

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

SUPPORTING THE GOALS AND IDEALS OF NATIONAL DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH

SPEECH OF

HON. LAURA RICHARDSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 26, 2009

Ms. RICHARDSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H. Res. 817, which supports the goals and ideals of Domestic Violence Awareness Month and expresses the sense of the House of Representatives that Congress should raise awareness of domestic violence issues and support programs designed to end domestic violence.

Twenty-two years ago, the first Domestic Violence Awareness Month was observed and since 1989 legislation designating October as National Violence Awareness Month has passed every year. Domestic violence affects people of every age, race, ethnicity, religion, and gender. Women are most disproportionately affected and nearly one in four women will experience domestic violence during her lifetime. Every single day in the United States, more than three women are murdered by their significant other. Young women ages 16 to 24 experience the highest rates of intimate partner violence. Every year, over 15 million children are exposed to domestic violence and these children are more likely to abuse alcohol and drugs, attempt suicide, and become involved in teenage prostitution. These statistics are sobering.

In a struggling economy, domestic violence programs are needed more than ever. Earlier this year marked the 15th anniversary of the passage of the Federal Violence Against Women Act; however, more work must be done to protect victims of domestic violence. In my home State of California, cuts in state financing have led to elimination of funding for shelter services. This has translated to cuts in services and fewer victims being served. Ultimately, this sends a message that victims of domestic abuse are not a priority to our State.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in supporting the goals and ideals of Domestic Violence Awareness Month.

HONORING OLGA MURRAY

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 27, 2009

Ms. WOOLSEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Olga Murray of Sausalito, California, for her commitment to helping destitute children in one of the poorest countries of the world. In 1984, at the age of 60, Ms. Murray founded the Nepal Youth Opportunity Foundation, NYOF, which assists thousands of children through programs operated by the Nepalese themselves.

The mission of NYOF, which arose from Murray's vision, is to "transform the lives of impoverished Nepalese children by providing them with what should be every child's birthright—education, housing, medical care, and loving support." Inspired by these compelling words, NYOF's programs include homes for neglected and abandoned children, education programs and scholarships from grade school through graduate school, and even random acts of kindness.

But Murray may be best known for her innovative Indentured Daughters program which frees young girls from servitude. Among Tharu farmers, families in poverty sell their girls as young as 6 years old to serve in bondage to higher-caste families around the country where they perform menial labor under difficult conditions and are sometimes beaten and forced into prostitution. Often, the parents believe their daughters will actually be better off. Although the practice is now illegal, the prohibition is not enforced.

Murray's solution is to offer the parents a pig or goat in exchange for not selling their daughters as the animal is worth more if bred or butchered. She also pays the daughters' \$100 per year school expenses and has funded construction of 36 classrooms to accommodate them. Murray has saved thousands of young girls this way and inspired Nepalese charities to follow her lead in saving even more.

Murray is a prodigious fundraiser for NYOF, recognized as one of the most effective organizations of its kind. However, it is her personal passion and loving joy for her work and the people of Nepal that are the secret of her success. She has received numerous prestigious awards including Unsung Heroes of Compassion from the Dalai Lama, a medal from the King of Nepal, the Mannington Stand on a Better World Award, and the St. Vincent de Paul Society Frank Brennan Award for Outstanding Service to the Poor.

Madam Speaker, I admire Ms. Murray's commitment to creating opportunities for the children of Nepal. The children of the world are our future, and we can be inspired by people like Olga to make this world a better place.

TRIBUTE TO SISTER DOROTHY
ANN KELLY

HON. NITA M. LOWEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 27, 2009

Mrs. LOWEY. Madam Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Sister Dorothy Ann Kelly, OSU, whose extraordinary life of service as an educational leader and visionary, a champion for social justice and interfaith understanding, and a mentor to thousands of women and men will be celebrated by the Alumnae/i Association of the College of New Rochelle on Saturday, November 7, 2009.

Sister Dorothy Ann, the 11th president of the College of New Rochelle, died suddenly

on March 27, 2009, ending her 60-year affiliation with the college, from which she had graduated in 1951. At the time of her death, she was in her 6th year as Provincial Prioress of the Eastern Province of the Ursulines of the Roman Union, the order of Roman Catholic nuns that she had entered in 1952.

Sister Dorothy Ann started her 25-year tenure as CNR president in the early 1970s, at a time when many all-women's colleges across the country were foundering. She gave new life to CNR by establishing its School of New Resources to educate adult students on six branch campuses in urban New York City neighborhoods. A commuter student from the Bronx, who had attended CNR on a scholarship, Sister Dorothy Ann saw the School of New Resources as furthering the original mission of the college to make higher education more accessible to those who weren't being well served. Two other schools were also established at CNR during her presidency—the School of Nursing and the Graduate School—earning her the unofficial title as "second founder" of the college.

Her immeasurable talents as an effective, inspiring, tenacious and energetic leader soon brought her expanded roles in higher education. In 1978, she was named the first woman chair of the Commission of Independent Colleges and Universities of the State of New York, and 9 years later, became the first woman chair of the National Association of Colleges and Universities.

Sister Dorothy Ann's influence and impact were also felt in other arenas, on the local, national and even international scene. In 1974, she became one of the first members of the Executive Committee of the Inter-Religious Council of New Rochelle, and maintained that association until her death. Shortly thereafter, convinced that the violence in northern Ireland had to be stopped, she not only hosted Nobel Peace Prize winners Mairead Corrigan Maguire and Betty Williams several times at the college, but also served as the first president of a New York-based group formed to finance the Northern Ireland Peace People. And in 1995, she was appointed by President Bill Clinton as a member of the official U.S. Delegation to the United Nations Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing.

Her achievements and contributions to numerous organizations and causes won her wide recognition, with honors including induction into the Westchester County Women's Hall of Fame and honorary degrees from six U.S. colleges and universities. But far more meaningful and lasting are the heartfelt tributes from the thousands whose lives she touched—and improved—through her landmark efforts to expand educational opportunities and increase understanding among peoples of all faiths, races and cultural backgrounds. I urge you to join me in honoring Sister Dorothy Ann Kelly's remarkable legacy of service and commitment to making this a better world.

• 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.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. RON KLEIN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 27, 2009

Mr. KLEIN of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to submit a record of how I would have voted on October 26, 2009. Had I voted, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall No. 814 and "aye" on rollcall No. 815.

WATER POLITICS IN THE MIDDLE EAST

HON. MIKE QUIGLEY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 27, 2009

Mr. QUIGLEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today because a water crisis threatens to destabilize Iraq and the entire Middle East.

