

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. ROSCOE G. BARTLETT

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 16, 2009

Mr. BARTLETT. Madam Speaker, I submit the following. Funding of \$1,500,000 is necessary to allow an expedited development of the ASCC (Sea Truck) for military/disaster relief use and the fielding of the system. Sea Truck supports the Army's need for low-cost, logistics support equipment with critical distribution and sustainment capabilities. These unmanned, self-propelled support units can be deployed from offshore logistics and commercial ships to the beach for sustainment operations. Sea Truck is composed of 90 percent commercial off-the-shelf nondevelopmental hardware and technologies that are compatible with current commercial and military supply support systems. The Sea Truck Propulsion Module contains commercial navigation sets that allow the system to autonomously traverse to desired locations and has the capability to self-redirect to alternate landing sites to meet the dynamics of changing theater conditions.

UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE FINANCIAL RELIEF ACT OF 2009

SPEECH OF

HON. DAN BURTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 15, 2009

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I am a co-sponsor of H.R. 22, the "United States Postal Service Financial Relief Act," and I urge my colleagues to support the bill. H.R. 22 which will allow the Postal Service to pay, for a temporary period of time, the health premiums for current postal retirees from the \$32 billion held in reserve in Postal Service Retiree Health Benefits Fund, rather than from general operating revenue.

The Postal Service is in the midst of a revenue crisis of huge and historic proportions, despite its extensive efforts to reduce costs. This situation is due in part to the high fuel prices of last summer, but most due to the precipitous decline in mail volume brought about by the deepening recession. In comparison to mail volume and revenue totals in May 2008, the Postal Service reports that volume in May 2009 declined by 19.9 percent, while revenues for the same period were 14.5 percent below last year's figures. The Postal Service is currently on track to lose over \$6.5 billion for Fiscal Year 2009 and the future looks similarly bleak.

It is only an inflexible law that requires the Postal Service—alone amongst Federal agencies—to shell out billions of dollars to prefund retiree benefits, regardless of economic or financial conditions. The first step on the road

to stability and recovery is to change that inflexible law, at least temporarily, by passing of H.R. 22.

I doubt that H.R. 22 will solve all the Postal Service's problems—postal management and postal employees will still have to do their part to find additional savings. But I am certain that without this bill the continued viability of the Postal Service is in serious jeopardy.

I wish to emphasize that this bill does not eliminate the Postal Service's obligation to prefund retiree health benefits; the Postal Service will continue the annual prefunding payment of roughly \$5.4 to \$5.8 billion; H.R. 22 simply gives the Postal Service the temporary flexibility to make those payments from the surplus funds now held by the Postal Service Retiree Health Benefits Fund. In addition, since the Postal Service's contribution to the fund is projected to always be greater than the premiums flowing out, this action will in no way jeopardize the ability of the Trust Fund to grow to meet future needs.

I am aware that initial estimates from the Congressional Budget Office suggest that this bill will have a budgetary impact because CBO expects the Postal Service will reduce its aggressive costcutting efforts if it receives relief from its retiree health obligations. I disagree with this conclusion. The Postal Service has aggressively cut costs in recent years. In fact, because of the hard work of postal employees across the country the Postal Service is on pace to reduce costs by a record \$5.9 billion in Fiscal Year 2009. There is no evidence to suggest this trend will not continue. As for the immediate funding for this relief, it will come from an existing pool of money, not appropriated funds—making this an intergovernmental transfer—with zero cost to the Federal Government.

H.R. 22 has the support of over 315 Members of Congress. It is critical to the future survival of the United States Postal Service, and I strongly urge my colleagues to support the bill.

IN RECOGNITION OF ARMY PRIVATE FIRST CLASS JONATHAN YANNEY

HON. MIKE ROSS

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 16, 2009

Mr. ROSS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize a true American hero. On August 18, 2009, our nation lost a brave soldier when Army Private First Class Jonathan C. Yanney died in Arghandad, Afghanistan, in support of operation Enduring Freedom at 20 years of age. He died of wounds sustained when his military vehicle struck an improvised explosive device.

PFC Yanney grew up in Norwood and Litchfield, Minnesota, but his father resides in Grapevine, Arkansas. Although I never had the honor to meet PFC Yanney, on behalf of

the state of Arkansas, I extend my utmost condolences to his family, friends and all who knew him for this devastating loss.

PFC Yanney was assigned to the 1st Battalion, 17th Infantry Regiment, 5th Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 2nd Infantry Division at Fort Lewis, Washington. He carried out his duties with pride in his country and without reservation and each of us owes him our eternal gratitude for his selfless sacrifice.

A young, decorated soldier, Yanney's awards and decorations include the Bronze Star Medal, the Purple Heart, the Combat Action Badge, the National Defense Service Medal, the Afghanistan Campaign Medal with Bronze Service Star, the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, the Army Service Ribbon, the Overseas Service Bar, the Army Good Conduct Medal, the Weapons Qualification Badge Bar—Weapon Rifle Expert, and the NATO Medal.

My deepest thoughts and prayers are with his mother, Jane; his father, Russ; his brother, Josh; and, the rest of his family, friends and loved ones during this difficult time.

Today, I ask all members of Congress to join me as we honor the life of Army Private First Class Jonathan Yanney and his legacy and all those men and women in our Armed Forces who gave the ultimate sacrifice in service to their country.

CONGRATULATING MOBILE POLICE CHIEF PHILLIP GARRETT ON THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 16, 2009

Mr. BONNER. Madam Speaker, it is with great pride that I rise to honor the long and distinguished career of Phillip Garrett on the occasion of his retirement as chief of the Mobile Police Department.

A 38-year veteran of the Mobile Police Department, Chief Garrett rose from the rank of cadet to the city's top cop. Mobile's Press-Register recently praised his service to the city saying, "With the retirement of Police Chief Phillip Garrett, Mobile is losing a career cop who displayed quiet competence and professionalism in managing the department."

Chief Garrett has received many commendations and recognitions throughout his career, including the Chief's Commendation from former Chief Sam Cochran, the Life Saving Award from the Mobile Police Department, and the Medal of Valor from the Mobile Police Department. He was also recognized for his outstanding performances on Competitive Promotional Exams, and in 2004, he was recognized as the top scorer on the Competitive Promotional Exam for Major.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing a dedicated law enforcement officer and friend to many throughout

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

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

southwest Alabama. I am certain that his family—his wife, Tammy, and their three children, Phillip M. Garrett Jr., Matthew Ryan Garrett, and Kendall W. Smitherman—along with the Mobile Police Department and his many friends in Mobile join me in praising his accomplishments and extending thanks for his considerable service to the city of Mobile.

On behalf of a grateful community, I wish Chief Phillip Garrett the very best of luck in all of his future endeavors.

CONGRATULATING KENNETH J. TICE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL ON THEIR 2009 BLUE RIBBON SCHOOL AWARD

HON. GENE GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 16, 2009

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Madam speaker, I rise today to honor the Kenneth J. Tice Elementary School in the Galena Park Independent School District and our district for their dedication to academic excellence that has earned them the honored distinction of being a Blue Ribbon School in 2009.

Since 1982, the U.S. Department of Education's Blue Ribbon Schools Program has honored many of America's most successful schools, and I am proud of Tice Elementary for establishing itself as an elite academic institution by achieving this high honor. The Blue Ribbon Award honors public and private elementary, middle and high schools that are academically superior or have made dramatic gains in student achievement and helped close achievement gaps among minority and disadvantaged students over the course of the previous school year. This year 314 schools earned this coveted award.

U.S. Secretary of Education Duncan once said that "Blue Ribbon Schools are producing outstanding results for their students. Some have shown dramatic improvements in places where students are overcoming the challenges of poverty, and others serve as examples of consistent excellence that can be a resource for other schools." Under the supervision of Principal Ms. Judy Holbrook, Tice Elementary is developing outstanding students who are challenged to meet high expectations with the active support of teachers, parents and the community. With a diverse student base, and a decade of being recognized as an Exemplary school by the Texas Education Agency, Kenneth J. Tice Elementary truly embodies the ideals of the Blue Ribbon Award and is an inspiration for all schools in the Houston area.

I congratulate the administration, teachers, parents, and students at Tice Elementary for their dedication to excellence and hard work.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. ROSCOE G. BARTLETT

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 16, 2009

Mr. BARTLETT. Madam Speaker, I submit the following: Funding of \$7,500,000 is necessary to adapt Precision Guidance Kit (PGK) technology to provide the same effectiveness

improvements already demonstrated for 155mm artillery projectiles to all indirect fire systems. The Army and Marine Corps have recognized needs for increased precision for ground combat units. The lack of precision for either 105mm artillery or 120mm mortars creates significant operational difficulties. The 105mm artillery and 120mm mortar can be developed in parallel at a significantly accelerated schedule at a reduced cost due to technology that has already been tested and proven, and due to the ability to share common design features with the 155mm PGK. Government and industry tests to assist with design and sizing of the PGK to smaller calibers will continue through FY2009. Based on that work, FY10 funding would enable a low risk, accelerated approach to delivering a much needed operational capability to the field by 2011.

IN HONOR OF THE 100,000TH FALCON III AN/PRC-152(C) RADIO PRODUCED BY HARRIS RF COMMUNICATIONS IN ROCHESTER, NY

HON. LOUISE McINTOSH SLAUGHTER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 16, 2009

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to join our armed services in congratulating Harris RF Communications on producing its one hundred-thousandth Falcon III AN/PRC-152(C) radio. This is an extraordinarily auspicious milestone and a testament to the dedication and hard work of the company's Rochester, New York workforce.

It is fitting to celebrate this achievement as this radio is used and sought after by every branch of the U.S. Department of Defense as well as several of our ally nations. It is a superior product and was recognized by the U.S. Army as one of 2007's greatest inventions. It has next-generation communications capabilities, but is still versatile enough to be compatible with existing communications systems. Plus it can be upgraded in the future to grow as new software and encryption technology advances.

I commend all of Harris' local employees for the critical work they perform every day in support of our soldiers. Their care and dedication is helping to keep our men and women in uniform safe while they serve our nation on faraway battlefields. Moreover, their communications systems enable our military to execute its mission efficiently and effectively so that threats are defeated while innocent lives are safeguarded.

It gives me great comfort to know that our soldiers are equipped with Harris radios because I know that Rochester's top-notch workforce makes products renowned for quality. Our service men and women depend on these radios working the first time and every time. Harris takes that responsibility seriously and I'm so proud to know that the company delivers.

This cutting edge technology that was developed and produced in New York's 28th Congressional District is yet one more example of how our region is a leader in innovation and development. Congratulations to Harris RF Communications and its employees for attaining this significant achievement.

RECOGNIZING THE KANSAS CITY ANIMAL HEALTH CORRIDOR

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 16, 2009

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to House Resolution 317, which would recognize the region from Manhattan, Kansas, to Columbia, Missouri, as the Kansas City Animal Health Corridor.

While I have no issues with the larger goals of the resolution—to recognize the work that is going on in Kansas and Missouri on animal health—I do take issue with the recognition of the Manhattan, Kansas site "as the future location for the National Bio and Agro-defense Facility (NBAF)."

I support moving the critical research activities of Plum Island onto the U.S. mainland. However, I, like many other Members, have grave concerns about the selection process that was utilized by the prior Administration to secure a site for the NBAF. I do not believe that the selection criteria were applied in a consistent manner. Accordingly, I have discomfort with the inclusion of the reference to the Manhattan, Kansas site in this resolution.

Moreover, while I have no doubt that there is salutary work on animal health being conducted in Kansas and Missouri, I have some discomfort with the statement that the Kansas-Missouri corridor has "unmatched" capacity to support the animal health industry. There are certainly other areas around the Nation that have a great deal of capacity.

For these reasons, I must vote "no" on the resolution.

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF SYLVIA LEVIN

HON. HOWARD L. BERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 16, 2009

Mr. BERMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay respects to the passing of my friend Sylvia Levin who passed peacefully on Thursday, June 25, 2009 at the age of 91. Let this congressional insert serve as a tribute to her memory and celebration of her meaningful life.

Sylvia was born on September 14, 1917, in Brooklyn, NY, and grew up there and in New Jersey. She decided to move to California in the 1940s as a single mother of two. She quickly became accustomed to the southern California lifestyle while working at an aircraft plant, a garment factory, a stall at the original Farmers Market in Los Angeles, and as a beach parking lot attendant in Santa Monica.

Known for her warmth and friendliness, Sylvia's indefatigable enthusiasm and tenacity for politics would give new meaning to the grassroots movement. She was known for signing more than 47,000 people to California's voter rolls and she should be remembered for these invaluable contributions she's made to democracy. For her registration efforts, she received a State Senate resolution from the late Senator Herschel Rosenthal. Further, in 2001, she was befittingly nominated and inducted into California's Voter Participation Hall of Fame. In 2007, on her 90th birthday, the Los Angeles

City Council awarded Levin a commendatory resolution citing her work “registering voters for decades, her belief in the Constitution and making the Constitution work.” Her leadership and dedication to furthering our civic responsibility is an example to all.

Sylvia is survived by her son and daughter, Chuck Levin and Susan Levin, and her sisters Dottie Sadowsky and Daisy Neustadt.

I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating the life of Sylvia Levin.

SUPPORTING AMERICAN LEGION
DAY

SPEECH OF
HON. PHIL GINGREY
OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 15, 2009

Mr. GINGREY of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my strongest support for H. Res. 679, a bill that recognizes American Legion Day and commends the exemplary service of the veterans of the United States Armed Services. The American Legion was granted a charter by this body on September 16, 1919, and since that time the Legion has remained active on the local, state, and national level as a volunteer service organization for our nation’s veterans.

Today, it is an honor to express my deep sense of gratitude to the thousands of veterans who are members of the American Legion. The American Legion provides many volunteer opportunities for our nation’s troops when they retire from the Armed Services. Some of these include donating millions of man hours to the medical facilities of the Veterans Administration, sponsoring Boy Scouts of America troops all around the country, and awarding millions of dollars for college scholarships. These incredible volunteers give back to the very communities that they have already sacrificed so much for throughout their careers.

Community involvement is only one aspect of the American Legion. These Legionnaires also provide an extraordinary amount of support for troops returning from war in Iraq and Afghanistan. Legion Posts all around the nation have been involved with providing financial assistance to veterans displaced by natural disasters or families of veterans that are struggling to pay for basic needs such as housing. The American Legion has a Family Support Network that provides much needed assistance to families of members of the Armed Services, and the organization focuses on reintegrating troops returning from deployment into the workforce in the United States.

It is appropriate that we take a moment to recognize and say thank you to the active duty members of our Armed Forces for their dedication, sacrifice, and honor. Each and every day, they keep this great nation safe and protect the freedoms that we enjoy. We are proud of all of our servicemen and women and are eternally grateful for their efforts in the Global War on Terror. Furthermore, let us not forget those who have paid the ultimate sacrifice, and let us say a gracious thank you to them for their willingness to make the ultimate sacrifice for liberty.

The families of those who serve our country on the front lines also deserve the admiration

and appreciation of each and every citizen. These family members often watch their loved ones travel to far away lands in support of a cause and an ideal so much greater than any one individual. Indeed, our democratic form of government is a testament to the courage and valor of our Armed Forces. The support given to our servicemen and women by their loved ones is irreplaceable, as it is the foundation for the bravery inherent in those who labor steadfastly in the defense of liberty.

