

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING CATHOLIC SISTERS

SPEECH OF

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 22, 2009

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H. Res. 441, honoring the historical contributions of Catholic sisters in the United States. I urge my colleagues to vote in favor of this important resolution.

Catholic sisters have been instrumental in bettering our communities and our society. Their efforts are felt time and time again in my hometown of Cleveland, Ohio. I am forever indebted to the charity and compassion of the Catholic sisters who made a big difference in my childhood and continue to amaze and inspire me today. Catholic sisters have made incredible contributions including, to name just a few, educating our nation's youth, instilling the importance of human rights and dedicating themselves to charitable efforts that help to meet the needs of the underserved. In addition, they serve as reminders of the important contributions of women in the United States and around the world.

My own success in life is due to the love, caring, tutelage and discipline of Catholic nuns who taught me at the many schools I attended in the Cleveland area, including at St. Peter's, Holy Name, Parmadale, St. Aloysius', St. Colman's and St. John Cantius. At each and every grade level, I learned the principles of Christian charity, practiced through the generosity and the humility of nuns who taught me. I would like to pay special tribute to Sister Mary Donna, Sister Leona, Sister Agnes Joseph, Sister Sabina, Sister Valerie, Sister Estelle, Sister Justicia, Sister Concepta, Sister Emmeline, Sister Genevieve, Sister Paulette, Sister Lucien, Sister Judith, Sister Luke and Sister Narcissa. Each and every one of these holy women had an impact on my life, for which I will always be grateful.

I also wish to pay tribute in particular to the benevolent work of Catholic Sisters are Maryknoll Sisters Maura Clarke and Ita Forde, Ursuline Sister Dorothy Kazel, and Maryknoll Lay Missioner Jean Donovan. Sister Dorothy and Jean Donovan were both from my hometown of Cleveland. In 1980 these women of faith were murdered by members of the armed forces of El Salvador while carrying out missionary work in the country. Three of the five officers involved were graduates of the School of the Americas. Their murders resonated with me personally as they did with many of my constituents. We understand that women on missions of social and economic justice take huge personal risks. These women must always be remembered and revered.

I rise in strong support of this bill and urge my colleagues to vote in favor of H. Res. 441.

HONORING THE MEMORY OF THE LATE MARJORIE D. KOGAN

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 23, 2009

Mrs. MALONEY. Madam Speaker, it is with a heavy heart that I rise to pay tribute to the late Marjorie D. Kogan, an outstanding New Yorker who devoted herself to her city and her country throughout her life. With deep sadness but also a profound sense of gratitude for her inspiring example, I ask my distinguished colleagues to join in mourning Marjorie D. Kogan's passing earlier this month at the age of 95.

A remarkably devoted and effective activist and philanthropist, Marjorie D. Kogan made an enduring contribution to the civic life of our nation's greatest city. She dedicated her life to serving others in countless ways, frequently seeking to help those shunned by many elements of society. Whether directing the volunteer program at the Brooklyn House of Detention for Men, chairing a program for adolescent inmates at Riker's Island, or serving as the longtime President of the philanthropic Brand Foundation of New York, she was a tireless and selfless volunteer.

Mrs. Kogan was deeply involved in the political life of New York City. She was campaign chair for her close friend, the esteemed late Federal Judge Constance Baker Motley, the first African-American woman to serve in the New York State Senate and in the office of Manhattan Borough President. Mrs. Kogan served as Executive Aide in the Manhattan Borough President's Office to both Judge Motley and to her successor in that post, the Honorable Percy Sutton.

Marjorie Kogan was a founding member of Manhattan's Community Planning Board Eight, on which she served for many decades. She was appointed by Mayor Abraham Beame to the New York City Board of Corrections. She sought throughout her life to improve the quality of life for her fellow New Yorkers, and bequeaths an enduring legacy of compassion and dedication.

Throughout her long career as a community leader and civic activist, Marjorie D. Kogan remained committed to her family. She was devoted to her late husband Nathan B. Kogan, who predeceased her, and to her sons, Michael and Barton Kogan, and her sister, Jeanne R. Theodore. She was also a wonderful friend whose wit, warmth, and grace will truly be missed by all whose lives she touched.

Madam Speaker, I ask my distinguished colleagues to join me in recognizing the enormous contributions to our civic and political life made by Marjorie D. Kogan, a true humanitarian and philanthropist in the finest traditions of our great republic.

RECOGNIZING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CITY OF FRANKENMUTH

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 23, 2009

Mr. KILDEE. Madam Speaker, today I would like to recognize the City of Frankenmuth, Michigan as it celebrates its 50th anniversary on October 1st. A ceremony commemorating the anniversary will be held on that date.

During the 1840s a German missionary named Frederick Wyneken working in the Ohio Valley and Michigan, appealed to Lutherans in Germany for help, citing the need for pastors, churches and schools. Fifteen farmers from Mittelfranken, Bavaria responded to his appeal and traveled to the Saginaw Valley in Michigan. They settled on the banks of the Cass River in 1845 and called their community Frankenmuth. The name means "courage of the Franconians." The following year 90 more settlers arrived from Bavaria and the community grew. A business district started to grow about a mile east of St. Lorenz Church and a dam and mill were built on the river. In 1854 Frankenmuth Township was organized and in 1904 the Village of Frankenmuth was incorporated.

On March 9, 1959 the voters elected a City Charter Commission. The Commission voted unanimously to submit a Charter to the State of Michigan and on July 9, 1959, Governor G. Mennen Williams approved the Charter. After the village residents voted to adopt the Charter, the City was officially incorporated on October 1, 1959. James Wickson served as the first mayor and held office until 1965. At the time of incorporation the City's population was 1,725. Today the population is 4,838. Gary Rupprecht is the current mayor and has held office since 1986.

Madam Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to rise with me and applaud the City of Frankenmuth as they celebrate their 50th anniversary. The community has embraced its German heritage and strives to build on the dreams and hard work of the original settlers. I congratulate the community for their achievements and pray that "Little Bavaria" continues to thrive for many, many years to come.

UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION EXTENSION ACT OF 2009

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 22, 2009

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 3548, "to amend the Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2008 to provide for the temporary availability

• 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.

of certain additional emergency unemployment compensation, and for other purposes." Though the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 has allowed us to see the light at the end of the tunnel on our road to recovery, we still have a long road ahead. H. Res. 3548 allows States to extend their helping hand to pull America out of this deep recession.

In the midst of what has been categorized as the longest and deepest economic downturn since the Great Depression, many Americans still find themselves struggling to get by. Although the unemployment rates in some areas around the country have shown signs of leveling off, in my home State of Texas, many are still fighting to get on the right track. Americans of all ethnicities and socioeconomic backgrounds are tired of struggling to feed, clothe, and provide shelter their families. I cite my mentor and predecessor Barbara Jordan who noted, "We are a people trying not only to solve the problems of the present: unemployment, inflation . . . but we are attempting on a larger scale to fulfill the promise of America."

With an unemployment rate in Texas of 8.2 percent, which is just below the national average, we in Texas are working diligently in a legislative capacity for the benefit of our constituents. The unemployment rate of my home district of Houston is just above the state average, at 8.4 percent, and I will not cease to take every effort to combat the problem. Over this past weekend we held our 2nd job fair in three months, where we called upon over 50 public and private sector representatives to bring employment opportunities to those in need throughout the Houston area. I saw lives change that weekend. The American people need a helping hand now; it is not time of partisan antics that delay assistance to those whom we represent.

H. Res. 3548 will allow States to extend the assistance offered to their unemployed constituents so that families may continue their pursuit of the American dream. H. Res. 3548 sets forth a formula for determining if a state is in an extended benefit period and authorizes a state to pay extended compensation to an eligible individual before any additional Emergency Unemployment Compensation, EUC, if such individual claimed extended compensation for at least one week of unemployment after the exhaustion of additional EUC.

CONGRATULATING RUSSELLVILLE
HIGH SCHOOL FOR ITS GRANT
TO PREPARE STUDENTS OF AP
TESTING

HON. JOHN BOOZMAN

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 23, 2009

Mr. BOOZMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Russellville High School for being accepted as an Arkansas Advanced Initiative for Math and Science School.

Beginning with the 2009–2010 school year Russellville High School will be receiving \$750,000 in grant money, to be distributed over the next four years, to help teachers, along with students in properly preparing for the Advance Placement Exams, which take place every May.

These funds will help the students do well on the exams. This is a great honor for the school district that will help develop the skills our students need to excel in a global economy.

Arkansas was one of just seven states selected to receive grant money and Russellville High School was just one of 24 schools chosen in the state. I am proud to support both the students and teachers of Russellville High School and look forward to the academic excellence that will come from Russellville High in the years to follow.

RECOGNIZING THE NOMINATION
OF BELINDA GEERTSMA FOR
THE 2009 ANGELS IN ADOPTION
AWARD

HON. PETER HOEKSTRA

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 23, 2009

Mr. HOEKSTRA. Madam Speaker, I rise here today to say that it is a great honor and privilege to nominate Belinda Geertsma for the 2009 Angels in Adoption award. Belinda serves as an international adoption worker for Bethany Christian Services in Holland, Michigan.

One co-worker describes Belinda as "an amazing social worker with genuine passion for the families and children she serves. She is humble, gracious and has a servant's heart."

Belinda has a unique passion for special needs children, and has a remarkable history of finding homes for many children who are considered hard to place. In 2008, of all the international social workers in Bethany's nationwide constellation of offices, Belinda placed the most special needs children with their forever families.

In July of 2009, Belinda traveled to China by invitation of the Chinese Government to assess 41 special needs children in an orphanage in Shanghai. By the end of August of 2009, 31 of these precious children had been matched with a family, and many others were under consideration.

While in China, she was asked to find a family for a 13-year-old girl who desperately wanted to be adopted. In China, children are no longer made available for adoption when they turn 14. Her 14th birthday was only 4 months away. Within a week of being home, Belinda had found a family that was thrilled to adopt this girl.

Belinda is a person who allows herself, through hard work, persistence, and compassion, to cause miracles to happen for children and families. I cannot imagine a better candidate for the Angels in Adoption award.

SERVICES FOR ENDING LONG-
TERM HOMELESSNESS ACT

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 23, 2009

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Services for Ending Long-Term Homelessness Act. The sad

reality our nation faces is that more than a half million Americans do not have a place to call home each night, and half of them are without shelter. This bill will alleviate the widespread problem of chronic homelessness across the country.

According to the Department of Children and Families' most recent report, there are 85,907 persons homeless on any given day. At least 2 million people find themselves homeless at some point each year in our country. There isn't nearly enough shelter for these individuals. In 2007, my home state of Florida alone had 48,000 homeless people, with 14,900 of them families and 7,691 of them chronic cases.

Recently, I heard the story of a 25-year-old mother of three young children in my district, who was running out of options—staying at a hotel in Palm Beach County after fleeing domestic violence in Miami. As she was running out of money, she and her kids—ages 6, 5 and 3—soon would be homeless. But, they were some of the lucky ones. She was referred to The Lord's Place residence for homeless families, where she now lives with her children. As a leader in my district for chronic homelessness solutions, the Lord's Place is a perfect example of the types of establishments that would benefit immensely from this legislation. In her words: "I am here. I am working. I am breathing. And I am grateful."

Throughout our country, over 100,000 people have nowhere to call home for years on end and all too often are confronted with mental illness, substance addiction, life-threatening illness or other serious health problems. The good news is: this bill presents us with an opportunity to put an end to this national crisis that hits home for all of us.

In 2003, the President's New Freedom Commission on Mental Health recommended the development and implementation of a comprehensive plan designed to create 150,000 units of permanent supportive housing for consumers and families who are chronically homeless. Affordable housing alone can't meet the needs for many people with severe mental illness. This bill will establish funding for supportive housing, affordable housing linked to accessible mental health, substance addiction, unemployment, and other support services as necessary. Permanent supportive housing is cost-effective, and is the soundest available investment of public and private resources to end long-term homelessness.

Current programs for funding services in permanent supportive housing, other than those administered by the Department of Housing and Urban Development, were not designed to be closely coordinated with housing resources, nor were they designed to meet the multiple needs of people who are chronically homeless. This bill will establish a comprehensive grant program to provide supportive housing for chronically homeless individuals and families that they so badly need. Support services will include mental health services, substance use disorder treatment, referrals for medical and dental care, health education, and services designed to help individuals make progress toward self-sufficiency and recovery. Permanent supportive housing can help the chronically homeless stay off the streets, out of hospitals and jails, and ultimately help them achieve the stability they

need to lead healthy lives as productive members of their communities.

Madam Speaker, it is time we take a stand to put an end to long-term homelessness in America. I urge my colleagues to support this bill and to support a proven and cost-effective solution to ending chronic homelessness.

RECOGNIZING THE LIFE AND
PUBLIC SERVICE OF JIM MAPLES

HON. DEVIN NUNES

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 23, 2009

Mr. NUNES. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the life and public service of Jim Maples, a teacher, a coach, past Tulare County supervisor, and a close friend.

Some people in this world become larger than life, not because of their physical size or presence, but because of the number of people they influence in their lifetime. Jim Maples was both a father figure and a friend to many. His influence has been felt throughout the San Joaquin Valley.

Maples graduated from Porterville High School and Porterville College. He earned degrees from Fresno State and UCLA. Prior to becoming county supervisor, Maples was on the faculty at Porterville College for 34 years, serving as chairman and advisor of the technical vocational department.

Long active as a coach, Maples was inducted into the California Community College Basketball Hall of Fame in 1986. He was also named to the Porterville College Athletic Hall of Fame in 1999, placed on the Porterville High School Wall of Fame in 2000 and received the Book of Golden Deeds Award by the Exchange Club International.

