

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

RECOGNIZING THE LAUNCH BY THE LEGAL AID SOCIETY OF PALM BEACH COUNTY OF ITS ARMED SERVICES ADVOCACY PROJECT

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 2, 2009

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the launch by the Legal Aid Society of Palm Beach County of its Armed Services Advocacy Project, ASAP, made possible through a grant from the Florida BRAIVE Fund at the Dade Community Foundation. More than 1.7 million veterans call Florida home, one of the largest such populations of any State. Palm Beach County alone is home to 1,200 Iraq and Afghanistan veterans. The need for services for these people is tremendous.

This new project's mission is to provide civil legal assistance to active duty Armed Forces service members and veterans who are serving or have served in Operation Enduring Freedom or Operation Iraqi Freedom and/or their families living in Palm Beach County. Specifically, the Armed Services Advocacy Project will provide legal advice, education, counsel, and representation with regard to pre-deployment, deployment and post-deployment issues, free of charge.

Legal services offered to personnel and/or their family members will include access to benefits, benefit denials, disability determinations, discharge matters, housing and financial issues, access to health care and mental health resources, employment rights and much more. Individuals may also receive assistance with specialized military issues including navigating the physical disability evaluation system, appealing involuntary administrative separations, defending inappropriate discharge, discharge characterization, or disability rating and filing claims for Traumatic Injury Insurance Under the Service Members Group Life Insurance, TSGLI.

The ultimate goal of the Armed Service Advocacy Project is to improve the lives of Palm Beach County residents who have served or are serving in Iraq or Afghanistan and their families through legal intervention aimed at providing safer living conditions, meeting medical needs or reducing the time and frustration involved in navigating social services and veterans' assistance systems.

Madam Speaker, I am quite familiar with the problems active duty and retired service members have faced with these issues. I am delighted to know that the Legal Aid Society of Palm Beach County, an old and very trusted agency, has created the Armed Services Advocacy Project, and I wish them great success with their efforts on behalf of one of America's most beloved and respected populations.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. K. MICHAEL CONAWAY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 2, 2009

Mr. CONAWAY. Madam Speaker, on rollcall No. 830, H.R. 3854, had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOSEPH CROWLEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 2, 2009

Mr. CROWLEY. Madam Speaker, on October 29th, 2009, I was absent for four rollcall votes. If I had been here, I would have voted: "yes" on rollcall vote No. 828; "no" on rollcall vote No. 829; "yes" on rollcall vote No. 830; and "yes" on rollcall vote No. 831.

COMMENDING THE 70TH ANNIVERSARY OF PEOPLE'S UTILITY DISTRICTS IN OREGON

HON. KURT SCHRADER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 2, 2009

Mr. SCHRADER. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of Public Power Week 2009 in the State of Oregon. The history of public power in Oregon stems from a grassroots campaign of Oregonians in the 1930's who, due to their rural service areas, did not have access to electricity. They spearheaded an initiative and Oregon eventually passed a measure allowing for the development of publically owned and operated energy utilities.

As President Franklin Roosevelt stood at the gates of the Bonneville Dam and inaugurated the Bonneville Power Administration, BPA, these Oregonians finally had a viable option towards implementing their publically owned energy facilities. By the 1940's, four People's Utility Districts were formed across Oregon in Lincoln, Tillamook, Clatskanie, and Wasco Counties. By the early 1980's, two more were created: Emerald and Columbia River People Utility Districts.

Oregon's PUDs are a testament to the cooperation of more than 250,000 Oregonians who publically own and operate their energy company. Oregon's PUDs focus on renewable generation, conservation, and energy efficiency programs has resulted in over 90 percent of their power generated and distributed being green and renewable. This is quite an achievement. Today, Oregon's PUDs are thriving with green technology innovation while still providing low-cost rates and quality service to their consumers.

There are two PUDs that serve my district: Central Lincoln PUD and Tillamook PUD. I

would like to take a moment and highlight the excellent work they continue to do:

Central Lincoln PUD—Central Lincoln PUD, serving portions of Lincoln, Lane, Douglas and Coos counties, provides affordable electricity to nearly 84,000 Oregonians, supporting thousands of jobs in the tourism, fishing, and forest products industries. Central Lincoln has helped many of its commercial and industrial customers with long-term energy saving projects, including the Oregon Coast Aquarium in Newport and the Georgia-Pacific paper mill in Toledo. Central Lincoln is a platinum sponsor of cutting edge renewable energy and electricity storage research at Oregon State University's Wallace Energy Systems & Renewables Facility at its school of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science. Additionally, Central Lincoln is enhancing its focus on conservation and energy efficiency, including the hiring of an energy services specialist, who will provide technical assistance and information to customers and the general public regarding practical application of a variety of energy technologies. Central Lincoln is also a recent recipient of a \$10 million smart-grid grant from the federal government.

Tillamook PUD—Tillamook PUD and Hampton Lumber's Tillamook Lumber Mill have a strong working relationship and have worked together on energy efficiency improvement projects for more than two decades. Tillamook Lumber, one of Tillamook PUD's largest customers, has always valued conservation, and has demonstrated its importance even through this rough economic downturn. During the spring, operations at the mill decreased from a 24 hour operation to one shift, leaving nearly one-third of its employees out of work. With rebates and assistance from Tillamook PUD, Hampton installed new motors and variable frequency drives in several areas of the mill, resulting in annual savings of over \$90,000. More than 40 percent of the \$486,000 project costs were paid through the Tillamook PUD/BPA rebate program. Tillamook PUD and the Port of Tillamook are also converting a very valuable asset from its famous cows into energy. In 2003, the Port constructed a centralized methane digester to biologically process the manure from 4,000 of the county's 30,000 dairy cows. The digester has the ability to produce and capture methane from the manure and reduces the amount of methane that otherwise would enter the atmosphere. The green power generated is sold to Tillamook PUD, powers approximately over 200 homes, and maintains more than 150 family-wage dairy industry jobs in the community.

Madam Speaker, while more than 70 years has passed since the establishment of public power in the State of Oregon, I am proud to say that they represent a spirit that I believe all Americans share: the spirit of community first. I honor them as they celebrate Public Power Week 2009 and wish them continued success in the coming years.

• 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.

TRIBUTE TO WILLIAM "BILL"
CASAMO

HON. JAMES P. MORAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 2, 2009

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the life of Mr. William "Bill" Casamo, community activist, human rights leader, and U.S. Veteran. Bill lived the kind of full, robust life we all hope to live, leaving us at the distinguished age of 92 on October 21, 2009, at his beloved home in Alexandria, Virginia.

Mr. Casamo was a proud veteran of the U.S. Marine Corps and a one-man force throughout the modern American labor movement. His deeply held values and experiences truly reflect the best of what the "Greatest Generation" had to offer our nation.

Bill was the second child of immigrant parents, Hilda Johanson from Norway and Anthony Casamo from Sicily. In 1921, in an effort to provide a better life for their family outside bustling New York City, they moved to Patterson, NY. Early in his childhood, Mr. Casamo demonstrated the strong work ethic that would carry him throughout his life. During his summers in Patterson he worked at local restaurants, slaughterhouses and meat packing plants to help support his family. In 1943, he enlisted with the U.S. Marine Corps, leaving behind his wife and first child to fight in World War II. Mr. Casamo served honorably in the Pacific Theater until his discharge in February 1946.

After the war ended, Mr. Casamo began what would be a lifelong dedication to the American labor movement. The map of his career truly traces the rise of labor throughout our country. His first union job came at the early age of 20 when he was elected a union representative at a meat packing plant in New York. Over the next half-century he dedicated himself to numerous union organizations, including the United Furniture Workers Union, the American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees, AFSCME, the International Industrial Engineers, and the International Brotherhood of Pulp, Sulphite and Papermill Workers, which later became the International Brotherhood of Papermill Workers, IBPW. He retired in 1985 as the Director of the Retiree Affairs Department for IBPW. Mr. Casamo has always been proud of his work, often penning a Labor Day message to express his gratefulness for the courage, fortitude and vision of American workers. The same can be said of a nation's gratefulness for Mr. Casamo.

Bill Casamo will be deeply missed. He set the standard as an exemplary individual who spent his life fighting to make a better life for his family and for his brothers and sisters in the labor movement. He is survived by his loving wife of 43 years, Eileen Casamo, 4 children, 16 grandchildren and 11 great grandchildren. Bill will be missed, but his warmth, kindness and strength of character will be remembered always.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. K. MICHAEL CONAWAY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 2, 2009

Mr. CONAWAY. Madam Spaker, on rollcall No. 828—Flake Amendment, had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

CHINESE HUMAN RIGHTS ATTORNEYS TESTIFY BEFORE THE TOM LANTOS HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 2, 2009

Mr. WOLF. Madam Speaker, I would like to draw the attention of my colleagues to the following testimonies of two Chinese human rights attorneys who submitted testimony for a hearing last week of the Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission.

[Written Testimony submitted to the Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission on the rule of law in China, Oct. 29, 2009]

BY CRACKING DOWN ON HERESIES, THE GOVERNMENT REDUCES VENUES FOR RELIGIOUS ACTIVITIES IN RURAL AREAS

(By Mr. Wang Guangze)

From May 2006 to July 2007, I was working as Beijing-based editor and commentator for the magazine Phoenix Weekly, a subsidiary operation of Phoenix Satellite TV. During that period of time, I had tried to make some reports on the status of religious freedom. Phoenix Satellite TV and its subsidiary magazine Phoenix Weekly were registered in Hong Kong, but due to their pro-CPC features, the CPC gave them the special permission to set up a reporter's station in Beijing and recruit employees. The restrictions on its scope of news reporting are rather lax as compared with other media outlets in mainland China. This is also the main reason why this witness was able to report on religious cases, while other media outlets in China had no such right to report on related content during the same period of time.