Mr. Speaker, I believe that the brave men and women who sacrifice—and have sacrificed in the past—for our present freedoms deserve our fullest support. Our nation’s servicemen and women represent the best our country has to offer, and they must be treated with the respect and honor they deserve. Recognizing American Legion Day in 2009 is just one small reminder of the invaluable contributions made by our troops at home and abroad, and it is my hope that we will continue to do all we can and more for the veterans of our Armed Forces. The American Legion is an exceptional organization for veterans and communities all around the nation, and we now reaffirm our commitment to these heroes by recognizing this day.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all of my colleagues to support this resolution.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. ROSCOE G. BARTLETT

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 16, 2009

Mr. BARTLETT. Madam Speaker, I submit the following: Funding of \$2,000,000 is necessary to continue the development of a power dense Integrated Power System (IPS) and Hybrid Electric Drive (HED) technologies suitable for surface combatant and submarine propulsion, enhanced power generation and power conversion. Power dense electric machines and power conversion solutions enable hybrid propulsion systems that save fuel and provide increased critical power for additional payload capabilities. These developments allow an advanced IPS or HED system to be incorporated in future and existing warships, including the re-started DDG51 line, DDG512 Modification, Ohio Replacement, and a future CG(X).

CHURCH OF THE NATIVITY OF THE
THEOKOTOS

HON. MICHAEL F. DOYLE

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 16, 2009

Mr. DOYLE. Madam Speaker, I rise to observe the 85th anniversary of the Church of the Nativity of the Theokotos, a Serbian Orthodox Church in Clairton, Pennsylvania.

For those of us who may be unfamiliar with Orthodox Christianity, Theokotos is Greek for “God-Bearer” or “one who gives birth to God,” and it is the Greek title for Mary, the mother of Jesus. Consequently, the Church of the Nativity of the Theokotos is also sometimes referred to as St. Mary’s Serbian Orthodox Church.

Serbs began settling in southwestern Pennsylvania in large numbers about 100 years ago. Until they obtained their own church, the Serbs in Clairton attended services at the Serbian Orthodox Church in McKeesport. But once the number of Serbian families in Clairton exceeded 40, they established their own parish and began working to establish their own church. In 1924, the nascent congregation purchased a Presbyterian church, and moved it to its current location in the 500 block of Third Street in Clairton. Work on the church was completed and it was consecrated 2 years later.

Soon Serbian Orthodox Christians from the nearby communities of Elizabeth, Monongahela, and further up the Monongahela River came to worship at the church and eventually the parish came to include these communities as well.

The church hall was substantially expanded in 1941, and in 1945, the parish purchased a rectory across the street.

On September 19, the congregation will celebrate the 85th anniversary of the church and the Slava celebration, or feast day of their patron saint, with a Holy Hierarchical Divine Liturgy at 10 am.

This will be a bittersweet occasion as it will be the last such celebration at the Church of the Nativity of the Theokotos. The congregation has shrunken from 600 people 50 years ago to less than 50 today, making it the smallest parish in the Serbian Orthodox Diocese of Eastern America. The church is closing after the last liturgy there on Sunday, September 27, 2009, bringing to a close nearly a century of serving as a place of worship and community fixture for the Serbian Orthodox faithful in Clairton and the surrounding communities.

I want to recognize this occasion by congratulating the congregation and friends of the Church of the Nativity of the Theokotos on 85 years of the Serbian Orthodox community of the Mon Valley.

HONORING MATTHEW PALNOW

HON. DONALD P. MANZULLO

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 16, 2009

Mr. MANZULLO. Madam Speaker, it is my distinct honor to take this opportunity to recognize a heroic resident of the 16th District of Illinois, Matthew Polnow of Rockford. Mr. Polnow works for the U.S. Postal Service and is a member of the National Association of Letter Carriers.

On June 11, 2008, as he was delivering mail on his postal route, Carrier Polnow witnessed a crushing three-vehicle accident. In a matter of seconds, he ran to the first car, checking to make sure that the occupants were not injured. Then he went on to the second vehicle, a truck, where fortunately no one needed assistance. Carrier Polnow continued to the third vehicle, a van used to transport handicapped and wheelchair-bound individuals, which was beginning to burn. The driver’s airbag had deployed, and the driver alerted Carrier Polnow to a handicapped passenger still inside the smoke-filled van.

With smoke continuing to circulate and flames erupting from the engine, Carrier Polnow went to work. He managed to free the

side door that had been jammed by a ramp. Maneuvering the ramp into place, he unhooked the restraining belts and dragged the wheelchair—and the now terrified woman passenger—from the vehicle. Once free from the smoke, Carrier Polnow located the controls on the chair and engaged them to move the woman to safety.

Acts of bravery and fortitude such as this should not go unnoticed. Carrier Polnow's heroism has led him to be recognized by the National Association of Letter Carriers with the National Central Hero Award. I am privileged and humbled to represent great constituents like Carrier Polnow, and I wanted to take this brief opportunity today, Madam Speaker, to let my colleagues know of his great act of courage.

CONGRATULATING ARLENE COOK

HON. STEVE AUSTRIA

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 16, 2009

Mr. AUSTRIA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Arlene Cook, for her commendable service to the State of Ohio and for earning the William L. Howard Award. This award is the highest a civilian can receive from Ohio's Fire Service, for outstanding service to the fire forces.

As a private citizen, Arlene has dedicated the vast majority of her adult and professional life to the safety and security of the citizens of the 7th Congressional District and Ohio.

Arlene has 24 years of State Service with 3 of those years in Florida and 21 in Ohio. Specifically, she spent 8 years with the former Arson Bureau, which is now the Fire and Explosion Investigation Bureau, and 13 years as the administrative assistant to the State Fire Marshal. She also serves as the Administrative Assistant to the State Fire Commission.

Arlene has had a long and distinguished career with the Ohio State Fire Marshal's Office, and I congratulate her on receiving the William L. Howard Award, as well as thank her for her dedication to the safety of Ohioans.

For these reasons, Arlene Cook deserves our gratitude and special thanks.

RECOGNIZING THE LIFE OF
WILLIAM R. DECOTA

HON. JOHN L. MICA

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 16, 2009

Mr. MICA. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize the life and accomplishments of William R. DeCota, the Director of Aviation for the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey. Bill was one of our Nation's great aviation leaders.

I knew Bill DeCota for the last decade. When I became the Chairman of the Aviation Subcommittee I held a hearing at the World Trade Center on July 16, 2001, at the request of Bill DeCota and Neil Levin, Director of the New York Port Authority.

During that visit to New York City, Bill and Neil invited me to tour the three major New York City airports. I knew Neil Levin when he was Legislative Director for Senator Al

D'Amato and I served as Chief of Staff for Senator Paula Hawkins. After a hearing in the Port Authority chambers, they hosted my wife, Pat, and me at a luncheon in a Port Authority conference room adjacent to the Windows on the World Restaurant at the top of the World Trade Center.

Levin and Port Authority employee, who assisted with the hearing in July, were in that very same conference room in the World Trade Center on September 11, and lost their lives.

As fate would have it, Bill DeCota was at a conference in Montreal, Canada, on September 11th and survived the terrible events of that day.

In the ensuing years, Bill and I often talked about the randomness of life. It is therefore striking that Bill died suddenly last Friday, September 11, 2009, eight years later.

It must be noted that in the months and years after 9/11, Bill's stewardship of the world's busiest airport system was truly the greatest of any airport director.

Bill joined the Port Authority as a financial analyst in 1982 and quickly rose through the ranks, serving as Manager of the Aviation Department's Business and Financial Services Division, Assistant Director of Aviation for Business and Properties, and Deputy Director of Aviation.

He was named Director of Aviation in December 1999. As Director, Bill was responsible for John F. Kennedy International, Newark Liberty International, and LaGuardia Airports, and later Stewart Airport—which together comprise the world's largest aviation system. He was also responsible for Teterboro Airport.

In that capacity, Bill oversaw the largest airport improvement program in U.S. history.

Bill was recognized as an expert in aviation and was an active advocate for airport issues on Capitol Hill and in the business community.

His expertise in managing airport congestion through prudent airport expansion, cutting-edge technologies and demand management was widely recognized in the aviation industry.

Bill was also strongly committed to the community and was actively involved in numerous service organizations.

He was a member of the Advisory Board of CUNY's Aviation Institute at York College, President of the Queens Council of the Boy Scouts of America, and a member of the Board of the Regional Business Partnership, the Airport Development Council and the Business Advisory Council of SUNY Farmingdale, among others.

Bill received a bachelor's degree from the University of Mississippi, and an M.B.A. from the University of Georgia.

He resided in Old Bridge, New Jersey.

True to how he lived his life, funeral arrangements for Bill will be private. His family requests that contributions in his memory be made to Elijah's Promise, New Brunswick, New Jersey, which is a nonprofit organization that runs a soup kitchen and culinary school to train local people for food-service careers.

My thoughts and prayers are with Bill's family. Bill DeCota and his expertise and contributions to aviation will be greatly missed.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. ROSCOE G. BARTLETT

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 16, 2009

Mr. BARTLETT. Madam Speaker, I submit the following: Funding of \$1,000,000 is necessary to address the challenges of sample preparation and detection/diagnosis of biological warfare agents. The ASP technology has the ability to process both environmental and clinical biological samples for subsequent analysis on both nucleic acid and/or immunoassay detection/diagnostic systems, and when mated to currently fielded and new detection systems will enhance warfighter capability to detect and identify hundreds of potential targets simultaneously within a single analysis on a single detection/diagnostic platform.

IN RECOGNITION OF VIETNAM
WAR VETERANS EVENT

HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 16, 2009

Mr. SKELTON. Madam Speaker, on September 12, 2009, the Honorable EMANUEL CLEAVER, Congressman from Missouri's Fifth Congressional District, sponsored a remarkable event at the Truman Library. This event was in honor of those who fought in the Vietnam War in the late 1960s and early 1970s. Well over 1,000 veterans attended. The Honorable DENNIS MOORE, Congressman from Kansas's Third Congressional District, spoke, and yours truly had an opportunity to deliver a message of gratitude to the Vietnam veterans present. The keynote speaker was Major General (Ret.) Robert H. Scales, former commandant of the U.S. Army War College. His address was very well received by the veterans in the audience. The address is as follows:

Mr. Skelton, Mr. Cleaver, distinguished guests and, most importantly, fellow veterans. What a great thrill it is to see my comrades in arms assembled here so many years after we shared our experiences in war.

Let me give you the bottom line up front: I'm proud I served in Vietnam. Like you I didn't kill innocents, I killed the enemy; I didn't fight for big oil or for some lame conspiracy I fought for a country I believed in and for the buddies who kept me alive. Like you I was troubled that, unlike my father, I didn't come back to a grateful nation. It took a generation and another war, Desert Storm, for the nation to come back to me.

Also like you I remember the war being 99 percent boredom and one percent pure abject terror. But not all my memories of Vietnam are terrible. There were times when I enjoyed my service in combat. Such sentiment must seem strange to a society today that has, thanks to our superb volunteer military, been completely insulated from war. If they thought about Vietnam at all our fellow citizens would imagine that fifty years would have been sufficient to erase this unpleasant war from our conscientiousness. Looking over this assembly it's obvious that the memory lingers, and those of us who fought in that war remember.

The question is why? If this war was so terrible why are we here? It's my privilege

today to try to answer that question not only for you, brother veterans, but maybe for a wider audience for whom, fifty years on, Vietnam is as strangely distant as World War One was to our generation.

Vietnam is seared in our memory for the same reason that wars have lingered in the minds of soldiers for as long as wars have been fought.

From Marathon to Mosul young men and now women have marched off to war to learn that the cold fear of violent death and the prospects of killing another human being heighten the senses and sear these experiences deeply and irrevocably into our souls and linger in the back recesses of our minds.

After Vietnam we may have gone on to thrilling lives or dull; we might have found love or loneliness, success or failure. But our experiences have stayed with us in brilliant Technicolor and with a clarity undiminished by time. For whatever primal reason war heightens the senses. When in combat we see sharper, hear more clearly and develop a sixth sense about everything around us.

Remember the sights? I recall sitting in the jungle one bright moonlit night marveling on the beauty of Vietnam. How lush and green it was; how attractive and gentle the people, how stoic and unmoved they were amid the chaos that surrounded them.

Do you remember the sounds? Where else could you stand outside a bunker and listen to the cacophonous mix of Jimmy Hendrix, Merle Haggard and Jefferson Airplane? Or how about the sounds of incoming? Remember it wasn't a boom like in the movies but a horrifying noise like a passing train followed by a crack and the whistle of flying fragments. Remember the smells? The sharpness of cordite, the choking stench of rotting jungle and the tragic sweet smell of enemy dead. . . .

I remember the touch, the wet, sticky sensation when I touched one of my wounded soldiers one last time before the medevac rushed him forever from our presence but not from my memory, and the guilt I felt realizing that his pain was caused by my inattention and my lack of experience.

Even taste is a sense that brings back memories. Remember the end of the day after the log bird flew away leaving mail, C rations and warm beer? Only the first sergeant had sufficient gravitas to be allowed to turn the C ration cases over so that all of us could reach in and pull out a box on the unlabeled side hoping that it wasn't going to be ham and lima beans again.

Look, forty years on I can forgive the guy who put powder in our ammunition so foul that it caused our M-16s to jam. I'm OK with helicopters that arrived late. I'm over artillery landing too close and the occasional canceled air strike. But I will never forgive the Pentagon bureaucrat who in an incredibly lame moment thought that a soldier would open a can of that green, greasy, gelatinous goo called ham and lima beans and actually eat it.

But to paraphrase that iconic war hero of our generation, Forrest Gump, "Life is like a case of C Rations, you never know what you're going to get." Because for every box of ham and lima beans there was that rapturous moment when you would turn over the box and discover the bacchanalian joy of peaches and pound cake. It's all a metaphor for the surreal nature of that war and its small pleasures . . . those who have never known war cannot believe that anyone can find joy in hot beer and cold pound cake. But we can . . .

Another reason why Vietnam remains in our consciousness is that the experience has made us better. Don't get me wrong. I'm not arguing for war as a self-improvement course. And I realize that war's trauma has

damaged many of our fellow veterans physically, psychologically and morally. But recent research on Post Traumatic Stress Disorder by behavioral scientists has unearthed a phenomenon familiar to most veterans: that the trauma of war strengthens rather than weakens us (They call it Post Traumatic Growth). We know that a near death experience makes us better leaders by increasing our self-reliance, resilience, self image, confidence and ability to deal with adversity. Combat veterans tend to approach the future wiser, more spiritual and content with an amplified appreciation for life. We know this is true. It's nice to see that the human scientists now agree.

I'm proud that our service left a legacy that has made today's military better. Sadly Americans too often prefer to fight wars with technology. Our experience in Vietnam taught the nation the lesson that war is inherently a human not a technological endeavor. Our experience is a distant whisper in the ear of today's technology wizards that firepower is not sufficient to win, that the enemy has a vote, that the object of war should not be to kill the enemy but to win the trust and allegiance of the people and that the ultimate weapon in this kind of war is a superbly trained, motivated, and equipped soldier who is tightly bonded to his buddies and who trusts his leaders.

I've visited our young men and women in Iraq and Afghanistan several times. On each visit I've seen first hand the strong connection between our war and theirs. These are worthy warriors who operate in a manner remarkably reminiscent of the way we fought so many years ago.

