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 Dellinges 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, Rachelle Whitman showed hard work and dedication to the sport of softball; and

Whereas, Rachelle Whitman was a supportive coach; and

Whereas, Rachelle 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 Rachelle 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.