Iraqi leaders warn that disaster areas suffering from the water crisis, like Basra, provide a breeding ground for insurgents.

Refugees fleeing the water crisis have deserted their homes and constitute the biggest movement of Iraqi refugees since the Iran war of the 1980s. The Iraqi military has had to intervene, and it's only a matter of time before the water crisis becomes a security crisis that imperils regional peace.

Just how serious is this water crisis?

The Euphrates River, which once supported empires in the cradle of civilization, is now barely fit for human use. In some areas it's "A slick black ooze, fit only for scores of bathing water buffalo." In other areas, salinity levels have risen so high that towns have been evacuated, their citizens unable to drink the fetid water.

In Basra, for example, low water levels in the Tigris and Euphrates have brought salt water rushing in from the Persian Gulf. Rising salinity levels threaten the viability of local agriculture so much that Amer Suleiman, Basra's agriculture director, will soon declare Basra a "disaster area" and warns that "if things continue to deteriorate there is no hope for Basra to recover."

What can be done about Iraq's water crisis? What can be done to replenish the Tigris and Euphrates?

The first solution is to reform Iraq's careless water management system.

Nibras al Mamouri, a professor of water resources at Baghdad's College of Agriculture, says "poor irrigation techniques and a lack of incentives to stop wasting so much water" are partly to blame for the current shortage.

The second solution, an international solution, reminds us that a water crisis in Iraq has consequences for the entire Middle East.

The Iraqi government, rightly or wrongly, has blamed the water crisis on its neighbors, principally Turkey and Syria but also Iran.

To resolve the water crisis, Iraq must negotiate a more equitable water sharing agreement—

(1) With Turkey, which controls the headwaters of both rivers—

(2) With Syria, through which the rivers pass—

(3) And with Iran, which controls two other rivers—the Karun and the Karkheh—that feed into the Faw Peninsula and Basra.

Turkey, Syria, and Iraq, responding to the water crisis, met earlier this month in Ankara to discuss a solution. But little has been achieved so far—neither Turkey nor Syria has been particularly sympathetic to Iraq, especially since each faces its own water shortage.

The difficulty of reaching an agreement underscores the unique diplomatic challenge posed by water politics. River water cannot belong to only one country because it flows between many countries. This is complicated by the fact that water flows in only one direction, and that upstream countries affect water levels downstream, but not vice versa.

Turkey, for example, which controls the headwaters of both the Tigris and the Euphrates, can control water flows to downstream countries, such as Syria and Iraq. Syria and Iraq begin any water negotiation with Turkey at an a priori disadvantage. But without greater Turkish cooperation, water shortages could spell disaster for Syrian and Iraqi agriculture, and spillover effects could destabilize the region.

The planned Ilisu dam, to be built on the Turkish part of the Tigris, is especially controversial in Iraq, which has already accused Turkey of choking the Euphrates with hydroelectric dams.

Some Iraqi leaders even suggest that water is being used as a weapon against Iraq and threaten war.

Tayseer al Mashadani, an Iraqi member of parliament, warns that "Iraq's water crisis . . . could lead us into war with one of our neighbors. The new war on Iraq is a war of water." But, before we accept the inevitability of war, we should reflect on words from the late Senator Simon: "Water," he said "can be a catalyst for war and can also create peace between nations."

In the Middle East we have an extraordinary opportunity to make cooperative water sharing serve the cause of peace.

Our voice carries a lot of weight in the region, and we should use that weight to support a water sharing agreement between Iraq, Turkey, Iran, and Syria.

The consequences of failure are too great.

IN MEMORY OF MR. JOSEPH A. MANENTE

HON. TIM RYAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 27, 2009

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. Madam Speaker, it is with deep sadness that I inform the House of the death of Mr. Joseph A. Manente of Girard, Ohio.

GIRARD—Joseph A. Manente, 74, died Sunday, Sept. 20, 2009, at St. Elizabeth Health Center in Youngstown.

He was born June 13, 1935, in Girard, a son of Carmen and Gabriella Carson Manente.

He was a veteran of the U.S. Army and a member of St. Rose Church, Girard.

He retired from the Girard Post Office.

He is survived by his wife, Betty Miller Manente; two children, Lisa Manente Leschinsky of Girard and Greg of Hartford; two brothers, Anthony Manente of Austintown and Sam Manente of Mineral Ridge, and three grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by five brothers and sisters.

Calling hours will be from 5 to 8 p.m. Wednesday at McClurkin Funeral Home, Girard.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be held at 11 a.m. Thursday at St. Rose Church with prayers at 10:30 at the funeral home.

Interment will be at Girard City Cemetery.

RECOGNIZING MICHAEL P. SULLIVAN AS THE CHAUTAUQUA LEADERSHIP NETWORK'S 2009 LEADERSHIP AWARD RECIPIENT

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 27, 2009

Mr. HIGGINS. Madam Speaker, it is my pleasure today to recognize my friend, Michael P. Sullivan, the Director of Institution Relations and Public Affairs at Chautauqua Institution, as the recipient of Chautauqua Leadership Network's 2009 Leadership Award.

The Chautauqua Leadership Network's mission is to identify and nurture regional leaders. They provide a framework for an emerging network of skilled civic trustees and help the community to meet the challenges of today and the opportunities of tomorrow.

The Chautauqua Leadership Network's Leadership Award is given to the person whose activities have done the most to further the mission of the Chautauqua Leadership Network; and there is no question that Mr. Sullivan is a commendable choice. His professional undertakings have had a profoundly positive effect on Chautauqua County.

Since 1998, Mr. Sullivan has been responsible for all marketing, public relations, and communication activities for the Chautauqua Institution. He previously worked as Director of Public Relations and Marketing at Highland Hospital in Rochester. As a member of the Public Relations Society of America, Mr. Sullivan earned his APR (Accredited in Public Relations) and served as president of the Rochester Chapter of Delegates to the PRSA National Assembly.

I would like to congratulate Mike for achieving this honor. I am pleased and honored to recognize Mr. Sullivan as the recipient of the Chautauqua Leadership Network's 2009 Leadership Award. This award honors Michael's years of guidance, leadership, and devotion to not only the Institution, but Chautauqua County as well.

CONGRATULATING KRISTINE WALTER AND DARREN ROSE

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 27, 2009

Mr. RADANOVICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate and honor both Kristine Walter and Darren Rose for their past and present role in Leadership Fresno. Kristine Walter is the current chairman of this worthy, community-building organization, and Darren Rose was elected the incoming chairman beginning in July 2010.