The similarities are surreal. Close your eyes for a moment and it all comes rushing back. . . . In Afghanistan I watched soldiers from my old unit, the 101st Airborne Division, as they conducted daily patrols from firebases constructed and manned in a manner virtually the same as those we occupied and fought from so many years ago. Every day these sky soldiers trudge outside the wire and climb across impossible terrain with the purpose as one sergeant put it "to kill the bad guys, protect the good guys and bring home as many of my soldiers as I can." Your legacy is alive and well. You should be proud.

The timeless connection between our generation and theirs can be seen in the unity and fighting spirit of our soldiers in Iraq and Afghanistan. Again and again, I get asked the same old question from folks who watch soldiers in action on television: why is their morale so high? Don't they know the American people are getting fed up with these wars? Don't they know Afghanistan is going badly? Often they come to me incredulous about what they perceive as a misspent sense of patriotism and loyalty.

I tell them time and again what every one of you sitting here today, those of you who have seen the face of war, understand: it's not really about loyalty. It's not about a belief in some abstract notion concerning war aims or national strategy. It's not even about winning or losing. On those lonely firebases as we dug through C ration boxes and drank hot beer we didn't argue the righteousness of our cause or ponder the latest pronouncements from McNamara or Nixon or Ho Chi Minh for that matter. Some of us might have trusted our leaders or maybe not. We might have been well informed and passionate about the protests at home or maybe not. We might have groused about the rich and privileged who found a way to avoid service but we probably didn't. We might have volunteered for the war to stop the spread of global communism or maybe we just had a failing semester and got swept up in the draft.

In war young soldiers think about their buddies. They talk about families, wives and girlfriends and relate to each other through very personal confessions. For the most part the military we served with in Vietnam did not come from the social elite. We didn't have Harvard degrees or the pedigree of political bluebloods. We were in large measure volunteers and draftees from middle and lower class America. Just as in Iraq today we came from every corner of our country to meet in a beautiful yet harsh and forbidding place, a place that we've seen and experienced but can never explain adequately to those who were never there.

Soldiers suffer, fight and occasionally die for each other. It's as simple as that. What brought us to fight in the jungle was no different than the motive force that compels young soldiers today to kick open a door in Ramadi with the expectation that what lies on the other side is either an innocent huddling with a child in her arms or a fanatic insurgent yearning to buy his ticket to eternity by killing the infidel. No difference. Patriotism and a paycheck may get a soldier into the military but fear of letting his buddies down gets a soldier to do something that might just as well get him killed.

What makes a person successful in America today is a far cry from what would have made him a success in the minds of those assembled here today. Big bucks gained in law or real estate, or big deals closed on the stock market made some of our countrymen rich. But as they have grown older they now realize that they have no buddies. There is no one who they are willing to die for or who is willing to die for them. William Manchester served as a Marine in the Pacific during World War II and put the sentiment precisely right when he wrote: "Any man in combat who lacks comrades who will die for him, or for whom he is willing to die is not a man at all. He is truly damned."

The Anglo Saxon heritage of buddy loyalty is long and frightfully won. Almost six hundred years ago the English king, Henry V, waited on a cold and muddy battlefield to face a French army many times his size. Shakespeare captured the ethos of that moment in his play Henry V. To be sure Shakespeare wasn't there but he was there in spirit because he understood the emotions that gripped and the bonds that brought together both king and soldier. Henry didn't talk about national strategy. He didn't try to justify faulty intelligence or ill formed command decisions that put his soldiers at such a terrible disadvantage. Instead, he talked about what made English soldiers fight and what in all probably would allow them to prevail the next day against terrible odds. Remember this is a monarch talking to his men:

"This story shall the good man teach his son;

From this day ending to the ending of the world,

But we in it shall be remembered;
We few, we happy few, we band of brothers;
For he today that sheds his blood with me
shall be my brother;

And gentlemen in England (or America) now
a-bed

Shall think themselves accursed they were
not here,

And hold their manhood's cheap whiles any
speaks

That fought with us upon Saint Crispin's
day."

You all here assembled inherit the spirit of St Crispin's day. You know and understand the strength of comfort that those whom you protect, those in America now abed, will never know. You have lived a life of self awareness and personal satisfaction that those who watched you from afar in this

country who "hold their manhood cheap" can only envy.

I don't care whether America honors or even remembers the good service we performed in Vietnam. It doesn't bother me that war is an image that America would rather ignore. It's enough for me to have the privilege to be among you. It's sufficient to talk to each of you about things we have seen and kinships we have shared in the tough and heartless crucible of war.

Some day we will all join those who are serving so gallantly now and have preceded us on battlefields from Gettysburg to Wanat. We will gather inside a firebase to open a case of C rations with every box peaches and pound cake. We will join with a band of brothers to recount the experience of serving something greater than ourselves. I believe in my very soul that the almighty reserves a corner of heaven, probably around a perpetual lager where some day we can meet and embrace... all of the band of brothers throughout the ages to tell our stories while envious standers-by watch and wonder how horrific and incendiary the crucible of violence must have been to bring such a disparate assemblage so close to the hand of God.

Until we meet there thank you for your service, thank you for your sacrifice, God bless you all and God bless this great nation. . . .

SUPPORTING EFFORTS TO REDUCE INFANT MORTALITY

SPEECH OF

HON. ZACH WAMP

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 14, 2009

Mr. WAMP Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H. Res. 260, a resolution supporting efforts to reduce infant mortality in the United States. I thank Congressman STEVE COHEN for introducing this legislation, and I am proud to be an original cosponsor.

The infant mortality rate provides the best sense of the health of a country, and unfortunately, the U.S. ranks 29th in the world in this category. That means twenty-eight other countries have better success than us in delivering and maintaining the health of a child during its first year of development. Needless to say, this is a disturbing sign, and something we as a nation must address.

Although this is a national problem, it unfortunately hits close to home for my state of Tennessee. Nowhere in the country is the infant mortality rate higher than in Memphis. While devastating, the issue has inspired St. Jude's Hospital in-depth research on infant mortality, and this has led to discoveries about the variety of factors that affect infant mortality.

My hometown of Chattanooga, Tennessee, also struggles with a similar sad phenomenon known as low birth weight (LBW) which can, and usually does, lead to the death of children under one year of age. A baby is considered to have a low birth weight if it is less than five pounds at birth. Of the twenty-eight zip codes in Hamilton County which encompasses Chattanooga, twenty-seven have high rates of LBW, meaning Hamilton County has a higher percentage of LBW than some third-world nations. Researchers are had at work to pinpoint the actual cause.

Madam Speaker, our nation's high infant mortality rate is one of the most significant

issues facing the health and future of our country, and this resolution recognizes the exceptional work that is being done to address it.

I urge all Members to support the passage of this important resolution.

CONGRATULATIONS TO JOYCE ERNESTINE WESTERHOLD

HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 16, 2009

Mr. SKELTON. Madam Speaker, let me take this opportunity to congratulate Mrs. Joyce Ernestine Westerhold, the Region 4 Outstanding Older Worker of the Year. As a homemaker, school teacher, and library assistant, Mrs. Westerhold has dedicated her life to serving others.

She began her career as a school teacher in 1948 and served the students of Missouri's public schools for a total of 26 years. While teaching various subjects in several public schools, Mrs. Westerhold remained active in the state teacher's organization and the Parent-Teachers Association.

After a distinguished teaching career, Mrs. Westerhold began working as a library assistant with University of Central Missouri. During her 24 years with the University's library system, her job was redesigned three times and she saw many technological changes. As the times changed, so did she.

While this award is in recognition of Mrs. Westerhold's 50 years of full-time employment as a teacher and library assistant, her work as a dedicated wife and mother cannot go unnoticed. She and her husband of 60 years have raised two lovely children.

Madam Speaker, Ernestine Westerhold has distinguished herself throughout her careers with Missouri public schools and the University of Central Missouri. I trust that the Members of the House will join me in congratulating her for this great contribution to Missouri and our country.

WIND ENERGY RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT ACT OF 2009

SPEECH OF

HON. PHIL HARE

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 9, 2009

Mr. HARE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 3165, the Wind Energy Research and Development Act of 2009. I commend my colleague from New York, Representative TONKO for authoring this important legislation which moves our Nation further down the path toward energy independence.

As a representative of west central Illinois, I have the privilege of personally witnessing the development of our nation's energy future. Various companies, community colleges, counties, cities, and others in my congressional district are actively pursuing initiatives to develop and produce alternative sources of energy, and educate the new work force for this emerging field. In addition to the great work being done with biofuels, my district is

also home to several wind energy projects, which is why I am happy we are considering H.R. 3165 on the House floor today.

As its name implies, the Wind Energy Research and Development Act of 2009 would provide much-needed funding for the research and development of technologies to advance wind turbine design, create better control systems and increase production capacity of energy output. The bill would also authorize \$200 million annually for a new program aimed at developing technologies to improve the efficiency of wind turbines while reducing production costs.

Not only does this legislation have the potential to establish a vibrant wind energy industry in the United States, but it could also lead to the creation of thousands of jobs in the manufacturing and engineering of wind turbines, turbine components, and turbine maintenance.

Additionally, this investment in wind energy would address the looming energy crisis by capturing and harnessing a naturally produced and renewable alternative to fossil fuels. A recent report published by the Department of Energy confirmed the technical feasibility of producing an estimated 20 percent of America's energy from wind turbines by the year 2030. This important legislation would provide the funding we need for the development of the technologies to reach this goal.

We have known for decades that the United States must turn to renewables and other forms of clean energy to combat climate change, achieve energy independence from unstable foreign nations, gain greater control over the cost of energy sources, and ensure energy security. Representative TONKO's bill would provide our country the tools needed to help facilitate this transition.

The United States is poised to become the worldwide leader in clean energy development and production—we have the ingenuity, the will, the workers, and the resources. H.R. 3165 would ensure that we lead the next breakthrough in clean energy technology.

Again, I thank my friend from New York and urge my colleagues to join me in voting for the Wind Energy Research and Development Act.

STATEN ISLAND CORPS OF THE SALVATION ARMY

HON. MICHAEL E. McMAHON

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 16, 2009

Mr. McMAHON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the Staten Island Corps of the Salvation Army on their 125 years of unyielding service to the people of Staten Island. Over their many years they have fed the hungry, clothed the cold and supported those in need during disasters.

Founded in London's East End in 1865 by William Booth in order to assist the poor and needy regardless of age, sex, color or creed, they now have expanded their services to 119 countries.

They have continued to live out the same mission for the neediest Staten Islanders since their commencement on February 3, 1884. The Salvation Army operates two centers on Staten Island and has been able to provide vital services from food pantries to after school activities, as well as music instruction.

During the attacks of September 11, 2001 the Salvation Army was at the forefront, working hand in hand with New York's Bravest and Finest, in order to bring assistance and relief during our nation's most troubling time.

Even in these tough economic times, they have not given up on their services and continue to provide the same stellar opportunities regardless of the cost incurred.

I would like to take the time to give special recognition to the honorees of their "125 Years of Service" luncheon: Mr. James Devine, CEO of the New York Container Terminal; Mr. Richard Salinardi, Executive Director of Life Styles for the Disabled; The University of Notre Dame Club; and the late Mrs. Rosemary Cappozzalo, Staten Island's beloved "Matriarch of the Arts." These individuals embody the very essence of service that our nation is grateful for.

Madam Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in commending The Salvation Army on their dedication to the citizens of Staten Island.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. ROSCOE G. BARTLETT

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 16, 2009

Mr. BARTLETT. Madam Speaker, I submit the following: Funding of \$2,000,000 is necessary to meet the on-going need in DoD to increase the number of ISR orbits delivered by Unmanned aircraft. The Universal Distributed Management System (UDMS) is a demo-proven (TRL-6) autonomous command and control system that will enable up to twelve UAVs to operate simultaneously from a single ground station and perform complex tactical objectives. Expert Rules-based software enables collision and terrain avoidance and cooperative engagement tactics among the constellation of multiple vehicles and sensors. The complex tactics are user programmable and can be executed autonomously or with dynamic operator inputs to the changing tactical situation. UDMS can be integrated with existing UA ground control system with no modification required to the air vehicles or existing C3 links.

THE PROMISE OF EMERGING DEMOCRACIES

HON. DAN BURTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 16, 2009

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Madam Speaker, I rise today to bring to my colleagues' attention a September 8, 2009, Washington Times op-ed written by Nursultan Nazarbayev, President of the Republic of Kazakhstan. Since 1991, Nursultan Nazarbayev has served as the President of the Republic of Kazakhstan. Oftentimes, emerging democracies like Kazakhstan are not the focus of media attention, but in the Washington Times op-ed entitled, "The Promise of Emerging Democracies," President Nazarbayev reminds the world that emerging democracies do have an important and pivotal role to play on the global stage.

[From the Washington Times, Sept. 8, 2009]

THE PROMISE OF EMERGING DEMOCRACIES

(By Nursultan Nazarbayev)

The world is remaking itself. Amid pressing economic challenges and multinational security concerns, new alliances are forming. Global commerce along with governments are bringing down borders, opening relationships and creating opportunity. Kazakhstan, like most emerging democracies, is cautiously optimistic, with a pragmatism steeped in the hard lessons of history. Policies have consequences; alliances can liberate as well as captivate. With the stroke of a pen, superpower leaders like Presidents Obama and Dmitry Medvedev of Russia can reverse a decade of tepid relations to put forces and agendas into motion that affect all of us.

Nowhere in the world is the influence more keenly felt than in Kazakhstan and Central Asia, positioned as we are between Russia, China, Iran and Afghanistan. Here, a breeze in global diplomacy among nations like Russia, the United States and China can have the impact of a blinding windstorm, leaving us to wonder about our role and influence within these relationships.

Bellicose nations rattle sabers to garner attention and receive a concession here and there; certainly, their tactics make the nightly news. Others push America and Western democracies to the brink before backing off and waiting for another strategic push in their quest for a place among nuclear nations. Emerging democracies like Kazakhstan, on the other hand, while not the focus of media attention, have a responsibility and role to play on the global stage that is far more consequential to the welfare of freedom-loving nations.

The objective of Mr. Obama and Mr. Medvedev to cut their nuclear arsenals by a third is indicative of that role. The current size of those arsenals was influenced greatly by a decision our nascent democracy made 18 years ago to permanently shut down the Semipalatinsk nuclear test site, which set the stage for a decision to safely dispose of 104 SS-18 intercontinental ballistic missiles we had inherited from the Soviet Union, each tipped with 10 nuclear warheads. To put this in perspective, North Korea, which the world cautiously watches, is believed to have enough plutonium for only a half-dozen atomic bombs.

Keeping the weapons could have made Kazakhstan a larger player in our potentially volatile region, and surely the world would be more aware of us today. There were some who encouraged us to keep the arsenal. But larger considerations, including the role and responsibility of emerging democracies like ours, weighed heavily in the decision. Our focus was on building a new economic and political model in Kazakhstan, and we had a firm belief that our future and welfare rested on commercial and security relationships in the West.

Our desire was to engage in what I like to call cooperative leadership, pragmatic and constructive engagement with the myriad and often complex forces in our region. This was the philosophy that prompted us to dismantle our arsenal and pursue relations not only with the United States, but with Russia, China, Iran and, in fact, all nations that see opportunity in Kazakhstan.