Maples also had the privilege of serving on the Tulare County Board of Supervisors from 1992 until 2003. Maples's dedication to Tulare County was full-time. He was a powerful advocate for local law enforcement and was constantly engaged in the defense of our area's heritage and quality of life.

Maples proudest accomplishment can be found in his loving family. He enjoyed a 54-year marriage with wife Myrna and was the father of two children; Vickie and Jaime.

Jim Maples left his community of Tulare County a far richer place than the one he found, and for that we are blessed. He was a leader, a mentor, a statesman and will surely be missed.

HONORING THE BLACK
STUNTMEN'S ASSOCIATION AND
THE COALITION OF BLACK
STUNTMEN AND WOMEN

HON. SHELLEY BERKLEY

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 23, 2009

Ms. BERKLEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to announce the introduction of a concurrent resolution honoring the Black Stuntmen's Association and the Coalition of Black Stuntmen and Women for their central role in the fight for racial equality in the film and television industry.

I have the honor of representing some of the founding members of these organizations, and I feel it is time the Congress of the United States recognizes the part they played in combating discrimination in Hollywood.

The film and television industry was not immune to the racial and cultural struggles of the 1950s and 1960s in America. This was reflected in the small number of African-Americans and other minorities working throughout the industry. When stunt doubles were needed for the few African-American actors working in Hollywood, common practice was to "paint down" white stuntmen, using makeup to darken their complexion. As more African-American actors began to find work in the major studios in the 1960s, the almost exclusive use of white stuntmen became a more visible example of the racial discrimination still plaguing our society.

In 1967, a group of African-American stuntmen, athletes and extras founded the Black Stuntmen's Association to address these lingering problems in the industry. The Coalition of Black Stuntmen and Women was formed in 1973 to continue the fight against racial bias in Hollywood. Together these groups confronted the studios over their discriminatory practices, pursuing legal action to bring additional diversity to the industry and monitoring compliance with the resulting agreements. Through their tireless efforts, members of the Black Stuntmen's Association and the Coalition of Black Stuntmen and Women paved the way for greater racial equality in film and television in the ensuing years.

I would like to take this opportunity to recognize some of the individuals who were involved in the founding and operation of the Black Stuntmen's Association and the Coalition of Black Stuntmen and Women: Eddie Smith, Marvin Walters, Jadie David, Ernie Robertson, Henry Kingi, Alex Brown, S.J. McGee, and Willie Harris.

The efforts of these men and women, as well as many others, bore fruit in other aspects of the industry as well. African-Americans began to break through racial barriers both in front of the camera as actors and behind the camera as directors, producers and in other management positions. Their lasting contributions have changed the way Hollywood does business, and they truly deserve our recognition and gratitude.

I encourage my colleagues to join me in honoring the Black Stuntmen's Association and the Coalition of Black Stuntmen and Women.

IN RECOGNITION OF DR. RORY
COOPER

HON. JOHN P. MURTHA

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 23, 2009

Mr. MURTHA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Rory A. Cooper, Ph.D. for his outstanding achievement of winning five gold medals at the 2009 National Veterans Wheelchair Games, for helping to guide emerging technologies and treatments to improve mobility for people with physical disabilities, and for promoting a positive image for our wounded, injured, and ill veterans.

While winning five gold medals is an exceptional achievement by itself, Dr. Cooper has

proven himself again and again. Madam Speaker, Dr. Cooper won four gold medals at the 2008 National Veterans Wheelchair Games and over 100 total medals since 1983. He has previously held the world record for the 10,000-meter wheelchair race. He has participated and won medals almost every year since he first started competing. In 1988 he won the bronze medal at the Paralympic Games in Seoul, Korea. He continued to stay active in Paralympic competition by serving as a member of the Steering Committee for the 1996 Paralympic Scientific Congress. He was also the Sports Scientist for the 2008 United States Paralympic Team. In recognition of his achievements at the National Veterans Wheelchair Games, he was one of the featured athletes on a 2009 Cheerios cereal box.

When Dr. Cooper is not competing, he is a researcher in the field of assistive technology design at the University of Pittsburgh's School of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences. He is also the Director and Veterans Affairs (VA) Senior Research Career Scientist for the VA Rehabilitation Research and Development Center of Excellence, Co-director of the National Science Foundation Quality of Life Technology Engineering Research Center, a member of the United States Secretary of Veterans Affairs Prosthetics and Special Disability Programs Advisory Committee, and a Director of the Paralyzed Veterans of America Research Foundation. He has published over two hundred peer-reviewed journal articles and two books, *Rehabilitation Engineering Applied to Mobility and Manipulation* and *Wheelchair Selection and Configuration*. Dr. Cooper is also a recipient of the Department of the Army's Outstanding Civilian Service Medal for "exceptional leadership, service, and advocacy of severely injured service members at Walter Reed Army Medical Center (WRAMC) and other military medical facilities from October 2004 through May 2008."

Madam Speaker, Dr. Cooper is truly an inspiration to all of us. I conclude my remarks by commending him for his outstanding achievements.

CORAL REEF CONSERVATION ACT
REAUTHORIZATION AND EN-
HANCEMENT AMENDMENTS OF
2009

SPEECH OF

HON. RON KLEIN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 22, 2009

Mr. KLEIN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 860, the Coral Reef Conservation Act Reauthorization and Enhancement Amendments of 2009. I also want to thank the lead sponsor of the legislation and distinguished chair of the Insular Affairs, Oceans and Wildlife Subcommittee, Ms. Bordallo, for all her tireless efforts to protect our natural resources and insular areas.

Mr. Speaker, coral reefs are among the most diverse, biologically complex, and valuable ecosystems on earth. In my home State of Florida, we are fortunate to have the third largest barrier reef in the world. The importance of coral reefs to south Florida cannot be overstated. In addition to erecting a vital first-line of defense against hurricanes and storm surges for our coastal communities, coral

reefs have an immeasurable environmental value. They provide awe and inspiration to divers and snorkelers from all over the world, and are a driving force for our tourism and fishing industries. In Broward County alone, coral reefs contribute over \$2 billion annually to our local economy.

Coral reefs, however, are in nothing short of a crisis. Faced with dangers both man-made and natural, including global warming, over-fishing, coastal pollution, and bleaching, coral reefs are dying in alarming numbers. In fact, scientists estimate that 60 percent of coral reefs may disappear before 2050.

That's why I'm proud to support the legislation before us today. H.R. 860 will reauthorize the landmark Coral Reef Conservation Act of 2000, which created the Coral Reef Conservation Program to directly issue grants to States, territories, and other partners for coral reef conservation projects. The act also requires the development of a Coral Reef Action Strategy and authorizes NOAA to undertake research, mapping, management, and education and outreach activities to protect coral reef ecosystems.

In addition to reauthorizing these important provisions, H.R. 860 will make important changes to the Coral Reef Conservation Act of 2000. One will be to take advantage of the vast resources and expertise at our prestigious universities and research institutes. For example, the three U.S. Coral Reef Institutes at Florida, Puerto Rico, and Hawaii conduct outstanding scientific research, and support State and local coral reef resource managers and local action strategies.

I personally can attest to their great work because the National Coral Reef Institute, NCRI, is located in my backyard, in Ft. Lauderdale, FL. NCRI and the other institutes serve as a ready source of knowledge, research, monitoring, and management support for corals and coral reefs via partnerships between academia, NOAA, and other Federal, State, and local managers.

Another important aspect of this legislation will be to authorize NOAA to respond to vessel groundings. Since 1994, we've seen 12 large ships run aground on sensitive coral reefs near Ft. Lauderdale. The last one, occurring almost 2 years ago, involved a freighter that left a 20-foot swath of destruction about 100 feet long. Whatever coral that once lived there sadly is now gone.

Part of the solution to vessel groundings is adopting better prevention strategies, such as closing anchorage sites in shallow waters that are close to coral reefs. But we also need to respond faster when a vessel runs aground because the sooner the corals can be restored, the better chances it has for survival. Expanding NOAA's authority to act will allow NOAA to utilize their experience and resources to both assess the damage and restore the reefs.

Mr. Speaker, we, in this distinguished body, frequently debate contentious issues that divide America. But not with this bill and not with this issue. Protecting a national treasure such as coral reefs brings people together because everyone understands their vital importance—Democrats and Republicans alike. That's why I am confident that we'll have broad bipartisan support to pass H.R. 860. I thank my colleagues in advance.

IN CELEBRATION OF SAINTS REST
BAPTIST CHURCH'S 65TH ANNI-
VERSARY

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 23, 2009

Mr. COSTA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Saints Rest Baptist Church of Fresno, California, on this ceremonious day, in celebration of their 65th anniversary.

The Saints Rest Baptist Church was organized by the late Rev. A.W. White and their motto of "Spreading Hope in the Midst of Hopelessness" remains inspirational today. Their mission statement rightfully explains the reason for their long-standing and continuing service to the community of Fresno: "The mission of Saints Rest Baptist Church is to become a Christ Centered Community within the community that transforms the community by providing relevant ministries that speaks to the mind, body, and soul of humankind."

The community of West Fresno grew rapidly during the early years of the Second World War. Noticing the growth of California Avenue and knowing no church existed to accommodate residents of that area, a prolonged and dedicated fundraising venture began for the purpose of building a church.

In 1945, groundbreaking ceremonies were conducted and the church was officially named Saints Rest Baptist Church. Only 1 year later, the church was able to add four deacons to serve the Saints Rest family. The church continued to grow and the faithful congregation endured worship services in a metal building located just north of the foundation with the knowledge and belief that this sacrifice would promote growth and allow them to continue their mission.

Former Pastor Chester Riggins, who served the church as pastor for 44 years from 1965 to 2009, helped to erect and then dismantle the metal building. It was in 1950 that the permanent building was officially erected and, poignantly, its first funeral service was for that of the founding father, Rev. A.W. White.

Under the leadership of Pastor Chester Riggins, many programs were instituted at the church, including the House-to-House Revival, Community New Life and Big Brothers and Sisters. Additionally, the community stewardship expanded to include Marriage Workshops, the Food and Clothing Ministry, and the support of the Poverello House and the Fresno Rescue Mission. Senior Pastor Shane Scott has now assumed the leadership at Saints Rest and continues to expand upon the outstanding community service the church provides to the community. As a first course of business, Pastor Scott immediately undertook the project of renaming East Florence Avenue to East Chester Riggins Avenue, in memoriam for the outstanding dedication and service of Pastor Riggins. The Planning Commission accepted the renaming and a dedication ceremony was held in June 2007 and the address for Saints Rest is now 1550 E. Rev. Chester Riggins Avenue.

Today, 65 years after its inception, the Saints Rest Baptist Church continues to be a shining light for the community of Fresno and its worshippers. Please join me in recognizing Senior Pastor Shane Scott and the Saints Rest family on the occasion of their 65th anni-

versary and wish them well as they continue to provide a meaningful place of worship for their congregation and the community. I am proud of the spiritual substance Saints Rest provides to our valley; the church's many efforts inspire and bring support to all of us.

CHINN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL,
PARKVILLE, MISSOURI

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 23, 2009

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Chinn Elementary School in Parkville, MO. The school opened in 1959, and was officially named Thomas B. Chinn Elementary School in honor of Thomas B. Chinn, in gratitude for his long service and as a tribute to his profession.

Mr. Conyers was the first principal of the school in 1959. Chinn started as a 13 room structure and contained 1st through 6th grade. Since 1959, there have been 2 additions to the building, increasing grade level classrooms to 24, as well as several additional small rooms and a new gymnasium. Over the past 50 years, Chinn has had thousands of students pass through the halls.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Chinn Elementary for the learning foundation it has provided to so many students for so many years.

A TRIBUTE TO RICK WAGNER

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS-

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 23, 2009

Mr. TOWNS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to remember Rick Wagner, Director of Litigation for the Brooklyn Legal Services Corporation A "Brooklyn A" in East New York, who suddenly passed away in his home on September 20, 2009. Mr. Wagner was well known as a champion on behalf of Brooklyn's poorest tenants and homeowners.

Mr. Wagner was one of the leading foreclosure defense lawyers in the United States, single handedly leading the effort to educate and enlighten the legal community on the availability of a wide range of homeowner defenses to foreclosure actions. He fought daily against rampant predatory lending and deed thefts, often spearheading innovative new legal strategies. In the early 1990s, he pioneered the use of civil racketeering laws against landlords in East New York, winning a major victory when they were ordered to return deeds to their tenants.

His most recent focus was advocating for consistency, simplification and ease of access to loan modifications—in his words, "basic rules of the road to help homeowners keep their homes". Mr. Wagner's lasting legacy will be his passion and commitment to social justice, and the application of his legal acumen for the needy. Under his leadership, Brooklyn A has cemented its sterling reputation as a model community-based law practice embedded in and responsive to the neighborhoods it serves. He worked tirelessly and will be remembered dearly by the many lives he touched.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in remembering Rick Wagner. May his soul rest in peace.

SUPPORTING NATIONAL WILD
HORSE AND BURRO ADOPTION
DAY

SPEECH OF

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 22, 2009

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of our nation's wild horses and burros. These graceful and social wild animals have captured the hearts and minds of many Americans. They are stunning to watch as they roam free on public lands and remain an historical national treasure. It is imperative that we protect and ensure a viable future for them.

Ensuring a strong adoption program for wild horses and burros is one important step toward addressing the current ineffective, inhumane and expensive practices the Bureau of Land Management, BLM, has employed to manage the population. As such, I support this bill and will continue to work to ensure the success of the adoption program.

However, adoption alone will not offset the damage caused by the failed herd management practices of the BLM. Despite efforts to adopt out horses and burros, BLM has more than 30,000 wild horses in holding areas. In October 2008, the GAO released a report entitled "Effective Long-Term Options Needed to Manage Unadoptable Wild Horses." This report affirms that BLM will continue to face budget shortfalls if long-term corrections to current management practices are not put in place. The bulk of these shortfalls are anticipated to result from the current management methods that round up wild horses and burros from Herd Management Areas, HMA, to long- and short-term holding areas.

