue to fall.

The unruly and sometimes disruptive behavior at townhall meetings has been an exhibit of the anger and dissatisfaction Americans feel. I would like to make it clear that I think the townhall meetings should be conducted with respect. They should be conducted in a way that is an American tradition, that all Americans can be heard from as well as their elected representatives. But there is no doubt people attended townhall meetings that never before in their lives have been engaged in any debate in America. There is something going on out there. I certainly got the message. I hope the majority of my colleagues did as well.

It is more clear to me that we have to reform the way health care is provided, but we have to do it in the right way, without a government takeover of the health care system. The problem with health care is not the quality of health care. The problem with health care in America is the cost of health care and almost double-digit inflation that takes place annually which deprives more and more Americans of their ability to acquire and keep health insurance.

Among other places I visited recently, one of them was a place called M.D. Anderson, a cancer treatment facility in Houston, TX. There were patients there from 90 countries around the world. Why? Because it is the highest quality health care.

The fundamental difference we have here between those of us who want to reform health care to reduce the cost and maintain the quality is the argument from the President and the other side of the aisle that they want a government option. They refuse to address the issue of medical malpractice reform. They refuse to allow someone to go across State lines and acquire the health insurance of their choice, and they continue to allow practices to go on that breed fraud, abuse, and waste in Medicare, which are well documented to the tune of hundreds of billions of dollars a year.

We must reform health care. We can't do it with a government solution that is advocated by the other side. That is why we have been unable to reach agreement—because we have two fundamental philosophical differences between ourselves and those who want to have a government option, who want to have greater and greater intervention in the health care system.

On the way over I read this:

> Washington (AP)—A top senator is calling for fines of up to $3,800 on families who fail to get medical insurance after a health care overhaul goes into effect.

Do we want to do that to the American people, a $3,800 fine? That is why we also need to step back and examine the 600-page bill passed through the HELP Committee, without a financing provision, the 1,000 pages or so bill passed through the House before they left, and figure out what else we have added in this bill.

Why are Americans angry and upset? They are angry and upset because of this, because we spent $787 billion on the stimulus, which is $1.1 trillion with interest; $700 billion on TARP; $410 billion with 9,000 earmarks in it on the Omnibus appropriations bill; $3.5 trillion on the budget resolution; $83 billion to bail out the auto companies; $33 billion to expand the Children's Health Insurance Program; and a $1 to $2 trillion cost associated with the HELP Committee's plan that went through the HELP Committee, according to the Congressional Budget Office, which would not bend the curve, according to the Congressional Budget Office.

What have we gotten for all this? We have gone to 9.7 percent unemployment. We have gone to 9.7 percent unemployment in this country, after the President and all his economic advisers said that if we pass this stimulus bill, unemployment will be a maximum of 8 percent. As they say: You can look it up. It is now at 9.7 percent. The public debt is $11.7 trillion. Sometime in October, we are going to have to increase the Federal debt limit which is going to go beyond $12.1 trillion.

We are all responsible for what we say. In 2006, the current President spoke in opposition to raising the debt limit to $9 trillion saying:

> Washington is shifting the burden of bad choices today on to the backs of our children and grandchildren. America has a debt problem and a failure of leadership.

That was from the then-Senator from Illinois, now President of the United States. Where did we go? Where did we go from 11 to 12 and now, of course, a few weeks ago, a small rounding error, the 10-year deficit was raised $7 to $9 trillion, just a $2 trillion rounding error. That is what the American people are worried about, the commission of generational theft on our children and grandchildren. No one in the administration has a plan for bringing the budget back into balance. I think the American people at least deserve it.

Yesterday the President spoke in front of union allies in a partisan, campaign-style speech, where he questioned the motives of those who raise concerns about too much government control over our health care economy and instead wrongly criticized our side for having no ideas of our own. We have plenty of ideas. None of them have been considered in the HELP Committee or by the Senate or by the House of Representatives. The HELP Committee bill was written only by the Democrats. There was no input from

this side of the aisle. Every meaningful amendment proposed was rejected, including malpractice reform. How can we possibly look the American people in the face and say: We are going to bring down the cost of health care without medical malpractice reform.

Ask any physician and they will tell you physicians are required to practice defensive medicine because of the fear of being sued. Unnecessary tests and procedures are performed time after time after time. I was in Miami at the Palmetto Hospital, a fine institution. I asked one of the surgeons: How can you afford your health insurance premiums? He said: We don't keep insurance anymore. We can't afford it. We will probably not get sued because they know we only have so much in assets.

Now we are putting physicians and care providers in a position where they basically cannot afford, nor can they get, malpractice insurance because the premiums are so high, and they are targets for the trial lawyers.

We have a number of alternatives. Most of them are market based. Most of them have to do with preserving the quality of health care yet bringing down the cost, which should be our goal. Why don't we have insurance reforms to improve access? That means someone can go across State lines. If a citizen of Arizona wants to go to North Dakota and get health insurance there, why can't they? Why can't that family do that? Why can't they? They cannot today.

Why is it we cannot reform medical malpractice? Let's have tax reforms. Let's have incentives to purchase insurance either in the form of tax credits for families in America or—or—why don't we give the same tax treatment to families that businesses get in the provision of health insurance? Why don't we have real competition in any State? Why don't we set up the risk pools that are necessary to ensure those who were previously uninsurable or for those with ''preexisting conditions''? Let's set up those risk pools. Yes, that will take some taxpayer dollars.

Why don't we allow the insurance companies to compete so they can provide insurance, so we can provide affordable and available health care to all Americans? Why don't we look at cost reductions? Why don't we look at incentives for wellness and fitness? One of the most famous corporations in America recently is Safeway. We have heard from their CEO. They reward people financially for wellness and fitness. And—guess what—their costs for health care have gone down because there are incentives to do so.

Here is a small idea: Why don't we see what the school lunch program is in our local schools? Why don't we see what the physical education requirements are in our local school districts? Why don't parents do that? I was appalled, and I am sure my colleagues and all Americans were, to see recently there is one State in America where one-third of the population suffers from obesity. We know what obesity does to health care costs, not to mention the lives of individuals.

Why don't we also look at what has been tried and done before: an outcome treatment of patients. A patient has diabetes. You pay that provider for 6 months or a year or 2 years and say: OK, here is the amount of money, and if you keep that patient well, you will receive a reward at the end of that treatment period, rather than to pay for every single test and procedure.

My friends, there are cases of abuse of Medicare that stretch into the hundreds of billions of dollars. We have to go after these people who abuse health care, Medicare, and Medicaid.

And a practical question: Suppose we adopted what passed through the HELP Committee and through the House. There are dramatic increases in State Medicaid payments. What States can afford the additional burden of Medicaid that is envisioned by this legislation? Not many. Not many, my friends.

So we do have legitimate, workable, doable, viable alternatives to the government option. When the President of the United States stands up and says we do not, he either is not paying attention to what we are saying—which has been one of the big problems with this debate—or he willfully ignores the fact there are solutions we can move forward with to reduce health care costs in America and preserve the quality.

I wish to make a comment about the so-called co-op approach. My friends, you can call it the government option. You can call it a co-op. You can call it a banana. But the fact is, it is government intervention into the free marketplace, which will lead to crowding out, which over time will lead to government control of health care in America.

A co-op can exist today. They do not have to wait for legislation. They can exist today. Yet very few do. If there was a pressing need for more co-ops, wouldn't more of them have been created? Under the co-op approach, the Federal Government would design, fund, and foster their creation. But let's not kid ourselves. Creating a new, massive government plan designed in Washington is still Washington involvement in health care. And if we did not learn any lessons from the Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac co-ops, nobody has been paying attention.

Let me talk about the ''trigger'' for a second. The trigger in the bill would implement the public option only if private insurance companies failed to meet certain benchmarks, such as lowering overall health spending or shrinking the number of the uninsured.

The Wall Street Journal stated yesterday:

> Liberals should love the idea because a trigger isn't a substantive concession; it merely ensures that the public option will arrive eventually, instead of immediately. Democrats will tweak the tests so that private insurers can't possibly meet them, mainly by imposing new regulations and other costly burdens.

Additionally, this trigger appears to blatantly and patently violate the Constitution's delegation of lawmaking powers to Congress and not the executive branch. We must decide whether to implement a ''government option'' or not. I vote to not do so and oppose any suggestion that abdicates my duties as a lawmaker and allows the executive branch to create a ''government option'' based on a trigger.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Wall Street Journal column entitled ''Whoa, Trigger''—a good name—be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[From the Wall Street Journal, Sept. 8, 2009]

WHOA, TRIGGER

President Obama has decided that another oration will rejuvenate his health-care agenda—despite having given 27 speeches entirely on health care, and another 92 in which it figured prominently. We'll see how tomorrow night's Congressional appeal works out, but the important maneuvers are taking place in the cloak rooms, as the White House tries to staple together a majority.

The latest political gimmick is the notion of a ''trigger'' for the public option: A new government program for the middle class would only come on line if private insurance companies fail to meet certain benchmarks, such as lowering overall health spending or shrinking the number of the uninsured. This is supposed to appeal to Maine Republican Olympia Snowe, who could end up as ObamaCare's 60th Senator, while still appeasing the single-payer left.

Liberals should love the idea because a trigger isn't a substantive concession; it merely ensures that the public option will arrive eventually, instead of immediately. Democrats will goose the tests so that private insurers can't possibly meet them, mainly by imposing new regulations and other costly burdens.

Keep in mind that every version of ObamaCare now under consideration essentially turns all private insurers into subsidiaries of Congress. All coverage will be strictly regulated down to the fine print, and politics will dictate the level of benefits as well as premiums, deductibles and copays. Under the House bill, a ''health choices commissioner'' will have the final say, no doubt with Democrats Henry Waxman and Pete Stark at his elbow, if not another part of his anatomy.

The same bill also rewrites the 1974 federal law known as Erisa that lets large and mid-sized employers offer insurance with little regulation. Many businesses—including Safeway, General Mills and Marriott—are finding innovative ways to drive down spending, largely with worker incentives to live healthier and be more sensitive to the costs of care. Many Democrats call this discriminatory.

In the individual insurance market, Democrats intend to outlaw medical underwriting: Everyone must be charged the same rate or close to it for the same policies, regardless of health status or history. But this ''community rating'' tends to price younger and low-risk consumers out of the market. In a 2006 NBER paper, Bradley Herring of John Hopkins and Mark Pauly of the University of Pennsylvania found that community rating results in an overall increase in the uninsured in the individual market, maybe as

high as 7.4%. For that reason, 35 states have no community rating at all, and another six allow very wide variations.

The larger reality is that private insurance won't be less expensive until overall health-care costs go down. Democrats may be confused on this point because government, which paid nearly 47 cents of every medical dollar in 2007, simply sets lower prices when Congress feels like it. On average, doctors and hospitals are forced to accept 20% to 30% less for their services in Medicare. That's another reason insurers wouldn't meet a trigger's thresholds, given that providers shift costs onto private under-65 patients to make up government shortfalls.

Conceivably insurers could make their products more affordable by cracking down on treatments and refusing payment more often, much as HMOs held down spending in the 1990s. But both patients and doctors hated this ''managed care''—and in any case, Democrats would find a new rationale for the public option in the inevitable voter outcry about private ''rationing.''

It's true that there was a trigger in the Medicare prescription drug benefit and the world didn't end. But recall the dynamics in 2003: The GOP decided that private stand-alone or Medicare Advantage plans should manage the benefit. As a concession to Democrats, they agreed to trigger a ''public option'' for drugs—in which the government would have bought them directly, with its typical ''negotiating'' tactics—if seniors didn't have more than two plans in a given region.

Today, there are 1,689 stand-alone and 2,099 Advantage plans, and on average seniors have 50 to choose from—and costs in 2007 were $26 billion lower than expected. For all its problems, the Medicare drug plan created more choice for seniors and more competition among providers to offer packages that they found most attractive, holding down costs. In short, it created the incentives for multiple ''private options.''

ObamaCare doesn't bother with incentives, instead merely increasing government command and control of private insurance while making it more expensive in the process. That's why a trigger will inevitably lead to the public option, and also why ObamaCare will make all of our current health problems worse.

Mr. MCCAIN. So, Mr. President, let me summarize. I come back from this recess—and I see my colleague also from Arizona in the Chamber—both of us come back, as a lot of my colleagues do, in the face of extreme unease, anger, and frustration on the part of the American people, not just over the issue of health care but over the issue, as I pointed out, of this massive spending and debt and deficit we have laid on future generations of Americans.

They want us to act in their interests. So wouldn't it be appropriate for the President, tomorrow night, if I may be so bold, to say: My friends and colleagues, the citizens have spoken. They want us to sit down together, and they want us to do what is doable. They want us to fix this cost escalation of health care in America, which is making it less and less affordable to all Americans. But the message we have gotten is, they are very skeptical about ''government-run health care'' or a ''government option.''

When the President says: If you like your health insurance policy, you can keep it, that is not true either. It is not true either. Because if you had a government option, and it looked more attractive to your employer, and your employer decided to select the government option rather than the health insurance policy you now have, then you cannot keep it. So it is simply not true that under the government option, if you like your health insurance policy, you can keep it.

But the real point is, why don't we sit down—which we did not do; we did not do that at the beginning of this process—why don't we sit down with the smartest people on both sides of the aisle and say: OK, what can we get gone? What can we get done here together and go to the American people and say we are going to make significant progress in eliminating this problem of out-of-control costs in health care in America.

I recall when I first came to the Congress of the United States—and it was pretty partisan then—Ronald Reagan had only been elected a couple years before that time, and Social Security was about to go broke. Social Security was going broke, and two old Irishmen—Tip O'Neill, a liberal Democrat from Massachusetts, and the conservative from California—sat down together and said: OK, we are going to sit together. We are going to fix Social Security. And they did. There American people were not only proud and grateful but they benefited.

Let's go back to square one. Let's sit down together and get this issue resolved.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Republican whip is recognized.

ORDER OF PROCEDURE

Mr. KYL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to speak in morning business for not to exceed 15 minutes.

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, will the Senator yield for a unanimous consent request?

Mr. KYL. Yes.

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, I would make a request that Senator WHITEHOUSE be recognized following the presentation by the Senator from Arizona, that I be recognized following Senator WHITEHOUSE, and Senator INHOFE be recognized following my presentation.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. KYL. Thank you, Mr. President. I thank my colleague.

REMEMBERING SENATOR EDWARD KENNEDY

Mr. KYL. Mr. President, I want to speak to the same issue my colleague Senator MCCAIN spoke to in a couple minutes. But first I wish to make some brief comments about two of our colleagues who will no longer be with us—of course, our friend and colleague, Senator KENNEDY, and Senator MARTINEZ.

Let me, first of all, speak to Senator KENNEDY's departure from this body due to his untimely death.

During his five decades of public service, Senator KENNEDY served with diligence, tireless passion, and, of course, vigor—the word that immediately evokes the Kennedy spirit.

Because of who he was, he could have gotten by without a lot of hard work. But that was not his way. He believed deeply, so he worked hard—as hard as any Senator I have known.

One thing that has been commented on by many who worked with Senator KENNEDY was his willingness to compromise. I have characterized Senator KENNEDY as a legislator's legislator, often a results-oriented pragmatist, who knew that clashes between the two parties are inevitable and, in fact, an integral part of our political system, and that it was important to reach across the aisle if you wanted to get things done. He believed that people with dramatically different points of view could usually find some common ground.

While Senator KENNEDY and I did not share a perspective on very many issues, and he was always ready to make an ideological or political point, my colleagues and I appreciated his efforts to actually legislate as well. His dedication, his hard work, humor, and high spirit will always be remembered. My wife Caryll and I extend our thoughts and prayers to his family.

TRIBUTE TO SENATOR MEL MARTINEZ

Mr. KYL. Mr. President, I also want to say a couple words about our colleague MEL MARTINEZ from Florida who will be leaving the Senate on this coming Thursday. He has been an admirable public servant, both in this body and as Secretary of Housing and Urban Development. To each position he brought his considerable talent and devoted himself to solving problems in a practical, thoughtful, and bipartisan way.

Senator MARTINEZ never sought the limelight; he simply wanted to make a difference. He was disappointed, I know, that he was unable to move immigration reform forward. But we will try to apply what he has taught us about that issue. His positive influence here in Washington will be greatly missed.

A farewell to Senator MARTINEZ would not be complete without a note about his compelling life story and about his wife Kitty. As a Cuban emigre who came to America with few ties, Senator MARTINEZ represents one of the most inspiring aspects of American life: that talent and hard work unlock the door to great success. He has not forgotten those who helped him, just as all of us will not forget him. His wife Kitty has, likewise, made many friends in Washington and will also be missed.

Although I know he will not need it, I wish him all the best in his future endeavors, and I know he will remain an

important voice in our party and on issues important to all Americans.

HEALTH CARE

Mr. KYL. Mr. President, my colleague, Senator MCCAIN, has spoken to the issue that is on the minds of all Americans today and which the Senate and House of Representatives will again take up as we return from the August recess; that is, how to deal with the issues that confront us in the delivery of health care today without doing damage to the care and the coverage that most Americans have and believe serves them well.

The approach I heard from my constituents over the recess was very similar to what Senator MCCAIN has spoken about, which should not seem to be a big coincidence since we represent the same State. On one occasion we called about 50,000 Arizonans, had them on the telephone for about an hour and a half, and asked for their views, and gave our thoughts in response to their questions.

What I have been struck by is the consistency of the views that have been expressed in the various forums I had around the State, consistent with the townhall meetings Senator MCCAIN had right in the heart of the Phoenix metropolitan area, views people expressed to me in every location, from the doctor's office I went to, to people meeting with me in my office, to folks at church. The message seems to be pretty much the same. And I think Senator MCCAIN articulated it well when he characterized it as anxiety and concern.

One of my colleagues said he denoted in his constituents, in these townhall meetings, real fear. I think that is true. Because even though we know there are some things that need to be done to improve health care delivery in this country, most people, according to surveys, have insurance and believe what they have serves them very well or at least well. Our goal, therefore, is to try to solve the specific problems that exist without doing harm to the system that treats the others.

As I said, a lot of our constituents were very fearful that they were going to have to pay much more in taxes; that their debt burden as a part of what this entire country owes would be increased significantly because of the costs of the health care reforms that have been proposed; that they wouldn't be able to keep the insurance they have even if they like it; that the way they receive care—the advice they get from their doctor about what their family's needs are—would not necessarily be respected if the government has a large role in deciding what to pay for and what not to pay for; and generally that the government's continued takeover piece by piece of the American economy would not serve individual Americans well. To be sure, they agreed that some health care costs are growing too fast and need to be controlled and that there are some Americans who don't have health coverage and really don't have a way to get it without public health. Those are the two key areas in which they recognize there is a role for government to play in reform.

But they also wonder why certain problems are not being tackled—the problem, for example, of what one characterized as ''jackpot justice,'' where trial lawyers bring lawsuits and sometimes get big rewards but frequently simply settle the cases, and the net result is that the medical profession in this country—doctors primarily but hospitals and others—spend an enormous amount of money, estimated to be at least $100 billion a year, on what is called the practice of defensive medicine; that is to say, doing things—ordering tests, referring patients to other physicians and so on—all of which are really unnecessary for the care and treatment of the patient but which will protect the doctor in the event there is a claim of medical malpractice. This happens because the lawyers involved get so-called expert witnesses who come to court and tell the jury that the standard of care in the community is that if the child falls down on the playground and gets a bump on the head, you order a CAT scan. It doesn't matter whether or not from the physician's observations he can see that the child really, if the parents just watch him carefully that evening, should be just fine; no, to protect himself or herself against medical liability or malpractice claims, they order a CAT scan or some other kind of test. The net result of that, as I said, is an expense of over $100 billion a year in unnecessary medical tests and procedures. The cost of those items, of course, is passed on to all the rest of us.

Another estimate is that 10 percent of every health care dollar is spent on the premiums physicians spend for their malpractice insurance. As lawyers, some of us know you have to pay some money for malpractice insurance before you can start work on January 1. That is fair. But how about $200,000 in medical malpractice premiums for a neurosurgeon, for example. That is an awful lot of money if you are an OB–GYN, for example. This estimate of 10 percent of health care dollars spent on premiums means that if we could reduce the incidence of malpractice claims, we could reduce that premium cost, the physicians wouldn't have to pass it on to the insurance companies, who wouldn't have to pass it on to us, and again, our health care could be cheaper.

So because of premium costs and because of the practice of defensive medicine, this jackpot justice system has not served us well.

One would think that if we are interested in controlling costs, if we are making insurance more affordable for small businesses—for big businesses, for that matter—for their employees, and for us as individuals, and if we want to encourage more physicians to stay in practice, then what we would do is tackle this problem. Is there one word about medical malpractice reform in any of the bills, the bill that came out of the HELP Committee in the Senate, the bill currently pending in the Finance Committee, or the bill that came out of the House of Representatives? The answer is no, not a word about medical malpractice reform. Why? Well, Howard Dean, the former Democratic Governor of Vermont and Democratic National Committee chairman, was very honest about this on August 17 at a townhall meeting with Representative MORAN in Virginia. He was asked that question, and he said: When you write a big bill, you don't want to take on too many special interests, and the people who wrote this bill simply didn't want to take on the trial lawyers, and, he said, that is the truth. It is the truth.

The reality is that the President is going to ask everybody else to sacrifice. For example, seniors are going to have to take a $400 billion to $500 billion cut in Medicare, which will mean less care for them. If small businesses are going to have to pay a tax on every one of their employees in order to make sure they get covered with insurance; if the pharmaceutical companies are going to have to pony up—I have forgotten how many hundreds of billions of dollars it was for more drugs for seniors, for example; if everybody else is going to have to sacrifice, why didn't we ask the poor trial lawyers to give up just a little bit here? We are not saying malpractice claims couldn't be filed. That is the way doctors and hospitals and others are kept honest. When you make a mistake, you are going to have to pay for it. But we can make sure the system works to prevent the kind of jackpot justice I spoke about.

There are at least five different kinds of medical malpractice reforms that have worked. One was offered by Senator ENZI in the HELP Committee; it is called health courts. The State of Texas and the State of Arizona have both adopted certain kinds of medical malpractice reforms. In Arizona, it has begun to work. In Texas, something like 7,000 doctors have moved into the State, with premiums being reduced by either 21 or 23 percent. In other words, medical malpractice costs can be reduced to provide care, and by reducing that cost, people's premiums can be cut, and that will make insurance more affordable and more people will be able to get it.

My point here is simply to say this: What we found as we talked to our constituents was a fear that in order to solve two or three very discrete problems, there were people here in Washington who wanted to remake the whole system, throw out what we have, and impose on it a new regulatory regime. Whether there is a government option or government insurance plan is only part of the issue. The problem is

that there is government control of everybody irrespective of that, and people are concerned as a result that their care will be rationed, that taxes will go up, and that, in fact, their premiums will go up.

How could that be if we are going to try to make care less expensive? I will give one example. I talked to people who are relatively young and relatively healthy, and they are very aware that if they are put in the same pool with everybody else, with the people who are sicker and older, they are all put into one pot and you can't discriminate on the basis of health condition—and we do believe people with preexisting conditions should be able to get insurance—then, naturally, the people who are younger and healthier are going to be paying more for their insurance than they would if they were in a category all by themselves, and that is what the actuarial data shows us. So it might make insurance more affordable for somebody who is older and sicker, but it will definitely raise the cost of insurance for those who are younger and healthier. There have to be ways to avoid that perverse result. There are, in fact, and Senator MCCAIN talked about a couple of those that I will mention in just a moment.

There ought to be a way to ensure that everyone in this country can get affordable, quality health insurance without taxing all employers, especially small businesses—the very entities we are counting on to bring us out of this recession. We know that almost all of the jobs created in this country in the last 2 or 3 years were created by small business. Large businesses lost—in fact, we have lost about 3 million jobs in this country. In this recession, 3 million jobs have been lost. How are those jobs going to come back? It is going to be through small business. That is where over 80 percent of the jobs are created, and that is where they will be re-created to get us out of this recession. Why, when we are in the middle of this recession, would we want to tax people to say: If you want to hire somebody, it is going to cost you X amount. Why don't we give them an incentive to hire more people, not give them a disincentive through taxation. Why would we raise the taxes of all businesses, including, by the way, raising taxes on insurance? Insurance companies are fun to pick on, I grant. But does the insurance company just pass the cost of that tax that is going to be imposed on it to its premium holders? Of course. There is no free lunch. We end up paying the taxes. As everybody knows, corporations don't pay taxes, people do.

The net result is that when people are concerned about the economy, No. 1, about our rising debt, about the potential they are going to be taxed, and about the need to re-create jobs, what they are telling us and what they told me when I was back home is: Solve those problems first. When you get that solved, then if you still want to look at health care, go ahead and do that. But in the process of doing that, don't throw the baby out with the bathwater. Don't try to throw out a system that works for most people. If you have a specific problem, target solutions to that problem. You could cover the 12 million people who can't afford insurance and who need to get it today, you could buy them all insurance with the savings you get with malpractice reform. Why don't we do that? The jackpot justice system is a problem in and of itself, and we have a problem because some people can't afford insurance and we need to help them get it. The money we save from one can help pay for insurance for the other. Why not do that? We don't need to change the entire system of health in this country in order to do that.

Since everyone knows Medicare is in trouble, why would we get it in further trouble by cutting it by $500 billion, and instead applying that savings back in to help make Medicare solvent, provide coverage for people with that money when, in fact, you could get the money elsewhere.

That is what people are concerned about. They see some problems, but they see a solution that does not fit the problems, and they are afraid of it because it is too big, it is too much. People are trying to do it too fast. In fact, one asked why were they trying to rush this bill through before the end of August when it doesn't even take effect in most aspects until the year 2013. Good question. It has been a good thing that the American people have had a chance to consider this, that we have had a chance to read it and we have had a chance to talk about it.

Here is the bottom line. Republicans have a lot of alternatives. Senator MCCAIN talked about them: the malpractice reform; getting rid of the waste, fraud, and abuse in programs such as Medicare; selling insurance across State lines; providing association health plans so that small businesses can compete with the insurance companies in the same way the big businesses compete. These are ideas that can discretely be put into place to solve specific problems, and at the end of the day we will have achieved two things: We will have reduced the cost of health care premiums and the cost of health care for everybody, not just a few, and at the same time we will have been able to, with that savings, provide coverage for people who need it and cannot get it. To do that, it is not necessary to scrap everything we have and create a whole new system where the government takes over health care just as it has insurance and banking and automobiles and everything else.

So that is what I am hearing from my constituents, and I hope, as we are reengaged in this debate, we will do the one fundamental thing our Founding Fathers had in mind when they set up the kind of system we have here, and that is that we will listen to our constituents, never forgetting they are our bosses and we work for them.

I thank the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. KAUFMAN). The Senator from Rhode Island is recognized.

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to speak for up to 15 minutes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Mr. President, why are we working so hard on health care reform right now? Well, one reason is because the present system is out of control and unsustainable. This is the cost curve of our national health expenditures. In 2009, it hit $2.5 trillion, and it is going to continue to go up to the point where right now it is estimated that in the year 2016—which is not too far from where we are right now—in the year 2016, a standard family policy on average in Rhode Island will cost that family $26,000 a year. A middle-class family in Rhode Island cannot afford $26,000 a year just for health insurance. Something urgent has to be done.

During the 8 years of the Bush administration, it probably increased by nearly $1 trillion, and nothing got done. Our friends on the other side of the aisle were happy as clams with that state of affairs. Now, in the first year of the Obama administration, with more progress made on health care than at any time since back when the Clintons tried it, we hear once again the catcalls and the criticisms from our colleagues—anything to stand in the way of progress. But that is why it is so important. We simply can't afford not to do so when we look at the risks our country faces economically.

There has been some criticism of the stimulus bill, the Economic Recovery and Reinvestment Act. This is it right here: $0.8 trillion. From all the noise on the other side of this Chamber, one would think this dwarfed, shadowed the fiscal health of the Republic, but, in fact, it is a tiny little sliver compared to the debt that was run up during the Bush administration. We see that $8.9 trillion is the difference between what the nonpartisan CBO projected when President Bush took office from President Clinton and when President Bush left us when he was done—$8.9 trillion. This doesn't even count the Bush hangover of all the spending President Obama has had to do to help save the banks, to help save the financial system, and to help save the American auto industry.

He campaigned on none of that. None of us wanted to do that. When catastrophe asserted itself, we had to respond. The catastrophe took place not on President Obama's watch but beforehand. He has led this effort to put out the fires. The big risk is the $38 trillion in unfunded liability for Medicare alone. That is part of that climbing cost picture that is driving us out of control.

Of that, the Lewin Group—a pretty respected group around these parts for their opinions on health care—says the

excess costs in the health care system add about $1 trillion a year: $151 billion for excess costs for incentives to overuse services; $519 billion for excess costs from poor care management and lifestyle factors; $135 billion a year for excess costs due to competition and regulatory factors; $203 billion a year from excess costs due to transactional inefficiencies.

We can reform this health care system in a way that improves the quality of care, while addressing this $1 trillion in excess costs, which, according to George Bush's former Treasury Secretary, Paul O'Neil, who ran the Pittsburgh Regional Health Initiative and knows something about health care, is associated with ''process failures.''

Process failures can be corrected. One of the ways you can correct them is with a competitive public option. We have had a lock in the main middle market of health care by the private insurance market for all these years. This is what we are left with—$1 trillion in waste from process failures. Obviously, they failed at the job. They have catastrophically, indisputably failed.

All we ask is to put a public option in side by side to compete with them—in the same way a public option in workers' compensation insurance competes in Senator MCCAIN's home State of Arizona with the private insurance providers in workers' compensation. I don't hear complaints from him about the business community and the workers' compensation.

In the home State of Senator ENSIGN, Nevada, there is actually a single-payer public option for workers' compensation health insurance, and his employers seem absolutely fine with it. So it is not as if it is some strange, bizarre idea out on the fringes; it is a way of doing business in some of the home States of the opponents of this.

Our colleagues and their predecessors in this Chamber opposed Medicare when it was first proposed. Now it is probably the most popular program in the country. We have seen them in this Chamber fighting against children's health insurance. It was only thanks to our beloved colleague, Senator KENNEDY, coming back from his sick bed to cast the tie-breaking vote, that we actually were able to win that against Republican opposition.

The ideas they have seem, to me, to be abject failures. One is to continue the lock for private health insurance companies so they are the only place you can get coverage, unless you are old enough for Medicare or you qualify for Medicaid or you are in the military. That is clearly not a sign of success.

As Senator MCCAIN indicated, it would be good to be able to cross State lines and buy insurance from out-of-State insurance companies. Yes, look how well that turned out for us with the credit card industry. We just had to pass legislation, thanks to Chairman DODD, to rein in the abuse and practices of the credit card industry because you can go to practically unregulated States and get credit cards that don't have basic consumer protections.

We don't want to see that in health insurance. We want careful, thoughtful local regulation of health insurance. We have 100,000 people who are killed every year by medical errors—and who knows how many injured—and the solution our friends across the aisle see is to take away the damages that the worst injured Americans are entitled to. That is how the reform they proposed in the HELP Committee works. It cuts damages, caps them, meaning it only would affect the people for whom the damages are the highest, who are harmed the worst, who would disproportionately be women because of the way it was organized, focusing on economic damages. So if you take a system where you kill 100,000 Americans every year because of medical errors—and injure who knows how many more—and your solution to the problem is to put the cost of it entirely on the backs of the worst victims of that error and injury, I think that is a mistake.

We would prefer, as Democrats—and I think as rational people—to reduce the incidence of malpractice and error, reduce the errors of malpractice claims by reducing the incidence of malpractice and error. We put enormous effort in this bill into putting structures into place to allow that to happen.

In terms of the real fear people heard when they went back home, it was a little disingenuous when that fear was whipped up by our colleagues with false statements about death panels in the legislation, how this was socialized medicine, and how a bureaucrat would jump in between you and your doctor if the bill passed. That is patently false. It spread like wildfire. Who wouldn't be afraid of those things? Now they observe there is real fear out there. I also had the opportunity to travel around my State during this break, similar to many colleagues, and I sat down with my constituents and heard what they had to say about health care reform. I sat down with hospital executives; pediatricians; OB/GYNs; family physicians; critical care doctors; the State medical society; health insurers; CVS, the pharmaceutical chain that makes its home in Rhode Island; the Rhode Island MS chapter; business community leaders; members of our Rhode Island quality institute, which is reforming health care at the State level and it gives great leadership to our country right now; and with members of all walks of life who have come together and are working tirelessly to help build our State's information technology infrastructure.

I learned a great deal from those individuals and institutions. I learned a great deal also at two community dinners I held in West Warwick and in Johnston, RI, where hundreds of Rhode Islanders came out to join me and our senior Senator JACK REED, not only for spaghetti and meatballs—and they were good. I think I might be the only Senator to introduce meatballs into the townhall formula, and it worked fine. They were for a serious, civil, and constructive debate on the state of our current health care system. It brought out some stories I wish to share quickly this afternoon.

The first story is about Christine, who is a wife and mother, from Coventry, RI. Her family's struggle to maintain health insurance has left her and her husband with very difficult choices and few options. In 2007, Christine was diagnosed with multiple sclerosis. Shortly thereafter, she lost her job. She was shifting the family's coverage to her husband's employer, when her husband was laid off as well. That left Christine and her husband and their 6-year-old son with no health insurance. Still reeling from those bits of bad news, Christine and her husband were faced with decisions no one should be forced to make. Without medical insurance, with no affordable options for health coverage because of Christine's preexisting condition, they faced a choice now of leaving their home—think about that. You have a 6-year-old son who might lose his home—or paying for health insurance. At the moment, they cannot see a way to manage both.

As Christine told me:

> I don't want any handouts. Unfortunately, life has handed me and my family a difficult path, and right now my family needs a little help. We should not have to make a decision between our health and our financial stability.

Until her husband finds a job, Christine says that every day they hold their breath and pray nothing will happen because that is all our broken health care system now has to offer them.

I also met Anna from Johnston, RI, who shared the story of her sister Tina. As is the story of so many today, Tina's husband lost his job. Their only option for health insurance was through COBRA. At $1,500 a month, on top of mortgage and car payments and groceries, Tina knew, financially, this coverage was unsustainable. Finally, she had to give it up.

Shortly after dropping coverage, Tina began to lose weight. Anna explained that, at first, she thought her sister's weight loss was a reaction to the stress of the family's financial situation. But then the weight loss continued, and they realized something was seriously wrong. Despite urging from her family, Tina resisted going to the doctor because she was afraid the medical bills would make a very difficult financial situation unbearable.

Eventually, Tina felt so sick they called the ambulance, and she was taken to the hospital. Tina died 3 days later of a heart attack, complicated by bone cancer and diabetes. When Anna talked to the doctor who treated Tina, they asked the family why Tina had avoided coming to the hospital for so

long because, with proper early intervention, her sister's conditions would have been treatable.

Anna told me she understands people get sick and die, but the manner in which her sister passed away was tragic because it didn't have to happen.

Over the August recess, I also heard from Rhode Islanders through the health care storyboard I ran on my Web site. Two of the stories are remarkable.

The first is from Ken, a recent Rhode Island College graduate from Greenville. He worked hard, dreaming he would be the first in his family to achieve a college degree. A year after graduation, Ken has that college degree, but he cannot find a full-time job with health insurance benefits. In this difficult economy, he works two part-time jobs at minimum wage, and he has no health benefits.

Ken wasn't looking to make a six-figure salary after graduation, but he was looking to be able to get by. On his current income, he has difficulty making ends meet with his day-to-day expenses, and he says it will take years to pay off his student loans at this rate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator's time has expired.

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. I ask unanimous consent for 5 more minutes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Ken is having a hard time making ends meet with his day-to-day expenses, and it will take years to pay off his student loans. On such a limited income and in this situation, health insurance is simply not an option for Ken.

Ken is discouraged and frustrated. Despite his hard work and achievement, he knows that at any moment he is one sickness or injury away from thousands of dollars in debt or ruined credit that would affect his chances for a prosperous future. He has worked for everything he has earned, but health care costs are so high he is scared about his future, if nothing is done to fix our health care system.

Last is Beth, a small business owner in Providence. She and her husband have two full-time and two part-time employees. They find themselves at the whim of insurance companies. Because they don't have the bargaining power to negotiate the terms of their health insurance package, they have seen 41 percent increases in their insurance rates for 2 years in a row.

Beth told me the cost of health insurance is breaking the backs of small entrepreneurs, those critical drivers of innovation and building blocks of our Nation's economy. She doesn't understand how or why anyone would start their own business under the deep financial burdens imposed on small business by our current health insurance system.

Beth also cannot afford health insurance coverage for her twin 3-year-old girls. Beth admits she is terrified about what might happen to them without the safety net that health coverage offers. She urges us to work quickly toward reform so others do not have to struggle with the same fear and frustration as her family.

The Senate has been working hard on health reform legislation since the very beginning of this year. The process is trying and tiring and extremely complex. As we turn up the heat even more the next few weeks and become mired in the intense process of drafting a final bill and getting it to the floor, I urge my colleagues to remember health care reform is not about the interest groups, it is not about parliamentary procedures, it is not about secret meetings, and it is not about CBO scores. Reforming our health care system in America is about Christine and Tina and Beth and Ken and thousands like them in every one of our States across the country. And it means injecting some fairness and some reason into a system that has punished the sick, rewarded the greedy, and discouraged those who try to do the right thing.

For me, these stories reinforce the urgency of what we need to get done in the Senate. I am fully committed to completing this task, as I know the Presiding Officer is, and I look forward to getting it done over the next few weeks.

In closing, let me just say this is the first time I have spoken on the Senate floor since our colleague, Senator KENNEDY, has left us. His desk is three down from me. I don't know if the camera shows it now, but there is a black drape over it and some flowers and a copy of Robert Frost's ''The Road Less Traveled.'' I know this poem meant a lot to him, and he certainly meant a lot to me as a very gracious mentor with vast experience who could easily have ignored a new colleague. But he took an interest, and I will never forget his kindness to me.

We all will miss his booming voice. He could fill this Chamber with his voice. We will miss his rollicking good humor. No one enjoyed life and enjoyed his colleagues more than the senior Senator from Massachusetts. We will miss his masterful legislative skills as we try to work our way through the obstructions the other side will be throwing up against progress on health care reform. His wise voice and counsel will be missed.

Finally, we will miss his lion's heart. He knew when the fight was right, he knew when it was worth fighting for, and he was in it to win it.

TED, God bless you. We miss you.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from North Dakota.

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to speak in morning business for 15 minutes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, let me follow on the remarks of my colleague from Rhode Island as he discussed briefly at the end of his remarks the loss of our colleague and friend, Senator TED KENNEDY.

The desk that is now cloaked in black and adorned with flowers is a desk that was once occupied by Senator John F. Kennedy, then occupied by Senator Robert Kennedy, and for many years occupied by Senator TED KENNEDY.

He was an extraordinary friend to all of us, a remarkable legislator. This is not a case of the Senate just losing one Senator. He was such a much larger presence than that in the public life of our country and particularly in the workings of this Congress.

My thoughts and prayers have been with TED KENNEDY and his family over these many months as he has battled brain cancer. Now, since his death, we have all reflected on what he meant to us and to this country.

Today it seems inappropriate to take the floor of the Senate without at least acknowledging the absence of our friend, TED KENNEDY, and to send our prayers to his family.

WASTE, FRAUD, AND ABUSE IN PUBLIC SPENDING

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, when Senator KENNEDY would come to the floor with a booming voice, full of passion about an issue, it was an extraordinary thing to watch and to listen to. He had that kind of passion. I do want to say there are a lot of things for us to be passionate about. One of the things I have talked about on the floor of the Senate is the waste, fraud and abuse in public spending. All of us believe in investing in programs that work to try to help make life better in this country and advance the interests of this country. But it makes me furious to see the kinds of things I see from time to time that represent waste, fraud, and abuse and unbelievable incompetence. Let me describe just one.

We know this not because of some extraordinary work by this body. We know this because of some extraordinary work by C.J. Chivers and Eric Schmitt at the New York Times because they wrote a story about it.

Let me tell you the story, and I am sure it will make every American as angry as it makes me. This is a picture of Efraim Diveroli, a 22-year-old CEO of a firm awarded $300 million in U.S. contracts to provide armaments, bullets, and guns to the Afghan fighters. That is right. A 22-year-old man using a shell corporation established by his father, working out of a building with an unmarked door in Miami, got $300 million in contracts from the Department of Defense. He was a CEO. By the way, there is no evidence of any other employees except him and his vice president. Yes, his vice president was older, 25 years old and a massage therapist.

Let me say that again. The Department of Defense gave $300 million in

contracts to a 22-year-old CEO of a company—a company that was run by a 22-year-old CEO—and a 25-year-old vice president massage therapist.

Why do I tell you this today? Because a new story just recently described the fact that Mr. Diveroli pled guilty to a fraud conspiracy charge relating to the $300 million in U.S. contracts. He faces up to 5 years in prison.

I have spoken about this man and this circumstance probably three or four times on the floor of the Senate to ask the question: How on Earth could this have happened?

Let me just show, if I might, what this was about. This was about products. No, not staplers or reams of paper. These were killer products, ammunition; ammunition that was supposed to be provided to the Afghan fighters. As it turns out, ammunition that spills out of boxes. Here are some other examples.

In this chart, these are bullets, 40-year-old, Chinese-made cartridges they found somewhere in the world and sent them over to Afghanistan and the Afghan fighters.

Here we can see spilling out of boxes 42-year-old Chinese ammunition that was delivered in Afghanistan from these two folks.

The 22-year-old CEO with whom both the Defense Department and the State Department did business, by the way had previous contracts with the State Department. They were unsatisfactory, and despite that, he got $300 million in contracts from the Defense Department. This photograph is from 2007. That is when he got the $300 million in defense contracts. This photograph happens to be a police photograph because he was arrested for assaulting a parking lot attendant. At the time, he was found to have had a forged driver's license which made him out to be 4 years older than he really was. He said he forged the license and didn't need it any longer now that he is 21 because he only wanted to buy alcohol in the first place.

They ran the company, AEY—the 22- and 25-year-olds getting $300 million in defense contracts after they had gotten contracts with the State Department and judged to be unsatisfactory—out of a building in Miami. It was an unmarked door in a Miami Beach building. That is all you could see. The only evidence that exists suggests that this was a company with just two people.

Mr. Packouz, the 25-year-old massage therapist, has also pled guilty. So both have now pled guilty. I have shown examples of the arms they were supposed to have procured for the Afghan fighters, and when they were delivered, the Afghan fighters called them ''junk''—junk—stuff that was made in the 1960s in China.

The way they purchased this so-called junk violated U.S. law in the first place. The New York Times originally published this story. That is when I saw it. That is when I came to the floor of the Senate and asked a very simple question: How did this happen? How on Earth could this have happened? Who is minding the store? If the Army had made the slightest effort to look into the backgrounds of Mr. Diveroli and Mr. Packouz, they never would have granted contracts to them.

The award was made in January 2007 by the Army Sustainment Command. On May 7, 2008, I met with Army LTG William Mortensen to find out why on Earth they gave contracts in this circumstance. Mr. Mortensen was a three-star general, Deputy Commander of the Army Materiel Command, which commanded authority over the Army Sustainment Command. They had awarded this contract. General Mortensen has since retired. He was completely unapologetic about this, by the way. He said the Army contracts were with companies, not individuals, and on paper the Diveroli company looked just fine.

Of course it didn't because they had not looked at the paper. Had they looked at the State Department with which that company previously contracted, they would have found out this is nobody with whom to contract. He told me nobody in the Army had thought to look through the background of Mr. Diveroli and Mr. Packouz, even though this was a company which consisted, as we know, of just two people. He told me, under similar circumstances, the Army would probably make the same decision again and give contracts to such people again. Then he told me if Mr. Diveroli and Mr. Packouz were acquitted, the Army would go back to doing business with them.

If General Mortensen had wanted to know a little bit about with whom they were doing business to the tune of hundreds of millions of dollars he could have gone to MySpace. Mr. Diveroli had a page on MySpace. He describes himself as a super nice guy. He said on MySpace:

> I had problems in high school so I was forced to I work and probably grew up way too fast.

He said:

> Basically I'm just chilling with my boys.

And he likes to go clubbing and see movies.

He could have checked, of course, more than MySpace.

He could have checked perhaps a criminal record and found he had been charged with domestic violence and with drunk driving. He could have Googled his name and discovered the vice president, in addition to being a massage therapist, was a professional song writer.

With these kinds of backgrounds, I am just wondering, where is there accountability? Where is the accountability? I understand that because two enterprising reporters for the New York Times broke this story, and we probably would not know it now because this did not come from oversight hearings, it did not come from a Truman committee we should have in this Chamber investigating these things, but it was enterprising reporting that did this. I understand that. So because of that, we have a couple of people charged criminally.

The question I ask is, where is the accountability in the Department of Defense for deciding they are going to move $300 million through the hands of these two? Who did that? Who is responsible? Were they asked to account for it and to answer for it to the American taxpayers and the government for which they worked?

The answer is no, and that is what is wrong, and it is why I come to the Senate floor to recite this again. There is some good news. Finally, we have criminal charges that have been adjudicated, and the fact is, two people have pled guilty. But will this be happening today somewhere in the Pentagon? Will it? Did it happen with water that was sent by a contractor to all the military bases in Iraq, the nonpotable water that has more contamination than raw water from the Euphrates River? Did it happen there? The Army said no. The inspector general, at my request, investigated and said, yes, it did happen.

I can go on at length about dozens and dozens of similar circumstances. The question is, who is accountable for the spending of this money? Who has been made to be accountable? Who had to answer for it?

I ask the Secretary of Defense and others: Is there somebody made accountable for this situation? I understand there is criminal accountability for these two people. But is there accountability for the people who decided to employ them, despite all the evidence that this made no sense for our country?

I ask that question for a very important reason. We are going to have a debate about Afghanistan. I have very strong feelings about that issue as well. What we are seeing now is more and more contracting being done in Afghanistan just as the ratcheting up of contracts occurred in Iraq. More and more and more contracting. Who is minding the store? What kind of oversight can we expect? Or will we a week from now, a month from now, or a year from now read another story by a couple of good reporters who dug it out to say something happened that is unbelievable and the American people got defrauded to the tune of millions of dollars or, in this case, hundreds of millions of dollars.

All of us have responsibility at this point to make accountable those who allowed this sort of thing to happen and not just in this case. I have done 20 hearings now as chairman of the Policy Committee, which have helped to unearth a great amount of evidence of waste, fraud and abuse.

Well, I know my colleague in Oklahoma is patiently waiting, and I wish to give him an opportunity to speak. I only want to say this. This is a conclusion with criminal charges and guilty

pleas with respect to this issue, which I think is a metaphor for a much larger set of problems that we in the Congress and in the administration have a responsibility to address and to address soon. This issue of big Federal budget deficits is very real. They are unsustainable and dangerous. One of the ways to deal with them is to tighten our belts and start cutting spending where spending is being wasted. This was an unbelievable waste of the taxpayers' money, and my hat is off to the reporters who discovered it. I have been following it now for a couple years on the floor of the Senate, and at least I am able to say guilty pleas have been received.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Oklahoma.

Mr. INHOFE. Mr. President, I have been here this afternoon and hope to get a little more time than we are getting. Right now we are into the final debate on the vote that will take place at 5:30. The Senator from Nevada, Senator ENSIGN, has agreed to let me have 10 minutes, so I ask unanimous consent to speak for 10 minutes as in morning business.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, could we point out that we are to go to the bill at 4:30. I discussed with my colleague that we have 30 minutes on each side on the bill, and if we could go to the bill and then have my colleague speak on that portion of the bill, I think that would be the right approach.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Oklahoma is recognized for 10 minutes.

ISSUES FACING THE SENATE

Mr. INHOFE. I thank the Chair.

Well, first of all, I had a few stories I was going to tell about my very good friend who is deceased now, Senator KENNEDY, and if there is time before my time expires I will get into that. I have a feeling more will take place on that tomorrow or later on tonight.

Let me mention one thing because I think it is so fresh on our minds now, having come back from the August recess. I did my town meetings in smaller communities in Oklahoma. I was in Stigler, Coweta, Chickasha, Grove, Woodward, Guymon, McAlester, and Lawton. I did this because so many times smaller communities are left out, and I wanted to know what kind of response they had. I made the comment when I was in Grove, OK, that the very institutions that have historically set America aside from the rest of the world are the ones that seem to be under attack by this administration. I am talking about free enterprise, talking about the fact of little government, big people, and all these things.