On Aug. 29, we celebrated the anniversary of our decision, and the philosophy of cooperative leadership that inspired it continues to benefit Kazakhstan and our relationships throughout the world. A dedication to democratic values, the rule of law, transparency, tolerance and open trade has led to stability and a strong, well-educated middle class. This increasingly firm foundation at home

enables us to play an important role among nations abroad, providing strategic engagement and opportunities for cooperation among countries that often may be overlooked, as well as among those who may not be inclined to work together otherwise.

Sharing common values of freedom and peaceful development, democracies firmly support each other. That is why since the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks that shocked the entirety of mankind, Kazakhstan has stood shoulder to shoulder with the United States in the fight against international terrorism and today provides much-needed assistance for the stabilization of Afghanistan.

As an emerging democracy practicing cooperative leadership, Kazakhstan is able to encourage dialogue even among adversaries. Our recently concluded third annual Congress of Leaders of World and Traditional Religions is only one example, with spiritual leaders attending from almost every faith and nation to promote tolerance and understanding. Likewise, our quest to establish an international nuclear fuel bank to be governed by the International Atomic Energy Agency, which would allow nations like Iran and others to openly and honestly pursue their energy agendas, finds support among leaders in the United States, Russia and China. Recently, Israeli President Shimon Peres proposed Kazakhstan as the site for a historic meeting with key leaders from his country, Saudi Arabia and the Islamic world.

This is how emerging democracies can make a difference. In the absence of the entrenched and sometimes dogmatic divisions of the past, young entrants on the global stage of freedom can offer an environment for pragmatic solutions. Mr. Obama understands this. Two weeks after his election, he called to discuss regional cooperation, non-proliferation measures and energy cooperation. At that time, and many times since in public statements, he has favored pragmatism as the basis for civilized statecraft.

Some have suggested this is an inadequate approach for charting the new direction in foreign policy that Mr. Obama has promised. However, I believe those criticisms are misconceived. Pragmatism is necessary in nation-building and more likely to evoke a positive response from allies than an ideological crusade. Emerging democracies understand this challenge, undertaking in decades an experiment that has engaged America for much more than 200 years. Cooperative leadership is the important role we can play and the example we can set for others.

HONORING THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF SEAN MICHAEL HINPHEY

HON. STEVE ISRAEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 16, 2009

Mr. ISRAEL. Madam Speaker, it is with great pride that I rise today to recognize a young man in my district, Sean Michael Hinphey. This young man will receive the Eagle Scout honor from his peers in recognition of his achievements.

Since the beginning of this century, the Boy Scouts of America have provided thousands of boys and young men each year with the opportunity to make friends, explore new ideas, and develop leadership skills while learning self-reliance and teamwork.

The Eagle Scout award is presented only to those who possess the qualities that make our Nation great: commitment to excellence, hard work, and genuine love of community service.

Becoming an Eagle Scout is an extraordinary award with which only the finest Boy Scouts are honored. To earn the award—the highest advancement rank in Scouting—a Boy Scout must demonstrate proficiency in the rigorous areas of leadership, service, and outdoor skills; they must earn a minimum of 21 merit badges as well as contribute at least 100 man-hours toward a community oriented service project.

It is with great pride that I recognize the achievements of Sean and bring the attention of Congress to this successful young man on his day of recognition, October 4, 2009. Congratulations to Sean and his family.

TOM KING

HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, September 16, 2009

Mr. SHIMKUS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the actions of Mr. Tom King of Saint Jacob, Illinois.

Mr. King rode his bicycle halfway across the United States to commemorate the life of Caleb Zarzecki, a former student who lost his battle with cancer last year. King, a teacher at Collinsville Middle School, described his ride as “a journey of faith and healing.” The cross-country journey raised funds for a scholarship established in Caleb Zarzecki’s name.

Mr. King started his journey on June 26 in Seattle, Washington, and traveled more than 2,000 miles to his home in Saint Jacob, Illinois. He rode 40 to 60 miles every day, sleeping at local campgrounds and churches in Washington, Idaho, Montana, Wyoming, South Dakota, Minnesota, Iowa, Missouri and finally Illinois.

Mr. King’s actions exemplify a teacher’s devotion to his students. It is my hope that this model of dedication may inspire us all. As we honor Mr. King, I extend my heartfelt thoughts and prayers to the family of Caleb Zarzecki.

RICHARD J. AND FRANCES G.
COWEN

HON. MICHAEL A. ARCURI

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, September 16, 2009

Mr. ARCURI. Madam Speaker, I stand today to honor the memory and service of Mr. Richard J. Cowen and his wife, Mrs. Frances G. Cowen, both members of the United States Army Air Corps during World War II. Mr. and Mrs. Cowen were residents of my district in upstate New York, and their daughter, Ms. Mary F. Bechy, currently resides in Waterville, NY.

Mr. and Mrs. Cowen were highly decorated for their service in the American and Pacific Theaters. Mrs. Cowen, a nurse in Hawaii and the Philippines, received the Asiatic Pacific Theater ribbon with Bronze Star, the Philippine Liberation ribbon, the American Theater ribbon and the World War II Victory Medal. For his service, Mr. Cowen was honored with the American Campaign Medal, the Asiatic Pacific Campaign Medal, the Philippine Liberation Medal and the World War II Victory Medal.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to recognize Mr. and Mrs. Cowen for their service on behalf of our Nation during a time of great peril. Their sacrifice and dedication is truly an example for us all. I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Mr. and Mrs. Cowen and the many men and women who serve in our Nation’s Armed Forces.

90TH ANNIVERSARY OF AMERICAN
LEGION POST 80

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKEY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, September 16, 2009

Mr. VISCLOSKEY. Madam Speaker, it is my distinct honor to rise today to honor one of America’s finest organizations, the American Legion, and to recognize one of its local posts, Whiting American Legion Post 80, on its 90th anniversary. Post 80 came to be shortly after the founding of the national organization. In honor of this momentous occasion, the members of Post 80 will be celebrating with dinner and entertainment on Sunday, September 19, 2009, at the legion hall in Whiting, where they will host Robert Newman, Department of Indiana American Legion Commander, as their featured speaker.

Just yesterday, the United States House of Representatives joined the Senate in passing legislation supporting the goals and ideals of American Legion Day. For the past ninety years, Whiting Post 80 has been an extraordinary example of the ideals and mission of the American Legion. Overall, the American Legion boasts nearly 15,000 posts, and remarkably, consists of nearly three million members. In their communities, American Legion posts are a source of pride for their many contributions made to aid veterans and to better their communities.

Throughout the years, Whiting Post 80 has taken heed of the American Legion’s mission. They have been well known in the Whiting-Robertsdale area for their many activities aimed at honoring veterans, which have included an honor guard and drum and bugle corps, but also for their many programs that serve the youth and families in their community.

From within the ranks of its membership, Whiting Post 80 has seen some of its members rise to great ranks within the American Legion organization. They have had two members, Donald Hynes and Richard Quattrin, serve as Department of Indiana Commanders. Quite impressively, Mr. Quattrin also served at the national level as the National Executive Committeeman for the Department of Indiana. Four of Post 80’s members have also been honored with the American Legion’s highest award, The Distinguished Service Award. These individuals are: Donald Hynes, who served as post adjutant for five years, Leo Mulva, who served as post adjutant for a remarkable forty-eight years, Richard Quattrin, who also served an impressive thirty years as post adjutant, and Bert Tiemersma.

Additionally, of the nearly one hundred World War II veterans who are members of Post 80, sixteen of them have over sixty years of service to the organization, including their longtime service officer, Nick Oprisko, who still serves in that capacity and is in his 66th year with the post.

Madam Speaker, I ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in recognizing American Legion Post 80 and its members on its 90th anniversary. I also ask that you join me in honoring its membership for their service to their community, its veterans, and their commitment to the ideals of the American Legion. Their efforts have played a major role in elevating the quality life in their community.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE ISRAEL
CANCER RESEARCH FUND AND
THE 2009 BARBARA GOODMAN
ANNUAL SCIENTIFIC AWARDS &
DONOR RECOGNITION EVENING

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, September 16, 2009

Mrs. MALONEY. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize an extraordinary organization, an amazing group of donors and the launch of a new musical. The Israel Cancer Research Fund (ICRF) is the single largest source of private funds for cancer research in Israel, and its generous donors have raised nearly \$37 million for cancer research by Israeli scientists. Tonight at the 2009 Barbara Goodman Annual Scientific Awards & Donor Recognition evening, ICRF is announcing this year’s cancer research grants and celebrating the magnanimousness of ICRF’s remarkable benefactors. The evening’s festivities will feature a preview performance of Wallenberg, The Musical, a new musical about the courageous efforts of Raoul Wallenberg to save a significant portion of the Hungarian Jewish community from the Holocaust.

Since its founding in 1975, ICRF has become the largest single source of private funds for cancer research in the State of Israel. The Fund has provided tens of millions of dollars worth of grants in thousands of separate awards to top-notch scientists at all of Israel’s leading research institutions. ICRF awards are often the first grants young scientists receive following completion of their academic studies, and allow them to establish labs, begin their professional research and attract grants from other sources, while remaining in Israel. Grant recipients include the first Israelis ever to receive the Nobel Prize in the sciences. Some remarkable breakthroughs of ICRF-supported researchers include the development of drugs that treat multiple myeloma; that target cancer cells directly; and that are encapsulated in a liposome for direct delivery to tumor sites. Other projects have helped scientists conduct cutting-edge cancer research on genes, leading to the identification of the p53 gene as a tumor suppressor; the discovery that a minor mutation in the RAD51 gene increases the risk of breast cancer; and pioneering work on DNA Methylation, a molecular process that turns genes on and off. In addition, ICRF provided critical support to the development of a novel bone marrow transplant technique that significantly expanded the donor pool for leukemia treatment.

Barbara S. Goodman lost her battle to pancreatic cancer on July 18, 2002 at the age of 51. She was a loving wife and mother and a devoted friend who made the people she loved the center of her life. Ms. Goodman had

also fought bone cancer and survived the disease for fifteen years. She would be proud to know that research is being conducted in her name that will advance our ability to treat pancreatic cancer and help those afflicted with the disease. Her husband, Kenneth Goodman, who is serving as Chairman of the evening's festivities, has demonstrated remarkable generosity and great dedication to the noble effort to expand cancer research funding.

The award recipients, donors and attendees of tonight's event will be treated to a preview performance of *Wallenberg, The Musical*, book and lyrics by Laurence Holzman and Felicia Needleman, and music by Benjamin Rosenbluth. Wallenberg tells the fascinating and uplifting story of Raoul Wallenberg, one of the heroes of the 20th century, a Swedish diplomat who singlehandedly saved more than 100,000 Hungarian Jews in a sixth month period. His courage demonstrates that one person can have a monumental impact and suggests that history could have been different had more people acted as valiantly as Mr. Wallenberg. The presentation will take place at the historic Hudson Theatre, a landmarked theatre built in 1903 by Henry Harris, that later became a radio playhouse, a television studio, a burlesque theatre, a rock club and most recently, an elegant venue for special events. Mr. Wallenberg's niece, Louise Von Dardel, is flying in from Paris to be present at the event.

Like Raoul Wallenberg, the donors, ICRF and the scientists are proving that individuals can make an extraordinary difference. Raoul Wallenberg succeeded through personal heroism and audacious ploys, while ICRF's heroes make a difference through their benevolence, volunteer work and scientific research. The work that these extraordinary people are doing will save thousands of lives.

Madam Speaker, I ask my distinguished colleagues to join me in recognizing the exemplary work being done by ICRF and the scientists it funds, and the extraordinary generosity of its donors.

RELATIONS BETWEEN REPUBLIC OF TURKEY AND REPUBLIC OF ARMENIA

HON. VIRGINIA FOXX

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 16, 2009

Ms. FOXX. Madam Speaker, I am encouraged by the latest movement towards normalization of relations between the Republic of Turkey and the Republic of Armenia.

On August 31, 2009, the Foreign Ministers of Turkey, Armenia and Switzerland sent out a joint press release which was the latest significant step down the path to establishing diplomatic relations between Turkey and Armenia. The countries have completed and initialed two protocols which will, when they enter into force, provide a framework for the normalization of the bilateral relations. Moreover, I am encouraged that the parties have also included a timetable for implementation of the agreement which is an added confidence building measure for both sides. The citizens of Turkey and Armenia can now see a positive light at the end of the tunnel and we should do what we can to help them achieve their common goals.

This is a significant step in the right direction for the region and the world at large. The United States should continue to encourage and support the efforts of Turkey and Armenia, with the good offices of Switzerland, to build a productive and stable bilateral relationship and thereby enhance stability throughout the region.

IN RECOGNITION OF ARMY SPECIALIST MATTHEW HASTINGS

HON. MIKE ROSS

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 16, 2009

Mr. ROSS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize a dedicated patriot and a true American hero. On August 17, 2009, our nation lost a brave service member when Army Specialist Matthew D. Hastings died in Baghdad, Iraq, in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom, from a non-combat related incident.

Army Specialist Hastings lived in Claremore, Oklahoma, but his father resides in Jefferson, Arkansas. Although I never had the honor to meet Specialist Hastings, on behalf of the State of Arkansas, I extend my utmost condolences to his family, friends and all who knew him for this devastating loss.

Army Specialist Hastings was assigned to the 582nd Medical Logistics Company, 1st Medical Brigade, 13th Sustainment Command, Fort Hood, Texas. He graduated from Broken Arrow Alternative Academy in 2005 and joined the military a year later as a light-wheel vehicle mechanic. According to those who knew him, he loved to hunt and fish, took great pride in his work and treasured time spent with his family and friends. I am sure he will be sorely missed.

My deepest thoughts and prayers are with his mother and stepfather, Lawanda and Roger Lowry; his father, Chuck Hastings, Jr.; his sister, Michelle; and, the rest of his family, friends and loved ones during this difficult time.

Today, I ask all members of Congress to join me as we honor the life of Army Specialist Matthew Hastings and all those men and women in our Armed Forces who give the ultimate sacrifice in service to their country.

COMMENDING FIRST COMMUNITY BANK ON THE OCCASION OF ITS 100TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 16, 2009

Mr. BONNER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend First Community Bank on 100 years of service in southwest Alabama.

On June 6, 1909, in the office of Granade and Granade, Attorneys, Chatham State Bank was first organized. The next month the bank's charter was filed with a capital stock of \$25,000 and 250 shares at \$100 per share. For the next five years, the bank conducted business in the tax assessor's office at the Washington County Courthouse.

In 1910, construction on the first building for Chatham State Bank began and today, the

bank continues to operate on the same site. During the Great Depression when all banks were required to close for a specified period of time, Chatham State Bank was one of only a few area banks able to reopen immediately.

On August 30, 1974, a branch bank was opened in Millry. The bank began serving the people of Mobile County in 1985 when the bank purchased the Mt. Vernon office from First National Bank of Mobile. To reflect its growth and service to Mobile and Washington Counties, Chatham State Bank changed its name to First Community Bank on July 19, 1986. Since that time, the bank has expanded to Citronelle and Saraland, as well as locations on Schillinger Road and Cottage Hill Road in Mobile.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join with me in congratulating Glen Davis and all of those at First Community Bank on 100 years of outstanding service. For this and all of their accomplishments, I extend my heartfelt thanks for their continued service to the Alabama business community, the First Congressional District, and the state of Alabama.