The religious case of "Three Grades of Servants" was published in the eleventh issue of Phoenix Weekly in 2006, in a Chinese article of as many as 11,000 characters. The entire report consisted of three articles: "An underground church and sixteen cases involving death," "Xu Wenku and his religious kingdom," and "Religious reality in a rural village." The entire report was written by two journalists, Deng Fei and Liu Zhiming, after they conducted interviews. They were notified by a witness, who also gave guidance on conducting interviews. In the end, I edited on the articles and published them.

Through investigations and interviews, we found that the mainland Chinese Public Security department and prosecution department accused "Three Grades of Servants," a Christian church under the management of Xu Wenku, of carrying out an order to murder twenty members of another Christian house church that called itself "the Lighting in the Orient." Both police and prosecution agencies believed that the two parties not only had the motive of competing for the recruitment of believers, but that there were also conflicts between their religious creeds. After the case was cracked, mainland Chinese police effectively cracked down upon

this type of mutual hate-killings between different religious factions, stopping this kind of hate-killing from spreading. In the meantime, mainland police also destroyed the religious activities of the two house churches. According to estimates, the religious belief of tens of thousands of people's may have been affected.

According to the indictment, Xu Wenku and others swindled people out of 20.5 million RMB in various parts of mainland China by illegally hiring believers and collecting contributions, etc. At the beginning of 2007, Xu Wenku and other core members of "Three Grades of Servants" Church were sentenced to death and were immediately executed.

Through investigations and interviews, we believe that the relatively secluded venues for religious activities in rural areas have given rise to religious heresies or have led some people to be engaged in illegal activities in the name of religion. On the other hand, mainland police, while cracking down on heresies, also take the opportunity to destroy venues for religious activities in rural areas, reducing the number of venues for villagers' religious activities. I believe that mainland police have failed to distinguish the normal religious activities from the illegal and criminal behavior in the religious activities that should be cracked down. As a result, the religious environment in the countryside continues to deteriorate and has entered into a sort of vicious cycle: While cracking down on heresies, the venues for religious activities were reduced. After the venues for religious activities were reduced, the religious activities of villagers were forced to be more secret, and secret religious activities often tend to nourish the creation of heresies and varying degrees of illegal religious activities.

For more evidence, please view the following relevant report at: <http://www.boxun.com/hero/wanggz/>.

[Written Testimony submitted to the Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission on the rule of law in China, Oct. 29, 2009]

EXPECTING THE SECOND TRANSFORMATION OF CHINA'S RELIGIOUS POLICIES

(By Mr. Cao Zhi)

1. FOUR STAGES OF RELIGIOUS POLICIES IN CHINA

1. In the 1950s before the Cultural Revolution, the system of administration of religions was formed. The basic characteristics of the system were that the religious organizations were politicized, were classified under the administration as a 'work unit,' and everything in terms of religious life was simplified. In 1978, after the Cultural Revolution, the political program of the country turned to the "priority of economic development" from the "class struggle." In March 1982, "Basic Viewpoints and Basic Policies of Religious Issues of Our Country During the Period of Socialism" (i.e. Document No. 19) was promulgated. This was the first transformation of religious policies in China. On the one hand, this document required the restoration of religious activities held by religious organizations at sites designated for religious activities. On the other hand, however, the predominant idea was that "class struggles still exist within certain areas," and it confined the religious activities within the "normal limits." In 1982, Article 36 of the Constitution, essentially the "Clause on Religious Belief," was formulated based on the religious policies defined in Document 19. With its promulgation, the state now must recognize what it considers "normal religious activities," while at the same time, it must prohibit or crack down on religious activities outside its control. The idea of "the state protects normal religious activities" must be interpreted in the context of this contradiction.

2. After the third wave of the democratic movement in 1989, referred to as “Catholic wave” by Huntington, the ruling party mistakenly believed that the church was against its rule. Therefore, the ideas of “class struggle” and “friends and enemies” fueled a boost in religious [restrictive] policies. In 1991, the “Notification from the Central Committee of the Chinese Communist Party and the State Council on Several Questions Concerning Doing a Good Job in Religious Affairs” (i.e. Document 6) was established. For the first time, this document unequivocally proposed “administration of religious affairs in accordance with law.” It further proposed to “speed up the legislation on religious issues.” Document 6 demanded that the State Administration of Religious Affairs under the State Council, governments in various provinces, autonomous regions and municipalities remain directly under the jurisdiction of the central government-led regulations in cases concerning religion. Between 1991 and 1999, two administrative regulations were formulated and promulgated at the same time by the State Council on January 31, 1994. In the meantime, the State Administration of Religious Affairs under the State Council also formulated four administrative regulations. In the past 10 years, with the exception of Beijing and Shanxi, 29 provinces, autonomous regions and municipalities directly under the jurisdiction of the central government completed the religious legislation. Among them, the comprehensive laws and regulations from 16 provinces, autonomous regions and municipalities directly under the central government adopted a format with 10 chapters of General Rules, Religious Organizations, Religious Activities, Sites for Religious Activities, Clergymen, Religious Education (or institutions), Religious Properties, Religious Issues Involving Overseas Contacts, Legal Liabilities and Supplementary Articles.

3. After the 1999 Falun Gong Incident, the religious policies became tight. In 2001, the goal of administration of religious affairs of the government was unequivocally defined as to “protect legal activities; stop illegal activities; fight against infiltration and crack down on crimes.” In light of this, relevant legislations started. The 1997 version of the amendment to the Criminal Law changed the “counter-revolutionary crime” in the 1979 version of the Criminal Law to “endanger the safety of the state.” In the meantime, the clause in Article 99 of the latter was incorporated into Chapter 6 from Chapter 1 of the special provisions of the Criminal Law. It was changed to Article 300. The presumptive conditions defined in the Criminal Law, i.e. crimes have three situations: utilizing superstitious sects or secret societies, cult organizations or utilizing superstition in undermining the implementation of the law and administrative regulations of the state; causing death in deception schemes; raping women and obtaining properties through cheating. In comparing Article 300 in the 1997 version of Criminal Law and Article 99 of the 1979 version of the Criminal Law, “cult organization” was added to the subjects of crime and in the objects of crime, “proletarian dictatorship and socialist system” was changed to “implementation of state laws and regulations, personal rights and property rights.” Therefore, the objects of abolishment changed from “superstitious sects or secret societies” to religious organizations. The reason for abolishment has also changed from being a “counter-revolutionary” to “endangering public order” or “violating one’s personal rights or property rights.”

4. In 2005, the “Regulations on Religious Affairs” was promulgated. Its content actually can be traced back to the religious policies in Document 19 and Document 6. Its

structure is based on the experience gathered in the legislation of religious affairs in other places. The language used in this regulation is vague and for the first time on the level of state administrative regulations, it publicly implements the system of administrative approval on religious organizations, sites for religious activities, religious activities, clergymen, religious publications, religious institutions and religious affairs involving overseas entities. Whatever does not obtain an administrative permit is considered illegal.

What is worth mentioning here is that on the question of religious properties, the “Regulations on Religious Affairs” clearly states the responsibilities of agencies in charge of religious affairs and they have the tendency to protect religious activities.

II. FOUR ISSUES.

1. Religious clergymen.

In the process of recognition (agreement)—record filing for religious clergymen, “record filing” is the center of the issue. “Record filing” is merely the name of it, but the real intention is to control the clergy through the approval system. Two examples of this are the Zhaozhi case in Niuxin Temple of Sichuan in 2005 and Shengguan case in Huacheng Temple in Jiangxi in 2006. These incidents have brought up this situation: that is, the recognition and appointment of religious clergymen is not based on the criteria of belief or knowledge in the doctrines of the specific religion, but on whether they obey the government. The religious organizations and the site for religious activities where these religious clergymen serve are therefore subordinate to the government and we have a situation where the state dictates the church. Therefore, such a process violates the Constitutional principle of the separation of the church and the state and is therefore an inappropriate process. One of the ways to reform the religious system is to abolish such a process and turn control over to the religion itself for the recognition and appointment of religious clergymen. The government must not intervene and should withdraw itself from the administration of affairs on religious clergymen.

2. Religious publications.

Due to ideological domination, “freedom of religious belief” in Article 36 of the Constitution can only be interpreted in the narrowest sense of the phrase: i.e. citizens have only the freedom of “belief” which does not include citizens’ freedom of “establishing a church” and “proselytizing.” As “proselytizing” and “establishing a religion” are the core [elements] of the freedom of belief, publication is a necessary means for “proselytizing” and “establishing a religion.” Therefore, if someone intends to limit the expansion of a religion, restricting the publications for the religion is a must. Therefore, the act of printing publications on a large scale and distributing them for free by religious organizations, especially house churches, can be penalized through the “crime of illegal business operation.” on Interpretation of Several Questions in the Specific Application of Law Governing the Trial of Criminal Cases of Illegal Publications. It is stipulated in Article 11 of Zui Gao Fa Fa Shi, 1998, No. 30, that if the circumstance is serious for publication, printing, copying and distribution of publications, and it seriously harms the public order and disrupts the market in violation of the relevant stipulations of the state, the perpetrator shall be convicted of illegal business operation and penalized in accordance of Item 3 of Article 225 of the Criminal Law. Examples of this are the Cal Zhuohua case in 2005, Wang Zaiqing case in 2006, Zhou Heng case of 2007 and Shi Weihai case of 2008.

3. The issue of legality of religious organizations.

The registration system for religious organizations is built upon seven major components based on the regulations on social organizations and religious regulations: the nature of registration process as an administrative permit, the system of double permits, conditions for the legal person, format of rules and regulations, “simplicity” clause of social organizations, the clause that prohibits the establishment of regional branches and the measure of abolishment. Its functions aim at ensuring that the religious organizations obey the system of government administration. The logic for the administration through registration is that the agencies in charge of religious administration exercises its power in approving the registration and issuing the administrative permits. It requires the religious organizations to obey the guidance and supervision by agencies in charge of religious administration and departments in charge of civil affairs. Otherwise, their application for registration would not be approved; religious organizations not registered do not have a legal status and they may not establish sites for religious activities or hold religious activities. They would be abolished by agencies in charge of religious administration and cannot exist. To house churches, “obeying the guidance and supervision by agencies in charge of religious administration and departments of civil affairs” means that they must be affiliated to the TSPM church system. Examples like this are the Shouwang Church case in 2006 and “Autumn Rain” Church case in 2009.