The Leadership Fresno Steering Committee is comprised of alumni from previous Leadership Fresno classes. Kristine was president of Class 21, and Darren, District Director for California's 19th Congressional District, is in Class 23. Leadership Fresno has provided a place for community leaders to learn more about Fresno, network with other community-focused and concerned citizens, and offered innovative ways to work together to improve and change the greater Fresno area for the better.

The vision and leadership provided by this noteworthy organization is influential and effective in building communities in Fresno. Each year, Leadership Fresno coordinates a two-day retreat in August and continues building into the leadership class all year through the completion of the program the following June. The program includes seminars and projects, all leading to the improvement of community problems and concerns.

I am proud of the work done in the Fresno area by Kristine Walter in her capacity as chairman of the Leadership Fresno steering committee, and I am excited to see the work that Darren Rose will implement in the coming year. Please join me in congratulating both of these exemplary community leaders.

CONGRATULATING NORTH-
WESTERN UNIVERSITY WOMEN'S
LACROSSE TEAM

SPEECH OF

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 26, 2009

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H. Res. 824, a resolution I introduced to congratulate the Northwestern University women's lacrosse team for winning its fifth consecutive national championship.

Madam Speaker, the Northwestern University lacrosse team completed the 2009 season with a record-setting 21–7 victory over North Carolina in the NCAA championship game on May 24. It capped a perfect 23–0 season for head coach Kelly Amonte Hiller and her team, joining the 2005 team as the second undefeated team in school history.

The Wildcats faced numerous challenges in seeking their fifth consecutive championship, yet they rose to meet that challenge each and every time. For instance, when trailing Penn 12–11 with time running out in the first overtime period of the NCAA semifinals, Katrina Dowd flipped a miracle shot over her shoulder while falling to the turf, which somehow scored with 0.2 seconds remaining, tying the game at 12. The team went on to win the game in the second overtime period.

As a team, the Wildcats set NCAA single-season records for points (570) and goals (407), while also leading the nation in draw controls (16.9 per game). Individually, Hannah Nielsen became the NCAA's single-game (10), single-season (83) and career assist leader (224). Sixteen of Northwestern's 23 wins came against ranked opponents, and they were a perfect 10–0 at home, extending their home winning streak to 54, an NCAA record.

In addition to the team honors, six Wildcats were awarded All-American honors by the Intercollegiate Women's Lacrosse Coaches Association (IWLCA) and U.S. Lacrosse. Hannah Nielsen and Katrina Dowd were named to the first team, while Hillary Bowen, Meredith Frank and Danielle Spencer all earned second-team honors and goalkeeper Morgan Lathrop was a third-team selection.

In addition to being successes on the athletic field, this team is a success in the classroom as well. Fourteen members of the team were honored this year as being academic all-Big Ten honorees. The lacrosse team had 14 academic all-Big Ten honorees. And Senior Hilary Bowen was named ESPN the Magazine Women's At-Large Academic All-American of the Year.

Lastly, while this team's intelligence, athletic prowess and determination are evident, I would like to share a story that demonstrates the team's heart and commitment to their community. During the 5-year championship run, the Northwestern lacrosse team has made an enduring and lasting friendship with 10-year-old Jaclyn Murphy. The friendship began as the Wildcats did what they could to raise the spirits of a young girl diagnosed with a brain tumor. Today, that friendship between NU and Jaclyn continues to deepen. After seeing the impact the team had on his daughter, Jaclyn's father Denis started the Friends of Jaclyn Foundation, a non-profit organization created to raise public awareness regarding pediatric brain tumors. To date, over three dozen collegiate and high school teams have "adopted" children with brain tumors.

In conclusion Mr. Speaker, this team represents our nation's ideal of what the student athlete should be. Not only are the members of this team fantastic athletes and stellar students, they are also wonderful people. I would like to recognize all the team members: Bea Conley, Danielle Spencer, Shannon Smith, Katrina Dowd, Rachel Fox, Kim Pantages, Erin Fitzgerald, Lizzie Abramson, Taylor Thornton, Alexandra Frank, Lacey Vigmostad, Colleen Magarity, Samantha Suntulli, Ali Cassera, Amanda Macaluso, Brooke Mathews, Gabrielle Flibotte, Maggie Bremer, Kirstyn Atkinson, Maria Tedeschi, Jessica Russo, Alexa Delyra, Brittany Wilbon, Darby St. Clair-Barrie, Brianne LoManto, and Sara Harrington, as well as the coaches Kelly Hiller, Lindsey Munday, Ann Elliot, and Scott Hiller. I feel privileged to represent this team in Congress and I urge my colleagues to support this resolution.

HONORING THE BOOK LAUNCH OF
"FILIPINOS IN CARSON AND THE
SOUTH BAY" BY FLORANTE
PETER IBANEZ AND ROSELYN
ESTEPA IBANEZ

HON. LAURA RICHARDSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 27, 2009

Ms. RICHARDSON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to call attention to a very significant event that occurred in my district last Friday, October 23, 2009. That day marked the public introduction of an important new book, "Filipinos in Carson and the South Bay." I am proud that the co-authors of this book are my constituents, Mr. Florante Peter Ibanez, and his wife, Roselyn Estepa Ibanez. Florante is a library manager at Loyola Law School and adjunct professor at Loyola Marymount University where he teaches a course entitled "The Filipino American Experience." Rose serves as the board chair for the Filipino American Library and works for the City of Los Angeles in the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment.

Their work, "Filipinos in Carson and the South Bay," chronicles the rich history and significant contributions made by Filipino Americans to the City of Carson, the state of California, and the United States. It is an extensively researched and meticulously documented history of the Filipino experience. In addition to the general population, students of history, political science, anthropology, sociology, and other academic disciplines will find this work a welcome addition. I thank Florante Peter Ibanez and Roselyn Estepa Ibanez for undertaking this enormous task and salute their achievement.

Madam Speaker, October 2009 has been proclaimed Filipino American History Month in my home state of California and the U.S. Senate adopted a similar resolution earlier this month. It is my hope and expectation that the House will act very soon and favorably on H. Res. 155, a resolution I am proud to co-sponsor. This resolution will put the House on record in strong support of observing October as Filipino American History Month.