Since the junior Senator from Oklahoma, Mr. COBURN, is one of the two medical doctors in the Senate, I decided to talk about the other issues. My fear is this: There was concern about socialized medicine. Everyone is concerned about what this President wants to do with the health issues in America, but we are forgetting there are other very serious issues. So I covered these, as opposed to the health problems, because these are things we are going to be dealing with in the Senate in the next few days or weeks, and they are very significant.

One of them is the cap-and-trade issue that we have talked about at some length, and I will get into that in a minute; the other is the closing of Guantanamo Bay Naval Station, or Gitmo as it is known to most people, and the other is what has happened to our military. So let me, real briefly, get into these areas. These are three areas where I will be providing leadership. These are the areas of specialty I have and I am very much concerned about.

First of all, I positioned myself in Afghanistan in February, when Secretary of Defense Gates came out with his announcement as to the portion of the President's budget dealing with defense because I knew I was going to be opposed to it, and I thought that would give me a national forum, and it did. I was concerned about such things as the F–22. Right now, the only fifth-generation fighter we have is the F–22. Initially, we were going to have 750 of them. We now have 187, and the President, in his budget, stopped it right there. He didn't say terminate, but I will use the word ''terminate,'' because when you suspend something for an undetermined period of time, I think it is terminated.

At the same time that happened, we know that China is now working on their J–12s and Russia on their PAK–FAs. These are fifth-generation fighters they are going to be using to export to countries that could be potential enemies of ours. I have looked at the C–17 program—stopping that program—the future combat system. We haven't had in America a transition in ground capability in quite some time—about 60 years. So we have been working on the future combat system. That system has been terminated.

I think the one that probably has the greatest danger on the lives of Americans could probably be the system we had negotiated with the Parliaments of Poland and the Czech Republic. The Czech Republic was asked if they would agree to have a radar system to see any kind of incoming missile which might have been coming from Iran, and they agreed to do that. Then Poland agreed to have an interception capability that would knock down such a missile coming from Iran. I don't think there is anyone in America who doesn't realize that Iran is going to have their nuclear capability and delivery systems just as soon as they can. For the sake of Western Europe and the Eastern United States, I think it is critical we put ourselves in a position to have that capability. Well, he stopped that. So we will be talking about that for quite some time.

Gitmo. I think most people realize now that Guantanamo Bay is an asset we have had since 1903. It has all kinds of capabilities. It is the only place in the world you can put terrorist detainees where you can have a facility built for them—some seven degrees of security. We have a system there where we use military tribunals. I will never understand why President Obama is obsessed with bringing these detainees into the United States either for trial or for incarceration. For a trial, it would be the worst plan in the world because, by definition, a terrorist trains people to become terrorists. We don't need to have terrorists in our prison system teaching other people how to become terrorists.

Some of the places the President talked about sending them included my State, at Fort Sill. We will talk about that maybe some other time. But I do think, when we see just a matter of days ago, the release of Mohammed Jawad from Gitmo, nobody knows—or at least I don't know, and I should know, being the second-ranking member on the Armed Services Committee—why he would be released. We also know Mullah Zakir, who was killing American marines in the Helmand Province for quite some period of time, was released and is now back. He went into Gitmo in 2006, they released him in 2008, and he is back. Now we have received evidence that is conclusive that he is fighting on the side of the Taliban. So you can't turn these guys loose.

The third area I was concentrating on is one I will go back to 8 years ago. Redemption is kind of good for the soul, I think, because 8 years ago I was looking at the science on the notion that manmade gases—anthropogenic gases, CO_2, methane—caused global warming. It was something everybody believed. Until I looked into the science, frankly, I believed it too. Now we see the science is not there. I made the statement 8 years ago that perhaps those liberals—mostly from Hollywood and that type of mentality—who want us to believe in the notion that manmade gases cause global warming is the most significant hoax ever perpetrated on the American people. I think now there are a lot fewer people today who are upset with the statement I made 8 years ago than there were then. This is something that is critical.

I wish to conclude with that, but first of all I wish to mention that there is a document that is too long to put in the RECORD. It is some 65 pages. I will have it on my Web site. This is a brave paper done by Robert P. Smith. He has a Ph.D., he is a petroleum engineer, and he talks about the energy crisis and what we can do in the United States to resolve that energy crisis—such commonsense things as continuing to conserve, to continue to support the free market, to oppose the cap-and-trade

taxes—which I will talk about in a second—to oppose the alternative energy subsidies because we have to continue to develop and to supply energy for America while we are developing the technologies, so we need to continue coal-powered generation. We need to fast-track oil and gas exploration and use natural gas wisely. It includes nuclear plants.

I would suggest to anyone who is interested in getting into the best piece I have seen on this subject to go to my Web site—inhofe.senate.gov—and we have a lot of that information on this. But he does have only 3 pages out of the 65 pages detailing the idea that global warming is caused by manmade gases, and I think it is done in a way that is very understandable by people who are not necessarily scientists or don't have a background in it. So I strongly recommend this document—called ''Energy: Present and Future,'' by Robert P. Smith—to the reading list of the American people or anyone who is concerned about that issue.

Lastly, prior to the Republicans losing the majority in the Senate, I was the chairman of the Environment and Public Works Committee. That chairman is now Senator BARBARA BOXER. She took over the committee from my leadership.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator has used 10 minutes.

Mr. INHOFE. I was given an additional 5 minutes from our side, Mr. President.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. INHOFE. I thank the Chair. I will conclude with this.

During the time that all the hearings—over 30 hearings—that Senator BOXER has had on the subject of global warming were taking place—and it was not just the Republicans but a total turnaround—the Democrats started to look into this and realized the Democrats, as a party—who always supported cap-and-trade systems, such as the 2003 bill and the 2005 bill and the 2008 bill—are now looking at it and they are cutting to the chase. I will give a few quotes here. These are all quotes from Democrats.

President Obama said: Electricity prices would necessarily skyrocket. Democratic Representative JOHN DINGELL from Michigan said: Cap and trade is a tax and a great big one. Democratic Representative PETE DEFAZIO said: A cap and trade system is prone to market manipulation and speculation without any guarantee of meaningful GHG emission reductions.

The best is from my good friend from North Dakota, Senator BYRON DORGAN, when he said about cap and trade: The Wall Street crowd can't wait to sink their teeth into a new trillion-dollar trading market in which hedge funds and investment banks would trade and speculate on carbon credits and securities. I totally agree with my good friend, Democratic Senator BYRON DORGAN.

Democratic Senator CANTWELL from Washington: A cap and trade program might allow Wall Street to distort a carbon market for its own profits.

We learned, of course, from Lisa Jackson, who is the new Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, when I asked her this question in a public hearing. I said: If we should pass the Markey bill in the Senate and it gets signed into law, will this reduce carbon emissions in the world?

She said: No.

Logically, obviously, she is right. If we drive our jobs overseas to places such as China and India, where they have no intention of having any kind of emission requirements, then that would have the effect of increasing, not decreasing, the amount of emissions in the air.

Senator KERRY said: There is no way the United States of America acting alone can solve this problem. So we have to have China; we have to have India.

I say we are not going to have China and India.

Senator MCCASKILL said: If we go too far with this cap and trade, then all we are going to do is chase more jobs to China and India, where they have been putting up coal-fired plants every 10 minutes.

Not quite true. I would say to my good friend, Senator MCCASKILL, it is about two coal-fired generation plants that are built every week in China. We haven't done one in 12 years here. So we know what their intentions are.

So we have had all these hearings, and we have recognized that things have changed now. You look at the groups now, and you have the agricultural community, the American Farm Bureau, and a vast majority of the agricultural groups who oppose it. The GAO says it will send our jobs to China and India. The very eloquent chairman of the National Black Chamber of Commerce did a great job of testifying before our committee and said it would destroy over 2 million jobs. The EPA and the EIA—that is the Energy Information Agency—said it would not reduce our dependence on foreign oil. The EPA said it will do nothing to reduce global temperatures. So when all is said and done, the American people will reject it. We are sure a lot further now.

I have to say this: This was a breath of fresh air, to listen to the American people standing up at these townhall meetings all around the country. In my 12 or 14 meetings I had in my State of Oklahoma, people know the right thing is going to happen. We are here to make that happen.

With that, I thank the Senator from Nevada for allowing me to have 15 minutes of his time, and I yield the floor.

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Morning business is closed.

TRAVEL PROMOTION ACT OF 2009

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate resumes consideration of S. 1023, which the clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 1023) to establish a nonprofit corporation to communicate United States entry policies and otherwise promote leisure, business, and scholarly travel to the United States.

Pending:

Reid (for Dorgan/Rockefeller) amendment No. 1347, of a perfecting nature.

Reid amendment No. 1348 (to amendment No. 1347), to change the enactment date.

Reid amendment No. 1349 (to the language proposed to be stricken by amendment No. 1347), to change the enactment date.

Reid amendment No. 1350 (to amendment No. 1349), of a perfecting nature.

Reid motion to commit the bill to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, with instructions.

Reid amendment No. 1351 (to the instructions on the motion to recommit), to change the enactment date.

Reid amendment No. 1352 (to amendment No. 1351), of a perfecting nature.

Reid amendment No. 1353 (to amendment No. 1352), of a perfecting nature.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the time until 5:30 p.m. will be divided or controlled between the leaders or their designees.

The Senator from North Dakota is recognized.

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, I want to begin the discussion, then I believe my colleague, Senator ENSIGN, who has worked hard on this legislation, will follow. Then Senator KLOBUCHAR who also has played a significant role in this will follow with comments. If others arrive, of course we want them to be able to involve themselves in the debate.

At a time when there is so much discussion about partisanship and how things don't work so well, this legislation, the cloture motion we vote on at 5:30 today, is bipartisan. Unlike some other discussions about partisanship, this is bipartisan. This legislation is called the Travel Promotion Act of 2009. It has 53 cosponsors. There are many Democrats and Republicans cosponsoring this legislation.

Just today the U.S. Chamber of Commerce sent a letter to all Members of Congress saying they strongly support this legislation. The Chamber urges Members to support the legislation and to vote for cloture.

Let me talk just for a moment about what this is. First of all, at a time when we need jobs, this is about jobs. At a time when we need to find ways to address budget deficits, this is one piece of legislation that is not going to cost money. In fact, the Congressional Budget Office scores it as actually a $425 million reduction in deficits over a 10-year period. Let me say again, it is pretty unusual. It is bipartisan, doesn't cost money—actually saves money—and addresses one of the most critical areas of our need, and that is jobs.

What is the Travel Promotion Act and why the concern? Let me describe

it this way. We all know travel and promoting travel and tourism is job creating. It creates jobs in many areas—yes, hotels and gas stations and restaurants and tourist attractions, but with visitors just traveling across our country means people are spending money. It creates a lot of jobs.

Let me talk especially about the issue of international or foreign travel to the United States. Did you know foreign travel is up very dramatically in this world? There is a great deal of foreign travel—56 million more overseas trips were taken in 2008 than were taken in 2000. So in 8 years the number of overseas trips increased by 56 million people. But at the same time, overseas travel to the United States has decreased. We had 634,000 fewer foreign visitors to the United States. It means a lot of people are traveling, but since the year 2000 we have had a loss in our share of international tourists.

Why is that important? Because when overseas travelers come to this country, on average they spend about $4,500. That supports a lot of jobs and a lot of businesses in this country. So why do we have 600,000-plus fewer visitors to the United States? In 2001, after the terrorist attack against our country, we tightened visa requirements and so on. The Iraq war occurred. There was a lot of concern by people that maybe the United States didn't want them to come: They have tightened visa requirements.

All of a sudden we discover that more people are traveling overseas, but they are not traveling here. Incidentally, the tourism that is happening internationally is not accidental. Most other countries are very aggressively going after the international traveler, saying: Come to our country.

Let me go through a list of just a few of those. Here is a big travel promotion campaign that talks about ''Come to Australia. Arrived looking for an experience to remember, departed with an adventure we'll never forget.''

The country of Ireland saying: ''Come to Ireland. Go where Ireland takes you.''

The list goes on. Virtually every country is saying we want foreign tourists to come to our country. ''Sweet secrets from Japan.'' Come and visit Japan.

We have all seen these. All of these countries are very aggressive. Come to France. I can't read the French piece down here, but I know what it says. It says come to France. Come here, be a part of what we are doing.

Belgium, here is the Belgian approach: ''Where fun is always in fashion. Visit Belgium.''

Finally, India. ''One special reason to visit India in 2009. Any time is a good time to visit the land of the Taj, but there is no time like now.''

Virtually every country is saying: Come to our country; come visit us. But we are not, and we propose that we do promote our country because it will create a lot of jobs. Just as important, when people come here and experience what this country is about, they leave with a wonderful impression about what America is.

So what we have put together is a piece of legislation that is bipartisan. It is funded by and large with an entry-exit fee—that is imposed by most other countries, by the way—a $10 fee on visa waiver countries, the people who come from those countries who visit our country. It is a minimal fee compared to what many other countries are charging. We establish with that fee a corporation for travel promotion, an independent nonprofit corporation governed by an 11–member board of directors appointed by the Secretary of Commerce. It sets up this travel promotion fund financed by a public-private matching program.

In short, this is a very simple proposition. It will not only create a lot of new jobs in this country at a time when we desperately need new jobs by saying to foreign travelers come to our country, be a part of what America has to offer you, come see our wonderful country, experience what America is about, we know when they come to this country they have an unbelievably good impression of what they have just seen—the greatest democracy on the face of this planet by far, and they experience the magic and wonders of this country.

What we are saying to them is, at a time when travel around the world is up, that is visitors to other countries, and ours is down, let's solve this problem and let's do it without breaking the bank. In fact, this will not cost money; this will save money. Let's do it by working in a bipartisan way on one of the significant problems we face in America, and that is the loss of jobs.

In case someone thinks perhaps there are just a few of us who think this is a good idea, here are a few examples of others who think this is a great idea. The Dallas Morning News:

> The travel promotion act is a sensible first step toward putting the welcome mat back on America's doorstep.

What a wonderful way to put it.

The Los Angeles Times:

> Considering the U.S. spends hundreds of millions of dollars on public diplomacy with dubious results and nearly nothing on promoting tourism, it might do well to invest a little money in wooing travelers.

Sacramento Bee:

> This country needs to reclaim its stand as a global magnet for visitors even in this post–9/11 climate—and Congress can help by passing the Travel Promotion Act by the end of this year.

Duluth News Tribune:

> Ideas to bolster economic recovery without plunging the Nation any deeper into debt would be welcomed by taxpayers from coast to coast.

The Detroit Free Press:

> Doesn't it make sense to encourage, at no cost to taxpayers, foreign visitors to come here and leave us some money? There is no good reason not to pass this bill.

I needn't go on. This is not rocket science. This is something our country should do. If, in fact, in a smaller and smaller world, more and more people are traveling, then why should fewer people travel to the United States of America? This ought to be one of the great destination places on the entire planet. I expect and hope most people want to come to this country and see what America has to offer. But I think post-9/11 what we have done with visas and so on, which we are now correcting and have corrected by and large—longer waiting times, we have made them shorter and so on—I think there was a notion out there somehow that the welcome mat doesn't exist. We are changing that. Republicans and Democrats can work together to change that. This legislation is good legislation, and I hope my colleagues will join me today in voting for cloture and moving this bill as soon as possible through the Senate, through the House, and to the President for signature.

When we do, those people who have had to come home to say to their spouse: Honey, I have lost my job—some of those millions of people, are going to be able to come home someday and say: I have a new job. There is some new activity going on in our State. I have a new job that relates to the substantial increase in international tourism to the United States.

That will be a good thing for our country. So as the principal author, along with Senator ENSIGN, of this legislation—and let me say also the chair of the Tourism Subcommittee, Senator KLOBUCHAR—I am pleased to be able to work together with my colleagues to get this legislation completed today.

I reserve the remainder of my time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Nevada is recognized.

Mr. ENSIGN. Mr. President, first let me thank the coauthor of this legislation, Senator DORGAN, for his leadership on recognizing how important this legislation is to our country, especially at this critical time when our country need jobs. All of us who just went back to our home States realize there are a lot of people who are truly hurting out there. It is not just people who have already lost their jobs, but there are a lot of people who are afraid they are going to lose their jobs.

There are people who are afraid to invest to create jobs. I would say the number one emotion I heard during the August recess was that of fear. It is fear of what is going to happen in this country. I think Senator DORGAN eloquently put it that this bill is about jobs. It is about creating jobs without adding to the Federal debt.

Another thing I heard throughout the State of Nevada is that people are very concerned about Federal spending and the deficits this year we are facing. This looming Federal debt that people believe is a threat to the future of the United States. This bipartisan bill helps create jobs without adding to the deficit. The bill is paid for through contributions from the private sector plus

$10 entry fee into the United States. Countries are able to participate in what is called a visa waiver program. It is cheaper for those countries who participate in the visa waiver program because $10 is actually cheaper than if you were to get a full visa. Most countries charge more than $10 for such a program; the $10 entry fee will not deter people from coming to the United States. As a matter of fact, the money is going to let people know that the United States is open for business.

I am obviously from a tourist-driven State. We spend a lot of money advertising, whether it is Las Vegas, Reno or Lake Tahoe, we spend a lot of money advertising to other places, including internationally. Nevada does a lot of advertising. The Las Vegas Convention Authority and private businesses advertise because it works.

What we are saying in this bill is, let's do it as a country. Let us show how many amazing places there are to see. Let's tell the rest of the world about it.

You know the old saying: If you build it they will come? We already have built it, or God built it with our natural resources we have, but you have to let them know they are welcome and it is easy to travel to the United States. That is what this legislation will do.

Plus, when you tell them about the United States, it will paint a mental picture in their minds when they are thinking about where to spend their next holiday or vacation. They say: You know what, I just saw that ad. It is kind of in the back of my mind. I always wanted to go to the United States.

Maybe they want to see some of our national wonders, whether it is Yosemite, Yellowstone, the Grand Canyon, Alaska, or Hawaii. Nevada has Lake Tahoe, one of the most beautiful Alpine lakes in the entire world. I would argue it is the most beautiful Alpine lake in the entire world.

There are so many places to see that are manmade in this country. Washington, DC is one of the most incredible cities in the world. If we tell people about it, and they come and learn about our history and our democracy, they may get a better view of the people and of the Government of the United States. The statistics are clear. People who visit the United States have a much more favorable view of the United States. There are plenty of other places to see, whether it is going to see the amazing culture of New York City or some of the other amazing cities, such as Chicago.

My hometown of Las Vegas is a world-class destination with some of the most amazing restaurants and entertainment on the planet. There are great beaches in California and on the East Coast. There are some of the most amazing golf destinations, whether it is Hilton Head, SC, or the Monterey Peninsula in California.

The United States has some amazing places to see. If we tell people about it, they will come in greater numbers. The studies are fairly significant on this. If you spend money to bring people, they will come. And when they come, they will bring their money.

Senator DORGAN talked about the average visitor who comes from overseas comes from a long ways away; not just Canada or Mexico. When they come from a long way away, they spend, on average, $4,500 in the United States. If we can attract some of those 58 million new visitors who are traveling worldwide now since the year 2000, even a small piece of that number, it is going to create tens of thousands of jobs in the United States. Who around here does not think we need jobs? The unemployment rate of Clark County, NV, which is where Las Vegas is located, is 14 percent now.

Tourism, when you total it all together, is the number one industry in the United States. We ought to do something to promote it. That is why this legislation, I believe, is so important. This country is crying out for bipartisanship. This bill does not add to the deficit. That is why this bill makes so much sense at this time in our country's history.

Over the next couple of days, we are going to be debating this bill. Tonight is a procedural vote to get on the bill. I believe all Senators should support it. When we get on the bill, we will have a lot more to say about it, a lot more examples of why this is good legislation.

I appreciate the work that has been done. I will yield the floor to allow the Subcommittee Chairwoman to speak, Senator KLOBUCHAR. She has done great work on this bill. We appreciate her support as well. This is a bipartisan piece of legislation that this country needs right now. Our country needs anything that is going to create jobs and not add to the deficit.

I yield the floor and I reserve the remainder of our time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from North Dakota.

Mr. DORGAN. I yield 10 minutes of our time to Senator KLOBUCHAR.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator is recognized.

Ms. KLOBUCHAR. Mr. President, as the Senator from Nevada was discussing, all of us were home in the last month. I heard a lot about health care and I know we will be having an extensive debate and doing some very important work in this area. I heard a lot about the economy.

Well, this bill is about an industry that one out of every eight Americans is employed in—one out of every eight Americans. And if there is something we know we can do, which we know we can do in this bill to help promote more jobs in this country without costing taxpayers any money, this is the time to do it.

I first thank Senator DORGAN from North Dakota for his tireless work for years on this bill. I was listening as Senator ENSIGN went through all of the wonders of Nevada. And we all know there is some great tourism there. But he failed to mention Teddy Roosevelt Park in North Dakota, a place I have been visited myself. And, of course, I hope many people have come to the Mall of America in Minnesota as well as a lot of our beautiful forests and lakes.

Every State has something to be proud of when it comes to travel. Today we have the opportunity to help this industry with the Travel Promotion Act. We should not let it go to waste. As was mentioned, I am the Chair of the Commerce Subcommittee that deals with tourism. But I also come from a State that values common sense. And supporting legislation that will create jobs, generate spending, and reduce the deficit, all at no cost to the taxpayer, is the definition of common sense.

Look at the numbers. This bill is expected to bring in 1.6 million new international visitors each year—1.6 million. And you know how much they spend? They spend $4,500, on average, when they come here. You can do the math: some 1.6 million new visitors times $4,500 every single year in this country. In fact, some economists expect the bill to generate $4 billion in new spending and $321 million in new Federal tax revenue.

It is estimated to create 40,000 new jobs. The Congressional Budget Office estimates that this bill will reduce the budget deficit by $425 million over the next 10 years. Remember those numbers: $4,500 per person for every new visitor; 1.6 million new people every year coming to our country; $4 billion in new spending, 40,000 new jobs. Costs to the taxpayer: zero.

During these tough economic times, how could we not pass this bill right now when we know it would do so much good? This past summer I visited, along with my family, many areas in our State and we did tourism hearings and various events around this bill.

In Northern Minnesota, I will be honest, at first I thought: Well, they want tourism, it is a big industry in our State, but do they care about this bill. That is when I found out that they do care about this bill. Because so many visitors traditionally have come down from Canada. And some of the barriers in getting the visas processed, and the barriers at the border have affected tourism up in northern Minnesota, in places such as Grand Marais and International Falls, and Bemidji, and the Brainerd Lakes area, home of the statue of Paul Bunyan and Babe the Blue Ox.

Minnesota shares this border with Canada. I was very surprised at how much interest there was in getting this bill passed. They understand that we want to promote our country internationally, like other countries which Senator DORGAN and Senator ENSIGN have pointed out have done for so long. But they also want to make it easier to process these visas.

As you know, this problem started way before the economy started having

trouble. It occurred after 9/11 where, for very good reasons, there were some tighter visa requirements put in place. The problem is, we have gotten so behind that a lot of people who are living in, say, France think: Well, am I going to go to America where it is maybe going to take months to process my visa? Maybe I will go over to England or maybe I will go to Japan. And so we need to speed up that process.

We know that tourism creates good jobs that cannot be outsourced. It increases sales for local businesses and it brings in tax revenue for local and State economies. One of my favorite examples is Duluth. It is not Las Vegas but listen to this story. Duluth is a port city that was hit hard by recessions of the 1970s and the early 1980s.

My dad is from northern Minnesota. We would go up there a lot. I could see how much that community was hurting during that time. At one point it was so bad that they put a famous billboard on the edge of town that said: Will the last one out please turn off the lights.

Well, the lights are still on in Duluth; they are as bright as ever. A lot has to do with the promotion of tourism. The city has transformed itself on the beautiful shores of Lake Superior into a popular tourist destination, welcoming nearly 4 million visitors each year with an annual economic impact of over $700 million.

We know that the tourism industry is feeling the effects of the economic downturn. On top of that, as I mentioned, the United States has seen its decline in the tourism industry in the past decade. As we see here, the U.S. share of the world travel market has decreased by nearly 20 percent, costing us hundreds of thousands of jobs and billions of dollars in revenue.

When a traveler decides to go somewhere else besides the United States, there is a ripple effect throughout our economy. You think about the hotels, of course; you think about the airlines. But you know who else you should be thinking about? You should be thinking about that person who is working making beds in the hotel or the waitress who is working in the restaurant where people would stop by on their drive or you think about the florist who is getting those flowers ready for the business conference. These are all jobs, those are all jobs in this economy.

Last year nearly 200,000 travel-related jobs were lost, and the Commerce Department predicts that we will lose another 247,000 jobs this year. We can do something about this. We can bring in more travelers, we can create more jobs, and we can boost our economy. That is why we need to pass the Travel Promotion Act.

First, this bill will create the Corporation for Travel Promotion, a public-private partnership to promote the United States as an international travel destination, and finally establish a coordinated national tourism program.

Senator DORGAN has some amazing blowups of some of the work that you have seen in other countries. Just look. Indonesia has its own tourism program. The Bahamas entice people to go there; Scotland, Taiwan, South Korea; Australia with their kangaroo. What do we have right now? Nothing. Individual cities are going out there, places such as New York, places such as Las Vegas. It is not so easy for some small resorts in Minnesota or North Dakota or Vermont or New Hampshire to do that.

But this is the chance where we can actually promote our country internationally. And we are in major competition for international travel, but we are not competing. In 2005, Greece spent more than $150 million on travel promotion; France spent $63 million. That is what we are up against. It is time for the United States to catch up to the rest of the world. It is time for us to play on an even playing field.

Second, the bill will establish the Office of Travel Promotion in the Department of Commerce to work with the Corporation for Travel Promotion and the Secretaries of State and Homeland Security to make sure that international visitors are processed efficiently. It is time to cut through the redtape so we can get the people who are going to these countries to come to our country.

We have always been a country that has opened our arms to people who want to come and visit. We have been proud of that, because we know that it does not only have an economic benefit, it has also a diplomatic benefit. People who visit the United States are 74 percent more likely to have a favorable opinion of our country than those who have not visited.

As we enter a new era in our international relations, travel can play an important role in building bridges between Americans and people from across the globe.

Finally, as I mentioned earlier, this legislation will not cost taxpayers a dime. I say to Senator DORGAN, it is a very good way to begin this session, to begin it by looking at something that is paid for by combination of private sector contributions and a small fee on international travelers, non-U.S. taxpayers, who are entering the United States. This is commonsense legislation.

When you think about the positive ripple effect that will happen as more international visitors visit our country, it will increase sales for businesses ranging from airlines to hotels, to those little flower shops. It will increase revenues in our local economy, and it will increase jobs.

The United States is home to some of the world's wonders. And the Travel Promotion Act will give us the tools we need to promote the United States as a premiere travel destination.

As Chair of the Commerce Subcommittee that includes tourism, I have seen how important tourism is to communities, both small and large across our country. We have the opportunity to boost travel and boost our economy. We cannot let that go to waste.

I am glad we are debating this bill today. I am looking forward to this vote and the days that we have here to focus on this. But I urge my colleagues to support this. They have been home. They know people are crying out for jobs. They know this is something at no cost to the taxpayers, bipartisan support, which will help to get us there. Let's get this done.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from North Dakota.

Mr. DORGAN. How much time remains?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. There is 8 minutes, 15 seconds.

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, first, let me thank Senator KLOBUCHAR for her work, and Senator ENSIGN. I think they have said what needs to be said.

If 48 million more people are now traveling internationally, foreign travelers moving around the world, 48 million more, but 600,000 fewer are traveling in the United States as foreign travelers, then something is wrong and we need to fix it.

I want to market this country to foreign travelers, to say: Come to all of America. Yes, come to see the Statue of Liberty, and come to see New York City and its vibrancy, and the Empire State Building, and Las Vegas, and Universal Studios in Los Angeles, and the Golden Gate Bridge. And in my State, the Pembina Gorge, the Red River Valley, and the Badlands

I would love to have foreign tourists come to experience the history and the culture the values of all of our country. I have told the story before on the floor of the Senate about Theodore Roosevelt. Theodore Roosevelt was in his home in New York when on the same day, on different floors of his home, his mother died and his wife died. In his diary for that day, there is a big mark. It is just an X for that day. He lost both his wife and his mother. Same day, different floors of his house.

A broken spirit, he went to what was then North Dakota and began to ranch in the Badlands of North Dakota, in what is now the Theodore Roosevelt National Park.

I would love to encourage foreign tourists to come to the heartland of America, the northern Great Plains, and see what restored the spirit of Theodore Roosevelt. What a great way to understand and see the history and the culture and values of this country. Isn't it interesting and alarming that 48 million more people are traveling around the world as foreign tourists and 600,000 fewer are traveling in the United States? The United States, which should be the premier destination for travel of anywhere on this Earth, and yet we have 633,000 fewer foreign travelers than we had 9 years ago. There is something not connected here. We propose to connect it with something that is bipartisan, something that doesn't cost money but

something that reduces the Federal budget deficit, something that creates jobs when we have lost so many, to be able to do that working together, to say: Here is something on which we can agree. Here is something we think would boost America's economic strength, here is something we believe would contribute to building new jobs, and, most importantly for me, here is something that when people come to our country and leave, it will allow them to leave America with a positive impression about what this country is, who the American people are, what they believe, what they practice. This is a remarkable place. To come here and then leave here after having visited America is to experience one of the great travel opportunities on this planet.

When we look at a problem and see that something is not working right, the question is, How do we fix it? I have said so often before, but I will say it again—because I know we have had some discussion today in opposition to this that I think mischaracterizes it—Mark Twain, when asked if he would engage in a debate, said: Of course, as long as I can take the negative side.

They said: We haven't even told you the subject.

He said: It doesn't matter. The negative side will take no preparation at all.

So it is with legislation. It is so much easier with no preparation to come and say: I am opposed to this; I don't support this; this won't work. The fact is, this is a problem that hurts this country. Losing our share of international tourism at a time when more people are traveling around the world, finding fewer people traveling to our country, that is a problem. We can fix it in a way that doesn't spend more, doesn't increase the Federal budget deficit, but attracts more people to this country and creates more jobs. What a remarkable piece of legislation that is a good investment in the future.

We have a lot to be proud of in this country, all of us. We take it for granted every day because we wake up in this country, but, boy, do we have a lot to be proud of. We want to show it off to foreign visitors.

Since 9/11, I understand there has been a notion somehow that it is harder to come to America. It is more hassle. What we want to say is: That is done. It is not a hassle. We invite you to come here. Come here and be a part of our experience.

Here is what we see in the Sidney Morning Herald: ''Coming to America Isn't Easy''; in the Guardian, United Kingdom: ''America—more hassle than it's worth?''; the Sunday Times of London: ''Travel to America? No thanks.'' These are all 2008 headlines. We want to say: This country has a welcome mat out for you. Come here. Experience what we have to experience in America. We invite you to be a part of our experience. We want you to come to the United States when you are considering traveling internationally.

That is what this legislation is about. This is not complicated. It is the right thing to do. It is the reason there are so many Democrats and Republicans who have joined together in something we think will strengthen the country.

I yield the floor and reserve the remainder of my time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Nevada.

Mr. ENSIGN. Mr. President, I wish to make a couple other points before the vote.

Some folks have questioned why we need the Travel Promotion Act. They say that tourism will take care of itself and that this is not a role for the Federal Government. One of the reasons I remember for years why I wanted to go to Australia was because they advertised in the United States. The advertisements talked about the various places, whether it was the Great Barrier Reef, some of the sites of Sydney, Australia, or the gorgeous beaches they have. The United States and our resources here are so vast for people to come and see, I think to not tell folks of the world what we have here or to remind them of what we have is a disservice to our country. If we remind them, whether by brochures, internet advertising, television advertising, or whatever the advertising media we choose, we will attract people here.

There is no question that a lot of folks would love to visit the United States. It may just take a little spark to get them to realize that is someplace they want to go. I have thought about that. Hey, let's take the kids. Let's go to America. Let's see some of the incredible sites. We have heard about the Grand Canyon. We have heard about some of the national parks. Let's go to Washington, DC, and see the Capitol, that beacon of democracy throughout the world. Let's remind folks of the types of things we have here in New York City.

When people come here, not only will they bring their money and create jobs, but I believe, very importantly, people will come away from America with a different attitude about our country. They will come away talking about an America that is different than what they get told about in their news media. If you are in Europe and other places, their news media is not necessarily kind to the United States. When people come here and meet Americans, they see our places that we have and learn some of the history of our country. They come away with a different attitude. That is important today when America needs friends in the world. I believe this legislation is important not only for the jobs it will create but for America's image in the world. This legislation really is needed at this point.

In 1996, we eliminated a Federal program that was basically about promoting travel to the United States. We have had private programs and we have had public programs. None of them worked very well on their own—privately, because they couldn't get the funding necessary; on a public side, it was because the government doesn't run those things very well.

This is a public-private partnership that I believe can work. That is the reason I support this. It is the reason I think a public-private partnership, where some of the public funding is matched with private expertise, can bring more tourists to the United States.

Senator KLOBUCHAR mentioned that 1.6 to 1.8 million new visitors will come to the United States because of this legislation. That creates many jobs. That brings a lot of revenue. That also creates a lot more people who have visited here and will go back to their countries and talk positively about the United States. I believe in our country, and I believe in the goodness of our country. When people are exposed to that goodness, I believe they will go home and talk about the goodness of the country and the goodness of the people in the United States.

Mr. DORGAN. Will the Senator yield for a question?

Mr. ENSIGN. I am happy to yield.

Mr. DORGAN. I should also mention that Senator REID, along with Senator ENSIGN, has played a significant role in working on this legislation. That is very important to mention. Obviously, both come from a State that relies a great deal on tourism. My State's tourism industry is second in the State. It plays a very large role in every State, even though most of us don't have a traditional tourist destination city like Las Vegas, for example.

Early on Senators talked about how companies advertise because advertising works. It is the case that companies advertise only on behalf of their company. I just described circumstances of aggressive efforts for countries to advertise on behalf of their countries saying: Come to Italy, experience what Italy has to offer. Come to France. Come to India. The countries are very aggressive in saying: If you are thinking of traveling around this planet, take a look at this; come to see the Eiffel Tower.

Our country is not doing that. We are not involved in trying to reach out to people to say: You are welcome in this country. We have so much to offer, so much for you to see. We want you to come here and experience it, to understand it.

This legislation creates a public-private partnership in which our country will advertise to the world and say: Come to America. Isn't that the case with respect to advertising of companies versus countries?

Mr. ENSIGN. My friend is correct. It is absolutely the case. It has been proven time and time again. These countries wouldn't continue to spend the money if it wasn't working. Certainly, companies wouldn't continue to spend the money if it wasn't working to bring more people, for instance, to Las

Vegas. The individual companies, as well as the Convention and Visitors Authority, spend a lot of money to bring people to Las Vegas. Most Americans have heard the slogans: What happens in Vegas stays in Vegas. That became a very famous slogan. But it is the sights, the sounds, the smells, everything together that attracts people to come.

If tourists come to the Grand Canyon, most people will also go to California, Las Vegas, New York City or someplace else. When folks come from overseas, they usually don't just visit one place, they visit several places. If we attract people using some of the iconic places we have in the United States, other places around the country will benefit. That is why a national advertising campaign is very important for the country.

Mr. DORGAN. If the Senator will yield further, the fact is, we have lost a lot of jobs in the deepest recession since the Great Depression. All of us are striving to find ways to put people back to work. There is not going to be some Big Bang theory by which everyone goes back to work. We can do this incrementally. We need manufacturing to be restored. We need tourism, a significant job creator. A lot of people don't understand that it is not some big hotel that benefits from tourism. In most cases, it is a small business someplace struggling to make a living. It is a lot of small businesses, rental car companies, and so on. That is why we have such faith that if we do what we say we can do in this legislation, we will put a lot of people back to work.

Ms. KLOBUCHAR. Will the Senator yield for a question?

Mr. ENSIGN. Yes.

Ms. KLOBUCHAR. As Senator DORGAN was discussing, it seems to me that the people don't always think about the ripple effect. I know Nevada has suffered because of some of the economic downturn with tourism. Could the Senator talk a little bit about what he has seen in terms of other businesses that have lost business when we don't promote tourism the way we are supposed to? I think that is something people don't think about. They think about the big airlines, the big hotels, but they don't think about the ripple effect on some of the other jobs that matter.

Mr. ENSIGN. Tourism is such a huge part of our economy today. For instance, somebody who cleans hotel rooms is out of a job, they don't have that money to go down to a fast-food restaurant or go to a store to buy clothes. They have to tighten their belts. Many people also work for tips.

Those tips have gone down, that ripple effect has happened through the American economy today. Nevada has felt it probably more than any other.

But there is no question of the ripple effect. It affects restaurants. I am a veterinarian; it affects the veterinary business. It affects dentists. It affects the construction industry. It is almost like a negative ripple effect when those jobs are being lost in the tourism industry. What we are trying to with this legislation is to create a positive ripple effect where we actually create tourism jobs that will then help to create other jobs in other sectors. So I think that is a great question on the ripple effect with the tourism industry.

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, let me mention again the U.S. Chamber of Commerce has sent out a letter today in strong support of this legislation precisely because of the job-creating nature of this legislation.

Mr. ENSIGN. Mr. President, I yield the floor, and I guess all time has expired.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. All time has expired.

CLOTURE MOTION

Under the previous order, the motion to proceed to the motion to reconsider the vote by which cloture was not invoked on amendment No. 1347 is agreed to, the motion to reconsider is agreed to, and the Senate will vote on the motion to invoke cloture, which the clerk will report.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, hereby move to bring to a close the debate on the Dorgan amendment, No. 1347, to S. 1023, the Travel Promotion Act of 2009.

Harry Reid, Byron L. Dorgan, Barbara Boxer, Ron Wyden, Mark Begich, Evan Bayh, Charles Schumer, Max Baucus, Jon Tester, Patty Murray, Jack Reed, Amy Klobuchar, Patrick Leahy, Barbara Mikulski, Robert Menendez, Jeff Bingaman, Joseph Lieberman.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. By unanimous consent, the mandatory quorum call is waived.

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that the debate on amendment No. 1347, offered by the Senator from Nevada, Mr. REID, for Mr. DORGAN, to S. 1023, the Travel Promotion Act of 2009, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 80, nays 19, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 271 Leg.]

YEAS—80

Akaka	Cochran	Johanns
Alexander	Collins	Johnson
Baucus	Conrad	Kaufman
Bayh	Corker	Kerry
Begich	Dodd	Klobuchar
Bennet	Dorgan	Kohl
Bennett	Durbin	Landrieu
Bingaman	Ensign	Lautenberg
Bond	Feingold	Leahy
Boxer	Feinstein	Levin
Brown	Franken	Lieberman
Burris	Gillibrand	Lincoln
Byrd	Graham	Lugar
Cantwell	Hagan	Martinez
Cardin	Harkin	McCaskill
Carper	Hatch	Menendez
Casey	Inouye	Merkley
Chambliss	Isakson	Mikulski
Murkowski	Schumer	Udall (NM)
Murray	Shaheen	Vitter
Nelson (NE)	Shelby	Voinovich
Nelson (FL)	Snowe	Warner
Pryor	Specter	Webb
Reed	Stabenow	Whitehouse
Reid	Tester	Wicker
Rockefeller	Thune	Wyden
Sanders	Udall (CO)	

NAYS—19

Barrasso	DeMint	McCain
Brownback	Enzi	McConnell
Bunning	Grassley	Risch
Burr	Gregg	Roberts
Coburn	Hutchison	Sessions
Cornyn	Inhofe	
Crapo	Kyl	

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 80, the nays are 19. Three-fifths of the Senators duly chosen and sworn having voted in the affirmative, the motion is agreed to.

Cloture having been invoked, the motion to commit falls.

CONGRATULATING SENATOR LAUTENBERG

Mr. REID. Mr. President, our colleague FRANK LAUTENBERG has given so much to his country. FRANK's parents settled as poor immigrants from Eastern Europe. If there were ever an example of someone who has come from the most basic circumstances to a man of wealth, a man of stature, it is FRANK LAUTENBERG. He has done it all. He fought bravely in World War II, put himself through Columbia University with the GI Bill of Rights, after having earned that with his service to our country in World War II.

As I have mentioned, he had great success in business. He has a mind that is very insightful, and he sees the big picture. He was one of the first to succeed in a business that now a lot of people are succeeding in, but he was one of the first there.

After having done so well in the great free enterprise system, he decided to turn to public service, and he was elected by the State of New Jersey to the U.S. Senate. He left the Senate in 2000 but came back when the State asked him to serve again. We needed FRANK LAUTENBERG. He came back, and he has served with such remarkable stature since then.

When I first came to the Senate, I had the good fortune to serve with him on the Environment and Public Works Committee. His love of the matters within the jurisdiction of that committee is significant. He legislates with his heart, but it is always backed up with his brilliant mind. He has been chairman of the Budget Committee.

Just weeks ago, he set the record for casting the most votes by any U.S. Senator in the history of the State of New Jersey. Like any great legislator, Senator LAUTENBERG is best understood not by the number of times he has said ''yea'' or ''nay'' but what those laws say about his commitment to the people of New Jersey and all Americans.

He was a leader in establishing the threshold of drunk driving, saving

countless lives. His work has helped to clean up toxic sites in communities across his State and our country. It has kept our drinking water clean and made our buildings more energy efficient.

The thing that I personally will always look at FRANK LAUTENBERG for having done is taking care of one of my children. One of my boys was allergic to tobacco smoke. When we would fly across the country, they had those artificial barriers where you could not smoke past a line. But it didn't matter because the smoke went everywhere. On every trip, my boy was miserable; it made him sick. Because of FRANK LAUTENBERG, millions of Americans are now protected from secondhand smoke. He wrote the law banning smoking on airplanes.

In addition to his being such a good friend, I commend and applaud the people of New Jersey for sending this good man to the Senate. He is someone who is deserving of all the accolades being given to him. I am proud to have known him.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. TESTER). The Senator from New Jersey is recognized.

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. President, I wish to say briefly that we are incredibly proud in New Jersey that FRANK LAUTENBERG is our Senator. It is not just the number of votes he cast, it is what he has stood up for. Senator LAUTENBERG has been known as standing up for New Jerseyans first, but he has also stood up for the Nation, millions of people, since he passed the ban on smoking on airlines and what he has done with Superfund sites and what he has done on domestic violence abusers, who can no longer possess a gun, which means people are alive today as a result of Senator LAUTENBERG's work in New Jersey and across the Nation. The landmark legislation he has participated in over his career in the Senate is exemplary.

I wanted to join in the tribute because it is not just his number of votes, it is the type of effect he has had on the lives of people in New Jersey and across the country.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New Jersey is recognized.

Mr. LAUTENBERG. Mr. President, I thank the majority leader for his kind remarks and for the leadership he has provided for all of us. I never dreamed I would be here this long. I had 30 years in business before I got to this place.

HARRY REID mentioned twice something about wealth. The wealth I acquired by being in this place—by being able to say to my country that I have had a chance to give back for the wonderfully good fortune that has occurred in the lives of myself, my children, my parents—if they could see this. My mother was critical when I ran for the Senate. She expressed a little disappointment. I said, ''Mom, how can that be?'' She said, ''Because I thought you would be running for President.'' In any event, my dad would not have believed it, but he would have encouraged it nevertheless.

I thank my colleagues on both sides of the aisle for the patience sometimes that I exhaust on my friends, and I thank particularly my friend and colleague, BOB MENENDEZ, with whom I had the pleasure of serving while he was in leadership in the House, and especially since he has been here in the Senate, with the important responsibilities we have.

It is a good day, and I am glad to be back here to get on with the people's business. I thank you all for your patience and friendship, and particularly our majority leader.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, 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. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

TRAVEL PROMOTION ACT

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I am very grateful we have moved forward on a very important bill for the country—the Travel Promotion Act. I commend and applaud Senator DORGAN for his good work on the legislation. It is extremely important. He was a real advocate, as he is on issues which he sinks his teeth into.

Travel and tourism generate $1 trillion in the economy every year. Whether it is the State of Minnesota, Nevada—you can pick any of the States—tourism is the No. 1, 2, or 3 most important driving economic factor in the States. This year, tourism will create 40,000 new jobs. The bill will also cut the deficit by $425 million over the next 10 years. That is significant. We would be taking the strategies that have made Las Vegas such a success and bringing them to our entire Nation's tourism industry.

Nevada's tourism has been hit hard by the slowing worldwide economy, and when tourism in Nevada hurts, the entire State suffers. Hard-working people have lost their jobs. The State's budget has taken a major hit. Because that budget is largely funded by tourism, funding for vital programs in our State is at risk.

Nevada is not alone. Tourism is one of the top industries in every State. That is why this bill is so important. It is an opportunity to not only give American tourism a boost, but it is one of the many ways we are working to create jobs and help our economy rebuild.

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. BROWN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

LABOR DAY

Mr. BROWN. Mr. President, over the last few months, I have stood in the Chamber and read letters sent to me by Ohioans from all over my State, stories explaining how health insurance costs are threatening the economic stability of middle-class families. These stories reflect the many challenges facing our Nation's middle class and facing my State's workers.

The fight for health insurance reform is part of a larger effort to put our Nation on a new, progressive path that invests in our labor force, honors our industrial and manufacturing traditions, and helps rebuild our middle class.

Yesterday, I joined President Obama in Cincinnati at the largest Labor Day picnic in the country to honor the achievement and contribution of the American worker. Labor Day is an important American tradition that also recognizes the courage of generations of workers and activists who demanded a standard of living deserving of all Americans.

In Ohio, the tradition of Labor Day began in 1890, when Cleveland's first African-American lawyer and Ohio's first African-American State senator, John Patterson Green, introduced ''Labor Day in Ohio'' to celebrate the contribution of workers. The bill passed the general assembly on April 28, 1890, 4 years before Congress declared Labor Day a national holiday. It is easy to surmise that Labor Day began in Ohio. As the ''father of Labor Day in Ohio,'' John Patterson Green, who befriended captains of industry, civil rights pioneers, and sitting Presidents alike, exemplifies how simple recognition can give powerful meaning to working men and women.

Yesterday, in Cincinnati, during the Nation's largest Labor Day picnic, the President spoke to thousands of workers gathered in support of policies that put American workers, and business, first. The President reminded us that:

> Much of what we take for granted—the 40-hour work week, the minimum wage, health insurance, paid leave, pensions, Social Security, Medicare—all bear the union label. So even if you're not a union member, every American owes something to America's labor movement.

At Labor Day events across the State, workers and their families, friends, and neighbors gathered together, regardless of profession—electricians, communications workers, steelworkers, teachers, truckdrivers, and laborers—to celebrate all working men and women. That is what Labor Day is. The celebrations brought together the families of union brothers and sisters who fight for each other.

That is what the labor movement is about—to recognize and speak out for health care that works for workers. That is why this Labor Day is ever more meaningful.

I recently—before Labor Day—visited Open M, a free health clinic in Akron, where I met Christine, who runs a small gift basket delivery business by herself but cannot afford health insurance. Fourteen years ago, while working, Christine was seriously injured in a car accident, leaving her with multiple knee surgeries, foot and back problems, and a cane to help her walk. She had to pay these expenses out of her pocket, draining her savings and compromising her economic security.

Last week, I spoke at the Center for Working Class Studies at Youngstown State University, one of the Nation's first and certainly one of the Nation's premier academic programs devoted to the many phases of the American worker—the factory worker in Lordstown or the home care nurse in Niles, the teacher in Youngstown or the truckdriver in Boardman. The center tells the story of working-class communities to a nation that it helped build.

Ohioans from across the Mahoning Valley showed up and listened while others told the story of working-class families struggling with the crushing costs of health care.

John from Champion, OH, described how his sick nephew lacks health insurance and cannot afford the neurologist he is supposed to see. He said that if health reform doesn't pass soon, his nephew probably won't live long enough to receive the care he so desperately needs.

Michelle from Youngstown asked the question at the root of all of the struggles that define the progressive labor movement. In her early thirties, she is one of the nearly 50 million Americans who are uninsured. She asked:

> Isn't health reform a moral issue, where people in need and deserve care should have access to it?

The question of morality—whether coal miners' lives should be protected or food safety should be essential or the right to fair wages should be absolute—has long defined the labor movement's progressive mission.

The passing of Senator KENNEDY, a champion of the American worker, reminds all of us what government can, and should, do on behalf of American workers.

The history of our Nation shows that our workers helped transition our Nation from one industry to the next, driving innovation and creating economic prosperity for workers, communities, and industries, creating the middle class.