4. The issue of church properties.

It is said in Document 19 of the Central Party Committee that “reasonable arrangements of sites for religious activities is an important material condition for the implementation of the Party’s religious policies and for the normalization of religious activities. At that time, it was required that “we must take effective measures and make further reasonable arrangements for the sites of religious activities according to different situations.”

In the “Notice of the Central Party Committee and the State Council on Several Questions of Further Doing a Good Job in Religious Affairs” (i.e. Document 6) issued in 1991, it is unequivocally proposed that “In implementing and carrying out the policies of freedom of religious belief, we must resolutely correct the phenomenon of violating the citizens’ rights of freedom of religious belief and the legitimate rights of the religious circle. Where there are few sites for religious activities, we must solve the problem of lack of sites people need for their normal religious activities. We must properly resolve the issue of religious real estate properties left from the past so as to contribute to the unity with the vast religious believers and the stability of the state and the society.”

The “Regulations on Religious Affairs” explicitly explains the obligations of the agencies in charge of religious affairs on the church properties. It is stated in Article 33 of the Regulation that “Where the houses or structures of a religious organization or a site for religious activities need to be demolished or relocated because of urban planning or construction of key projects, the demolisher shall consult with the religious organization or the site for religious activities concerned, and solicit the views of the relevant religious affairs department. If, after consultation, all the parties concerned agree to the demolition, the demolisher shall rebuild the houses or structures demolished, or, in accordance with the relevant provisions of

the State, make compensation on the basis of the appraised market price of the houses or structures demolished." First, the article requires that the demolisher of the religious properties must consult with the religious organization that owns the religious properties or the organization that owns the site for religious activities, and solicit the opinions from Bureau of Religion which has jurisdiction over the area where the religious properties are located; second, the precondition for the demolition is that both the owner of the religious properties and the Bureau of Religion must agree to the demolition and relocation; third, in the case of demolition and relocation, priority should be given to the rebuilding of the site for religious activities. That article requires that one must solicit the views from the Bureau of Religion in the demolition and the relocation. In fact, it requires the Bureau of Religion to implement its obligation of protecting the legitimate rights of religious organizations or sites for religious activities, and ensure the religious activities be held in a normal manner and maintains the harmony of religious relationships.

At the end of 2007, Hu Jintao made a speech on religion in which he explicitly pointed out that the government should reflect the will of the believers and earnestly safeguard the legitimate rights of the people in the religious circle.

The current problem is that the conflict over religious properties between the growth of religion and the economic development (i.e. the interests of special interest groups) is becoming more and more prominent. For example, in the religious properties case in Tianshui, Gansu province in 2006, the believers had to use the sit-in demonstrations to defend their rights. Because the local government changed its hard-line attitude in a timely manner, held negotiations with the church, united the believers in a maximum manner, and proposed a solution to safeguard the legitimate rights of the people in the religious circle, the incident was resolved in a way both sides were relatively satisfied, and it quickly restored the social stability. In the case involving religious properties in Taian, Shandong province in 2007, the believers defended their rights by guarding the religious properties, demanding that provincial CCC/TSPM intervene, petitioning at the government site and petitioning in higher authorities. The two sides finally reached a compromise. The advantages of the two cases in Gansu and Shandong have these following characteristics in common: The religious properties are protected either with land for land exchange or remained unchanged.

III. MY PROPOSALS

Mr. Wang Zuoan, the new director at State Administration for Religious Affairs, pointed out in a recent speech in welcoming the United Religious Delegation from the U.S., that the characteristics of the relationship in China between the state and the church are: separation of the church and the state, equality among all the religions, administration according to law, and political participation.

Currently, the key issue is that only religious organizations that are affiliated to the government are regarded as legal religious entities. Only by being in such a status can the organizations hold all the religious activities. In other words, the state protects religious activities in this sense. Otherwise, all other activities are illegal ones and should be restricted or cracked down.

Therefore, the Congress should work with the Chinese government and promote change in the following areas:

1. If they implement the separation between the state and the church, they should

try to abandon the mentality of regarding religions, especially Christianity, as "enemies" or representatives of the West attempting to infiltrate China.

2. If they recognize equality among all the religions, they should recognize the Chinese house churches that have existed for 60 years and that are approved by the TSPM.

3. If they want to have administration on religions in accordance with law, they should require that the state law and regulations meet with the relevant international conventions, such as revising the registration system for religious organizations and change it to the system of record filing from the current system of review and approval; they should let the parents decide first of all or mainly the issue of the religious belief of their minor children, instead of using state control by force on this issue; they should respect and protect religious properties and prevent special interest groups from infringing upon the legitimate interests of the people in religious circles.

4. The religious case widely regarded as a litmus test on the freedom of religion in China is the religious case in Linfen, Shanxi that just happened last month and is still worsening.

Jindengtang Church of Linfen is a house church. It has a history of 30 years and it currently has a membership of 50,000 people. After its religious properties at the church in Fushan County were demolished, they were cracked down during their negotiations with the government. At this time, over 30 of its church branches are forbidden to gather. The pastor, his wife and core-co-workers have been arrested. The US Congress may communicate with the Chinese government on this case through appropriate manners.

NATIONAL FIREFIGHTERS MEMORIAL DAY

SPEECH OF

HON. CANDICE S. MILLER

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 28, 2009

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H. Res. 729, to designate a National Firefighters Memorial Day to honor the courage, bravery, service and sacrifice of the Firefighters of the United States.

Firefighters are the backbone of our communities. Of the 1,000,000 firefighters in America, 71 percent are volunteer firefighters. They are often the first to respond to an emergency, whether the emergency is a fire, transportation accident, natural disaster, act of terrorism, medical emergency, or spill of hazardous materials. These great men and women respond to nearly 2 million calls each year without hesitation. They have an unwavering dedication to protecting those that are in distress.

First responders are often under-appreciated and taken for granted until crisis strikes and the public reaches out for help and rescue. Against all common sense and natural instinct, firefighters rush to the scene of an emergency and into harm's way without the slightest hesitation. While our natural instinct is to run away from the fire—our fire fighters are running in.

Without the promise of any fame, fortune, or so much as a simple "thank-you", firefighters remain constantly vigilant and ready to serve.

On that horrendous September day in 2001, we lost 343 firefighters in the line of duty.

In responding to approximately 1.6 million fires set each year, we see our firefighters rushing to the scene saving countless lives and sometimes giving theirs in return.

I know sometimes younger people idolize professional athletes and cheer for their favorite sports teams. And the same could be said for some adults too. But if you really want to see true teamwork search no further than your local fire station. It is here where men and women work together and count on each other to protect lives. Their service demonstrates courage, camaraderie, and bravery.

It is time that we honor those men and women who have given their lives and those that were disabled in the line of duty. I urge the President to designate a day as National Firefighters Memorial Day and I urge my colleagues to support this very important legislation.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DEVIN NUNES

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 2, 2009

Mr. NUNES. Madam Speaker, on the legislative day of Thursday, October 29, 2009, I was unavoidably detained and was unable to cast a vote on a number of rollcall votes. Had I been present, I would have voted: rollcall 823—"nay"; rollcall 824—"nay"; rollcall 825—"yea"; rollcall 826—"nay"; rollcall 827—"yea"; rollcall 828—"aye"; rollcall 829—"aye"; rollcall 830—"yea"; rollcall 831—"yea."

18TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE EN- THRONEMENT OF ECUMENICAL PATRIARCH BARTHOLOMEW

HON. JOHN P. SARBANES

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 2, 2009

Mr. SARBANES. Madam Speaker, today, November the 2nd, marks the 18th anniversary of the enthronement of Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew, who as the first among equals, presides over a spiritual communion of self-governing churches that represent 300 million Orthodox Christians from around the world. Throughout the eighteen years of his ecumenical ministry, Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew has asked all of us to act with sensitivity and understanding towards our brethren and towards our natural environment.

When the Iron Curtain came down, His All Holiness provided spiritual and moral support to those traditionally Orthodox countries that suffered religious persecution under the yoke of communism. And after years of historical tension, Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew and Pope John Paul II earnestly pursued upon the reconciliation of the Roman Catholic and Orthodox Christian Churches.

In 1997, recognizing Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew's robust activity and positive influences upon the world, this House awarded him with the Congressional Gold Medal. And when our country was attacked in New York and in Washington, His All Holiness assembled a group of international religious leaders

to produce the first joint statement with Muslim leaders that condemned the 9/11 attacks as "anti-religious."

Although His All Holiness speaks English, French, German, Greek, Italian, Latin and Turkish, he is more widely known for his efforts at promoting interfaith dialogue. As a Christian leader of global significance who is domiciled in a country with a population that is 99 percent Muslim, Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew's everyday life experience gives him a unique, mature and realistic perspective for engaging in this interfaith dialogue. And it is from these everyday life experiences that the moral timber of His All Holiness shines brightest, where even in the face of Turkish government sanctioned discrimination, oppression and outright physically threatening provocations, he steadfastly remains committed to interfaith conciliation, and supports peace-makers of all religions and stands firm upon his conviction that war in the name of religion is war against religion.

Beyond urging humanity to seek peace in fraternal harmony, Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew has more than any other religious leader promoted the spiritual dimension of environmentalism. In 2008, Time Magazine named Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew to its list of the world's 100 most influential people, where the Archbishop of Canterbury Rowan Williams acknowledged that "This brave and visionary pastor has given a completely new sense to the ancient honorific [Ecumenical Patriarch]; his work puts squarely on our agenda the question of how we express spiritual responsibility for the world we live in."