The BLM maintains that removal of the horses from the BLM lands is necessary to "maintain a thriving ecological balance." However, the BLM has a history of using this statutory goal as justification for failed herd management practices.

When Congress enacted the Wild Free-Roaming Horses and Burros Act of 1971, 54 million acres were dedicated for use by wild horses and burros. Currently, they roam on 29 million BLM acres and 2.5 million Forest Service acres. Additional state, tribal, and private lands bring the total acreage to 34.3 million, a reduction of 19.2 million acres. Approximately 13 million of the 19.2 million closed acres were under BLM ownership and closed to wild horses and burros because of new laws and regulations as well as BLM's own land use planning decisions. This clearly defies congressional intent and shows a pattern of behavior on the part of BLM that reduces the land on which wild horses and burros roam.

BLM's decision to reduce land available to the wild horses and burros is called into question by the facts. A 1990 Government Accountability Office (GAO) report concluded that removals had not been demonstrated to improve range conditions, in part because livestock cause greater degradation to riparian areas and consume higher levels of forage.

Furthermore, the Congressional Research Service states that the extent of damage by wild horses and burros as compared to livestock suffers from a "lack of definitive data on forage consumed and range degradation." Yet there are approximately 33,000 wild horses and burros on 34 million acres of land, while there are at least 6.4 million cattle, sheep and other livestock that graze on 160 million acres of BLM land. The density of the livestock population far exceeds that of the population of wild horses and burros. But BLM continues to argue that the horses and burros threaten BLM's ability to maintain ecological balance.

Recently, the BLM justified a roundup of wild mustangs on the Pryor Mountain Range of Montana and Wyoming with the "thriving ecological balance" argument. The Pryor Mountain Range wild mustangs are reported to have a genetic link to the Spanish horses of the Conquistadors brought to America in 1500. Their DNA makes them a unique wild horse that is a distinct part of America's history.

According to equine geneticist, Gus Cothran of Texas A&M University, who has been studying the wild horse population of the Pryor Mountains for many years, the single most important factor "in maintaining genetic variation in a managed population is effective population size." Genetic diversity is vital to the long term survival of any herd. BLM's decision to roundup the Pryor Mountain Range horses threatens the effective population size which compromises the genetic diversity of the herd.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote in favor of H. Res. 688 and pledge to continue to work to correct the failed management practices of the BLM.

HONORING THE WHITE ROCK LAKE
DOCTORS HOSPITAL ON ITS 50TH
ANNIVERSARY

HON. JEB HENSARLING

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 23, 2009

Mr. HENSARLING. Madam Speaker, today I recognize a valued member of our community, Doctors Hospital at White Rock Lake, and join with them in celebrating their 50th anniversary.

In 1959, Doctors Hospital at White Rock Lake was established with a mission to provide quality health care to the East Dallas, Garland, Mesquite. Five decades later, this full-service hospital continues to pursue its mission by providing outstanding care ranging from obstetrics to acute care for the elderly.

Located in East Dallas, Doctors Hospital's outpatient facilities include a wound/vein center, sleep center, women's imaging center and rehabilitation center. I recently had the privilege of touring their new surgical suites, which will provide a comfortable place for family members to stay while their loved one receives the care they need.

Madam Speaker, on behalf of the Fifth District of Texas, I am honored to recognize Doctors Hospital at White Rock Lake's 50th anniversary, and I commend the Board of Directors, physicians, nurses and staff for helping to provide quality health care to our community.

OPEN UP THE OUTER
CONTINENTAL SHELF

HON. ADRIAN SMITH

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 23, 2009

Mr. SMITH of Nebraska. Madam Speaker, investing in American energy resources will create jobs, stimulate our economy, and end our dependence on foreign oil.

Last year, Congress and President Bush announced an end to a decades-long ban on energy exploration off America's coasts.

Instead of moving forward with a plan to explore the Outer Continental Shelf, this administration has stopped progress by instituting an extended six-month public comment period.

Now, Secretary Salazar has indicated offshore exploration may not happen until 2012—meaning a six month delay could become a three-year ban.

Earlier this year, I had the opportunity to tour parts of the OCS and observe offshore oil and gas production.

Madam Speaker, I saw firsthand the need to take an all-of-the-above approach when it comes to our energy portfolio—an approach which includes developing American offshore energy resources.

Remember, putting roadblocks up to stunt energy production now will only mean higher energy prices in the future.

A TRIBUTE TO MR. W. HORACE
CARTER

HON. MIKE McINTYRE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 23, 2009

Mr. McINTYRE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a truly outstanding North Carolinian, W. Horace Carter, of Tabor City. As we grieve his loss, we also celebrate his life and commitment to bettering this world as a distinguished man of words, a warrior against injustice, and man of rare and outstanding character.

As the editor and publisher of a small-town North Carolina newspaper, The Tabor City Tribune, Mr. Carter's staunch opposition against the local activities of the Ku Klux Klan helped quell the expansion of the Klan in the Carolinas. Over three years, his paper ran more than 100 Klan-related stories and editorials that he wrote. They reported and commented on rallies, shootings, beatings and a series of floggings that eventually brought the Federal Bureau of Investigation to the region and ended with federal and state prosecutions of more than 100 Klansmen. Mr. Carter successfully used written language as a powerful tool of social change, and for this he was awarded the Pulitzer Prize for Meritorious Public Service in 1953. In 2007, Mr. Carter was bestowed with North Carolina's highest civilian honor when he was inducted into the Order of the Long Leaf Pine.

He was the first in his family to graduate from high school, and he attended the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, where he was editor of the student newspaper, The Tar Heel. He would go on to serve in the Navy, in both the North Atlantic and the Pacific, during

World War II. Without a doubt, Mr. Carter's life was defined by his strong desire to give back to his community and country. Sadly, his life closed on September 16, 2009, but what a joyous life he lived.

Mr. Carter is survived by his son, Russell Carter, who lives in Wilmington and now owns The Tribune, his third wife, Linda Duncan Carter, whom he married in 1995; a brother, Mitchell, of Albemarle, NC; two daughters, Linda Carter Metzger of Lumberton, NC, and Velda Carter Hughes of Greenville, SC, 10 grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

Madam Speaker, during his 88 remarkable years, Mr. Carter worked for equality and understanding, and his immeasurable contributions to the world in these capacities shall never fade. We will not forget the goodness, humility, and passionate giving that defined the life of W. Horace Carter. As we mourn his loss, may God continue to bless all of his loved ones, the work he did, and the greatness that he inspired within all who knew him.

CORAL REEF CONSERVATION ACT
REAUTHORIZATION AND EN-
HANCEMENT AMENDMENTS OF
2009

SPEECH OF

HON. MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 22, 2009

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to address concerns over the definition of "coral reef" in H.R. 860, which were raised by the gentleman from Oklahoma, a co-chairman of the Congressional Sportsmen's Caucus, Congressman DAN BOREN, during a Committee on Natural Resources mark-up on April 22, 2009.

My colleague was concerned that the definition of "coral reef" inappropriately included references to limestone structures that could have been interpreted to include sea floor habitat beyond what is commonly recognized as a coral reef.

The bill, which was amended and adopted in the whole House by voice vote on Tuesday, September 22, 2009, includes revisions to this definition that better capture the physical structure and biological elements of coral reefs. The new definition also limits the geographic scope of coral reefs to those features that appear as reefs and shoals. In this regard, this new definition makes it clear that areas which are composed mainly of limestone bedrock, such as large areas of seabed on the continental shelf of the Gulf of Mexico, are not coral reefs for the purposes of this Act.

This definition is supported by the Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation, the American Sportfishing Association, and the National Marine Manufacturers Association and I appreciate their collaboration in developing this compromise.

I am confident that this new definition will provide clear guidance to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration in their interpretation of this Act, and I thank my colleague, Congressman Boren for providing constructive clarification of this definition.

INTRODUCTION OF THE "FEDERAL
JUDICIARY ADMINISTRATIVE IM-
PROVEMENTS ACT OF 2009"

HON. HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 23, 2009

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I am pleased today to introduce, together with my colleagues Mr. CONYERS, Mr. SMITH, and Mr. COBLE, the Federal Judiciary Administrative Improvements Act of 2009. This bill comprises a collection of proposals supported by the Judicial Conference of the United States that will improve the efficiency of operations in the Federal Courts. Several of the proposals have been previously passed by the House of Representatives. Collectively, these proposals are non-partisan and noncontroversial.

Two provisions make minor but helpful adjustments to Federal Court organization. One makes a technical correction regarding the ability of senior judges to participate in the selection of magistrate judges: the other eliminates the statutory divisions in the District of North Dakota to better serve witnesses and litigants, while retaining the current places of holding court.

Other provisions in this legislation create more equity and management flexibility related to Judicial Branch employees. The legislation amends certain retirement provisions for the four district judges in territorial district courts to move them toward parity with other federal judges appointed for specific terms, such as bankruptcy and magistrate judges. The bill will also provide parity for senior officials in the Judicial Branch with other similar government officials regarding the maximum amount of annual leave that they can carry over each year. Also, the salary levels of four senior officials in the Federal Judicial Center are adjusted to again provide more parity with similar officials in the Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts.

A few of the sections of this bill facilitate court operations related to criminal justice. One provision will allow for the separate filing of the "statement of reasons" that judges issue upon sentencing, so as to better protect confidential information such as the identity of government informants. Another will ensure that federal pretrial officers will be able to fully supervise and assist juveniles awaiting proceedings in federal court. A third proposal will improve the timely collection and assimilation of wiretap data needed for an annual report to Congress by extending some reporting deadlines. Lastly, an inflationary index would be established for the threshold amount that triggers the need for approval by the chief judge of reimbursements of the costs of expert witnesses and investigators hired in representing indigent defendants.

Again, the proposals in this bill address many of the needs identified by the Judicial Conference of the United States to assist the federal courts and their sister agencies. We encourage Members to support this legislation.

HONORING DR. ANNE LINDSAY
AND DR. ALAN GLASEROFF OF
HUMBOLDT COUNTY, CALI-
FORNIA

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 23, 2009

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Anne Lindsay, M.D. and Alan Glaseroff, M.D., two extraordinary citizens of Humboldt County, California who have dedicated their lives to public service. The husband and wife team are being honored by the Humboldt County Democratic Central Committee as 2009 Citizens of the Year for one of our nation's most precious rights—participation in the political system. Their commitment to the general health and welfare of the community and to the preservation of our liberty is worthy of appreciation and recognition.

Dr. Lindsay has served as the Public Health Officer for the County of Humboldt for the past fifteen years. She is President of the California Conference of Local Health Officers, representing 61 county and city health officers from throughout California. She has demonstrated outstanding and innovative leadership throughout years of public service, tackling some of the nation's most difficult public health issues, from homelessness to communicable disease control. She has been recognized locally and nationally for her exemplary efforts, recognized as the 2nd Senate District 2004 Woman of the Year by the California Legislature and receiving the distinguished California Medical Association 2006 Frederick K. M. Plessner Memorial Award for rural practitioners.

Dr. Glaseroff has been the Chief Medical Officer for the Humboldt-Del Norte Independent Physician Association since its inception in 1995 and is the Medical Director for the Foundation for Medical Care. He has led the way locally and nationally in seeking solutions to achieve improved, quality health care. He has distinguished himself as the principal investigator for the Humboldt Diabetes Project and faculty for the statewide diabetes collaborative. He is affiliated with the National Committee for Quality Assurance, is the co-director for the Aligning Forces for Quality Initiative, sponsored by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, and was named the 2009 Family Physician of the Year by the California Academy of Family Physicians. Dr. Glaseroff has dedicated his medical career to finding ways to improve the delivery of health care.

These extraordinary individuals have been partners in a rural family medical practice for the past 26 years. They share the happiness of family life with their two children, Rebecca Lindsay, a medical school student and Bruce Lindsay Glaseroff, a teacher. A talented and musical family, Anne and Alan also perform with the Humboldt County blues band, the Back Seat Drivers.

Madam Speaker, it is appropriate at this time that we recognize Anne Lindsay and Alan Glaseroff for their unwavering compassion and for their contribution to the ideals and traditions that have made America a nation of hope and achievement.

UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION
EXTENSION ACT OF 2009

SPEECH OF

HON. MARK STEVEN KIRK

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 22, 2009

Mr. KIRK. Mr. Speaker, during the vote on H.R. 3548, the Unemployment Compensation Extension Act of 2009, I was unavoidably detained—had I been present I would have voted for this legislation.

Americans are struggling to make ends meet in this economy. Retirement savings are disappearing, families have seen their portfolios drop, and according to the Illinois Department of Employment Security, the unemployment rate in Illinois is at 10 percent—.3 percent higher than the national average has been in 26 years.

I support giving unemployment benefits to people who lost their jobs. In tough economic times, the federal government should offer additional assistance and H.R. 3548 does that by extending unemployment benefits for an additional 13 weeks for individuals living in States with unemployment rates above 8.5 percent.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BEN CHANDLER

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 23, 2009

Mr. CHANDLER. Madam Speaker, on roll-call No. 709, had I been present, I would have voted "yes."

HONORING REBECCA PARRIS OF
SWAIN COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA

HON. HEATH SHULER

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 23, 2009

Mr. SHULER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Rebecca Parris, a remarkable young woman in Swain County, North Carolina.

Miss Parris, a student of Swain County High School, raised over \$4,000 for the Shriners Hospital for Children in Greenville, South Carolina. Miss Parris was inspired to take action upon hearing that reductions in donations and increasing medical costs could lead to the possible closure of the Greenville hospital, which serves children in the Greenville and Western North Carolina areas. To help keep the hospital open, Miss Parris coordinated and hosted a fundraising event, "Shriners for Minors," in Bryson City, North Carolina on August 8, 2009. The event included participation by a number of vendors and children's activities organized by her fellow high school students. After the event, Miss Parris made a visit to the hospital to present the donations and over 70 donated toys.