The history of our Nation shows that those who worked hard and played by the rules had something to show for it—a secure and good-paying job that supported their family and gave meaning to their community.

But today the American worker is confronted with economic challenges that threaten to undermine our economic security. Workers from Lorain to Wilmington, from Xenia to Zanesville, deserve a government that does more and does better for them.

Today President Obama and many in Congress are working to ensure workers be justly rewarded for their labor. As Ohioans understand, manufacturing recognizes the value of an honest day's pay for an honest day's work. We know that manufacturing is a ticket to the middle class. We know a strong middle class makes a stronger nation. That is why Americans deserve a manufacturing policy that works for them.

Manufacturing accounts for more than 10 percent of our entire economy and nearly three-fourths of our Nation's industrial research and development. Manufacturing jobs pay 20 percent more on average than service jobs. For every massive auto plant you see driving from east to west along the Ohio Turnpike, from Youngstown past Toledo, there are dozens of manufacturers making component parts and services for emerging industries in clean energy, aerospace, and biotechnology.

I applaud the administration's decision to tap Ron Bloom to direct a national strategy which will help manufacturers transition to the 21st century economy. It is not an easy task. It is one that requires hard work and progressive vision.

But in no uncertain terms, our Nation must establish a national policy to once again invest in our most important American asset—the American worker.

In the Economic Policy Subcommittee that I chair, we have looked at the elements of a national manufacturing strategy—investing in innovation, strengthening our component parts supply line, connecting workers with jobs in emerging industries, improving assistance for distressed communities, and revamping how our Nation does trade.

Done right, we can reinvest in our workers' capacity to build the next generation of technologies and rebuild our next generation of middle-class families.

Done right, we can create new industry, and we can create good-paying jobs and secure jobs.

Done right, we can ensure the future of our Nation's global economic competitiveness.

Let us honor the story of the American worker who built this country, who sustains our middle class by reinvesting in them. Labor Day is a time to honor a movement that respects the dignity of work and reflects the decency and dedication of our workers.

This year's Labor Day comes at a historic time in the progressive labor movement's ongoing march toward economic security and a new era of productivity for our Nation.

Along with a national manufacturing policy, health insurance reform must be part of this Nation's legacy of giving meaning to workers and giving hope to the middle class.

The vote on health insurance reform will be, next to my vote in opposition to the Iraq war 6 years ago as a Member of the House of Representatives, the most important vote I cast in this Chamber. I hope at this time next year I will be reading the stories of Ohio workers who live with the health care they deserve and the dignity they have earned.

Mr. President, I yield the floor and suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the Senate proceed to a period of morning business with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

RENO HIGH SCHOOL 130TH ANNIVERSARY

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I rise to call the attention of the Senate to the 130th anniversary of Reno High School. Located in Washoe County, NV, Reno High School is the first and oldest high school in the city.

Until 1879, all Reno students went to school in a one-room building. That year they moved into a building officially named Central School, which gave high school-aged students their own floors. Though the school accommodated students from elementary through high school, it was often referred to as Reno High School throughout the community. In 1912, Reno's high school students moved into their own building and this school was properly dedicated as Reno High School.

I would like to take a moment to celebrate and cherish the rich history of Reno High School. It serves as a wonderful example of how a school can succeed through the hard work of its community members. Over the course of its history, Reno High School has educated thousands of bright individuals, cultivating their talent, and providing them with a nurturing environment in which to grow.

Notable alumni include U.S. Treasury Secretary Eva Adams, Pulitzer Prize winners Ann Telnaes and Warren LeRude, and Nevada State senator Bill Raggio. Its ranks also include a long list of local leaders who have made the Reno High School Alumni Association a robust organization, which now boasts the beautiful Link Piazzo Alumni Center on campus. This freestanding building, completed in 2000, houses memorabilia dating back to Reno's earliest academic beginnings.

This school year begins by bringing students and alumni together in numerous events acknowledging the

school's heritage. Festivities will honor the school's legacy by looking at the past, the present, and the great memories in between. I am confident that Reno High School will continue to be a beacon of academic excellence in the State of Nevada, as it has been during the last 130 years.

I ask my colleagues to join me in offering our heartfelt congratulations to the faculty, staff, students, families, and proud alumni of Reno High School. The leadership, dedication, and enthusiasm you possess and share with the community help continue the school's legacy and make Nevada a better place to live.

NOMINATION OF CARMEN R. NAZARIO

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I, Senator CHUCK GRASSLEY, do not object to proceeding to the nomination of Carmen R. Nazario to be Assistant Secretary for Family Support of the Department of Health and Human Services, Calendar No. 304, dated September 8, 2009.

REMEMBERING SENATOR EDWARD M. KENNEDY

Mr. FEINGOLD. Mr. President, today I rise to bid farewell to TED KENNEDY, a man who spent so many hours on this floor. It was here that he engaged in the cause that shaped his life, and now shapes our memories his commitment to everyday people in their pursuit of the American dream.

It is hard for me, as it is for all my colleagues, to imagine this place without TED KENNEDY. To serve here with him was a great honor. At the age of 14, I was already wearing a TED KENNEDY for President button. Then when I arrived here, this man, this lion of the Senate, was so friendly and funny and generous. He helped to teach me the ropes in the Senate, and I felt so fortunate to know him as a person, not just to admire him from afar.

He and his family are one of the reasons I stand here today. His work in the Senate, his brother John's call for a new generation to serve their country, and his brother Bobby's call for social justice all these inspired me to run for office to in some way serve my country as Senator KENNEDY and his family had. One of the greatest honors of my life was winning the Profiles in Courage Award with Senator MCCAIN, and being recognized by members of the Kennedy family for our work on campaign finance reform.

Having Senator KENNEDY there that day was part of what made that such an honor. There was no one else like him; he was truly one of a kind. Who else could be such a fierce advocate, and at the same time such a skilled negotiator? Who else could engage in such heated debate, but still count so many of us, on both sides of the aisle, as devoted friends? No one but TED KENNEDY could do that.

His qualities were legendary he was the hardest worker, he was the quickest debater, and he was the guy who lit up a room with his warmth and wit. It was all there in one extraordinary man, who became one of the greatest United States Senators in our Nation's history. Even putting aside TED's legendary personal qualities, his legislative record speaks volumes about how effective he was. It is a record for the ages, with hundreds of his legislative efforts becoming law.

His achievements in civil rights, education, health care, and workers' rights speak to the absolute commitment he had to the people he saw who struggled to live the American dream; the dedicated people who are the lifeblood of this country, but who struggle—especially in times like these—when they lose their job, or their health insurance or their home. In TED KENNEDY, those Americans found their champion, and we thank him for everything he achieved on their behalf.

I admired so many things TED KENNEDY did, but most of all I was inspired by his work on civil rights. His commitment, through his 47 years in the Senate, to the cause of equality for every American, was perhaps his greatest achievement of all. In his very first speech on the Senate floor, just 4 months after his brother John's assassination, he called for the passage of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. He played a key role in the Voting Rights Act of 1965, was the chief sponsor of the Voting Rights Amendments Act of 1982, and just a few years ago was a key cosponsor of the Fannie Lou Hamer, Rosa Parks, and Coretta Scott King Voting Rights Act Reauthorization and Amendments Act of 2006. He was one of the chief cosponsors of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, the chief sponsor of the Civil Rights Restoration Act of 1988, and a key proponent of theCivil Rights Act of 1991. And the list goes on, Mr. President. There simply is no doubt that he was the most important legislative architect of the expansion of civil rights in the last half century. I am committed to helping to continue that work here in the Senate in his memory.

TED was also someone who suffered many personal tragedies, but he bore those burdens with a quiet dignity that came from his tremendous inner strength. You couldn't know him without being awed by that strength, and sensing it whenever he entered the room, or when he took up an issue. When he spoke, his words echoed not just in this Chamber, but across the country and around the world. This was a man who could change the momentum on a bill or an issue just through his own personal will. He was a powerful person determined to help the powerless in our society, and we loved him for it.

I think ''beloved'' is the best word to describe how we felt about him here in the Senate, and how so many Americans felt about him around the country. We are grateful that he lived to achieve so much, and to inspire so many.

And now we wish, as he did when he laid his brother Robert Kennedy to rest, that ''what he wished for others will someday come to pass for all the world.'' And now we pledge, as he did at the Democratic Convention in 1980, that ''the work goes on, the cause endures, the hope still lives and the dream shall never die. '' And now, as we grieve his loss, we say goodbye to our friend, Senator EDWARD M. KENNEDY. We thank him for his lifetime of service to our country, and for his profound commitment to the cause of justice here in the United States and throughout the world.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

REMEMBERING ALLAN TESCHE

• Mr. BEGICH. Mr. President, I wish to commemorate the life of a very special friend from my home State of Alaska, Allan Tesche.

Former Anchorage Assemblyman Allan Tesche passed away July 14, 2009, after complications from heart surgery.

Allan Tesche was the embodiment of a true Alaskan and an incredible public servant. While I was mayor of Anchorage, Allan served on the Assembly. During this time, I got to know Allan and his family well. He was committed to the residents of Anchorage, and his dedication to making our city a better place was second to none. He and his wife Pam were active members of the community and raised their two children in Anchorage.

On behalf of his family, many friends, and colleagues, I ask today we honor Allan Tesche's memory. I ask his obituary, published July 26, 2009, in the Anchorage Daily News, be printed in the RECORD.

The information follows:

[From the Anchorage Daily News, July 26, 2009]

Allan Edward Tesche, 60, died in Houston, Texas on July 14, 2009, from complications from heart surgery. A memorial service will be at 2 p.m. Monday at Central Lutheran Church. Allan was born Aug. 3, 1948, to Marilyn and Frederick Rutledge Tesche in Los Alamos, N.M. He graduated with honors from the University of California at Davis in 1970. In the Peace Corps, he spent two years in El Salvador supporting Community Development projects. Upon his return, he enrolled in law school at the University of California at Davis, where he was an honorary member of The Chicano Law Students Association. In his second year he was recruited by the Greater Anchorage Area Borough to serve a six-month internship in the Anchorage Borough Attorney's Office; thus began his long association with Alaska government. Allan was invited by Mayor Jack Roderick to return after graduation as a staff attorney. Allan's work on borough-city unification in 1975–76 led Mayor George Sullivan to elevate him to deputy municipal attorney, a position he held until his appointment to lead the Mat-Su Borough Legal Department in 1980. In 1982, Allan returned to Anchorage

to head the Department of Property & Facilities. In 1988, he left city employment to join law firm Russell & Tesche, where he practiced until retiring in 2006.

In 1978, Allan married Pamela Dunham. Together they raised two children, operated the G Street B&B and went on family adventures. After seeing the community work of friend Nick Aguilar in San Diego, Pam supported Allan's plunge into local politics. Allan served nine years on the Anchorage Assembly. He championed many progressive policies and is credited with the adoption of property tax relief, liquor and tobacco control measures and urban beautification initiatives. Allan was a member of Central Lutheran Church, where he mentored neighborhood youths and served as Church Council president. After leaving the Assembly, Allan helped launch municipal consulting firm RMA Consulting Group and served as acting city administrator for the City of Akutan. He worked for Akutan until his death, and his efforts supporting new developments in Akutan are an ongoing testimony.

Allan is survived by his wife, Pamela; son, Frederick; daughter, Mary; brothers, Frederick and wife Sharon of Saluda, N.C., Thomas and wife Kim of Covington, Ky., and Daniel of Clovis, Calif.; sister, Caroline of Tampa, Fla.; father and mother-in-law, Richard and Carrie Dunham of Whidbey Island, Wash.; brothers- and sisters-in-law, Paul and Kathleen Dunham of Fresno, Calif., Larry and Susan Goodman of Seattle, Cynthia and Eric Olsen of Spokane, Wash., and Linda Wesson of Clovis, Calif.; and by his nieces and nephews.●

RECOGNIZING J. THOMAS CALHOON

● Mr. CARPER. Mr. President, today I wish to speak about a member of our country's greatest generation, the generation of my parents who selflessly served our Nation during a time of great turmoil in the world. This generation made countless contributions to our society and continues to give unselfishly today. I offer my warmest wishes to one of them—Mr. J. Thomas Calhoon, of Hilliard, OH—on his 84th birthday, on this Friday, the eighth anniversary of the attacks of September 11. I want to thank him for the many sacrifices he has made and continues to make for our great country.

Born on September 11, 1925, in Wellsville, OH, Tom Calhoon was raised in East Liverpool, OH, and graduated from Grandview High School, class of 1943.

On December 15, 1943, Tom enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps. While serving in Japan during World War II, Corporal Calhoon sustained extensive combat injuries in Okinawa in June of 1945, including the loss of his right leg and a bullet in his left arm that remains there today. He spent over 2 years in hospitals throughout the United States, including Philadelphia Hospital, where he met his wife, Sarah Mae Shoemaker, who was a volunteer.

He survived his injuries, and on August 29, 1947, Tom and Sarah were married and went on to have four sons, Thomas, Samuel, Donald, and Robert, and a daughter, Sarah. All five are children any parent would be proud of. Today, the Calhoon family has expanded to include seven grandchildren and two great-grandchildren due later this fall.

During his time in the Marines, Cpl Tom Calhoon received two Purple Hearts and was a rifleman and an expert with the bayonet. After being discharged, he enrolled, in the fall of 1948, at the Ohio State University, of which he and all five of his children are alumni. It was at the Ohio State University that I first met two of his sons, one of whom is a close friend to this day.

Corporal Calhoon worked in public relations and advertising for 50 years in Columbus, OH. In addition to this full-time career, he spent countless hours of his time volunteering. As a member of the Lions Club, he received three national awards, including a Life Membership from the International Association of Lions Clubs Award in 1998 for 50 years of Outstanding Dedicated Service. He also served as president of the Tri-Village Lions, former director of the Franklin County Agriculture Society, is a life member of the Northwest Franklin County Historical Society, and a former director of Pilot Dogs, Inc.

An avid hunter and fisherman, Tom enjoys reading and watching war movies, which I hope he is getting to do on his birthday. Best wishes to you and your family, Tom, for many more.●

TRIBUTE TO DORIS WALLACE

● Mr. CRAPO. Mr. President, today I honor a woman who has contributed so much to the fabric of my home State of Idaho. Doris Wallace, the manager of the Eastern Idaho State Fair in Blackfoot, ID, will retire at the end of this month, following the completion of the 2009 Eastern Idaho State Fair. That will mark her 26th year with one of Idaho's most well-known fairs. The eastern Idaho State Fair covers 16 counties in eastern Idaho. Each county holds their individual county fairs with the blue ribbon winners advancing to competition at the Eastern Idaho State Fair.

Doris is a hometown girl, born in Blackfoot and raised in Bingham County. She married Ray Wallace. Together they have three children: Nicole, Stephanie, and Todd.

She began her career at the Eastern Idaho State Fair in 1983 when she began working as the office secretary. She was the ''front desk'' for the fair, and her personality, patience and friendliness represented the entire fair to those who entered her office to ask questions and complain about situations.

In 1987, Doris became the assistant manager, where she became the center of the fair operations. Her responsibilities included the exhibitor's handbook, all financial transactions, commercial and concession vendors and coordinator for spring, summer, and fall events taking place on the fairgrounds.

In 2000, Doris was promoted to fair manager by a five-member Fair Board. As manager, Doris used her years of experience to enhance an already-thriving annual event. She has encouraged participation of 4–H and Future Farmer of America projects and activities including the 4–H dog show, 4–H horse show, and 4–H livestock, canning, cooking and sewing demonstration projects. Future Farmers of America leave their classrooms on Friday to spend the day on the fairgrounds to personally experience and participate in judging competitions.

In 2002, she was able to plan the celebration of the 100th anniversary of the Eastern Idaho State Fair. She produced an extravaganza of historical and colorful memories, which have made the fair a family tradition for those living in eastern Idaho.

Doris has competently managed fair operations of the Eastern Idaho State Fair, which attracts 250,000 fairgoers over the 8-day fair, beginning each year on Saturday proceeding Labor Day. Events include traditional horse pulling, pari-mutuel horse racing, Indian relay races, junior and adult rodeos, professional entertainers, petting zoos and educational exhibits. The traditional tractor pull, demolition derby, and extreme bike riders are all part of Doris's management responsibilities as she has provided a fair of diverse attractions for a fairgoing audience of diverse ages, backgrounds and interests.

As manager, Doris supervises six full-time employees and approximately 400 employees during the fair week, including ticket takers, car parkers, custodial services, ground crews, and security.

Throughout her life and particularly during her career at the Eastern Idaho State Fair, Doris has contributed enormously, both privately and professionally, to the fair community, the city of Blackfoot, and all of eastern Idaho. Please join me in congratulating Doris Wallace on her years of service at the Eastern Idaho State Fair and wishing her well in her pending retirement.●

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE DURING ADJOURNMENT

ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

Under the authority of the order of the Senate of January 6, 2009, the Secretary of the Senate, on August 10, 2009, during the adjournment of the Senate, received a message from the House of Representatives announcing that the Speaker had signed the following bill:

H.R. 3325. An act to amend title XI of the Social Security Act to reauthorize for 1 year the Work Incentives Planning and Assistance program and the Protection and Advocacy for Beneficiaries of Social Security program.

The enrolled bill was subsequently signed during the session of the Senate by the President pro tempore (Mr. BYRD).

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 3:51 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by

Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has agreed to the following concurrent resolution, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H. Con. Res. 179. Concurrent resolution providing for a joint session of Congress to receive a message from the President.

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–2636. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Office of Policy, Economics, and Innovation, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Sodium Lauryl Sulfate; Exemption from the Requirement of a Tolerance'' (FRL No. 8430—5) as received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 13, 2009; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC–2637. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Office of Policy, Economics, and Innovation, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Certain Chemical Substances; Withdrawal of Significant New Use Rules'' (FRL No. 8433—9) as received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 31, 2009; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC–2638. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Office of Policy, Economics, and Innovation, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Chlorantraniliprole; Pesticide Tolerances'' (FRL No. 8413—6) as received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 31, 2009; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC–2639. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Office of Policy, Economics, and Innovation, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''1,2—ethanediamine, N,N,N′,N′—tetramethyl, Polymer with 1,1′—oxybis[2—chloroethane]; Exemption from the Requirement of a Tolerance'' (FRL No. 8430—6) as received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 31, 2009; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC–2640. A communication from the Administrator of Fruit and Vegetable Programs, Agricultural Marketing Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Nectarines and Peaches Grown in California; Changes in Handling Requirements for Fresh Nectarines and Peaches'' ((Docket No. AMS—FV—08—0108)(FV—09—916/917—1 FIR)) as received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 31, 2009; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC–2641. A communication from the Acting Administrator of Fruit and Vegetable Programs, Agricultural Marketing Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Nectarines and Peaches Grown in California; Decreased Assessment Rates'' ((Docket No. AMS—FV—09—0013)(FV—09—916/917—2 IFR)) as received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 31, 2009; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC–2642. A communication from the Administrator of Fruit and Vegetable Programs, Agricultural Marketing Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Grapes Grown in a Designated Area of Southeastern California; Decreased Assessment Rate'' ((Docket No. AMS—FV—08—0107)(FV—09—925—2 FIR)) as received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 31, 2009; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC–2643. A communication from the Administrator of Fruit and Vegetable Programs, Agricultural Marketing Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Apricots Grown in Designated Counties in Washington; Decreased Assessment Rate'' ((Docket No. AMS—FV—09—0038)(FV—09—922—1 IFR)) as received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 31, 2009; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC–2644. A communication from the Administrator of Fruit and Vegetable Programs, Agricultural Marketing Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Onions Grown in South Texas; Decreased Assessment Rate'' ((Docket No. AMS—FV—09—0044)(FV—09—959—2 IFR)) as received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 31, 2009; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC–2645. A communication from the Administrator of Fruit and Vegetable Programs, Agricultural Marketing Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Irish Potatoes Grown in Colorado; Modification of the Handling Regulation for Area No. 2'' ((Docket No. AMS—FV—08—0094)(FV—09—948—1 FIR)) as received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 31, 2009; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC–2646. A communication from the Administrator of Fruit and Vegetable Programs, Agricultural Marketing Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Grapes Grown in a Designated Area of Southeastern California and Imported Table Grapes; Relaxation of Handling Requirements'' ((Docket No. AMS—FV—08—0106)(FV—09—925—1 FIR)) as received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 31, 2009; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC–2647. A communication from the Acting Administrator of Cotton and Tobacco Programs, Agricultural Marketing Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''User Fees for 2009 Crop Cotton Classification Services to Growers' ((Docket No. AMS—CN—09—0011)(CN—09—001)) as received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 31, 2009; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC–2648. A communication from the Acting Administrator of Fruit and Vegetable Programs, Agricultural Marketing Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Almonds Grown in California; Revision of Outgoing Quality Control Requirements'' ((Docket No. AMS—FV—08—0045)(FV08—981—2 IFR)) as received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 31, 2009; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC–2649. A communication from the Acting Administrator of Fruit and Vegetable Programs, Agricultural Marketing Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Peanut Promotion, Research, and Information Order; Section 610 Review'' ((Docket No. AMS—FV—08—0110)(FV—08—704)) as received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 31, 2009; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC–2650. A communication from the Acting Administrator of Cotton and Tobacco Programs, Agricultural Marketing Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Cotton Board Rules and Regulations: Adjusting Supplemental Assessment on Imports (2009 Amendments)'' ((Docket No. AMS—CN—09—0015)(CN—09—002)) as received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 31, 2009; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC–2651. A communication from the Acting Associate Administrator of Fruit and Vegetable Programs, Agricultural Marketing Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Country of Origin Labeling of Packed Honey'' ((Docket No. AMS—FV—08—0075)(FV—08—330)(RIN0581—AC89)) as received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 31, 2009; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC–2652. A communication from the Administrator, Risk Management Agency, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Common Crop Insurance Regulations; Grape Crop Insurance Provisions and Table Grape Crop Insurance Provisions'' ((7 CFR Part 457)(RIN0563—AC09)) as received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 18, 2009; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC–2653. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Review Group, Commodity Credit Corporation, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Farm Storage Facility Loan and Sugar Storage Facility Loan Programs'' ((7 CFR 1436)(RIN0560—AH60)) as received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 31, 2009; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC–2654. A communication from the Acting Assistant Director of Directives and Regulations, Forest Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Sale and Disposal of National Forest System Timber; Downpayment and Periodic Payments'' ((36 CFR Part 223)(RIN0596—AC80)) as received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 20, 2009; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC–2655. A communication from the Administrator of Fruit and Vegetable Programs, Agricultural Marketing Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Olives Grown in California; Increased Assessment Rate'' ((Docket No. AMS—FV—08—0105)(FV09—932—1 FIR)) as received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 31,

2009; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC–2656. A communication from the Executive Director, Commodity Futures Trading Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled ''Fiscal Year 2009 FAIR Act Inventory''; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC–2657. A communication from the Administrator, Food and Nutrition Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC): Implementation of Nondiscretionary WIC Certification and General Administrative Provisions'' ((RIN0584—AD73)(7 CFR Part 246)) as received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 31, 2009; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC–2658. A communication from the Secretary of the Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled ''Herger—Feinstein Quincy Library Group Forest Recovery Act Pilot Project Status Report to Congress for Fiscal Year 2008''; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC–2659. A communication from the Secretary of Defense, transmitting a report on the approved retirement of Lieutenant General Loyd S. Utterback, United States Air Force, and his advancement to the grade of lieutenant general on the retired list; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC–2660. A communication from the Principal Deputy, Office of the Under Secretary of Defense (Personnel and Readiness), transmitting, pursuant to law, notification of the Department's intent to close the Defense commissary store at Neubrucke, Germany; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC–2661. A joint communication from the Deputy Secretary of Defense and the Deputy Secretary of Veterans Affairs, communicating, pursuant to law, a report relative to the extension of the Senior Oversight Committee; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC–2662. A communication from the Acting Assistant Secretary of the Army (Acquisition, Logistics and Technology), transmitting, pursuant to law, the Annual Status Report on the Disposal of Chemical Weapons and Material for Fiscal Year 2008; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC–2663. A communication from the Assistant Secretary of Defense (Reserve Affairs), transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the quarterly reporting of withdrawals or diversions of equipment from Reserve component units; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC–2664. A communication from the Assistant Secretary of Defense (Reserve Affairs), transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to specifying for each Reserve component the additional items of equipment that would be procured, and the additional military construction projects that would be carried out; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC–2665. A communication from the Deputy Secretary of Defense, transmitting the report of the authorization of an officer to wear the authorized insignia of the grade of major general in accordance with title 10, United States Code, section 777; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC–2666. A communication from the Deputy Under Secretary of Defense (Acquisition and Technology), transmitting, a report relative to the Department's purchases from foreign entities in fiscal year 2008; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC–2667. A communication from the Deputy Under Secretary of Defense (Acquisition and Technology), transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of Inventories of Contracts for Services for the Departments of the Army, Navy, and Air Force; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC–2668. A communication from the Federal Register Liaison Officer, Office of the Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''TRICARE: Civilian Health and Medical Program of the Uniformed Services (CHAMPUS) Changes Included in the John Warner National Defense Authorization ACT (NDA) for Fiscal Year 2007; Authorization for Forensic Examinations'' (RIN0720–AB18) as received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 10, 2009; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC–2669. A communication from the Federal Register Liaison Officer, Office of the Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Private Security Contractors (PSCs) Operating in Contingency Operations'' (RIN0790–AI38) as received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 10, 2009; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC–2670. A communication from the President of the United States, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on the continuation of a national emergency declared in Executive Order 13222 with respect to the lapse of the Export Administration Act of 1979; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–2671. A communication from the Deputy Secretary, Office of the Chief Accountant, Securities and Exchange Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Commission Guidance Regarding the Financial Accounting Standards Board's Accounting Standards Codification'' ((17 CFR Parts 211, 231, and 241) (Release Nos. 33–9062; 34–60519; FR–80)) as received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 31, 2009; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–2672. A communication from the Assistant to the Board, Board of Governors, Federal Reserve System, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Truth in Lending'' (Regulation Z; Docket No. R–1365) as received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 31, 2009; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–2673. A communication from the Secretary of the Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on the continuation of a national emergency declared in Executive Order 13222 with respect to the lapse of the Export Administration Act of 1979; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–2674. A communication from the Secretary of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, a six-month periodic report on the national emergency that was declared in Executive Order 13313 with respect to the Middle East peace process; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–2675. A communication from the Secretary of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, a six-month periodic report on the national emergency that was declared in Executive Order 13396 with respect to Cote d'Ivoire Sanctions; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–2676. A communication from the Director, Office of Legislative Affairs, Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Procedures to Enhance the Accuracy and Integrity of Information Furnished to Consumer Reporting Agencies Under Section 312 of the Fair and Accurate Credit Transactions Act; Final Rule'' (RIN3064–AC99) as received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 12, 2009; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–2677. A communication from the Assistant to the Board, Board of Governors, Federal Reserve System, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Truth in Lending'' (Regulation Z; Docket No. R–1353) as received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 31, 2009; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–2678. A communication from the Chief Counsel, Federal Emergency Management Agency, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP); Assistance to Private Sector Property Insurers; Write-Your-Own Arrangement'' (RIN1660–AA58) as received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 19, 2008; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–2679. A communication from the Chief Counsel, Federal Emergency Management Agency, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Suspension of Community Eligibility'' ((44 CFR Part 64) (Docket ID FEMA–2008–0020; Internal Agency Docket No. FEMA–8083)) as received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 19, 2009; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–2680. A communication from the Chief Counsel, Federal Emergency Management Agency, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Suspension of Community Eligibility'' ((44 CFR Part 64)(Docket ID FEMA–2008–0020; Internal Agency Docket No. FEMA–8085)) as received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 19, 2009; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–2681. A communication from the Chief Counsel, Federal Emergency Management Agency, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Suspension of Community Eligibility'' ((44 CFR Part 64) (Docket ID FEMA–2008–0020; Internal Agency Docket No. FEMA–8087)) as received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 31, 2009; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–2682. A communication from the Regulatory Specialist, Office of the Comptroller of the Currency, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Procedures to Enhance the Accuracy and Integrity of Information Furnished to Consumer Reporting Agencies Under Section 312 of the Fair and Accurate Credit Transactions Act'' (RIN1557–AC89) as received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 13, 2009; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–2683. A communication from the Regulatory Specialist, Office of the Comptroller of the Currency, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Risk-Based Capital Guidelines; Capital Adequacy Guidelines; Capital Maintenance; Capital—Residential Mortgage Loans Modified Pursuant to the Making Home Affordable Program'' (RIN1550–AC34) as received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 13, 2009; to the

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–2684. A communication from the Chairman and President of the Export-Import Bank, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to transactions involving U.S. exports to Singapore; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–2685. A communication from the Chairman and President of the Export-Import Bank, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to transactions involving U.S. exports to Japan; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–2686. A communication from the General Counsel of the Department of Housing and Urban Development, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a vacancy in the position of Assistant Secretary for Housing and a nomination and confirmation in the position of Assistant Secretary for Housing and Federal Housing Commissioner; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–2687. A communication from the General Counsel of the Department of Housing and Urban Development, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a confirmation in the position of Assistant Secretary for Policy Development and Research in the Department of Housing and Urban Development; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–2688. A communication from the General Counsel of the National Credit Union Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Credit Union Reporting'' (RIN3133–AD56) as received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 31, 2009; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–2689. A communication from the General Counsel of the National Credit Union Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Truth in Savings'' (RIN3133–AD57) as received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 10, 2009; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–2690. A communication from the Director, Office of Legislative Affairs, Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Risk-Based Capital Guidelines; Capital Adequacy Guidelines; Capital Maintenance; Capital—Residential Mortgage Loans Modified Pursuant to the Making Home Affordable Program'' (RIN3064–AD42) as received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 12, 2009; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–2691. A communication from the Director, Office of Legislative Affairs, Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Interest Rate Restrictions on Insured Depository Institutions That Are Not Well Capitalized'' (12 CFR Part 337) as received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 12, 2009; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–2692. A communication from the Secretary of Energy, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled ''Smart Grid System Report''; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC–2693. A communication from the Secretary of Energy, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the procurement of additional services on a noncompetitive basis from the United States Enrichment Corporation; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC–2694. A communication from the Acting Administrator, Energy Information Administration, Department of Energy, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Annual Energy Review 2008; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC–2695. A communication from the Deputy Chief, National Forest System, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the boundary for the North Fork Smith and Upper Rogue Rivers in Oregon; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC–2696. A communication from the Secretary of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the acceptance of gifted land in Socorro County, New Mexico adjacent to the Chupadera Wilderness; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC–2697. A communication from the Chairman of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the progress made in licensing and constructing the Alaska Natural Gas Pipeline; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC–2698. A communication from the Environmental Project Manager, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, transmitting, a report relative to construction clearances; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC–2699. A communication from the Deputy Chief, National Forest System, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the boundary for the Carp, Indian and Whitefish Rivers in Michigan; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC–2700. A communication from the Acting Assistant Secretary of Land and Minerals Management, Minerals Management Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Technical Changes to Production Measurement and Training Requirements'' (RIN1010–AD55) as received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 31, 2009; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC–2701. A communication from the Acting Director, Office of Surface Mining, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Utah Regulatory Program'' ((SATS No. UT–045–FOR) (Docket No. OSM–2008–0011)) as received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 1, 2009; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC–2702. A communication from the Executive Director of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Final Rule; Annual Update of Commission Filing Fees'' ((18 CFR Part 381) (Docket No. RM09–17–000)) as received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 19, 2009; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC–2703. A communication from the Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife Parks, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''2009–2010 Hunting and Sport Fishing Regulations for the Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife and Fish Refuge'' (RIN1018–AW48) as received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 19, 2009; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–2704. A communication from the Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife Parks, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''2008–2009 Refuge-Specific Hunting and Sport Fishing Regulations – Modifications'' (RIN1018–AV80) as received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 31, 2009; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–2705. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Office of Policy, Economics, and Innovation, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Outer Continental Shelf Air Regulations Consistency Update for California'' (FRL No. 8941–3) as received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 31, 2009; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–2706. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Office of Policy, Economics, and Innovation, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Revisions to the California State Implementation Plan, San Joaquin Valley Unified Air Pollution Control District and Santa Barbara County Air Pollution Control District'' (FRL No. 8948–6) as received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 24, 2009; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–2707. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Office of Policy, Economics, and Innovation, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Revisions to the California State Implementation Plan, Antelope Valley Air Quality Management District'' (FRL No. 8945–1) as received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 24, 2009; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–2708. A communication from the Acting Assistant Secretary of Land and Minerals Management, Minerals Management Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Geological and Geophysical (G&G) Explorations of the Outer Continental Shelf-Changing Proprietary Term of Certain Geophysical Information'' (RIN1010–AD41) as received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 31, 2009; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–2709. A communication from the Acting Director of Human Resources, Office of Administration and Resources Management, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, (2) reports relative to nominations and (2) reports relative to confirmations within the Environmental Protection Agency; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–2710. 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 ''Temporary Assistance for Needy Families Carry-Over Funds'' (RIN0970–AC40) as received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 31, 2009; to the Committee on Finance.

EC–2711. 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 ''Modification of Revenue Procedure 2007–44'' (Notice No. 2009–36) as received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 31, 2009; to the Committee on Finance.

EC–2712. 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 ''Special Rules Governing Eligible Combined Plans'' (Notice No.

2009–71) as received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 31, 2009; to the Committee on Finance.

EC–2713. 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 ''Applicable Federal Rates – September 2009'' (Notice No. 2009–29) as received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 31, 2009; to the Committee on Finance.

EC–2714. 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 ''Work Opportunity Tax Credit'' (Notice No. 2009–69) as received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 31, 2009; to the Committee on Finance.

EC–2715. 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 ''Examination of Returns and Claims for Refund, Credit, or Abatement; Determination of Tax Liability'' (Notice No. 2009–34) as received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 13, 2009; to the Committee on Finance.

EC–2716. 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 Energy Project Program'' (Notice No. 2009–72) as received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 31, 2009; to the Committee on Finance.

EC–2717. 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 ''Tier I Issue — Section 936 Exit Strategies'' ((LMSB–4–0809–031)(Uniform List No. 482.11–00; 482.11–08; 482.12–00; 482.09–00; 367.30–00; 367.05–00)) as received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 31, 2009; to the Committee on Finance.

EC–2718. A communication from the Secretary of Labor, transmitting, pursuant to law, the 2008 Annual Report of the Assistant Secretary for Veterans' Employment and Training of the Department of Labor; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC–2719. A communication from the Railroad Retirement Board, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Board's annual report for fiscal year 2008; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC–2720. A communication from the Secretary of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled ''Changing the Future of Drug Safety: FDA Initiatives to Strengthen and Transform the Drug Safety System''; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC–2721. A communication from the Secretary of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the Prescription Drug User Fee Act of 1992 (PDUFA) for fiscal year 2008; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC–2722. A communication from the Program Manager, Office of Civil Rights, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Breach Notification for Unsecured Protected Health Information'' (RIN0991–AB56) as received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 31, 2009; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC–2723. A communication from the Assistant General Counsel of the Division of Regulatory Services, Office of Postsecondary Education, Department of Education, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''International Education Programs' (RIN1840–AC97) as received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 18, 2009; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC–2724. A communication from the Acting Director, Legislative and Regulatory Department, Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Benefits Payable in Terminated Single-Employer Plans; Interest Assumptions for Valuing and Paying Benefits'' (29 CFR Part 4022) as received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 31, 2009; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC–2725. A communication from the Director of Regulations and Policy Management Staff, Food and Drug Administration, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Applications for Food and Drug Administration Approval to Market a New Drug; Postmarketing Reports; Reporting Information About Authorized Generic Drugs'' (RIN0910–AG19) as received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 10, 2009; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC–2726. A communication from the Director of Regulations and Policy Management Staff, Food and Drug Administration, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Advisory Committee; Risk Communication Advisory Committee; Termination and Recharter'' (Docket No. FDA–2009–N–0310) as received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 13, 2009; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC–2727. A communication from the President of the United States, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to an alternative plan for pay increases for civilian Federal employees covered by the General Schedule and certain other pay systems in January 2010; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–2728. A communication from Chairman of the National Transportation Safety Board, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled ''Fiscal Year 2008 Annual Report on the Notification and Federal Employee Antidiscrimination and Retaliation Act of 2002''; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–2729. A communication from the Secretary of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Semi-Annual Report of the Inspector General for the period from October 1, 2008 through March 31, 2009; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–2730. A communication from the Director, Strategic Human Resources Policy Division, Office of Personnel Management, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Prevailing Rate Systems; Redefinition of the Boise, ID and Utah Appropriated Fund Federal Wage System Wage Areas'' (RIN3206–AL82) as received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 31, 2009; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–2731. A communication from the Director, Strategic Human Resources Policy Division, Office of Personnel Management, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Prevailing Rate Systems; Redefinition of the Lake Charles—Alexandria and New Orleans, LA Appropriated Fund Federal Wage System Wage Areas'' (RIN3206–AL81) as received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 31, 2009; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–2732. A communication from the Director, Strategic Human Resources Policy Division, Office of Personnel Management, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Time-in-Grade Eliminated'' (RIN3206–AL18) as received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 31, 2009; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–2733. A communication from the Director, Strategic Human Resources Policy Division, Office of Personnel Management, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Noncompetitive Appointment of Certain Military Spouses'' (RIN3206–AL73) as received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 31, 2009; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–2734. A communication from the Regulatory and Policy Specialist, Bureau of Indian Affairs, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Job Placement and Training'' (RIN1076–AE88) as received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 31, 2009; to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

EC–2735. A communication from the Acting General Counsel, National Indian Gaming Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Amendments to Various National Indian Gaming Commission Regulations'' (RIN3141–0001) as received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 10, 2009; to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

EC–2736. A communication from the Acting Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of Indian Affairs, Office of the Secretary, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, a proposed settlement agreement entered into by the Department of Justice and the Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation of Oregon on January 16, 2009; to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

EC–2737. A communication from the Secretary of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, an annual report entitled ''Report to the Congress on the Refugee Resettlement Program''; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC–2738. A communication from the Director, Administrative Office of the United States Courts, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled ''2008 Report of Statistics Required by the Bankruptcy Abuse Prevention and Consumer Protection Act of 2005''; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC–2739. A joint communication from the Secretary General and the President of the Inter-Parliamentary Union Campaign, transmitting, a report entitled ''A Parliamentary Response to Violence Against Women''; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC–2740. A communication from the President, American Academy of Arts and Letters, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the Academy's activities during the year ending December 31, 2008; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC–2741. A communication from the Staff Director, U.S. Commission on Civil Rights, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the Commission's recent appointment of members to the Virginia Advisory Committee; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC–2742. A communication from the Deputy Associate Director for Management and Administration and Designated Reporting Official, Office of National Drug Control Policy, Executive Office of the President, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a nomination in the position of Deputy Director for State, Local and Tribal Affairs in the Office of National Drug Control Policy; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC–2743. A communication from the Director, Office of National Drug Control Policy, Executive Office of the President, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled ''Fiscal Year 2008 Accounting of Drug Control Funds''; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC–2744. A communication from the Director of Regulations Management, Compensation and Pension Service, Department of Veterans Affairs, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Presumption of Service Connection for Osteoporosis for Former Prisoners of War'' (RIN2900–AN16) as received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 31, 2009; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

EC–2745. A communication from the Director of Regulations Management, Department of Veterans Affairs, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Medication Prescribed by Non-VA Physicians'' (RIN2900–AL68) as received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 31, 2009; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

EC–2746. A communication from the Assistant Attorney General, Office of Legislative Affairs, Department of Justice, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Third Quarterly Report from the Attorney General to Congress; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES DURING ADJOURNMENT OF THE SENATE

Under the authority of the order of the Senate of August 7, 2009, the following reports of committees were submitted on September 2, 2009:

By Mr. AKAKA, from the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute.

S. 728. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to enhance veterans' insurance benefits, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 111–71).

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. ROCKEFELLER, from the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute:

S. 588. A bill to amend title 46, United States Code, to establish requirements to ensure the security and safety of passengers and crew on cruise vessels, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 111–72).

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. LIEBERMAN (for himself and Ms. COLLINS):

S. 1649. A bill to prevent the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, to prepare for attacks using weapons of mass destruction, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mrs. LINCOLN:

S. 1650. A bill to amend the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act to improve the purchase and processing of healthful commodities for use in school meal programs; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Mr. LEVIN:

S. 1651. A bill to modify a land grant patent issued by the Secretary of the Interior; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. HARKIN (for himself and Mr. ROBERTS):

S. 1652. A bill to amend part B of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act to provide full Federal funding of such part; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. LEAHY (for himself, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. KAUFMAN, Mr. FRANKEN, Mr. HARKIN, Mr. BINGAMAN, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. BROWN, Mr. BAYH, Mr. BENNET, Mrs. BOXER, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. INOUYE, Mr. KERRY, and Mr. AKAKA):

S. 1653. A bill to provide for the appointment of additional Federal circuit and district judges, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. BURRIS:

S. 1654. A bill for the relief of Maria I. Benitez and Maria Guadalupe Lopez; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mr. SCHUMER (for himself, Mr. LAUTENBERG, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. VOINOVICH, Mr. CASEY, and Mr. CARDIN):

S. Res. 253. A resolution expressing the sense of the Senate that the Government of Libya should apologize for the welcome home ceremony held to celebrate the release of convicted Lockerbie bomber Abdel Baset al-Megrahi; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mrs. GILLIBRAND:

S. Res. 254. A resolution honoring, commemorating, and celebrating the historic ties of the United States and the Netherlands on the quadricentennial celebration of the discovery of the Hudson River, and recognizing the settlement and enduring values of New Netherland, which continue to influence American society; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. REID (for himself, Mr. MCCONNELL, Mr. KERRY, Mr. DODD, Mr. AKAKA, Mr. ALEXANDER, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. BAUCUS, Mr. BAYH, Mr. BEGICH, Mr. BENNET, Mr. BENNETT, Mr. BINGAMAN, Mr. BOND, Mrs. BOXER, Mr. BROWN, Mr. BROWNBACK, Mr. BUNNING, Mr. BURR, Mr. BURRIS, Mr. BYRD, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. CARPER, Mr. CASEY, Mr. CHAMBLISS, Mr. COBURN, Mr. COCHRAN, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. CONRAD, Mr. CORKER, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. DEMINT, Mr. DORGAN, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. ENSIGN, Mr. ENZI, Mr. FEINGOLD, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. FRANKEN, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. GREGG, Mrs. HAGAN, Mr. HARKIN, Mr. HATCH, Mrs. HUTCHISON, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. INOUYE, Mr. ISAKSON, Mr. JOHANNS, Mr. JOHNSON, Mr. KAUFMAN, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. KOHL, Mr. KYL, Ms. LANDRIEU, Mr. LAUTENBERG, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. LIEBERMAN, Mrs. LINCOLN, Mr. LUGAR, Mr. MARTINEZ, Mr. MCCAIN, Mrs. MCCASKILL, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. MERKLEY, Ms. MIKULSKI, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. NELSON of Nebraska, Mr. NELSON of Florida, Mr. PRYOR, Mr. REED, Mr. RISCH, Mr. ROBERTS, Mr. ROCKEFELLER, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. SESSIONS, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. SHELBY, Ms. SNOWE, Mr. SPECTER, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. TESTER, Mr. THUNE, Mr. UDALL of Colorado, Mr. UDALL of New Mexico, Mr. VITTER, Mr. VOINOVICH, Mr. WARNER, Mr. WEBB, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. WICKER, and Mr. WYDEN):

S. Res. 255. A resolution relative to the death of Edward Moore Kennedy, a Senator from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts; considered and agreed to.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 23

At the request of Ms. CANTWELL, the name of the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. CORKER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 23, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to permanently extend the election to deduct State and local sales taxes.

S. 144

At the request of Mr. KERRY, the name of the Senator from Texas (Mrs. HUTCHISON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 144, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to remove cell phones from listed property under section 280F.

S. 354

At the request of Mr. WEBB, the name of the Senator from Virginia (Mr. WARNER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 354, a bill to provide that 4 of the 12 weeks of parental leave made available to a Federal employee shall be paid leave, and for other purposes.

S. 384

At the request of Mr. LUGAR, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW) was added as a cosponsor of S. 384, a bill to authorize appropriations for fiscal years 2010 through 2014 to provide assistance to foreign countries to promote food security, to stimulate rural economies, and to improve emergency response to food crises, to amend the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961, and for other purposes.

S. 416

At the request of Mrs. FEINSTEIN, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) was added as a cosponsor of S. 416, a bill to limit the use of cluster munitions.

S. 433

At the request of Mr. UDALL of New Mexico, the names of the Senator from

Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY), the Senator from Maryland (Mr. CARDIN) and the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. LAUTENBERG) were added as cosponsors of S. 433, a bill to amend the Public Utility Regulatory Policies Act of 1978 to establish a renewable electricity standard, and for other purposes.

S. 451

At the request of Ms. MIKULSKI, the name of the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 451, a bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in commemoration of the centennial of the establishment of the Girl Scouts of the United States of America.

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the names of the Senator from Missouri (Mr. BOND), the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS) and the Senator from Montana (Mr. TESTER) were added as cosponsors of S. 451, supra.

S. 456

At the request of Mr. DODD, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) was added as a cosponsor 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. 461

At the request of Mrs. LINCOLN, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Mr. BEGICH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 461, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend and modify the railroad track maintenance credit.

S. 491

At the request of Mr. WEBB, the name of the Senator from Texas (Mrs. HUTCHISON) 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. 584

At the request of Mr. HARKIN, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Mr. LEVIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 584, a bill to ensure that all users of the transportation system, including pedestrians, bicyclists, transit users, children, older individuals, and individuals with disabilities, are able to travel safely and conveniently on and across federally funded streets and highways.

S. 624

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the names of the Senator from Nevada (Mr. REID) and the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN) were added as cosponsors of S. 624, a bill to provide 100,000,000 people with first-time access to safe drinking water and sanitation on a sustainable basis by 2015 by improving the capacity of the United States Government to fully implement the Senator Paul Simon Water for the Poor Act of 2005.

S. 632

At the request of Mr. BAUCUS, the name of the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 632, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to require that the payment of the manufacturers' excise tax on recreational equipment be paid quarterly.

S. 653

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW) was added as a cosponsor of S. 653, a bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in commemoration of the bicentennial of the writing of the Star-Spangled Banner, and for other purposes.

S. 654

At the request of Mr. BUNNING, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW) was added as a cosponsor of S. 654, a bill to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to cover physician services delivered by podiatric physicians to ensure access by Medicaid beneficiaries to appropriate quality foot and ankle care.

S. 693

At the request of Mr. HARKIN, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) 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. 694

At the request of Mr. DODD, the names of the Senator from Maine (Ms. SNOWE) and the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. LIEBERMAN) were added as cosponsors of S. 694, a bill to provide assistance to Best Buddies to support the expansion and development of mentoring programs, and for other purposes.

S. 714

At the request of Mr. WEBB, the names of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS) and the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. LAUTENBERG) were added as cosponsors of S. 714, a bill to establish the National Criminal Justice Commission.

S. 727

At the request of Ms. LANDRIEU, the names of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. DODD), the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS) and the Senator from Maryland (Ms. MIKULSKI) 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. 730

At the request of Mr. ENSIGN, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 730, a bill to amend the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States to modify the tariffs on certain footwear, and for other purposes.

S. 823

At the request of Ms. SNOWE, the name of the Senator from Utah (Mr. BENNETT) was added as a cosponsor of S. 823, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow a 5-year carryback of operating losses, and for other purposes.

S. 846

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the names of the Senator from Missouri (Mr. BOND) and the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. ROCKEFELLER) were added as cosponsors of 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.

S. 870

At the request of Mrs. LINCOLN, the name of the Senator from Texas (Mr. CORNYN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 870, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to expand the credit for renewable electricity production to include electricity produced from biomass for on-site use and to modify the credit period for certain facilities producing electricity from open-loop biomass.

S. 883

At the request of Mr. KERRY, the names of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY), the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. SPECTER) and the Senator from Arizona (Mr. MCCAIN) were added as cosponsors of S. 883, a bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in recognition and celebration of the establishment of the Medal of Honor in 1861, America's highest award for valor in action against an enemy force which can be bestowed upon an individual serving in the Armed Services of the United States, to honor the American military men and women who have been recipients of the Medal of Honor, and to promote awareness of what the Medal of Honor represents and how ordinary Americans, through courage, sacrifice, selfless service and patriotism, can challenge fate and change the course of history.