For his unparalleled spiritual commitment to the natural environment, His All Holiness has been dubbed the "Green Patriarch." The Green Patriarch has challenged people of faith to acknowledge that ecological questions are spiritual matters of concern for all humanity and that "a world in which God the Creator uses the material stuff of the universe to communicate who he is and what he wants is one that demands reverence from human beings."

Just last week, His All Holiness presided over the Religion, Science and the Environment Symposium entitled Restoring Balance: The Great Mississippi River, and just last night, His All Holiness arrived at Andrews Air Force Base for a weeklong visit to our Capitol city. I offer my congratulations to His All Holiness for his good deeds in the pursuit of interfaith peace and reconciliation, for his concern with our natural environment and for his activism that has brought him to the shores of America to help draw attention to the need to restore our environment, such as the need to restore to health the great Mississippi River.

It is a wonderful honor that His All Holiness is here in America upon the day of the 18th anniversary of his enthronement as Ecumenical Patriarch during his visit to our country.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 2, 2009

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Madam Speaker, on rollcall No. 831, on a Motion to Suspend the Rules and Agree to "Expressing support for designation of a 'National Firefighters Memo-

rial Day' to honor and celebrate the firefighters of the United States." Had I been present, I would have voted "aye."

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 2996, DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, ENVIRONMENT, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2010

SPEECH OF

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 29, 2009

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of this FY 10 Interior-Environment Conference Report and the key investments it makes to clean up our water, improve our national parks, combat climate change and promote the arts.

In order to remedy the previous administration's underinvestment in our Nation's water infrastructure, this legislation provides \$2.1 billion for the Clean Water State Revolving Fund and \$1.38 billion for the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund. These investments will go a long way toward modernizing our aging wastewater systems and delivering safe drinking water to all of our citizens.

Additionally, I am pleased that today's conference report contains \$2.7 billion for our national parks. In addition to sustaining ongoing park operations, this funding will help the National Park Service continue to upgrade our parks ahead of the Service's 2016 centennial celebration.

As Congress works to finalize comprehensive clean energy and climate change legislation, this bill invests \$385 million in climate change research and abatement, including \$17 million to continue development of a Greenhouse Gas Registry and \$51 million for EPA's Energy Star program.

Finally, this FY 10 Interior-Environment Conference report includes \$167.5 million for the National Endowment for the Arts and \$167.5 million for the National Endowment of the Humanities to foster excellence and greater access to our Nation's cultural heritage.

Madam Speaker, in addition to these national priorities, I am particularly gratified that this legislation includes \$50 million in core funding for the Environmental Protection Agency's Chesapeake Bay program, and \$750,000 for the city of Rockville to rehabilitate its sanitary sewer system. This is important, fiscally responsible legislation, and I urge my colleagues' support.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 2, 2009

Mr. LATHAM. Madam Speaker, pursuant to the House Republican standards on earmarks, I am submitting the following information.

Bill Number: H.R. 3183—Energy and Water Development and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2010.

Project Name: Winnebago River, Mason City, Ia.

Amount Provided: Not Stipulated
Account: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers—Section 205
Recipient: Rock Island Illinois Corps Office/Mason City, Iowa
Recipient's Street Address: Clock Tower Bldg., Rodman Ave, Rock Island, IL 61201
Description: Continuation of authorized activities.

This project is related to mitigating recurring flood problems in Iowa, and provides for continuation of flood control strategies being undertaken by the Corps.

RECOGNIZING LIBERTY ISD STAFF FOR EXCEPTIONAL SERVICE

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 2, 2009

Mr. POE of Texas. Madam Speaker, those who educate our children today, shape the leaders of tomorrow. I rise today to recognize six outstanding staff members of the Liberty Independent School District for their outstanding commitment to education.

Dottie Barrier—Business Secretary, Robby Fontenot—Social Studies Teacher and Coach, Margaret Lee—Chief Financial Officer for LISD, Mike Tabors—Custodian, Abbey Turner—Math Teacher, and Melissa Zalesak—Math Computer Lab Teacher were awarded the district's 212-degree medal in honor of their service and dedication to Liberty schools.

The philosophy of the 212-degree medal was best explained by Principal Bruce Lacefield, "At 211 degrees, water is very hot. At 212 degrees, water begins to boil. By applying that one extra degree so much more can be accomplished. Never give up. Just try a little harder."

These six 212-degree medal recipients work tirelessly to improve the lives of their students and fellow faculty. Their willingness to go the extra mile makes them outstanding examples and I commend them for their efforts and congratulate them on their achievement.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. J. RANDY FORBES

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 2, 2009

Mr. FORBES. Madam Speaker, pursuant to the Republican Leadership standards on earmarks, I am submitting the following information regarding earmarks I received as part of H.R. 3183, the Energy and Water Development and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2010.

Requesting Member: Congressman J. RANDY FORBES

Bill Number: H.R. 3183

Account: Army Corps of Engineers, Investigations

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Army Corps of Engineers

Address of Requesting Entity: 803 Front Street, Norfolk, VA 23510

Description of Request: Provides \$70,000 to conduct a feasibility study to address flooding concerns and environmental restoration. The

Dismal Swamp is maintained as a swamp by fixed weirs across the drainage ditches to restrict the flow of water out of the swamp and inward to Lake Drummond in the middle of the Dismal Swamp. The water exiting Lake Drummond through a feeder ditch is used to maintain the level of water in the Dismal Swamp Canal, a portion of the Atlantic Intracoastal Waterway. When Lake Drummond spilled from its banks due to heavy rains, it inundated areas of the city. The public perceives that the Corps may have prevented or minimized the flooding by diverting the floodwaters from Lake Drummond through the navigation locks at Deep Creek, Virginia, and at South Mills, North Carolina.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. K. MICHAEL CONAWAY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 2, 2009

Mr. CONAWAY. Madam Speaker, on rollcall No. 829—Motion to recommit H.R. 3854, had I been present, I would have voted “yea.”

NATIONAL METASTATIC BREAST
CANCER AWARENESS DAY

SPEECH OF

HON. JOHN B. LARSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 28, 2009

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of House Resolution 787 designating October 13th as National Metastatic Breast Cancer Awareness Day.

At a health care public forum I held in my district on October 25th, I had the great pleasure of meeting a woman of true inspiration.

Kristen Martinez of Colebrook, at the age of 31, was diagnosed with Stage 4 metastatic breast cancer. She had no idea the severe back pains and chronic fatigue were clear symptoms of cancer, but they were signs the cancer spread to her bones. As she stated, she was forced to face her own mortality as diagnosis touched her life during a time when she “was on top of the world.”

Kristen, like many women living with metastatic breast cancer, has faced a constant cycle of switching from different treatment methods. In her own words, Kristen said “living with metastatic breast cancer has been a journey filled with every emotion one could imagine.” But as a testament to her own personal strength, she has faced the illness head-on.

She has become an advocate on behalf of young woman across our nation living with breast cancer. As an active member of the Metastatic Breast Cancer Network, Young Survival Coalition, a graduate of the National Breast Cancer Coalition’s Project Lead and a volunteer patient advocate for breast cancer survivors, Kristen has provided motivation and encouragement for fellow women facing this debilitating disease.

In her own right, she has emerged from this battle as a stronger woman, devoted to giving back to her community and the young women of our nation. I am proud to co-sponsor this

resolution with my good friend Representative ROSA DELAURO, on behalf of Kristen Martinez and over 155,000 women and men who are presently living with metastatic breast cancer.

CELEBRATION OF MRS. MAGGIE
KATIE BROWN KIDD’S 105TH
BIRTHDAY

HON. DAVID SCOTT

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 2, 2009

Mr. SCOTT of Georgia. Madam Speaker, as the Proverb states, “Who can find a virtuous woman? For her price is far above rubies.” I rise today to recognize a truly virtuous woman whose life is not only far above rubies, but one of great milestones and accomplishments that is worthy of celebration. On November 27th of this year, Mrs. Maggie Katie Brown Kidd will turn 105 years old and I am honored to serve as a spokesman for Mrs. Kidd’s family members and friends who will recognize her birthday with a party in her honor.

Born during President Theodore Roosevelt’s second term in office, Mrs. Kidd has been blessed to see 17 Presidents in her lifetime. The eleventh and youngest child of William and Lucy Brown, Mrs. Kidd learned the importance of hard work and faith in God at an early age. Baptized at the Mount Zion Baptist Church by the Reverend Henry Gresham, she served under the leadership of the Reverend W.M. Combs until she moved to her current home in Atlanta Ga. However, her faith is her Lord and her dedication to the church never left her and she instilled the traditions of faith and her work in her own family. She married the late Willie Kidd, III on November 30, 1940, and together they raised their two children, John and Rosalyn. She is also the proud grandmother to four and the great-grandmother to three and serves as the matriarch of her loving family.

Mrs. Kidd’s family describes her as a loving and selfless member of her community, offering her time and whatever she has to those in need. She is also an avid quilter and participates in family gatherings and activities outside of Georgia. Her most favorite moments, however, are the ones on a quiet afternoon stitching in her favorite chair.

Madam Speaker, I am so honored to serve as Mrs. Kidd’s representative. Her life is a living history of the times and events that have shaped our great land and is a monument to how far we’ve come as a nation. Moreover, her life serves as a testament to individuals and families everywhere that a strong unbinding faith in the Lord, coupled with hard work and a dedication to family will carry you far in life. As the Proverb states, “favour is deceitful, and beauty is vain: but a woman that feareth the LORD, she shall be praised”. Mrs. Maggie Katie Brown Kidd truly embodies the example of a virtuous woman and I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing her life by wishing her a very happy 105th birthday.

TRIBUTE TO DR. GAINES
PARTRIDGE

HON. PARKER GRIFFITH

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 2, 2009

Mr. GRIFFITH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Dr. Gaines Roland Partridge. Dr. Partridge had a rewarding career in education that spanned over five decades. The scope of his accomplishments and contributions transcended every level of academia in various capacities, as he served our community as a teacher, principal, Dean, Professor, Department Chair and, in retirement, a student liaison.