Miss Parris has always worked hard to serve those in her community. As an elementary school student she made Christmas gifts for local nursing home residents. Miss Parris maintains an excellent academic record and has been inducted into the National Honor So-

ciety this year. She is part of the track and cross country team, plays basketball, and is the best marksperson on the shooting team at Swain County High School. She also worked full-time at a grocery store over the summer while organizing the fundraiser.

Madam Speaker, Miss Parris's dedication to children in need in our mountain region and her efforts on behalf of the Shriners Hospital for Children are a great source of pride to me and to Western North Carolina. Miss Parris exemplifies the motto of Swain County Schools: "Our Best and Then Some." I urge my colleagues to join me today in commending the outstanding efforts of this remarkable young woman.

TRIBUTE TO WILL LUMMUS

HON. TRAVIS W. CHILDERS

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 23, 2009

Mr. CHILDERS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a National Little Britches Rodeo Champion, Will Lummus, a fierce competitor in the senior tie-down calf-roping finals. Every year, more than 700 of the National Little Britches Association's top athletes from across the country gather in Pueblo, Colorado to take shots at 30 world championships.

Madam Speaker, with distinct honor and pride, I, along with the citizens of West Point, Mississippi congratulate our own national calf-roping champion, Will Lummus. I ask my colleagues to join me today in commending Will for his hard work and dedication. I hope he will continue to compete and victoriously represent Mississippi's First District.

RECOGNIZING FIRST LIEUTENANT
MICHAEL PARRISH—SCOTTSDALE
HEALTHCARE'S "SALUTE TO
MILITARY" HONOREE

HON. HARRY E. MITCHELL

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 23, 2009

Mr. MITCHELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize a member of the Armed Forces from my home state of Arizona. Every month, Scottsdale Healthcare honors service members who perform diligent service to this country. For the month of August, they have recognized First Lieutenant Michael Parrish.

I commend Scottsdale Healthcare for paying tribute to such an outstanding service member for his bravery and service to our country.

Parrish joined the Army National Guard in 2001 to further his education and serve his country. After completing basic training, he provided medical coverage for cadets who were training at West Point Military Academy. During his tenure, 100 percent of the cadets finished the training without injury. This September, Parrish will deploy to Vicenza, Italy, to provide care to Army soldiers and families.

In addition to his military work, Michael is an avid supporter of the Scottsdale Healthcare Military Partnership Training Program, which is designed to ensure military medical personnel have the necessary skills and experience to

operate in a wartime setting. Without a doubt, his outstanding leadership and dedication contribute to the success of this very important program.

Madam Speaker, please join me in recognizing the inspiring efforts of this courageous citizen who is serving our country and protecting the lives of his fellow service men and women in combat.

STATEMENT REGARDING VOTE ON
H.R. 3548, UNEMPLOYMENT COM-
PENSATION EXTENSION ACT OF
2009

HON. LAMAR SMITH

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 23, 2009

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Madam Speaker, on September 22, 2009, I voted "no" on H.R. 3548, the Unemployment Compensation Extension Act of 2009. As of August 2009, the State of Texas had 966,000 people who were unemployed. This amounts an unemployment rate of 8.0 percent but this legislation only applied to states with unemployment over 8.5 percent so unemployed Texans were not eligible. I would have voted for H.R. 3548 because so many people across the country continue to be unemployed if the bill had not discriminated against Texas and 22 other states with unemployment rates lower than 8.5 percent.

The State of Texas has many counties and communities where the unemployment rate is higher than 8.5 percent. Many more individuals should have qualified for these benefits. Furthermore, since employers in Texas continue to pay the taxes that pay for these benefits, they are subsidizing the unemployment benefits in other states without any of the revenue going to unemployed Texans. This bill is unfair and for that reason I could not support it.

STATEMENT REGARDING VOTE ON
H.R. 3548, UNEMPLOYMENT COM-
PENSATION EXTENSION ACT OF
2009

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 23, 2009

Mr. WOLF. Madam Speaker, yesterday I voted for the Unemployment Compensation Extension Act (H.R. 3548), legislation that will provide an additional 13 weeks of extended benefits to individuals in states with unemployment above a three-month average of 8.5 percent. Because so many Americans have lost their once steady job and are struggling to find work and make ends meet during these difficult economic times, I feel that extending unemployment benefits is a necessity.

I was disappointed, however, that this legislation only included an extension of benefits for 29 states by setting an 8.5 percent state unemployment rate as the threshold for those eligible under this bill. In Virginia, where unemployment stands at 6.5 percent for the month of August, those out of work who have exhausted their benefits will not be covered.

Families across the country are struggling to pay their mortgage, to pay for health care expenses. They have depleted their savings and

are hanging on by a thread. Those out of work in Virginia aren't struggling any less than those in Ohio, Michigan, or California, where the statewide unemployment rates are higher. I believe that this is an issue of fairness that needs to be corrected.

To reach out to those who are looking for work in Virginia's 10th Congressional District, which includes some areas that reached an unemployment rate of 8 percent this summer, I am sponsoring a job fair in Frederick County in October. I held a similar event in Loudoun County in May and more than 70 employers attended to meet with more than 3,500 job-seekers.

People across the country are hurting and Virginia is no exception. While I believe voting for the Unemployment Compensation Extension Act will help many who have felt the brunt of the recession, I remain disappointed that unemployed Virginians were left behind. This measure should be amended to help all those across the country, rather than using an arbitrary threshold to determine who is most deserving.

IN RECOGNITION OF VIRGINIA GRANATO AND HER DECADE OF SERVICE AS PRESIDENT OF THE ROOSEVELT ISLAND DISABLED ASSOCIATION

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 23, 2009

Mrs. MALONEY. Madam Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Virginia Granato, an outstanding New Yorker who has distinguished herself through her dedication and service to her community and to our nation. Virginia Granato is being honored this month by the membership of the Roosevelt Island Disabled Association (RIDA) on the occasion of her retirement from its presidency, a post in which she served with distinction for a decade.

Virginia Granato is a revered figure among the residents of the very special Roosevelt Island community, a unique enclave in the most densely populated county in the nation. She delivered extraordinary and effective leadership to the large population of people with disabilities on the Island. In addition to her devoted and effective service as President of RIDA, Virginia served on the Board of Directors of Wheelchair Charities and on the Community Advisory Board of Coler-Goldwater Hospital.

Virginia Granato was one of the original pioneers of Roosevelt Island, first moving into the Island's Eastwood housing development in 1976. She became a powerful and respected voice for Roosevelt Island residents with disabilities, pressing to make the Island's transportation more accessible, counseling planners on the design and layout of apartment complexes, and facilitating a lending program for residents in need of wheelchairs and walkers.

In leading the Roosevelt Island Disabled Association for a decade, Virginia Granato carried out RIDA's vital mission of improving the quality of life of Roosevelt Islanders with disabilities. As RIDA President, she helped organize and secure funding for regular field trips by Association members to athletic contests,

cultural institutions, musical performances and recitals, amusement parks and other recreational venues.

For more than a third of a century, Virginia Granato has been a leader of the Roosevelt Island community that she loves. She has volunteered for various worthwhile civic causes and selflessly devoted thousands of hours of her time. Virginia Granato offers an example of the finest impulses of the human spirit, and through her dedication and compassion, thousands of lives have been affected for the better.

Madam Speaker, for her leadership, dedication and volunteer service over the years, I ask that my distinguished colleagues join me in recognizing the enormous contributions to the civic life of her community and our nation made by Virginia Granato.

INTRODUCING PUBLIC SAFETY INTEROPERABLE COMMUNICATIONS (PSIC) GRANT PROGRAM

HON. JANE HARMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 23, 2009

Ms. HARMAN. Madam Speaker, today I am introducing legislation that will help America's first responders keep their communities safer by solving a dangerous deficiency in their emergency communications capabilities. Our first responders are also our first preventers, and their ability to communicate seamlessly and effectively on an interoperable network during an emergency helps save lives and protect critical infrastructure.

For over 7 years, I have worked to prevent a tragic repetition of the communications problems that resulted in thousands of deaths on 9/11—when the lack of an interoperable network prevented the NYPD from warning firefighters that the Twin Towers were glowing red and it was time to evacuate.

My home State of California is prone to natural disasters, especially earthquakes and wild fires. Alarming, there are still instances when our firefighters have relied on runners and drivers to relay messages during an emergency. This occurs when multiple companies respond to the same incident, each carrying different equipment.

An important piece of the solution to this crisis is the Public Safety Interoperable Communications, PSIC, grant program, which provides funding to purchase interoperable communications equipment and undertake training to use it.

Since 2007, the PSIC program has provided nearly \$1 billion in grants to state and local governments, and the deadline to spend the funds is next year. All states were required to develop Statewide Communications Interoperability Plans, SCIP. Unfortunately, according to the Department of Homeland Security, its approval of these plans was delayed until the spring of 2008, in part because DHS wanted to ensure they were subject to appropriate environmental reviews. This is understandable; however, the delay in approving SCIP plans means that not all of the grant funds can be spent before next year's deadline.

The PSIC program is vital to public safety; it should be allowed the necessary time and funding. The legislation I introduce today—

which is a companion bill to S.1694 introduced by Senators Rockefeller and Hutchinson—would guarantee a one-year extension to spend the grant money, with an option for an additional year approved on a case-by-case basis.

While I urge prompt action on this bill, this will in no way relieve us of the obligation to complete the build-out of the 700 megahertz spectrum so that we develop true national interoperability. I am enormously disappointed that, despite universal agreement on the goal, real progress has been so slow.

In conclusion, the PSIC program must be continued. It is a building block in the effort to equip our communities to respond to a terrorist attack or natural disaster. I urge prompt consideration and passage.

RECOGNIZING JOHN R. RIBNER

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 23, 2009

Mr. KILDEE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize John R. Ribner as he is honored at the Flint Youth Projects' 15th Annual Roast and Toast on October 1st in Burton Michigan.

John Ribner grew up during the 1940s in New York City. He started high school on a baseball scholarship at St. Anne's Academy in New York. After two years he transferred to North Branch High School in Michigan to help care for an ailing relative. He continued his schooling and athletics at North Branch, playing several sports and making the first team in All-State basketball. This led to a basketball scholarship to Central Michigan University. John obtained his teaching degree from that school and in 1964 began teaching with the Flint School District.

He taught at Fairview School, Holmes School and Whittier. During this time he was named Teacher of the Year by the school district and by Flint Sales and Marketing Group. He is now retired but still devotes his time and energy to helping children in need. Along with his wife, Dolly, John distributes turkeys at Thanksgiving every year to families and children. He believes that many people over the years have given to him and the turkey drive is a way to give back to the community. He said, "Of all my life's accomplishments, I am especially proud of the turkey drive for this reason."

As a trustee of the Westwood Heights Board of Education, John continues his interest and commitment to education. Madam Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to join me in recognizing the achievements and contributions of John R. Ribner.

IRAN'S NUCLEAR PROGRAM
THREATENS THE WORLD

HON. HOWARD COBLE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 23, 2009

Mr. COBLE. Madam Speaker, I rise to express my grave concerns over Iran's illicit nuclear program. In the midst of all the attention being paid to issues such as the economy and

health care reform, we must not overlook the growing threat that Iran poses to the security of the United States and our allies in the Middle East. Every day, Iran is working to develop the capacity to produce a nuclear weapon, a point from which I fear there may be no return.

The president of Iran, Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, has left no illusion of his desire to wipe Israel off the map. Through his emboldened and misguided leadership, Iran has exerted its hegemony throughout the Middle East with complete disregard for the truth and resolute intolerance.

If Iran crosses the nuclear weapons threshold, I have no doubt that this will provoke a renewed race for nuclear arms in the Middle East. Radical political factions throughout the region will be empowered and moderates, who are working to develop a comprehensive peace agreement, will lose their much-needed support. Terrorist organizations such as Hezbollah, Hamas and Al Qaeda will be strengthened and emboldened to pursue a nuclear weapon of their own—which is our worst nightmare.

Thanks to the Internet, we know that democracy and human rights in Iran are an illusion. Some Iranian leaders would argue with that assertion and also contend that their country has no interest in pursuing a nuclear weapons program. We cannot afford to rely on hollow assurances such as these.

We need valid and thorough inspections immediately to verify exactly what Iran is doing with its nuclear program. The only way to deal with Iran's recalcitrant leaders is to leverage our political influence and force them to allow the International Atomic Energy Agency, IAEA, to conduct inspections. Unfortunately for the Iranian people, this means enacting the Iran Sanctions Act and the Iran Refined Petroleum Act, which would result in severe consequences for Iran and its people.

There is no simple solution to Iran's threat. Measures we can take right now include enacting legislation and supporting policies that will force Iran's leaders to allow IAEA inspectors unfettered access to conduct nuclear weapons inspections. There is far too much at stake to rely on promises from the same Iranian leaders who openly profess their desire to wipe Israel off the map, deny allegations of human rights violations, and provoke violence around the world against those who embrace liberty and justice.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JIM GERLACH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 23, 2009

Mr. GERLACH. Madam Speaker, unfortunately, on Tuesday, September 22, 2009, I missed three recorded votes on the House floor. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall 720, "yea" on rollcall 721, and "yea" on rollcall 722.

AGAINST PASSAGE OF H.R. 3548

HON. BOB GOODLATTE

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 23, 2009

Mr. GOODLATTE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to discuss H.R. 3548, the Unemployment Compensation Extension Act of 2009.

Madam Speaker, let there be no doubt that I understand that our economy faces historic and unprecedented challenges and I will remain committed to working with Members of Congress on both sides of the aisle to enact responsible legislation which puts money back into the hands of those who can really turn our economy around—the American people and small businesses.