S. 944

At the request of Mr. FEINGOLD, the name of the Senator from Texas (Mrs. HUTCHISON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 944, a bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to require the Secretaries of the military departments to give wounded members of the reserve components of the Armed Forces the option of remaining on active duty during the transition process in order to continue to receive military pay and allowances, to authorize members to reside at their permanent places of residence during the process, and for other purposes.

S. 970

At the request of Ms. LANDRIEU, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. BURRIS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 970, a bill to promote and enhance the operation of local building code enforcement administration across the country by establishing a competitive Federal matching grant program.

S. 987

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the names of the Senator from Vermont

(Mr. SANDERS), the Senator from Arkansas (Mrs. LINCOLN), and the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN) were added as cosponsors of S. 987, a bill to protect girls in developing countries through the prevention of child marriage, and for other purposes.

S. 994

At the request of Ms. KLOBUCHAR, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 994, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to increase awareness of the risks of breast cancer in young women and provide support for young women diagnosed with breast cancer.

S. 1019

At the request of Mr. HARKIN, the name of the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1019, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow a credit against income tax for the purchase of hearing aids.

S. 1020

At the request of Mr. WHITEHOUSE, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1020, a bill to optimize the delivery of critical care medicine and expand the critical care workforce.

S. 1023

At the request of Mr. DORGAN, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. BURRIS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1023, a bill to establish a non-profit corporation to communicate United States entry policies and otherwise promote leisure, business, and scholarly travel to the United States.

S. 1038

At the request of Mrs. FEINSTEIN, the name of the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1038, a bill to improve agricultural job opportunities, benefits, and security for aliens in the United States and for other purposes.

S. 1052

At the request of Mr. CONRAD, the name of the Senator from Montana (Mr. BAUCUS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1052, a bill to amend the small, rural school achievement program and the rural and low-income school program under part B of title VI of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965.

S. 1055

At the request of Mrs. BOXER, the names of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. BURRIS) and the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. ROCKEFELLER) were added as cosponsors of S. 1055, a bill to grant the congressional gold medal, collectively, to the 100th Infantry Battalion and the 442nd Regimental Combat Team, United States Army, in recognition of their dedicated service during World War II.

S. 1073

At the request of Mr. REED, the names of the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER) and the Senator from Virginia (Mr. WARNER) were added as cosponsors of S. 1073, a bill to provide for credit rating reforms, and for other purposes.

S. 1156

At the request of Mr. HARKIN, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Mr. LEVIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1156, a bill to amend the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users to reauthorize and improve the safe routes to school program.

S. 1160

At the request of Mr. SCHUMER, the name of the Senator from Montana (Mr. TESTER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1160, a bill to provide housing assistance for very low-income veterans.

S. 1214

At the request of Mr. LIEBERMAN, the name of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. BINGAMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1214, a bill to conserve fish and aquatic communities in the United States through partnerships that foster fish habitat conservation, to improve the quality of life for the people of the United States, and for other purposes.

S. 1279

At the request of Mr. NELSON of Nebraska, the name of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. BINGAMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1279, a bill to amend the Medicare Prescription Drug, Improvement, and Modernization Act of 2003 to extend the Rural Community Hospital Demonstration Program.

S. 1281

At the request of Mrs. LINCOLN, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1281, a bill to enhance after-school programs in rural areas of the United States by establishing a pilot program to help communities establish and improve rural after-school programs.

S. 1304

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1304, a bill to restore the economic rights of automobile dealers, and for other purposes.

S. 1324

At the request of Mr. DEMINT, the name of the Senator from Texas (Mrs. HUTCHISON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1324, a bill to ensure that every American has a health insurance plan that they can afford, own, and keep.

S. 1329

At the request of Mr. KOHL, the name of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. KAUFMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1329, a bill to authorize the Attorney General to award grants to State courts to develop and implement State courts interpreter programs.

S. 1340

At the request of Mr. LEAHY, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1340, a bill to establish a minimum funding level for programs under the Victims of Crime Act of 1984 for fiscal years 2010 to 2014 that ensures a reasonable growth in victim programs without jeopardizing the long-term sustainability of the Crime Victims Fund.

S. 1352

At the request of Mr. DODD, the name of the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1352, a bill to provide for the expansion of Federal efforts concerning the prevention, education, treatment, and research activities related to Lyme and other tick-borne diseases, including the establishment of a Tick-Borne Diseases Advisory Committee.

S. 1361

At the request of Mr. LEAHY, the names of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. LAUTENBERG) and the Senator from Arkansas (Mrs. LINCOLN) were added as cosponsors of S. 1361, a bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to enhance the national defense through empowerment of the National Guard, enhancement of the functions of the National Guard Bureau, and improvement of Federal-State military coordination in domestic emergency response, and for other purposes.

S. 1362

At the request of Mr. REED, the name of the Senator from Arkansas (Mrs. LINCOLN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1362, a bill to provide grants to States to ensure that all students in the middle grades are taught an academically rigorous curriculum with effective supports so that students complete the middle grades prepared for success in high school and postsecondary endeavors, to improve State and district policies and programs relating to the academic achievement of students in the middle grades, to develop and implement effective middle grades models for struggling students, and for other purposes.

S. 1382

At the request of Mr. DODD, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Mr. REID) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1382, a bill to improve and expand the Peace Corps for the 21st century, and for other purposes.

S. 1397

At the request of Ms. KLOBUCHAR, the name of the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. LANDRIEU) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1397, a bill to authorize the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency to award grants for electronic device recycling research, development, and demonstration projects, and for other purposes.

S. 1422

At the request of Mrs. MURRAY, the names of the Senator from Maine (Mr. SNOWE) and the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND) were added as cosponsors of S. 1422, a bill to amend the Family and Medical Leave Act of 1993 to clarify the eligibility requirements with respect to airline flight crews.

S. 1425

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr.

BURRIS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1425, a bill to increase the United States financial and programmatic contributions to promote economic opportunities for women in developing countries.

S. 1456

At the request of Mr. SCHUMER, the name of the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1456, a bill to fully compensate local educational agencies and local governments for tax revenues lost when the Federal Government takes land into trust for the benefit of a federally recognized Indian tribe or an individual Indian.

S. 1461

At the request of Mrs. BOXER, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. CHAMBLISS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1461, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to treat trees and vines producing fruit, nuts, or other crops as placed in service in the year in which it is planted for purposes of special allowance for depreciation.

S. 1492

At the request of Ms. MIKULSKI, the names of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE), the Senator from Maryland (Mr. CARDIN), the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. DODD), the Senator from California (Mrs. BOXER) and the Senator from Montana (Mr. TESTER) were added as cosponsors of S. 1492, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to fund breakthroughs in Alzheimer's disease research while providing more help to caregivers and increasing public education about prevention.

S. 1524

At the request of Mr. KERRY, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1524, a bill to strengthen the capacity, transparency, and accountability of United States foreign assistance programs to effectively adapt and respond to new challenges of the 21st century, and for other purposes.

At the request of Mr. MERKLEY, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 1524, supra.

S. 1545

At the request of Mrs. GILLIBRAND, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1545, a bill to expand the research and awareness activities of the National Institute of Arthritis and Musculoskeletal and Skin Diseases and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention with respect to scleroderma, and for other purposes.

S. 1616

At the request of Ms. CANTWELL, the name of the Senator from Utah (Mr. HATCH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1616, a bill to authorize assistance to small- and medium-sized businesses to promote exports to the People's Republic of China, and for other purposes.

S. 1634

At the request of Mr. ROCKEFELLER, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1634, a bill to amend titles XVIII and XIX of the Social Security Act to protect and improve the benefits provided to dual eligible individuals under the Medicare and Medicaid programs.

S. 1635

At the request of Mr. DORGAN, the name of the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. CONRAD) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1635, a bill to establish an Indian Youth telemental health demonstration project, to enhance the provision of mental health care services to Indian youth, to encourage Indian tribes, tribal organizations, and other mental health care providers serving residents of Indian country to obtain the services of predoctoral psychology and psychiatry interns, and for other purposes.

S. 1638

At the request of Mr. WICKER, the name of the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. VITTER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1638, a bill to permit Amtrak passengers to safely transport firearms and ammunition in their checked baggage.

S. CON. RES. 25

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. Con. Res. 25, a concurrent resolution recognizing the value and benefits that community health centers provide as health care homes for over 18,000,000 individuals, and the importance of enabling health centers and other safety net providers to continue to offer accessible, affordable, and continuous care to their current patients and to every American who lacks access to preventive and primary care services.

S. RES. 158

At the request of Mr. KERRY, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 158, a resolution to commend the American Sail Training Association for advancing international goodwill and character building under sail.

S. RES. 161

At the request of Mr. JOHNSON, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Ms. MIKULSKI) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 161, a resolution recognizing June 2009 as the first National Hereditary Hemorrhagic Telangiectasia (HHT) month, established to increase awareness of HHT, which is a complex genetic blood vessel disorder that affects approximately 70,000 people in the United States.

S. RES. 210

At the request of Mrs. LINCOLN, the names of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) and the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 210, a resolution designating the week beginning on November 9, 2009, as National School Psychology Week.

S. RES. 245

At the request of Mr. SCHUMER, the name of the Senator from Wisconsin (Mr. KOHL) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 245, a resolution recognizing September 11 as a ''National Day of Service and Remembrance''.

S. RES. 247

At the request of Mr. WHITEHOUSE, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 247, a resolution designating September 26, 2009, as ''National Estuaries Day''.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. LIEBERMAN (for himself and Ms. COLLINS):

S. 1649. A bill to prevent the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, to prepare for attacks using weapons of mass destruction, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, I am pleased to join Senator LIEBERMAN in introducing the Weapons of Mass Destruction Prevention and Preparedness Act of 2009. This legislation would increase our Nation's protections against an attack using WMDs.

The bill implements many of the recommendations of the Commission on the Prevention of Weapons of Mass Destruction Proliferation and Terrorism. Congress established that Commission in 2007 in legislation that Senator LIEBERMAN and I coauthored.

Heading the WMD Commission were former Senators Bob Graham and Jim Talent. Last December, the Commission produced a comprehensive report on the WMD threats to our Nation and provided recommendations to prevent further proliferation and acts of terrorism using these deadly weapons. The Commission's ''World at Risk'' report warned that it is ''more likely than not that a weapon of mass destruction will be used in a terrorist attack somewhere in the world by the end of 2013.''

The Commission's report is a call to action.

The Commission reinforces the sense of urgency that the Homeland Security Committee has felt during its many hearings on deadly threats to the American people—threats that include terrorists dispersing anthrax spores, detonating a nuclear device in a major city, or striking with other weapons of mass destruction.

In the wake of the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, Congress created the Department of Homeland Security, reformed our intelligence agencies, strengthened FEMA, increased grants for State and local first responders, and enhanced security at our seaports and chemical facilities. As the Commission observes, however, ''the terrorists have been active, too,'' and we must continue our efforts. Nuclear proliferation and advances in biotechnology give terrorists new methods

to carry out their avowed intention to commit mass murder.

The mental images of nuclear blasts and mushroom clouds are powerful and frightening. As the WMD Commission rightly notes, however, the more likely threat is from a biological weapon. In contrast to nuclear weapons, the technological hurdle is lower to develop and disseminate bioweapons, access to pathogens is more widespread, and pathogens are harder to contain. The spread of biotechnology, the difficulty of detecting such pathogens, and terrorists' known interest in bioterrorism combine to produce an even greater menace.

Bio-weapons are appealing to terrorists in part because we are unlikely to realize that an attack has occurred before it begins to kill many of its victims.

Worldwide security has lagged behind the growth of this threat. Even within our own country, the Commission and GAO have found that we fail to secure potential biological weapons effectively. In July, the GAO found significant deficiencies in perimeter security at biological labs that handle the world's most dangerous biological agents and diseases, such as the Ebola virus and smallpox. Because no cure or treatment exists for some of the pathogens handled by these labs, this is alarming.

Thousands of individuals in the United States have access to dangerous pathogens. Currently there are about 400 research facilities and nearly 15,000 individuals in the U.S. authorized to handle the deadly pathogens on the ''Select Agent List.'' Indeed, the FBI has determined that a cleared scientist who worked at a regulated research lab likely carried out the Anthrax attacks on the Senate and the U.S. postal system in 2001.

To counter this threat, the WMD Commission recommends increasing the security of biological laboratories that handle dangerous pathogens. This legislation would do so by establishing additional security measures for the most dangerous pathogens that terrorists are likely to use in an attack. A negotiated rulemaking—with Federal agencies and research institutions at the table—would develop these enhanced security standards. This would ensure that regulations, which make our Nation's labs more secure, would not have the unintended consequence of deterring legitimate research endeavors.

In order to help fund the security enhancements at the highest-risk biolabs and avoid diverting research funding to security upgrades, the bill authorizes a grant program at $50 million for each of the next four years. This is a sufficient level of funding to ensure that each of the labs registered to handle the most dangerous pathogens could access funding.

In response to another Commission finding that many research facilities that handle less strictly controlled, yet still dangerous pathogens are not even known to the government, the legislation requires registration of these labs. This system of enhanced security for labs with the most dangerous pathogens and the registration of labs that handle less dangerous pathogens will result in facility security requirements that are tiered based on the risk that a pathogen at a particular facility could be used in a biological attack.

To better prepare the American people for a bio-weapon attack, the bill improves the government's ability to distribute medical countermeasures and requires actions to improve communications with the public before and during a biological attack. As the Commission wisely advised, citizens need to know what to expect during a biological attack and how they should respond.

While security controls must be improved within our own country, global security problems are daunting. Countries like Syria do not adhere to the Biological Weapons Convention, which is the multilateral treaty that banned the development, production, and stockpiling of biological weapons. Other countries that signed the treaty may not be living up to these commitments.

To address these international biosecurity threats, the bill requires that the Director of National Intelligence, DNI, report on countries that have facilities with the highest-risk pathogens and the security measures in place at these facilities. The DNI also must develop a strategy for improving the Federal Government's capabilities to collect, analyze, and disseminate intelligence related to weapons of mass destruction.

In addition, the bill would direct the Secretary of State to provide assistance to enhance security at laboratories with dangerous pathogens worldwide and to use exchange programs to train foreign nationals. In this way, foreign nationals can promote lab safety and detect disease outbreaks in their home countries.

This legislation, which would implement the WMD Commission's recommendations, is an important and significant step forward in addressing the growing threat of weapons of mass destruction, and of bio-weapons in particular. Countering this threat is critical for the security of our Nation.

By Mr. LEVIN:

S. 1651. A bill to modify a land grant patent issued by the Secretary of the Interior; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, today I am introducing a companion bill to Representative STUPAK's bill, which is also being introduced today, that would modify a patent issued to the Great Lakes Shipwreck Historical Society for the conveyance of a parcel of land at Whitefish Point, Michigan at the U.S. Coast Guard Whitefish Point Light Station. The land patent was originally issued ten years ago for the interpretation and preservation of maritime history. In accordance with the land patent, the Great Lakes Shipwreck Historical Society established and has operated a museum that brings to life the strength and fury of the Great Lakes and the bravery of the U.S. Life Saving Service who rescued thousands of people from Great Lakes shipwrecks.

This legislation modifies the land patent such that development of new facilities and expansion of existing facilities or infrastructure would be implemented in accordance with the 2002 Human Use/Natural Resource Plan instead of the 1992 Whitefish Point Comprehensive Plan. The 2002 plan was developed pursuant to a court-ordered settlement agreement regarding the 1992 plan.

The modification of the land patent is intended to further the purposes of the original patent, which is for preservation and interpretation of maritime history, while maintaining the conservation of natural habitat and wildlife areas, since Whitefish Point is an important birding area as well. This bill would ensure that the vibrant stories of the Great Lakes can be preserved and interpreted for future generations.

By Mr. HARKIN (for himself and Mr. ROBERTS):

S. 1652. A bill to amend part B of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act to provide full Federal funding of such part; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, I am pleased to join my colleague from Kansas, Senator ROBERTS, in introducing the IDEA Full Funding Act. The aim of this legislation is to ensure, at long last, that Congress makes good on a commitment it made more than three decades ago when we passed what is now called the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act. At that time, in 1975, we told children with disabilities, their families, schools, and States that the Federal Government would pay 40 percent of the extra cost of special education. We have never lived up to that commitment and only recently came close because of the one-time investment through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.

As we introduce this bill, our children are beginning another school year. Some are meeting new teachers and going to new classrooms. Some are starting at a completely new school with new opportunities for success and new challenges. Yet we are still short-changing children with disabilities and their educational opportunities.

We tell our children all the time to keep their promises, to live up to their commitments, to do as they say they are going to do. We teach them that if they fail to do so, other people can be hurt. Well, that is what Congress has done by failing to appropriately fund IDEA: We have hurt school children all

across America. We have pitted children with disabilities against other children for a limited pool of school funds. We have put parents in the position of not demanding services that their child with a disability truly needs, because they have been told that the services cost too much and other children would suffer. We have hurt school districts, which are forced, in effect, to rob Peter to pay Paul in order to provide services to students with disabilities. We have also hurt local taxpayers, who are obliged to pay higher property taxes and other local taxes in order to pay for IDEA services because the Federal Government has reneged on its commitment.

I was pleased that we were able to increase funding for the IDEA grants to States program as part of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act this year to $22.8 billion. That represents 34 percent of the additional funding needed to support special education. However, the Recovery Act is a one-time investment designed to address a crisis caused by the recession that could have resulted in the loss of thousands of teachers and programs students need to be successful. Without the Recovery Act, IDEA grants are currently funded at around 17 percent of the cost of special education programs. So we have a long way to go to reach the 40 percent level. But it is time to do so. It is time for the Federal Government to make good on its promise to students with disabilities in this country.

The IDEA Full Funding Act is pretty straightforward. It authorizes increasing amounts of mandatory funding in 6 year increments that, in addition to the discretionary funding allocated through the Appropriations Committee, will finally meet the Federal Government's commitment to educating children with disabilities.

This bill is a win-win-win for the American people. Students with disabilities will get the education services that they need in order to achieve and succeed. School districts will be able to provide these services without cutting into their general education budgets. Local property tax payers will get relief.

Full funding of IDEA is not a partisan issue. We all share an interest in ensuring that children with disabilities get an appropriate education, and that local school districts do not have to slash their general education budgets in order to pay for special education. We all share a sense of responsibility to make good on the promise Congress made to fully fund its promised share of special education costs.

In the 3 decades since Congress passed IDEA, and in the 8 years since we passed the No Child Left Behind Act, we have dramatically increased opportunities for students with disabilities. Likewise, we are holding local systems accountable in unprecedented ways. It is time for us in Congress also to be held accountable. It is time for us to make good on our promise to fully fund IDEA. To that end, I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

Mr. ROBERTS. Mr. President, I rise today to offer legislation with Senator HARKIN to fulfill a promise that we made over 30 years ago. We made a commitment to pay 40 percent of the excess cost of educating a special needs child. However, we have not fulfilled that promise.

Our legislation annually increases funding for Part B of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act over a 6-year period. With these increases, we will be able to fully fund Part B in 2015.

I encourage my colleagues to add their support to this needed legislation. If the Federal Government would provide its promised share of special education funding, our schools could then use any state and local funds for other educational needs, such as art and music.

By Mr. LEAHY (for himself, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. KAUFMAN, Mr. FRANKEN, Mr. HARKIN, Mr. BINGAMAN, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. BROWN, Mr. BAYH, Mr. BENNET, Mrs. BOXER, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. INOUYE, Mr. KERRY, and Mr. AKAKA):

S. 1653. A bill to provide for the appointment of additional Federal circuit and district judges, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, today, I am reintroducing a comprehensive bill to address the resource needs of the Federal judiciary by authorizing additional courts of appeals and district court judgeships. This good government bill will improve the effectiveness of our Federal courts and provide Federal judges with the tools to promptly render the justice that Americans so desperately need.

The Federal Judgeship Act of 2009 establishes 12 new judgeships in six courts of appeals and 51 new judgeships in 25 district courts across the country. The legislation I introduce today is based on the recommendations of the Judicial Conference of the United States, which identified the judiciary's resource needs during the completion of its biennial survey in March.

Last Congress, I joined Senator HATCH and 20 other Senators from both sides of the aisle to introduce this legislation. A bipartisan majority of the Judiciary Committee voted to report the bill to the Senate last year. Unfortunately, the Senate did not act on the bill before the end of the last Congress.

We used to consider judgeship bills at six year intervals. It has been 19 years since the last comprehensive judgeship bill was enacted to address the growth in the workload of the Federal judiciary. That legislation established 11 additional circuit court judgeships, as well as 61 permanent and 13 temporary district court judgeships. Since 1990, case filings in the Federal appellate courts have increased by 42 percent, and case filings in the district courts have risen by 34 percent. Congress has authorized only a few additional district court judgeships and extended a few temporary judgeships. We should pass a comprehensive judgeship bill in this Congress that will ease the strain of heavy caseloads that has burdened the courts and thwarted the administration of justice.

Last year, the weighted number of filings in district courts, which takes into account an assessment of case complexity, was 472 per judgeship. This figure is well above the Judicial Conference's standard of 430 weighted filings per district court judgeship. In the 25 district courts that would receive additional judgeships under this bill, the weighted filings averaged 573 per judgeship, and 10 courts had caseloads near or above 600 weighted filings per judgeship. Today, the national average circuit court caseload per three judge panel has reached 1,104 filings. That statistic approaches the record number of 1,230 cases recorded in 2005 and far exceeds the 773 average circuit court caseload filings recorded in 1991.

Federal judges are working harder than ever, but in order to maintain the integrity of the Federal courts and the promptness that justice demands, judges must have a manageable workload. To address the excessive caseloads that burden Federal courts, the Federal Judgeship Act of 2009 would add nine permanent circuit court judgeships, 38 permanent district court judgeships, and convert five existing temporary judgeships into permanent positions. These additional judgeships would help to alleviate the significant increase in caseloads that the Federal courts have seen over the nearly two decades since the last comprehensive judgeship bill was enacted.

The bill would also add 13 temporary district court judgeships, three temporary circuit court judgeships, and would extend one existing temporary district court judgeship. These additional temporary judgeships will allow Congress some flexibility with regard to future judgeship needs. If caseloads continue to increase, Congress has the option to introduce legislation making permanent or renewing these temporary judgeships. If those caseloads do not increase, when the next judge in that circuit or district retires they will not be replaced.

After years of debate and Federal courts struggling to adjudicate cases despite the overwhelming burden of heavy caseloads, the time to enact a comprehensive Federal judgeship bill is long overdue.

The ability of Federal courts to effectively administer justice will continue to be challenged unless adequate resources are provided. The Federal Judgeship Act of 2009 responds to the increasing workload of the Federal judiciary, and it is long overdue. I thank Senators FEINSTEIN, SCHUMER, WHITEHOUSE, KLOBUCHAR, KAUFMAN,

FRANKEN, HARKIN, BINGAMAN, MURRAY, BROWN, BAYH, BENNET, BOXER, SHAHEEN, INOUYE, AKAKA, and KERRY for their support. I urge Senators on both sides of the aisle to give this legislation their serious consideration and support.

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 printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 1653

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 ''Federal Judgeship Act of 2009''.

SEC. 2. CIRCUIT JUDGES FOR THE CIRCUIT COURTS OF APPEALS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The President shall appoint, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate—

(1) 1 additional circuit judge for the first circuit court of appeals;

(2) 2 additional circuit judges for the second circuit court of appeals;

(3) 1 additional circuit judge for the third circuit court of appeals;

(4) 1 additional circuit judge for the sixth circuit court of appeals; and

(5) 4 additional circuit judges for the ninth circuit court of appeals.

(b) TEMPORARY JUDGESHIPS.—The President shall appoint, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate—

(1) 1 additional circuit judge for the third circuit court of appeals;

(2) 1 additional circuit judge for the eighth circuit court of appeals; and

(3) 1 additional circuit judge for the ninth circuit court of appeals.

For each of the judicial circuits named in this subsection, the first vacancy arising on the circuit court 10 years or more after a judge is first confirmed to fill the temporary circuit judgeship created in that circuit by this subsection shall not be filled.

(c) TABLES.—In order that the table contained in section 44 of title 28, United States Code, will, with respect to each judicial circuit, reflect the changes in the total number of permanent circuit judgeships authorized as a result of subsection (a) of this section, such table is amended to read as follows:

"Circuits	Number of judges
District of Columbia	11
First	7
Second	15
Third	15
Fourth	15
Fifth	17
Sixth	17
Seventh	11
Eighth	11
Ninth	33
Tenth	12
Eleventh	12
Federal	12.''.

SEC. 3. DISTRICT JUDGES FOR THE DISTRICT COURTS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The President shall appoint, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate—

(1) 1 additional district judge for the district of Arizona;

(2) 4 additional district judges for the northern district of California;

(3) 4 additional district judges for the eastern district of California;

(4) 4 additional district judges for the central district of California;

(5) 1 additional district judge for the district of Colorado;

(6) 4 additional district judges for the middle district of Florida;

(7) 3 additional district judges for the southern district of Florida;

(8) 1 additional district judge for the southern district of Indiana;

(9) 1 additional district judge for the district of Minnesota;

(10) 1 additional district judge for the district of New Jersey;

(11) 1 additional district judge for the district of New Mexico;

(12) 1 additional district judge for the southern district of New York;

(13) 1 additional district judge for the eastern district of New York;

(14) 1 additional district judge for the western district of New York;

(15) 1 additional district judge for the district of Oregon;

(16) 1 additional district judge for the district of South Carolina;

(17) 1 additional district judge for the eastern district of Texas;

(18) 2 additional district judges for the southern district of Texas;

(19) 4 additional district judges for the western district of Texas; and

(20) 1 additional district judge for the western district of Washington.

(b) TEMPORARY JUDGESHIPS.—The President shall appoint, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate—

(1) 1 additional district judge for the middle district of Alabama;

(2) 1 additional district judge for the district of Arizona;

(3) 1 additional district judge for the northern district of California;

(4) 1 additional district judge for the eastern district of California;

(5) 1 additional district judge for the central district of California;

(6) 1 additional district judge for the middle district of Florida;

(7) 1 additional district judge for the district of Idaho;

(8) 1 additional district judge for the northern district of Iowa;

(9) 1 additional district judge for the district of Minnesota;

(10) 1 additional district judge for the district of Nebraska;

(11) 1 additional district judge for the southern district of New York;

(12) 1 additional district judge for the eastern district of New York; and

(13) 1 additional district judge for the eastern district of Virginia.

For each of the judicial districts named in this subsection, the first vacancy arising on the district court 10 years or more after a judge is first confirmed to fill the temporary district judgeship created in that district by this subsection shall not be filled.

(c) EXISTING JUDGESHIPS.—

(1) The existing judgeships for the district of Kansas, and the eastern district of Missouri authorized by section 203(c) of the Judicial Improvements Act of 1990 (Public Law 101–650; 104 Stat. 5089) as amended by Public Law 111–8 (relating to the district of Kansas) and Public Law 109–115 (relating to the eastern district of Missouri), and the existing judgeships for the district of Arizona, the district of New Mexico, and the eastern district of Texas authorized by section 312(c) of the 21st Century Department of Justice Appropriations Authorization Act (Public Law 107–273, 116 Stat. 1758), as of the effective date of this Act, shall be authorized under section 133 of title 28, United States Code, and the incumbents in those offices shall hold the office under section 133 of title 28, United States Code, as amended by this Act.

(2) The existing judgeship for the northern district of Ohio authorized by section 203(c) of the Judicial Improvements Act of 1990 (Public Law 101–650, 104 Stat. 5089) as amended by Public Law 111–8, as of the effective date of this Act, shall be extended. The first vacancy in the office of district judge in this district occurring 23 years or more after the confirmation date of the judge named to fill the temporary judgeship created by section 302(c) shall not be filled.

(d) TABLES.—In order that the table contained in section 133 of title 28, United States Code, will, with respect to each judicial district, reflect the changes in the total number of permanent district judgeships authorized as a result of subsections (a) and (c) of this section, such table is amended to read as follows:

"Districts	Judges
Alabama:	
Northern	7
Middle	3
Southern	3
Alaska	3
Arizona	14
Arkansas:	
Eastern	5
Western	3
California:	
Northern	18
Eastern	10
Central	31
Southern	13
Colorado	8
Connecticut	8
Delaware	4
District of Columbia	15
Florida:	
Northern	4
Middle	19
Southern	20
Georgia:	
Northern	11
Middle	4
Southern	3
Hawaii	3
Idaho	2
Illinois:	
Northern	22
Central	4
Southern	4
Indiana:	
Northern	5
Southern	6
Iowa:	
Northern	2
Southern	3
Kansas	6
Kentucky:	
Eastern	5
Western	4
Eastern and Western	1
Louisiana:	
Eastern	12
Middle	3
Western	7
Maine	3
Maryland	10
Massachusetts	13
Michigan:	
Eastern	15
Western	4
Minnesota	8
Mississippi:	
Northern	3
Southern	6
Missouri:	
Eastern	7
Western	5
Eastern and Western	2
Montana	3
Nebraska	3
Nevada	7

"Districts	Judges
New Hampshire	3
New Jersey	18
New Mexico	8
New York:	
Northern	5
Southern	29
Eastern	16
Western	5
North Carolina:	
Eastern	4
Middle	4
Western	4
North Dakota	2
Ohio:	
Northern	11
Southern	8
Oklahoma:	
Northern	3
Eastern	1
Western	6
Northern, Eastern, and Western	1
Oregon	7
Pennsylvania:	
Eastern	22
Middle	6
Western	10
Puerto Rico	7
Rhode Island	3
South Carolina	11
South Dakota	3
Tennessee:	
Eastern	5
Middle	4
Western	5
Texas:	
Northern	12
Southern	21
Eastern	9
Western	17
Utah	5
Vermont	2
Virginia:	
Eastern	11
Western	4
Washington:	
Eastern	4
Western	8
West Virginia:	
Northern	3
Southern	5
Wisconsin:	
Eastern	5
Western	2
Wyoming	3.''.

SEC. 4. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

There are authorized to be appropriated such sums as may be necessary to carry out the provisions of this Act, including such sums as may be necessary to provide appropriate space and facilities for the judicial positions created by this Act.

SEC. 5. EFFECTIVE DATE.

This Act (including the amendments made by this Act) shall take effect on the date of enactment of this Act.

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, I rise to state my strong support for the Federal Judgeship Act of 2009.

I am an original cosponsor of this bill, and I think it is a critical bill for good government.

The bill would create new judgeships in circuit and district courts where they are badly needed.

In the U.S. Courts of Appeals, it would create 9 new permanent and 3 new temporary judgeships.

In the U.S. District Courts, it would create 38 new permanent and 13 new temporary judgeships.

When caseloads get too heavy, the quality of justice in our Nation suffers.

Victims of crime are forced to endure long periods of waiting for justice to be done. Citizens are unable to resolve their civil disputes promptly; plaintiffs face long delays in getting damages or restitution for harms they have suffered. Morale plummets for judges and other court staff.

I have seen this in my own state, where judges in three of the four Federal districts are overwhelmed with case filings.

Let me tell you about one district in particular.

In the Eastern District of California, each Federal judge carried a caseload last year of over 1,000 weighted filings.

The Judicial Conference of the U.S. recommends that Congress create a new judgeship anytime a district reaches a caseload of 430 cases per judge. But in the Eastern District, the number exceeds 1,000.

The situation has become so dire that the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit has stepped in. Last summer, the Chief Judge of the Ninth Circuit sent a letter asking every judge in the Circuit to volunteer to hear approximately 25 cases from the Eastern District to try to get the caseload down.

The court has literally brought in Federal judges from all over the country to help deal with the crushing workload. District judges from Alaska, Alabama, and Washington State, as well as from Los Angeles and Oakland, handled hundreds of cases in Sacramento and Fresno last year. A senior Ninth Circuit judge from Los Angeles handled hundreds more.

The help is welcome but it is not nearly enough. You see, the problem in the Eastern District is not a temporary one.

The Eastern District is home to Sacramento, Fresno, and the Central Valley. In 2008, the District included 18 of California's 25 fastest growing counties.

The District is also home to 19 of California's State and Federal prisons and to 100,000 of the State's 167,000 prisoners. Since Congress last created a new permanent judgeship in the District in 1978, prisoner filings have skyrocketed 700 percent.

The result is that the judges are severely overworked and justice for everyone is delayed. Civil litigants in the District are facing delays of approximately 42 months—that's 3-and-a-half years—from filing to verdict.

The situation, put simply, is unacceptable.

In 1992, Congress did authorize a 10 year temporary judgeship for the District, but that judgeship expired and despite repeated efforts by Chairman LEAHY, Senator BOXER, and myself, it has not been renewed.

In the meantime, for the last 12 years, every time the Judicial Conference has surveyed the U.S. Courts it has said that the Eastern District needs more judges, but new judgeships have not been created.

The Federal Judgeship Act of 2009 that Chairman LEAHY has introduced today would finally provide a solution. It would authorize four new permanent judgeships and one new temporary judgeship in the Eastern District.

This would almost double the number of judges in the District by changing from 6 to 11 judges and would substantially reduce the caseload and delays.

This is a necessary solution to a real problem.

But the Eastern District is only one example. There are plenty of others. As I said, the Judicial Conference recommends that Congress create a new judgeship whenever there are 430 weighted filings per U.S. District Judge. But according to the 2009 survey of the courts, in the Northern District of California, the judges are handling 624 weighted filings per judge; in the Central District of California, it is 551 per judge; in the Middle District of Florida, it is 569 per judge; in the Southern District of Florida, it is 549 per judge; in the Southern District of Indiana, it is 594 per judge; in the District of Minnesota, it is 743 per judge; in the Eastern District of Texas, it is 674 per judge; in the Southern District of Texas, it is 543 per judge; and in the Western District of Texas, it is 650 per judge.

So this is a problem in courts across the country; and it is up to Congress to craft a solution.

The last time Congress passed a comprehensive bill to create new judgeships was in 1990. Since that time, case filings across the country in the federal appeals courts have increased by approximately 45 percent, and filings in the district courts have increased by 27 percent.

The current situation in the courts is not sustainable.

Neither the Eastern District of California nor any other Court should be forced to rely on temporary visits from colleagues who generously offer their help. Districts should have enough judges to handle their caseloads on their own.

This Federal Judgeship Act of 2009 is based on recommendations made by the Judicial Conference after an extensive review of case filings and caseload trends in every federal circuit and district court across the country.

It is time for Congress to act and give the federal courts the resources they need to ensure a fail and timely trial for every civil and criminal litigant.

I strongly urge my colleagues to support this bill.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 253—EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE SENATE THAT THE GOVERNMENT OF LIBYA SHOULD APOLOGIZE FOR THE WELCOME HOME CEREMONY HELD TO CELEBRATE THE RELEASE OF CONVICTED LOCKERBIE BOMBER ABDEL BASET AL-MEGRAHI.

Mr. SCHUMER (for himself, Mr. LAUTENBERG, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. VOINOVICH, Mr. CASEY, and Mr. CARDIN) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

S. RES. 253

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) condemns the August 20, 2009, release from prison in Scotland of Abdel Baset al-Megrahi, the lone person convicted in connection with the 1988 bombing of a Pan Am flight over Lockerbie, Scotland, that killed 270 people, including 189 Americans;

(2) condemns the lavish welcome home ceremony held in Tripoli, Libya, to celebrate the release of Mr. al-Megrahi; and

(3) calls on the Government of Libya to apologize for the public celebration of Mr. al-Megrahi's release.

SENATE RESOLUTION 254—HONORING, COMMEMORATING, AND CELEBRATING THE HISTORIC TIES OF THE UNITED STATES AND THE NETHERLANDS ON THE QUADRICENTENNIAL CELEBRATION OF THE DISCOVERY OF THE HUDSON RIVER, AND RECOGNIZING THE SETTLEMENT AND ENDURING VALUES OF NEW NETHERLAND, WHICH CONTINUE TO INFLUENCE AMERICAN SOCIETY

Mrs. GILLIBRAND submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 254

Whereas the Netherlands and the United States are 2 countries with one spirit united by values, history, and a vision for the future;

Whereas 2009 marks the quadricentennial year that Henry Hudson captained the Ship ''Halve Maen'', under the auspices of the Dutch East India Company, and discovered the Hudson River;

Whereas the discovery of the Hudson River and its fertile lands gave rise to the establishment of the New Netherland settlement and the ensuing historical ties between the Netherlands and the United States;

Whereas the Netherlands, in 1776 at Sint Eustatius, was the first country to salute the United States flag, influenced the writing of the United States Declaration of Independence, and has remained a staunch ally to the United States, from providing necessary loans during the Revolutionary War to standing shoulder-to-shoulder in Afghanistan in defense of values and the rule of law;

Whereas the New Netherland settlement left a legacy of values such as open-mindedness, entrepreneurship, democracy, tolerance, and hard work, as well as freedom of religion and speech;

Whereas the bonds of free trade, open markets, and commerce have continuously linked the Netherlands and the United States to such an extent that the Netherlands remains among the top 4 foreign investors in the United States;

Whereas the Netherlands provided assistance in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina and is sharing expertise in water management and helping to rebuild New Orleans and its levees; and

Whereas the heritage of 400 years of friendship between the Netherlands and the United States is a laudable example and should be properly extolled: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) on the quadricentennial celebration of the discovery of the Hudson River, honors, commemorates, and celebrates the historic ties and friendship between the United States and the Netherlands; and

(2) recognizes the settlement and enduring values of New Netherland which continue to influence American society.

SENATE RESOLUTION 255—RELATIVE TO THE DEATH OF EDWARD MOORE KENNEDY, A SENATOR FROM THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

Mr. REID (for himself, Mr. MCCONNELL, Mr. KERRY, Mr. DODD, Mr. AKAKA, Mr. ALEXANDER, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. BAUCUS, Mr. BAYH, Mr. BEGICH, Mr. BENNET, Mr. BENNETT, Mr. BINGAMAN, Mr. BOND, Mrs. BOXER, Mr. BROWN, Mr. BROWNBACK, Mr. BUNNING, Mr. BURR, Mr. BURRIS, Mr. BYRD, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. CARPER, Mr. CASEY, Mr. CHAMBLISS, Mr. COBURN, Mr. COCHRAN, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. CONRAD, Mr. CORKER, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. DEMINT, Mr. DORGAN, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. ENSIGN, Mr. ENZI, Mr. FEINGOLD, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. FRANKEN, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. GREGG, Mrs. HAGAN, Mr. HARKIN, Mr. HATCH, Mrs. HUTCHISON, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. INOUYE, Mr. ISAKSON, Mr. JOHANNS, Mr. JOHNSON, Mr. KAUFMAN, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. KOHL, Mr. KYL, Ms. LANDRIEU, Mr. LAUTENBERG, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. LIEBERMAN, Mrs. LINCOLN, Mr. LUGAR, Mr. MARTINEZ, Mr. MCCAIN, Mrs. MCCASKILL, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. MERKLEY, Ms. MIKULSKI, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. NELSON of Nebraska, Mr. NELSON of Florida, Mr. PRYOR, Mr. REED, Mr. RISCH, Mr. ROBERTS, Mr. ROCKEFELLER, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. SESSIONS, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. SHELBY, Ms. SNOWE, Mr. SPECTER, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. TESTER, Mr. THUNE, Mr. UDALL of Colorado, Mr. UDALL of New Mexico, Mr. VITTER, Mr. VOINOVICH, Mr. WARNER, Mr. WEBB, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. WICKER, and Mr. WYDEN) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 255

Whereas the Honorable Edward Moore Kennedy was elected to the Senate in 1962 and served the people of Massachusetts in the United States Senate with devotion and distinction for nearly 47 years, the third longest term of service in Senate history;

Whereas the Honorable Edward Moore Kennedy became the youngest Majority Whip in Senate history at the age of 36;

Whereas the Honorable Edward Moore Kennedy served as Chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee from 1979–1981 and as Chairman of the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee for nearly 13 years between 1987–2009;

Whereas the Honorable Edward Moore Kennedy made the needs of working families and the less fortunate among us the work of his life, particularly those of the poor, the disenfranchised, the disabled, the young, the old, the working class, the servicemember and the immigrant;

Whereas his efforts on behalf of the citizens of Massachusetts and all Americans earned him the esteem and high regard of his colleagues;

Whereas more than 300 laws bear his name and he co-sponsored more than 2000 others covering civil rights, health care, the minimum wage, education, human rights and many other issues; and

Whereas with his death his State and the Nation have lost an outstanding lawmaker and public servant: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate has received with profound sorrow and deep regret the announcement of the passing of the Honorable Edward Moore Kennedy, the great Senator from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

Resolved, That the Secretary of the Senate communicate these resolutions to the House of Representatives and transmit an enrolled copy thereof to the Kennedy family.

Resolved, That when the Senate adjourns today, it stand adjourned as a further mark of respect to the memory of the deceased Senator.

NOTICES OF HEARINGS

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 hearing has been scheduled before the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources. The hearing will be held on Tuesday, September 15, 2009, at 2:30 p.m., in room SD–366 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building.

The purpose of the hearing is to explore potential costs and price volatility in the energy sector as a result of a greenhouse gas trading program and ways to reduce or contain those costs.

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 may do so by sending it to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, United States Senate, Washington, DC 20510–6150, or by e-mail to Gina_Weinstock@energy.senate.gov.

For further information, please contact Jonathan Black at (202) 224–6722 or Gina Weinstock at (202) 224–5684.

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 business meeting has been scheduled before the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources. The business meeting will be held on Tuesday, September 15, 2009, at 2:30 p.m., in room SD–366 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building, immediately preceding the full committee hearing.

The purpose of the business meeting is to consider pending nominations. For further information, please contact Sam Fowler at (202) 224–7571 or Amanda Kelly at (202) 224–6836.

PROVIDING FOR A JOINT SESSION OF CONGRESS TO RECEIVE A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of H. Con. Res. 179, at the desk and just received from the House.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the concurrent resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 179) providing for a joint session of Congress to receive a message from the President.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the concurrent resolution.

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the concurrent resolution be agreed to and the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 179) was agreed to.

AUTHORIZATION TO APPOINT ESCORT COMMITTEE

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Presiding Officer of the Senate be authorized to appoint a committee on the part of the Senate to join with a like committee on the part of the House of Representatives to escort the President of the United States into the House Chamber for the joint session to be held at 8 p.m. on Wednesday, September 9, 2009.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

APPOINTMENTS DURING ADJOURNMENT OF THE SENATE

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. President, I understand appointments were made during adjournment of the Senate, and I ask unanimous consent they be printed in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The appointments are as follows:

On behalf of the majority leader, pursuant to Public Law 106–567, the Intelligence Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2001, to serve as a member of the Public Interest Declassification Board: Gen. Michael V. Hayden of Virginia.

On behalf of the Republican Leader, pursuant to provisions of Public Law 110–343, as a member of the Congressional Oversight Panel: Mr. Paul S. Atkins of Virginia, vice John Sununu of New Hampshire.

FLOOR PRIVILEGES

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that during the period that Senator MIKULSKI is confined to a wheelchair, a member of her staff be permitted on the floor as is necessary to facilitate the Senator's movement.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 302, the nomination of George Madison to be general counsel for the Department of the Treasury; that the nomination be confirmed, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, and that no further motions be in order; that any statements be printed in the RECORD; and that the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action and the Senate resume legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The nomination considered and confirmed is as follows:

DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

George Wheeler Madison, of Connecticut, to be General Counsel for the Department of the Treasury.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume legislative session.

EDWARD MOORE KENNEDY

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. Res. 255, submitted earlier today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will state the resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 255) relative to the death of the Honorable EDWARD MOORE KENNEDY, a Senator from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, and that any statements be printed in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 255) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 255

Whereas the Honorable Edward Moore Kennedy was elected to the Senate in 1962 and served the people of Massachusetts in the United States Senate with devotion and distinction for nearly 47 years, the third longest term of service in Senate history;

Whereas the Honorable Edward Moore Kennedy became the youngest Majority Whip in Senate history at the age of 36;

Whereas the Honorable Edward Moore Kennedy served as Chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee from 1979–1981 and as Chairman of the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee for nearly 13 years between 1987–2009;

Whereas the Honorable Edward Moore Kennedy made the needs of working families and the less fortunate among us the work of his life, particularly those of the poor, the disenfranchised, the disabled, the young, the old, the working class, the service member and the immigrant;

Whereas his efforts on behalf of the citizens of Massachusetts and all Americans earned him the esteem and high regard of his colleagues;

Whereas more than 300 laws bear his name and he co-sponsored more than 2000 others covering civil rights, health care, the minimum wage, education, human rights and many other issues; and

Whereas with his death his State and the Nation have lost an outstanding lawmaker and public servant: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate has received with profound sorrow and deep regret the announcement of the passing of the Honorable Edward Moore Kennedy, the great Senator from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

Resolved, That the Secretary of the Senate communicate these resolutions to the House of Representatives and transmit an enrolled copy thereof to the Kennedy family.

Resolved, That when the Senate adjourns today, it stand adjourned as a further mark of respect to the memory of the deceased Senator.

ORDERS FOR WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, 2009

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until 10 a.m. tomorrow, Wednesday, September 9; that following the prayer and pledge, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the morning hour be deemed expired, the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day, and there then be a period of morning business for 1 hour, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each, with the time equally divided and controlled between the two leaders or their designees, with the majority controlling the first half and the Republicans controlling the second half; that following morning business, the Senate resume consideration of S. 1023, the Travel Promotion Act, postcloture; further, I ask the time during any adjournment, recess or period of morning business count against the postcloture time; finally, I ask that the Senate recess from 12:30 to 2:15 p.m. to allow for the weekly caucus luncheons.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

PROGRAM

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. President, the postcloture debate time expires at 4:30 p.m. tomorrow afternoon. We hope we will be able to yield back some of the time and vote on passage of the bill before 4:30 p.m. Senators will be notified when that vote is scheduled.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 10 A.M. TOMORROW

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. If there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that it adjourn under the provisions of S. Res. 255 as a further mark of respect for the memory of our late colleague, Senator EDWARD MOORE KENNEDY.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 7:06 p.m., adjourned until Wednesday, September 9, 2009, at 10 a.m.

CONFIRMATION

Executive nomination confirmed by the Senate, Tuesday, September 8, 2009:

DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

GEORGE WHEELER MADISON, OF CONNECTICUT, TO BE GENERAL COUNSEL FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY.

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

HONORING THE MOST REVEREND JAMES H. GARLAND ON THE ANNIVERSARY OF HIS EPISCOPAL ORDINATION AND PRIESTLY ORDINATION

HON. BART STUPAK

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 8, 2009

Mr. STUPAK. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor the Most Reverend James H. Garland on the 25th anniversary of his Episcopal ordination and the 50th anniversary of his priestly ordination. For 50 years Bishop Garland has served the Lord, the Catholic Church, and countless members in his parishes. For 13 years Bishop Garland served the Diocese of Marquette, which remains today a church that is intrinsically linked to the spirit of the Upper Peninsula.

Bishop Garland received his bachelor's degree in education from Ohio State University in 1953. During that year he began studies at the seminaries of the Archdiocese of Cincinnati and was ordained to the priesthood for the Archdiocese of Cincinnati on August 15, 1959. Following ordination, Bishop Garland served in several parishes and directed offices of Catholic Charities in Springfield and Dayton, Ohio, as well as the Archdiocesan Office of Catholic Charities. Bishop Garland also went on to receive a master's degree in philosophy from Mount Saint Mary's Seminary of the West in 1960, and a master's degree in social work from Catholic University of America in 1965.

On June 2, 1984, Bishop Garland was appointed to the Episcopacy by Pope John Paul II and ordained Titular Bishop of Garriana and Auxiliary to the Archbishop of Cincinnati on July 25, 1984. He has also directed the Archdiocesan Departments of Community Services and Pastoral Services of the Archdiocese of Cincinnati.

On November 11, 1992, Bishop Garland was installed as the eleventh Bishop of the Diocese of Marquette, Michigan—a diocese rich in history, rich in faith and rich in the Lord's spirit. During his tenure as Bishop of Marquette, Bishop Garland became known throughout the diocese for his service, his generosity, and the cookies he baked for volunteers. My hometown church, the Holy Spirit Catholic Church in Menominee, Michigan, resides in the Diocese of Marquette and I am personally grateful for Bishop Garland's steady leadership and strong commitment to the members of the diocese.

Bishop Garland implemented the Legacy of Faith endowment program to develop faith formation and to keep Catholic schools throughout our diocese on solid financial ground. My wife, Laurie, and I are proud to serve as two of the bishop's ambassadors, helping to preserve Catholic faith throughout the Upper Peninsula.