Dr. Partridge’s rich legacy was as impressive as it varied. His relationship with and influence on students continues. Few individuals can measure the impact of their accomplishments in such significant numbers. As a result of his passionate advocacy on behalf of minority applicants to Loma Linda University, nearly 800 African American students have become alumni of the institution during his tenure.

Affectionately referred to as “Doc,” Dr. Partridge was steadfast to the cause of self-determination in the Seventh-Day Adventist Church. He provided leadership in the fight to determine the pace, direction, and outcome of their efforts to establish and implement ministry priorities.

Madam Speaker, I wish to recognize Dr. Gaines Partridge on a phenomenal life as educator. His legacy will continue to empower students for years to come.

SMALL BUSINESS FINANCING AND
INVESTMENT ACT OF 2009

SPEECH OF

HON. DAVID WU

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 29, 2009

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 3854) to amend the Small Business Act and the Small Business Investment Act of 1958 to improve programs providing access to capital under such Acts, and for other purposes:

Mr. WU. Mr. Chair, I rise today in support of H.R. 3854, the Small Business Financing and Investment Act.

I also want to thank my colleague from Oregon, Congressman KURT SCHRADER, for bringing this important bill to the floor.

H.R. 3854 will create incentives for small business lending, reduce bureaucracy, and increase the size of SBA loans in order to help loosen credit and get capital flowing again to small businesses.

Furthermore, H.R. 3854 addresses an important issue tied to health care reform, the cost of health information technology for small practice providers. These provisions were part of Congresswoman DAHLKEMPER’s Small Business Health Information Technology Financing Act.

This bill will streamline loan processing for health information technology by reducing paperwork for both the lender and applicant, and require a 72-hour response time by SBA on

decisions to guaranty loans. Under the bill, health information technology loans will be guaranteed 90 percent by the SBA, a factor that will encourage robust lender participation in the program.

Health IT has the potential to reduce costs and medical errors, while encouraging greater efficiency. It will be an essential component of our efforts to reform health care.

However, to use health IT most effectively, we must first address three barriers to its widespread adoption: technical standards and interoperability, workforce training, and the realignment of financial incentives.

This bill can help to address a part of the third, which involves the cost of implementation.

I have long believed that we should continue to look at ways that we can create more incentives for small practice doctors to adopt health information technology. It's important to note that 80 percent of all outpatient visits take place in practices with 10 or fewer doctors. It is essential that these practices receive the assistance they need in order to be able to implement health IT.

The larger barrier to health IT adoption is that its associated costs and benefits are not realized equally between health care providers and payors. The financial benefit of health IT accrues to the payor—the insurer—while providers are the parties most likely to bear the cost.

The challenges of implementing health IT vary greatly from large health systems to smaller medical practices. Small medical practices, which may have to incur initial costs of up to \$200,000—around \$40,000 per physician—for a system, may see little, if any, financial benefit from its applications. It's no wonder health IT has a deployment rate of less than 20 percent in these offices.

I have been working with the Education and Labor Committee and leadership to address this issue in health care reform moving forward.

H.R. 3854 will provide financial assistance to these small practices, and I wholeheartedly support this legislation.

SUPPORTING THE GOALS AND IDEAS OF THE THIRD ANNUAL BLOOD MANAGEMENT AWARENESS WEEK

HON. STEVEN R. ROTHMAN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 2, 2009

Mr. ROTHMAN of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, I rise today to mark the beginning of the third annual Blood Management Awareness Week. November 2nd through November 6th has been designated as Blood Management Awareness Week by the Society for the Advancement of Blood Management. This event is dedicated to educating patients and healthcare workers about blood management and blood issues.

Blood management is the appropriate provision and use of blood and its components and derivatives, and strategies to reduce or avoid the need for a blood transfusion. Optimal patient blood management employs technology and techniques to decrease blood loss and to enhance blood cell production. It reduces risks

and costs associated with blood transfusion through transfusion-free medical and surgical techniques.

I would also like to recognize the important work of Englewood Hospital and Medical Center, which is located in my congressional district, to further the goals and ideals of this important event. The Hospital's Institute for Patient Blood Management and Bloodless Medicine and Surgery is a world-renowned leader in patient blood management. I commend the physicians of the Institute for their commitment to improving patient outcomes and educating the medical community about best practices in blood management.

RECOGNIZING FAYE SCHNEIDEWIND FOR 50 YEARS OF SERVICE TO JERRY'S DRIVE-IN

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 2, 2009

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Ms. Faye Schneidewind upon the occasion of her 50th year of loyal service to Jerry's Drive-In, a Pensacola, Florida, landmark. Miss Faye is an intimate part of the fabric of our northwest Florida community, and I am proud to recognize her on this achievement.

Faye Schneidewind grew up in Pensacola and still lives only a few blocks from Jerry's. The 80-year-old great-grandmother started working as a waitress at the diner when she was just 21. After a few years away, Miss Faye returned to Jerry's on November 5, 1959, her sister's birthday. She has been serving the customers at Jerry's ever since. Miss Faye knows just about everyone who walks through the doors at Jerry's, and always provides a warm smile, a hot meal, and good conversation. She is as much a part of the history of Jerry's as memorabilia stretching across its walls.

Jerry's Drive-In is a truly family restaurant. Originally named Jerry's Barbeque, Jerry's Drive-In was opened by Jerry Glass in 1939. Raymond "Grandpa" Wessel purchased the restaurant in the early 1950's with his son Bill. The Wessels lived in an apartment above the restaurant. Even after the restaurant was sold, Mr. Wessel continued to maintain his residence above Jerry's. Robert, Jimmy, and Pam Halstead bought Jerry's in 1997 and have continued its tradition of great food and great service.

Madam Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, I am honored to recognize Faye Schneidewind on 50 years of dedicated service to Jerry's Drive-In. She is and always will be an invaluable part of our Pensacola heritage. My wife Vicki and I wish Miss Faye, her daughter, her two granddaughters, her nine grandchildren, and her entire extended family at Jerry's all the best for continued success.

RECOGNIZING HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH

SPEECH OF

HON. BETTY SUTTON

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 28, 2009

Ms. SUTTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H. Res. 783 to recognize Hispanic Heritage Month. This resolution celebrates the vast contributions that Hispanic-Americans have made to the history, values and culture of our great nation.

Since the arrival of the earliest Spanish settlers more than 400 years ago, millions of Hispanic men and women have come to the U.S. from Europe, Central and South America, Puerto Rico and Cuba in search of freedom, peace and opportunity.

Their commitment to these American principles has contributed immensely to the prosperity and cultural development of our nation.

With a population totaling 47.5 million, Hispanics represent the fastest-growing ethnic group in America.

According to a 2000 U.S. Census Bureau report, three of the top 10 counties with the highest Hispanic population in the country lie at least partly within Ohio's 13th District.

More than 24,000 Hispanics and Latinos reside in my district, representing nearly 4 percent of the population. In the city of Lorain, Hispanics make up 20 percent of the population.

And, like all Americans today, Latinos remain focused on the economy and its recovery.

Hispanic-Americans in my district are supported by community centered organizations, such as El Centro de Servicios Sociales.

Located in the City of Lorain, El Centro is a Hispanic-Latino non-profit advocacy organization. It works to provide social, educational, cultural and development services that are essential to members of our communities.

Our country's success rests on the longstanding ideal that anyone—regardless of ethnicity, gender, race or religion—can achieve the American dream.

With Hispanic culture rooted deeply in my district, I am proud to celebrate the contributions and heritage of our country's Hispanic community. And, it is my honor to serve Hispanic Americans as a member of Congress.

RECOGNIZING ARTE MORENO, RECIPIENT OF THE 2009 GUIDING LIGHT PHILANTHROPY AWARD

HON. HARRY E. MITCHELL

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 2, 2009

Mr. MITCHELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Arte Moreno, who has been honored by the Tempe Community Council with this year's Guiding Light Philanthropy Award. The Tempe Community Council seeks to recognize individuals who have a direct impact on the success of Tempe programs and services through generous financial support, and Arte's contributions to the community have been outstanding.

As a lifelong resident and former mayor of Tempe, I am incredibly proud of Arte's incredibly generous gift to the Tempe Community

Foundation, which will create positive and dramatic impacts now and for generations to come. Arte is also the founder of the Moreno Family Foundation, which is dedicated to supporting non-profit organizations in the area. Through the foundation, Arte has made significant contributions to many notable organizations, such as the American Heart Association, the Heard Museum, the Society of St. Vincent De Paul to name only a few. In addition to Arte's inspiring philanthropic efforts, he has become a towering figure in the world of sports as the owner of the Los Angeles Angels of Anaheim baseball team, which conducts its spring training in Tempe, and which has won the American League Western Division championship in 2004, 2005, 2007, 2008, and 2009.

Through the kind gifts of Arte Moreno, Tempe is a more prosperous and successful city to benefit all of its residents.

Madam Speaker, I hope you will join me in recognizing Arte's remarkable benevolence and goodwill towards his community.

MERRILLVILLE ROTARY CLUB

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 2, 2009

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Madam Speaker, Wednesday, November 11, 2009, marks the observance of Veterans Day, a day in which we, as a grateful nation, honor our veterans, who have pledged allegiance to their country through their service in the United States military. This day is set aside to recognize the boldness and bravery of those who have fought to uphold the standards of democracy and to defend the United States of America.

On Veterans Day, in cities and towns across America, proud citizens will pay tribute to our esteemed veterans with ceremonies, presentations, and programs to show their gratitude to those who have sacrificed so much. I would like to take this time to recognize one such event hosted by the Merrillville, Indiana, Rotary Club. On Veterans Day, the Merrillville branch of Rotary International will host an event at the Radisson Hotel at Star Plaza in Merrillville, celebrating the patriotism and pride of all veterans, while paying special tribute to 11 members of their club who served their country in the United States military and continue to serve their community as loyal Rotarians.