Madam Speaker, it is my honor and privilege to represent the people of the 37th Congressional District of California, which is one of the most ethnically, culturally, and racially diverse congressional districts in the country. This is especially true of Carson, one of the major cities in the district. Carson is comprised of roughly equal populations of Hispanics, African Americans, Caucasians, and Asian/Pacific Islanders. The majority of Asian Pacific Americans are Filipinos who settled there as early as the 1920s to work on the farms or in factories, or serve in the U.S. Armed Forces, or to start their own businesses, or to serve their community as doctors, lawyers, and members of the clergy.

In the years since the descendants of these pioneers have prospered and made Carson and the South Bay one of the most livable communities in the nation and a preferred destination for Filipinos looking to start a new life in our country.

The vibrant Filipino community in Carson and the South Bay hosts an annual Festival of Philippine Arts and Culture which is one of Southern California's oldest, largest, and most heavily attended community festivals.

Madam Speaker, the authors, Florante Peter Ibanez and Roselyn Estepa Ibanez, chronicle the remarkable story of the Filipino experience in Carson and the South Bay. Their book adds a long overdue chapter to the American story. I ask my colleagues to join with me in honoring Florante Peter Ibanez and Roselyn Estepa Ibanez and applauding their major contribution to Filipino American History Month.

ANSWERING THE CALL IN THE
WAKE OF GULF'S FUEL DEPOT
EXPLOSION IN PUERTO RICO

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 27, 2009

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise to thank President Barack Obama for his steadfastness in dealing with the state of emergency in my beloved Puerto Rico. An explosion at the fuel storage complex in Cataño ignited a fire on Friday, October 23rd, that burned for two days, spewing thick, toxic smoke across the Caribbean region and forcing hundreds of people on the island to evacuate their homes. The fire affected 21 of the fuel depot's 40 tanks. The damages are now estimated at \$6.4 million.

In a press statement issued by the office of the President's Press Secretary, President Obama swiftly declared that an emergency exists in the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico. Furthermore, the President ordered federal aid to supplement Governor Fortuno's funds and other local response efforts in the area struck by explosions and fire.

The President's action authorizes the Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency to coordinate all disaster relief efforts. The purpose of this swift action is to alleviate the hardship and suffering caused by the emergency on the locals, and to provide appropriate assistance for required emergency measures, authorized under Title V of the Stafford Act. This will save lives, protect property and public health and safety, and lessen or avert the threat of a catastrophe in the municipalities of Bayamón, Cataño, Guaynabo, San Juan, and Toa Baja.

Although it's true that we can't personally drive those fire engines and we can't personally distribute aid, there are still lots of other ways in which we can all help. I, and my fellow colleagues here in Congress, can make sure that our government does not stray from its initial commitments and that bureaucratic red tape does not impede any relief efforts to the affected area. We can also appeal to constituents in our own home districts to give to the local charities that are involved in this effort, like the Red Cross or Catholic Charities.

We must never forget that our country's strength lies not just in the size of our military, but also in the depth of our compassion. Any effort will go a long way in relieving the suffering that continues to be felt by our fellow citizens and Commonwealth neighbors to the south.

PUTTING THE PRICE OF GOING
GREEN IN CONTEXT

HON. ED WHITFIELD

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 27, 2009

Mr. WHITFIELD. Madam Speaker, I rise today to highlight an article by Dr. Kurt House entitled, "Putting the Price of Going Green in Context." The following column was coauthored by Benjamin Urquhart, a research associate at Harvard University's Center for the Environment, and Mark Winkler, a Ph.D. stu-

dent at Harvard's School of Engineering and Applied Sciences.

Over time, the global energy infrastructure must change because the continued combustion of fossil fuels is altering Earth's climate in potentially dangerous ways and because the large wealth transfer from mostly democratic oil-importing countries to mostly autocratic oil-exporting countries is propelling up repressive regimes worldwide. So, we know that the world's energy infrastructure must change. But, the interesting questions are: how big an investment are we willing to make to bring about that change and how fast are we willing to make that investment?

Many groups have tried to answer these questions. In the last year alone former Vice President Al Gore, Google, oilman T. Boone Pickens, Greenpeace, and the International Energy Agency all have published hypothetical scenarios for how the United States could transform its energy infrastructure over the next two decades. Gore's "Repower America" calls for generating 100-percent renewable electricity by 2020. Google's "Clean Energy 2030" would eliminate coal- and oil-burning power plants by 2030, while retaining natural gas power plants to maintain grid stability. Greenpeace is strongly anti-nuclear, while Pickens promotes wind power and natural gas as alternatives to foreign oil.

The quantity of new electricity-generating capacity proposed in the Gore and Google plans has led to criticism that they are unrealistically expensive. We try to place such commentary in a more quantitative context by comparing the industrial and financial commitments necessary to achieve the Google and Gore plans to two large-scale, government-led efforts from the twentieth century—the industrial buildup that accompanied World War II and the construction of the Interstate Highway System. These massive projects serve as tangible benchmarks for the magnitude of financial commitment and public support that will be required to rebuild the U.S. power sector.

Let's start with a bit of history: The U.S. industrial commitment to World War II was staggering. At its peak, the war occupied almost 40 percent of the nation's total economic capacity, and it required massive quantities of raw materials—at least 100 megatons of steel to build among other things more than 80,000 tanks, 250,000 planes and helicopters, and 15 million tons of munitions. The inflation adjusted annual cost of the war effort averaged close to \$700 billion between 1943 and 1945, while the total cost of the war effort topped \$2.5 trillion (in 2006 dollars).

In comparison, constructing the Interstate Highway System demanded a less intensive effort—but one of far longer duration. With the majority of its 47,000 miles covered by 11 inch-thick concrete—and weighing an impressive 700 megatons—it remains the largest public works project in U.S. history. During its peak years of construction, from 1970 to 1980, 17 megatons of concrete were used annually to create 1,100 miles of roadway a year, at a real annual expense of almost \$11 billion, or about 0.3 percent of the nation's annual economic output over that time. The project—from its start in 1956 until its symbolic completion in 1995—cost the nation close to \$350 billion (again, in 2006 dollars).

How do current energy transformation plans compare to these massive governmental efforts?

To determine the answer, we calculated the overnight capital cost—the cost of a project without interest payments, as if it were finished in one night—as well as the requirements in steel and concrete for the Gore and Google plans. We also calculated

expenditures for the U.S. Energy Information Agency's (EIA) Annual Energy Outlook, the traditional policy-neutral, business-as-usual scenario. We then compared the total and annual expenditures of capital, steel, and concrete using World War II as a baseline for capital and steel consumption, and the highway project as a baseline for concrete consumption. (Note: Although the cost of steel and concrete also are included in the total capital numbers, we wanted straight comparisons for the total mass of steel and concrete to complement the more traditional capital comparisons.)