However, H.R. 3548 extends the current unemployment benefits extension program, as established by the FY 2008 supplemental, and extended in two subsequent acts, by an extra 13 weeks for only those States with unemployment rates above 8.5%. Enactment of H.R. 3548 would cause individuals in States with unemployment rates in excess of 8.5% to be eligible for benefits for a total duration of 92 weeks.

Madam Speaker, like you, I believe that a key component of an economic recovery plan is assistance for the unemployed. Unfortunately, this legislation would only apply to unemployed individuals in 29 States with unemployment rates above 8.5%. To be clear, individuals in 21 other States would be ineligible to receive compensation under this legislation. Virginia's current unemployment rate stands at 6.5%. Thus, Virginia residents are not eligible for these benefits. I cannot support legislation that does not allow Virginia residents to benefit from the formulas adopted under this legislation.

Even more egregious is that businesses in Virginia and other excluded States are required to foot the bill for these benefits via the extension of the Federal Unemployment surtax through 2010. This tax would otherwise expire at the end of this year. Madam Speaker, I cannot support legislation that imposes a tax on businesses in Virginia when funds generated under this tax will be of zero benefit to the residents of Virginia, or the remaining 20 States in the Nation.

There are many counties and cities in Virginia that have unemployment rates above 8.5% and yet citizens living in those areas who are unemployed will receive no benefits from this legislation even as employers in the same areas will pay taxes taking money out of the local economy and seeing it circulate instead in some other part of the country for the arbitrary reason that statewide unemployment is above a particular percentage. Further, the individual who is out of a job and can't find another is suffering through the same situation for themselves and their families no matter where they live. Madam Speaker, this legislation is unfair to my constituents and that is why I voted against it.

HONORING CATHOLIC SISTERS

HON. MARK E. SOUDER

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 23, 2009

Mr. SOUDER, Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to rise in support of the gentlewoman from Ohio's resolution (H. Res. 441) recognizing the contributions of the Catholic Sisters to the United States.

The efforts of Catholic Sisters have had an incredible impact on my district in northeast Indiana. Saint Mother Theodore Guerin was one of the first brave souls to leave France in response to the call of Bishop Simon Brute of the Diocese of Vincennes to come to Indiana and help establish a system of schools for education.

Bishop Brute's motivation for seeking the support and involvement of religious women for this calling came from his experience working with another religious Sister, Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton.

Saint Mother Theodore traveled across the wilds of then-frontier Indiana and established many parish schools across the State, including in Fort Wayne, Indiana. Along with the Holy Cross Brothers and Fathers based at the University of Notre Dame, Saint Mother Theodore had a major impact on the creation of parish schools throughout northeast Indiana. That we have a successful Catholic school system in my district is due in no small part to her early efforts.

Sts. Theodore and Elizabeth Ann Seton have left lasting legacies in my district. The Catholic parish across from my kids' alma mater is dedicated to St. Elizabeth Ann Seton and the relatively new Latin Mass community in Fort Wayne is named for Saint Mother Theodore Guerin.

The foundation of education laid down by these pioneering sisters is today embodied by the example of the University of Saint Francis and its president, Sister Elise Kriss, OSF. You will not find a more humble and devoted servant than Sister Elise, who has led her institution through a period of rapid growth. She is a strong example of Christian leadership for both her students and the entire Fort Wayne community.

The Religious Sisters' contribution to my district extends well beyond education. St. Joseph Hospital was founded by Fort Wayne Bishop John Henry Luers in 1869. The Poor Handmaidens of Jesus Christ subsequently responded to his call to help serve the German-speaking immigrants of the area and continued assisting the hospital and many area parishes. They now lead the St. Joseph Community Health Foundation which has been a key partner with me and my staff as we work to address the plight of Fort Wayne's increasing Burmese refugee population.

My district originally included Huntington County, which is home to the motherhouse of Our Lady of Victory Missionary Sisters. The Victory Knoll Sisters would always write to me about the cause of peace and justice and the plight of different people around our country and the world.

These are just a few of the many dedicated religious women that are faithfully serving in the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend, but are a good representation of the important legacy they provide our region. I would like to

thank the gentlewoman from Ohio for introducing this resolution and urge my colleagues to join me in supporting the important contributions these women have made and continue to make across the country.

NATIONAL JOB CORPS DAY

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 22, 2009

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Con. Res. 163, which expresses support for the designation of September 23, 2009 as National Job Corps Day. The Job Corps is an essential program that provides vocational training for thousands of young Americans each year, helping to integrate them into the U.S. workforce.

The Job Corps was created under the Department of Labor in 1964 as a part of President Lyndon B. Johnson's War on Poverty. The Job Corps was modeled after the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC), which was established during the Great Depression in an effort to house, train, and find employment for young people. Like the CCC before it, Job Corps seeks not only to provide vocational training but also to teach life skills and build character in participants. The Job Corps helps to foster professionalism by maintaining a strict zero-tolerance policy with regards to criminal activity for admitted participants as well as a code of conduct that includes rules for appearance.

I am proud of the four Job Corps campuses in my home state of Texas. Job Corps has a regional headquarters in Dallas, Texas and operates campuses in the North, Central, South, and West regions of Texas. The Gary Job Corps center in San Marcos, Texas was inaugurated in 1964 by President Johnson. Today, the Gary campus has the largest GED program in the state of Texas. The Job Corps has provided thousands of Texans with the education and training they need to be successful at work and in life.

I also want to mention the job fairs that I have hosted in my district of Houston, TX to help counter rising unemployment, designed to help all in need, including the young people that Job Corps assists. At the job fair in Houston last weekend, over 50 companies and government agencies attended and held on-site interviews. These events were incredible successes and embodied the spirit of the Job Corps program.

Over its 45 year history, the Job Corps has helped nearly 3 million young people join the American workforce. The Job Corps operates 123 campuses across the United States, assisting nearly 60,000 students each year. The Job Corps is a refuge for high school dropouts, providing academic remediation and empowering them to join the workforce through career preparation and development. For that reason, the Job Corps has been called the largest and most successful high school dropout recovery program in the U.S.

The success of the Job Corps program in changing the lives of its participants is evident in the following statistics. After eight months in the Job Corps program, the average participant will have a high school diploma and an improved literacy level. Seventy-five percent of

Job Corps graduates will secure employment or enter into military service.

The benefits of the Job Corps go beyond the impact on the lives of the youth who participate in the program. The Job Corps enhances the workforce in communities across the country by partnering with labor organizations and employers to develop specifically requested skills. These partnerships include internships and other hands-on training experiences that enhance the youth participants' employability. The benefits of Job Corps also extend to the community where youths perform millions of hours of community service, instilling the value of giving-back to the community.

Finally, it is important that we note that National Job Corps Day also honors the 15,000 staff members who work hard to ensure that the participants get the best training possible. Without the hard work of these men and women, Job Corps would not have been able to help millions of young people enter the workforce and become productive citizens.

EXPRESSING A NATION'S APPRECIATION FOR THE HEROIC STAFF OF HILLSDALE HIGH SCHOOL

HON. JACKIE SPEIER-

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 23, 2009

Ms. SPEIER. Madam Speaker, every weekday morning, millions of parents send our children off to school, entrusting their care to the teachers, administrators and other professionals who do their best to make school as safe and supportive an environment as possible. Yet we are reminded, far too often, that no one's safety is guaranteed if a disturbed person or group is intent on committing an act of violence.

On August 24th, a former student with his mind set on mayhem entered the campus of San Mateo California's Hillsdale High School with enough weapons and explosive devices to kill or injure hundreds. The remarkable fact that no one was seriously hurt is due entirely to the heroic efforts of the staff who, according to Principal Jeffrey Gilbert, "More ran toward the explosion than away from it."

Student services aide Jana Torres, a district employee since 2001 and known for her strong relationship with students, saw the attacker attempting to start a chainsaw and yelled at him to stop. Instead, he lit a pipe bomb and hurled it at her. Disregarding her own safety, Ms. Torres called for help and jumped over the device to pursue the attacker as the pipe bomb detonated behind her.

Just as a second bomb went off, 12-year teaching veteran Kennet Santana, a favorite among students for his innate ability to inspire and motivate young people, tackled the running assailant before he could ignite more of the home-made bombs he had strapped to his vest.

Coming to Kennet's aid were Principal Gilbert, a former Hillsdale teacher known for his easy-going and patient manner, and counselor Edgardo Canda, another former teacher who has found his calling as a counselor, able to relate to students on many levels. They helped subdue and hold the attacker until police arrived.

Madam Speaker, at that point in time, none of these heroes knew if—or how many—others were part of this plot or if the bombs strapped to the desperate young man's vest were about to detonate.

Ms. Torres, Mr. Santana, Mr. Gilbert and Mr. Canda have rightly and appropriately been singled out by their community. They, along with the brave officers of the San Mateo Police Department, in particular the first responders—Captain Kevin Raffaelli and Officers Rick Apecechea, Jeff Dellings and Roberto Gonzalez—deserve our gratitude for their selfless acts of heroism.

So, too, does the entire staff at Hillsdale High School that morning. As Principal Gilbert said, "We're getting a lot of the credit but there were a lot of teachers who basically stood their ground and said we're going to do whatever it takes to protect our kids."

Madam Speaker, our entire nation is eternally grateful for the dedication of these and so many other public education professionals who, every day at schools across this country, take on the awesome responsibility of doing "whatever it takes" to educate, prepare, and protect our children.

A PROCLAMATION HONORING RACHELLE WHITMAN FOR WINNING THE GIRLS' DIVISION IV STATE SOFTBALL CHAMPIONSHIP

HON. ZACHARY T. SPACE

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 23, 2009

Mr. SPACE. Madam Speaker:

Whereas, Rachele Whitman showed hard work and dedication to the sport of softball; and

Whereas, Rachele Whitman was a supportive coach; and

Whereas, Rachele Whitman always displayed sportsmanship on and off of the field; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, that along with her friends, family, and the residents of the 18th Congressional District, I congratulate Rachele Whitman on winning the Girls' Division IV State Softball Championship. We recognize the tremendous hard work and sportsmanship she has demonstrated during the 2008–2009 softball season.

HONORING DIANE REHM

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 23, 2009

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the outstanding achievements of one of our nation's great radio talk show hosts, Diane Rehm. Diane is celebrating her 30th anniversary at WAMU 88.5 FM, where she hosts The Diane Rehm Show. The show is distributed nationally and internationally by NPR and NPR Worldwide and is estimated to have a U.S. audience of over two million listeners. In 2007 and 2008, the show was the only live call-in talk show to be named among the top ten most powerful programs in public radio.

Diane began her radio career in 1973 as a volunteer producer at WAMU, despite having had no prior radio experience. Ten months later, she was hired as an assistant producer. She became host of WAMU's Kaleidoscope in 1979 and hosted her first session of "Open Phones" when one of her guests failed to show up. Shortly thereafter, in 1984, the show got a new name: The Diane Rehm Show. In 1998, her career nearly came to a halt because of a puzzling speech problem. She was diagnosed and treated for spasmodic dysphonia, a neurological disorder. Not to be defeated, she returned to the show and made a point of calling attention to this condition. In 2000, she interviewed President Bill Clinton and became the first radio talk show host to interview a sitting President in the Oval Office. Her guests have also included President Jimmy Carter, Vice President Dick Cheney, Secretary of State Colin Powell, Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O'Connor, Archbishop Desmond Tutu, V.S. Naipaul, Toni Morrison, Annie Leibovitz, George Soros, Ted Koppel, Julia Child and the beloved Mr. Rogers.

Diane became a best-selling memoirist with the publication of *Finding My Voice* in 1999, which was followed by her compelling and deeply personal book about marriage, *Toward Commitment*, co-written with her husband, John Rehm.

Diane has received many personal honors over the years, including being named a Paul H. Nitze Senior Fellow at St. Mary's College of Maryland and being inducted into the Class of 2004 Hall of Fame by the Washington, DC Chapter of the Society of Professional Journalists. She was honored as a Fellow by the Society of Professional Journalists, the highest honor the Society bestows on a journalist. Diane was also named by *Washingtonian* magazine in 2006 as one of Washington's "100 Most Powerful Women," and in 2007 as one of the "150 Most Influential People in Washington."

In 2006, Diane became the inaugural recipient of the Urbino Press Award, headquartered in Urbino, Italy, which recognized her "long and prestigious career in journalism." In 2008, the University Club of Washington, D.C. honored her with "The Distinguished Washingtonian Award in Literature and the Arts." She has been awarded honorary degrees from the Virginia Theological Seminary, Washington College, and McDaniel College. Diane's loyalty and devotion to WAMU and American University were recognized in 2007 when she was invited to receive an honorary degree and deliver the College of Arts and Sciences' commencement address.

Over the years, Diane's listeners have also come to know Diane's family—her husband, John, her children David and Jennifer, and her grandchildren—and her dear friend Bishop Jane Holmes Dixon, with whom she speaks every day.

On a personal note, I am a longtime fan and admirer of Diane Rehm and have had the privilege of being a guest on her show. While those of us who live and listen in the Washington, DC region consider Diane our own, she has avid listeners and admirers throughout the country. We take great pride in having her as a member of our community.

Madam Speaker, I am honored to recognize Diane Rehm for her outstanding 30-year career at WAMU and for the impact she has had on public radio broadcasting.

HONORING ROSALIND L. WEE

HON. PATRICK J. MURPHY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 23, 2009

Mr. PATRICK J. MURPHY of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Rosalind Wee as the recipient of the 2009 Pearl S. Buck International Woman of the Year Award. This achievement is awarded to "women who make outstanding contributions in the areas of cross-cultural understanding, humanitarian outreach, and improving the quality of life and expanding opportunities for children around the world." Ms. Wee is one of only 27 women to receive this prestigious and well-deserved award.