Founded in Chicago in 1905 as the Rotary Club of Chicago, Rotary International is the world's first service club. A global organization, Rotary now boasts more than 33,000 clubs in over 200 countries, with a membership of more than 1.2 million. At the core of Rotary International is a commitment to "providing humanitarian service, encouraging high ethical standards in all vocations, and helping to build goodwill and peace in the world." The Merrillville Rotary Club, through its commitment to improving educational opportunities for students, as well as the active role its members have taken in creating youth-oriented programs, is a true source of pride in Northwest Indiana, so it is with great pride that I join them in honoring eleven members who have selflessly served their country to preserve our freedom.

Please join me in recognizing: Dean Sangalis—Major General, United States Marine Corps, Robert Andree—Lieutenant Colonel, United States Army, Al Kuchar—Major, United States Army, Tony Fileff—First Lieutenant, United States Marine Corps, Juan Arroyo—Sergeant, United States Air Force, Ray Bryant—Sergeant, United States Army, Jerry Bernstein—Sergeant, United States Army, James Keough—First Lieutenant, United States Army Corps of Engineers, Gary Maxwell—Petty Officer First Class, United States Navy, Ray Snemis—Petty Officer Second Class, United States Navy, and Ed Dernule—Petty Officer Third Class, United States Navy Reserve.

The great sacrifice made by these men and all those who have served our country has resulted in the freedom and prosperity of our country and of countries around the world. I commend these men and all veterans who have served this country for their bravery, courage, and undying commitment to patriotism and democracy. We will forever be indebted to our veterans and their families for the sacrifices they made so that we can enjoy our freedom.

Madam Speaker, I ask that you and my other colleagues join me in thanking the Merrillville Rotary Club for taking this opportunity to honor their veterans and in saluting these 11 men, and all veterans, who have fought for our great country.

HONORING THE 56TH BRIGADE (STRYKER) AND 2-112TH INFANTRY BATTALION (STRYKER)

HON. BILL SHUSTER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 2, 2009

Mr. SHUSTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the troops of the Second of the 112th Infantry Battalion (Stryker), 56th Stryker Brigade, 28th Infantry Division, Pennsylvania Army National Guard that was deployed and participated in Operation Iraqi Freedom.

The 56th Brigade (Stryker) and 2-112th Infantry Battalion (Stryker) is the only reserve component selected to be a Stryker unit. Headquartered out of Lewistown, Pennsylvania, and based at Camp Liberty in Iraq, the brave soldiers of this Stryker unit went into the hostile Abu Ghraib sector of Iraq with approximately 800 soldiers. Company A hails from the Huntingdon-Everett area, Company B is comprised of soldiers from Altoona, and the Tyrone-Bellefonte area makes up Company C. These brave American heroes were a part of the particularly successful Stryker Task Force Paxton that conducted lethal terrorist operations against Al Qaeda and the insurgent forces. The 2-112th Infantry Battalion (Stryker) accomplished the most active and successful time sensitive enemy targeting in the highly contested Baghdad region of Iraq while suppressing the instability.

Not only have these brave men and women put their lives on the line for the peace and prosperity of our nation, but they also contributed to the betterment of another. The 2-112th Infantry Battalion (Stryker) participated in operations which improved the human and physical infrastructure of Iraq to include its economic capacity and schools. Madam

Speaker I would like to extend to these brave soldiers my most sincere personal thanks for their honorable service to our nation. They have helped maintain our security through some of our country's most trying times, as we adapt to unconventional threats. I know that my words reflect the feelings of all citizens of our Nation when I say that these men and women are true American heroes.

NATIONAL FIREFIGHTERS MEMORIAL DAY

SPEECH OF

HON. MIKE QUIGLEY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 28, 2009

Mr. QUIGLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak in support of designating a National Firefighters Memorial Day. The dedicated men and women who have lost their lives in the line of duty will never be forgotten and I express my deepest gratitude for the brave work they did protecting their communities.

Firefighters are the ones running into a burning building when everyone else is running out. The sacrifices they and their families make on a daily basis are as incredible as they are honorable. These men and women embody the spirit, commitment and sacrifice that define America.

The images of firefighters on September 11, 2001 left an indelible mark on all Americans. We saw firefighters entering flaming buildings, putting others' lives ahead of their own, and standing tall when they were needed most. Their courage continues to both haunt and inspire us.

But we must remember that everyday firefighters across the country are still performing heroic acts and saving lives. Since 2006, 313 firefighters have died on the job. And every year, another 40,000 are injured. Firefighters are constantly called on to put themselves in harm's way and those that are no longer with us deserve to be recognized and celebrated.

I want to thank Representative POE for bringing House Resolution 729 to the Floor and urge the rest of my colleagues to join me in designating a National Firefighters Memorial Day to commemorate the lives of our fallen firefighters.

RECOGNIZING THE WORK OF LARRY METZGER

HON. PATRICK J. TIBERI

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 2, 2009

Mr. TIBERI. Madam Speaker, with great pleasure I rise to recognize the distinguished career of the CEO of the Columbus Board of Realtors, Larry Metzger.

Since World War II, homeownership has been at the root of America's vitality and growth. Where homeownership flourishes neighborhoods prosper, as residents are more civic-minded, schools stronger and streets safer. The spread of ownership and opportunity helps give us a vital stake in the future of America and the chance to realize the great

promise of our country. At the core of this promise is the industry which helps make this dream a possibility. Realtors serve a vital role in the healthy propagation of homeownership; therefore, those who contribute to the furtherance of this profession are deserving of our thanks and recognition.

For over two decades, Larry Metzger has led the Columbus Board of Realtors with distinction as its chief executive officer. Dedicating his career to his fellow realtors, Larry has built a tremendous reputation as a tireless advocate of his profession. His unparalleled leadership and passion for the benefits of homeownership helped maintain the realtor profession's role in the tremendous growth of central Ohio, playing an irreplaceable part in the furtherance of the American Dream for thousands.

Through commendable love of his community and fidelity to his craft, Larry stands as a pillar in the central Ohio region. Therefore, I am very pleased to thank him for all he has done for Ohio.

As a former realtor, I am especially pleased to recognize Larry Metzger for his service to central Ohio and the realty community.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. K. MICHAEL CONAWAY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 2, 2009

Mr. CONAWAY. Madam Speaker, on rollcall No. 831, H. Res. 729, had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

CELEBRATING NATIONAL BIBLE WEEK NOVEMBER 22ND TO 29TH, 2009

HON. HEATH SHULER

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 2, 2009

Mr. SHULER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate National Bible Week and encourage my colleagues to join me in commemorating this important week. I am honored to serve as a Congressional Co-Chair for National Bible Week, taking place from November 22nd to 29th this year. As we gather with family and friends to enjoy the Thanksgiving Holiday, we should also take time to celebrate the Holy Book which guides the lives of so many and has fundamentally shaped our great nation's history. We read in Proverbs 3:6 "think about Him in all your ways and He will guide you on the right paths."

From the earliest American settlers onward, the Bible has played a pivotal role in the shaping of our nation. Throughout our history, many of our great leaders have turned to the Bible for direction and consolation. We are blessed to live in the United States where we may worship as we please, with the freedom to rejoice in the teachings of the Holy Bible without fear of persecution.

The Bible provides important guidance and comfort in our daily lives, and it teaches the moral code that many of us live by. Our nation's ideological foundations of justice, equality, and service reflect the guiding principles of

the Bible. The teachings of the Holy Bible continue to guide many of us as we govern.

Madam Speaker, as we celebrate National Bible Week, we remember the importance of our faith, in both our public and private lives. The National Bible Association is to be commended for their work inspiring interest in the teachings of the Holy Bible and God's Word. I encourage everyone to read and seek comfort in the Bible, during this week, and thereafter.

HONORING EDWARD F. NEWMAN

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 2, 2009

Mr. FARR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to my friend Edward F. Newman, who recently died at age 85, for an inspiring life that promoted peace and social justice. He was a well-known and much loved Santa Cruzan.

Following high school he attended the School of Engineering at the University of California Berkeley before joining the Navy to serve in World War II. As a young enlisted man, he organized a brave challenge to the status quo, resulting in dismissal of a corrupt procurement officer. This experience taught him, at an early age, that even one person can make a difference in this world. He earned a law degree from U.C. Berkeley in 1951, and used his skills as an accomplished writer, speaker, and advocate, to stand up for justice and common people.

Ed actively promoted the causes of peace and social justice throughout his life. He vigorously opposed the Vietnam war and the invasion of Iraq. He served as president of the Castro Valley Democratic Club, and later founded and served as president of the People's Democratic Club of Santa Cruz County. He campaigned to protect the environment, abolish the death penalty, protect civil rights, women's rights, gay rights, and all human rights. As a veteran, he became active in the Santa Cruz County Chapter of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, leading the chapter to advocate for peace, and to oppose expansion of the military-industrial complex. With intelligence and humor, he exposed political hypocrisy, writing countless letters to the editor, and contributing columns to newspapers.

As an attorney, Ed Newman championed causes of the underdog, handling numerous pro bono matters to protect fundamental rights. He defended ordinary citizens in proceedings by the House Un-American Activities Committee, and took cases for the American Civil Liberties Union. In the 1980s, he took a pro bono case to challenge gender discrimination, resulting in the court decision which transformed the Santa Cruz Boys Club into the Santa Cruz Boys and Girls Club. He was president of the Santa Cruz County Bar Association in 1985. He was also a leader in the Starr King Unitarian Church, and he served as committee chair and president of the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Santa Cruz County.

As a civic leader and activist, Ed Newman inspired his community with his eloquence, intelligence, and tireless advocacy for justice. To his family and friends, Ed was known for his kindness, his wisdom, his outstanding cooking,

and his wonderful sense of humor. With his wife Carol, he raised five children, all of whom graduated from U.C. Santa Cruz before obtaining advanced degrees in Library Science, Particle Physics, Medicine, Literature, and Law. He is survived by his wife Carol, with whom he recently celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary, as well as his sister, five children, and ten grandchildren.