The results are summarized in two charts we have generated. The first chart shows that achieving Gore's vision of removing fossil fuels from electricity production by 2020 will require 50 percent of the capital and 60 percent of the steel required to wage World War II as well as 25 percent of the concrete that was used to construct the Interstate Highway System. (Google's requirements are a bit higher because its forecast assumes a higher U.S. growth rate for electricity consumption.) The other chart shows that the annual expenditures required to achieve the Gore and Google plans would require 60 and 90 percent, respectively, of the concrete used annually for the highway system and about 20 percent of the steel consumed annually during the peak of war spending.

Take a moment to consider these numbers. Achieving either plan would require both an annual investment of concrete equal to the amount used to build the Interstate Highway System and an annual steel investment equal to one-quarter of that required to defeat the Axis powers. This is a massive industrial investment! Furthermore, these are only the steel and concrete requirements; the quantity of photovoltaic panels, for example, required to achieve the Gore or Google plan would be 28 and 74 times current global production, respectively.

The material requirements to achieve the Gore plan are significantly lower than those required to achieve the Google plan primarily due to their radically different estimates for the growth in electricity production. Google estimates that U.S. electricity production will grow by 4 percent to roughly 1,024 gigawatts by 2020, which essentially matches the EIA's forecast. The Gore plan, on the other hand, assumes that U.S. electricity production will decrease by a staggering 27 percent! That decrease—Gore claims—will result from huge increases in energy efficiency, but the EIA forecast already includes significant efficiency improvements.

We should note that the energy plans would last longer than World War II, making the annual rate of spending about 15 percent of the peak annual war expenses (\$100 billion—\$124 billion versus \$800 billion per year). Also, because the U.S. economy is about six times larger today than it was in the 1940s, these costs represent a much smaller fraction of the country's total economic output (about 1 percent of gross domestic product). Put another way, the economic demands of the war effort were equivalent to diverting two days of every worker's five-day work week, the energy plans—over their lifespans—would demand only about 24 minutes from every worker's week.

Although each plan has other aspects that merit critical analysis (e.g., estimated capacity factors, load growth rates, and balance of peak and base-load power) our analysis yields an interesting conclusion regarding the required financial and industrial investments. Specifically, we have identified two precedents for large-scale, governmental projects with industrial and financial investments that exceed the total requirements of both the Gore and Google plans. When measured against historical extremes, the cost

and physical requirements of these ambitious energy plans are within the country's reach.

That doesn't mean they'll be cheap. After all, fighting World War II was incredibly expensive—the modern economic equivalent would be passing a \$700 billion stimulus package every eight weeks for the next three years. Furthermore, defeating the fascist powers was of utmost importance as those powers represented a material and immediate threat to every living person in the free world. Although we strongly believe that the world's energy infrastructure must change, we don't believe that either climate change or energy-driven trade imbalances are remotely as scary today as Hitler was in 1941; and thus, while we could rebuild the energy system as we rebuilt industry for the war effort, the impetus to do so is far smaller today than in was in the 1940s.

Rather than waging war, rebuilding our energy infrastructure according to these plans would be more like keeping the peace: Consider that were the government doing all of this spending, it would require an annual budget of about one-third the average peacetime budget of the Defense Department. When we recall that Defense employs more than 3 million people, includes a massive research, design, and procurement system, and maintains a system of facilities worldwide, we get a sense of the magnitude of these proposed energy plans.

Another important fact to consider is that neither the Gore plan nor the Google plan assumes that the government will pay for everything transforming the U.S. power sector entails. Rather, both groups believe—admirably, in our opinion—in the endless capabilities of the American entrepreneur. In other words, these plans are betting that free enterprise will spring into action with the necessary capital. (With one proviso: Said entrepreneurs are given the proper policy incentives such as a stiff price on carbon emissions.) While we also believe in the power of individual initiative coupled with enlightened policy, we are cognizant of the fact that both World War II and the Interstate Highway System were entirely funded by U.S. taxpayers. So taking on an industrial transformation similar in scope to either the war effort or the highway system with mostly private capital is—to put it modestly—a challenging proposition.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 27, 2009

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Madam Speaker, on October 26, 2009, I was unavoidably unable to cast my votes for rollcall 814 and rollcall 815. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye."

RECOGNIZING MR. RICHARD REUSS

HON. MARK STEVEN KIRK

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 27, 2009

Mr. KIRK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Richard Reuss of Glenview, Illinois, who recently retired after thirty years as an Advisor to the Great Lakes Fishery Commission. Mr. Reuss and I share a passion for

the Great Lakes and I thank him for his tireless work over the past three decades to protect and improve the fishery.

Mr. Reuss represented the public-at-large on the Commission's Committee of Advisors since he was first nominated to serve in 1980 by Governor James Thompson. The Committee is charged with advising the Commission about all matters relating to fish stocks shared by Canada and the United States, as well as providing an avenue for citizens to be heard on issues that matter to them. Mr. Reuss's responsibility was to consider ways in which all citizens could benefit from protecting and restoring the Great Lakes and then to provide the best advice possible to the Great Lakes Fishery Commission about how the Commission could better achieve its objectives.

As an Advisor, Mr. Reuss was a consistent and strong advocate for the Great Lakes. He stayed in regular contact with boaters, fishers, and elected officials, was constantly up to date on Great Lakes issues, and worked tirelessly to keep the Commission and others informed. For years, he volunteered his time to help educate fishers and citizens about the Great Lakes, the sea lamprey problem, and ways in which we could all work together to improve the resource. He was particularly outspoken about the need for effective invasive species measures, whether they be measures to control sea lampreys, to prevent Asian carp, or to address the ballast water vector. In 2004, the commission honored Mr. Reuss with the C.D. "Buzz" Besadny Award for Fostering Great Lakes Partnerships, the Commission's highest recognition.

For the first time in its 50-year history, the Commission has created the position of Advisor Emeritus and has asked Mr. Reuss to serve in that capacity. So, while Mr. Reuss is formally retiring from the Committee of Advisors, the Commission and the Great Lakes commission will not lose his invaluable service.

I am proud to honor Mr. Richard Reuss as he retires from the Great Lakes Fishery Commission's Committee of Advisors and I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking him for his remarkable service to the Great Lakes.

HEALTH CARE

HON. JERRY LEWIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 27, 2009

Mr. LEWIS of California. Madam Speaker, there are still at least three very different versions of a massive health care package being discussed in the House of Representatives. There is no firm agreement on whether we will have a "public option" or what form it might take. And yet we are being told that this plan MUST be passed before Thanksgiving.