Bishop Garland's committed work ethic extended beyond the Diocese of Marquette as well. He served on the Administrative Committee and Board of the United States Catholic Conference/National Conference of Catholic Bishops; he served as chairman of the United States Catholic Conference Committee for the Campaign for Human Development from 1992 to 1995; and he served as chairperson of the Bishops of Region VI of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops from 1995 to 1997.

Bishop Garland retired as Bishop of Marquette on December 13, 2005, but he remains active in spreading the Word of the Lord, serving as executive director of the Bishop Baraga Association and writing articles for the diocesan Catholic newspaper. He also continues to care for those in the Marquette community as a hospice volunteer and enjoys reading, music, and gardening in his retirement.

Madam Speaker, the story of Michigan's Upper Peninsula is deeply intertwined with the history of the Diocese of Marquette. Bishop Garland's years of service are now an important part of this history. In honor of the countless lives he has touched, his dedication to the Roman Catholic Church, and his unwavering faith in the Lord I would ask, Madam Speaker, that you and the entire U.S. House of Representatives join me in recognizing the Most Reverend Bishop James H. Garland on the 25th anniversary of his Episcopal ordination and the 50th anniversary of his priestly ordination.

HONORING DAVID BORUNDA

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 8, 2009

Mr. RADANOVICH. Madam Speaker, Mr. COSTA and I rise today to commend and congratulate David Borunda upon being named the ''2009 Businessman of the Year'' by the Central California Hispanic Chamber of Commerce. Mr. Borunda will be recognized at the 21st Annual Central California Business Expo, to be held in Fresno, California on Friday, August 7, 2009.

Mr. Borunda has been treating his customers to, as he describes, ''Mexican food with a passion'' in Fresno since he established Plaza Ventana in 1977. Plaza Ventana remains one of the most awarded restaurants in Fresno and enjoys the distinction of receiving the ''Best of Fresno'' award by Fresno Magazine and receiving ''The Central Valley's People's Choice Award'' awarded to Mr. Borunda by the Fresno Bee. With two locations in Fresno, Plaza Ventana offers an extensive menu and is considered one of the top Mexican restaurants in the Central Valley by residents and visitors alike.

Mr. Borunda is one of the founding members of the Central California Hispanic Chamber of Commerce and he has served on the board of directors since the chamber was founded during a meeting in his restaurant at the original Plaza Ventana location in 1983. He has been very active in the community serving on the board of the California Restaurant Association of Fresno and as a member of the Central California Hispanic Chamber of Commerce Toastmasters. Mr. Borunda's steadfast commitment to the community has set an example for other business owners to follow.

Through years of hard work and dedication, Mr. Borunda's investment in his business makes him worthy of this esteemed recognition. He has managed to stand alone as a family-run and operated business among many competitors and continues to put his customers first. It is for those reasons that we take great pride and honor in joining the Central California Hispanic Chamber of Commerce in recognizing David Borunda as ''2009 Businessman of the Year'' and we invite our colleagues to join in wishing Mr. Borunda much continued success and prosperity.

Mr. COSTA and I invite my colleagues to join me in wishing Mr. Borunda many years of continued success.

HONORING REAR ADMIRAL MICHAEL K. MAHON

HON. C.A. DUTCH RUPPERSBERGER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 8, 2009

Mr. RUPPERSBERGER. Madam Speaker, I rise before you today to honor Rear Admiral Michael K. Mahon upon his retirement from the position of Director of Surface Warfare for the United States Navy.

A 1979 graduate of the United States Naval Academy, Rear Admiral Mahon furthered his education as he earned a Master's degree in strategic planning from the Naval Postgraduate School and national security strategy from the National War College, where he graduated with distinction.

Rear Admiral Mahon's first sea tour was aboard the USS *Dewey* (DDG 45) where he served as Electronic Warfare Officer, Assistant CIC Officer and CIC Officer. Since then, he has served as the Operations Officer aboard USS *Gallery* and COMDESRON 24 in 1986 and 1987, respectively. In early 1990, he reported to the OPNAV staff and served as the Joint Strategic Planning System Officer for the Deputy Chief of Naval Operations for Plans, Policy, and Operations.

In 1992, Rear Admiral Mahon served as the Commissioning Executive Officer of USS *Cape St. George. Cape St. George* was selected as the first ship other than a battleship to ever win the Arizona Memorial Trophy. He went on to serve as the Flag Secretary to CINCUSNAVEUR from 1994 to 1996 and Deputy Executive Assistant to the Commander of the NATO Implementation Force (IFOR) in Sarajevo, Bosnia Herzegovina.

Rear Admiral Mahon's most recent assignment was as Deputy Chief of Staff for Operations, Allied Maritime Component Command,

Northwood United Kingdom. Additionally, he was the U.S. Naval Forces Europe representative from October 2005 to January 2007.

His awards include the Defense Superior Service Medal, Legion of Merit (with two gold stars), Bronze Star, Defense Meritorious Service Medal and the Meritorious Service Medal (with three gold stars), among many others.

Madam Speaker, I ask that you join me today to honor Rear Admiral Michael K. Mahon in his retirement from the position of Director of Surface Warfare. It is with great pride that I congratulate Admiral Mahon on his exemplary defense career.

A TRIBUTE TO THE BOWLING GREEN AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

HON. BRETT GUTHRIE

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 8, 2009

Mr. GUTHRIE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the Bowling Green Area Chamber of Commerce for being recognized as Chamber of the Year. This acknowledgement was made during the American Chamber of Commerce Executives' annual conference.

Through the leadership of Chairman of the Board Todd Davis, President Jim Hizer, and the teamwork of the community, the Bowling Green Area Chamber of Commerce was recognized by their peers for their hard work and achievements.

Success in economic development efforts and community programs led to the Chamber being elevated as the top organization in its class. The region's business community has seen tremendous growth due to the leadership programs, educational initiatives, and other opportunities provided by the Chamber to its members.

The Bowling Green Area Chamber of Commerce has shown a strong commitment to bringing success and prosperity to the community. I commend the Board of Directors, staff, membership, and volunteers of the Chamber on receiving this prestigious honor.

RECOGNIZING THE SIXTH FLOOR MUSEUM AT DELANEY PLAZA

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 8, 2009

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to salute the Sixth Floor Museum at Delaney Plaza for being accepted into the prestigious Museum Assessment Program. The Sixth Floor Museum is located on the sixth and seventh floors of the Texas School Book Depository, the warehouse from which Lee Harvey Oswald assassinated President John F. Kennedy on November 22, 1963. The Sixth Floor Museum at Delaney Plaza opened in 1989 to commemorate the life and detail the events surrounding the assassination of President John F. Kennedy.

The Museum Assessment Program is a highly selective program administered by the American Association of Museums through a cooperative agreement with the Institute of Museum and Library Services that helps museums to improve their services through a rigorous evaluation process. Museums of all sizes and types apply for acceptance into the Management Assessment Program in hopes of becoming even stronger institutions. The program contains elements of peer review and self-study that enable museums to identify ways to allocate resources more efficiently, approach funders more successfully, and cater more directly to audiences of museum goers.

The Sixth Floor Museum at Delaney Plaza rightfully deserves its recent acceptance into the Museum Assessment Program, as it has serviced over 6 million visitors since its opening in 1989. The museum highlights the impacts of President John F. Kennedy's death on the nation and the world through films, photographs, artifacts and interpretive displays. The Sixth Floor Museum is one of only four museums in Texas to achieve this high honor in 2009.

I applaud the staff and volunteers at the Sixth Floor Museum at Delaney Plaza for their hard work and ability to operate a museum that has gained acceptance into such a widely respected assessment program. I ask my fellow colleagues to join me in recognizing the Sixth Floor Museum at Delaney Plaza for having received such a high honor.

HONORING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF TROUT UNLIMITED

HON. BART STUPAK

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 8, 2009

Mr. STUPAK. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize the national Trout Unlimited on the group's Anniversary celebration. Throughout the past 50 years, members of Trout Unlimited have shown continued dedication toward conserving, protecting and restoring North America's coldwater fisheries and their watersheds.

In 1955 former auto executive and conservationist George Mason approached George Griffith about starting an organization dedicated to fly-fishing and natural trout reproduction. In September 1959, 16 fishermen and conservationists gathered in Grayling, Michigan at Griffith's Fishing Lodge, "The Barbless Hook," to hold the first Trout Unlimited meeting.

The next year, 300 people attended an organizational meeting for Trout Unlimited at the American Legion Lounge and Lanes in Grayling. Over the past 50 years, membership in Trout Unlimited has grown to 140,000 members with more than 400 chapters around the country. The organization continues to be guided by the principle if we "take care of the fish, then the fishing will take care of itself."

Today, the education and conservation efforts of Trout Unlimited span from Southern California steelhead, to sockeye salmon in Alaska's Bristol Bay, to the headwater spring chinook streams of central Idaho, then east to Maine Atlantic salmon and south to Georgia brook trout. Trout Unlimited volunteers have done everything from installing habitat improvement structures, fencing out cattle, replacing stream banks and implementing educational campaigns. This work amounts to 125,000 volunteer hours and $1,500,000 in restoration work each year.

Trout and salmon set the standard for the overall health of an eco-system—a standard that benefits all living creatures and plants that share it, including humans. From birth to death they serve as a critical part of the food chain that sustains us and wildlife far beyond the streams and rivers in which they live. They provide food for animals such as bald eagles, bear, and other fish and their carcasses contribute rich nutrients to the water and nearby trees and plants. Because of their actions, the continual conservation efforts of Trout Unlimited have positive repercussions for critical eco-systems far beyond the salmon and trout themselves.

During its 50-year history Trout Unlimited has carried out hundreds of local stream restoration projects; updated and reformed the use of hatcheries to recover imperiled fish populations; worked with landowners, government agencies, Native American tribes, and other conservation groups to repair damaged fish habitats; protected remaining health habitats; revised harvest practices to support sustainable trout and salmon populations; and, worked through the federal licensing process and negotiated with private landowners to ensure dams cause minimal harm to fish runs.

Madam Speaker, the determined efforts of all members of Trout Unlimited have shown that restoring a river can result in stronger local communities as well as stronger aquatic environments. For their work to preserve and protect not only trout and salmon, but coldwater fisheries and watersheds across North America, I would ask, Madam Speaker, that you and the entire U.S. House of Representatives join me in recognizing Trout Unlimited on its 50th Anniversary.

RECOGNIZING THE JANE ADDAMS RESOURCE CORPORATION

HON. MIKE QUIGLEY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 8, 2009

Mr. QUIGLEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor the outstanding impact that the Jane Addams Resource Corporation has had on the lives of Chicago's residents and the strength of its communities through their groundbreaking and exemplary job training and community building programs.

First created in 1985 to stem the flow of manufacturing jobs out of the Ravenswood Industrial corridor, the work of the Jane Addams Resource Corporation has been met with enthusiasm and success. Providing a variety of Education and Human Development Programs, excellent skills training and support services to low-income and unemployed workers, and Business and Real Estate Programs, the JARC has helped to transform and revitalize Chicago's neighborhoods by strengthening the local economy and putting people back to work. The Corporation's extraordinary efforts have been recognized both regionally and nationally, and its programs have become a model for community and economic development throughout the United States.

Over the past 24 years, JARC has emerged as an invaluable benefactor of communities and neighborhoods throughout the Chicagoland area. Recognizing that strong local communities are often a product of a vibrant local economy, the JARC has employed

a dynamic approach to community development by providing high quality skills training to low-income and unemployed workers, and at the same time building strong relationships with Chicago-area manufacturers to provide JARC graduates with well paying jobs. As a result, Chicago neighborhoods and businesses have been strengthened and low-wage earners and the unemployed have found self-sufficiency and hope.

Madam Speaker, in the midst of economic turmoil and the worst recession since the 1930s, the Jane Addams Resource Center has been a beacon of hope and help for the people who need it most. In the last year alone, 1,191 low-wage workers received employer-based manufacturing skills training with a completion rate of 99%, 25 previously unemployed individuals were trained and placed in full-time jobs with an average hourly wage of over $13.00, and in just the past 6 weeks, 7 trainees were placed in jobs. In working to improve Chicago's neighborhoods and provide valuable training to low-wage workers and the unemployed, the JARC has emerged as a unifying and beneficial force in the Chicagoland area, and I thank them for their 24 years of exceptional service to Chicago's communities and citizens.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. JOHN ABNEY CULBERSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 8, 2009

Mr. CULBERSON. Madam Speaker, Pursuant to the Republican Leadership standards on earmarks, I am submitting the following information regarding earmarks I received as part of H.R. 3326, the FY 2010 Department of Defense Appropriations Act:

Requesting Member: Congressman JOHN CULBERSON

Bill Number: H.R. 3326

Account: Department of Defense, Army Research, Development, Test and Evaluation account.

Legal Name and Address of Requesting Entity: Rice University; 6100 Main Street, MS 603; Houston, TX 77005

Description of Request: Provide an earmark of $5,000,000 to the Alliance for NanoHealth. This project will support collaborative research to advance nanomedicine, which has the potential to provide significant medical breakthroughs in disease diagnosis, treatment and prevention.

Requesting Member: Congressman JOHN CULBERSON

Bill Number: H.R. 3326

Account: Department of Defense, Army Research, Development, Test and Evaluation account.

Legal Name and Address of Requesting Entity: M.D. Anderson Cancer Center; 1515 Holcombe Boulevard, Unit 169; Houston, TX 77030

Description of Request: Provide an earmark of $2,000,000 to the M.D. Anderson Cancer Center. This project will support equipment, supplies and production at the Center for Cancer Immunology, a center utilizing innovation in immunotherapies and vaccinations to cure cancer. In the near future, the center will vaccinate children and adults against Leukemia.

Requesting Member: Congressman JOHN CULBERSON

Bill Number: H.R. 3326

Account: Department of Defense, Air Force Research, Development, Test and Evaluation account.

Legal Name and Address of Requesting Entity: Rice University; 6100 Main Street, MS 603; Houston, TX 77005

Description of Request: Provide an earmark of $1,000,000 for the Carbon Nano-Materials Advanced Aerospace Applications project to dramatically improve the efficiency of electrical systems used by the Air Force and in the longer term, to help make America energy independent.

Requesting Member: Congressman JOHN CULBERSON

Bill Number: H.R. 3326

Account: Department of Defense, Army Research, Development, Test and Evaluation account.

Legal Name and Address of Requesting Entity: Methodist Hospital System; 8060 El Rio; Houston, TX 77054

Description of Request: Provide an earmark of $1,000,000 for the Nano-imaging Agents for Early Disease Detection project to support the research and creation of nano-imaging agents for early disease detection. Nano-imaging agents are safely injected into a patient and provide a three-dimensional image, creating a ''night vision'' that lights up tissue changes and cell anomalies and enabling more accurate diagnostics.

Requesting Member: Congressman JOHN CULBERSON

Bill Number: H.R. 3326

Account: Department of Defense, Army Research, Development, Test and Evaluation account.

Legal Name and Address of Requesting Entity: CureSearch; 4600 East West Highway, Suite 600; Bethesda, MD 20814

Description of Request: Provide an earmark of $2,000,000 for Pediatric Cancer Research and Clinical Trials project to support pediatric cancer clinical care trials throughout the nation. Clinical trials have significantly increased the cancer cure rate for children from less than 10 percent in the 1950s to over 80 percent today.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 8, 2009

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Madam Speaker, pursuant to the Republican Leadership standards on earmarks, I am submitting the following information regarding earmarks I received as part of the Fiscal Year 2010 Department of Defense Appropriations Act.

Requesting Member: Congressman JEFF MILLER

Project Name: Eglin Air Force Base Range Operations Control Center (ROCC)

Account: RDAF

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Cubic Corporation

Address of Requesting Entity: 1225 South Clark Street, Suite 702, Arlington, VA 22202

Description of Request: $2,500,000—Eglin Air Force Base Range Operations Control Center (ROCC), Cubic Corporation. I requested these funds to address the increased testing and evaluation at Eglin AFB, the 46th Test Wing Super ROCC initiative is a phased effort involving development, procurement and military construction (MILCON) funding to meet the future need in the 2015–2020 timeframe. This project provides more effective control to better optimize range scheduling and increases flexibility in meeting the Eglin AFB test and training missions. By knowing the locations of all entities on the range, the Super ROCC will have great flexibility in reassigning missions to ground and air space previously not being used.

The entity to receive funding for this project is Cubic Corporation located at 1225 South Clark Street, Suite 702, Arlington, VA 22202. I certify that neither I nor my spouse has any financial interest in this project. Consistent with the Republican Leadership's policy on earmarks, I hereby certify that this request (1) is not directed to any entity or program named after a sitting Member of Congress; (2) is not intended for a ''front'' or ''pass through'' entity; and (3) meets or exceeds all statutory requirements for matching funds where applicable.

Requesting Member: Congressman JEFF MILLER

Project Name: Gulf Range Mobile Instrumentation Capability

Account: RDDW

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Prologic

Address of Requesting Entity: 9400 Innovation Drive, Manassas, VA 20110

Description of Request: $3,000,000—Gulf Range Mobile Instrumentation Capability, Prologic. I requested these funds for Gulf Range Mobile Instrumentation Capability for the 46th Range Group (46 RANG). The 46th Range Group (46 RANG) has a need for a capability for remote test, collection, storage and relay of various data types. This capability can be accomplished with a Gulf Range Mobile Instrumentation Capability (GR–MIC). The GR–MIC is needed to support test events on the Eglin AFB range which occur over large geographic areas (land and sea based).

The entity to receive funding for this project is Prologic located at 9400 Innovation Drive, Manassas, VA 20110. I certify that neither I nor my spouse has any financial interest in this project. Consistent with the Republican Leadership's policy on earmarks, I hereby certify that this request (1) is not directed to any entity or program named after a sitting Member of Congress; (2) is not intended for a ''front'' or ''pass through'' entity; and (3) meets or exceeds all statutory requirements for matching funds where applicable.

Requesting Member: Congressman JEFF MILLER

Project Name: Intelligence Broadcast Receiver (IBR) for AFSOC MC–130 Aircraft

Account: PDW

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: DRS Technologies

Address of Requesting Entity: 651 Anchors St., Fort Walton Beach, FL 32548

Description of Request: $1,000,000—Intelligence Broadcast Receiver (IBR) for AFSOC MC–130 Aircraft, DRS Technologies. I requested these funds to procure equipment that provides Air Force Special Operations Command (AFSOC) MC–130 Combat Shadow aircraft with vastly improved situational awareness in high threat arenas. These aircraft provide clandestine or low visibility, low level missions into denied areas to provide support to

small SOF ground teams as well as to provide air refueling for specialized infiltration aircraft. This equipment provides real time information to include; immediate intelligence, Blue Force tracking (friendly units), and survivor information, greatly improving mission success and survivability.

The entity to receive funding for this project is DRS Technologies located at 651 Anchors St., Fort Walton Beach, FL 32548. I certify that neither I nor my spouse has any financial interest in this project. Consistent with the Republican Leadership's policy on earmarks, I hereby certify that this request (1) is not directed to any entity or program named after a sitting Member of Congress; (2) is not intended for a "front" or "pass through" entity; and (3) meets or exceeds all statutory requirements for matching funds where applicable.

Requesting Member: Congressman JEFF MILLER

Project Name: Joint Gulf Complex Test and Training

Account: RDDW

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Boeing

Address of Requesting Entity: 634 Anchors St. NW., Fort Walton Beach, FL 32548

Description of Request: $3,000,000—Joint Gulf Complex Test and Training, Boeing. I requested these funds to provide critical training and mission rehearsal for Iraq and Afghanistan deployments. The range must accommodate requirements for joint testing of weapons systems that are revolutionary in nature and being developed for the War, on Terrorism. The Joint Gulf Range must accommodate critical joint training requirements specifically in support of U.S. Air Force Special Operations Command and U.S. Special Operations Command.

The entity to receive funding for this project is Boeing located at 634 Anchors St. NW., Fort Walton Beach, FL 32548. I certify that neither I nor my spouse has any financial interest in this project. Consistent with the Republican Leadership's policy on earmarks, I hereby certify that this request (1) is not directed to any entity or program named after a sitting Member of Congress; (2) is not intended for a "front" or "pass through" entity; and (3) meets or exceeds all statutory requirements for matching funds where applicable.

A TRIBUTE RECOGNIZING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FOUNDING OF OUR LADY OF PERPETUAL HELP CATHOLIC CHURCH IN DOWNEY

HON. LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 8, 2009

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 100th anniversary of the founding of Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish, the first Catholic church established in the City of Downey in the 34th Congressional District.

From its initial opening as St. Anthony's Church with just a few families in 1909, Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish today boasts a membership of approximately 3,500 families. The church also educates 290 students in grades K–8 at its Our Lady of Perpetual Help School, which opened more than 60 years ago in 1948.

Under its guiding mission to "proclaim our love for God through social justice outreach," the church's involvement in the community extends well beyond religious services. Each year, Our Lady of Perpetual Help parishioners join together to help out with a wide range of community activities, including cleaning up around railroad tracks as part of "Keep Downey Beautiful," building houses with Habitat for Humanity, and participating in the Arc of Southeast Los Angeles County walk to raise funds for the organization that provides opportunities for people with intellectual and other developmental disabilities.

In celebration of the church's centennial milestone, Cardinal Roger Mahony, Archbishop of Los Angeles, will preside over an outdoor Mass in the Marian Courtyard on the grounds of Our Lady of Perpetual Help School on Sunday, September 20.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me along with Cardinal Roger Mahony and the parishioners of Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church in celebrating the parish's 100 years of service to its members and the community. I would also like to submit for the RECORD the church's detailed historical overview of this parish that today stands as a spiritual home for so many Downey families.

A HISTORY OF OUR LADY OF PERPETUAL HELP CATHOLIC CHURCH

The 100 year history of the growth and development of Our Lady of Perpetual Help Catholic Church closely parallels that of Downey and all of Southern California. Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church, which began as St. Anthony Church, grew from a scattering of Catholic families in a small mission church into a large and vigorous Catholic community whose original parish was sectioned off to aid in the establishment of 5 additional parishes.

Late in 1907 Downey area Catholics, numbering about 100, sent a petition to the Bishop requesting that mass be held there on a regular basis. Bishop Thomas Conaty, in response to their plea, arranged to have a priest say mass at Mannings Hall in Downey every Sunday morning.

In preparation for the construction of Downey's first Catholic Church, property was purchased on May 23, 1908. It was described as "a triangular lot bounded on the east by Crawford Street (Downey Avenue), on the south by Fifth Street and on the west by New Street." The following year a small frame church named in honor of St. Anthony was built on this property facing Fifth Street. The church was blessed by Fr. McGrath, pastor of St. Aloysius, in September, 1909 and dedicated by Bishop Conaty in 1911.

At the time of its dedication, St. Anthony parish boundaries extended from the Los Angeles River on the west to the San Gabriel River on the east, from just south of Slauson Avenue along the Pacific Electric tracks on the north, to Imperial Highway on the south.

St. Anthony Church continued as a mission of St. Aloysius Church until 1913 when its first resident pastor, Rev. Bartholomew O'Rorke was appointed. He was succeeded by Rev. Thomas Blackwell who remained pastor until 1918. From 1918 to 1921, Dominican Fathers served in the parish. The Redemptorist Fathers, who were assigned to St. Anthony Church from April, 1921 to mid–1922, were responsible for changing the name of the Church to Our Lady of Perpetual Help.

In 1929, ground was broken just north of the existing frame church for a new larger church with a seating capacity of 450. Bishop John Cantwell officiated at the solemn dedication of the new church on Sunday, January 25, 1931.

A period of tremendous growth throughout Southern California began in the 1940s during and following World War H. With the great increase in the number of parishioners, the church was enlarged in the early 1950s.

The Whittier Narrows earthquake in 1987 caused severe damage to the original portion of the Church and it was declared unsafe for occupancy. Following feasibility studies and a parish survey, the church was restored with certain alterations. The older portion of the church was razed and an entirely new section was built onto the remaining portion of the church. The church construction was completed in 1992.

Today, under the spiritual direction of Pastor Mark Warnstedt and Associate Pastor Vivian Ben Lima, parishioners attend services—in English and Spanish—in keeping with its fitting centennial theme to "remember, rejoice, and renew."

HONORING MIKE PURL

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 8, 2009

Mr. RADANOVICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend and congratulate Mike Purl upon being named by the Madera District Chamber of Commerce as a 2009 Lifetime Achievement Award Honoree. Mr. Purl was recognized on Wednesday, August 26, 2009 at the Fifth Annual Lifetime Achievement Awards and Installation Dinner.

Mike Purl was born and raised in Madera, California. He graduated from Madera Union High School and earned his Bachelor's Degree in Communications from Fresno State. During his college years, he began to work at KFSN channel 30, the local ABC affiliate and had a part-time job in radio. Mr. Purl continued to work for KFSN for ten years as a producer and director of news programs. In 1984, he took over the family business, Purl's Sheet Metal, and has been managing the company since that time.

Mr. Purl has always been an active member in the community. He was involved with many activities that involved his children, including the Boy Scouts of America, Eagle Scouts, Future Farmers of America and 4–H. He is also involved with the Kiwanis Club of Madera, where he served as president from 1989 to 1990. Mr. Purl served on the board for Campfire USA, is involved with the Madera County Historical Society, Madera Method Wagon Train, Children's Hospital Central California, Madera Community Hospital and Madera County Arts Council.

Madera has always been home to Mr. Purl and his family. He loves the small town feel that Madera has still today. Mr. Purl and his wife, Mickie, have three daughters, one son and seven grandchildren.

Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend and congratulate Mike Purl upon being honored as the Madera Chamber of Commerce 2009 Lifetime Achievement Award Honoree. I invite my colleagues to join me in wishing Mr. Purl many years of continued success.

THE RECOGNITION OF 25 YEARS OF SERVICE AWARDS FOR EMPLOYEES OF THE OFFICERS AND INSPECTOR GENERAL OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

HON. ROBERT A. BRADY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 8, 2009

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, as I did last year, I rise today to congratulate and recognize outstanding employees of the Officers (Clerk of the House, Sergeant at Arms, and Chief Administrative Officer) and Inspector General of the U.S. House of Representatives who have reached the milestone of 25 years of service to the U.S. House of Representatives.

Our most important asset in the House is our dedicated employees, and their work, often behind the scenes, is vital in keeping the operations and services of the House running smoothly and efficiently. The employees we recognize today are acknowledged and commended for their hard work, dedication, and support of House Members, their staffs and constituents, and for their contributions day-in and day-out to the overall operations of the House. These employees have a wide range of responsibilities that support the legislative process, assure the security of the institution, and maintain our technology and service infrastructure. They have accomplished a great many things in a wide range of activities, and the House of Representatives and its Members, staff, and the general public, are better served because of them. The individuals we honor today have collectively provided 225 years of service to the U.S. House of Representatives:

Tina M. Agee, Office of the Chief Administrative Officer; Peter L. Baer, Office of the Chief Administrative Officer; Joseph M. Dean, Office of the Chief Administrative Officer; Alan Deluca, Office of the Chief Administrative Officer; Patrick T. Kenealy, Office of the Chief Administrative Officer; John A. King, Office of the Chief Administrative Officer; Patricia A. Mattimore, Office of the Chief Administrative Officer; Thoa N. Nguyen, Office of the Chief Administrative Officer; Charles D. Woodson, Office of the Chief Administrative Officer.

On behalf of the entire House community, I extend congratulations and once again recognize and thank these employees for their commitment to the U.S. House of Representatives as a whole, and to their respective House Officers and Inspector General in particular. Their long hours and hard work are invaluable, and their years of unwavering service, dedication, and commitment to the House set an example for their colleagues and other employees who will follow in their footsteps. I celebrate our honorees, and I am proud to stand before you and the nation on their behalf to recognize the importance of their public service.

HONORING DICK JOHNSON

HON. MIKE PENCE

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 8, 2009

Mr. PENCE. Madam Speaker, I rise today with a heavy heart to pay tribute to a dear friend and to honor the memory of a great man who will long be remembered in Columbus and across the State of Indiana as a business and community leader.

For years, Dick Johnson was regarded as a role model in the business community of eastern Indiana. Dick will be remembered for his willingness to share in his successes with others; he will undoubtedly be missed by his wonderful family, but also all those whose lives he touched.

Dick Johnson was born on November 25, 1932 in Fort Wayne, Indiana to Samuel Gideon and Jessie Loomis Johnson. Dick spent his youth in Fort Wayne before graduating from the Indiana University School of Business in 1955.

At IU, Dick showed the promise of a young man committed to honesty and integrity that would be fulfilled each day of his life. Dick earned the nickname ''honest Abe'' and was elected president of his fraternity, Sigma Alpha Epsilon.

Dick also demonstrated his love for country, completing ROTC training and serving as a Lieutenant in the U.S. Army from 1955–1957.

Dick began his business career in 1957 when he purchased a Shell Oil distributorship which would become the Johnson Oil Company. Dick's business acumen was evident as the company grew and diversified under his leadership.

In 1981, Johnson Oil Company opened its first convenience store in Nashville, Indiana. Now the Bigfoot Food Store chain operates more than 200 locations in Indiana, Kentucky, and Illinois.

Dick was often recognized for his leadership in the business community, serving as President of the Indiana Oil Marketers Association and on the National Distributor Council for Shell Oil. He was also honored as the 1988 Columbus Small Business Person of the Year, the 1994 IU Distinguished Entrepreneur and the 2000 Ernst and Young Entrepreneur of the Year.

Dick Johnson will always be remembered for what he accomplished in the business world, but those closest to him also know of a kind-hearted man with a commitment to his community.

He chaired the Columbus Front Door Committee and served as the president of many organizations over the years including the Columbus Chamber of Commerce, the Heritage Fund of Bartholomew County, the Columbus Economic Development Board, and the Columbus Regional Hospital Foundation.

Dick and his beloved wife Ruth were also significant philanthropists, donating to causes such as the Columbus Area Arts Council and the Columbus Senior Citizens Center.

As a proud graduate of Indiana University, Dick was so very proud of his founding sponsorship of the Johnson Center for Entrepreneurship and Innovation at the Kelley School of Business.

I first came to know Dick Johnson as a respected competitor of my father in the business world. Then, as now, Dick Johnson was admired for his devotion to his faith, his family, his business acumen and his unblemished reputation for integrity.

Dick Johnson was a public man who saw business as a means to improve his community, his state, his university and his nation.

To his loving wife Ruth, his children and entire family I offer my deepest condolences and prayer that they may be comforted with the faith we share.

Columbus and Indiana have lost a giant and I have lost a cherished mentor and friend.

HONORING KENNETH TAYLOR

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 8, 2009

Mr. RADANOVICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Kenneth ''Kenny'' Taylor upon being named by the Madera District Chamber of Commerce as a 2009 Lifetime Achievement Award, Memorial Honoree. The life of Mr. Taylor will be honored on Wednesday, August 26, 2009 at the Fifth Annual Lifetime Achievement Awards and Installation Dinner.

Mr. Kenny Taylor was born at Dearborn Hospital in Madera, California, to Minnie and Marie Taylor. He graduated from Madera High School in 1968. He attended Fresno City College, and in 1970 joined the family business, Taylor Insurance; he later bought the company from his father. Throughout his career he was a trusted and respected professional. Mr. Taylor treated his business and customers with unquestionable integrity.

Mr. Taylor was proud of his community and Madera High School. He was a member of Saint Joachim's Church, the 20/30 Club, Exchange Club, Kiwanis Club, Madera Babe Ruth, Madera Elks Lodge, Fresno/Madera Basque Club, and Madera Golf and Country Club. While active with the Exchange Club, Mr. Taylor created the ''Boy of the Month Award'' to recognize the all-around achievement of senior high school students in Madera. When the Exchange Club closed its doors, Mr. Taylor joined the Kiwanis Club and brought the award with him; he funded the program out of his own pocket. He attended as many Madera High sporting events as possible; he coached baseball and played golf. Once, Mr. Taylor attended a Madera High cross country meet and realized many of the athletes did not have proper shoes. Without a word, or attention brought to the situation, those athletes had new shoes provided to them at no cost. That was the kind of person he was.

Madam Speaker, I rise today to posthumously honor the life of Kenny Taylor upon being named the Madera Chamber of Commerce 2009 Lifetime Achievement Award Memorial Honoree. I invite my colleagues to join me in honoring Mr. Taylor's life and best wishes for his family.

TRIBUTE TO WEST MORGAN HIGH SCHOOL

HON. PARKER GRIFFITH

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 8, 2009

Mr. GRIFFITH. Madam Speaker, Mr. ADERHOLT and I rise today to recognize the Lady Rebels of West Morgan High School in Trinity, Alabama. In May, West Morgan's softball team captured the first Alabama State Championship for West Morgan in 42 years of athletic competition.

West Morgan High School has always upheld the highest standards of excellence in all its endeavors, and this team of outstanding athletes is no exception.

We commend the leadership of Principal Billy Hopkins and Coaches Keith Harris, Alesha Hutto, and Kenda Bradford on their successful careers with West Morgan High, and we look forward to the continuation of a tradition of solid and consistent performance in both academics and athletics.

Madam Speaker, we congratulate each member of the dedicated Lady Rebels softball team—Hannah Harris; Haley Willingham; Madison Jones; Whitlee Potter; Hayden Hamby; Britanny Thompson; Ashley Hooper; Rachel Harbin; Brilley Stephenson; Hallie Cunningham; Lauren Seibert; Hannah Amos; Hannah Draper; Heather Amos; Mary Kelley; Chelsea Boston; Delissa Tidwell; Baylee Carpenter; Mikinzie Steele; Ashley Crow; Jamie Rohr; Katie Brazier; Alexis Casteel; Kimberlee Denard; Bari Jones; Kristen Parrish—and their staff for their commitment to achieving this championship.

IN HONOR OF RON SARGENT

HON. DONALD M. PAYNE

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 8, 2009

Mr. PAYNE. Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues here in the House of Representatives to join me as I rise to extend warm greetings and offer my congratulations to Ron Sargent as he retires from the YMCA Retirement Fund. When Ron came to the Newark YMCA 40 years ago, I immediately saw his potential. He was eager to do the job as a well prepared and dedicated employee. During his 40 years in various roles with multiple YMCAs, he has been a credit to the YMCA's programs and we owe him our respect and gratitude for a job well done. It was a pleasure for me to personally work with him during his tenure with the YMWCA of Newark and Vicinity.

As Ron Sargent begins a new phase in his life, I want him to know the dedication and commitment he exhibited during his YMCA career will always be appreciated. It takes a special person to contribute to society in the way of YMCA service. Fortunately, while acting in his different capacities, he was able to make a difference in the lives of many through the programs he was involved in and/or instituted. Ron's effectiveness and creativity led to multiple awards being presented to him and his programs were featured in the YMCA Discovery Magazine. His career with the YMCA has certainly been one of accomplishment and leadership by example. As he is feted at a dinner in his honor on July 31, 2009, Ron should know that his many years of service to the YMCA are true testaments of his character and that his significant contributions will never be forgotten.

Madam Speaker, I know my colleagues agree that Ron Sargent has been a true asset to the YMCA and that they join me in wishing him well as he enters his retirement years.

HONORING THE LIFE OF NAOMI DURST BOWDEN

HON. STEPHANIE HERSETH SANDLIN

OF SOUTH DAKOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 8, 2009

Ms. HERSETH SANDLIN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Naomi Jane Durst Bowden.

Mrs. Bowden was born in Custer, South Dakota, on June 13, 1915, and lived there until 1948. She was the daughter of pioneers and a loving mother and homemaker. She moved to Jesup, Georgia in 1948 and was an integral part of the community, serving as a founding member and Lay Leader of the Epworth United Methodist Church. She taught as a substitute teacher in the Jesup schools, and, for a number of years, hosted a women's radio program on WBGR in Jesup. She had six sons, eighteen grandchildren, and twenty-four great grandchildren. Up until a short time before her death, she could name the names of all her grandchildren and great grandchildren—something she routinely did before she fell asleep. At age 93, Naomi Jane Durst Bowden passed away in her sleep on Monday, May 25th in Athens, Georgia.

Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the life and works of Naomi Jane Durst Bowden.

IN TRIBUTE TO THE FOREST COUNTY POTAWATOMI COMMUNITY FOUNDATION'S 20TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. GWEN MOORE

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 8, 2009

Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Forest County Potawatomi Community Foundation. The Forest County Potawatomi Community Foundation was created in 1999 founded on the Potawatomi belief ''to take what we need and give back what we can.''

A review of the history of the Forest County Potawatomi Tribe will help to understand their desire to give back to the community. The tribe was forcibly removed from its homeland, endured strained relationships with governments, and lived in hardship and poverty. They survived by relying upon their internal strength and sharing with each other.

Through its foundation, the Forest County Potawatomi Tribe now provides to others who are struggling in the community. I believe that despite of or rather because of these centuries' old struggles, the Forest County Potawatomi Community Foundation has emerged to reflect their tribal values and beliefs to return assistance to the communities where they live and work. The Forest County Potawatomi Community Foundation supports civic and community projects, such as public health care issues, education, economic development, and the arts. They have funded many different types of organizations ranging from large, well known associations to small grassroots organizations. The foundation meets with any organization that applies for a grant and, if funded, works in partnership with the group to ensure success. The foundation feels each agency it funds allows them to carry on the Potawatomi tradition of ''giving back what we can.''

Now celebrating their 20th Anniversary, the Forest County Potawatomi Community Foundation has delivered over $18 million dollars to more than 250 charities and nonprofit organizations throughout the Greater Milwaukee area. I am grateful for their empathetic spirit of giving.

Madam Speaker for these reasons, I am honored to pay tribute to the Forest County Potawatomi Community Foundation for their support, dedication and service to the people of my district and throughout Wisconsin.

HONORING MRS. MELENA BOGHOSIAN

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 8, 2009

Mr. RADANOVICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of an Armenian Genocide survivor, Mrs. Melena Boghosian. She passed away at her home in Fresno, California at the age of one hundred and three.

A fifty-five year resident of Fresno, California, Mrs. Boghosian was known around the community for her amazing survival story during the First World War, when the Ottoman Turks massacred an estimated 1.5 million Armenians. Born in Erzurum Turkey, she fled her home as a young child after her parents and siblings were murdered, in an attempt by the Ottoman Empire to eliminate any Armenian presence in the area. Missionaries took young Melena to an orphanage in Syria where she lived for several years.

During her stay at the orphanage, Melena began corresponding with her future husband Avedis Gegaregian. At the age of sixteen, she left the orphanage and married Avedis in Beirut, Lebanon. Shortly after they were married, the two traveled by ship to the United States and immigrated through Ellis Island in New York City. Avedis and Melena settled in Camden, New Jersey until Avedis' death in the mid–1950's.

After the death of her first husband, Melena moved to the Central Valley of California, to be closer to family and friends. While living in Fresno, she worked in alterations at Berkeley's Department Store. She later met, and married, her second husband, Nooregan Boghosian, and they lived together until his death. Melena was an active member of the Holy Trinity Armenian Apostolic Church and a life long member of the Armenian Relief Society. She is survived by her daughter Jessy Shahbazian.

Madam Speaker, I stand today to honor the extraordinary life of Mrs. Melena Boghosian. I invite my colleagues to join me in this tribute to this incredible woman, and hope that her legacy lives on for future generations.

HONORING THE RETIREMENT OF NCIS DIRECTOR THOMAS A. BETRO

HON. MICHAEL H. MICHAUD

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 8, 2009

Mr. MICHAUD. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Special Agent Thomas A. Betro, Director of the Naval Criminal Investigative Service, who announced his retirement from that organization in August 2009 after nearly 27 years of highly distinguished service. In addition to his service to NCIS and the nation, Director Betro is among the notable graduates of Colby College, in Waterville, ME.

Mr. Betro joined NCIS in 1982, and during his tenure he has served in a variety of organizational assignments and mission areas, both within the United States and overseas. As a Special Agent, Mr. Betro served overseas in both the Republic of the Philippines and in Iceland. Domestically he held leadership positions in Philadelphia, PA and Newport, RI. He served two separate tours as an NCIS Special Agent Afloat during deployments of the USS *John F. Kennedy* and USS *Enterprise.*

As Deputy Assistant Director, DAD, for Counterintelligence, CI, investigations and operations, Mr. Betro oversaw the development and implementation of the NCIS response to the USS *Cole* bombing, which led to the significant increase of NCIS force protection support to Naval expeditionary forces. Further, he established new criteria for on-the-ground NCIS port visit support, opened new NCIS offices to increase CI support to in-transit units, and greatly expanded counterterrorism, CT, operations for safeguarding naval equities.

In April 2001, Mr. Betro was selected to serve as a Deputy to the National Counterintelligence Executive, NCIX. He later was appointed to the position of National Counterintelligence Executive (Acting) by the NCIX Board of Directors, on behalf of the President of the United States. Mr. Betro was promoted to the Senior Executive Service in March 2002.

Upon returning to NCIS in January 2003, Mr. Betro served as Executive Assistant Director, EAD, for CI until August 2003, when he was promoted to Deputy Director for Operations, DDO. During his time as DDO, NCIS established its Contingency Response Field Office, CRFO, located aboard the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center in Brunswick, GA. CRFO trains NCIS personnel to be rapidly deployed globally in support of the NCIS core missions of criminal investigations, counterterrorism investigations and operations, counterintelligence investigations and operations, protective operations, and force protection/antiterrorism operations.

On January 8, 2006 Mr. Betro was appointed Director of NCIS and at that time became the agency's third civilian director. Under Director Betro's leadership, NCIS has filled every validated Combatant Commander request for forces for Iraq, Afghanistan, and the Horn of Africa on a volunteer basis. Since 2002, there have been approximately 700 NCIS personnel that have deployed to the above mentioned locations as well as to Kuwait, Djibouti, Guantanamo Bay, and other sites.

In February 2007, Director Betro established the NCIS Diversity Office, which is charged with developing and sustaining a model program that recognizes the critical role diversity plays in the NCIS global mission. Key functions that are aligned under the Diversity office at NCIS include the Equal Opportunity Program; Alternative Dispute Resolution; Diversity Research and Analysis; and Recruiting Outreach. Through his leadership in action, Director Betro has ensured that diversity awareness is now reflected in all core business functions at NCIS and that NCIS is a model for other agencies to follow.

Mr. Betro has received numerous commendations and awards. He is a recipient of the Presidential Meritorious Executive Rank Award, as well as the Department of the Navy, DON, Distinguished Civilian Service Award and the U.S. Attorney's Award for Outstanding Leadership. He was recognized in 2008 with the Roger W. Jones Award for Executive Leadership and is a prior recipient of the DON Meritorious Civilian Service Award. While assigned to NCIX, he received the National Intelligence Certificate of Distinction and a Meritorious Unit Citation.

In addition to his Bachelor of Arts degree in Government from Colby College, Mr. Betro holds a Master of Arts degree from the Naval War College, where he earned the James Forrestal Award for ''Excellence in Strategy and Force Planning.''

Though he is formally retiring from NCIS, Mr. Betro has accepted a position with an international security firm based in New York.

Madam Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to thank Mr. Betro for his 27 years of outstanding public service and to wish him fair winds and following seas as he begins the next chapter of his life.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE PASSING OF CHARLES SHANKLIN

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 8, 2009

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Charles E. Shanklin, a Northwest Florida community leader who passed away on August 26, 2009. Charles spent his entire life serving his community and family, and I am proud to honor his life of dedication and service.

Charles Shanklin was born in Oak Park, Illinois in 1929. He attended Bowling Green State University and Ohio State University, earning his Juris Doctor in 1952. Charles became a brilliant and outstanding attorney at Baker & Hostetler in Columbus, Ohio, and served as the managing partner. He remained at the firm for thirty-two years. After his retirement from Baker & Hostetler, Charles became the owner and manager of Marion Steel in 1981, where he worked until 1989.

In 1990, Charles purchased Crestview Aerospace in Crestview, Florida. He operated the company as a family business until 2006, when it became a part of the L-3 Communications Corporation. During his years in Northwest Florida, Charles became an integral part of the business and local communities. Over his lifetime, he worked with Bowling Green State University, the Sigma Chi Fraternity organization, the American Bar Association, Urbana University, and the Niceville Exchange Club. Charles was awarded Director Emeritus of Bowling Green in 2009, and the school endowed a meritorious scholarship in his name to recognize excellence in original research by graduate students.

Madam Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, I am privileged to honor Mr. Charles Shanklin. Charles will be remembered by all as loving husband and father, a successful lawyer and businessman, and an important part of our Northwest Florida community. Vicki and I will keep his wife, Bernice, and children, Chuck, John, Tom, Jean, and Ann, in our prayers.

HONORING MARINE LANCE CORPORAL BRIAN K. SCHRAMM

HON. CHRISTOPHER JOHN LEE

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 8, 2009

Mr. LEE of New York. Madam Speaker, it is with great pride that I rise today to honor fallen Marine Brian Schramm, the first resident of the 26th Congressional District to lose his life in Operation Iraqi Freedom.

On June 20, 2009, President Obama signed into law H.R. 1595, legislation renaming the post office at 3245 Latta Road in Greece. New York in honor of Lance Corporal Schramm.

Brian Schramm made the ultimate sacrifice to protect the values that sustain this country—family, community, hard work, and freedom. It is no surprise that one friend of Brian's described him as the ''most genuine person you'd ever meet in your entire life.'' That is why I introduced legislation to rename the post office just a few miles down the road from where Brian grew up in his honor. I am heartened that the people of the Town of Greece will have this opportunity to pay lasting tribute to Brian's life and legacy.

Lance Corporal Schramm was born and raised in the Town of Greece, Brian fulfilled a lifelong dream by signing up for the Marines shortly after graduating from Greece Olympia High School in 2001. On his second tour of Iraq, Marine Lance Corporal Schramm was assigned to the 2nd Assault Amphibian Battalion, 2nd Marine Division, II Marine Expeditionary Force, based out of Camp Lejeune, N.C. On Oct. 15, 2004, he died as a result of enemy action in Babil province, Iraq. He was 22.

Brian is survived by his parents, Keith and Mary Ellen, his older sister, Jennifer, and his two younger brothers, Kyle and Michael. Mary Ellen is a co-founder of the Rochester chapter of Gold Star Mothers.

Madam Speaker, in recognition this selfless individual and brave patriot who gave his life to protect this nation, I ask this Honorable Body to join me in honoring the legacy of Lance Corporal Brian K. Schramm.

H.R. 2014, AWARDING A CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL TO WOMEN AIRFORCE SERVICE PILOTS

HON. CHET EDWARDS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 8, 2009

Mr. EDWARDS of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise as an original co-sponsor of this bill,

which honors a group of courageous women pilots—all of whom earned their wings in Texas. During World War II, Women Airforce Service Pilots, or WASP, were stationed at 2 air bases located in Waco, Texas: Waco Army Air Field and Blackland Army Air Base.

One of the 38 members of WASP who died while flying for their country was killed in Waco while flight-testing a BT–13 to make sure that it had been properly repaired. Bettie Mae Scott was killed on July 8, 1944, her body sent home in a cheap pine box, with not so much as an American flag draping her coffin.

Madam Speaker, my district not only played an important part in the history of the WASP, my district is also the home of WASP Deanie Parrish, a Martin Marauder D–26 pilot, who towed a sleeved target behind her aircraft while a B–24 would pass by and gunnery trainees in the turrets would practice for combat by firing live ammunition, using color coated bullets, at the target.

Wings Across America, founded by Deanie's daughter, Nancy Parrish, located at Baylor University, has played a key role in the creation and implementation of the bill we have before us today. Along with interviewing over 100 WASP, creating the website, ''WASP on the Web,'' founding the National WASP WWII Museum in Sweetwater, Texas in 2003 and creating all the exhibits for the opening of the museum in 2005, successfully nominating the WASP for the Texas Aviation Hall of Fame, and designing and creating the ''Fly Girls of WWII'' WASP exhibit, which is now on display at the Women's Memorial at Arlington, these 2 volunteers have worked tirelessly to educate and inspire America with the history of the WASP.

This bill honors the WASP and place the WASP history in the national spotlight, where I believe it rightly belongs.

HONORING LONG-TIME COMMUNITY ACTIVIST & ADULT EDUCATION ADVOCATE MR. HOWARD RANSOM

HON. JUDY CHU

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 8, 2009

Ms. CHU. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize a great loss to our community, Mr. Howard Ransom Jr., who passed on the morning of July 26, 2009, at the young age of 55. My heart goes out to his wife, Linda; father; brother, Phillip Ransom; sister, Sheila Ransom; a niece; three stepchildren; his grandson, and the rest of his family.