Madam Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, I would like to express the gratitude of the whole House to Edward Newman for his legacy of courage, honesty, and love, inspiring us all to work for a better world. He will be sorely missed.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 2, 2009

Ms. LEE of California. Madam Speaker, on Thursday, October 29, I missed rollcall vote No. 831 on H. Res. 729, expressing support for designation of a "National Firefighters Memorial Day" to honor and celebrate the firefighters of the United States. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye" on this rollcall vote.

NATIONAL PRINCIPALS MONTH

HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 2, 2009

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of this resolution designating October 2009 as "National Principals Month."

School leadership is important in ensuring that every child has access to a high-quality education. I want to take this time to thank elementary, middle, and secondary school principals for their dedication and hard work in helping to make the schools in Minnesota's Fourth District a wonderful place to learn and grow.

Principals do more than just manage the budget, discipline students, and improve student achievement. They serve as role models and are instrumental in their students' social development and ability to solve family problems. I am reminded of Ann Cassidy, my principal at Central Grade School in South Saint Paul. She was the first woman I encountered in a position of authority. As busy as Principal Cassidy was running a successful school, she always had time for her students. To this day, I remember her kind words and reassuring presence.

Madam Speaker, I missed the vote on this resolution because I was negotiating a solution to address inequities in Medicare reimbursement that negatively impacts Minnesota. If I were still in grade school, Principal Cassidy would have sat me down and told me, "Betty, it is good that you were taking care of your constituents but you must slow down and pay attention to what you are doing." Now this is always good advice whether you are a Member of Congress or an elementary school student.

TESTIMONY ON THE BOEING COMPANY'S 787 DREAMLINER ASSEMBLY LINE COMING TO CHARLESTON

HON. HENRY E. BROWN, JR.

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 2, 2009

Mr. BROWN of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, I rise today to proudly announce that the Boeing Company has chosen North Charleston, South Carolina, as the site of a second assembly line for their 787 Dreamliner.

This is historic and exciting news for the Lowcountry and I, along with the rest of the State, warmly welcome Boeing's expanded presence in our community and the bright future of employment and prosperity that they bring with them.

I was proud to be a part of this process and I sincerely congratulate the South Carolina delegation, our State legislators, State officials and all the other parties involved for their hard work and efforts in getting Boeing to North Charleston.

Finally, I would like to highlight the outstanding leadership of Boeing's CEO, Mr. James McNerney, Jr., an accomplished businessman and high caliber individual.

I thoroughly enjoyed working with him and I am honored to welcome Mr. McNerney and his wonderful company to the Palmetto State.

THE NEED FOR THE GREAT LAKES RESTORATION INITIATIVE

HON. DAVID R. OBEY

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 2, 2009

Mr. OBEY. Madam Speaker, I commend to my colleagues the enclosed article from the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel about the threat to the Great lakes from invasive species and the need for the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative passed by the house last week.

[From the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, Nov. 2, 2009]

15,000 REASONS TO WORRY ABOUT STATE'S LAKES

(By Dan Egan)

CRANDON.—A day at the beach in Wisconsin's North Woods didn't used to go like this.

Candy Dailey spent a Fourth of July holiday splashing with grandkids on the sandy shore of Lake Metonga when she felt a nasty sting on her foot.

She didn't need to look down to know the culprit was a zebra mussel—cuts from the razor-sharp shells have become as unremarkable as bee stings since the mussels invaded Dailey's lake eight years ago.

The natives of the Caspian Sea region first turned up in North America in the summer of 1988, thanks to overseas freighters' long-standing—and ongoing—practice of dumping their contaminated ballast water in the Great Lakes, which are now home to more than 185 non-native species.

None has wreaked more damage than the mussels, which feast on Great Lakes plankton and have cost the region billions of dollars in starved fish populations, beach-trashing algae blooms and plugged industrial and municipal water intake pipes.

Now, this ecological mess is spreading inland.

"The Great Lakes are just a beachhead for invasions that are going to play out in lakes across the country in the next century," says University of Wisconsin ecologist Jake Vander Zanden. "It's just the start."

Dailey is painfully aware of this.

"I'm a nurse, so I knew to make it bleed and wash it out," she says of the cut suffered from the molar-sized mussels. "I dried it off and taped it."

Trouble came in the middle of the night when she woke with a throbbing, swollen foot. By morning a tell-tale red streak was creeping up her leg. By sunset she was taking a broad-spectrum antibiotic.

Dailey recovered from the bacterial infection, but her holiday was over.

It's not the kind of story that makes a headline. It's just one infection from one cut. It's just one person swimming in one inland lake.

The problem is Wisconsin has more than 15,000 inland lakes.

REAL TROUBLE FOR REAL ESTATE

Politicians have tried for years to force overseas freighters to treat their ballast water—used to steady the ships—before discharging it at a Great Lakes port in exchange for cargo.

The shipping industry acknowledges the trouble it has pumped into the world's largest freshwater system, and its leaders profess a desire to do something about it.

Yet at the same time they have consistently fought regulations proposed by Great Lakes states to require freighters to install onboard ballast treatment systems, claiming they are impossibly stringent, expensive or inconsistent from state to state.

Members of Congress, meanwhile, have repeatedly vowed—and repeatedly failed—to craft an overarching national ballast law that is palatable to both the shipping industry and environmentalists.

The result is the door remains open to invasions, the most recent being the "bloody red shrimp" discovered in Lake Michigan in late 2006. There could well be others that have arrived since then; it can take years for populations to grow big enough to be noticed.

Biologists say the damage being done to the world's largest freshwater system cannot be overstated, but the problem has become bigger than the Great Lakes themselves. It's now clear the failure to slam the door on new Great Lakes invasions has consequences for everyday folks with cottages on inland lakes, places working-class people across the state like to claim as their favorite on earth.

"Where is the fun in playing on the shoreline anymore if our lakes are wall-to-wall zebra mussels?" asks Dailey. "Look at the money that we all pay in property taxes to live on a lake that is now not the lake that it used to be."

The potential economic impacts of this second-wave invasion could prove staggering.

Property on Forest County's Lake Metonga sells for an average of about \$1,200 a shoreline foot, and the lake has roughly 7 miles worth of it. That means a crude estimate of just this lake's shorefront value—not including any of the homes built on it—lands somewhere above \$44 million.

At the same time, one estimate of the annual savings associated with using overseas ships to haul cargo into the Great Lakes instead of transporting it via truck, train or barge is only \$55 million.

That's basically the real estate value of just one inland lake.

GLOBAL TROUBLE KNOCKS

People flock to places like the forested shores of Lake Metonga to get away from the rest of world.

It is an illusion.

Standing in front of about 400 shorefront property owners at the annual Wisconsin Lakes Convention in downtown Green Bay, University of Notre Dame professor David Lodge dimmed the lights and gave a pointed presentation last spring about the biological perils for a globe that has been stitched so tightly together by increasingly efficient transportation networks.

Lodge pulled up a slide showing the Great Lakes are directly connected to 12% of the world's ports. That means a mussel, fish or even virus picked up at a bustling global port in a place like Antwerp, Belgium, can arrive in a matter of days at the Green Bay docks just outside the doors of the conference center at which Lodge spoke.

Then Lodge showed a slide that revealed 99% of the world's ports are just two stops or fewer away from the Port of Green Bay, or any other commercial dock in the Great Lakes. This is not a theoretical problem; freighters are blamed for the arrival of nearly 60 new species since the St. Lawrence Seaway opened the Great Lakes to oceangoing vessels 50 years ago.

And spreading that misery inland like so many viruses are the fishing boats, Jet Skis and other pleasure craft rolling on trailers down the state highways that provide a 65 mph link between the Great Lakes and inland waters.

Wisconsin now has 120 inland waterways confirmed as infested with zebra mussels, though there is not a comprehensive annual survey of each lake so the actual number could be much higher.

Beyond slicing swimmers' feet, zebra mussels have been linked to inland lake outbreaks of blue-green algae that produce toxins that can kill an animal and can cause liver damage in humans.

This algae was a problem in state waters during the 1960s and '70s, but it faded with a ban on laundry detergents that contained the phosphorous that fed its blooms.

Now blue-green algae outbreaks are making a comeback, and scientists are pointing to zebra mussel infestations as a big reason.

The mussels encourage the blooms because they eat virtually every type of algae except for the blue-green algae. That gives the toxic algae a competitive advantage over its nutrient-rich cousins that have historically nourished the base of a lake's food chain.

Zebra mussels may also further promote these toxic blooms because their excrement fertilizes them.

Still, not every lake in Wisconsin is destined to become home to zebra mussels. Many, for example, don't contain enough mussel shell-building calcium. Biologist Vander Zanden's lab analyzed 923 lakes in northern Wisconsin's Vilas County and found 91 of them to be suitable habitat for zebra mussels. It's a completely different story in southeastern Wisconsin, where all but one of 334 analyzed can likely sustain zebra mussels.

But property owners on inland lakes have to worry about a lot more than just zebra mussels.

"If you want to know what's coming next, look at the species that are already in the Great Lakes," Lodge says.

And the problem doesn't stop at the state line; boat ramps around the country are launching more than just boats. Zebra mussels are widespread in the Mississippi River basin, and quagga mussels are now plugging pipes all the way out in California.

INVADERS ON THE WAY

The list of Great Lakes invaders that threaten inland waterways includes VHS, a viral disease spreading through the Great Lakes that can be lethal to dozens of fish species.

It also includes the quagga mussel, a slightly larger and harder cousin to the zebra mussel that has exploded across the bottom of Lake Michigan in the past few years. Scientists say they are swallowing the base of the food chain and that jeopardizes everything above it, including the prized salmon that drive much of the Great Lakes' billion-dollar recreational fishery.