Ms. Wee has shown herself to be a dedicated humanitarian throughout the years, serving as the treasurer of the Quezon City Chapter of the Philippine National Red Cross, the President of the Pearl S. Buck Foundation Philippines and the President of Philippine Federation of Local Councils of Women.

Her accomplishments also extend into the business world, where she is the founder and director of the Marine Resources Development Corporation and the owner and developer of First Marcel Properties, Inc.

She is also the proud mother of six children—and even with such a busy schedule, she still manages to find time to indulge her passion for golf. She has encouraged many other women to do so as the President of the Manila Lady Golfers Foundation.

Ms. Wee has been able to accomplish all of her successes as a humanitarian, entrepreneur, mother and grandmother despite having been blinded after having a brain tumor operation 17 years ago.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to recognize Ms. Rosalind Wee for her outstanding contributions to her community and the world at large. She serves as an inspiration to all of us and demonstrates that the only limitations to our goals are those we choose to accept.

**A PROCLAMATION HONORING
LYDIA STOCKERT FOR WINNING
THE GIRLS' DIVISION IV STATE
SOFTBALL CHAMPIONSHIP**

HON. ZACHARY T. SPACE

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 23, 2009

Mr. SPACE. Madam Speaker:

Whereas, Lydia Stockert showed hard work and dedication to the sport of softball; and

Whereas, Lydia Stockert was a supportive team player; and

Whereas, Lydia Stockert always displayed sportsmanship on and off of the field; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, that along with her friends, family, and the residents of the 18th Congressional District, I congratulate Lydia Stockert on winning the Girls' Division IV State Softball Championship. We recognize the tremendous hard work and sportsmanship she has demonstrated during the 2008–2009 softball season.

ADMINISTRATION ONCE AGAIN
SIDELINES HUMAN RIGHTS

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 23, 2009

Mr. WOLF. Madam Speaker, I again rise to express my deep disappointment with the Obama administration's sidelining of human rights in U.S. foreign policy.

I submit for the RECORD an op-ed from today's Washington Post aptly titled "A Cold Shoulder to Liberty." Columnist Michael Gerson writes of the administration's snub of the Dalai Lama on his upcoming visit to the nation's capital.

Two years ago, the Dalai Lama received the Congressional Gold Medal in the rotunda of the U.S. Capitol. President Bush personally presented it to him. I was there for the occasion where this man of peace and dignity was honored for his life's work in promoting basic rights for his people.

Next month, the Dalai Lama will again visit Washington, but this time he will be denied a visit with President Obama lest it ruffle feathers in Beijing in the lead up to the President's visit there in November.

I am reminded of another administration which declined to meet with a dissident for fear of souring an upcoming meeting. It was 1975, and Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn was set to visit Washington. Henry Kissinger led the charge in refusing him a meeting with President Ford, who was worried about upsetting Soviet leader Brezhnev prior to the upcoming summit.

Contrast this approach with President Reagan's 1988 speech in defense of religious liberty at the ancient Danilov Monastery in Russia. In his remarks he had the courage to invoke a quote by Solzhenitsyn about the faith of the people of Russia. In so doing, he respectfully made the point that religious freedom is central to who we are as Americans, and as such our leaders will not be silenced on this score for fear of offending oppressive governments.

I believe that history shows this administration could learn from that approach.

Sadly, the White House's treatment of the Dalai Lama is not an isolated incident. Gerson notes, ". . . rebuffing the Dalai Lama is part of a pattern. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton has argued that pressing China on human rights 'can't interfere with the global economic crisis, the global climate change crisis and the security crisis . . .'"

But this begs the question, what of the human rights crisis in China?

Just yesterday, the Associated Press reported that "China has closed Tibet to foreign tourists and deployed soldiers armed with machine guns in the streets of Beijing—part of a raft of stringent security measures ahead of the 60th anniversary of communist rule. Even kite-flying has been banned in the capital."

This is the government we are trying to curry favor with? I'd prefer to find common cause and solidarity with the people of Tibet, with the persecuted house church and Catholic bishops, with the repressed Falun Gong.

The administration's approach in China has been mirrored elsewhere at the expense of oppressed people the world over.

Gerson continues, "Overtures to repressive governments in Iran, Cuba, North Korea, Venezuela, Syria and Egypt have generally ignored the struggles of dissidents and prisoners in those nations. So far, the Obama era is hardly a high point of human rights solidarity."

It seems we could also add Burma to that list. Today's Post reports that "For the first time in nine years, the United States allowed Burma's foreign minister to come to Washington, a sign of softening U.S. policy toward the military junta that has run that Asian nation for nearly five decades."

The Post notes, "Under the 2003 Burmese Freedom and Democracy Act, the White House needs to approve a waiver to allow Burmese officials who are attending the U.N. General Assembly to travel more than 25 miles outside of New York."

On the reported eve of the administration's much anticipated release of a Burma policy review, the waiving of this sanction for a major general in the Burmese Army, to essentially sight-see in Washington, sends the wrong message.

Earlier this week, the Post featured an article with the headline, "U.S. Faces Doubts About Leadership on Human Rights," which reported, "as the U.N. General Assembly gets underway this week, human rights activists and political analysts say the new approach has undercut U.S. leadership on human rights issues."

I submit for the RECORD the entire article, which offers a grim but accurate assessment of this failed approach.

Martin Luther King Jr. famously said, "In the end, we will remember not the words of our enemies, but the silence of our friends."

Are we not friends of the persecuted Coptic Christian in Egypt? Are we not friends of the North Koreans enslaved in the gulag? Are we not friends of the repressed Cuban or Iranian democracy activist?

The answer to all of these questions is a resounding yes, which makes this administration's deliberate sidelining of human rights that much more devastating.

[From the Washington Post, Sept. 23, 2009]

A COLD SHOULDER TO LIBERTY

(By Michael Gerson)

Two Octobers ago, the Dalai Lama received the Congressional Gold Medal, one of America's highest civilian honors, in the rotunda of the U.S. Capitol. Speaker Nancy Pelosi talked of a "special relationship between His Holiness the Dalai Lama and the United States." Said Sen. Mitch McConnell: "We have reached out in solidarity to the Dalai Lama and the Tibetan people, and the Chinese government needs to know that we will continue to do so." President George W. Bush urged Chinese leaders "to welcome the Dalai Lama to China. They will find this good man to be a man of peace and reconciliation."

This October, on a scheduled visit to the United States, the Dalai Lama will not be welcomed at the White House. Obama adviser Valerie Jarrett was recently dispatched to Dharamsala—the Dalai Lama's place of exile in northern India—to gently deliver the message. The Tibetans took the news, as usual, nonviolently. "A lot of nations are adopting a policy of appeasement" toward China, observed Samdhong Rinpoche, prime minister of Tibet's government in exile. "I understand why Obama is not meeting with the Dalai Lama before his Chinese trip. It is common sense. Obama should not irritate the Chinese leadership."

The Obama administration has its diplomatic reasons. Since the uprisings of 2008, the Chinese government has been particularly sensitive on the topic of Tibet. Chinese President Hu Jintao is a guest in the United States this week. And administration officials hint that Obama will eventually meet with the Dalai Lama after the president's own visit to China in November.

Yet between the gold medal and the cold shoulder, a large diplomatic signal is being sent.

It is not that Obama is completely unwilling to anger the Chinese. This month he imposed a 35 percent tariff on tire imports from China, leading to talk of a trade war. The head of the United Steelworkers said the president was willing to "put himself in the line of fire for the jobs of U.S. workers." But Obama is clearly less willing to put himself in the diplomatic line of fire for other, less tangibly political reasons.

In great-power politics, morality often gets its hair mused. Every president needs room for diplomatic maneuvering. But rebuffing the Dalai Lama is part of a pattern. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton has argued that pressing China on human rights "can't interfere with the global economic crisis, the global climate change crisis and the security crisis"—a statement that left Amnesty International "shocked and extremely disappointed." Support for Iranian democrats has been hesitant. Overtures to repressive governments in Iran, Cuba, North Korea, Venezuela, Syria and Egypt have generally ignored the struggles of dissidents and prisoners in those nations. So far, the Obama era is hardly a high point of human rights solidarity.

Those who donate to Amnesty International and put "Free Tibet" stickers on their Volvos often assume these commitments are served by supporting liberal politicians. But it really depends. On human rights, modern liberalism is a house divided. In a recent, brilliant essay in the *New Republic*, Richard Just describes the "contradictory impulses of liberal foreign policy: the opposition to imperialism and the devotion to human rights. If liberals view anti-imperialism as their primary philosophical commitment, then they will be reluctant to meddle in the affairs of other countries, even when they are ruled by authoritarian governments . . . that abuse their own people. But if liberalism's primary commitment is to human rights, then liberals will be willing to judge, to oppose, and even to undermine such governments."

During the Cold War, Just argues, these impulses were united in opposition to pro-American despots such as Chile's Augusto Pinochet. "But history does not always present such convenient circumstances; and since the end of the Cold War, every time the United States has undertaken a humanitarian intervention—or, as in Afghanistan and Iraq, interventions with humanitarian implications—this fundamental split has, in one form or another, returned to the center of the liberal debate."

This split is now evident within the Obama administration. It includes some very principled, liberal defenders of human rights such as U.N. Ambassador Susan Rice and National Security Council staffer Samantha Power. But it seems dominated, for the moment, by those who consider the human rights enterprise as morally arrogant and an obstacle to mature diplomacy.

Which raises the question: What is left of foreign policy liberalism when a belief in liberty is removed?

[From the Washington Post, Sept. 22, 2009]

U.S. FACES DOUBTS ABOUT LEADERSHIP ON HUMAN RIGHTS

(By Colum Lynch)

UNITED NATIONS.—From the beginning, the Obama administration has unabashedly embraced the United Nations, pursuing a diplomatic strategy that reflects a belief that the world's sole superpower can no longer afford to go it alone. But, as the U.N. General Assembly gets underway this week, human rights activists and political analysts say the new approach has undercut U.S. leadership on human rights issues.

Rights advocates have been frustrated by several episodes. They say U.S. diplomats have sent mixed messages about their intention to reward—or punish—the Sudanese government for its alleged role in genocide in Darfur. The United States rejected a U.N. proposal to compel Israel and Hamas to conduct credible investigations into war crimes in the Gaza Strip. And the administration has pursued a low-profile approach to Sri Lanka, where a military offensive against rebels is believed to have killed thousands of civilians.

The administration continues to assert that "the United States is not going to preach its values and not going to impose its values," said Kenneth Roth, executive director of Human Rights Watch. "The problem is they are not American values—they are international values."

U.S. officials assert they have shown leadership on human rights, citing the administration's decision to weigh prosecutions of CIA interrogators. They note that the administration joined the U.N. Human Rights Council, reversing the Bush administration's policy of shunning the troubled rights agency in the hopes of reforming it. A U.S. vote on the Security Council in June was crucial in ensuring continued U.N. scrutiny of Sudan's rights record.

BEING A TEAM PLAYER

But U.S. officials say that American credibility also lies in their willingness to be team players. In the past several months, the United States has pledged to sign U.N. arms control and human rights treaties, and has committed to sending U.S. officers to far-flung U.N. peacekeeping missions. Susan E. Rice, the U.S. ambassador to the United Nations, says cooperation with the global organization is essential for coordinating international efforts to combat terrorism, scrap nuclear weapons arsenals and fight pandemics.

"No single country, even one as powerful as our own, can deal with these challenges in isolation," Rice said. "We are fundamentally living in an era when our security and our well-being are very much linked to the security and well-being of people elsewhere. That's a simple recognition of reality."

John R. Bolton, one of the U.S. ambassadors to the United Nations under President George W. Bush, said the Obama administration's strategy at the United Nations resembles a religious "act of faith." He questioned the wisdom of empowering the organization.

The United Nations' contribution to the "great questions of our time"—counterterrorism and nonproliferation—have been only "marginally effective," Bolton said.

He also has criticized U.S. support for the Human Rights Council, a body that "spends its time attacking Israel and the United States."

In April, the council, based in Geneva, called for an investigation into alleged abuses during the war in Gaza last winter. Richard Goldstone, a South African judge who headed the probe, insisted on expanding the investigation to examine abuses by

Hamas and other Palestinian militants. His report accused both sides of committing war crimes and called on the Security Council to compel Israel and Hamas to conduct credible investigations.

Human rights advocates urged the United States to back Goldstone, saying it would show that the United States is willing to hold even its closest ally to account for abuses. But Rice rejected his recommendations, saying the "weight of the report is something like 85 percent oriented towards very specific and harsh condemnation and conclusions related to Israel. . . . In that regard it remains unbalanced, although obviously less so than it might have been."

TROUBLED ABOUT DARFUR

Jerry Fowler, executive director of the Save Darfur Coalition, said the administration's approach to Darfur has been troubling. In recent months, Obama's special envoy, retired Air Force Maj. Gen. J. Scott Gration, has pursued a more conciliatory approach toward Sudan, saying that genocide was no longer taking place in Darfur and that it was time to ease some sanctions.

"We have been pushing consistently for a balance of incentives and pressures, and so far we haven't really seen that balance," Fowler said. "Publicly, there has been more of an emphasis on incentives."

Rice said Gration's "vitally important" efforts to pursue a political settlement to crises in Sudan should not be interpreted to mean "that we are any less concerned" about Sudan's commission of atrocities "or that we are prepared to wield carrots in advance of concerted and very significant steps on the ground. That's not the policy of the United States."

SILENCE ON SRI LANKA?

The other major concern of human rights advocates monitoring developments at the United Nations is Sri Lanka.

When the government launched its final offensive this year against the country's Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), it was Mexico and Austria that first raised the alarm in the Security Council. France and Britain sent their foreign ministers to the Sri Lankan capital, Colombo, to press the government to show restraint.