Ransom was an extraordinary citizen, an activist for at-risk youth and disadvantaged adults in the South Los Angeles community for more than 30 years. His volunteerism spans several organizations including the Brotherhood Crusade, Young Foundation and the United Way.

Born on April 4, 1954, in Chicago to Howard Ransom Sr. and Ollie B. (Cooper) Ransom, Howard Jr. was reared in Oakland. He graduated from Oakland High School and went on to receive bachelor degrees in Theatre Art and African American studies at California State University, Hayward.

As an instructor with the Los Angeles Unified School District for over two decades, Ransom was a tenured ''master teacher'' at the Maxine Waters Employment Preparation Center in Watts, where he succeeded in preparing at-risk youth and educating adults in human development and skill enhancement curriculums. He was noted nationwide for his success in preparing students for GED testing.

In 1992, Ransom co-designed a civil service training program that focused on postal employment for the residents of Watts. More than 800 men and women (many on welfare) enrolled in the program during its first year, with 68 percent completing the class and passing the exam with scores in the top percentile.

Ransom received numerous recognitions for his accomplishments, such as ''Educator of the Year'' Award from the Young Center for Academic and Cultural Enrichment, and was chosen as a ''Living History Maker'' by Turning Point Magazine.

I urge all my House colleagues to join me in honoring Mr. Howard Ransom for his remarkable service and contribution to our community. He has made a true impact on the lives of many youth and adults, and will be truly missed.

RECOGNIZING THE EFFORTS OF FORMER PUBLIC CITIZEN PRESIDENT JOAN CLAYBROOK

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 8, 2009

Ms. DELAURO. Madam Speaker, it is with great pleasure I rise to recognize and show my appreciation for Joan Claybrook, the former president of Public Citizen, who recently stepped down after a long career of fighting for consumer safety and social change.

Joan has been an inspiration to me and to countless others on the Hill and around Washington. As a private citizen, as head of the National Highway Traffic Safety Association, and as president of Public Citizen for 27 years, she has been a fearless advocate for American consumers. Every life saved by a shoulder belt or air bag in this country is indebted to Joan's decades of commitment to the issue of auto safety.

Indeed, Joan has been fighting this fight since the beginning. Even before a full career dedicated to protecting American consumers, Joan had worked as a research analyst, congressional fellow, and legislative aide to Sen. Walter Mondale. Then, in 1966, she and Ralph Nader successfully pushed for passage of the nation's first motor safety laws—the Highway Safety Act and the National Traffic and Motor Vehicle Safety Act. Four years later, she began work for Public Citizen, running the organization's Congress Watch division by 1972. After serving as head of the National Highway Traffic Safety Association during the Carter administration, Claybrook returned to Public Citizen. She became president of the organization in 1982, and commenced an impressive 27-year tenure in the post that would be the envy of any advocate or administrator.

Thanks to Joan's efforts, airbags are now standard equipment in all cars sold in the United States, and our government now issues vehicle safety standards that save thousands of lives a year. But safer cars are just the beginning of Joan's contributions to our civic life. Over the years, she has dedicated herself to countless issues of consumer advocacy, public health, and social justice. Day after day, week after week, in good times and bad, Joan has kept unrelenting pressure on companies and elected officials to live up to their public responsibilities. She has strived to make our government more responsive to the needs and aspirations of its citizens. In short, this nation is a safer, fairer, better place because of her efforts.

Although Joan has left Public Citizen, her work and her inspiration goes on. Generations of leaders and activists have looked to her perseverance, her toughness, her smarts, and her compassion as a model for how to get things changed here in Washington. From Ralph Nader to Robert Redford and Jimmy Carter to JOHN MCCAIN, Joan has taught us all so much about what it takes to effect real change.

She has taught us to keep an unyielding idealism about the way things can and should be, and to combine it with an unblinking, no-nonsense understanding of the foibles of Washington and a tough-as-nails approach to pragmatic, consumer-oriented policy-making. And she has always reminded the powerful that the people come first.

Joan has been a model of courage, conviction, independence and ingenuity, one to which we all aspire. I am so proud of all she has accomplished, which is why I rise to thank her.

THE LOSS OF JEANNE MALCHON

HON. KATHY CASTOR

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 8, 2009

Ms. CASTOR of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the death of former Florida State Senator Jeanne Malchon. The state of Florida suffered a great loss on August 23, 2009, when she passed away.

In 1982, she successfully ran for the Florida Senate. My mother, Betty Castor, was serving also in the Senate at that time and remarked on the dedication and fervor she had for bettering the lives of Floridians. Senator Malchon pledged to strengthen social services for the elderly and poor and promoted concern for environmental causes. She sponsored the 1985 Florida Clean Indoor Air Act, which prevented smoking in shared public areas. Senator Malchon also successfully raised the penalties for driving under the influence, increased funding for teen runaway shelters, and raised standards which required employers to report toxic chemicals that were used in the work place.

Senator Malchon's was known amongst her peers in the Florida Senate as a smart and candid legislator who got things done. She was said to be so effective because she didn't play political games or allow partisan politics to get in her way. She has been called ''a steady hand in a perilous time.'' Those that knew her can agree that she was an extremely knowledgeable and determined woman.

Jeanne Malchon was a very dedicated individual who helped others even before she became involved with politics. Born in Newark,

New Jersey, she was trained to make mechanical drawings as a draftsman. When her country called during World War II, Senator Malchon became a civilian employee for the Army even though it required her to leave home for Hawaii. In 1952, Senator Malchon and her family moved to St. Petersburg where her political interest and involvement started when she became a lobbyist for the League of Women Voters. She was appointed to a seat on the Pinellas County Commission in 1975.

Madam Speaker, Senator Jeanne Malchon will be greatly missed by the state of Florida. My thoughts are with her family in this time of loss.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. ERIK PAULSEN

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 8, 2009

Mr. PAULSEN. Madam Speaker, pursuant to the Republican standards on member requests, I am submitting the following information regarding congressionally directed appropriations projects I sponsored as part of H.R. 3326, FY 2010 Department of Defense Appropriations bill.

Account: Defense

Amount: $2,000,000

Requesting entity: Minnesota National Guard

Address: 20 West 12th Street, St. Paul, MN 55155

Description of Project Request: Funding will help meet the needs of Beyond the Yellow Ribbon reintegration program for service members, which is implemented across all congressional districts throughout Minnesota and over all phases of the deployment cycle. During FY 2010 the Minnesota National Guard will experience a surge in support requirements as Minnesota soldiers return home from mobilization Funding will be used to support reintegration services for soldiers returning from mobilization, as well as services for family members. Funding will support wounded soldiers, transition events, mental health services, research and additional needs.

I certify that this project does not have a direct and foreseeable effect on the pecuniary interests of me or my spouse.

Account: Army Other Procurement

Amount: $2,360,000

Requesting entity: Minnesota National Guard

Address: 20 West 12th Street, St. Paul, MN 55155

Description of Project Request: Funding will be used for the Minnesota National Guard initiative, Communications Aerial Platforms for Increased Situational Awareness (Phase II), which will provide improved situational awareness to on-scene incident commanders during responses to state emergencies such as floods or other natural disasters. The system provides on-scene communications linking together all response organizations; site command communication, including voice, video, data, and cellular; and real-time streaming data to responders; resulting efficiency saves lives and property.

I certify that this project does not have a direct and foreseeable effect on the pecuniary interests of me or my spouse.

IN HONOR AND RECOGNITION OF THE 68TH BIRTHDAY OF KARL E. PEACE

HON. ROBERT J. WITTMAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 8, 2009

Mr. WITTMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and recognize Dr. Karl E. Peace on the occasion of his 68th birthday.

Dr. Peace is a distinguished scholar and academic in the field of biostatistics and mathematics. Born in southwest Georgia, Dr. Peace attended Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University and Virginia Commonwealth University, receiving his doctorate from the Medical College of Virginia/ Virginia Commonwealth University in 1976.

Dr. Peace has authored eight books, received numerous awards and contributed to a variety of publications and peer reviews in the field of biostatistics, mathematics, drug development and public health policy. He has held professorships at several colleges including Randolph-Macon College and Virginia Commonwealth University. Dr. Peace is currently the Georgia Cancer Coalition Distinguished Cancer Scholar, Founder of the Center for Biostatistics, professor of biostatistics and senior research scientist in the Jiann-Ping Hsu College of Public at Georgia Southern University.

Dr. Peace has been a member of several professional and honorary societies including the Committee on Applied and Theoretical Statistics, the National Research Council and the National Academy of Science. In 1994, Dr. Peace founded the Biopharmaceutical Applied Statistics Symposium to provide a forum for pharmaceutical and medical researchers and regulators to share timely and pertinent information concerning the application of biostatistics in the pharmaceutical field. Dr. Peace is the founding editor of the Journal of Biopharmaceutical Statistics and reviewer and editor of several additional journals including the American Statistical Association, Communications in Statistics, the Journal of the American Medical Association and the American Journal of Gastroenterology.

Dr. Peace has a dedicated record of philanthropy to education. He has created twenty-one endowments at five institutions including three at his alma mater, the Medical College of Virginia and one at Randolph-Macon College. He endowed the Jiann-Ping Hsu College of Public Health, the first school of public health in the U GA System. His endowments have enabled hundreds of students to complete their undergraduate or graduate degrees. Dr. Peace has generously donated time and resources to organizations such as the American Cancer Society, the Georgia Cancer Coalition, the Southeast Georgia Cancer Alliance and the Southwest Georgia Cancer Coalition that are dedicated to cancer research, treatments and cures.

Madam Speaker, I am honored today to recognize Dr. Peace in celebration of his 68th birthday. I hope the year to come will bring him health, happiness and special times with family and friends.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF JEAN FRUCI

HON. BART GORDON

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 8, 2009

Mr. GORDON of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the service of a valued staff member of the Committee on Science and Technology, Jean Fruci.

Jean has served on the Committee staff since July 1995. In 2007, she became Staff Director for the Subcommittee on Energy and Environment, which handles issues related to U.S. energy policy and environmental science. It oversees civilian R&D programs within the Department of Energy; R&D programs at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, including climate, weather, and ocean research; and research at the Environmental Protection Agency. Prior to joining the Committee, she worked as a Legislative Assistant to Rep. George E. Brown (D–CA) in the areas of agriculture, resource management, energy, and the environment.

Since becoming Staff Director, Jean has played a pivotal role in several of the Committee's key pieces of legislation including the Energy Independence and Security Act, the America COMPETES Act, and the National Climate Service Act.

Jean's expertise is unmatched, especially in environmental research and development, and weather and climate monitoring. She is a scientist at her core—she holds a Ph.D. in soil science from Cornell University—but she also can effortlessly negotiate the intricacies of policy and government agencies. She is an invaluable resource to Members and a mentor to the people working under her.

Madam Speaker, Jean's service, expertise, and institutional knowledge has made her a valued member of the Committee staff. I know that all of the Science and Technology Committee's Members and staff wish her well with the next phase of her life and career. In closing, I just want to say thank you, Jean, for your many years of dedicated and loyal service. We will miss you, and we hope that our paths cross again in the future.

RECOGNIZING STEVE MOSES

HON. MIKE QUIGLEY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 8, 2009

Mr. QUIGLEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the long and distinguished career of Mr. Steve Moses. Mr. Moses retired on August 28, 2009 after working for the Federal Government since he was 35.

For the past twelve years, Mr. Moses has served as the Chicago Passport Agency's Customer Service Manager and Congressional Liaison. Since he began, his duties have grown from helping 250 Passport Acceptance Facilities in the Chicago Passport Region (Illinois and Michigan) to over 950. His office expanded from a one person operation to the recent addition of a night-shift Customer Service Manager along with a team of two passport specialists and a customer service assistant.

The increased workload did not dampen his bright attitude, however. Mr. Moses consistently does all he can to solve passport problems and ensure positive outcomes. Over the years, he has proven to be a model government employee, and he will be missed.

Madam Speaker, I congratulate Steve Moses for his lengthy and influential career, and thank him for his many outstanding contributions to the city of Chicago. I wish him the best of luck and continued happiness in his retirement and all his future endeavors.

HONORING WILLIAM A. LAMARCH, U.P. VETERAN OF THE YEAR

HON. BART STUPAK

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 8, 2009

Mr. STUPAK. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor a constituent who has distinguished himself both in service to his country and to his community. Mr. William A. LaMarch has been named "Upper Peninsula Veteran of the Year" by the U.P. Veterans Committee. It is an honor befitting the dedication and patriotism Mr. LaMarch embodied both in the Armed Forces and in civilian life.

Mr. LaMarch, a resident of Escanaba, Michigan, is a decorated Marine who served his country with honor. In 1961, Mr. LaMarch received the Good Conduct Medal, awarded to enlisted members of the military who complete three consecutive years of honorable and faithful service. Mr. LaMarch also received two Meritorious Mast Awards, first in 1961 and again in 1963.

After being discharged from the U.S. Marine Corps, Mr. LaMarch continued to build a legacy of service. He is currently serving as commander of American Legion Post #82, and is a life member of AmVets #123 and of Marine Corps League #444. He can be heard calling bingo at the V.A. Hospital in Iron Mountain, a position he has held for eight years. He has also served as the finance officer of Post #82, a member of the Marine Corps League Funeral Honor Guard and the Delta County Veterans Council Funeral Honor Guard.

Mr. LaMarch has also played a vigorous role in the community beyond his extensive activities as a dedicated veteran. He served six years on the City of Escanaba Board of Review and volunteers for the Salvation Army as a bell ringer, food bank, and basket worker. He is also a member of the Fraternal Order of the Eagles and the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks.

William A. LaMarch is one of the driving forces behind the U.P. Whitetails Association and the highly successful Delta County Wildlife Unlimited.

Over the years, Mr. LaMarch's accomplishments and devotion to his community have been recognized with numerous awards and recognitions. He has been named Legionnaire of the Year, twice named Elk of the Year, and received the Elks Grand Exalted Ruler's Commendation for Excellence. He received the Dan Patch Outstanding Volunteer Award and has been recognized by the Red Cross as a 22 gallon donor.

William LaMarch is a man who understands profoundly the value of service and the responsibility we have to help others. He stands as an example of what it means to be a true American hero, both in battle and within our own communities. His character and his generosity are a shining example of the spirit and strength that have defined the Upper Peninsula throughout its history.

Madam Speaker, William A. LaMarch embodies the words bravery, dignity, and service. He is an individual who has been recognized by his community and his fellow veterans as a leader and a model citizen. With that in mind Madam Speaker, I ask that you, and all of my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives, join me in saluting William A. LaMarch for his lifetime of service and in congratulating him on being awarded U.P. Veteran of the Year.

MOURNING THE DEATH OF SENATOR EDWARD KENNEDY

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 8, 2009

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to express my deep sadness and regret for the passing of Senator EDWARD KENNEDY. The world has lost a tremendous leader and an exceptional spirit. Senator KENNEDY's voice was a unique source of inspiration on the Senate floor, and he will be greatly missed for his public service and work to improve the lives of the less fortunate.

Senator KENNEDY was arguably one of the most influential Senators in United States history. He was an exceptionally accomplished legislator who authored roughly 2,500 pieces of legislation over the course of his 46-year-long career in the United States Senate. More than 300 of Senator KENNEDY's bills went on to become law, and he had a rare ability to reach across party lines in the interest of passing important pieces of legislation. He was always well versed on policy issues and highly prepared for committee hearings and floor debates.

As the Chairman of the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee, Senator KENNEDY courageously led the push to reform our nation's failing health care system. He strongly believed that all Americans deserved to have access to affordable health care options and supported a number of initiatives, including America's Affordable Health Choices Act of 2009. Senator KENNEDY also helped enact the State Children's Health Insurance Program, the Medicare prescription drug benefit, the Ryan White Care Act and the Family Medical Leave Act.

Although health care was Senator KENNEDY's passion, he was also committed to combating discrimination. Even when it was politically unpopular, Senator KENNEDY believed in an America where ethnic minorities and women were treated equally. He supported Title IX, which outlawed discrimination on the basis of sex in institutions of higher education and the renewal of the Voting Rights Act, which banned racially discriminatory voting requirements.

My prayers go out to the Kennedy family in this time of profound grief. I ask my fellow colleagues to join me in remembering the life of a true American hero who dedicated his life to improving the lives of others.

A TRIBUTE TO THE JUNIOR ACHIEVEMENT OF WESTERN KENTUCKY

HON. BRETT GUTHRIE

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 8, 2009

Mr. GUTHRIE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the Junior Achievement of Western Kentucky on their 50th anniversary. This important organization deserves recognition for achieving this milestone.

The Junior Achievement of Western Kentucky was established in July of 1959 and has served over 125,000 students in the last half-century. As a partnership between education and business, Junior Achievement helps students understand the economy and better prepare them for their future.

The Junior Achievement of Western Kentucky should be proud of their contribution to the community. I commend the organization, students, and volunteers on their 50th anniversary.

HONORING MR. JOHN RAILEY

HON. C.A. DUTCH RUPPERSBERGER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 8, 2009

Mr. RUPPERSBERGER. Madam Speaker, I rise before you today to honor Mr. John Railey in recognition of his 50 years of dedicated federal service.

"The fun part of accounting is finding the things that went wrong and figuring out how to fix them." This statement by John Railey summarizes the attitude that has made him an anchor at the Coast Guard Yard in Baltimore, Maryland, where he has served both on the waterfront and in the Fiscal Department for five decades.

A lifelong resident of Baltimore, Mr. Railey began his federal career at the Coast Guard Yard in the Sheet Metal Shop as an apprentice. Upon completion of his apprenticeship program, Mr. Railey excelled as a sheet metal worker. He was selected as the first tradesman at the Yard to be trained to program and operate the first computer-controlled equipment at the Yard. Seeking to become a foreman, Mr. Railey pursued Yard-required management courses at the University of Baltimore. In 1968, Mr. Railey successfully completed his college degree in Business Management.

In 1969, Mr. Railey took a position as a Planner/Scheduler in the Industrial Engineering Division. Interested in learning the business-end of the Yard, he took a position as an Accounting Technician in the Fiscal Department in 1974. With his attention to detail and relentless problem solving skills, Mr. Railey was promoted from an Accounting Technician to an Accountant, where he has excelled as the Yard's expert on the financial administration of Yard Project Orders. Mr. Railey has mentored numerous members of the Fiscal Staff and has assisted scores of project managers in the Industrial Staff. Throughout his tenure with the Coast Guard Yard, he has continued to demonstrate remarkable conscientiousness. Mr. Railey's eagerness to troubleshoot accounting anomalies in any project is inspiring to each and every colleague.

Madam Speaker, I ask that you join with me today to honor Mr. John Railey for achieving a remarkable milestone in his career. His dedication to the Coast Guard, the Coast Guard Yard, and his fellow employees has made him a valuable asset to all throughout his 50 years of devoted service.

HONORING COLONEL MOHAMMED A. ''MO'' KHAN, JR.

HON. SHELLEY MOORE CAPITO

WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 8, 2009

Mrs. CAPITO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Colonel Mohammed A. ''Mo'' Khan, Jr., who accepted command of the 341 Operations Group on May 20 in a change of command ceremony.

Colonel Khan is originally from Ronceverte, West Virginia, born November 5, 1966. After graduation from California Lutheran University in 1988, Colonel Khan received his commission through the University of California at Los Angeles Reserve Officer Training Corps program. Over the past twenty years, Mo has been promoted from Second Lieutenant to the rank of Colonel. Upon accepting command of the 341st OG, Colonel Khan stated his three main priorities, which are to do your absolute very best at all times; to take care of each other and your families; and to give freely of yourself, both on and off base. It is because of these values that Mo has advanced so far and received so many decorations, including the Meritorious Service Medal with three Oak Leaf Clusters, Air Force Commendation Medal, Combat Readiness Medal with Oak Leaf Cluster, and National Defense Service Medal with Star Device.

Early in his Air Force career, Colonel Khan served a variety of positions in a missile combat crew, advancing to squadron, group and wing level positions. In 2002, Colonel Khan assumed command of the 564th Missile Squadron where he led over 200 operations. His extensive operations experience led to several positions at the Pentagon in the space operations division, where until March of 2008 he held the title of director of space operations. Most recently, he was chief of the space superiority division before assuming command of the 341st Operations Group.

It is an honor to recognize Colonel Mohammed A. ''Mo'' Khan, Jr.—he is a man that represents the best of West Virginia. I would like to congratulate him for his invaluable service to the Air Force. I know his wife, Lisa, and two children, Mo III and Simeon, are extremely proud.

THANKING KAREN WESS FOR HER SERVICE TO THE HOUSE

HON. ROBERT A. BRADY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 8, 2009

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, on the occasion of her retirement on August 7, 2009 we rise to thank Mrs. Karen Wess for her seventeen years of distinguished service to the United States House of Representatives. Karen has served this great institution as a valued employee of House Information Resources (HIR), in the Office of the Chief Administrative Officer (CAO).

Karen began her tenure with the United States House of Representatives in 1992 as a Systems Programmer working with the mainframe Customer Information Control System (CICS) transaction services. Her technical expertise in the delivery of mainframe CICS transaction services led to Karen being selected to work on a team tasked with the initiative to combine several disparate e-mail systems into an efficient and sustainable enterprise e-mail system for the House. Karen has been involved with the House e-mail systems since their early inception and has helped to make them the mission-critical service the House relies on today. Karen applied her leadership abilities to help deploy an anti-spam component for the House e-mail service and currently serves as a Senior Systems Engineer in the CAO's HIR Enterprise Technology Systems Branch.

Karen has been one of the primary engineers providing the House's Internet e-mail functionality. She has acted as a technical liaison between the House, other legislative organizations, and government agencies in the field of e-mail connectivity. She has provided consulting services to House customers, internal and external, making the delivery of House e-mail systems the success they are today.

On behalf of the entire House community, we extend congratulations to Karen for her many years of dedication and outstanding contributions to the United States House of Representatives.

HONORING ROSS THORNTON

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 8, 2009

Mr. RADANOVICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend and congratulate Ross Thornton upon being named by the Madera District Chamber of Commerce as a 2009 Lifetime Achievement Award Honoree. Mr. Thornton will be recognized on Wednesday, August 26, 2009 at the Fifth Annual Lifetime Achievement Awards and Installation Dinner.

Ross Thornton was born in Tulsa, Oklahoma. In May 1964, Mr. Thornton moved to Madera, California to become the voice behind the mic at KHOT radio, a local radio station. In 1967, he went to work for CalFarm Insurance, and two years later made a career change into the medical supply business. In 1986, Mr. Thornton moved back into the insurance profession with Foster and Parker Insurance; where he still works today.

Mr. Thornton has had a very successful career in the insurance industry. He was named ''Trustee of the Year'' in 2001 and ''Agent of the Year'' in 2003 by the National Association of Insurance and Financial Advisors. He is as successful in his commitment to the community as he is in his profession. Mr. Thornton is a long time member of the Madera Chamber of Commerce, where he has served on several committees, including the Ambassador Corps and the Mayor's Prayer Breakfast Committee. He has been a member of the Madera Sunrise Rotary for twenty-nine years and has maintained perfect attendance. He is the past-president of the Make-A-Wish Foundation, where he also served on the board from 1986 through 1996. Mr. Thornton served on the Board of Directors of Madera Community Hospital from 1988 through 1994. He served for nine years with Valley Public Television Board, a seventeen year board member of the Darin Camarena Health Clinics, served as a Trustee of the National Association of Insurance and Financial Advisors at the state level and is past-president of the Fresno area Chapter. He is a current member of the Madera Elks, President of the Board of Directors for Sherman Thomas Charter School and Vice-President of Valley West Christian Center Board of Directors. For twenty-five years, he has served as a Speech Judge for the Madera Scholastic Decathlon. Mr. Thornton was appointed to the Planning Commission for the City of Madera and continues to serve in this civic capacity. For his dedicated service to the community, Mr. Thornton has been honored by being named the 1998–99 Citizen of the Year by the Madera Elks and the Madera Hispanic Chamber's Businessman of the Year in 1998.

Mr. Thornton has three sons and three grandchildren. His mother, Alberta, is ninety-six years old and lives with him and his wife Barbara, who has a son, a daughter and four grandchildren.

Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend and congratulate Ross Thornton upon being honored as the Madera Chamber of Commerce 2009 Lifetime Achievement Award Honoree. I invite my colleagues to join me in wishing Mr. Thornton many years of continued success.

HONORING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE MANISTIQUE ELKS TEMPLE

HON. BART STUPAK

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 8, 2009

Mr. STUPAK. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize the Manistique Elks Lodge #632 on the 100th Anniversary of the group's landmark building. The Manistique Elks Temple was built in 1909 and continues to be a source of pride for the community and a unique venue for activities including civic events, receptions and patriotic ceremonies. The building has seen both high times and low times, but throughout its 100 years of existence it has touched nearly every person in the Manistique community in some way or another.

Visitors to the Temple step onto a sweeping front porch and through grand pillars to enter the building. Once inside they look up to the ornate ceiling of stamped tin, richly painted with gold filigree and accented in burgundy and hunter green. They walk across hardwood floors that are a testament to the timber industry that has helped sustain the city of Manistique throughout the years. The sun shines through newly restored windows to create a bright atmosphere. It is a place that echoes the natural beauty found throughout Manistique and Michigan's Upper Peninsula.

While so many buildings from the beginning of the 20th century have been destroyed or replaced, the Elks Temple continues to stand

proudly in the center of downtown. Throughout the years the Temple has undergone significant renovations. Its first renovation was in 1927 when new lighting fixtures and a new kitchen were added. In 1939 two new bowling alleys were installed. The bowling alleys were updated again in 1962, 1981, and in 2002. The Temple suffered a serious fire in 2005, only three years after extensive renovations were completed. Once again members were determined to restore the building to greatness.

Each time the Temple has been faced with adversity, members of Lodge #632 have banded together to invest in and restore the beauty and functionality of this local gem. The Temple is a symbol of the perseverance and spirit of the residents of Manistique. Whether hosting an annual graduation party, traditional fish and steak dinners, or community functions such as the local Chamber of Commerce banquet, the Manistique Elks Temple is a place that brings members of the community together and strengthens local ties.

Madam Speaker, members of Elks Lodge #632 have shown continued support for the city of Manistique and its residents. Their willingness to open the Manistique Elks Temple for community use and their years of dedication to maintaining and improving this historic building is a testament to the organization's long tradition of community pride. Madam Speaker, I ask that you and the entire U.S. House of Representatives join me in congratulating Elks Lodge #632 on the Centennial of the Elks Temple as well as thanking members for their active involvement in preserving this Manistique landmark.

HONORING THE LIFE AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF DR. H. DOUGLAS LEE

HON. JOHN L. MICA

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 8, 2009

Mr. MICA. Madam Speaker, on August 25th, Florida lost one of its great leaders in education with the passing of recently retired Stetson University President H. Douglas Lee.

Not only was Dr. Lee recognized for his outstanding leadership and dedication to Stetson, he was also well known for his contributions to community, state and nation. It was an honor and privilege to know Doug and his wife of 44 years, Margaret, and to call them wonderful friends.

In his 22 years as President, Doug worked on countless projects to enhance the educational opportunities at Stetson. Most recently, I had the privilege to work with Doug in the renovation of Sage Hall.

In 2007, Doug came to me and shared his vision for renovating Stetson's Sage Hall to strengthen the science curriculum at the University. Through private fundraising, federal support and an enormous amount of dedication, Doug saw this project through to completion. The Sage Hall project, a 20,000 square foot addition with new science equipment, was completed and rededicated earlier this year, and will remain a testament to Doug's commitment to quality education.

To Doug's wife Margaret; his son Gregory Lee and wife Lara; daughter Elizabeth Lee Williamson and husband Heath; grandsons Parker Lee, Grayson Lee and Ayers Williamson; granddaughters Maggie Williamson and Piper Williamson; father, Dr. Howard Lee; brother David Lee and wife Ethel and their children and grandchildren; sister-in-law Sarah Easley Drummond and her children and grandchildren; and brother-in-law, Charles Easley III and wife Claudia and their children; we extend our deepest condolences.

Doug truly made an indelible mark on education in Florida and the United States. In our community, he always stressed integrity, compassion and public service, and through that principled dedication he leaves a proud and distinguished legacy. Madam Speaker, I ask all Members of the U.S. House of Representatives join me in recognizing Dr. H. Douglas Lee's contributions to higher education and a life commitment to making Stetson University the great institution it is today.

RECOGNIZING THE 60TH ANNIVERSARY OF CHRIST CHURCH

HON. MARSHA BLACKBURN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 8, 2009

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Christ Church, of Nashville, Tennessee, which will be celebrating its 60th anniversary on Sunday, September 13.

From humble beginnings in 1950, Pastor L.H. Hardwick has led, nurtured, and grown this fine congregation into one of Nashville's leading churches. With over 3500 members, Christ Church impacts the entire Middle Tennessee region through its wide array of community involvement. One small example is the church's activity center, which includes fitness facilities and an indoor playground. Rather than restricting access to the church's members, the activity center is open to both friends and neighbors to utilize.

I am awed by the personal commitment Pastor Hardwick has demonstrated through his service to Christ Church. When one considers the many changes that have occurred in our country over the past sixty years, Pastor Hardwick's continuous service is real inspiration.

Please join me in honoring 60 years of Christ Church's past, and celebrating the next 60 years of Christ Church's future.

HONORING THE MEMORY OF JAMES C. VAN ANTWERP, JR.

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 8, 2009

Mr. BONNER. Madam Speaker, the city of Mobile recently lost a dear friend, and I rise today to honor him and pay tribute to his memory.

James Callanan Van Antwerp Jr. was a remarkable businessman, active citizen and committed U.S. Naval officer. He will be remembered as a man devoted to his family, his Catholic faith, his country and his community.

After graduating from Murphy High School in 1940, Jim attended the U.S. Naval Academy and served in the Pacific, Far East, Atlantic and Mediterranean. He became an instructor at Auburn University's Naval ROTC Unit and then served as commander of the Naval Reserve base in Mobile.

Jim worked as an independent insurance agent before he began running the family business, Van Antwerp Realty Corp., in the 1950s. He was active in the Mobile business community, serving as a member of the Mobile Area Chamber of Commerce and as the president of both the Mobile Real Estate Association and the Mobile Association of Independent Insurance Agents.

Jim also played an active role in city government. He served as director of the executive committee of Downtown Mobile Unlimited and of the Mobile City Planning Commission. He was also the former chairman of the First Congressional District Committee and the Mobile Republican Executive Committee.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in remembering a dedicated and generous community leader and a dear friend to many. Mr. James Van Antwerp will be deeply missed by his family—his wife, Margaret; his children, James Callahan Van Antwerp III, Elizabeth Van Antwerp Reasonover, and John David Van Antwerp; his brother, Daniel Janse Van Antwerp; and his seven grandchildren—as well as his many friends and colleagues.

Our thoughts and prayers are with his family at this difficult time.

RECOGNIZING MATTHEW TRAVIS TERRELL

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 8, 2009

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Matthew Terrell of Liberty, Missouri. Matthew is 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, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Matthew has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Matthew has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Matthew Terrell for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

ROBERT T. CONNOR

HON. MICHAEL E. McMAHON

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 8, 2009

Mr. MCMAHON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge, congratulate and celebrate the life of former Staten Island Borough President Robert T. Connor, Sr.

For over fifty years, Robert Connor served his country and his community through the military and our civic institutions. From the

United States Navy, to the Central Intelligence Agency to Borough Hall, Robert Connor could always be found protecting and promoting the interests of the United States and Staten Island.

After attending Boston College and the U.S. Naval Academy, he was commissioned as an Ensign in the Navy in November 1940 and served on active duty throughout WWII, seeing action in both the Pacific and the Atlantic Theatres.

After the war, Connor entered the Central Intelligence Agency as an Operations Officer and was stationed at headquarters in Washington, DC and on foreign assignment. Following his CIA duty, Connor worked in the maritime industry in New York Harbor and other North Atlantic ports.

Returning home, Robert Connor first ran for public office in 1962. Although he was narrowly defeated in his bid for Staten Island's Congressional seat, he would never again be defeated in an election. The following year, he was elected as Councilman-At-Large to the New York City Council. From that position, Connor was a tireless advocate for improving the piers and harbors in the Port of New York.

In 1965, Connor was elected as Borough President of Staten Island, a position he held until 1977. Connor's tenure was marked by his commitment prudent management of government expenses and fiscal conservatism. He was dedicated to serving the people of New York, placing that goal ahead of any partisan ideology. Connor believed that neither political party had a monopoly on good ideas, and he was able to serve his constituents through close personal friendships with both Democratic and Republican elected officials.

In 1977 Robert Connor again returned to Washington, accepting an appointment as Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Navy from President Carter. He served into the administration of President Reagan, primarily representing the Secretary of the Navy on visits to ships and stations throughout the world.

Although he left Washington in 1981, Robert Connor never lost interest in public service. He continued to advocate for maritime interests through various consulting jobs including the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey and Barber Steamship Lines in Annapolis, MD. While there, he volunteered as a coach of the Naval Academy Sailing Squadron.

Robert Connor dedicated his life to helping others without ever asking anyone for anything in return. I am honored to stand here today to both recognize and honor the life of Robert T. Connor, Sr.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. J. GRESHAM BARRETT

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 8, 2009

Mr. BARRETT of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, pursuant to the Republican Leadership standards on earmarks, I am submitting the following information regarding earmarks I received as part of H.R. 3326, Department of Defense Appropriations Act FY 2010.

Name of Requesting Member: J. GRESHAM BARRETT

Bill Number: H.R. 3326

Account Number: 0601101E 2 Defense Research Sciences

Name and address of requesting entity: The entity to receive funding for this project is Clemson University, located at Clemson University, South Carolina.

Description of earmark including amount and spending plan: I am requesting $1.6 million of funding for Clemson University Advanced Photonic Composites Research. This program will be used for development of the next generation of materials for use in optical and laser-based communication, health, automotive, and defense platforms. It will provide the necessary coordinated and concentrated effort to bring high information capacity, low power consuming optical technologies to the soldier. The research will continue to focus on novel active and passive materials and optical devices for advanced lighting, directed energy, sensing and switching, as well as ways to make their performance controllably adaptive, such that one technology may now be used for a myriad of applications. I certify that this project does not have a direct and foreseeable effect on the pecuniary interests of my spouse or me.

IN CELEBRATION OF THE LIFE OF FRANCIS ''BUTCH'' TAYLOR

HON. JACKIE SPEIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 8, 2009

Ms. SPEIER. Madam Speaker, 100 years ago, Francis "Butch" Taylor was born in Akron, Iowa and shortly after, made the journey west with his family to California. While completing his graduate degree in Social Work at the University of California, Berkeley, he married Betty Lou Taylor. Intrigued by their common last name, they spoke, fell in love and married in 1940. A year later Butch was hired as the Assistant Field Director for the American Red Cross and assigned to the Presidio Army base in San Francisco.

After the bombing of Pearl Harbor, Mr. Taylor was indispensable in keeping up with the rapidly increasing responsibilities of the American Red Cross as service to the military grew exponentially. In 1943, he was dispatched with 36 other Red Cross employees on a Liberty ship—part of a hundred-ship convoy to Algeria. Upon transferring to British troopships in the Mediterranean, the convoy was attacked by German planes, resulting in the loss of three Red Cross men and more than 1,100 American troops. Butch continued on to Bombay and Calcutta, India and eventually arrived in southern China, where he became Field Supervisor in charge of Red Cross Services to the armed forces in China.

After the Communists took power in China, Mr. Taylor returned home to California and became manager of the San Mateo Chapter of the Red Cross, later assisting in its merger with the San Francisco Chapter.

Madam Speaker, I owe a personal debt to this remarkable man. In 1965, when I was a teenage volunteer with the Red Cross Youth, Butch Taylor inspired me with his passion for public service and encouraged me to chart a similar course. Like so many others, my life would be very different were it not for Butch Taylor.

Upon his retirement from the Red Cross, Butch went to work for FEMA, serving the Western Region—including Guam, Hawaii and Samoa—and assisted with floods in the Sacramento Delta and other local emergencies throughout the 1970s.

Butch and Betty Lou have two children, Mike and Trish, and a grandson, Mark. Butch continues to be involved with the Burlingame Rotary Club and still attends functions every Monday. Next year, Butch and Betty Lou will celebrate their 70th wedding anniversary.

Madam Speaker, few men or women can say with absolute certainty that their service made the world a better place. Butch Taylor is one who can. And for that, we are all eternally grateful.

COMMANDER MARK DICKINSON

HON. MICHELE BACHMANN

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 8, 2009

Mrs. BACHMANN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Lieutenant Commander Mark Dickinson, a Minnesota native with St. Cloud and Big Lake roots, upon his retirement from the United States Navy. After 20 years of service, Mark is retiring from military service but will continue to serve his country as a civilian working for the Navy. I am proud to share Mark's distinguished career with this Congress today.

In 1989, Mark enlisted in the Navy and worked his way up to Petty Officer First Class serving on the USS Kamehameha, USS Nebraska and PCU Louisiana. As a commissioned officer, Mark served as Supply Department Head on the USS Maryland, which, under his leadership, won the Supply Blue "E" awarded to the finest supply department in the squadron and the prestigious Edward F. Ney Award for outstanding food service- something every sailor can appreciate!

Mark began work at Naval Reactors as Manager of Shipbuilding Contracts in 2003. In this role, he successfully oversaw the construction, repair and modification of nuclear powered ships and also helped negotiate the acquisition of private shipyard facility upgrades necessary to refueling and defueling operations of nuclear aircraft carriers. Mark's negotiation and implementation of cost incentive programs has set the Navy up to save more than $850 million dollars. Since 2007, Mark has been the Deputy Director of Acquisition and this March he assumed his current responsibilities as Director of Acquisition at Naval Reactors where he continues to lead shipbuilding efforts.

It is with great honor that I congratulate LCDR Mark Dickinson on 20 years of dedicated service to the United States Navy. Madame Speaker, I rise so that this Congress may also pay tribute to Mark and wish him and his family all the best in their future endeavors.

HONORING STAFF SGT JASON DAHLKE

HON. JOHN L. MICA

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 8, 2009

Mr. MICA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to Staff Sergeant Jason

Dahlke, 29, who died August 29, 2009, while serving our Nation in Afghanistan on his sixth deployment in support of the War on Terror. Staff Sergeant Dahlke was a distinguished soldier serving with Company A, 1st Battalion, 75th Ranger Regiment.

SSG Jason Dahlke was born on November 8, 1979, in Tampa and was raised in Jacksonville with his brother and three sisters. Prior to joining the Army, he attended the University of Central Florida where he graduated with a degree in Criminal Justice and married his grade school sweetheart Niki Marie Norvell Dahlke. Mrs. Dahlke recalls her husband as her ''best friend'' and ''hero.''

We should all remember SSG Dahlke's courage and his ultimate sacrifice for our nation. The freedom and liberty we enjoy and the peace in the world for others for which he fought are part of the great legacy that SSG Dahlke leaves behind. He was laid to rest at the new Jacksonville National Veterans Cemetery on September 5, 2009. SSG Jason Dahlke is the first American killed in combat to be interred at Florida's newest veterans cemetery.

SSG Dahlke will be remembered as a dedicated servant of the country he loved. During his time in the Army, SSG Dahlke received a Purple Heart and two Army Commendation Medals that he never mentioned to his parents. They only learned of their son's achievements by way of the internet. In one of his last conversations with his parents, SSG Dahlke told his family that he loved his job and that he would continue to do it as long as he could serve. Col. Michael E. Kurilla, 75th Ranger Regiment commander stated that SSG Dahlke ''embodied the Ranger Creed and all that is good, noble and honored in our Rangers.''

With the passing of SSG Dahike, America has lost an outstanding citizen and a shining example of service to our Nation. He will be remembered as a patriotic American, a pillar of our community and a compassionate husband and a loving son.

To his wife Niki, his mother Deborah, his father Roger and his loving family and friends, we offer our deepest sympathy.

Madam Speaker, it is my privilege to recognize SSG Jason Dahlke's contributions and to ask that all Members of the U.S. House of Representatives join me in recognizing his heroic service in our Nation's Armed Forces.

RECOGNIZING THE RETIREMENT OF MR. JOHN ''TOMMY'' STEPHENSON

HON. MARSHA BLACKBURN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 8, 2009

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Tommy Stephenson upon his retirement from the United States Postal Service.

Mr. Stephenson has serviced the same route for over 30 years, becoming an important part of the community in Southern Madison County, Northern Hardeman County, and Western Chester County, Tennessee. Over three generations of West Tennessee families have come to know and love Mr. Tommy. The humble spirit and cheerful whistle he brought to work each and every day has touched these families in many ways.

Most inspiring to me is the fact that Mr. Stephenson has endured a physical disability that limits the use of his right hand, yet he has always been able to adapt to the many changes these past thirty years. The type of dependability and dedication he has brought to his work is rare, indeed, and we honor him for it.

Please join me in celebrating Mr. Stephenson's achievement, and wishing him well upon his retirement.

CELEBRATING 20 YEARS OF SUCCESS FOR AAHOA

HON. EDWARD R. ROYCE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 8, 2009

Mr. ROYCE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend the success of the Asian American Hotel Owners Association (AAHOA). Founded in 1989, the AAHOA has grown to nearly 10,000 members who own more than 22,000 hotels valued at $60 billion. These small business owners have created or supported more than one million jobs. It is my understanding that their business acumen and dedication to the hospitality industry has made AAHOA a strong leader in the tourism sector of our economy.

It was my honor to attend AAHOA's national convention earlier this year, where its members celebrated 20 years of excellence and service to their respective communities. Many AAHOA members belong to their local chambers of commerce and network with pro-business associations. I share many of the concerns of AAHOA's membership, including card check, our spiraling deficit, excessive litigation, and the proposed expansion of government into the health care arena. This is not what our country needs. We need to allow private sector businesses, like AAHOA members, to do what they do best: grow the economy, create new jobs, and provide safe, reliable, and affordable hospitality for millions of travelers.

I want to recognize the officers and leadership of AAHOA for their service to the organization: Chairman Tarun S. Patel; Vice Chairman ChandraKant I. (C.K.) Patel; Treasurer Hemant D. (Henry) Patel; Secretary Alkesh R. (Al) Patel; past Chairman Ashwin (Ash) Patel; President Fred Schwartz; Washington District Regional Director and Co-Chairman of the Legislation Committee Paul (Prashant) Patel; Southwest Regional Director and Co-Chairman of the Legislation Committee Hitesh L. Patel; and Vice President for Fair Franchising and Government Affairs and General Counsel Laura Lee Blake.

I understand that the AAHOA donated more than $100,000 for the victims of Hurricane Katrina, contributed more than $25,000 for the victims of the Asian tsunami in 2004, they have helped open doors for investment opportunities in India, and they partnered with the United Service Organizations (USO) to create the ''101,000 Room Nights for America'' program, which provided complimentary rooms for deployed members of the U.S. Armed Forces.

Madam Speaker, I am pleased to recognize AAHOA and the Indian American community and look forward to working together in the future.

CONGRESSMAN J. RANDY FORBES TRIBUTE TO MRS. HELEN DAUGHTREY

HON. J. RANDY FORBES

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 8, 2009

Mr. FORBES. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Mrs. Helen Daughtrey, who was 80 years old when she passed away on Saturday, August 15, 2009. America lost a community icon, public servant, and devoted daughter, wife, sister, and mother with the death of Helen Daughtrey. Helen will be remembered for her strong voice for fairness, civic duty, equality, and justice.

A long-time resident of Suffolk, Virginia, Helen was active in a myriad of service groups that improved the lives of those in the community. She served as the NAACP's Vice President for the Suffolk Branch. Helen was also a member of the American Red Cross, the Suffolk Beautification Committee, the Order of the Eastern Star of Virginia, the International Black Women's Congress, and Chesapeake Silver Strands Senior Citizens Club.

Helen was perhaps best known for her leadership and tireless efforts to see through the community improvement projects at The Fairgrounds and the East Washington Street corridor. Helen also tirelessly championed the conversion of the 1921 Phoenix Bank, Suffolk's first African-American bank into a black history museum.

As a lifelong member of Metropolitan Baptist Church, Helen was a dutiful woman of faith. Her commitment to her community of faith was evident in her service on the Deaconess Board, and as a member of the Mass and Chapel choirs and the Harvesters' Missionary Circle. She also taught a Sunday school class and was the founder of the Afro-Centric Ministry.

Helen was a 1946 graduate of Booker T. Washington High School and remained involved in the alumni chapter. Helen was the proud wife of James Otis ''Buck'' Daughtrey. They had four daughters—Brenda, Rhonda, Sharon, and Ida. Helen deeply touched each one of her many friends in the community, and I am proud to count myself among them.

Helen Daughtrey was the personification of determination, volunteerism, and persistence. Her deep faith drove her efforts to improve her city and the lives of the people within it. Helen's contributions to the citizens of Suffolk will not be forgotten or easily replaced, and her work will live on for generations. I can say with certainty, that at another ceremony in Helen's honor that we cannot see with our eyes, Helen is hearing the words: ''Well done, my good and faithful servant.''

CONGRATULATING DR. REGINA BENJAMIN ON HER NOMINATION AS SURGEON GENERAL OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 8, 2009

Mr. BONNER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Dr. Regina Benjamin on her

nomination as United States surgeon general. Upon confirmation, Dr. Benjamin will become the third Alabamian to serve as the nation's chief health educator.

A native of Mobile, Dr. Benjamin earned a bachelor's degree from Xavier University in New Orleans, and she attended the University of Alabama at Birmingham School of Medicine. Following the completion of her residency at the Medical Center of Central Georgia, Dr. Benjamin returned to south Alabama and founded the Bayou La Batre Rural Health Clinic. Dr. Benjamin also holds a masters of business administration from Tulane University.

Founded in 1990, Dr. Benjamin's non-profit clinic strives to provide high-quality medical care for the uninsured citizens of Alabama's bayou. In the aftermath of Hurricanes Georges and Katrina, despite the devastation of her own clinic, Dr. Benjamin selflessly continued to serve her patients, making house calls in order to treat those who were isolated, injured, and unable to leave their homes.

Dr. Benjamin's résumé boasts an extensive list of accomplishments. In 1995, she became the first African-American woman and first person under age 40 to serve on the American Medical Association board of trustees. In addition, as president of the Medical Association of Alabama, she was the first African-American woman president of a state medical society. In September 2008, she was one of 25 honored with a $500,000 ''genius award'' from the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation Fellowship. She also previously served as associate dean for Rural Health at the University of South Alabama College of Medicine and chair of the Federation of State Medical Boards of the United States.

Dr. Benjamin has received numerous awards throughout her career. In 1998, she was the United States recipient of the Nelson Mandela Award for Health and Human Rights. Time magazine named her as one of the ''Nation's 50 Future Leaders Age 40 and Under.'' She has been profiled by the New York Times and ABC's ''World News Tonight.'' She was named ''Woman of the Year'' by both CBS ''This Morning'' and People Magazine. In 2008, U.S. News and World Report named Dr. Benjamin one of America's Best Leaders.

Madam Speaker, on behalf of the proud citizens of the First Congressional District and the entire state of Alabama, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Dr. Benjamin on this distinguished nomination.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. JERRY LEWIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 8, 2009

Mr. LEWIS of California. Madam Speaker, I submit the following:

Project name: Synchrotron-Based Scanning Research

Requested amount: $6,000,000.00

Recipient: Loma Linda University Medical Center, 11175 Campus Drive, Loma Linda, CA 92354

Purpose: The Synchrotron-based Neuroscience and Proton Institute (NSPI) is pioneering new possibilities in medical technology and neuroscience for the service of patients with previously untreatable benign diseases. The potential of the NSPI is to expand efforts in the treatment of people with uncontrollable serious behavioral conditions, including military personnel and veterans suffering from Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder as well as persons who are currently incarcerated in prisons and who volunteer for this treatment. Eventually the treatment would be an available medical option to all persons seeking a non-invasive, non-drug alternative to behavioral disorders, both in the military and civilian populations.

Project name: Center for Innovative Geospatial Technology–

Requested amount: $7,000,000.00

Recipient: ESRI, 380 New York Street, Redlands, CA 92373

Purpose: Geospatial support to the warfighter has proven its value on the battlefield. Successes to date, together with advances in GIS technology, create the demand and the opportunity to apply geospatial analysis to a much larger set of military intelligence issues, and to embed advanced geospatial analysis techniques in critical warfighter support systems. These tasks can also help to integrate the national intelligence, defense intelligence, and military operational communities, all of which are heavily invested in geospatial technology and applications. Building on widely used information systems will expedite the work, facilitate ready application to new problems, create a foundation for sharing, and in the process create opportunities for economies. For the taxpayer, this means more efficient use of intelligence assets and resources to support military and other government operations, and lower operating costs in the intelligence community due to better integration of intelligence information and better quality of information to a large number of intelligence users.