Rushing this package to a vote is a huge mistake. It is dangerous to the futures of all of our constituents. This year our federal deficit has surpassed \$1.4 trillion. And yet, the Democrat majority wants to expand government in this healthcare bill, adding hundreds of billions more to our deficit.

The work on this bill is being done out of sight of every member except the select few chosen by the majority leadership. Americans deserve transparency in this process, not Chicago-style strong arm tactics.

That is why I have introduced a resolution calling for the final language, of the healthcare package to be available for 30 days before it comes to the floor for a vote.

COMMEMORATING THE LIFE OF
U.S. ARMY RESERVE CAPTAIN
BENJAMIN A. SKLAVER

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 27, 2009

Ms. DELAURO. Madam Speaker, I rise to commemorate the life and mourn together with his family the death of an American hero, CPT Benjamin A. Sklaver of Hamden, Connecticut.

A captain the 422nd Civil Affairs Battalion, 3rd Infantry Division serving his second tour of duty, Benjamin Sklaver was killed in an ambush on Friday, October 2, while on patrol in Afghanistan. Struck down at the age of 32, he leaves behind a legacy of humanitarian works and honorable deeds that would do any man or woman proud.

Captain Sklaver was, as his friend Jake Herrie deemed him, "a combatant of peace," and his career of good works took him from Malawi to Djibouti and from Uganda to Central Asia. He served as a crisis relief specialist, helping people all around the world get back on their feet after hard times. Compelled to national service by his patriotism and to humanitarian action by his Jewish faith, Sklaver was at once a proud soldier and a humble man of peace. Along with his firearm and ammunition, he carried schoolbooks and drinking water. He constructed not only forts and bunkers, but roads, schools, and dormitories. He brought not war and destruction in his wake, but infrastructure and peace.

Before serving in Afghanistan as an army reservist, Sklaver—a graduate of Tufts University as well as its Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy—had worked for FEMA in New York and the CDC as an international emergency and refugee health analyst. And he was the co-founder of and director of ClearWater Initiative, an organization which aspired to provide clean drinking water to refugees displaced by an international emergency.

In the past two years, Sklaver's leadership at ClearWater had managed to provide over 6,500 people in Uganda with clean drinking wells. To the thousands of lives he changed in Uganda, Sklaver was known as "Moses Ben." But to his grieving family—his parents, Gary and Laura; his siblings, Anna and Samuel; his fiancée, Beth; her son, Danny; and her parents, Barbara and Jimmy Segaloff—he was simply Ben, a warm, kind, and generous young man with so much life ahead of him, taken from us all too early.

Connecticut mourns, and America mourns, this family's loss.

REMEMBERING HORACE

D'ANGELO, JR.

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 27, 2009

Mr. KILDEE. Madam Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to join me in remembering the life and work of Horace

D'Angelo Jr. Mr. D'Angelo passed away on October 14th and a memorial service will be held in his honor on October 28th in Madison Heights, Michigan.

Horace D'Angelo Jr. earned a BA and MA in Business Administration from Michigan State University and he embarked on a career in nursing home administration. He was the innovator behind the Caretel Inn concept of providing nursing care in a residential setting. He has opened Caretel Inns throughout Michigan including two in my district in Linden and Frankenlust Township. His commitment to providing the best care for our most vulnerable citizens was recognized by the Multiple Sclerosis Society when in 2003 they bestowed their da Vinci Award on the Caretel concept. The da Vinci Award is given for, "the most innovative and assistive technologies that enable equal access and opportunity for all people, regardless of ability," and is given in the fields of applied research, creation of products and design of buildings.

He was a founding member of the Assisted Living Federation of America and served on the board of Michigan Assisted Living of America. Horace is survived by his wife, Lorrie, his two children, Michael and Cara, brother, Jim, and sister, Diana.

Madam Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to join me in offering condolences to the relatives and friends of Horace D'Angelo Jr. as they come together in paying tribute to his life and work. The field of nursing home care has been changed by his compassion and commitment to providing expert care for the elderly.

RECOGNIZING JESUS P. CARRILLO'S 38 YEARS OF PUBLIC SERVICE

HON. SILVESTRE REYES

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 27, 2009

Mr. REYES. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Jesus P. Carrillo of El Paso, Texas, for his 38 years of distinguished public service.

Mr. Carrillo began his career with the United States Border Patrol in June 1971. Over his distinguished career, Mr. Carrillo served as a Border Patrol Agent, Special Agent, Undercover Special Agent and Senior Special Agent. During his time with the Border Patrol, Mr. Carrillo gained the respect of his colleagues and his work was ultimately honored by former Attorney General Janet Reno when she awarded Mr. Carrillo with the Attorney General's Award in 1995. Mr. Carrillo fully embraced the Border Patrol's mission of securing our Nation's borders, and he served with great honor and distinction.

In his time as a public servant, Mr. Carrillo was the subject of several threats and attempts on his life. His service is a reminder of the many risks that confront Border Patrol agents each day and why we owe them our sincere gratitude for their bravery, service and sacrifice. Before coming to Congress, I served for 26½ years in the Border Patrol, and I will always remain a part of that special family. I know first-hand the challenges and dangers that the agents face each day, and as a Member of Congress, I remain committed to ensur-

ing that they have the resources and support that they need. I commend Mr. Carrillo for his 38 years of public service and sacrifice to protect our country and the City of El Paso.

HONORING THE HONORABLE GIANFRANCO CONTE

HON. ROBERT A. BRADY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 27, 2009

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor our colleague from the Republic of Italy, the Honorable Gianfranco Conte.

As President of the Finance Commission in the Italian Parliament, Hon. Conte has worked tirelessly to strengthen the cultural, economic, and commercial ties between the United States and Italy.

Hon. Conte's efforts have bolstered the relationship between the United States and Italy, and I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking Hon. Conte for his commitment to a flourishing international partnership.

RECOGNIZING THE CITY OF DESTIN'S 25TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 27, 2009

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor the City of Destin, Florida upon the occasion of its 25th anniversary.

The City of Destin has a rich historical heritage dating back to the American Indian tribes who lived along the Emerald Coast of Florida. In 1528, Panfilo de Narvaez first came ashore in the Destin area. In 1693, another Spanish explorer, Don Francisco Tapia surveyed the Florida coast and first entered Destin's East Pass into what is now known as Choctawhatchee Bay.