The United States supported those efforts to draw attention to the crisis in the Security Council, which China and Russia opposed. It backed a compromise that allowed for discussion on the Sri Lanka conflict in the U.N. basement.

"The U.S. government remained relatively silent on the Sri Lankan crisis, especially in the early stages of the fighting," said Fabienne Hara, vice president for multilateral affairs at the International Crisis Group. Its response to Sri Lanka "did not seem to match the commitment to preventing mass human rights abuses stated during the presidential campaign," she said.

Rice challenged that assessment, saying "my perception is that we spoke out very forcefully." She said that the United States had a strong ambassador on the ground in Sri Lanka, conveying American concerns, and that the assistant secretary of state for refugees traveled there to conduct an assessment mission. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton, Rice said, had been personally focused on the issue.

"I think that is an instance where our stand was clear, consistent and principled," she said.

A PROCLAMATION HONORING KYRA TUCKER FOR WINNING THE GIRLS' DIVISION IV STATE SOFTBALL CHAMPIONSHIP

HON. ZACHARY T. SPACE

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 23, 2009

Mr. SPACE. Madam Speaker:

Whereas, Kyra Tucker showed hard work and dedication to the sport of softball; and

Whereas, Kyra Tucker was a supportive team player; and

Whereas, Kyra Tucker always displayed sportsmanship on and off of the field; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, that along with her friends, family, and the residents of the 18th Congressional District, I congratulate Kyra Tucker on winning the Girls' Division IV State Softball Championship. We recognize the tremendous hard work and sportsmanship she has demonstrated during the 2008–2009 softball season.

HONORING ENVIRONMENTAL TECTONICS CORPORATION

HON. PATRICK J. MURPHY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 23, 2009

Mr. PATRICK J. MURPHY of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate and to honor Environmental Tectonics Corporation on their 40th anniversary. Through innovation and determination, ETC continues to help our local economy grow and prosper, with new jobs, despite the tough economic times.

ETC has been a leader in simulation technologies, from creating entertaining simulation safari rides for amusement parks, to their state of the art aerospace training simulators. Their simulators have prepared civilian and military personnel for real life emergency situations, while keeping our heroes out of harm's way. They have saved countless lives by using the most technologically advanced training systems available anywhere in the world.

Starting with their partnership with United States Navy in 1971 creating rapid high-altitude decompression chambers and eventually evolving into the leading provider of aerospace simulation training, ETC is a world leader and today I am honored to recognize them on 40 years of exemplary work.

Madam Speaker, ETC has provided training to make the world a safer place and created jobs to spur the local economy. They are a welcome example of a civic minded corporation, dedicated to our national security. I highly value their commitment to our community, and I am proud to work with them as they develop cutting-edge technology to serve our nations best and brightest.

HONORING SCOTT HAMILTON

HON. MARSHA BLACKBURN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 23, 2009

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in hon-

oring world recognized, figure skating star and cancer prevention activist, Scott Hamilton, as he receives the Excellence in Cancer Awareness Award from the Congressional Families Cancer Prevention Program today in Washington.

At the age of 13, Scott began training with former Olympic Gold Medal Winner, Pierre Brunet, and was only able to continue his training because an anonymous couple volunteered their financial sponsorship. By 1980, Scott was taking the ice skating world by storm.

Over the years, Scott has claimed over 70 titles to include: national and world skating champion, 1984 Olympic Gold Medalist, professional ice skater, Emmy nominee, best-selling author, actor, and television commentator. A member of the United States Olympic Hall of Fame and a member of the World Figure Skating Hall of Fame, he was the first solo male to receive the Jacques Favart Award from the International Skating Union, and also the first figure skater to ever be inducted into Madison Square Garden's Walk of Fame.

Scott has accomplished many notable achievements in his skating career, yet he has also overcome significant challenges. Scott courageously battled and survived testicular cancer in 1997, and he is successfully recovering from his 2004 diagnosis of a benign pituitary brain tumor.

Scott is the official spokesperson for Target House at St. Children Hospital in Memphis and is very involved in the Scott Hamilton C.A.R.E.S., Cancer Alliance for Research, Education and Survivorship, Initiative at the Cleveland Clinic Taussig Center. He promotes his informative and educational website, www.chemocare.com, and he also serves on the board of directors for the Special Olympics. In his leisure time, Scott can be found on the golf course or spending time with his wife and two sons, Aidan, age five, and Maxx, age one, at their home in Nashville.

Madam Speaker, Scott is a true testament to determination and the human spirit, and I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing his life-time of achievements and notable contributions to cancer prevention.

A PROCLAMATION HONORING TIFFANY HERBERT FOR WINNING THE GIRLS' DIVISION IV STATE SOFTBALL CHAMPIONSHIP

HON. ZACHARY T. SPACE

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 23, 2009

Mr. SPACE. Madam Speaker:

Whereas, Tiffany Herbert showed hard work and dedication to the sport of softball; and

Whereas, Tiffany Herbert was a supportive team player; and

Whereas, Tiffany Herbert always displayed sportsmanship on and off of the field; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, that along with her friends, family, and the residents of the 18th Congressional District, I congratulate Tiffany Herbert on winning the Girls' Division IV State Softball Championship. We recognize the tremendous hard work and sportsmanship she has demonstrated during the 2008–2009 softball season.

UNITED NATIONS' GOLDSTONE
REPORT ON ISRAEL**HON. TODD TIAHRT**

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 23, 2009

Mr. TIAHRT. Madam Speaker, in April 2009 the United Nations (UN) set upon an "investigation" and "fact-finding" mission into the recent Israel-Gaza border conflict and released a report on findings on September 15th. Although the facts clearly showed that the terrorist Hamas government in Gaza had launched thousands of rockets on Israel prior to any Israeli response, the UN Goldstone Mission came to a surprising conclusion. It found "violations of international human rights law . . . by the occupying power, Israel." This outrageous conclusion was predetermined by the originating mandate's anti-Israel bias.

After lasting six months and producing a 575-page report, the Goldstone Mission apparently had no interest in fairness or engaging in a real investigation. This "fact-finding" mission was nothing more than a charade that demonizes a nation for protecting its own citizens, all the while protecting terrorist organizations and damaging any chance of true peace in the Middle East. The Goldstone Report is just another example of the UNHRC's dismal track record.

The Goldstone Report is the epitome of what is wrong with the United Nations in general and the United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC) in particular. Dominated by anti-democratic, anti-Semitic nations opposed to any semblance of human rights, the UNHRC has proven itself to be lacking objectivity and interest in truth or advancing the real cause of human rights.

My central concern with the Goldstone Report is the lack of recognition of Israel's right to defend itself against attacks from the internationally-recognized terrorist organization, Hamas, which currently controls Gaza. Despite video documentation, the report alleges no conclusive evidence of Hamas's extraordinary use of civilians and civilian infrastructure for military purposes, and accuses Israel of war crimes. The Goldstone Report shamefully accuses the victims with little mention of the aggressors. It even leaves open the possibility of Israel's prosecution at the International Criminal Court for simply protecting its citizens.

No nation can sit idly by while its people are killed, its children are traumatized, and the daily life of its citizens is severely disrupted by terrorism. Ask yourself, would America tolerate 10,000 rockets being launched against our homeland? No, we would protect our people. Israel has the same responsibility to protect its people as it did in Gaza. To suggest otherwise is a failure to accept the facts.

Americans look forward to peace in Israel and the Middle East; but until Hamas and its terrorist allies relinquish their arms, renounce violence, and acknowledge the right of Israel to exist, the hope for peace can not be realized. Israel can not do it singlehandedly. The UN must recognize Hamas for what it is—a terrorist organization that prevents peace in the Middle East. The Goldstone Report, by rejecting truth and objectivity, brings us no closer to that ultimate goal. It is a disgrace and should be viewed as such by the international community.

HONORING ELAN CORPORATION

HON. JOE SESTAK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 23, 2009

Mr. SESTAK. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor the Elan Corporation which this year will celebrate four decades of extraordinary work dedicated to advancing neuroscience, developing disease-modifying treatments that are defining the future of therapy for degenerative neurological conditions, and playing a significant role in the drug delivery and technology field.

On September 21 the world marked World Alzheimer's Day 2009. It is therefore fitting to acknowledge Elan Corporation's research, development, and commercial activities for neurodegenerative diseases including Alzheimer's. An estimated 5 million Americans have Alzheimer's disease, including one in eight Americans over 65 and nearly half of Americans over 85. A new Alzheimer patient is diagnosed every 71 seconds and 1 in 10 Americans have a family member living with the disease. In Pennsylvania, more than 500,000 individuals suffer from Alzheimer's and there are nearly 431,000 family caregivers. Elan's work in this area has the potential to dramatically improve the quality of life for those afflicted with that terrible disease as well as the tens of millions of caregivers the world over, who struggle with the physical and emotional burden of seeing their loved one grow more distant and disabled each day throughout the course of a very lengthy affliction.

The dedicated team at Elan also is working to overcome a host of other devastating and debilitating challenges including Parkinson's disease, multiple sclerosis, Crohn's disease, and severe chronic pain. The commitment of this corporation to defeating so many destructive conditions affecting the human brain is impressive. As our nation continues to discuss the future of health care, it is vital to remember that the development of therapies that will free millions of minds from the shackles of neurologic impairment offers incalculable value to our collective well-being, our economy and could inspire us to tackle even greater challenges in science, medicine, engineering and other vital aspects of life.

I am proud that King of Prussia, Pennsylvania is home to an office of the Elan Corporation. The exceptional employees of that office are actively contributing to Pennsylvania's reputation as a center of innovation in the life sciences. From King of Prussia, PA, leading edge pharmaceuticals are enhancing the lives of millions of patients worldwide.

I join all of the residents of the Seventh Congressional District of Pennsylvania in wishing the 1,500 employees of the Elan Corporation four times forty more years of successful research, development and delivery of life changing pharmaceuticals to patients throughout the world. That you "view the human brain as the last great frontier in scientific research and therapy development with no greater challenge and no greater opportunity to make a meaningful difference in patients' lives" is noble and appreciated.

A PROCLAMATION HONORING
SARAH RIGGS FOR WINNING THE
GIRLS' DIVISION IV STATE SOFT-
BALL CHAMPIONSHIP**HON. ZACHARY T. SPACE**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 23, 2009

Mr. SPACE. Madam Speaker: Whereas, Sarah Riggs showed hard work and dedication to the sport of softball; and Whereas, Sarah Riggs was a supportive team player; and

Whereas, Sarah Riggs always displayed sportsmanship on and off of the field; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, that along with her friends, family, and the residents of the 18th Congressional District, I congratulate Sarah Riggs on winning the Girls' Division IV State Softball Championship. We recognize the tremendous hard work and sportsmanship she has demonstrated during the 2008–2009 softball season.

RECOGNIZING ENVIRONMENTAL
TECTONIC CORPORATION'S 40TH
ANNIVERSARY**HON. PATRICK J. MURPHY**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 23, 2009

Mr. PATRICK J. MURPHY of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize a very special company located in my district in Southampton, Bucks County, Pennsylvania. This Saturday, September 26, 2009, Environmental Tectonics Corporation will celebrate its 40th anniversary of producing world-class technology for a variety of markets.

I am proud to say that Environmental Tectonics Corporation, ETC, is located in my congressional district in Southampton, Bucks County, Pennsylvania. They employ more than 260 employees and subcontract with dozens of local suppliers throughout Pennsylvania creating hundreds of jobs and generating millions of dollars annually in local economic development.

On Monday, February 2nd, ETC announced a \$20 million contract with the United States Navy for the manufacture of a next-generation, motion-based research device that will improve the health and safety of pilots. ETC estimates that the contract will generate three hundred jobs in our region.

Founded in 1969, ETC is a cutting-edge, high technology manufacturing and integration company that services the requirements of a broad base of customers. As one of the most important innovative manufacturers in Bucks County, ETC remains a driving force of our economy and is at the forefront of technology manufacturing. ETC provides high-paying jobs to local employees in the areas of manufacturing, engineering, software development and other high-tech careers. ETC has partnered with local technical and engineering institutions of higher learning to provide hands-on training for local students pursuing careers in the science, technology and manufacturing fields. ETC's NASTAR Center is truly a global leader in preparing for the next generation of sub-orbital space flight guaranteeing local economic development for decades. It gives me a

tremendous sense of pride that in the future the departure desk for space will be in my home district.

On September 26th, the ETC family will gather to celebrate its past success and prepare for a future of remarkable achievement. Madam Speaker, I want to congratulate the entire ETC team on their past and continued success and I look forward to representing them in our nation's Capitol for years to come.

A PROCLAMATION HONORING NATALIE GAUSE FOR WINNING THE GIRLS' DIVISION IV STATE SOFTBALL CHAMPIONSHIP

HON. ZACHARY T. SPACE

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 23, 2009

Mr. SPACE. Madam Speaker:

Whereas, Natalie Gause showed hard work and dedication to the sport of softball; and Whereas, Natalie Gause was a supportive team player; and

Whereas, Natalie Gause always displayed sportsmanship on and off of the field; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, that along with her friends, family, and the residents of the 18th Congressional District, I congratulate Natalie Gause on winning the Girls' Division IV State Softball Championship. We recognize the tremendous hard work and sportsmanship she has demonstrated during the 2008–2009 softball season.

TRIBUTE TO MR. JOSEPH A. WASSERMAN

HON. FRED UPTON

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 23, 2009

Mr. UPTON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay special tribute to Mr. Joseph A. Wasserman of southwest Michigan. After nearly four decades in health administration, Mr. Wasserman will be retiring as the president and CEO of Lakeland HealthCare.