It is my hope First Community Bank continues its story of success for another 100 years.

REMEMBERING THE TENTH ANNIVERSARY OF HURRICANE FLOYD

HON. G. K. BUTTERFIELD

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 16, 2009

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Madam Speaker, this week we mark 10 years since the floodwaters of Hurricane Floyd devastated eastern North Carolina, killing 52 people, causing over \$6 billion in damage, and leaving thousands homeless. In the eastern part of the state, it is known simply as "The Flood." It remains the most devastating natural disaster in our state's history.

On September 16th, 1999, Hurricane Floyd hit North Carolina as a strong Category 2 hurricane. Hurricane Floyd made landfall at Cape Fear and moved north along Interstate 95, hitting eastern North Carolina with 100-mph winds and up to two feet of rain. Of the two, the rain proved the more fatal element. Arriving on the heels of Hurricane Dennis, which had already soaked the ground and water table, Floyd's rains created massive flooding.

Over a period of a month, nearly every river basin in eastern North Carolina exceeded 500-year flood levels. The cresting waters destroyed 7,000 homes, left 17,000 uninhabitable, and damaged 56,000. The brave men and women of the National Guard and the Coast Guard performed nearly 1,700 freshwater rescues of people trapped on the roofs of their homes due to the rapid rise of the water. In total, Floyd was responsible for 57 fatalities in the United States, mostly in North Carolina.

Sixty-six counties in North Carolina were declared federal disaster areas. There were more than \$6 billion in losses of property and agriculture. After the storm, over 88,500 North Carolinians registered state or federal disaster aid.

Every community I represent was in some way affected by "The Flood." From flooded towns of Greenville, Kinston, Tarboro, Snow

Hill and Rocky Mount, where 30 percent of the city was underwater, to communities on higher ground that served as refuges for newly homeless neighbors, nearly every person in the eastern North Carolina experienced the Flood in a real way. But one of the hardest hit communities was Princeville, North Carolina. Princeville was completely submerged for more than a week—people's homes were underwater and the business community was virtually leveled.

Princeville, originally called Freedom Hill, is the oldest town incorporated by African-Americans in the United States. It was settled in 1865 by newly freed slaves on low and soggy swampland across the Tar River from the town of Tarboro. It had survived smaller floods over the years, but The Flood of 1999 nearly killed this historic town. With water up to the rooftops, FEMA offered the people of Princeville a buyout to abandon the town.

Though a difficult decision, the town rejected the offer 3–2. At the time, Mayor Delia Perkins said, "Rebuilding is staying with your heritage. We plan to stay."

The community's struggle to rebuild attracted the attention of many people, including then-President Bill Clinton. President Clinton issued Executive Order (EO) 13146, tasking an interagency President's Council with developing "assessments and recommendations to repair and rebuild Princeville, and, to the extent practicable, protect Princeville from future floods." Hosts of other national figures visited and lent their support. Today, much of the town is rebuilt, though a handful of flooded homes still await demolition.

Today we remember the devastation caused by the Hurricane Floyd flood of 1999. The scars are still seen on the sides of buildings and in the hearts of people, but these communities have overcome and continue to work toward full recovery after these 10 years.

EDGAR BRIDGES

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 16, 2009

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Madam Speaker, it gives me immense pleasure to recognize the life and accomplishments of a scholar, a leader, and a pillar in the community, Mr. Edgar Bridges.

Mr. Edgar Bridges' extensive scholastic record is an excellent testament to his belief in the power of education both for himself, and for the advancement of his community as a whole. He began his scholastic career in Lawrence County Public Schools. Later, he attended Prentiss Normal and Industrial Institute. He then attended Pacific Training School in Los Angeles California. Mr. Edgar Bridges' scholastic achievements culminated when he received a Bachelor's in Science Degree in Religious Education from The Mississippi Baptist Seminary.

Mr. Bridges' aforementioned education afforded him the opportunity to realize the importance of education for everyone. Thus, he became a champion for the educational development of children and improving life experiences for youth as a whole, serving as Executive Director of The Lawrence County Education and Recreation Association, president

of the Lawrence County Educational Convention, member of the Board of Trustees for McCullough High School (Monticello, MS), and Chairman of the Board of Directors for Five County Child Development Program Inc.

Mr. Edgar Bridges' record of service to his community, church, and participation in civic activities are exemplary of a person who truly cares about the community, and believes in "giving back" to them through tireless effort and dedication. He served as co-chair of the Home Health Care Agency at Lawrence County Hospital and Superintendent of the Mission for the Lawrence County Baptist Association. He also contributed to the community by becoming a member of the Lawrence County Chamber of Commerce, and was a lifetime member of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

Mr. Bridges' phenomenal record in education and service was recognized in the form of awards, accolades, and citations. He received the Medgar Evers Award for Outstanding Leadership, the Labor and Industry Award from the NAACP for being an outstanding contributor to Head Start, and was Emeritus Grand Master of the M.W. Stringer Grand Lodge of Mississippi, an accomplishment in which he was most proud.

Once again, it is with great pleasure that I recognize the lifetime and accomplishments of The Honorable Mr. Edgar Bridges. I am honored to salute such a champion for academics, a true leader, and a pillar of the community.

CONGRATULATING THE MINORITY
BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT AGENCY
ON ITS 40TH ANNIVERSARY

SPEECH OF

HON. AL GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 15, 2009

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I extend my strong support to H. Res. 215, which congratulates the Minority Business Development Agency for its accomplishments on its 40th anniversary.

For forty years, the Minority Business Development Agency has fostered the establishment and growth of minority-owned businesses in America. Since the agency's founding in 1969, it has assisted 625,000 minority businesses and helped them secure more than \$25 billion in loans and bonding. In 2008, it served 25,000 businesses and contributed to the creation of over 5,000 new jobs. The Minority Business Development Agency is the only federal agency dedicated to minority business enterprise and works to achieve entrepreneurial parity so that minority businesses are represented proportionally to the minority population in this country.

While the number of minority businesses in the United States has grown today to 4 million from only 322,000 in 1969, the growth of minority firms has not kept pace with the growth of the minority population. Minority groups represent 26 percent of the country's population, but own only 12 percent of the nation's businesses and receive only 6 percent of total sales.

Nevertheless, minority enterprises account for \$668 billion in total annual sales receipts

and employ 5 million people. By 2042, minorities in America will become a numerical majority. Based on this population shift, it is clear that the success of the American economy is directly linked to the success of minority businesses, which are in a unique position to support the vibrancy of local communities. Supporting minority businesses is not only beneficial to minority enterprise, but to communities and people who depend on those businesses as well.

As the Minority Business Development Agency enters its fifth decade, I urge the agency to continue its efforts to help minorities achieve entrepreneurial parity, contribute to the health of the national economy and communities across America. I am proud to celebrate the achievements of the Minority Business Development Agency on its 40th anniversary and I urge my colleagues to support H. Res. 215.

HONORING RAYMOND H.
DUNLAP, SR.

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 16, 2009

Mr. KILDEE. Madam Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to join me in congratulating Bishop Raymond H. Dunlap, Sr. for 21 years broadcasting the "Hour of Power" Radio Program. Bishop Dunlap will be honored this weekend by the congregations of Bethlehem Temple Church of the Apostolic Faith and New Jerusalem Full Gospel Baptist Church.

After attending the West Virginia Institute and Aeon Bible College, he served in the US Armed Services for two years. He was discharged in 1952, married Lillian Thomas in 1953, and accepted his call to preach the Gospel in 1954 under the direction of his father, Bishop Sandy Dunlap.

He moved to Flint, Michigan in 1966 and founded The Eliezer Church of the Lord Jesus Christ. He was elevated to District Elder and then Junior Bishop. In August 1983, he was ordained a Bishop and currently presides as Diocesan of the Northern Diocese of Michigan; he is the former Diocesan of Minnesota. Bishop Dunlap also serves as the establishmentarian of Berea Bible College. He has directed the establishment of 13 churches of the Church of Our Lord Jesus Christ in Michigan and 3 churches in Minnesota. In addition to being heard daily on the "Hour of Power," Bishop has reared more than 46 ministerial sons and Eliezer Church operates the Hope Academy School.

Bishop Dunlap and his wife, Lillian, have been blessed with 6 children, numerous grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Madam Speaker, I applaud the work of Bishop Raymond H. Dunlap, Sr. He has devoted his life to bringing the good news of Jesus Christ to the people of Flint, Michigan. His radio broadcasts are a source of comfort and joy to his listeners. I pray that he will continue for many years to inspire and elevate the spiritual life of the community and bring his message of hope to those with the most need.

INFORMATION FOR PROCLAMATION OR CONGRATULATORY LETTER FOR BISHOP RAYMOND H. DUNLAP, SR., D.D. THA.A B.A.

Two (2) day City Wide Celebration Honoring Bishop Raymond H. Dunlap, Sr., for 21

years with the "Hour of Power" Radio Program. We will be honoring a great man and appreciating his works at 6:30 pm on;

Friday, September 18, 2009 Services at: Bethlehem Temple Church of the Apostolic Faith, 3401 M. L. King, Jr., Avenue, Flint, MI 48505.

Saturday, September 19, 2009 Services at New Jerusalem Full Gospel Baptist Church, 1035 E. Carpenter Road, Flint, MI 43505.

Bishop Dunlap, known as "a man with a Vision" was born January 19, 1929 in Pratt City, Alabama. Pastor Dunlap graduated from Buffalo High School in West Virginia. He attended West Virginia Institute in Charleston, West Virginia and later became a student at the world famous Aeon Bible College in Columbus, Ohio. He served two years in the U. S. Armed Services, receiving an honorable discharge in 1952. Celebrated 80 years of life in January.

Bishop Dunlap married the love of his life Ms. Lillian Thomas on June 1, 1953 and to this blessed union was born six (6) children.

Bishop Dunlap accepted the call of God to preach the Gospel in 1954 under the tutelage of his father Bishop Sandy Dunlap in Columbus, Ohio. By 1960 he was elevated to Assistant Pastor—through the years he served in many other positions in the local church and also held state offices.

In 1966 he relocated his family to Flint, Michigan, sought employment and shortly thereafter established The Eliezer Church of our Lord Jesus Christ. In 1977 he was elevated to District Elder, three years later he was elevated to the office of Junior Bishop. His steadfast character and leadership earned him the honor of being ordained as a Bishop in August 1983 in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. He presently presides as the Diocesan of the Northern Diocese of Michigan and the former Diocesan of Minnesota. He is the establishmentarian of Berea Bible College (formally Christ Bible College, Church of Our Lord Jesus Christ) since 1998.

Under his spiritual leadership there has been the establishment of 13 churches of the Church of Our Lord Jesus Christ in Michigan and 3 in Minnesota. Bishop Dunlap has reared more than 46 ministerial. In 2001 Eliezer established and operates "The Hope Academy School."

Since 1988, Bishop Dunlap is heard daily at 12:30 pm on the "Hour of Power" radio broadcast on WFLT 1420 AM. The spiritual effects of Bishop's ministry is known in the city of Flint and the many places he has ministered; giving proof of God's call on his life, and the vision he has been given by God.

Bishop Dunlap is a dedicated family man; loving husband, father, grandfather and great-grandfather. He is an avid fisherman, a pianist, song writer, composer of poems. His godly lifestyle, winning smile, gentle manner and love for people has earned him great respect among his peers, community leaders, business associates and citizens through this community.

CONGRATULATING THE DORA B. LANTRIP ELEMENTARY SCHOOL ON THEIR 2009 BLUE RIBBON SCHOOL AWARD

HON. GENE GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 16, 2009

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the Dora B. Lantrip Elementary School in the Houston Independent School District and our district for their dedication to academic excellence that

has earned them the honored distinction of being a Blue Ribbon School in 2009.

Since 1982, the U. S. Department of Education's Blue Ribbon Schools Program has honored many of America's most successful schools, and I am proud of Lantrip Elementary for establishing itself as an elite academic institution by achieving this high honor. The Blue Ribbon Award honors public and private elementary, middle and high schools that are academically superior or have made dramatic gains in student achievement and helped close achievement gaps among minority and disadvantaged students. This year 314 schools earned this coveted award.

Dora B. Lantrip Elementary is a school that believes higher expectations lead to higher achievement. Lantrip strives to stimulate young minds and encourage them to strive for excellence, while instilling in them a love of learning. Under the supervision of Principal Ms. Matilda Orozco, Lantrip Elementary also works to develop students into decision-makers who have mutual respect for others. Lantrip Elementary is an example of consistent excellence that is an inspiration for all schools in the Houston area.

I congratulate the administration, teachers, parents, and students at Lantrip for their dedication to excellence and hard work.

REMEMBERING PAT FLECK,
SPRING HILL, FLORIDA

HON. GINNY BROWN-WAITE

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 16, 2009

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Madam Speaker, last Thursday evening a spark went out in Hernando County. "The Mother of Spring Hill," Pat Fleck, lost her battle with cancer. Known for her genuine love of, and devotion to, her community, she was a pioneer for women in business, a leader in public service, a mentor, devoted mother, wife and friend.

A long time resident of Spring Hill, in an interview with a local paper, she recalled a time when U.S. 19 was only two lanes wide and so empty that on trips to a New Port Richey supermarket, she sometimes drove on the wrong side of the road because, as she put it, "for some reason it was smoother."

She applied that same optimism in every facet of her life: I thought of Pat as the unofficial paparazzi of Spring Hill. She would attend community events with her camera in hand; snap pictures unbeknownst to those around her and a short time later a copy would appear in the mail: She was always sure to capture your most flattering side.

Pat knew when to get down to business as well. It is that business sense to which much of her professional successes can be attributed: She was the founder of Spring Hill's first independent real estate agency, Fleck Real Estate; she later parlayed her knowledge of the industry into a real estate school. She was also a founder of the West Hernando Chamber of Commerce where she served as its chairwoman.

She was a community organizer we all could appreciate! She was a long time board member of HPH Hospice and an avid supporter of many community organizations in-

cluding Stage West Community Playhouse. Pat worked tirelessly to insure that they had the resources they needed in order to be successful contributors to the community.

I am grateful to have known Pat. She had a heart of gold and a boundless love for Hernando County. It is so fitting that Hernando County shared that same love for her in return.

RECOGNIZING PERU FOR ENGAGING IN PEACEFUL DIALOGUE WITH INDIGENOUS PEOPLES TO OVERCOME POLITICAL CONFLICT

HON. ENI F.H. FALEOMAVAEGA

OF AMERICAN SAMOA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 16, 2009

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Madam Speaker, on June 23, 2009, I introduced House Resolution 574, expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that Peru should engage in peaceful dialogue to address ongoing political conflict between state authorities and indigenous peoples in compliance with the U.N. declaration on the rights of Indigenous Peoples and ILO Convention 169.

Earlier this year conflict had developed in Peru over the enactment of Legislative Decrees 1090 and 1064, which had potentially significant adverse impacts on the rights and property of Peru's indigenous peoples. Protests erupted in June in Bagua, Peru ultimately leading to the deaths of police officers and protestors.

In subsequent months, the Government of Peru has taken a number of steps to reduce tensions, investigate the violence and engage in peaceful dialogue. On July 23, 2009, Dorothy Ngutter, Peru Desk Officer at the State Department, sent my office information on developments related to H. Res. 574, noting improvements on the ground, including an agreement with indigenous groups on the establishment of a "multi-sectoral commission consist[ing] of government, civil society, NGOs and indigenous leaders." I am including the full text of her message in my remarks for the record.