The first lasting settlement came in the mid-1800's when Captain Leonard Destin and his family moved from New England to build a colonial home at the location of the Monroe Point military reservation. While living on the East Pass peninsula, he met and married Martha McCullom. Their descendants formed the backbone of the Destin community. Captain Destin and his family established a large fishing town that lives on to this day and is known as the "World's Luckiest Fishing Village."

The residents of the South Okaloosa County area voted to incorporate the City of Destin on November 6, 1984. The first municipal election was held on January 8, 1985, and less than a week later the Mayor and City Council were sworn in. Twenty-five years later, Destin has grown from a sleepy fishing village into one of the Emerald Coast's premier tourist destinations with over 12,000 residents.

Madam Speaker, my wife Vicki and I wish to congratulate the City of Destin on its 25th anniversary. We wish them all the best for continued success as a community.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE LIFE OF MR. LEA FITE

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 27, 2009

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Madam Speaker, I would like to request the House's attention today to pay recognition to the memory of my friend, Mr. Lea Fite, of Jacksonville, Alabama.

Mr. Fite was born in Anniston, Alabama, and was later married to Judy. They were blessed with four children, Laurie, Wes, Trae and Jared. Lea attended Jacksonville University and owned several supermarkets across Calhoun County.

Mr. Fite was elected to the Calhoun County Commission in 1998 and then to the Alabama House of Representatives in 2002. He served tirelessly on behalf of his constituents in the 40th District.

Mr. Fite unexpectedly passed away on October 26, 2009. He will be sorely missed, but remembered as a man who gave selflessly for his fellow Alabamians. He was a man of principle, of dignity, and a true American and Alabamian who was always willing to lend a hand whenever needed.

A USEFUL QUOTE

HON. LAMAR SMITH

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 27, 2009

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Madam Speaker, a friend and constituent of mine, Adriel "Squeaky" McGill, from San Antonio, Texas, has given me a quote that I feel has present-day application. I submit it for the benefit of my colleagues and citizens everywhere.

The following quotation, from 1790 by Dr. Alexander Tytler, Professor of General History, University of Edinburgh, is still instructive:

A Democracy cannot exist as a permanent form of government. It can only exist until the voters discover that they can vote themselves largess out of the public treasury. From that moment on the majority always votes for the candidate promising the most benefits from that public treasury, with the result that a democracy will always collapse from a loose fiscal policy (burden of large public debt), always to be followed by a dictatorship.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. SOLOMON P. ORTIZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 27, 2009

Mr. ORTIZ. Madam Speaker, on October 26, 2009, my flight to Washington, DC, was delayed because of inclement weather, and I missed rollcall Votes 814 and 815. If I had been present, I would have voted as follows: rollcall Vote 814, "yea," rollcall Vote 815, "yea."

THE COOPER-WOLF SAFE
COMMISSION BILL

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 27, 2009

Mr. WOLF. Madam Speaker, the national unemployment rate is 9.8 percent with nearly half of the states reporting increases in the month of September. And it is growing—it could reach 10 percent.

The national debt is approaching \$12 trillion, and the '09 fiscal year registered a staggering \$1.4 trillion in red ink. Meanwhile the House is expected to consider a health insurance reform package with a price tag nearing \$900 billion, with a Government run public option.

America is going broke.

We have watched the dollar slide—recently reaching a 14-month low against all other major currencies—which if not addressed this could lead to even higher consumer prices.

We can't spend our way out of this mess, and it won't magically get better without action from Congress.

The country is in trouble and it's time to stop the bleeding.

The action that will lead to a solution is the bipartisan commission JIM COOPER and I have proposed with every spending program on the table with tax policy. Over 75 members of the House support this idea.

Senate Budget Chairman KENT CONRAD and ranking member GREGG have similar legislation in the Senate. So do Senators VOINOVICH and LIEBERMAN.

The Cooper-Wolf SAFE Commission bill is an opportunity to create a renaissance in this country for our children and our grandchildren.

KATHRYN RUSSELL

HON. THOMAS S.P. PERRIELLO

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 27, 2009

Mr. PERRIELLO. Madam Speaker, today I recognize the untimely passing of Kathryn Russell, who was killed in a car accident on the evening of October 22, 2009. She will be sorely missed by her friends, family, and community as well as independent farming advocates throughout the country. My heart goes out to her husband Wayne and their children Holly, Lynn, Laura, Emily, Beth, Charlotte, Caleb, and Hannah.

Kathryn returned to her grandparents' roots by beginning her farm over a decade ago and was a valued member of the North Garden community in Albemarle County, Virginia. As the owner of Majesty Farms and a founder and leader of the Virginia Independent Consumers and Farmers Association, she worked to protect family farms, locally grown food, and to promote ecological and economic sustainability. Kathryn took great pride in her work and believed strongly in the importance of community-based farming to create a vibrant local economy and a healthy citizenry. I can personally attest to her fearlessness and tirelessness in promoting traditional farming. She was an ardent skeptic of big government and corporate agriculture, and often saw through attempts by both to consolidate power at the

expense of consumers and small farmers. While she was a strident advocate, she was also patient enough to help those of us who needed a little extra educating to get up to speed on these issues. Today, there are too few farmers like Kathryn Russell and her husband Wayne. I have strong hopes that she has passed on her legacy to her eight children and four grandchildren, and that they will maintain her memory by continuing the work toward lasting rural communities for generations to come.

HONORING COLONEL GINA GROSSO

HON. JOHN H. ADLER

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 27, 2009

Mr. ADLER of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, I would like to congratulate Colonel Gina Grosso and the fellow recipients of National Association of Women Business Owners' 2009 Beyond the Glass Ceiling Award. As Joint Base and 87th Air Base Wing Commander, Colonel Grosso was awarded this year's Trailblazer Award for her work overseeing the unification of Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, N.J.

Colonel Grosso entered the Air Force in 1986 as a Reserve Officer Training Corps distinguished graduate from Carnegie-Mellon University. She has held several command and staff positions throughout her career and her command tours include a Headquarters Squadron Section, Military Personnel Flight, Mission Support Squadron, and command of the Air Force's sole Basic Military Training Group.

As commander, Colonel Grosso provides installation support to more than 40 mission commanders at McGuire, Dix, and Lakehurst, the Department of Defense's first and only joint base with consolidated Air Force, Army, and Navy installations. She is responsible for providing mission ready expeditionary Airmen to combatant commanders in support of joint and combined operations.

Madam Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in commending Colonel Gina Grosso. She is truly a trailblazer and an outstanding leader deserving of this award.