A man of the Midwest, Joseph was born in Lima, Ohio. He went on to receive his bachelor's degree in business administration from the University of Toledo and his master's in health administration from the University of Michigan. Joseph was named the president and CEO of Lakeland HealthCare in 1984 and has served in his position with distinction and honor.

Throughout his career as president and CEO, Joseph Wasserman has played a vital role in the success of Lakeland HealthCare. He managed the merger of four hospitals in the system, including the consolidation of the organizational structure to enhance the quality and value of services for southwest Michigan residents. Joseph introduced key services and technology to provide a continuum of care in areas such as oncology, outpatient services, long-term care, and home care. He led the healthcare industry in the area of evidence-based design by creating spaces that promote healing. He also launched an innovative five-star service program to create a service-mind-

ed, patient-centered culture. These impressive achievements earned Joseph such honors as the 2009 Health Care Weekly Review Excellent Administrator of the Year Award and the 2008 MHA Meritorious Service Award, and earned Lakeland HealthCare the Gold Seal of Approval for Primary Stroke Centers from the Joint Commission and the 2008 VHA Leadership Award for Clinical Excellence.

Throughout his nearly four decades in healthcare administration, Joseph Wasserman's leadership skills, compassion, and commitment to outstanding service have made him an asset not only to Lakeland HealthCare, but to the entire State of Michigan. As Mr. Wasserman prepares for his retirement this September, he leaves a legacy that will benefit the community for generations to come.

A PROCLAMATION HONORING LISA REIFENSCHNEIDER FOR WINNING THE GIRLS' DIVISION IV STATE SOFTBALL CHAMPIONSHIP

HON. ZACHARY T. SPACE

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 23, 2009

Mr. SPACE. Madam Speaker:

Whereas, Lisa Reifenschneider showed hard work and dedication to the sport of softball; and

Whereas, Lisa Reifenschneider was a supportive coach; and

Whereas, Lisa Reifenschneider always displayed sportsmanship on and off of the field; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, that along with her friends, family, and the residents of the 18th Congressional District, I congratulate Lisa Reifenschneider on winning the Girls' Division IV State Softball Championship. We recognize the tremendous hard work and sportsmanship she has demonstrated during the 2008–2009 softball season.

HONORING MAYOR JOSEPH DIGIROLAMO

HON. PATRICK J. MURPHY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 23, 2009

Mr. PATRICK J. MURPHY of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Mayor Joseph DiGirolamo as a 2009 recipient of the Bensalem Outreach Center Community Service Award.

Serving his community of Bensalem as its Mayor for nearly fifteen years, Joe DiGirolamo embodies what it means to be a public servant. Since being elected as Mayor in 1994, he has brought countless community improvements to Bensalem, including new state-of-the-art parks, transportation system upgrades, reduced real estate taxes, and infrastructure improvements.

Mr. DiGirolamo has also helped to ensure a brighter future for his community's youth through his efforts with programs like "Kids at Work" and by founding the Joseph DiGirolamo Scholarship Foundation.

As a former farmer, he understands the importance of responsible land management and

respect for the environment. He has demonstrated this by maintaining a policy of preserving open space and the natural beauty of Bensalem.

Mr. DiGirolamo is also a family man in every sense of the word. He has been married to his wife Mary for 53 years, and is the proud grandfather of seven and great-grandfather of three.

It's been an honor to work with the Mayor over the past three years, but an even greater honor to be able to call him a friend.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to recognize Mayor Joseph DiGirolamo for his outstanding commitment to public service, his community, and his country. I am honored to serve as his Congressman.

A PROCLAMATION HONORING NICKI CREGAN FOR WINNING THE GIRLS' DIVISION IV STATE SOFTBALL CHAMPIONSHIP

HON. ZACHARY T. SPACE

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 23, 2009

Mr. SPACE. Madam Speaker:

Whereas, Nicki Cregan showed hard work and dedication to the sport of softball; and

Whereas, Nicki Cregan was a supportive team player; and

Whereas, Nicki Cregan always displayed sportsmanship on and off of the field; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, that along with her friends, family, and the residents of the 18th Congressional District, I congratulate Nicki Cregan on winning the Girls' Division IV State Softball Championship. We recognize the tremendous hard work and sportsmanship she has demonstrated during the 2008–2009 softball season.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. RAÚL M. GRIJALVA

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 23, 2009

Mr. GRIJALVA. Madam Speaker, on September 22, 2009, I was unavoidably detained and was unable to be present for the recorded votes. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall #720, "yea" on rollcall #721, and "yea" on rollcall #722.

HONORING ALBERT A. GRENIER AND HIS CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE BALTIC FIRE DEPARTMENT

HON. JOE COURTNEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 23, 2009

Mr. COURTNEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the service and dedication of a man who has been a pillar in his community for more than half a century. For the past 50 years, Albert A. Grenier has dedicated much of his personal time to the Baltic Fire Department and the residents of Baltic, Connecticut.

This year marks his 50th year as a volunteer firefighter for the department, and I am honored to offer my sincere thanks and gratitude for his many years of service.

Albert Grenier joined the Baltic Fire Department as a volunteer firefighter in 1959 where he put his life on the line regularly to protect his community and the families of Sprague, Connecticut. During his many years as a volunteer firefighter, Grenier also worked for the Connecticut Department of Transportation. As a member of the Baltic Fire Department, Albert embraced several leadership roles recruiting new volunteers, maintaining the department's facilities, and competing on the department's recreational Water Team. Most notably, he was a key player in establishing the Emergency Squad in 1961, which acted as a foundation for the Emergency Medical Services (EMS) teams we see in use today.

While always a public servant, perhaps the most important role Albert has played is that of husband, father and grandfather. For the past 57 years, Albert has been happily married to his wife Rita Fortin, with whom he raised three children. Albert and Rita have been blessed with five grandchildren and eight great grandchildren.

Madam Speaker, our communities are safe because of dedicated volunteers like Albert Grenier. We are grateful for his extraordinary contribution to our region and look forward to his continued efforts in the years to come. I ask my colleagues to join me and the residents of Baltic in recognizing his decades of service.

A PROCLAMATION HONORING KYLIE FLICKINGER FOR WINNING THE GIRLS' DIVISION IV STATE SOFTBALL CHAMPIONSHIP.

HON. ZACHARY T. SPACE

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 23, 2009

Mr. SPACE. Madam Speaker:

Whereas, Kylie Flickinger showed hard work and dedication to the sport of softball; and

Whereas, Kylie Flickinger was a supportive team player; and

Whereas, Kylie Flickinger always displayed sportsmanship on and off of the field; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, that along with her friends, family, and the residents of the 18th Congressional District, I congratulate Kylie Flickinger on winning the Girls' Division IV State Softball Championship. We recognize the tremendous hard work and sportsmanship she has demonstrated during the 2008–2009 softball season.

TRIBUTE TO BOB FENNER

HON. JOE BACA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 23, 2009

Mr. BACA. Madam Speaker, I would like to bring to your attention today the many outstanding achievements of Bob Fenner, a businessman, community leader and 2003–04 past President of the Carlsbad Hi-Noon Rotary Club.

Bob has contributed enormously and made a tremendous difference to the Carlsbad Hi-Noon Rotary Club, the citizens of Carlsbad, and the mission of Rotary International.

Mr. Fenner's accomplishments are many and varied. Under his leadership, the Carlsbad Hi-Noon Rotary Club has supported the Worldwide Polio Eradication Program, a program designed to eradicate polio worldwide. Mr. Fenner has also sponsored a Youth Exchange Summer Camp, a program that fosters international understanding along with supporting RYLA, a Rotary Youth Leadership Conference, which helps to instill values and train high school students. Mr. Fenner was also instrumental in further enhancing international relations by directing the efforts of Hi-Noon Rotarians to support Project Mercy.

Mr. Fenner's leadership has also made an extraordinary difference to others in need of a helping hand. With the assistance of Carlsbad Hi-Noon Rotary volunteers, the Christmas Bureau Distribution Program delivered food, clothing, and other gifts to over 3,400 needy individuals.

There are many other contributions that the Carlsbad Hi-Noon Rotary Club has achieved during Mr. Fenner's Rotary service, including sponsoring a Christmas dinner party and gifts for elementary school students in need. He also provided financial support and volunteers to the Boys and Girls Club of Carlsbad while supporting the La Posada Carlsbad Homeless Shelter by contributing food, clothing, blankets and other items to the needy.

Mr. Fenner also serves on the Board of The Hospice of the North Coast, and has hosted six foreign students, contributing to a better understanding of our culture and the cultures of other countries.

Madam Speaker I hope you will join me in recognizing the many fine achievements of Bob Fenner. Without question, his leadership and contributions to Rotary, and his community are worthy of recognition.

A PROCLAMATION HONORING SARAH AMISTADI FOR WINNING THE GIRLS' DIVISION IV STATE SOFTBALL CHAMPIONSHIP

HON. ZACHARY T. SPACE

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 23, 2009

Mr. SPACE. Madam Speaker:

Whereas, Sarah Amistadi showed hard work and dedication to the sport of softball; and

Whereas, Sarah Amistadi was a supportive team player; and

Whereas, Sarah Amistadi always displayed sportsmanship on and off of the field; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, that along with her friends, family, and the residents of the 18th Congressional District, I congratulate Sarah Amistadi on winning the Girls' Division IV State Softball Championship. We recognize the tremendous hard work and sportsmanship she has demonstrated during the 2008–2009 softball season.

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 24, 2009 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

SEPTEMBER 29

Time to be announced
 Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs
 Business meeting to consider the nominations of Richard Serino, of Massachusetts, to be Deputy Administrator, Federal Emergency Management Agency, Department of Homeland Security, and Daniel I. Werfel, of Virginia, to be Controller, Office of Federal Financial Management, Office of Management and Budget.
 S-216, Capitol

9:30 a.m.
 Environment and Public Works
 Children's Health Subcommittee
 To hold hearings to examine promoting and improving children's health protections.
 SD-406

Judiciary
 Immigration, Refugees and Border Security Subcommittee
 To hold hearings to examine comprehensive immigration reform, focusing on faith-based perspectives.
 SD-226

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

Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs
 To hold hearings to examine strengthening and streamlining Prudential Bank supervision.
 SD-538

10:30 a.m.
 Appropriations
 Financial Services and General Government Subcommittee
 To resume hearings to examine the use, impact, and accomplishments of Federal appropriations provided to im-

prove the education of children in the District of Columbia.
 SD-192

Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe
 To hold hearings to examine the Western Balkans, focusing on policy responses to today's challenges, including current United States and the European Union efforts to maintain stability in the Western Balkans and prepare the countries of the region for European and Euro-Atlantic integration.
 SVC-212/210

11 a.m.
 Small Business and Entrepreneurship
 To hold hearings to examine reform, focusing on health care solutions for America's small businesses.
 SD-562

2:30 p.m.
 Judiciary
 Crime and Drugs Subcommittee
 To hold hearings to examine body building products and hidden steroids, focusing on enforcement barriers.
 SD-226

SEPTEMBER 30

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

10 a.m.
 Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry
 To hold hearings to examine the nominations of Bartholomew Chilton, of Maryland, Jill Sommers, of Kansas, and Scott D. O'Malia, of Michigan, all to be a Commissioner of the Commodity Futures Trading Commission, Edward M. Avalos, of New Mexico, to be Under Secretary for Marketing and Regulatory Programs, Edward M. Avalos, and Harris D. Sherman, of California, to be Under Secretary for Natural Resources and Environment, both to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the Commodity Credit Corporation, both of the Department of Agriculture, and Kenneth Albert Spearman, of Florida, to be a Member of the Farm Credit Administration Board, Farm Credit Administration.
 SR-328A

Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions
 Business meeting to consider an original bill entitled "Ryan White HIV/AIDS Treatment Extension Act of 2009", and the nominations of Brenda Dann-Messier, of Rhode Island, to be Assistant Secretary for Vocational and Adult Education, and Alexa E. Posny, of Kansas, to be Assistant Secretary for Special Education and Rehabilitative Services, both of the Department of Education, and George H. Cohen, of Virginia, to be Federal Mediation and Conciliation Director, Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service, and any pending nominations.
 SD-430

Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs
 To hold hearings to examine 8 years after 9/11, focusing on confronting the terrorist threat to the homeland.
 SD-342

Judiciary
 To hold hearings to examine advancing freedom of information in the New Era of Responsibility.
 SD-226

Joint Economic Committee
 To hold hearings to examine women and the economy.
 210, Cannon Building

11 a.m.
 Aging
 To hold hearings to examine how successful health systems keep costs low and quality high.
 SD-106

2:30 p.m.
 Judiciary
 Administrative Oversight and the Courts Subcommittee
 To hold hearings to examine responding to the growing need for Federal judgeships, focusing on the Federal Judgeship Act of 2009.
 SD-226

Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs
 Security and International Trade and Finance Subcommittee
 To hold hearings to examine international cooperation to modernize financial regulation.
 SD-538

3 p.m.
 Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs
 Federal Financial Management, Government Information, Federal Services, and International Security Subcommittee
 To hold hearings to examine controlled substance abuse in Medicaid.
 SD-342

OCTOBER 1

9:45 a.m.
 Energy and Natural Resources
 To hold hearings to examine energy and related economic effects of global climate change legislation.
 SD-366

2:30 p.m.
 Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs
 To hold hearings to examine the nomination of David S. Ferriero, of North Carolina, to be Archivist of the United States, National Archives and Records Administration.
 SD-342

Energy and Natural Resources
 Public Lands and Forests Subcommittee
 To hold hearings to examine managing Federal forests in response to climate change, including for natural resource adaptation and carbon sequestration.
 SD-366

OCTOBER 8

9:30 a.m.
 Veterans' Affairs
 To hold hearings to examine the Department of Defense and Veterans' Affairs response to certain military exposures.
 SD-562

OCTOBER 21

9:30 a.m.
 Veterans' Affairs
 To hold hearings to examine pending legislation.
 SR-418