On July 24, 2009, I met with Peru's Ambassador to the United States, Luis M. Valdivieso, and he described the steps taken by Peru in the aftermath of the violence in more detail. On September 10, 2009, he sent me a letter along with a progress report on the work of the National Group of Coordination for the Development of Amazon Communities, which he noted, "was created in the aftermath of the unfortunate events that took place in Bagua, Amazon Region of Peru in early June."

According to that progress report, the National Group of Coordination for the Development of Amazon Communities (NGCDAC), created four subgroups focused on examining the events in Bagua, evaluating the contentious Legislative Decrees, gathering information on appropriate methods of consultation regarding International Labor Organization Convention 169 and the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, and creating a National Development Plan for the Amazon Region for submission to Peru's Congress by December 26, 2009.

The steps taken by the Government of Peru are positive, in line with H. Res. 574, and deserve recognition. I applaud the progress in Peru and want my friends there to know that

I will continue to follow events regarding the country's indigenous peoples closely. For the record, I include a copy of the progress report and the letter from the Ambassador with my remarks.

STATE DEPARTMENT VIEWS ON DEVELOPMENTS
IN PERU

Protests by Indigenous groups, led by an umbrella NGO (AIDSESEP), began in April against several legislative decrees passed in 2008 they felt would infringe on their rights. While it was not completely clear what portions of the laws were at issue, the indigenous groups main stated concern was that there had been inadequate consultation prior to the passage of the decrees. In mid-May, the Government of Peru initiated a dialogue with AIDSESEP's leaders to discuss indigenous concerns. These early talks were slow going and fell apart when AIDSESEP walked out on the talks.

The government acted to remove roadblocks near the town of Bagua and restore supplies to affected neighboring communities on June 5. Clashes between police and protestors ensued when police attempted to remove the roadblocks; separately police officers—previously taken hostage at a pumping station—were murdered following news reports of the earlier clashes. Official reports, confirmed by the independent the independent Human Rights Ombudsman's office, put the death toll at 33 (including 10 civilians and 23 police).

The situation on the ground has changed since the violence in early June. The government has reached an agreement with indigenous groups June 15; repealed two laws June 18; and established a multi-sectoral dialogue process. The multi-sectoral commission consists of government, civil society, NGOs and indigenous leaders. With four subgroups looking at the June incidents; concerns on legislative decrees and proposals to replace the repealed decrees; definition of a mechanism for prior consultation in accordance with ILO requirements; and the development of a national proposal for Amazonian development. To date, the commission has met at least three times.

The recent government reshuffle should have no effect on the dialogue, as the incoming Prime Minister has publicly declared support for ongoing dialogue processes.

EMBASSY OF PERU,

Washington DC, September 10th, 2009.

Hon. ENI F.H. FALEOMAVAEGA,
House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. FALEOMAVAEGA: Attached for your information please find a brief progress report on the work of the National Group of Coordination for the Development of Amazon Communities which was created in the aftermath of the unfortunate events that took place in Bagua, Amazon Region of Peru in early June.

Please feel free to contact me in case you need further clarification.

Sincerely yours,

LUIS M. VALDIVIESO,
Ambassador of Peru.

DIALOGUE PROCESS BETWEEN THE AMAZONIAN
COMMUNITIES AND THE GOVERNMENT OF PERU

By Supreme Resolution 0117-2009-PCM issued on June 10th 2009, the Government of Peru created the "National Group of Coordination for the Development of Amazon Communities" (NGCDAC) with the objective of rising a comprehensive sustainable development plan for indigenous peoples in areas such as education, health, titling and the formalization of land, among others. The Government of Peru aims at presenting to the Congress a proposal of National Development Plan for the Amazon by December 26th.

By Supreme Resolution 0211-2009-PCM issued on August 25th 2009, new members of the NGCDAC were added, which includes:

a. Eight (08) Representatives of the Executive Branch (Ministers or their representatives): Ministries of Environment, Energy and Mines; Women and Social Development; Health; Education; Transport and Communications; Housing, Construction and Sanitation. It is chaired by the Ministry of Agriculture that also will be the Technical Secretariat (originally there were only four ministries).

b. Eleven (11) Representatives of Regional Governments: Presidents of the Regional Government of Loreto, Ucayali, Amazonas, San Martín, Madre de Dios, Cuzco, Huánuco, Pasco, Junín, Ayacucho and Cajamarca (originally there were only four regional governments).

c. Representatives of Amazonian indigenous organizations (AIDSESEP and CONAP).

This NGCDAC is the core of the dialogue process (known also as the Dialogue Roundtable) and it has four (04) Working Groups. So far, the progresses the four working groups are:

(1) Inquiry Commission on the events in Bagua

On September 2, 2009, seven (07) members of the Inquiry Commission on the events in Bagua (Amazonas) on June 5th 2009, were elected. The working group consists of:

a. Representatives of indigenous communities: Pilar Mazzetti Soler (former Minister of the Interior), Mary Carmen Gómez and Jesús Calleja Manacas Valverde.

b. Representatives of the Executive Branch: Ricardo Alvarez Lobo, Susana Pinilla Cisneros (former Minister for Women and Social Development) and Walter Gutierrez Camacho.

c. Regional governments delegate, Manuel Ernesto Bernales Alvarado.

The members of this working group will have a meeting with the Ministry of Agriculture no later than September 5th 2009. The Ministry of Agriculture is the chairman of the NGCDAC. The chairman of the working group will be elected among its members. It is expected that this group provides the results of its investigation by December 26th 2009.

(2) Evaluation of Legislative Decrees

This evaluation is being developed under the coordination of the Ministry of Agriculture. The Law on Forestry and Wildlife, and its Bylaw are considered by the working group as reference documents. This group has organized exhibitions and workshops and evaluated many proposals on forestry regulations submitted by each of the parties involved in the dialogue—central government, regional governments and native communities. They will be discussed and then consulted with the indigenous communities.

To contribute to finding consensus on this issue with representatives of regional governments and indigenous communities, on September 2nd 2009, the Bureau for Forestry and Wildlife Affairs of the Ministry of Agriculture submitted to the NGCDAC a document with technical inputs to improve the forestry legislation.

(3) Consultation Mechanisms (in order to accomplish the ILO Convention 169)

This working group is gathering information on the methods of consultation: the Convention 169 itself and its handbook; the United Nations Declaration on Indigenous Peoples Rights; the draft proposal of law in Congress concerning the right of consultation; the report of the Ombudsman on the Bagua issue, and a case review related to the Saramaka population of Suriname.

Regarding this topic, it has been organized the International Seminar "Right of consultation of Indigenous people, policy frame-

work and implementation experiences", as well as decentralized meetings on this issue. Both the Ombudsman and the Sub Regional Office of the ILO have made presentations on the Convention 169. On September 17th this working group will assemble to set up proposals on the matter.

Since the group has started its works, it is taking into consideration the opinions and points of views expressed by Amazonian communities for the purpose of arriving to a draft bill to be submitted to the NGCDAC.

(4) National Development Plan of the Amazon Region

The agenda includes issues relating to indigenous peoples and the Amazon Region, such as:

Land, natural resources and biodiversity.
Identity, culture and human development.
Organization, autonomy and governance.
Economics, management and sustainable development.

So far, this working group has had several meetings and has organized exhibitions, workshops and proposals about this matter.

Since August 29th 2009, this working group is revising and updating of the "Action Plan for Priority Issues of the Special Multisector Commission for Indigenous Communities".

Until September 2nd 2009, this group has worked on these subjects: land property rights and legal stability; bilingual education; increasing of the coverage of public health, and conditions of peace and security for native communities.

Since the installation of NGCDAC, there have been a total of 37 meetings of the four working groups, which were undertaken in an atmosphere of respectful and transparent dialogue.

Within 120 days, the NGCDAC must submit to the Presidency of the Council of Ministers, the Comprehensive Plan for Sustainable Development of the Amazonian Peoples.

RAISING A QUESTION OF THE
PRIVILEGES OF THE HOUSE

SPEECH OF

HON. DANIEL B. MAFFEI

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 15, 2009

Mr. MAFFEI. Mr. Speaker, It does not promote civility to have a party line vote and spend an afternoon debating whether Mr. WILSON's apology for what he said during the President's address last week is 'good enough.' Clearly, Mr. WILSON thoroughly embarrassed himself. And while I disagree with Mr. WILSON and I strongly support the President, I think we should be moving on and not piling on. As Voltaire wrote, 'I disapprove of what you say, but I will defend to the death your right to say it.' We all agree Mr. WILSON's behavior was inappropriate, now it is time to get back to work.

HONORING THE DEDICATED
SERVICE OF KIM HARRIS MULLINS

HON. BART GORDON

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 16, 2009

Mr. GORDON of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Kim Harris Mullins for her dedicated service. For more than eighteen years, Kim has committed herself to helping me better serve the residents of Tennessee's Sixth Congressional District.

While Kim is a native of Florida, she grew up in my district in Hartsville, Tennessee. For most of her career with me, she has assisted her neighbors and my constituents with problems they were having with the federal government. One of the most rewarding things I can do as a Member of Congress is help folks at home cut through government red tape, but I wouldn't be able to do that without people like Kim.

As my assistant communications director, Kim has fostered relationships with local media and helped me to stay in touch with Tennessee residents. She is a strong writer and chose to share her expertise by spending her free time teaching journalism and public relations at Middle Tennessee State University, our shared alma mater. Along with providing my office with hardworking interns, some of whom are now full-time members of my staff, Kim's talents and work with the university have earned her a spot on the College of Mass Communication's Wall of Fame.

Kim will be missed dearly, especially by those who worked closest with her in my district offices and benefited daily from her acerbic wit and sense of humor. My Murfreesboro district office is like a family. The current staff has worked together for 11 years, and they have a bond that makes them seem at times to be more like siblings than coworkers. We will be sad to see her go, but we know she has plenty to keep her busy—a new career to undertake, jewelry to make, dogs to spoil, and future trips to the beach with her husband, Jeff.

Kim, thank you for all your help and dedication over these many years. I wish you all the best in your next endeavors.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. ROSCOE G. BARTLETT

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 16, 2009

Mr. BARTLETT. Madam Speaker, I submit the following: Funding of \$2,000,000 is necessary to allow completion of the final development stage prior to production. These funds will enable Mack Trucks and Volvo Powertrain, N.A. to finish building a prototype M915 truck with hybrid powertrain and be prepared to compete for an M-915 by the Army. The Army is attempting to extend the service life of heavy trucks, like the M-915, through engineering change programs. This funding supports the Committee directive to the Army to extend their effort for procuring heavy trucks with alternative propulsion systems with parallel electric capability.

ANNIVERSARY OF FOCUS ON RENEWAL

HON. MICHAEL F. DOYLE

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 16, 2009

Mr. DOYLE. Madam Speaker, I rise to observe the 40th anniversary of Focus On Re-

newal, a community service organization serving the municipalities of Stowe Township and McKees Rocks in Pennsylvania's 14th Congressional District.

Forty years ago, Father Don Fisher and Sister Paulette Honeygosky laid the foundation for Focus On Renewal. Together, they envisioned an organization made up of individuals who believed that every person must be treated with dignity.

In 1975, Father Regis Ryan assumed the leadership at Focus On Renewal. He was amazed by all the service activities that had been initiated during the first six years of Focus On Renewal. For instance, a pediatric health center had opened in the basement of a storefront at 610 Chartiers Avenue. Within that small facility, lunch was served five days a week; a dental hygienist provided preventive oral care; books were acquired and distributed as a rudimentary library was forming; crisis care needs were addressed on a daily basis; community meetings were called; and one simple, donated van was used to transport elderly folks to medical appointments.

Initially, Father Ryan believed he would remain only a few years, but everyone is glad that didn't happen. Instead, he has become known in the Sto-Rox community as a loving, generous and respectful leader.

What started as a small storefront serving the social service and health needs of the community has become a major non-profit agency. Today, Focus On Renewal operates more than a dozen programs from various sites throughout Allegheny County, providing comprehensive health services, early childhood and adult education programs, transportation services, a library, an arts center, a credit union, employment and training classes, and a broad range of social services.

Countless members of staff, boards, administration and volunteers have spent the last 40 years creating and fostering the community of care into which Focus On Renewal has evolved. Beyond the many human services, which have touched thousands of lives, Focus On Renewal has offered employment to hundreds of men and women, some of whom have served for more than 30 years.

Focus On Renewal is like the weaving of a great patchwork quilt, bits and pieces old and new, held together with common threads, worked by many hands, bordered with love, and blanketing the community with its warmth.

I want to thank Father Ryan and everyone at Focus On Renewal for the important services they have provided the Sto-Rox community over the last 40 years and wish them well as they continue to serve this community in the same exemplary fashion in the coming years.

COMMENDING HONOR FLIGHT SOUTH ALABAMA AND THE 95 WORLD WAR II VETERANS TRAVELING TO THE WWII MEMORIAL

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 16, 2009

Mr. BONNER. Madam Speaker, it is with great pride and pleasure that I rise to com-

mend the Honor Flight South Alabama and the 95 World War II veterans this very special organization is bringing to Washington, D.C. this week.

Founded by the South Alabama Veterans Council, Honor Flight South Alabama is an organization whose mission is to fly heroes from Mobile, Baldwin, Washington, Clarke, Monroe, Covington, and Escambia counties in Alabama to see their national memorial.

Over six decades have passed since the end of World War II and, regrettably, it took nearly this long to complete work on the memorial that honors the spirit and sacrifice of the 16 million who served in the U.S. armed forces and the more than 400,000 who died. Sadly, many veterans did not live long enough to hear their country say "thank you" yet, for those veterans still living, Honor Flight provides for many their first—and perhaps only—opportunity to see the National World War II Memorial, which honors their service and sacrifice.

Madam Speaker, this week's journey of 95 heroes from south Alabama is an appropriate time for us to pause and thank them—and all of the soldiers who fought in World War II—for they collectively—and literally—saved the world. They personify the very best America has to offer, and I urge my colleagues to take a moment to pay tribute to their selfless devotion to our country and the freedom we enjoy.

I salute each of the 95 veterans who made the trip this week. May we never forget their valiant deeds and tremendous sacrifices.

James Abbot Jr., John Abbott, Lewis Abronski, Stanley Armit, Eugene Baril, Herbert Baskin, Joseph Bell Jr., William Bittner, John Blackmon, Elizabeth Blatchford, Edward Borman, Henry Brackin, James Bryars, John Busbee, Charles Byrd, Donald Carmichael, Charles Carpenter, Hurschel Chambers Jr. and David Chichester.

George Coaker, Robert Constatine Jr., Marvin Courtney, James Coward, Thomas Culpepper, John Douglas, George Edgar, Edwin Fore Jr., Howard Foshee, Glenn Frazier, Lloyd Fremaux, Roland Fry, Richard Gile, Douglas Gordon, Henry Hannett, Joseph Harbuck Jr., James Helland, Jennings Hill and Cecil Hobbs.

William Hobbs Jr., Jean Hooker, Elsie Hovell, Edward Hrinisn, John Hudson, Christopher Hume Jr., Ray Huning, Meldon Hurlbert, Clifford James, James Johnson, George Jones, John Kassab, Frank Keeler Jr., Paul Liles, Horace Luckey, Thomas Martin, Robert Mauer and Floyd McBride.