Project name: Facility Security using Tactical Surveys

Requested amount: $4,500,000.00

Recipient: TSG, 301 Vanderbilt Way, San Bernardino, California 92408

Purpose: The Tactical Survey System is an innovative computer-based, interactive tool that provides crisis personnel access to a vast database of reliable pre-incident information on a facility, thereby enhancing their ability to effectively respond to an emergency situation. The Tactical Survey System includes immersive imagery with embedded tactical intelligence including hazardous material types and locations, aerial photos, ingress and egress videos, key personnel, building construction information, utility shutoff locations with instructions, communications infrastructure, fire fighting assets, fire and security alarm systems, and perimeter control systems. Completion of a survey at a federal installation allows precise advanced planning of emergency response, conduct of realistic exercises, and detailed training of individuals.

Project name: Commercialization of Advanced Technology

Requested amount: $2,500,000.00

Recipient: California State University, San Bernardino, 5500 University Parkway, San Bernardino, CA 92407-2393

Purpose: A collaborative partnership between California State University, San Bernardino (CSUSB) and San Diego State University, with the Space and Naval Warfare Systems Center, San Diego, other government, academic, and industry representatives, offers a proven process for accelerating technology to meet priority military and homeland defense requirements. Key focus is on commercializing technologies developed in government labs and/ or funded under the SBIR program, transitioning technologies from the commercial sector to meet government priorities. The need for advanced technological solutions for personnel protection, enhanced situational awareness, NBCR protection, and critical military operations is paramount.

Project name: Integrated Information Technology Policy Analysis Research and Technology Commercialization and Management Network

Requested amount: $4,000,000.00

Recipient: California State University, San Bernardino, 5500 University Parkway, San Bernardino, CA 92407–2393

Purpose: Integrated Information Technology Policy Analysis Research creates a more strategic, adaptive IT policy to advance the Army's Network Centric Operations vision for the future force, especially with regard to providing situational intelligence to soldiers on the battlefield. Technology Commercialization and Management Network accelerates DoD spiraling technologies acquisition strategy, lowers defense costs by accelerating government technologies, promotes higher educational institutions & small businesses technological innovation, increases commercial application of innovations derived from DoD R&D.

Project name: Research to Treat Cancerous Brain Tumors using Neural Stem Cells

Requested amount: $2,000,000.00

Recipient: Loma Linda University Medical Center, 11175 Campus Drive, Loma Linda, CA 92354

Purpose: Current cancer treatments do not work on a majority of brain tumors. New breakthrough research has led to the theory that cancerous brain tumors develop and are propagated by a small sub-population of rogue transformed neural stem cells that are highly resistant to existing cancer therapies due to their self-renewal capacity.

With the proposed project, Loma Linda seeks to partner with the Department of Defense and a leading industry research company to achieve the following goals over the next four years: 1. Establish an in vitro brain tumor stem cell model sufficient for systematic screening of potential agents with anti-tumor activity; 2. Search for potential anti-tumor agents that block tumor-activating proteins or enhance tumor-suppressing proteins in the human neural stem cell model of brain tumor; 3. Create an animal model of human glioblastoma for efficacy testing of potential anti-tumor agents; 4. Create a drug form or route of administration of the anti-tumor agent that can be selectively delivered to the brain without exposing peripheral organs to potentially high toxic dose; 5. Demonstrate a proof-of-principle anti-tumor activity with the most promising test agent in the animal model.

Project name: Norton AFB Infrastructure Improvements

Requested amount: $6,000,000.00

Recipient: Inland Valley Development Agency (IVDA), 294 South Leland Norton Way, Suite #1, San Bernardino, CA 92408–0131

Purpose: The Office of Economic Adjustment in the Department of Defense is tasked

to assist communities that are adversely impacted by Defense program changes, including base closures or realignments, base expansions, and contract or program cancellations. The San Bernardino International Airport, formerly Norton Air Force Base, is a 2,100-acre facility, wholly within the jurisdiction of the City of San Bernardino. Officially closed as a military base in March of 1994, the former Base has been operated by two joint powers authorities, the Inland Valley Development Agency (IVDA) which was formed in 1990, and the San Bernardino International Airport Authority (SBIAA) which was formed in 1992. The IVDA and the SBIAA are in the process of replacing and upgrading the infrastructure of the former Norton Air Force Base. These improvements include ongoing base structure repair and environmental remediation, water system improvements and base floodwater runoff mitigation. In addition to the federal funds requested, the IVDA and the SBIAA are committing their own significant financial resources to the various projects.

Project name: Spintronics Memory Storage Technology

Requested amount: $3,500,000.00

Recipient: University of California, Riverside, 900 University Avenue, Riverside, CA 92521

Purpose: This project aims to take advantage of recent advances in nanomaterials, nanodevices and spintronics to bring about revolutionary advances in magnetic storage technologies and to develop chip-scale packaging and thermal dissipation solutions for this new generation of devices. Current hard disk drives are now contending with the superparamagnetic limit, which limits the magnetic grain size for recording information. This effort will explore the use of multilevel recording techniques and examine the use of new nanomaterials for the development of highly efficient thermal interface materials in order to accommodate the high thermal dissipation required in compact devices.

Project name: Carbon Nanotube Thin Film Near Infrared Detector

Requested amount: $2,000,000.00

Recipient: Carbon Solutions, Inc., 1200 Columbia Avenue, Riverside, CA 92507

Purpose: There is an urgent need for improved infrared (IR) detectors for use in thermal imaging, night vision and other military, homeland and border security applications. This project aims to build on the revolutionary discovery of the broad spectrum bolometric response of carbon nanotube thin films to develop a new generation of near infrared detectors. This breakthrough by California scientists offers the possibility of broadly available, room temperature, low cost imaging devices that could find widespread military applications.

Project name: Magneto Inductive Remote Activation Munitions System (MI–RAMS) M156/M39 Kits and M40 Receivers

Requested amount: $9,000,000.00

Recipient: Magneto Inductive USA, 115 North Del Rosa Drive, Suite A, San Bernardino, California 92408

Purpose: The purpose of the request is to ensure timely deployment of this cutting edge MI–RAMS technology to US warfighters, enabling them to gain significant tactical advantage in difficult urban, cave and tunnel environments where they are required to undertake demolition missions. Continued funding at the requested level will save lives by fielding this technology identified as critical to the safety of the Army Combat Engineers and Special Operations Forces as soon as possible. This project will also save taxpayer dollars by ensuring that the unique industrial base established in San Bernardino, California to manufacture this equipment remains active, preventing line closures and layoffs and be able to respond to the high demand from the warfighters for this important technology in 2011 and beyond.

Project name: Cyber Threat Analytics

Requested amount: $3,000,000.00

Recipient: MetaFlows, 22N 6th Street A, Redlands, CA 92373

Purpose: Cyber–TA is a research project to develop the next-generation of real-time national-scale Internet-threat analysis technologies, and conduct critical deployment evaluation and operational transition of new research concepts in large-scale network defense to protect critical DoD and IC networks. Cyber-TA has brought together many of the world's most established researchers across the fields of data privacy, cryptography, malware and intrusion detection research, as well as operational experts in Internet-scale sensor management, to develop leading edge solutions to the evolving threat of increasingly virulent and widespread self-propagating malicious software.

Project name: Geospatial Intelligence Analysis Education (O&M)

Requested amount: $1,000,000.00

Recipient: University of Redlands, 1200 E Colton Ave, Redlands, CA 92374

Purpose: This project supports continuing efforts to strategically enhance the human and scientific infrastructure of the Intelligence Community (IC), as well as other federal agencies which employ staff who should be using advanced Geospatial Analysis methods. The effort involves collaborating with the Intelligence and Federal Geospatial Communities in the design, development, and implementation of a graduate program, including research, short courses and basic studies in geographic information science (GIS). A key objective is to equip officers at federal agencies with advanced geospatial analysis skills.

Project name: Integrated Propulsion Analysis and Spacecraft Engineering Tools (IPAT/ISET)

Requested amount: $6,000,000.00

Recipient: Advatech Pacific Inc., 1849 N. Wabash Avenue, Redlands, CA 92374

Purpose: IPAT directly supports many of the Air Force's new major system acquisitions including Land-based Strategic Deterrent, Prompt Global Strike and Operationally Responsive Spacelift and is a key tool to support our nation's world leadership in space.

The ISET radically improves AFRL's ability to quickly assess advanced spacecraft design concepts' strengths, weaknesses, costs, and viability in support of Air Force Space Command, Air Force Space & Missile Systems Center, and U.S. Strategic Command requirements.

Project name: Advanced Technology Sensors and Payloads/Unattended SIGINT Node

Requested amount: $6,000,000.00

Recipient: Trident Systems, 1615 Orange Tree Lane, Ste 104, Redlands, CA 92374

Purpose: This program is urgently required to address the growing complexity of ground operations associated with Unmanned Aerial Vehicle-based surveillance and reconnaissance (ISR) missions. There are multiple types of small unmanned aerial vehicles operating in theater, each with its own unique command and control, payload management, and status monitoring interface systems. These UAVs generally carry only an EO/IR camera payload due to the size and weight of existing multiband radars. ATSP provides a common ground station, simplified integration environment for new sensor payload capabilities and unprecedented communications range plus agility around interference. This project provides critically-needed capabilities to extend the reach and operational flexibility of UAVs in theater. By developing and deploying this project, our Armed Forces will be equipped with technology enabling them to accelerate intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance missions, improve a vital communications link and increase overall safety and survivability. Information superiority has become a key factor in force protection and operational effectiveness. The use of commercial communications technology has enabled even unsophisticated adversaries to coordinate their efforts, narrowing the tactical advantage that US forces achieved in the previous decade and allowing new threats like IEDs. This use of commercial communications assets can be countered with signals intelligence & communications intelligence techniques, helping to restore the information superiority tactical advantage. This project will proved an affordable miniature wide band, SIGINT/COMINT payload for employment on small and mid-size UAV platforms and in ground sensors.

Project name: Enhancing Commercial Joint Mapping Toolkit (CJMTK)

Requested amount: $4,000,000.00

Recipient: ESRI, 380 New York Street, Redlands, CA 92373

Purpose: Integrating ESRI's Network Analyst technology in the CJMTK baseline affords a rapid and very cost effective path for meeting urgent requirements of the U.S. Army, and affording the same capabilities to the other military services and the U.S. Coast Guard. Several DOD programs have explored independently adding Network Analyst capabilities to their systems, and have determined that the cost for each would range in the tens of millions of dollars. Providing Network Analyst capabilities through CJMTK, then, is extremely cost effective; will enable rapid, parallel adoption of these capabilities in multiple DOD systems; and will provide a common standard for analyzing movements across all of their systems, thereby supporting interoperability and joint/combined operations. For the taxpayer, this means that these Army systems will be more efficient. It also means better decisions can be made by government officials, and the annual cost of Army systems will be lower through the infusion of modern analytical software tools.

Project name: Flow Path Analysis Tool (FPAT)

Requested amount: $2,000,000.00

Recipient: Advatech Pacific, Inc., 1849 N. Wabash Avenue, Redlands, CA 92374

Purpose: The Flow Path Analysis Tool (FPAT) is the first tool to accurately model the complex physics of the gas flow through a hypersonic ramjet/scramjet engine. This tool will save many millions of dollars by evaluating feasibility, predicting performance, and eliminating non-viable or too costly design concepts for future Navy weapon systems—all without having to actually build them (or scale

models of them) for testing. The Flow Path Analysis Tool effort is an ongoing, but underfunded, program at the Navy's High Speed Weapons Center at China Lake. Previous funding has demonstrated the viability of the approach and is providing the first increment of computational fluid dynamics modeling of the ramjet/scramjet air inlet. The FPAT project, when completed, will provide the Navy's High Speed Weapons Center at China Lake and other DoD organizations with computational fluid dynamics capabilities to analyze and predict performance characteristics of future weapon systems that use ramjet/scramjet hypersonic engine technology. FPAT will capture an unprecedented amount of engine hypersonic flow data from the air inlet, through the engine, and out the exhaust. The cost benefits of physics-based tools that integrate modern design and analysis codes have been well documented.

Project name: Rare Earth Mining Separation and Metal Production

Requested amount: $3,000,000.00

Recipient: Molycorp, 67750 Bailey Road, Mountain Pass, CA 92366

Purpose: Rare earth metals and magnets are vital to a wide variety of Department of Defense applications. These metals and magnets are used in virtually all advanced military systems and clean energy technologies, yet currently, China controls nearly 100% of the world's rare earth metal production. This funding will speed the development of the critical manufacturing technologies necessary to revitalize U.S. domestic rare earth separation and metal production for DOD applications. To this end, the appropriated funds will be leveraged against more than $20 million in private capital to accelerate the engineering and scale of this work.

Project name: National Eye Evaluation and Research Network

Requested amount: $3,000,000.00

Recipient: Foundation Fighting Blindness, 11435 Cronhill Drive, Owings Mills, MD, 21117-2220

Purpose: NEER will directly benefit the warfighter by providing a readily available source to screen, enroll, and follow military patients and their families through clinical trials. Additionally, NEER will continue to interact with the newly formed DOD Vision Center of Excellence, which will eventually be housed at the Bethesda National Naval Medical Center. Many of the diseases to be studied are orphan diseases, impacting small populations. Consequently, they do not receive the attention of major government and private research and pharmaceutical organizations. Additionally, much of the research conducted on degenerative retinal diseases has a direct benefit to ongoing traumatic brain injury research to better understand the vision deficits associated with TBI.

Project name: Inter Turbine Burner for Turbo Shaft Engines

Requested amount: $3,000,000.00

Recipient: Advanced Projects Research, Incorporated, 2850 U Street, San Bernardino, CA 92408

Purpose: The Inter Turbine Burner is an engine alteration that adds a second combustor within a turbo shaft engine to increase power output and engine efficiency. This technology can be used as an upgrade to existing engines to provide greater power and performance in response to increased air or ground vehicle capability requirements and can be incorporated in new engine designs to provide both higher performance and greater fuel efficiency at lower engine speeds. This technology can be used on helicopters such as the UH–60 Blackhawk and military ground vehicles such as the M1 Abrams tank to increase fuel efficiency and peak power, which are critical in the Global War on Terror.

RECOGNIZING STEVE CULVER

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 8, 2009

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Steve Culver of St. Joseph, Missouri. Steve is a St. Joseph native who has been an instrumental member of the community for many years. Not only is he a successful business owner, but also a volunteer, father, husband, and well respected individual in his community.

Steve was employed with Western Dairy and Leo Robertson Tire Company before buying into Midland Bottling Company, which he co-owned for 26 years. He is currently President of Recycling Corporation. Steve has generously volunteered his time to many organizations including the Aviation Board and Citizens Crime Commission for the City of St. Joseph, American Cancer Society, United Cerebral Palsy, Nodaway Valley Bank, and Missouri Western State University Foundation. Steve also founded both the St. Patrick's Day Parade and the Heart of America Chili Challenge in St. Joseph.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Steve Culver for his accomplishments and his desire to enhance the lives of others in his community.

JOHN SOLLAZZO

HON. MICHAEL E. McMAHON

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 8, 2009

Mr. McMAHON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor John Sollazzo, a lifelong Staten Islander, dear friend, dedicated community organizer and Staten Island's own "Mr. Democrat," who turned 70 on July 25, 2009. From his service in the Navy to his active participation in various community organizations, Mr. Sollazzo is the premier example of the engaged citizen, the truly civic individual who I know will continue to be for generations to come.

Born and raised on Staten Island by his father, the late Nicolas Sollazzo, and his mother, Helen Trifoglio. He attended P.S. 22, also known as the Granitville School, and Port Richmond High School.

Mr. Sollazzo served with the U.S. Navy from 1959 to 1960 on the Ships Company of the U.S.S. Intrepid. After his service to our nation he became a New York City Firefighter, one of New York's Bravest, and continued to serve his community until his retirement in 1983.

Mr. Sollazzo has always been willing to give of his time to help others. He has worked to keep kids off streets and spent hours teaching them valuable skills as an instructor for Youth Against Crime of Staten Island. As an executive board member of Meals on Wheels, he fought to maintain and expand this essential program for our neediest seniors. He has also been involved in various other organizations such as Rotary International, Boy Scouts of America, the American Red Cross, and the Knights of Columbus.

Because of his continued service to our island, Mr. Sollazzo has been the recipient of many awards from various youth, service, and political organizations. He has been recognized by the New York City Council and the New York State Senate for his outstanding contributions.

Outside of his professional life, Mr. Sollazzo is a devoted family man. He has been married to Frances Adamo for more than 48 years. He is the father to John, Jr., Elizabeth and Ellen Mary and the beloved grandfather of Nicholas, Laura, Vincent, Maria and Levi.

Mr. Sollazzo has been active in democratic politics for as long as anyone can remember. Now serving as the 1st Vice Chairman of the Richmond County Democratic Committee, John has been involved in every democratic campaign for the last 25 years. He continues to be the top petition canvasser in the borough. He is well known for his ability to run successful judicial campaigns; having insured that every judicial candidate's campaign he has run has won. He carried the party flag as a candidate on three occasions. Through his personal zeal and undying commitment, he has built the Richmond County Democratic Party into a vibrant, active political organization.

Without John's invaluable assistance in my last campaign, I might not be standing here today. His limitless energy and enthusiasm for his family, his Democratic Party and his community, belie the fact that he has just turned 70 years old.

John Sollazzo celebrated his 70th Birthday on July 25, 2009. This celebration will not only be an anniversary of the birth of Mr. Sollazzo but also a celebration of his contributions to the people of Staten Island. I am proud to call John my friend and I wish him many more years to come. Madam Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in commending John Sollazzo on his dedication to the citizens of Staten Island.

HONORING LIEUTENANT GENERAL JAMES G. ROUDEBUSH

HON. JEFF FORTENBERRY

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 8, 2009

Mr. FORTENBERRY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Lieutenant General James G. Roudebush. As his 34-year career in the United States Air Force draws to a close, I would like to draw attention to some of his significant accomplishments and enduring contributions to our great Nation.

Lieutenant General James G. Roudebush is the Surgeon General of the Air Force, headquartered in Washington, D.C. Educated at the University of Nebraska at Lincoln, he received a direct commission in the Medical Service Corps upon completing his master's degree from the University of Nebraska College of Medicine in 1975. In his distinguished

career, he served as the Vice Commander at the Human Systems Center and the Command Surgeon General for United States Central Command. Lieutenant General Roudebush also served as the Command Surgeon for Pacific Air Forces Command, United States Transportation Command and Air Mobility Command. His commands include the 36th Tactical Fighter Wing Hospital at Bitburg Air Base, Germany, and 89th Medical Group, Andrews Air Force Base, Maryland. Prior to his current assignment, General Roudebush was the Deputy Surgeon General at the U.S. Air Force Headquarters.

In his career, General Roudebush has been awarded the Distinguished Service Medal, Defense Superior Service Medal with one oak leaf cluster, the Legion of Merit with one oak leaf cluster, the Meritorious Service Medal with two oak leaf clusters, and the Air Force Commendation Medal. He holds a Chief Flight Surgeon rating with more than 1,100 flight hours in fourteen different aircraft including the C–5 Galaxy, F–15 Eagle and KC–135 Stratotanker.

General Roudebush has served his career with dedication and honor in the service of his country. He significantly transformed the role and impact of the Air Force Medical Service. The breadth of his enormously positive impact on the Air Force—medical readiness; pre- and post-deployment physical and mental health assessments; suicide prevention initiatives; and the successful aero-medical evacuation of tens of thousands of wounded service members from Iraq and Afghanistan—are key pillars of his contributions to government service. As the architect for the Surgeon General's Force Development Flight Path, each of the five Corps—Medical, Medical Service, Dental, Biomedical Services, and Nurse—now have a career pathway for all medical officers from lieutenant to general specific to their Corps.

Madam Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in commending Lieutenant General James G. Roudebush for his lifetime of dedication and self-sacrifice in the service of our great Nation.

TRIBUTE TO LAWRENCE HAHN

HON. ZACH WAMP

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 8, 2009

Mr. WAMP. Madam Speaker, today I rise to honor Lawrence A. Hahn of Oak Ridge, Tenn., as he retires as the Executive Director of the Boys and Girls Club of Oak Ridge.

For more than 55 years, Lawrence has dedicated himself to the youth of Oak Ridge and surrounding areas as Executive Director of the Boys and Girls Club. He has worked considerably more than "40 hours-a-week" and has contributed from his own finances to create a better quality of life for countless young people. He has helped change lives by providing a safe environment and great role-models that have helped many become caring, responsible and productive citizens.

He has served hundreds of thousands of youth with his service on the Tennessee Area Council as its Executive Secretary in addition to his service to the National Boys and Girls Clubs.

The local Boys and Girls Club Alumni Chapter that Lawrence established has been recognized as one of the largest and most effective in the nation. He continues to lead this group, which includes past Club members now working as professionals across the region and around the nation.

He has been an inspiration to hundreds of volunteers who have served on the Club's Board of Directors as educational tutors and athletic coaches—giving them the same desire that he has to carry on the unwavering compassion and commitment to the mission of the Club.

The national headquarters of the Boys & Girls Clubs of America has given Lawrence their highest professional award and he continues to be honored at national forums.

Lawrence is without a doubt one of the most respected, honored and legendary citizens of Oak Ridge. His 55 years as the Boys and Girls Club Executive Director far exceeds the years of service than that of any other person in the history of the National Boys and Girls Clubs movement. It is with great pleasure that I honor my friend, Lawrence Hahn, for his commitment to the youth of Oak Ridge and East Tennessee.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. FRED UPTON

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 8, 2009

Mr. UPTON. Madam Speaker, pursuant to the Republican Leadership standards on earmarks, I am submitting the following information regarding earmarks I received as part of H.R. 3293, the Labor/HHS spending bill for Fiscal Year 2009.

Requesting Member: Congressman FRED UPTON

Benton Harbor Workforce Transformation Program

Department: Labor

Account: Employment and Training Administration—Training and Employment Services

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Michigan Works—Benton Harbor, MI

Address of Requesting Entity: Michigan Works, 499 W. Main St., Benton Harbor, MI 49022

Description of Request: Michigan Works, a state-supported job recruitment and training organization, is starting a job-training program designed to work in tandem with the upcoming $500 million Harbor Shores mixed-use economic development project being undertaken by Benton Harbor. The basic workforce transformation program, which would be funded by the monies requested here, includes at least three core elements: basic skills training, including workforce literacy remediation; skills training for in-demand, high-growth occupations; and transitional job services. All activities will be based on proven programs administered by workforce training professionals as part of the region's existing and ongoing workforce development activities. All programs will be designed to reduce the unemployment rate, increase the local labor participation rate, increase job readiness, place people into jobs, and increase per capita income. These funds are consistent with the mission of the Employment and Training Administration. Benton Harbor, Michigan is the poorest city in one of the most economically challenged states in America. The magnitude of Benton Harbor's problems is stunning—a workforce with an average 6th grade literacy level and an 80 percent high school dropout rate by young males. In Benton Harbor 42 percent of the available workers are out of the workforce, a fact exacerbated by the lack of basic skills needed to maintain employment which has only served as a barrier to attract new employers into the area

Amount: $381,000

Financial Breakdown: The majority of this funding (around 70 percent) will go to staffing services, stipends for program participants, as well as literacy remediation services. The remainder of the funding will be provided for training scholarships, community outreach, participant assessments and support services. Michigan Works will provide supplemental funds.

Kalamazoo Community Mental Health & Substance Abuse Services Nursing Distance Learning Initiative

Department: Health

Account: Health Resources and Services Administration—Health Facilities and Services

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Kalamazoo Community Mental Health & Substance Abuse Services

Address of Requesting Entity: 3299 Gull Rd., Kalamazoo, MI 49048

Description of Request: The Kalamazoo Community Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services agency will partner with Wayne State University's School of Nursing, the only nursing school in Michigan offering an Advanced Psychiatric and Community Public Health Nurse Practitioner degree program, to bring the opportunity through the use of distance learning technology for nurses in Kalamazoo and surrounding communities to participate in this three-year program right in their home communities, rather than have to travel all the way across the State to Detroit. The plan would provide scholarships to local nurses who wish to participate in exchange for a commitment to remain in and serve their Southwest Michigan communities. Southwest Michigan is a medically underserved area, with a shortage of nurses, and a particularly acute shortage of nurses with advanced training to meet community mental health needs. The Kalamazoo Community Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services Nursing Distance Learning proposal promises to be an innovative and successful way to address this pressing need.

Amount: $100,000

Financial Breakdown: The majority of funding for this project (around 60%) will go to nursing faculty, with supplemental funding going to polycom and video conferencing equipment, as well as scholarships for nursing students.

Kalamazoo Valley Community College Wind Technician Academy

Department: Education

Account: Fund for the Improvement of Post Secondary Education

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Kalamazoo Valley Community College

Address of Requesting Entity: 6767 West 0 Avenue, Kalamazoo, MI 49003

KVCC Wind Energy Center will launch a Wind Turbine Technician Academy in the fall of 2009. The competency based program will provide graduates with multi craft credentials which are highly sought after by the wind power industry for the construction, operation

and maintenance of utility size wind turbines. The training uses established curriculum based on globally recognized BZEE utility grade turbine technician standards. The KVCC program will be the first BZEE certification program in the US, and will include training on a decommissioned utility grade turbine in a lab at KVCC. The Wind Turbine Technician Academy can be completed in less than 6 months, making the program viable for retraining of workers and for the training of the next generation workforce. The Wind Turbine Technician Academy will consist of three integrated segments: Pre-Employment Electrical Apprenticeship, Wind Turbine Technology Education, and Field Experience. Michigan ranks 14th in terms of wind energy potential, but is currently well behind other states in terms of installed wind generating capacity. The Academy will promote Michigan's potential through their ability to produce highly qualified workers in 6 months and through their plan to create an advisory panel made up of national wind energy employers.

Amount: $350,000

Financial Breakdown: Approximately 75% of this funding will go toward the purchase of wind turbine components, tools and training equipment. The remaining 25% will be split between purchasing lab equipment and curriculum development. KVCC has been, and will continue to provide, supplemental funding for the program.

Lake Michigan College Energy Job Training Program

Department: Education

Account: Fund for the Improvement of Post Secondary Education

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Lake Michigan College

Address of Requesting Entity: 2755 E. Napier Avenue, Benton Harbor, MI 49022

This funding will go toward equipment purchases and curriculum development for an energy production job training program at Lake Michigan College. According to Nuclear Energy Institute research, the nuclear power production industry and their community college partners need to establish forty-four new programs for training non-licensed operators, twelve for radiation protection technicians, and sixty-five to train maintenance workers. To address the projected shortage of energy industry professionals for the region it serves, Lake Michigan College, in collaboration with D.C. Cook Nuclear Plant in Bridgman and Palisades Nuclear Power Plant in Covert, has developed the Energy Production Technology degree to give local residents the opportunity to prepare for one of these high-skill, high-wage jobs. According to the Nuclear Energy Institute, about thirty percent of the nuclear energy workforce will retire within the next five years. Locally, that percentage is as high as 35%. Consumers Energy, over the next five years, expects 120–130 retirements among generating plant operations and maintenance personnel. That translates into over four hundred anticipated job openings in this region in just the next few years. This project will help train a local workforce to fill those openings.

Amount: $150,000

IN MEMORY OF KEN BACON, PRESIDENT, REFUGEES INTERNATIONAL

HON. JAMES P. McGOVERN

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 8, 2009

Mr. McGOVERN. Madam Speaker, it was with deep sorrow and shock that I learned of the death of Mr. Ken Bacon, President of Refugees International. Ken was a great man, who accomplished so much in his lifetime, both inside and outside the U.S. government. His wit, focus, passion and vision will be sorely missed by me and everyone who knew him.

One of the first actions I did with Ken in his capacity as the new president of Refugees International was an event in 2001 on the need to ban anti-personnel landmines. His background and experience at the Pentagon made Ken an especially authoritative voice in support of the international treaty to ban landmines and on the horror and humanitarian consequences of landmines. I found him inspiring and energizing.

In the years to come, we would work together on issues ranging from internally displaced people in Colombia, to the tragedy of Darfur, and the need to ban the use of cluster munitions. I last saw Ken at a breakfast on Capitol Hill on June 17th, where we had a chance to join forces once again to talk about the special needs of displaced women and girls.

Ken Bacon helped strengthen and revitalize Refugees International into one of the most internationally recognized voices and advocates on behalf of refugees and the internally displaced. And like all his friends, family and colleagues, I pledge to carry on his work as if he were still right by my side.

I would like to insert into the RECORD the statement on the death of Ken Bacon by Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton; the August 16th obituary in the New York Times; and the August 15th tribute posted by Refugees International on its web site.

DEATH OF KEN BACON, PRESIDENT OF REFUGEES INTERNATIONAL

(HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON, AUG. 15, 2009)

The United States and the world lost a great humanitarian leader with the passing today of Ken Bacon, President of Refugees International. Most Americans remember Ken as the unflappable civilian voice of the Department of Defense, where he served with distinction as spokesperson for many years. But for millions of the world's most vulnerable people—refugees and other victims of conflict—Ken was an invaluable source of hope, inspiration and support. From Central Africa to South Asia to the Americas, Ken shone the spotlight on the causes of humanitarian suffering, and served as an impassioned yet reasoned advocate for the principles of humanitarian protection and assistance. We will miss Ken, but we will be inspired by the contributions he has made and the example he has set.

[From the New York Times, Aug. 16, 2009]

K. BACON, AN ADVOCATE FOR REFUGEES, IS DEAD AT 64

(By Douglas Martin)

Kenneth H. Bacon, a former journalist and Pentagon spokesman who devoted his last years to highlighting refugees' problems and urging policymakers to find solutions, died Saturday morning at his summer home on Block Island, R.I. He was 64 and a resident of Washington.

The cause was complications of melanoma, his daughter Sarah said.

Mr. Bacon, as an assistant secretary of defense in the Clinton administration, was the spokesman for the Defense Department during NATO's campaign to end the violence in Kosovo in 1999. He then visited his first refugee camp during a trip to the Balkans with William S. Cohen, then the defense secretary.

''I had never seen refugees before, never fully appreciated the sheer magnitude of one million people leaving their homes and needing food, shelter and medical care and then one million people going back home after the war,'' he said in an interview with The New York Times in 2001.

''This fascinated me,'' he continued. ''I knew it was rare for the world to help refugees so completely, and I wondered if somebody could help give the same attention to the refugees in the Congo, Afghanistan and Sudan.''

Mr. Bacon became president of Refugees International, which advocates for assistance to save the lives of the world's 41.9 million people who flee their homes to escape violence, either in their own countries or across borders. The organization also aids the 12 million stateless people living in limbo without citizenship rights.

Refugees International helps abandoned refugees receive food, medicine and education; helps displaced families to return home and helps stateless families obtain legal status. It also urges policymakers at the national and international levels to send peacekeepers to protect displaced people.

In a biography he wrote for the organization's Web site, Mr. Bacon said the most important thing Refugees International does is push governments and the United Nations to overcome what he called the ''commitment gap'' that prevents the world from ending genocide, human rights abuses and wars.

Mr. Bacon wrote and spoke extensively about these issues. In remarks at the Brookings Institution in February 2003, just five weeks before the United States attacked Iraq, he suggested ways to reduce the number of refugees in a war, including choosing targets outside of urban areas.

In an article in Newsday in September 2003 he urged the United States to persuade France to contribute peacekeepers to Iraq, because of France's success in peacekeeping elsewhere. At the time, many Americans resented France because of its strong opposition to the American attack.

Kenneth Hogate Bacon was born in Bronxville, N.Y., on Nov. 21, 1944. He graduated from the Phillips Exeter Academy and Amherst College, where his father was a political science professor. He earned master's degrees in journalism and business from Columbia.

In 1968 and 1969, he was a legislative assistant to United States Senator Thomas J. McIntyre, Democrat of New Hampshire. He then joined The Wall Street Journal's Washington bureau, where he worked for 25 years as a reporter, columnist and editor. From 1968 to 1974, he served in the Army Reserve.

Mr. Bacon had covered the Pentagon during the Carter administration and had come to respect William J. Perry, a senior official. When President Bill Clinton appointed Mr. Perry as his second secretary of defense in 1994, Mr. Perry asked Mr. Bacon to be his spokesman.

Mr. Bacon joined the Clinton administration as assistant to the secretary of defense for public affairs, and was promoted to assistant secretary in 1996. He served until 2001, becoming a familiar face on broadcast and cable television news shows donned in his signature bow tie.

Mr. Bacon is survived by his wife, the former Darcy Wheeler, and his daughters, Katharine and Sarah; his father, Theodore S. Bacon of Peterborough, N.H.; and his brother, Douglas A. Bacon of Concord, Mass.

To Mr. Bacon, being a refugee was something that could happen to anybody at any time.

''Even blue-blooded WASPs were refugees at one time; mine came over from England in 1630, fleeing debts for all I know,'' he said.

[From Refugees International, Aug. 15, 2009]

REFUGEES INTERNATIONAL MOURNS THE DEATH OF KENNETH H. BACON

WASHINGTON, DC.—With grief and a deep sense of loss, Refugees International announces that Kenneth H. Bacon, President of Refugees International, died this morning from an aggressive melanoma that spread into his brain. Mr. Bacon, who became President of Refugees International in 2001 and was only 64 years old at the time of his death, devoted the final years of his life to building the organization into the leading advocacy group on refugee crises.

''Ken Bacon was an extraordinary human being. He led by example and dedicated his efforts to help those most vulnerable—refugees and displaced persons across the globe,'' said Farooq Kathwari, Chair of the Board of Directors of Refugees International. ''We are inspired by his passion, his integrity, his humility, and the dignity with which he faced the inevitable. We will sorely miss our friend and colleague.''

Under Mr. Bacon's leadership, Refugees International doubled in size and grew from an organization that largely sounded the alarm on the latest refugee crisis to a program built on sustained advocacy to transform unwieldy and often ineffective international systems. During his tenure, the organization successfully advocated for increased protection and assistance for displaced people in places like Darfur and Iraq, where he focused much of his own work, as well as in Afghanistan, Burma, the DR Congo, Colombia, and Thailand. Mr. Bacon also launched new advocacy programs on peacekeeping and statelessness.

In the last few months of his life, Mr. Bacon turned his passion towards the growing threat of climate displacement. Just a few weeks prior to his death, he and his wife Darcy provided a generous donation to establish the Ken and Darcy Bacon Center for the Study of Climate Displacement.

''Ken's death is an enormous loss—to his family, his friends, and Refugees International. All of us here will miss his leadership, his kindness, and his quiet passion,'' said Joel Charny acting president of Refugees International. ''He never stopped looking for new ways to bring attention to the millions of people who have been uprooted by violence and conflict. The world's most vulnerable people have lost one of their most tireless advocates.''

In 2004, Mr. Bacon made Darfur his primary regional focus before throngs of activists and celebrities began calling for support to the region. In 2005, he accompanied UN Secretary General Kofi Annan to Darfur, and he met with Sudanese President Al-Bashir in 2007 to push for a ceasefire and greater access for relief workers in Darfur. Over the years, he travelled to Darfur four times, wrote op-ed pieces, conducted media interviews and testified to Congress in his trademark bowtie, participated in think-tank working groups, debated the merits of military action with journalists and humanitarian workers and gave advice to the leaders of the grassroots movements that made Darfur a household name. These efforts helped lead to the substantial funding the U.S. has provided for aid to the people of Darfur and to African Union and United Nations peacekeepers in the region.

''Ken would walk the corridors of power one day and then meet with refugees in the most remote areas of Darfur the next. His unique mixture of expertise in the media, military affairs, and U.S. government policy, added to his compassion for vulnerable refugees, made him one of the great voices in humanitarian advocacy,'' continued Charny. ''Ken always saw the best in people. His ability to connect with nearly everyone he met made it possible for him to convince officials at the highest levels of government and the United Nations to make the necessary changes to save lives and protect people from harm.''

In 2006, Mr. Bacon pushed Refugees International to investigate the plight of Iraqi refugees at a time when no one was willing to acknowledge or speak out about this matter. Drawing on the findings of Refugees International's field research teams, Mr. Bacon was a leader in pushing the U.S. government and the UN to recognize the world's fastest growing refugee crisis at that time. His advocacy with senior administration officials and key members of Congress, such as Senator Edward Kennedy, was instrumental in achieving extensive press coverage and policy discussions on Iraqi displacement, the creation of a State Department task force on the problem, a sharp increase in international assistance for displaced Iraqis, and greater numbers of Iraqis being resettled in this country.

Mr. Bacon wrote a few months before his death, ''When I came to Refugees International in 2001, I planned to stay for several years and then retire or move on to teaching or writing, but the challenge of the work and the commitment of the staff are too exciting to leave.'' When he thanked people for their support of the organization, he regularly noted, ''We have a lot to do.''

In 1994, Mr. Bacon became Assistant Secretary of Defense for Public Affairs and Pentagon spokesman. During the U.S. and NATO operations in Kosovo, Mr. Bacon became convinced that the world needed more people working to stop human rights abuses and to assist people displaced by man-made and natural disasters. He became president of Refugees International in 2001 to help further that goal.

From 1969 to 1994 Mr. Bacon worked as a reporter and editor at The Wall Street Journal. Mr. Bacon received his Bachelor's degree from Amherst College, and a Master's degree in Business Administration and Master's degree in Journalism from Columbia University. He served in the U.S. Army Reserve from 1968 to 1974.

Mr. Bacon is survived by his wife, two daughters, two grandchildren, his brother and his father. The board and staff of Refugees International express their deepest condolences to his family and friends.

A memorial service will take place in Washington, DC in September and forthcoming details will be posted on the Refugees International website. In lieu of flowers or gifts, the family has designated Refugees International for memorial contributions in honor of Mr. Bacon. For more information, go to http://www.refugeesinternational.org/ken-bacon.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. MARY BONO MACK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 8, 2009

Mrs. BONO MACK. Madam Speaker, pursuant to the Republican Leadership standards on earmarks, I am submitting the following information regarding earmarks I received as part of H.R. 3326, the Department of Defense Appropriations Act, 2010:

Requesting Member: MARY BONO MACK

Bill Number: H.R. 3326

Account: Research, Development, Test and Evaluation (RDTE), Air Force

Entity Requesting: Exotic-Electro-Optics, 36570 Briggs Road, Murrieta, CA 92563.

Description of Earmark: $3,000,000 is provided and will be utilized from the Advanced Materials for Weapon Systems program solely for the purpose of completing the research started in FY08 to address the challenges of EMI-shielding for large panel sapphire windows for the EOTS sensor and to ensure production-ready domestic sources for defense critical materials required for the production of the Joint Strike Fighter. This aircraft has been designed to be an affordable and stealthy tactical aircraft for the 21st century.

Spending Plan: Project Expenditures—Materials: Total- $525,000; Labor: Total—$2,528,202.

Requesting Member: MARY BONO MACK

Bill Number: H.R. 3326

Account: Defense Production Act

Entity Requesting: Surmet Precision Optics, 41618 Eastman Drive, Murrieta, CA 92562.

Description of Earmark: $3,000,000 is provided in the legislation to meet the objective of the overall program which creates components for major defense acquisition programs, such as Mine Resistant Ambush Protected (MRAP) vehicles, C–17 aircraft, Small Diameter Bomb-II (SDB–II), Joint Strike Fighter (JSF), and Joint Air to Ground Missile (JAGM).

Spending Plan: Project Expenditures—During the previous years' effort, Surmet provided a 10–20 percent in-kind contribution to funding received from the Title III. Breakdown of the total FY10 program cost is projected as follows:

60 percent will go towards labor for design, production and evaluation of a large quantity of components. They anticipate an addition of 10 positions for this effort;

35 percent will go towards raw materials and equipment; and

5 percent will go towards infrastructure improvements.

HONORING ALLISON JACOBS FOR HER EXEMPLARY SERVICE

HON. JERRY McNERNEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 8, 2009

Mr. MCNERNEY. Madam Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to honor Officer Allison Jacobs of Brentwood for her work unraveling an 18-year-old case and helping reunite a long-separated family. By acting on their instincts, Officer Jacobs, and her colleague Lisa Campbell, were able to serve justice by acting on suspicious behavior that resulted in removing an innocent mother and her two young children from a monstrous situation.

11-year-old Jaycee Dugard was tragically kidnapped on her way to school. For 18 years, she was subjected to unspeakable abuse. Ms. Dugard was denied contact with the outside world, and had it not been for Officer Jacobs' outstanding performance of her duties, the

abuse for Jaycee and her daughters would have continued indefinitely.

Allison Jacobs' and Lisa Campbell's intuition, combined with an effective utilization of their training, saved innocent people from further harm, led to the removal of a dangerous person from our streets, and reunited a family torn apart by a deranged criminal. I have the highest regard and admiration for their actions and am proud to represent such an outstanding officer.

TRUMBULL HIGH SCHOOL GOLDEN EAGLE MARCHING BAND

HON. JAMES A. HIMES

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 8, 2009

Mr. HIMES. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the many accomplishments of the Trumbull High School Golden Eagle Marching Band and its esteemed director, Peter Horton.

The Golden Eagles have had a remarkable year. Their numerous accomplishments include a distinguished season of competitions, participating in the Hollywood Santa Parade, and performing nationally on the ABC show Good Morning America.

I.was very proud to support their participation in the 56th Inaugural Parade. The Golden Eagles represented Connecticut during this momentous occasion in our nation's history and created memories that will last a lifetime.

These accomplished students have not only continued to distinguish themselves musically, they have also shown their commitment to public service. This year, the band organized the collection of almost 4,000 coats for the Bridgeport Rescue Mission, a non-profit dedicated to providing aid and services to the urban poor and addicted. I applaud these efforts, and believe the students of the Golden Eagle Marching Band to be outstanding role models to the young people of our Nation.

While the Trumbull High School Golden Eagle Marching Band is lucky to count such talented students as members, these achievements would not have been possible without the direction and commitment of their director Peter Horton. In celebrating his 20 years as band director, I am thankful for Peter's service and dedication to the community, the school, and above all, the students. He has left an indelible mark on the minds of all those who have been given the opportunity to learn under his care, and reminded us all of the importance and value of musical education.

This fall, the band will be hosting its 27th Annual Trumbull Golden Eagle Marching Band Classic competition on Saturday, October 3, 2009. As many as 18 bands from the surrounding area will once again converge on Trumbull to compete. I wish the Golden Eagles and Peter Horton good luck, and congratulate them on their impressive achievements thus far.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. J. GRESHAM BARRETT

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 8, 2009

Mr. BARRETT of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, pursuant to the Republican Leadership standards on earmarks, I am submitting the following information regarding earmarks I received as part of H.R. 3326, Department of Defense Appropriations Act FY 2010.

Name of Requesting Member: J. GRESHAM BARRETT

Bill Number: HR 3326

Account Number: 0603001A 29 Warfighter Advanced Technology

Name and address of requesting entity: The entity to receive funding for this project is Greenwood Mills, Inc., 300 Morgan Avenue, Greenwood, South Carolina, 29646.

Description of earmark including amount and spending plan: I am requesting $1.5 million of funding for Improved Thermal Resistant Nylon for Enhanced Durability and Thermal Protection in Combat Uniforms. The objective of this program is to develop increased thermal protection for our soldiers due to the changing improvised explosive device (IED) threat. This program will develop and provide flame resistant combat uniforms with proven performance and enhanced durability to ensure comfort and safety to the deployed forces and cost-savings to the DOD. This program aims to develop a nylon product with increased ignition resistance and self-extinguishing performance for protection against extremely high intensity, short duration exposure to blast effects and low intensity flash fires. I certify that this project does not have a direct and foreseeable effect on the pecuniary interests of my spouse or me.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 50TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY OF MR. AND MRS. RICHARD AND MYRNA WHITNER

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 8, 2009

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, on August 8, 2009, Richard ''Preacher'' Church Whitner and his wife Myrna Allen Whitner celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary. In 1959, they were married in Moncks Corner, South Carolina—Myrna's hometown. Preacher hails from Rock Hill, South Carolina.

As long time friends, I want to congratulate Preacher and Myrna of Indigo Run on Hilton Head Island on five decades of marriage and wish them many more years of health and happiness.

RUSS KIMBALL NAMED TO FLORIDA TOURISM HALL OF FAME

HON. C. W. BILL YOUNG

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 8, 2009

Mr. YOUNG of Florida. Madam Speaker, Russ Kimball, the General Manager of the Sheraton Sand Key Resort in Clearwater, Florida, since its opening more than 30 years ago, was inducted into the Florida Tourism Hall of Fame last month.

Russ is not only a constituent and good friend, but he is one of our community's most respected business leaders and experts in the tourism industry. He is the longest serving member on the Pinellas Tourist Development Council, which oversees an industry in Pinellas County that welcomes 13.5 million visitors to our community annually and generates almost $7.0 billion for our local economy.

Russ is an outstanding businessman but he runs his business as if his employees are his family. That explains why his hotel has one of the longest serving staffs of any establishment in Florida and our nation.

Madam Speaker, please join me in congratulating Russ Kimball on this great honor for all his work and his leadership in Florida tourism. He joins some of the greats of this industry including Walt Disney in being honored by his peers for his hard-work and vision in making Florida not only a national but an international tourist destination.

HONORING MAMIE GEORGE

HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 8, 2009

Mr. OLSON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to remember Mrs. Mamie George—a very special woman who devoted her life to serving those in Fort Bend County, Texas.

Mamie is remembered as a gracious and selfless community servant and philanthropist. In 1896, she married Albert George, and they began to grow the thriving 22,000 acre George Ranch, in Richmond, Texas. With the fortune that they created, they set out on a lifetime of helping those around them. Having no living children of her own, Mamie was famous for making everyone feel like family, regardless of social status or race. She was very active in her own church and began studying the financial needs of other churches throughout Richmond. Overwhelmed by the need, she was inspired to create the George Foundation, a private charitable trust for religious, charitable, and educational purposes for the residents of Fort Bend County.

To date, the foundation has made well over $50 million in grants to Texas organizations, ministries, humanitarian and educational foundations.

The legacy of Mamie George will long live on through the organizations that are supported by her generous contributions. I am honored to recognize her years of service here on the floor of the House of Representatives.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. ROB BISHOP

OF UTAH

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 8, 2009

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Madam Speaker, pursuant to the Republican Leadership standards on earmarks, I am submitting the following information regarding earmarks I received as part of H.R. 3293, Labor, Health and Education Appropriations Bill of 2010.

Requesting Member: ROB BISHOP

Bill number: H.R. 3293

Account: Elementary & Secondary Education (includes FIE)

Legal name and address of requesting entity: Ogden City School District, located at 1950 Monroe Blvd., Ogden, UT 84401

Description of project: $250,000 for a teacher training initiative, including purchasing of equipment.

Requesting Member: ROB BISHOP

Bill number: H.R. 3293

Account: Higher Education (includes FIPSE)

Legal name and address of requesting entity: Western Governors University located at 4001 South 700 East, Suite 700, SLC, UT 84107

Description of project: $100,000 for curriculum development.

Requesting Member: ROB BISHOP

Bill number: H.R. 3293

Account: Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) Health

Legal name and address of requesting entity: McKay-Dee Hospital Center located at 4401 Harrison Blvd., Ogden, UT 84403

Description of project: $150,000 for facilities and equipment.

Requesting Member: ROB BISHOP

Bill number: H.R. 3293

Account: Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) Health

Legal name and address of requesting entity: Weber State University located at 4018 University Circle, Ogden, UT 84408

Description of project: $350,000 for expansion of nursing programs, including purchase of equipment.

43RD ANNUAL CONSTITUTION DAY PARADE; NEVADA CITY, CA

HON. TOM McCLINTOCK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 8, 2009

Mr. MCCLINTOCK. Madam Speaker, on September 17, 1787, thirty-nine delegates from twelve states met at Independence Hall in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania to sign the Constitution. The Constitution went into effect two years later, on March 4, 1789.

Each September 17 is designated as Constitution Day. Constitution Day is a day to display the flag of the United States of America and many Americans observe it in our nation's history by attending local events. One such event is Nevada City's Constitution Day Parade, which has been a local tradition since 1967 and is reported to be the oldest and largest Constitution observance in western America.