RECOGNITION OF OCTOBER AS NATIONAL SPINA BIFIDA AWARENESS MONTH

HON. MIKE QUIGLEY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 27, 2009

Mr. QUIGLEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of October as National Spina Bifida Awareness Month. During the month of October, the Spina Bifida Association seeks to bring awareness to the nation's most common permanently disabling birth defect—affecting 3,000 pregnancies every year. New data from the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has found that there are 154,000 Americans with Spina Bifida, double what was previously thought. Increasing awareness of Spina Bifida will also focus attention on the need to expand and intensify evidence-based

research to improve the quality of life of those living with Spina Bifida.

Spina Bifida is a disease that occurs within the first month of pregnancy and leaves a permanent opening in the spinal column, which subsequently impacts nearly every organ system. People with this birth defect face many complications—including physical, developmental, educational and vocational challenges, to name just a few. All women of childbearing age are at risk for having a Spina Bifida affected pregnancy.

Too many Americans suffer needlessly from this birth defect when many cases are preventable. An estimated 70 percent of neural tube defects, including Spina Bifida, are preventable through consumption of folic acid prior to pregnancy. National Spina Bifida Awareness Month plays a critical role in conveying this prevention message to the public. As a 2005 study uncovered, the current system of care for people with Spina Bifida does not fully meet current or anticipated needs, and physicians have little evidence-based research on which to build appropriate treatments. A greater commitment to prevention and improving quality of life for those affected by Spina Bifida is absolutely necessary.

Drs. Cheng and Yerkes, who are pediatric urologists at Children's Memorial Hospital in the 5th Congressional District of Illinois, and are on the Professional Advisory Council of the Spina Bifida Association, visited my Washington office on October 20, 2009 to discuss the challenges facing children with Spina Bifida. I thank Drs. Cheng and Yerkes and the Spina Bifida Association for all of their efforts and leadership over the years.

I stand ready to work with my constituents and the Spina Bifida Association to help elevate awareness of this condition and its prevention. I urge my colleagues to learn more about Spina Bifida, to meet with affected constituents, and to support the Spina Bifida Association in its important endeavors.

IN RECOGNITION OF GERALD BARNES ON HIS 90TH BIRTHDAY

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 27, 2009

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor Mr. Gerald Floyd Barnes upon the occasion of his 90th birthday. Mr. Barnes has spent a lifetime serving others, and it is a privilege to recognize him on his accomplishments today.

Gerald Barnes was born on October 30, 1919 in Baker, Florida. He is one of five children born to Otis and Vera Barnes, and he is a life-long Northwest Florida resident. When he was five years old, Gerald and his family moved to Milton, Florida. In 1942, he married Irene Russell. They have two children and four grandchildren. When World War II ended, Gerald joined his father in the grocery business, later opening his own store in downtown Milton—Barnes Supermarket.

Gerald began his life of elected public service in 1950. He served on the Milton City Council between 1950 and 1962, and then was elected as County Commissioner for Santa Rosa County in 1966. In 1972, Gerald was elected as the Clerk of the Court for

Santa Rosa County where he served for twenty years. During this time, he has also served as a deacon of First Baptist Church of Milton, working in various roles including Director of the Junior Department and Director of the Adult Department. Gerald is also a member of The Gideons International and the Kiwanis Club of Milton.

Madam Speaker, Gerald Barnes is a Northwest Florida community leader who has spent a lifetime serving the public. My wife Vicki and I wish him a happy birthday and his entire family all the best for the future.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOHN R. CARTER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 27, 2009

Mr. CARTER. Madam Speaker, on October 26, 2009, I was unable to be present for all rollcall votes due to an unexpected travel delay.

If present, I would have voted accordingly on the following rollcall votes:

Roll No. 814—aye;

Roll No. 815—aye.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LAURA RICHARDSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 27, 2009

Ms. RICHARDSON. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to address the House for 1 minute and revise and extend my remarks.

On Monday, October 26, and Friday, October 23, I was unavoidably delayed on my return to Washington from American Samoa and

Samoa where I had been monitoring ongoing relief and recovery efforts of FEMA and others currently underway in response to the devastating earthquake and tsunami that struck those islands on September 29. As the Member of Congress with the nation's largest concentration of Samoan Americans on the mainland and as a member of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, undertaking this fact-finding mission was directly related to my representational, legislative, and committee responsibilities.

Because of this excused absence I was not present for rollcall votes 814 through 815.

Had I been present I would have voted as follows:

1. On rollcall No. 814. I would have voted aye. H. Res. 368—Congratulating the University of Iowa Hawkeyes wrestling team on winning the 2009 NCAA Division I National Wrestling Championships (Rep. Loeb sack—Education and Labor).

2. On rollcall No. 815, I would have voted aye. H. Res. 562—Congratulating Syracuse University for winning the National Collegiate Athletic Association Division I Men's Lacrosse Tournament (Rep. Maffei—Education and Labor).

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
ASSISTANCE FOR POLITICAL
STATUS EDUCATION PROGRAM
FOR GUAM

HON. MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 27, 2009

Ms. BORDALLO. Madam Speaker, today I have introduced a bill to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to award grants and extend assistance to the Government of Guam for the purpose of helping to facilitate a polit-

ical status public education program for the people of Guam.

This bill is introduced in recognition of the Secretary of the Interior's administrative responsibility for the economic, social and political development of the territory of Guam. Executive Order 10077 signed in 1949 transferred the administration of Guam from the Secretary of the Navy to the Secretary of the Interior, and Congress has provided certain levels of self-government for the people of Guam since the enactment of the Organic Act of Guam in 1950.

However, the political status of the territory of Guam remains unresolved. The Guam Legislature has passed local laws authorizing the holding of a political status plebiscite. Any plebiscite requires a public education program to inform the people of Guam of various political status options.

This bill specifically authorizes federal assistance for such a public education program. Federal funding for political status public education programs is not without precedent. U.S. Public Law 101-45 provided \$3,500,000 to the Territory of Puerto Rico to "participate in the legislative process involving the future political status of Puerto Rico." Additionally, the now independent Republic of Palau was appropriated by U.S. Public Law 101-219, "such sums as may be necessary for a further referendum on approval of the Compact, if one is required, or other appropriate costs associated with the approval process in Palau."

The people of Guam have expressed their desire for a new political status in the past, however, such political status aspirations were not realized, despite past efforts by Guam's representatives, the administration and Congress. As a result, a commission of the Government of Guam has been established to prepare for a new plebiscite.

I look forward to working with my colleagues to review this bill.