Joseph McCoy, Cecil McLain, Robert Meador, James Mills, John Moreland Jr., Granvil Neel, James Nickerson, Melvin O'Barr, Lee Otts, Billy Owen, Wilbern Payne, Sidney Phillips Jr., James Philpot, Edward Plouse, Donald Pruett, Iona Quinley, John Rabon, Edward Reagan and John Reiter.

Leon Resmondo, Gary Roberts, Claude Robinson, Hans Schneider, Charles Skinner, Randolph Smith, Raymond Smith, Robert Smith, Arnold Smith, John Stauffer, Charles Strawser, William Stuckey, Ezra Trice, Julius Turner, James White, John Jephtha White-Spunner, Ezell Williams, Chelton Wilson and Janet Woods,

CONGRATULATING THE YES PREP PUBLIC SCHOOLS-NORTH CENTRAL CAMPUS ON THEIR 2009 BLUE RIBBON SCHOOL AWARD

HON. GENE GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 16, 2009

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the YES Prep Public Schools-North Central Campus in our district for their dedication to academic excellence that has earned them the honored distinction of being a Blue Ribbon School in 2009.

Since 1982, the U.S. Department of Education's Blue Ribbon Schools Program has honored many of America's most successful schools, and I am proud of YES Prep Public Schools-North Central Campus for all of its hard work towards and dedication to achieving the high academic standards that have earned them this award. The Blue Ribbon Award honors public and private elementary, middle and high schools that are academically superior or have made dramatic gains in student achievement and helped close achievement gaps among minority and disadvantaged students. This year 314 schools earned this coveted award.

YES Prep Public Schools-North Central Campus is a school that strives to increase the number of low-income Houstonians who graduate from a four-year college prepared to compete in the global marketplace and committed to improving disadvantaged communities. Under the supervision of Principal Mr. Mark DiBella, YES also works to develop students who are active in the community. YES stands for Youth Engaged in Service and students dedicate one Saturday each month to community service projects. YES also requires that students participate in longer school days, college research trips, summer school and summer opportunities—80 percent of YES' student base is comprised of economically disadvantaged individuals, and their motto is 'to do whatever it takes' to improve themselves and their horizons through educational resources provided through the school. YES Prep Public Schools-North Central Campus serves as an example that through hard work much can be achieved.

They are an inspiration for all schools in the Houston area, and I congratulate the administration, teachers, parents, and students at YES Prep Public Schools-North Central Campus on this great accomplishment.

HONORABLE RECOGNITION OF COACH ROCKY RAWLS, BRONTE, TEXAS 2009 NATIONAL COACHES APPRECIATION WEEK

HON. K. MICHAEL CONAWAY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 16, 2009

Mr. CONAWAY. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of National Coaches Appreciation Week and to acknowledge the accomplishments and dedication of one coach in particular: Coach Rocky Rawls of Bronte, Texas.

Coach Rawls has been coaching in Bronte, Texas for the past 26 years. After growing up in Dimmitt, Texas and playing basketball for the late Kenneth Cleveland, Coach Rawls grew to love the game of basketball and decided to make it his career. He graduated from Dimmitt High School in 1978. He then went to Howard Junior College in Big Spring, Texas to play basketball for the Hawks. After 2 years in Big Spring, Coach Rawls left for Southwestern University in Georgetown, Texas to finish out his college education, and, of course, to play ball. He graduated from Southwestern University in May of 1983. Just months after his graduation from college the superintendent of Bronte High School gave Rocky a call and offered him a position as head basketball coach. The rest, as they say, is history.

This past season Coach Rawls accomplished a feat few basketball coaches accomplish at any level. He earned his 500th career victory against Bronte's rival, Robert Lee. Even more impressive is the fact that Coach Rawls has won all 500 games at one school. Bronte has been his home his entire coaching career.

This past season, Coach Rawls helped the Bronte Longhorns go 25-3 and finish the season ranked sixth in the state, also sweeping eventual state champion Roscoe throughout the season. Subsequently, Coach Rawls was deservingly named Coach of the Year by the San Angelo Standard Times.

Coach Rawls and his wife, Terri, have 3 sons. Logan, a student at Angelo State University, and twins Dakota and Kerwin, now juniors at Bronte High School, have all played ball for their dad. Bronte has been the home of a long and successful career for Coach Rocky Rawls, who after winning 500 ballgames I hear thinks it just might be a great place to stay and win 500 more. Asked when he might retire, Coach Rawls has joked that "not until they ask me to coach girls," which after also stepping in as head football and boys track coach at various times, happens to be the only thing he hasn't coached at Bronte.

Coach Rawls has instilled invaluable leadership skills in the many students who have called him "Coach." He has incorporated the important values of self-discipline and perseverance into every practice, and ensured that the beliefs and conduct they learn on the court becomes a part of their daily lives as well. By example, Coach Rawls has instilled the importance of faith, family and community in the many lives he has touched throughout his years in Bronte. It is my great pleasure to extend my personal congratulations to Coach Rawls on his remarkable achievement of 500 victories, as well as express my sincere respect and appreciation for the positive impact he has had on the lives of many of the boys from Bronte, Texas. As an educator and a coach, he has had a hand in molding so many of them into men we can all be proud of.

Madam Speaker, I myself, as a former athlete in both high school and college recognize that we owe men and women like Rocky Rawls a great debt of gratitude. On behalf of current, former and future student athletes, whose lives will forever be founded in the ideals and work ethics of competitive athletics, I say, "Thank you."

CELEBRATING HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 16, 2009

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month, an observance of the culture, traditions and contributions of the Hispanic community.

Started over 40 years ago, this month-long celebration from September 15 through October 15, observes social, political, and cultural advances of Americans descending from Spain, Mexico, South America, the Caribbean and Spanish-speaking countries of Central America. As the largest ethnic or race minority in the United States, people of Hispanic origin have made great strides to become among our nations finest medical professionals, legal scholars, scientists, business owners, civic leaders, artists, educators, and students. The year 2009 will be remembered as a historic year for many reasons, including the appointment of the first Hispanic to the Supreme Court, Associate Justice Sonia Sotomayor.

As a Representative of an area with a large Hispanic population, I recognize that the influences of this culture are interwoven into the fabric of our nation. The establishment of Hispanic Heritage Month was a catalyst for the founding of many important organizations promoting development and advancement for the Hispanic community, including the United States Hispanic Chamber of Commerce and the Congressional Hispanic Caucus Institute. This month presents an opportunity to remind the country of the achievements we are capable of as a diverse nation and an opportunity to show our youth their potential. As the fastest growing demographic group, it is important to not only recall past accomplishments, but to look to the future as well.

Celebrations will be held across the United States this month to recognize the contributions of the Hispanic community, and I urge my colleagues to join me in celebrating Hispanic Heritage Month.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 16, 2009

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. 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. 3183—Energy and Water Appropriations Act, 2010.

Requested by Rep. ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN
Bill number: H.R. 3183
Account: Army Corps of Engineers, Construction
Amount: \$500,000
Project: Florida Keys Wastewater Improvement Project
Requested by: City of Key West, City of Marathon, Key Largo Wastewater Treatment District

Federal funding of this project is needed to continue moving forward with the initiative outlined in The Florida Keys Water Quality Improvements Act, which authorized \$100 million

for water quality improvements in the Keys. For several years there has been growing concern that the near-shore waters of the Florida Keys have been deteriorating due to inadequate wastewater and storm water facilities. These are the waters of the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary and home to the only living coral reef in the continental United States.

Requested by Rep. ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN

Bill number: H.R. 3183

Account: Army Corps of Engineers, Operation and Maintenance

Amount: \$4,500,000

Project: Intracoastal Waterway, Jacksonville to Miami, FL

Requested by: Florida Inland Navigation District

The Intracoastal Waterway (IWW) is a critical part of Florida's eastern-shore economy and therefore its timely dredging is of serious importance. The Waterway annually: transports over 1 million tons of commercial cargo and over 500,000 recreational vessels; increases property values by \$38.4 billion; and provides \$7.9 billion in economic output which includes \$2.6 billion in personal wages and 124,857 jobs. Studies by FIND, the local sponsor of the IWW, have shown that these benefits would be reduced by 50 percent if the Waterway were not properly maintained.

Requested by Rep. ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN

Bill number: H.R. 3183

Account: Department of Energy, EERE Account

Amount: \$1,000,000

Project: Going Green Initiative

Requested by: Miami Children's Museum

This project will allow the Museum to preserve and protect the world's natural resources using environmentally advanced, sustainable, and renewable and/or recyclable materials and systems in the building. In addition, it will allow the Museum to educate its audience about its environmentally friendly building and high-performance features through a variety of hands-on programs and project based activities for classroom and home continued learning.

Requested by Rep. ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN

Bill number: H.R. 3183

Account: Army Corps of Engineers, Construction

Amount: \$600,000

Project: Miami Harbor Channel Dredging

Requested by: Miami-Dade County, Florida

This funding request is for the General Re-evaluation Report Implementation, Preconstruction, Engineering, and Design for the dredging of Miami Harbor. The funding was authorized via 2007 (H.R. 1495) for preconstruction, engineering, and design of the recommended project. This will address the federal share at 100% of the anticipated costs for plans and specifications preparation.

Requested by Rep. ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN

Bill number: H.R. 3183

Account: Army Corps of Engineers, Operation and Maintenance

Amount: \$777,000

Project: Miami River Dredging

Requested by: Miami-Dade County, Florida

This request is for the final phase of the Miami River Dredging Project to restore authorized depth and width to the navigation channel. This project, funded by the Army Corps of Engineers with a coalition of local sponsors led by Miami-Dade County, removes

contaminated sediments from the Miami River—Florida's 4th largest port with an economic value of \$4 billion. Since it was improved for navigation in the 1930s, the river has never received comprehensive maintenance dredging. Sediments have accumulated in the margins of the federal channel making it narrower and shallower, thereby limiting activities of freighters that utilize ship terminals along the river. Dredging and disposal of the contaminated sediments is expected to improve navigation and enhance the environmental quality of the River and downstream portions of Biscayne Bay.

Pursuant to the Republican Leadership standards on earmarks, I am submitting the following information for publication in the Congressional Record regarding earmarks I received as part of H.R. 3283—Department of Education Appropriations, 2010.

Requested by Rep. ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN

Bill number: H.R. 3283

Account: HHS-HRSA

Amount: \$500,000

Project: Construction of a new behavioral health facility for the homeless

Requested by: Camillus House

Camillus House, Inc. is requesting support of costs to relocate and expand its main center of operations located in downtown Miami. This funding would supplement funds already provided through HRSA for design and architecture services for this project. The requested will be used entirely for construction costs. Camillus House, Inc. services include basic emergency services such as food and shelter, substance abuse and mental health treatment, primary health care, housing, and career development at 15 sites around Miami-Dade County.

Requested by Rep. ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN

Bill number: H.R. 3283

Account: HHS-HRSA

Amount: \$500,000

Project: Information Technology Infrastructure

Requested by: Jackson Health System

Jackson is a fully integrated health care system with 3 major hospitals, 12 primary care centers, 16 school-based clinics, a mental health facility, 2 mobile health vans and a major health plan. Jackson is the primary safety net provider in Miami-Dade County and one of the busiest emergency rooms in the Nation. Jackson's Advanced Clinical Knowledge System (JACKS) has been implemented at Jackson Memorial Hospital and helps with patient scheduling improving efficiencies and reducing redundancies in the delivery of care. The Public Health Trust, the board that governs Jackson Health System, has approved expansion of this system to our other 2 hospitals in opposite ends of the county, Jackson South Community Hospital and Jackson North Medical Center. The expansion will ensure continuity throughout all of their hospitals.

Requested by Rep. ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN

Bill number: H.R. 3283

Account: Department of Education, FIE

Amount: \$300,000

Project: United Way Center for Excellence in Education

Requested by: United Way of Miami-Dade

The Center for Excellence in Early Education improves the quality of early care and education by modeling and providing best practices in early care and education and collaborates with local, state and federal agen-

cies to ensure sustainability of its work. Through its unique composition, the Center offers informative, applicable training on early education and pilots effective programs that help teachers educate, parents understand and providers/owners care for our youngest citizens, locally, regionally and nationwide.

Requested by Rep. ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN

Bill number: H.R. 3283

Account: HHS-HRSA

Amount: \$200,000

Project: Health Center Equipment Upgrades

Requested by: Miami Beach Community Health Center

To expand children's comprehensive health services including health care. To provide preventive and comprehensive primary care to all adult patients including health care. To provide comprehensive primary care and referrals for specialty care for patients with HIV/AIDS including health care. To continue to provide comprehensive total quality management program for all clinical programs. To update and implement recruitment and retention protocol for staff and for the replacement of a roof.

Requested by Rep. ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN

Bill number: H.R. 3283

Account: Department of Education, FIPSE

Amount: \$300,000

Project: Science and Computer Advancement Center for Elementary Education

Requested by: St. Thomas University

To extend its outreach to the community by offering a professional development program to advance the teaching of science and technology in elementary schools in Miami-Dade County. St. Thomas University will partner with Title I elementary school teachers and other schools in northwest Miami-Dade in the vicinity of the STU campus to raise level of quality, student success and student enjoyment of science and computer learning in elementary schools. They will involve elementary school teachers from these schools in science and computers to improve teaching effectiveness through continuously offered workshops, seminars, college credit courses and online courses. Improve existing science and computer curriculum at the elementary level to result in raising the level of science teaching in the middle and high schools.

Pursuant to the Republican Leadership standards on earmarks, I am submitting the following information for publication in the Congressional Record regarding earmarks I received as part of H.R. 3326—Department of Defense Appropriations, 2010.

Requested by Rep. ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN

Bill number: H.R. 3326

Account: RDT&E—Navy

Amount: \$2,800,000

Project: Instrumented Underwater Training Systems

Requested by: Florida Keys Community College

The Instrumented Underwater Training Systems (IUTS) program benefits the Department of Defense by providing mission critical training to the Navy and other agencies responsible for securing personnel and assets in maritime domains. In response to the persistent threat to forward-deployed service personnel and assets, and the continued threat of attack on critical infrastructure and ports, the IUTS program ensures effective techniques are used by divers to identify and mitigate potential threats and hazards and ensures the safety of response divers and personnel. A

fully implemented IUTS program will protect personnel, assets, and critical infrastructure at both domestic and forward-deployed locations.

Requested by Rep. ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN

Bill number: H.R. 3326

Account: RDT&E—Defense Wide

Amount: \$4,500,000

Project: Transformer Technology for Combat Submersibles

Requested by: STIDD Systems

This request will enable USSOCOM to conduct a formal technology design, development, documentation and demonstration of the TTCS. One prototype craft will be designed, fabricated, tested and evaluated for technology transition into either the USSOCOM SDV or SWCS programs of record.

Requested by Rep. ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN

Bill number: H.R. 3326

Account: RDT&E—Army

Amount: \$1,500,000

Project: Minority Student Neuroscience Research Consortium

Requested by: St. Thomas University

The Department of Veterans Affairs spends over \$320 million annually on direct costs for SCI. Other related costs for medications and rehabilitation may run in the billions of dollars. The lifetime costs for an injured person can run up to more than 1.5 million dollars. The goal of this program is to develop treatments for SCI repair through axon regeneration and functional recovery for our injured veterans.