Festivities include a parade through the downtown historic district with marching bands, floats, antique autos, equestrians, politicians and perennial crowd favorites such as the Ophir Prison Marching Kazoo Band and the Famous Marching Presidents of Nevada City, a humorous but reverent group that portrays each U.S. president. Members of the American Civil War Association also offer living history and battle reenactments and more than 200 military and settler reenactors are expected to take part.

Nevada City is located on the western slope of the Sierra Nevada mountains midway between Sacramento and Lake Tahoe and is known for its classic small town spirit and unique events. With a population of 3,001, Nevada City swells to 10,000 or more on Constitution Day.

IN HONOR OF DR. J. MICHAEL BISHOP

SPEECH OF

HON. JACKIE SPEIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 8, 2009

Ms. SPEIER. Madam Speaker, when Dr. J. Michael Bishop retired as Chancellor of UCSF on June 30, 2009, our premier research institution lost not only its leader, but one of the greatest minds ever to serve at its helm.

In 1989, Dr. Bishop was awarded the Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine for his advancements in understanding the origins of cancer. His groundbreaking discovery of proto-oncogenes—genes that can be converted to cancer genes by genetic damage—revolutionized the way medical professionals looked at the detection and treatment of cancer.

He has received numerous other distinguished honors including the National Medal of Science and an appointment as Chair of the National Cancer Advisory Board created by President Bill Clinton.

This is all the more remarkable when you learn that Dr. Bishop's education began in a two-room school in Pennsylvania where the science curriculum was limited to the collection and pressing of flowers. True to his humble nature, he asked that he receive no special recognition on his retirement, but nonetheless, our community and our nation owe an immense debt of gratitude to Dr. Bishop.

During the ten years he served as Chancellor of UCSF, Dr. Bishop oversaw monumental achievements and growth to an already distinguished institution. The construction of the Mission Bay campus will result in 57.5 acres focused on innovative ideas from scholars and scientists.

Madam Speaker, I met Dr. Bishop when he first became Chancellor and was immediately struck by his humility, his engaging personality and his ability to explain science to audiences at every level. He exemplifies everything that is exceptional about UCSF—leadership, innovative thinking, and a commitment to public service through research and medical advancements.

Dr. Bishop has focused a great deal on creating an environment that emphasizes a balance between the personal and professional. This is without a doubt the result of his marriage to the love of his life, Kathryn Ione Putman and their two sons, Dylan Michael Dwight and Eliot John Putman.

Madam Speaker, Dr. Bishop is no longer in the Chancellor's office, but without a doubt, his legacy as an educator, scientist, Nobel Prize winner, and cancer researcher will be felt for generations at UCSF and around the world.

HONORING THE MEMORY OF JOHN C.H. ''JACK'' MILLER, JR.

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 8, 2009

Mr. BONNER. Madam Speaker, the city of Mobile and indeed the entire state of Alabama recently lost a dear friend, and I rise today to honor him and pay tribute to his memory.

Mr. John C.H. ''Jack'' Miller was a Duke University graduate who earned his law degree from the University of Alabama. In 1977, he established the Mobile based law firm Miller, Hamilton, Snider and Odom, which just recently merged with the New Orleans firm Jones Walker. Mr. Miller was also a founding director of Colonial Bank.

In the political world, Mr. Miller played an active role in the Alabama Democratic Party. He served as chairman of the Alabama Democratic Party from 1998 until 2001. He also played an instrumental role in the successful gubernatorial campaigns of Fob James and Don Siegelman.

Mr. Miller, along with former Mobile Mayor Mike Dow, led Mobile's Downtown Redevelopment Commission from 1990 until 2006. He coined the phrase ''String of Pearls,'' which was a series of projects that dramatically improved downtown Mobile. Mr. Miller and Mayor Dow's ''String of Pearls'' campaign helped to revitalize downtown Mobile which is now home to a cruise ship terminal, the tallest building in Alabama, a number of new hotels and a waterfront park.

Among other achievements, Mr. Miller served as an Auburn University trustee since 2000. He supported many Auburn academic programs and in June, the Auburn Board of Trustees named the university's recently established writing center in his honor.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in remembering a dedicated community leader and friend to many throughout the state of Alabama. Mr. Jack Miller will be deeply missed by his family—his wife of 38 years, Susan Ross Miller; his mother, Emily Townsend of Mobile; his children, Emily Miller Washburn and her husband, James; John Cleveland Hays Miller III and his wife, Julia; and Edward Aubert Roberts Miller and his wife, Meredith; and his two grandsons, Jackson Roberts Washburn and Jesse Townsend Washburn—as well as the many friends he leaves behind.

Our thoughts and prayers are with them all at this difficult time.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. J. GRESHAM BARRETT

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 8, 2009

Mr. BARRETT of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, pursuant to the Republican Leadership standards on earmarks, I am submitting the following information regarding earmarks I received as part of H.R. 3326, Department of Defense Appropriations Act FY 2010.

Name of Requesting Member: J. GRESHAM BARRETT

Bill Number: H.R. 3326

Account Number: 0603384BP 33 Chemical and Biological Defense Program—Advanced Development

Name and address of requesting entity: The entity to receive funding for this project is Graniteville Specialty Fabrics, located at 511 Leitner Street, Graniteville, South Carolina 29829.

Description of earmark including amount and spending plan: I am requesting $3.0 million of funding for Chemical and Biological Threat Protection Coating. The objective of

this program is to develop self-decontaminating chemical and biological fabric with a comfort profile necessary to maintain extended protection during pandemics. This new and advanced material can be deployed either as an individual protective garment, respiratory mask, or protective shelter. The technology will adhere to the U.S. DOD requirements for the Joint Chemical Agent Detector (JCAD). This program will ultimately develop advanced chemical technology for coating suits, tents and other equipment for military and first responder personnel. I certify that this project does not have a direct and foreseeable effect on the pecuniary interests of my spouse or me.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. DANIEL E. LUNGREN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 8, 2009

Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California. Madam Speaker, pursuant to the Republican Leadership standards on earmarks, I rise today to submit the following information regarding earmarks I received as part of the Department of Defense FY10 Appropriations Bill.

The following earmarks were requested by my office and are listed for funding in this bill:

Federal Technology Center—Feature Size Yield Enhancement DMEA's Advanced Reconfigurable Manufacturing for Semiconductors (ARMS) Foundry

Requesting Member: DANIEL E. LUNGREN

Bill Number: H.R. 3326—FY10 Department of Defense Appropriations Bill

Account: R–1PE# 0603720S; Microelectronics Technology Development and Support

Requesting Agency: Defense Microelectronics Activity

Requesting Agency Address: 4234 54th Street, McClellan, CA 95662

Amount: $3,000,000

This project will allow Defense Microelectronics Activity (DMEA) to proceed with its plan to acquire the more complex processes required to support newer weapon system microelectronics, install these processes in its ARMS Foundry and increase the first pass yield of these new processes. It will also work to reduce the time required to switch from one process to another and to maximize the yield of the reinstalled process. This project represents an appropriate use of taxpayer funds due to the need for domestic capability for technologies conversion to maintain and improve upon our national defense system.

Federal Technology Center—Heterogeneous Gallium Nitride/Silicon Microcircuit Technology

Requesting Member: DANIEL E. LUNGREN

Bill Number: H.R. 3326—FY10 Department of Defense Appropriations Bill

Account: R–1PE# 0603720S; Microelectronics Technology Development and Support

Requesting Agency: Defense Microelectronics Activity

Requesting Agency Address: 4234 54th Street, McClellan, CA 95662

Amount: $2,000,000

This project will develop a replacement for gallium arsenide technology currently used in input amplification and frequency conversion circuits of military radar and communications systems. DMEA will use Gallium Nitride/Silicon to replace old gallium arsenide components. This project represents an appropriate use of taxpayer funds due to the crucial need to upgrade and further develop military radar and communications systems, which are of seminal importance to the safety and success of our military personnel and missions

Aerojet—Minuteman III Advanced Third Stage Domestic Fiber Motor Case Development

Requesting Member: DANIEL E. LUNGREN

Bill Number: H.R. 3326—FY10 Department of Defense Appropriations Bill

Account: RDT&E Line 46 ICBM Propulsion Applications, PE 0603851F/1021

Requesting Agency: Air Force ICBM Propellant Applications Program

Requesting Agency Address: Hill Air Force Base, UT

Amount: $3,000,000

This project will develop a domestic supply of the composite fibers used to construct the motor case. Japanese fibers traditionally used to construct the motor case are no longer available as the Japanese Ministry of Economics, Trade, & Industry requires pre-approval for all military applications. This project represents an appropriate use of taxpayer funds due to the need for a domestic, reliable source of composite fibers to ensure the success and maintained capabilities of this segment of our national defense system.

American Burn Association—Military Burn Trauma Research Program

Requesting Member: DANIEL E. LUNGREN

Bill Number: H.R. 3326—FY10 Department of Defense Appropriations Bill

Account: R&D—Army—Defense Health-United States Medical and Material Command/Army Institute of Surgical Research—Peer Reviewed Burn, Orthopedic and Trauma Research—PE 0603115HP—BA: 2

Requesting Agency: American Burn Association

Requesting Agency Address: 625 N. Michigan Ave., Ste 2550, Chicago, IL 60611

Amount: $2,000,000

The requested funding would be used to foster collaboration between military and civilian burn surgeons and researchers and to identify best practices to ensure better treatment and outcomes for military burn patients, specifically improved clinical outcomes for combat burn casualties. This project represents an appropriate use of taxpayer funds due to the critical need to address military burn casualties with the greatest of medicinal technology, providing the greatest possibility for recovery and rehabilitation of our nation's military personnel.

Technikon, LLC—Renewable Energy Testing Center

Requesting Member: DANIEL E. LUNGREN

Bill Number: H.R. 3326—FY10 Department of Defense Appropriations Bill

Account: RDT&E, A, Line#66

Requesting Agency: Technikon LLC

Requesting Agency Address: 5301 Price Ave, McClellan, CA 95652

Amount: $1,000,000

This funding would be used to provide the State of California and Department of Defense with an independent "Underwriters Laboratory" resource for evaluating the performance of renewable energy and renewable fuel production technologies. RETC will provide metrics on robustness, safety, energy efficiency, environmental effectiveness, and other key parameters of these technologies needed for successful commercialization. This project represents an appropriate use of taxpayer funds due to the need to develop reliable technology verification to meet requisites placed on the Department of Defense regarding development and deployment of renewable energy technologies

DEATH OF EVERETT DIRKSEN

HON. AARON SCHOCK

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 8, 2009

Mr. SCHOCK. Madam Speaker, yesterday marked the 40th Anniversary of the death of Everett Dirksen. To celebrate the remarkable life of my predecessor and to mark this occasion, I respectfully ask that the following article be placed in the RECORD.

DIRKSEN'S LAST DAYS

(By Frank H. Mackaman, The Dirksen Congressional Center, Pekin, IL)

On August 12, 1969, just before the U.S. Senate recessed for a few weeks, Senator Everett McKinley Dirksen held a press conference in his office. It would be his last. Dirksen seemed relaxed and in a genial mood, chatting amiably with reporters and joking with his staff. To the casual observer everything seemed normal but it was not. Doctors had just told the Senate Minority Leader he was seriously ill. They had discovered a spot on Dirksen's right lung and suspected cancer. A second x-ray on the 14th showed the tumor had grown, making an operation necessary.

To prepare, the senator from Pekin rested for three weeks at "Heart's Desire," his home outside Washington DC, rummaging in his beloved garden and working on a memoir he would never complete. A realist, Dirksen transferred title to most of his property to his wife, Louella. He also gave her a presigned resignation from the Senate if the operation left him incapacitated. He loved the Senate, and it was ever on his mind.

Dirksen entered Walter Reed Hospital on Sunday, August 31, to ready himself for the operation two days later. He took with him a briefcase loaded with work, the contents of which were transferred to The Dirksen Center several years after his death. These documents show the amazing breadth of his interests and the substantial burden of his office.

The briefcase contained notes for upcoming speeches, including one in his own handwriting entitled, "God, Country, and Grandchildren: Soliloquy with Grandchildren" in which he mused about the legacy his generation would leave and harkened back to the lives his parents led in Pekin. He made notes concerning the congressional session about to end. Dirksen reviewed letters from constituents, information about pending legislation, requests for appearances, a plea from Illinois Governor Richard B. Ogilvie to revise the federal revenue-sharing calculation, letters about federal jobs, an early draft of what was called the "Everett McKinley Dirksen Library Project," and much, much more.

On Tuesday morning, September 2, at 8:45, Colonel Alan R. Hopeman and a team of Army surgeons began to operate. The spot on Dirksen's lung could not be readily examined without surgery, but, in surgical terms, it was in an almost ideal position, close to the periphery of his chest, so that surgeons could remove it with only a small incision. They

did so without difficulty. The tumor, which had grown to an inch in diameter, proved to be malignant.

As they had planned in this eventuality, the surgeons took the next step of removing the entire upper lobe of Dirksen's right lung. What had begun as a relatively simple operation became major surgery consuming three hours. The doctors found no evidence the cancer had spread, however.

Dirksen's strong constitution and vigor brought him through the procedure with flying colors, and his recuperation was rapid. Mrs. Dirksen and their daughter, Joy, and son-in-law, Senator Howard Baker, found him alert and cheerful when they were first allowed to see him on Wednesday. The next day, however, Dirksen complained of pain and became confused and restless, perhaps the result of a minor stroke, insufficient oxygen, or even withdrawal symptoms from cigarettes (Dirksen complained to his doctors and his son-in-law about not being able to smoke). A second procedure became necessary to replace the tube draining his lung.

Senator Dirksen suffered a crisis that evening, and it wasn't until 8:00 Saturday morning that his doctors stabilized him. This episode probably caused the bronchopneumonia which soon developed. He rallied after this operation, though, even sitting up in bed to eat his meals. He spent a restful night and ate a good breakfast with Louella. He appeared to be past the immediate crisis of a post-operation heart failure and was already making plans to resume a work schedule. He even took a few minutes to go over the papers in his briefcase. For example, a Seattle radio station requested a tape about the marigold to which Dirksen replied with this hand-written note:

Dear Day—Just now I'm languishing in a hospital as a result of surgery. An op'g [operating] room no match for my marigold gardens. Guess the tape must wait. Sorry.

The doctors assured Senator Baker that Dirksen was well on the road to recovery and that Baker could travel to California to join President Richard Nixon. The optimism proved premature.

Abruptly at 2:51 that afternoon, Sunday, September 7, Dirksen collapsed and stopped breathing. His heart, which had enlarged over the years to twice-normal size as the result of emphysema, just quit. The desk sergeant at the Forest Glen section of the hospital, Roger Brooks, received an urgent call from the main hospital summoning a surgeon. Brooks took a police cruiser to pick up a Col. Blake for the trip to Dirksen's room. Army doctors were already at his side, massaging his chest, trying to restart his heart. They gave him sodium bicarbonate, calcium, and other medicines. They used a defibrillator to try to shock his heart into action. The doctors worked so vigorously that they cracked five of his ribs. But Dirksen did not respond. At 4:52 p.m., the doctors pronounced him dead at age 73. Louella and Joy were with him at the end. Forty years ago.

Mourning for the Senator was national and of a personal quality, particularly among his colleagues in Congress and his friends in Pekin. His body lay in state under the great dome of the Capitol, an honor accorded to only three members of the Senate before him.

In his eulogy to the fallen leader, President Nixon recalled remarks Daniel Webster had made more than a century before in testimony to a political opponent: ''Our great men are the common property of the country.'' That described Dirksen well. His public service spanned an era of enormous change, and he played a vital part in that change. Through six presidencies, as Nixon put it, ''Everett Dirksen has had a hand in shaping almost every important law that affects our lives,'' and while he never became president, ''his impact and influence on the Nation was greater than that of most Presidents in our history.''

Air Force One brought Dirksen home on Thursday, September 11. Pekin deserves much of the credit for Dirksen's influence on the national stage. The senator knew that, and he said so on a return visit to his hometown in 1961:

After long absences enforced by the duties of office in Washington, there always comes back to me some lines from that poem which I learned long ago, ''Breathes there a man with soul so dead, who never to himself has said, this is my own, my native land.'' This is my own, my native land, my native city, where the family taproot went deep many generations ago, and it will ever be so, no matter what tasks life may assign me. All the major decisions in my life have been made here . . .

The inspiration which I received here from a saintly mother, a devoted family, steadfast friends, the constant faith of teachers who taught me, the inspiration I found here in church, and the atmosphere of a quiet and well ordered community were the forces which helped to fashion those decisions, and for these I shall be always and eternally grateful. . . .

An estimated 80,000 people watched the funeral procession proceed the 15 miles from the Peoria airport, south on Route 24, through Pekin on Route 9, to the Glendale Memorial Gardens on the east side of town where more than 6,000 stood in waiting. Among the dignitaries accompanying the procession were Vice President Spiro Agnew, five members of President Richard Nixon's cabinet, 42 U.S. senators, and 27 U.S. representatives. Dozens of state officials joined them, as did over 200 members of the press.

The 1:00 p.m. ceremony itself was brief, lasting only 15 minutes. Six pallbearers, representing the armed forces, carried the casket to the gravesite. The Rev. Edward L.R. Elson, chaplain of the Senate and pastor of the National Presbyterian Church in Washington DC, conducted the service. The Rev. Ralph Cordes, pastor of Pekin's Second Reformed Church, and the Rev. Charles Rechard, pastor of Woodland Presbyterian Church in New Orleans and a friend of the Baker family, also delivered prayers. Members of the Pekin American Legion post color guard participated in the ceremony, too, along with the honor guard and the Chanute Air Force band. Lt. Gen. Vernon P. Mock, commanding general of the Fifth Army, presented the American flag, which had been draped over the casket, to Mrs. Dirksen.

When the ceremony ended, mourners passed by the casket. One of the first was Senator Margaret Chase Smith of Maine, who placed a spray of marigolds, Dirksen's favorite flower, on the casket. The two of them had enjoyed a friendly rivalry over the years to name the national floral emblem—she a proponent of the rose.

The Rev. Elson had ended his eulogy fittingly with these words, ''The last march has ended. A mighty man of God has answered his last roll call. His battles are all fought, his victories all won.''

Daily Digest

HIGHLIGHTS

See Résumé of Congressional Activity.

Senate

Chamber Action

Routine Proceedings, pages S9101–S9142

Measures Introduced: Six bills and three resolutions were introduced, as follows: S. 1649–1654, and S. Res. 253–255. **Page S9132**

Measures Reported:

Reported on Wednesday, September 2, during the adjournment:

S. 728, to amend title 38, United States Code, to enhance veterans' insurance benefits, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute. (S. Rept. No. 111–71)

Reported on Tuesday, September 8:

S. 588, to amend title 46, United States Code, to establish requirements to ensure the security and safety of passengers and crew on cruise vessels, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute. (S. Rept. No. 111–72) **Page S9132**

Measures Passed:

Joint Session of Congress: Senate agreed to H. Con. Res. 179, providing for a joint session of Congress to receive a message from the President. **Page S9141**

***Honoring Edward Moore Kennedy*:** Senate agreed to S. Res. 255, relative to the death of Edward Moore Kennedy, a Senator from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. **Page S9141**

Measures Considered:

Travel Promotion Act: Senate resumed consideration of S. 1023, to establish a non-profit corporation to communicate United States entry policies and otherwise promote leisure, business, and scholarly travel to the United States, taking action on the following amendments proposed thereto: **Pages S9118–23**

Pending:

Reid (for Dorgan/Rockefeller) Amendment No. 1347, of a perfecting nature. **Page S9118**

Reid Amendment No. 1348 (to Amendment No. 1347), to change the enactment date. **Page S9118**

Reid Amendment No. 1349 (to the language proposed to be stricken by Amendment No. 1347), to change the enactment date. **Page S9118**

Reid Amendment No. 1350 (to Amendment No. 1349), of a perfecting nature. **Page S9118**

During consideration of this measure today, Senate also took the following action:

By 80 yeas to 19 nays (Vote No. 271), three-fifths of those Senators duly chosen and sworn, having voted in the affirmative, Senate upon reconsideration agreed to the motion to close further debate on Reid (for Dorgan/Rockefeller) Amendment No. 1347, listed above. **Page S9123**

Reid Motion to commit the bill to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, with instructions, fell when the motion to close further debate on Reid (for Dorgan/Rockefeller) Amendment No. 1347, was agreed to. **Page S9123**

The following amendments fell when the motion to commit the bill to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation fell:

Reid Amendment No. 1351 (to the instructions on the motion to recommit), to change the enactment date. **Page S9118**

Reid Amendment No. 1352 (to Amendment No. 1351), of a perfecting nature. **Page S9118**

Reid Amendment No. 1353 (to Amendment No. 1352), of a perfecting nature. **Page S9118**

A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing for further consideration of the bill at approximately 11:00 a.m., on Wednesday, September 9, 2009, and that time during any adjournment, recess, or period of morning business count against the post-cloture time. **Pages S9141–42**

Appointments:

Pursuant to the order of August 7, 2009, the following appointments were made during the adjournment of the Senate:

***Public Interest Declassification Board*:** The Chair, on behalf of the Majority Leader, pursuant to Public Law 106–567, the Intelligence Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2001, appointed the following individual to serve as a member of the Public Interest Declassification Board: General Michael V. Hayden of Virginia. **Page S9141**

***Congressional Oversight Panel*:** The Chair, on behalf of the Republican Leader, pursuant to provisions of Public Law 110–343, appointed the following individual as a member of the Congressional Oversight Panel: Paul S. Atkins of Virginia, vice John Sununu of New Hampshire. **Page S9141**

Escort Committee—Agreement: A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that the Presiding Officer of the Senate be authorized to appoint a committee on the part of the Senate to join with a like committee on the part of the House of Representatives to escort the President of the United States into the House Chamber for the joint session to be held at 8 p.m., on Wednesday, September 9, 2009. **Page S9141**

Floor Privileges—Agreement: A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that during the period that Senator Mikulski is confined to a wheelchair, that a member of her staff be permitted on the floor as is necessary to facilitate the Senator's movement. **Page S9141**

Nomination Confirmed: Senate confirmed the following nomination:

George Wheeler Madison, of Connecticut, to be General Counsel for the Department of the Treasury. **Pages S9141, S9142**

Messages from the House: **Pages S9127–28**

Executive Communications: **Pages S9128–32**

Additional Cosponsors: **Pages S9132–35**

Statements on Introduced Bills/Resolutions: **Pages S9135–40**

Additional Statements: **Pages S9126–27**

Notices of Hearings/Meetings: **Pages S9140–41**

Record Votes: One record vote was taken today. (Total—271) **Page S9123**

Adjournment: Senate convened at 2 p.m. and adjourned, in accordance with S. Res. 255 at 7:06 p.m., until 10 a.m. on Wednesday, September 9, 2009. (For Senate's program, see the remarks of the Acting Majority Leader in today's Record on page S9142.)

Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

No committee meetings were held.

House of Representatives

Chamber Action

Public Bills and Resolutions Introduced: 8 public bills, H.R. 3533–3540; 1 private bill, H.R. 3541; and 4 resolutions, H. Con. Res. 179–180; and H. Res. 721–722 were introduced. **Pages H9340–41**

Additional Cosponsors: **Pages H9341–43**

Reports Filed: Reports were filed today as follows:

H.R. 3193, to designate the United States courthouse under construction at 101 South United States Route 1 in Fort Pierce, Florida, as the "Alto Lee Adams, Sr., United States Courthouse" (H. Rept. 111–245);

H.R. 2121, to provide for the transfer of certain Federal property to the Galveston Historical Foundation, with amendments (H. Rept. 111–246);

H. Con. Res. 136, authorizing the use of the Capitol Grounds for a celebration of Citizenship Day (H. Rept. 111–247); and

H.R. 3165, to provide for a program of wind energy research, development, and demonstration, with an amendment (H. Rept. 111–248). **Page H9340**

Speaker: Read a letter from the Speaker wherein she appointed Representative Driehaus to act as Speaker Pro Tempore for today. **Page H9285**

Joint Session of Congress—Wednesday, September 9: The House agreed to H. Con. Res. 179, providing for a joint session of Congress to receive a message from the President. **Pages H9287–88**

Suspensions: The House agreed to suspend the rules and pass the following measures:

Deafy Glade Land Exchange Act: H.R. 1043, amended, to provide for a land exchange involving

certain National Forest System lands in the Mendocino National Forest in the State of California; **Pages H9288–89**

Dorothy Buell Memorial Visitor Center Partnership Act: H.R. 1287, to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to enter into a partnership with the Porter County Convention, Recreation and Visitor Commission regarding the use of the Dorothy Buell Memorial Visitor Center as a visitor center for the Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore; **Page H9289**

Providing for a boundary adjustment and land conveyances involving Roosevelt National Forest, Colorado: H.R. 1858, amended, to provide for a boundary adjustment and land conveyances involving Roosevelt National Forest, Colorado, to correct the effects of an erroneous land survey that resulted in approximately 7 acres of the Crystal Lakes Subdivision, Ninth Filing, encroaching on National Forest System land; **Pages H9292–93**

Help To Access Land for the Education of Scouts: H.R. 310, to provide for the conveyance of approximately 140 acres of land in the Ouachita National Forest in Oklahoma to the Indian Nations Council, Inc., of the Boy Scouts of America, by a ⅔ yea-and-nay vote of 388 yeas with none voting "nay" and 7 voting "present", Roll No. 688; **Pages H9293–94, H9301–02**

Recognizing and honoring the restoration and renovation of the Bishop Museum's historic Hawaiian Hall: H. Res. 541, to recognize and honor the restoration and renovation of the Bishop Museum's historic Hawaiian Hall, the Nation's premier showcase for Hawaiian culture and history, on the occasion of the Museum's 120th anniversary; **Pages H9295–96**

Recognizing the historical significance of Historic Virginia Key Beach Park of Miami, Florida: H. Res. 361, amended, to recognize the historical significance of Historic Virginia Key Beach Park of Miami, Florida; **Pages H9296–97**

Akron Veterans Memorial Post Office Designation Act: H.R. 2004, 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"; **Pages H9297–98**

District of Columbia Hatch Act Reform Act of 2009: H.R. 1345, to amend title 5, United States Code, to eliminate the discriminatory treatment of the District of Columbia under the provisions of law commonly referred to as the "Hatch Act"; and **Pages H9298–99**

Johnny Grant Hollywood Post Office Building Designation Act: H.R. 2760, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1615 North Wilcox Avenue in Los Angeles, California, as the "Johnny Grant Hollywood Post Office Building". **Pages H9299–H9300**

Recess: The House recessed at 3:26 p.m. and reconvened at 6:30 p.m. **Page H9300**

Board of Directors of the National Urban Air Toxics Research Center—Appointment: The Chair announced the Speaker's appointment of the following members on the part of the House of Representatives to the Board of Directors of the National Urban Air Toxics Research Center: Mrs. Herminia Palacio, M.D., M.P.H. of Bellaire, Texas and Mr. John Walke of Washington, DC. **Page H9300**

Suspensions—Failed: The House failed to agree to suspend the rules and pass the following measures:

Santa Cruz Valley National Heritage Area Act: H.R. 324, to establish the Santa Cruz Valley National Heritage Area, by a ⅔ yea-and-nay vote of 249 yeas to 145 nays, Roll No. 687 and **Pages H9289–92, H9301**

Leadville Mine Drainage Tunnel Remediation Act of 2009: H.R. 3123, amended, to direct the Secretary of the Interior, acting through the Bureau of Reclamation, to remedy problems caused by a collapsed drainage tunnel in Leadville, Colorado, by a ⅔ yea-and-nay vote of 206 yeas to 191 nays, Roll No. 689. **Pages H9294–95,H9302–03**

Moment of Silence: The House observed a moment of silence in honor of the men and women in uniform who have given their lives in the service of our nation in Iraq and Afghanistan, their families, and all who serve in the armed forces and their families. **Page H9301**

Senate Messages: Messages received from the Senate by the Clerk and subsequently presented to the House today appear on pages H9285–86.

Senate Referrals: S. 748 and S. 1211 were referred to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform; S. 713 was referred to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure; and S. 475 and S. 1314 were held at the desk. **Pages H9285–86, H9332–33**

Quorum Calls—Votes: Three yea-and-nay votes developed during the proceedings of today and appear on pages H9301, H9302 and H9302–03. There were no quorum calls.

Adjournment: The House met at 2 p.m. and adjourned at 11:45 p.m.

Committee Meetings

No committee meetings were held.

Joint Meetings

No joint committee meetings were held.

NEW PUBLIC LAWS

(For last listing of Public Laws, see DAILY DIGEST, p. D968)

H.R. 2245, to authorize the President, in conjunction with the 40th anniversary of the historic and first lunar landing by humans in 1969, to award gold medals on behalf of the United States Congress to Neil A. Armstrong, the first human to walk on the moon; Edwin E. ''Buzz'' Aldrin, Jr., the pilot of the lunar module and second person to walk on the moon; Michael Collins, the pilot of their Apollo 11 mission's command module; and, the first American to orbit the Earth, John Herschel Glenn, Jr. Signed on August 7, 2009. (Public Law 111–44)

H.R. 3114, to authorize the Director of the United States Patent and Trademark Office to use funds made available under the Trademark Act of 1946 for patent operations in order to avoid furloughs and reductions-in-force, and for other purposes. Signed on August 7, 2009. (Public Law 111–45)

H.R. 3357, to restore sums to the Highway Trust Fund, and for other purposes. Signed on August 7, 2009. (Public Law 111–46)

H.R. 3435, making supplemental appropriations for fiscal year 2009 for the Consumer Assistance to Recycle and Save Program. Signed on August 7, 2009. (Public Law 111–47)

H.R. 838, to provide for the conveyance of a parcel of land held by the Bureau of Prisons of the Department of Justice in Miami Dade County, Florida, to facilitate the construction of a new educational facility that includes a secure parking area for the Bureau of Prisons, and for other purposes. Signed on August 12, 2009. (Public Law 111–48)

S. 1107, to amend title 28, United States Code, to provide for a limited 6-month period for Federal judges to opt into the Judicial Survivors' Annuities System and begin contributing toward an annuity for their spouse and dependent children upon their death, and for other purposes. Signed on August 12, 2009. (Public Law 111–49)

H.R. 774, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 46–02 21st Street in Long Island City, New York, as the ''Geraldine Ferraro Post Office Building''. Signed on August 19, 2009. (Public Law 111–50)

H.R. 987, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 601 8th Street in Freedom, Pennsylvania, as the ''John Scott Challis, Jr. Post Office''. Signed on August 19, 2009. (Public Law 111–51)

H.R. 1271, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 2351 West Atlantic Boulevard in Pompano Beach, Florida, as the ''Elijah Pat Larkins Post Office Building''. Signed on August 19, 2009. (Public Law 111–52)

H.R. 1275, to direct the exchange of certain land in Grand, San Juan, and Uintah Counties, Utah, and for other purposes. Signed on August 19, 2009. (Public Law 111–53)

H.R. 1397, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 41 Purdy Avenue in Rye, New York, as the ''Caroline O'Day Post Office Building''. Signed on August 19, 2009. (Public Law 111–54)

H.R. 2090, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 431 State Street in Ogdensburg, New York, as the ''Frederic Remington Post Office Building''. Signed on August 19, 2009. (Public Law 111–55)

H.R. 2162, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 123 11th Avenue South in Nampa, Idaho, as the ''Herbert A Littleton Postal Station''. Signed on August 19, 2009. (Public Law 111–56)

H.R. 2325, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1300 Matamoros Street in Laredo, Texas, as the ''Laredo Veterans Post Office''. Signed on August 19, 2009. (Public Law 111–57)

H.R. 2422, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 2300 Scenic Drive in Georgetown, Texas, as the ''Kile G. West Post Office Building''. Signed on August 19, 2009. (Public Law 111–58)

H.R. 2470, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 19190 Cochran Boulevard FRNT in Port Charlotte, Florida, as the ''Lieutenant Commander Roy H. Boehm Post Office Building''. Signed on August 19, 2009. (Public Law 111–59)

H.R. 2938, to extend the deadline for commencement of construction of a hydroelectric project. Signed on August 19, 2009. (Public Law 111–60)

H.J. Res. 44, recognizing the service, sacrifice, honor, and professionalism of the Noncommissioned Officers of the United States Army. Signed on August 19, 2009. (Public Law 111–61)

S.J. Res. 19, granting the consent and approval of Congress to amendments made by the State of Maryland, the Commonwealth of Virginia, and the District of Columbia to the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Regulation Compact. Signed on August 19, 2009. (Public Law 111–62)

COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, 2009

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Senate

Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry: to hold hearings to examine global warming legislation, focusing on carbon markets and producer groups, 10 a.m., SH–216.

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Defense, business meeting to mark up proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2010 for Defense, 10:30 a.m., SD–192.

Committee on Foreign Relations: to hold hearings to examine the nomination of Robert D. Hormats, of New York, to be Under Secretary of State for Economic, Energy, and Agricultural Affairs, 10 a.m., SD–419.

Committee on the Judiciary: to hold hearings to examine strengthening forensic science in the United States, 10 a.m., SD–226.

Full Committee, to hold hearings to examine the nominations of Joseph A. Greenaway, Jr., of New Jersey, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Third Circuit, Roberto A. Lange, to be United States District Judge for the District of South Dakota, Irene Cornelia Berger, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of West Virginia, Charlene Edwards Honeywell, to be United States District Judge for the Middle District of Florida, and Ignacia S. Moreno, of New York, to be Assistant Attorney General, Department of Justice, 2:30 p.m., SD–226.

House Committees

Committee on Armed Services, September 10, Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations, hearing on Charting the Course for Effective Professional Military Education, 10 a.m., 210 HVC.

Committee on Energy and Commerce, September 9, Subcommittee on Energy and Environment, hearing entitled ''Solving the Medical Isotope Crisis,'' and to examine the American Medical Isotopes Production Act of 2009 (H.R. 3276), 2 p.m., 2322 Rayburn.

September 9, Subcommittee on Health, hearing entitled ''Ryan White Extension Act of 2009 Discussion Draft Legislation,'' 11 a.m., 2123 Rayburn.

September 10, Subcommittee on Commerce, Trade, and Consumer Protection, hearing entitled ''Consumer Product Safety Commission Oversight: Current Issues and a Vision for the Future,'' 10 a.m., 2322 Rayburn.

September 10, Subcommittee on Communications, Technology, and the Internet, hearing entitled ''Oversight of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act: Broadband, Part 2,'' 10 a.m., 2123 Rayburn.

Committee on Financial Services, September 9, Subcommittee on Housing and Community Opportunity, hearing entitled ''Progress of the Making Home Affordable Program: What are the Outcomes for Homeowners and What are the Obstacles to Success?'' 10:30 a.m., 2128 Rayburn.

September 10, full Committee, hearing entitled ''The World Bank's Disclosure Policy Review and the Role of Democratic Participatory Process in Achieving Successful Development Outcomes,'' 10 a.m., 2128 Rayburn.

Committee on Foreign Affairs, September 10, hearing on Outlook for Iraq and U.S. Policy, 9:30 a.m., 2172 Rayburn.

September 10, Subcommittee on Asia, the Pacific and the Global Environment, hearing on U.S.-China Relations: Maximizing the Effectiveness of the Strategic and Economic Dialogue, 1 p.m., 2172 Rayburn.

Committee on the Judiciary, September 9, Subcommittee on Commercial and Administrative Law, hearing on the Role of the Lending Industry in the Home Foreclosure Crisis, 2 p.m., 2141 Rayburn.

September 9, Subcommittee on the Constitution, Civil Rights, and Civil Liberties, hearing on the USA PATRIOT Act, 10:30 a.m., 2141 Rayburn.

September 10, full Committee, hearing on Competition and Commerce in Digital Books, 10 a.m., 2141 Rayburn.

Committee on Natural Resources, September 9, Subcommittee on Energy and Mineral Resources, hearing on H.R. 2227, American Conservation and Clean Energy Independence Act, 10 a.m., 1334 Longworth.

September 9, Subcommittee on Insular Affairs, Oceans and Wildlife, oversight hearing on offshore aquaculture, 10 a.m., 1324 Longworth.

September 9, Subcommittee on Water and Power, hearing on the following bills: H.R. 3254, Taos Pueblo Indian Water Rights Settlement Act; and H.R. 3342, Aamodt Litigation Settlement Act, 2 p.m., 1324 Longworth.

September 10, full Committee, to mark up the following bills: H.R. 685, United States Civil Rights Trail System Act of 2009; H.R. 1593, To amend the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act to designate a segment of Illabot Creek in Skagit County, Washington, as a component of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System; H.R. 2802, To provide for an extension of the legislative authority of the Adams Memorial Foundation to establish a commemorative work in honor of former President John Adams and his legacy, and for other purposes; H.R. 2806, To authorize the Secretary of the Interior to adjust the boundary of the Stephen Mather Wilderness and the North Cascades National Park in order to allow the rebuilding of a road outside of the floodplain while ensuring that there is no net loss of acreage to the Park or the Wilderness, and for other purposes; H.R. 3113, Upper Elk River Wild and Scenic Study Act; H.R. 2008, Bonneville Unit Clean Hydropower Facilitation Act; H.R. 2265, Magna Water District Water Reuse and Groundwater Recharge Act of 2009; H.R. 2442, Bay Area Regional Water Recycling Program Expansion Act of 2009; H.R. 2522, To raise the ceiling on the Federal share of the cost of the Calleguas Municipal Water District Recycling Project, and for other purposes; H.R. 2741, To amend the Reclamation Wastewater and Groundwater Study and Facilities Act to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to participate in the City of Hermiston, Oregon, water recycling and reuse project, and for other purposes, and H.R.

2950, To direct the Secretary of the Interior to allow for prepayment of repayment contracts between the United States and the Uintah Water Conservancy District, 9 a.m., 1324 Longworth.

Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, September 9, Subcommittee on National Security and Foreign Affairs, hearing entitled ''Afghanistan and Pakistan: Accountability Community Oversight of a New Interagency Strategy,'' 9:30 a..m., 2154 Rayburn.

September 10, full Committee, to mark up the following measures: H.R. 1881, Transportation Security Workforce Enhancement Act of 2009; H.R. 2495, Federal Real Property Disposal Enhancement Act of 2009; H.R. 2092, Kingman and Heritage Islands Act of 2009; H.R. 2711, Families of Fallen Heroes Act; and several Commemorative resolutions, 10 a.m., 2154 Rayburn.

Committee on Rules, September 9, to consider H.R. 965, Chesapeake Bay Gateways and Watertrails Network Continuing Authorization Act, 2 p.m., H–313 Capitol.

Committee on Science and Technology, September 10, Subcommittee on Energy and Environment, hearing on Biological Research for Energy and Medical Applications at the Department of Energy Office of Science, 2 p.m., 2318 Rayburn.

September 10, Subcommittee on Investigations and Oversight, hearing on the Risks of Economical Modeling: VaR and the Financial Meltdown, 10 a.m., 2318 Rayburn.

Committee on Small Business, September 9, hearing entitled ''The Challenges of the 2009–H1N1 Influenza and its Potential Impact on Small Businesses and Healthcare Providers,'' 1 p.m., 2360 Rayburn.

Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, September 10, hearing on Concerns with Hazardous Materials Safety in the U.S.: Is PHMSA Performing its Mission? 10 a.m., 2167 Rayburn.

Committee on Veterans' Affairs, September 10, Subcommittee on Economic Opportunity, hearing on Vocational Rehabilitation and Review of SPAWAR and VA's Interagency Agreement, 1:30 p.m., 334 Cannon.

Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, September 9, Subcommittee on Terrorism, Human Intelligence, Analysis, and Counterintelligence, executive, briefing on Hot Spots, 10:30 a.m., 304 HVC.

Select Committee on Energy Independence and Global Warming, September 10, hearing entitled ''Roadmap to Copenhagen: Driving Toward Success,'' 9:30 a.m., room to be announced.

Joint Meetings

Joint Economic Committee: September 10, to hold hearings to examine income, poverty, and health insurance coverage, focusing on assessing key census indicators of family well-being in 2008, 1 p.m., 210, Cannon Building.

Joint Hearing: September 10, Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs, to hold joint hearings to examine the legislative presentation of the American Legion, 9:30 a.m., 345, Cannon Building.

CONGRESSIONAL PROGRAM AHEAD

Week of September 9 through September 12, 2009

Senate Chamber

Senate will continue consideration of S. 1023, Travel Promotion Act.

During the balance of the week, Senate may consider any cleared legislative and executive business.

Senate Committees

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry: September 9, to hold hearings to examine global warming legislation, focusing on carbon markets and producer groups, 10 a.m., SH–216.

Committee on Appropriations: September 9, Subcommittee on Defense, business meeting to mark up proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2010 for Defense, 10:30 a.m., SD–192.

September 10, Full Committee, business meeting to mark up proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2010 for Defense, 2:30 p.m., SD–106.

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs: September 10, to hold an oversight hearing to examine the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC), and how to improve Securities and Exchange Commission performance, 2:30 p.m., SD–430.

Committee on Finance: September 10, Subcommittee on Energy, Natural Resources, and Infrastructure, to hold hearings to examine oil and gas tax provisions, focusing on the President's fiscal year 2010 budget proposal, 2:15 p.m., SD–215.

Committee on Foreign Relations: September 9, to hold hearings to examine the nomination of Robert D. Hormats, of New York, to be Under Secretary of State for Economic, Energy, and Agricultural Affairs, 10 a.m., SD–419.

September 10, Full Committee, to hold hearings to examine Iraq, focusing on a report from the field, 2:30 p.m., SH–216.

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs: September 10, to hold hearings to examine an update on stimulus spending, transparency, and fraud prevention, 10 a.m., SD–342.

Committee on Indian Affairs: September 10, business meeting to consider pending calendar business; to be immediately followed by a hearing to examine S. 1635, to establish an Indian youth telemental health demonstration project, to enhance the provision of mental health care services to Indian youth, to encourage Indian tribes, tribal organizations, and other mental health care providers serving residents of Indian country to obtain the services of predoctoral psychology and psychiatry interns, 2:15 p.m., SD–628.

Committee on the Judiciary: September 9, to hold hearings to examine strengthening forensic science in the United States, 10 a.m., SD–226.

September 9, Full Committee, to hold hearings to examine the nominations of Joseph A. Greenaway, Jr., of

New Jersey, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Third Circuit, Roberto A. Lange, to be United States District Judge for the District of South Dakota, Irene Cornelia Berger, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of West Virginia, Charlene Edwards Honeywell, to be United States District Judge for the Middle District of Florida, and Ignacia S. Moreno, of New York, to be Assistant Attorney General, Department of Justice, 2:30 p.m., SD–226.

September 10, Full Committee, business meeting to consider S. 448 and H.R. 985, bills to maintain the free flow of information to the public by providing conditions for the federally compelled disclosure of information by certain persons connected with the news media, S. 369, to prohibit brand name drug companies from compensating generic drug companies to delay the entry of a generic drug into the market, S. 1599, to amend title 36, United States Code, to include in the Federal charter of the Reserve Officers Association leadership positions newly added in its constitution and bylaws, and the nominations of Jeffrey L. Viken, to be United States District Judge for the District of South Dakota, and Beverly Baldwin Martin, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Eleventh Circuit, and Peter F. Neronha, to be United States Attorney for the District of Rhode Island, Daniel G. Bogden, to be United States Attorney for the District of Nevada, Dennis K. Burke, to be United States Attorney for the District of Arizona, and Neil H. MacBride, to be United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Virginia, all of the Department of Justice, 10 a.m., SD–226.

Committee on Veterans' Affairs: September 10, to hold joint hearings to examine the legislative presentation of the American Legion, 9:30 a.m., 345, Cannon Building.

Résumé of Congressional Activity

FIRST SESSION OF THE ONE HUNDRED ELEVENTH CONGRESS

The first table gives a comprehensive résumé of all legislative business transacted by the Senate and House. The second table accounts for all nominations submitted to the Senate by the President for Senate confirmation.

DATA ON LEGISLATIVE ACTIVITY

January 6 through August 31, 2009

	Senate	*House*	*Total*
Days in session	120	104	..
Time in session	866 hrs., 20′	817 hrs., 36′	..
Congressional Record:			
Pages of proceedings	9,099	9,284	..
Extensions of Remarks	..	2,181	..
Public bills enacted into law	18	44	..
Private bills enacted into law	..	..	..
Bills in conference	5	5	..
Measures passed, total	294	573	..
Senate bills	43	15	..
House bills	48	228	..
Senate joint resolutions	5	3	..
House joint resolutions	4	6	..
Senate concurrent	17	7	..
House concurrent	21	40	..
Simple resolutions	156	274	..
Measures reported, total	*120	*233	..
Senate bills	63	1	..
House bills	24	138	..
Senate joint resolutions	1	..	..
House joint resolutions	..	..	..
Senate concurrent	4	..	..
House concurrent	..	6	..
Simple resolutions	28	88	..
Special reports	17	7	..
Conference reports	..	4	..
Measures pending on calendar	89	37	..
Measures introduced, total	1,947	4,483	..
Bills	1,638	3,524	..
Joint resolutions	19	61	..
Concurrent resolutions	38	178	..
Simple resolutions	252	720	..
Quorum calls	3	2	..
Yea-and-nay votes	270	339	..
Recorded votes	..	345	..
Bills vetoed	..	..	..
Vetoes overridden	..	..	..

DISPOSITION OF EXECUTIVE NOMINATIONS

January 6 through August 31, 2009

Civilian nominations, totaling 454, disposed of as follows:	
Confirmed	314
Unconfirmed	131
Withdrawn	9
Other Civilian nominations, totaling 1,197, disposed of as follows:	
Confirmed	1,183
Unconfirmed	14
Air Force nominations, totaling 5,793, disposed of as follows:	
Confirmed	5,751
Unconfirmed	42
Army nominations, totaling 6,328, disposed of as follows:	
Confirmed	5,715
Unconfirmed	613
Navy nominations, totaling 3,634, disposed of as follows:	
Confirmed	1,842
Unconfirmed	1,792
Marine Corps nominations, totaling 1,477, disposed of as follows:	
Confirmed	1,475
Unconfirmed	2

Summary

Total nominations carried over from the First Session	0
Total nominations received this Session	18,883
Total confirmed	16,280
Total unconfirmed	2,594
Total withdrawn	9
Total returned to the White House	0

Next Meeting of the SENATE

10 a.m., Wednesday, September 9

Senate Chamber

Program for Wednesday: After the transaction of any morning business (not to extend beyond one hour), Senate will continue consideration of S. 1023, Travel Promotion Act.

(Senate will recess from 12:30 p.m. until 2:15 p.m. for their respective party conferences.)

Next Meeting of the HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

10:00 a.m., Wednesday, September 9

House Chamber

Program for Wednesday: Joint Session of Congress to Receive a Message from the President. Consideration of the following suspensions: (1) H.R. 3165—Wind Energy Research and Development Act; (2) H. Res. 447—Recognizing the remarkable contributions of the American Council of Engineering Companies; (3) H. Con. Res. 167—Supporting the goals and ideals of National Aerospace Day; (4) H.R. 445—Heavy Duty Hybrid Vehicle Research, Development, and Demonstration Act; (5) H. Res. 623—Requesting that the President focus appropriate attention on neighborhood crime prevention and coordinate certain Federal efforts to participate in National Night Out; (6) H. Res. 556—Recognizing the 75th anniversary of the passage of the Federal Credit Union Act; (7) H.R. 2664—Promoting Transparency in Financial Reporting Act; (8) H.R. 2571—Nonadmitted and Reinsurance Reform Act; (9) H.R. 2097—Star-Spangled Banner Commemorative Coin Act; (10) H.R. 2498—The ''William O. Lipinski Federal Building'' Designation Act; (11) H.R. 2121—To provide for the transfer of certain Federal property to the Galveston Historical Foundation; (12) H.R. 2053—The ''Albert Armendariz, Sr., United States Courthouse'' Designation Act; (13) H. Con. Res. 136—Authorizing the use of the Capitol Grounds for a celebration of Citizenship Day; (14) H.R. 3193—The ''Alto Lee Adams, Sr., United States Courthouse'' Designation Act; and (15) H. Res. —Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives regarding the terrorist attacks launched against the United States on September 11, 2001.

Extensions of Remarks, as inserted in this issue

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Stupak, Bart, Mich., E2187, E2188, E2196, E2197
Upton, Fred, Mich., E2204
Wamp, Zach, Tenn., E2204
Wilson, Joe, S.C., E2207
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Young, C.W. Bill, Fla., E2207

Congressional Record

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