Requested by Rep. ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN

Bill number: H.R. 3326

Account: RDT&E—Army

Amount: \$3,000,000

Project: Center for Ophthalmic Innovation

Requested by: University of Miami

Severe ocular injuries from combat encountered in the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan represent a significant and frequent source of lifetime visual disability and is of immediate concern to the DOD. Approximately 10–17% of war casualties are due to eye trauma. The Center for Ophthalmic Innovation is successfully working to lessen the morbidity of traumatic ocular injuries in military operations, as well as to explore newer modalities to assist in the visual restoration of the injured personnel.

Pursuant to the Republican Leadership standards on earmarks, I am submitting the following information for publication in the Congressional Record regarding earmarks I received as part of H.R. 3170—Financial Services Appropriations, 2010.

Requested by Rep. ROS-LEHTINEN

Bill number: H.R. 3170

Account: Small Business Administration

Amount: \$100,000

Project: Institute for Community and Economic Development

Requested by: Barry University

The Barry University Institute for Community and Economic Development must continue to expand its reach and leverage its new Entrepreneurial Institute, dedicated to poverty elimination through the development of entrepreneurial skills in the community. The Institute delivers research-based education and training to minority and women-owned business enterprises and those providing leadership in the non-profit sector in South Florida. Expansion of the Institute will offer more small businesses, family businesses and community-based/non-profit organizations to meet the challenges related to the present economic downturn.

Requested by Rep. ROS-LEHTINEN

Bill number: H.R. 3170

Account: Small Business Administration

Amount: \$300,000

Project: Institute for Intermodal Transportation

Requested by: Miami-Dade College

The Intermodal Transportation Training Center allows MDC to effectively meet the training requirements of all forms of transportation, and transportation related activities. The planned location of the Intermodal Transportation Center is at the Miami International Airport (MIA), which would situate the School in close proximity to the Miami Intermodal Center (MIC) currently under construction. This location would serve as a benefit to both the MIC and the school as a trained and skilled workforce is developed by the School to meet the ongoing employment needs at the MIC. Courses at MIA are set to begin January 2010.

Miami Dade College is uniquely positioned to provide this training through an Institute for Intermodal Transportation (IIT). MDC has a foundation for the coursework and training through its various departments and schools. A number of the educational programs are in aviation under its Eig-Watson School of Aviation. Additional related programs which would support the IIT are Miami Dade College currently offers 3 baccalaureate programs with numerous tracks. Over 200 associate degrees and career training certificates are available and could have application to the Intermodal Institute.

Pursuant to the Republican Leadership standards on earmarks, I am submitting the following information for publication in the Congressional Record regarding earmarks I received as part of H.R. 3288—Transportation Appropriations, 2010.

Requested by Rep. ROS-LEHTINEN

Bill number: H.R. 3288

Account: DOT, Bus and Bus Facilities

Amount: \$1,000,000

Project: Transit Facility and Bus Passenger Access Lane Construction along US 1

Requested by: City of Key West, FL

Key West needs to construct a new full scale transit facility to house their buses and bus equipment. The city also needs to construct bus apron access to as many as 44 bus stops along US 1, which have been part of the JARC shuttle services in operation since August 2005.

Requested by Rep. ROS-LEHTINEN

Bill number: H.R. 3288

Account: DOT, Bus and Bus Facilities

Amount: \$250,000

Project: Bus Shelter Replacement

Requested by: Bal Harbour, FL

Many elderly and working age citizens utilize public transit to travel to and/or from Bal Harbour Village. The bus shelters currently in place are deteriorating and do not provide adequate shelter from the elements. As the economy declines, more people depend upon public transportation. Replacing the current shelters/benches will provide more adequate facilities for those waiting for public transportation in the hot sun, wind and rain.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. K. MICHAEL CONAWAY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 16, 2009

Mr. CONAWAY. Madam Speaker, on rollcall No. 699 H. Res. 744—Privileged resolution regarding Congressman JOE WILSON.

Had I been present, I would have voted “nay”.

CELEBRATING 100 YEARS OF SERVICE FROM THE TEXAS AGRILIFE RESEARCH AND EXTENSION CENTER AT LUBBOCK

HON. RANDY NEUGEBAUER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 16, 2009

Mr. NEUGEBAUER. Madam Speaker, today I rise in recognition of the 100 years of work and dedication of scientists at the AgriLife Research and Extension Center in Lubbock. In 1909, The Lubbock Agriculture Experiment Station #8, now known as Texas AgriLife Research and Extension Center at Lubbock, was established by the Texas Legislature in response to the passage of the Hatch Act by Congress in 1887 to create agriculture experiment stations. Since its inception, researchers and staff at the Center have worked to address the High Plain's most pressing agricultural issues of the day including improvement of crops with emphasis on seed development, crop pest and disease management, cropping and efficient water systems, and harvest methods.

During its 100 years of service, the Center has provided the region's producers and economy with significant contributions that include the following: the first hybrid grain sorghum in cooperation with the Chillicothe Station, greenbug resistant grain sorghum, improved cotton cultivars, improved cotton harvest equipment, improved boll weevil control techniques, methods and equipment for increasing irrigation efficiency, drought tolerant variety development, conservation tillage strategies, farming systems, precision agriculture methodology and risk management strategies.

The Lubbock Extension Center is one of the largest off-campus centers in the Texas A&M University System. It serves as headquarters for agents in the 20-county South Plains Extension District 2 and includes offices for 22 Research Scientists. The Center is composed of a research farm at the Lubbock site, two research farms in the northern part of the South Plains near Halfway, Texas; one substation at Pecos, Texas; a cotton research farm in Dawson County in cooperation with Lamesa Cotton Growers and a peanut research farm in Terry County in cooperation with Texas Peanut Board.

The research is used by Extension Specialists and the Extension Agents to educate producers on the methodologies of the most recent and innovative production techniques. The benefits of this program can be seen across the spectrum for agriculture on the South Plains ranging from reduced industry impact on the environment to the profitability producers enjoy from their trade. This model

of cooperative research and development is one of the major reasons American agriculture has been so productive.

Agricultural producers of the Texas South Plains contribute substantially to the agricultural economy of Texas and the nation. The success is supported by a strong foundation of knowledge and technology generated by the research and technology transfer of scientists, specialists and agents in cooperation with USDA-ARS, Texas Tech University and agribusinesses and commodity organization collaborators. This cooperative effort to address the many complex issues facing the South Plains agricultural industry will no doubt continue to benefit producers and enhance the region's agriculture-based economy for the next 100 years.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. K. MICHAEL CONAWAY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 16, 2009

Mr. CONAWAY. Madam Speaker, on rollcall No. 700 H. Res. 317—Recognizing the region from Manhattan, Kansas, to Columbia, Missouri, as the Kansas City Animal Health Corridor, and for other purposes.

Had I been present, I would have voted "nay."

WHISTLEBLOWER PROTECTION

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 16, 2009

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, today I am re-introducing legislation that would close a loophole in the Department of Defense's whistleblowers' protection statute (10 U.S.C. Sec. 2409) and expand this safeguard to include the men and women of the DOD contracting business who report abuses to their superiors.

Under current law, an individual is only protected—and therefore eligible for remedies—if he or she reports workplace security concerns to "a Member of Congress or an authorized official of an agency or the Department of Justice." While I understand the importance of encouraging individuals to take their concerns to certain authorities, I believe it is imperative that we include in this authority an employee's superiors.

It seems only natural, that once someone recognizes a problem within their work environment, they report it to their superiors. This is part of a normal progression of attempting to resolve issues and challenging tasks on the job. Few people initially contact their Congressman or the Department of Justice when they first observe an irregularity on the job.

It is also important to note that many former military members migrate to the security contracting industry. Many of these men and women have years of previous service to our nation, have grown to respect their chain of command and understand the benefit it can provide in the workplace. When they have come to the conclusion that additional steps must be taken or when they have identified a significant problem in the work environment,

these professionals are trained and encouraged to report their concerns to their superiors to enable them to assess the situation and foster a solution.

Similarly, many in the federal security contracting industry come from a law enforcement background with a comparable command structure and respect for their superiors.

The current loophole was brought to my attention by a New Jersey resident who worked for a private security firm that guards military installations in my district and throughout the country. This individual witnessed and documented a number of events that raised serious concerns regarding the contractor's ability to ensure the safety and security of the base and the surrounding community.

At my request, the DOD IG performed an audit of the contract (Report No. D-2009-045) and verified many of the claims that this individual brought to my attention. The report found that the Navy was not able to provide documentation showing all contractor security guards had completed a basic background check—raising questions as to whether or not the required security checks were performed or completed for all security personnel guarding the munitions depot. There was also a problem with training, and an inability to determine whether or not the training was adequate. There was nothing in the files to find out whether a guard has had the training that is required by Federal law and Federal regulations.

The individual who brought this loophole to my attention reported to his employer what he believed—and what the IG report verified—were unfulfilled contract requirements that resulted in questions regarding the firm's ability to provide adequate security. After his boss dismissed his concerns, he then scheduled a meeting with the base security personnel to discuss the matter. Before this meeting could occur, the individual was fired by the firm and barred from the base. At that time, he brought these concerns to me. However, since the law requires that a potential whistleblower be a current employee at the time he/she discloses pertinent information to a federal official, it was too late for him to be eligible for protections and/or remedies.

Specifically, my legislation would expand the universe of those to whom an individual can properly report concerns to include the individual's chain of command, before and after any retribution, so that the individual will be protected and have the right to be reinstated if an investigation shows that the individual was punished for bringing the matter to the attention of proper authorities.

The legislation I re-introduced today will ensure that those who identify problems within firms subcontracted by DOD are still afforded standard whistleblower protections even if they notify their employer about possible violations before they notify an agent of the federal government. The legislation does not require employees to notify their employer first and it does not preclude them from contacting federal officials, it simply protects employees who point out potential violations to their employer, the federal government or both. If an employee is dismissed prior to his/her notifying the government, but after notifying their employer, they will receive the necessary protections as well.

Base security is not an issue to be taken lightly—anywhere and including in my state of

New Jersey. As we all recall, the New Jersey U.S. Attorney's office arrested five men who were planning to attack another New Jersey installation, Fort Dix. After a thorough and aggressive law enforcement effort this attempted terror attack was thwarted and the men were found guilty on charges of conspiracy to harm U.S. military personnel. Still, the vulnerabilities at our military bases exposed by this incident cannot be minimized or dismissed.

As we are all aware, in recent years the Department of Defense has looked increasingly to private security contractors to guard and police our military installations across the country. The men and women filling these positions deserve to be protected when they report violations and concerns to their superiors and especially if they are subsequently punished in an attempt by their employer to downplay or even cover up a violation. It is imperative that we amend the law to ensure that these employees are eligible for the same remedies as other whistleblowers.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. K. MICHAEL CONAWAY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 16, 2009

Mr. CONAWAY. Madam Speaker, on rollcall No. 701—H.R. 22—United States Postal Service Financial Relief Act.

Had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOHN B. LARSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 16, 2009

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Madam Speaker, on September 15, 2009 I missed rollcall vote 701. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

U.N. REPORT ON ISRAEL'S SELF-DEFENSE ACTION IN GAZA HIGHLY FLAWED

HON. DAN BURTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 16, 2009

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Madam Speaker, I rise tonight to urge the Obama Administration to categorically and completely reject the Goldstone report recently issued by the despot-controlled United Nations Human Rights Council that accused Israel of "war crimes, as well as possibly crimes against humanity" during Israel's defensive operations in Gaza this past winter.

The United Nations has a long and well documented history of anti-U.S., anti-Israel, and anti-freedom activism, and the Goldstone report rubber-stamps the U.N. Human Rights Councils predetermined conclusion that Israel committed war crimes and possibly crimes against humanity. From the beginning, the Council instructed the Goldstone Commission

to focus only on Israel's "aggression" against the Palestinian people—a presumption of Israeli guilt before any so-called investigation had even taken place.

During the years when Hamas launched thousands of rockets at innocent Israeli civilians, the United Nations human rights bodies didn't call for any investigation or issue any kind of condemnation. Instead, the Human Rights Council has passed 26 anti-Israel resolutions out of 33 motions to censure countries. Of the 11 emergency sessions that the Council has convened to deal with pressing human rights concerns, six have dealt with Israel. In fact, Israel is the only country listed on the Council's permanent agenda; and only examines Israeli "violations" of Palestinian human rights. There is nothing on the Council's agenda examining the threats or actions of terrorist groups or the nations that support them.

Article 51 of the United Nation's Charter guarantees all U.N. Members the right to defend themselves against terrorism and other

external threats. The Goldstone report completely ignores this fundamental right. It also ignores the steps taken by the Israeli Defense Forces to minimize civilian casualties, steps that often put Israeli soldiers at increased risk. And the Goldstone Report completely ignores Hamas' callous practice of intertwining its terrorist infrastructure within civilian population centers—hospitals, schools, mosques, and even U.N. facilities.

Madam Speaker, the United States must demand fairness and not allow the United Nations General Assembly, the United Nations Security Council, the so-called Human Rights Councils or any other U.N. body to take any punitive actions against Israel for exercising Israel's United Nation's guaranteed right of self-defense.

It is also high time that we take action to leverage our contributions to the U.N. to demand the United Nations finally implement concrete, sweeping reforms to root out ongoing fraud, corruption, and abuse throughout

the U.N. system; and end once and for all the naked, systemic anti-U.S., anti-Israel, anti-Semitic bias within the UN.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. K. MICHAEL CONAWAY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 16, 2009

Mr. CONAWAY. Madam Speaker, on rollcall No. 702 To amend title 39, United States Code, to provide clarification relating to the authority of the United States Postal Service to accept donations as an additional source of funding for commemorative plaques.

Had I been present, I would have voted "yea".

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

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

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

Meetings scheduled for Thursday, September 17, 2009 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED
SEPTEMBER 22

9 a.m.
Finance
Business meeting to consider an original bill providing for health care reform.
SH-216

10 a.m.
Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs
To hold hearings to examine the Weapons of Mass Destruction Prevention and Preparedness Act of 2009.
SD-342
Judiciary
Immigration, Refugees and Border Security Subcommittee
To hold hearings to examine comprehensive immigration reform, focusing on how the current immigration law impacts America's agricultural industry and food security.
SD-226

2:30 p.m.
Judiciary
Terrorism and Homeland Security Subcommittee
To hold hearings to examine strengthening security and oversight at biological research laboratories.
SD-226

SEPTEMBER 23

10 a.m.
Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions
Business meeting to consider an original bill entitled "Ryan White HIV/AIDS Treatment Extension Act of 2009", and any pending nominations.
SD-430

Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs
To hold hearings to examine the Defense Contract Audit Agency, focusing on reform.
SD-342

Judiciary
To hold hearings to examine reauthorizing the USA PATRIOT Act.
SD-226

2:30 p.m.
Judiciary
To hold hearings to examine the nominations of Jacqueline H. Nguyen and Dolly M. Gee, both to be a United States District Judge for the Central District of California, and Richard Seeborg and Edward Milton Chen, both to be a United States District Judge for the Northern District of California.
SD-226

SEPTEMBER 29

10 a.m.
Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs
Contracting Oversight Subcommittee
To hold hearings to examine improving transparency and accessibility of federal contracting databases.
SD-342

SEPTEMBER 30

9:30 a.m.
Veterans' Affairs
To hold hearings to examine Veterans Affairs contracts for health services.
SR-418