Overseas freighters also brought to the Great Lakes the round goby, a bug-eyed fish that thrives on native species' fish eggs. Lake Michigan has lost more than 90% of its prey fish population since the arrival of invasive mussels, but the round goby is thriving, now accounting for about a fifth of the lake's prey fish.

Gobies were first found in the Great Lakes in 1990 and in recent years began gobbling their way up Great Lakes tributaries, in some cases as far as 30 miles inland. The fish have been found in more than one-third of the Lake Michigan tributaries sampled.

"They are marching inland, and there is a lot of habitat for them," says Vander Zanden.

Ballast water has also brought to the Great Lakes the spiny and fish hook water fleas, which are both hard for native fish to eat because of their namesake tails, and a rival when it comes to feasting on the microscopic critters at the bottom of the food chain.

Wisconsin's Department of Natural Resources has distributed more than \$10 million to communities to fight aquatic invasive species since 2003. Regardless, the list of new invaders is likely to grow.

The only protection the Great Lakes has at the moment from contaminated ballast water is a requirement that overseas ships bound for the Great Lakes flush their ballast tanks with mid-ocean saltwater to expel or kill any unwanted hitchhikers. It is a practice scientists say goes a long way—but not all the way—to reducing the risk of future invasions.

In January, the Environmental Protection Agency released a report that spotlighted 30 organisms that have yet to invade the Great Lakes but are medium to high-risk candidates to do so.

Twenty-five years ago, few in the Great Lakes region had even heard of a zebra mussel. The question now: What next is headed up the St. Lawrence Seaway?

"Until we control the ships, there will be lots of species nobody has ever heard of arriving on their doorsteps," says Anthony Ricciardi, an invasive species expert at Montreal's McGill University.

FRUSTRATIONS MOUNT

In 2008, organizers of the Pewaukee Triathlon had to cancel the swim portion of the event, which drew some 2,000 racers, because of plumes of blue-green algae. Nutrients flushed into the lake by heavy rains were a likely factor, but it didn't help that Pewaukee has also been infested with zebra mussels.

On a busy Sunday over Labor Day weekend, Pewaukee Lake bait shop owner John Laimon estimated there were about 200 trailered boats on the lake "coming from who knows where."

It's not lost on him that Lake Michigan boat ramps are just a half-hour away. He is flabbergasted that two decades after zebra mussels were discovered in Lake Michigan, the government has failed to turn off the invasive species spigot.

"We're the ones paying for the mistakes at the federal level, and there is nothing in the wind that is going to stop that," he says.

With little progress in Congress, the state of Wisconsin earlier this year tried to take matters into its own hands. It followed the

leads of other Great Lakes states such as Michigan, Minnesota and New York and proposed its own ballast regulations that would require ships to install onboard treatment systems.

Shipping industry advocates were not happy, particularly because Wisconsin's proposed standards, which mirror New York's, are much stricter than those of neighboring Minnesota.

They urged the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources to back off or adopt weaker regulations more in harmony with those of Minnesota, with which Wisconsin shares Duluth-Superior harbor. What's the point in stringently protecting just one side of a harbor, they asked.

Conservationists agreed. But they urged Minnesota to get as tough as Wisconsin was considering.

The shipping industry turned out in force at a public hearing on Wisconsin's proposal last spring, easily outnumbering those in favor of greater protections.

"In a time of national recession and a record state budget deficit, the last thing Wisconsin should do is impose a (ballast) permit that will: A) destroy jobs, B) reduce tax revenues and C) not result in any environmental benefits," said Andy Lisak, executive director of the Development Association that promotes business interests in Douglas County and the port city of Superior.

The DNR has been sitting on its proposal ever since.

And this has left bar-and-boat-launch owner Andy Cuppan "terrified" about what might be headed next down the interstate off-ramp and into his mussel-infested lake.

He and his business partner recently bought the Boathouse Bar and Grill on the shore of Upper Nemahbin Lake, which is literally just feet from the rumbling westbound lanes of I-94.

Cuppan mentions that earlier this summer he dared to take a shoeless swim and suffered several stinging mussel cuts.

More painful for him is the idea that not enough is being done to protect him from the big lake 30 miles to the east and from what's stewing in the water at ports across the globe.

"We can't do anything about what's here, but let's not let anything else in," he said. "Our livelihoods are at stake."

Of course this is just one guy, on one lake. The problem is Wisconsin has more than 15,000 of them.

HONORING COACH HARVEY JESSUP

HON. LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 2, 2009

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the posthumous induction of Harvey Jessup into the Athletic Hall of Fame of Western Connecticut State University. I never had the honor of knowing Mr. Jessup, but I do have the pleasure of having his daughter Debbie Jessup, a nurse midwife, working in my office as my health care policy advisor. Debbie recently shared news with us that her father was being honored for his work at the then-named Danbury State Teacher's College. It is a testament to Mr. Jessup that 50 years after their graduation, the Class of 1959 at Danbury State chose to nominate him for induction into the school's Athletic Hall of Fame. I was touched when

Debbie recounted stories of her father's athletic accomplishments, and more importantly, how he impacted the lives of his students and athletes. I am submitting to the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD the remarks Debbie made when she accepted the award on her father's behalf to share with my colleagues the story of Coach Jessup, and all his good works which prompted the Class of '59 to bestow this honor on him.

HALL OF FAME ACCEPTANCE

Thank you all for honoring my father—and our family—with this award. That my father would be remembered as a great coach and teacher almost a half century after leaving Danbury State Teacher's College is a remarkable tribute and very touching for those of us who loved him. But this award is particularly meaningful for me because it paints a picture of a man that I had been too young to know, and it gives some insight into the life and career that followed his years in Connecticut.

When I remember my father, it is always during the Tulane years when he was a Professor, Department Chair, and Assistant Athletic Director. Our family's lives were structured around the university calendar, campus activities, and my dad's teaching, recruiting and administrative responsibilities. Our home was always a haven for students and athletes who needed comforting, mentoring, or just a good home cooked meal.

During those years my dad was my greatest hero, and to me he always seemed larger than life. I lived in awe of his athleticism and his intelligence, of his ability to command a room with his words, and his gift for bringing out the talent in the least promising of students. He pushed me and everyone in his life to their greatest levels of achievement, but at the same time he always had amazing compassion and patience for anyone who was vulnerable. Although it has been 21 years since he left us, hardly a week goes by that I do not remember something that he taught me with his words or modeled with his life.

When I remember those years with my father at work I always recall a flock of female students vying for his attention, or an athlete needing his guidance, or a young teacher seeking his advice. Every homecoming I met alumni who told me of the impact he had had in their lives, and I have proud memories of honors and awards he received over the years. So truthfully his selection for an Athletic Hall of Fame award would not have been particularly surprising to me—if it had come from his Tulane years.

Instead this Hall of Fame award comes from a time that I hardly remember. And the nomination comes from a class of students and athletes who knew my father 50 years ago. I am honestly overwhelmed that the class of 1959 would remember my father's impact on their lives five decades after they graduated. It is extraordinary just in the amount of time that has passed, but even more so when you know something about the four years during which the Class of 1959 was taught and coached by my father. It is a story that I think is worth sharing, because I believe it is what makes this nomination and this award truly remarkable. I also believe that it presents an opportunity for one last lesson from your Coach and Teacher.

When this 50 year reunion class entered Danbury State Teachers College in the fall of 1955 my father was a young teacher and coach at the beginning of his career. Three years earlier he had married the love of his life, they had a two year old daughter (me) and a three month old baby girl. With a little home overlooking Candlewood Lake, he was living the American Dream.

During the four years that my father taught and coached this class of 1959, his entire world was shattered. His infant daughter (Doreen) was diagnosed with uncontrolled seizures and irreversible brain damage—his third child (Dolores) was born with Down syndrome—and we buried Doreen six months before her fourth birthday. My parents spoke very little of that time in their lives, and so it really wasn't until I had children of my own that I began to understand the magnitude of their struggles and their suffering.

Even in the best of circumstances, parenting three children under the age of five is exhausting and all-consuming. I've been there—and I am sure that many of you have also—and you know how much work and attention it takes. Most people in that situation who are faced with even one of the tragedies that my parents lived through would be lucky to simply survive emotionally. But somehow my father managed to remain the strength and the sunshine for his family during these four difficult years, while coaching three teams, teaching his classes, and mentoring a group of students who still remember his influence on their lives fifty years later.

Several years after coming to Tulane my father gave a commencement speech in which he described the core element of a great teacher or leader. "Moral courage," he said, "is standing still and saying—this is what I believe, that I will do and that I will not do, this is my code of behavior and that is outside it." I believe that the man I loved and admired my entire life found his moral courage during those four years with the Class of 1959. Perhaps that is the reason you still remember him fifty years later. Hopefully it was the core lesson that you took with you when you graduated.

My father's years of teaching and coaching were guided by the belief that the true mark of greatness for any coach or teacher is not found in his record of games won, or his list of publications—but rather is measured in the accomplishments of his students, or the athletes he coached. For that reason, I am certain that his greatest pleasure in this evening's award ceremony would be hearing the life stories of his former students. Your lives and your accomplishments are truly his Hall of Fame.

I know that my dad would have been particularly thrilled that he is being honored along side his student and athlete and lifetime friend, Teddy Smigala. I extend my congratulations to Teddy and to all the other awardees here tonight. And I thank all of you—not only for this honor that you have given my father, but especially for the insights and memories you have shared with our family.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. DON YOUNG

OF ALASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 2, 2009

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Madam Speaker, in adherence to the Republican Earmark Standards for the Coast Guard Authorization, H.R. 3619, I submit the following:

Requesting Member: Congressman DON YOUNG

Bill Number: H.R. 3619

Provision: Section 1307

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: USCG Cutter Storis Museum & Maritime Education Center, LLC

Address of Requesting Entity: 229 4th Street, Juneau, Alaska 99801

Description of Request: The Storis Museum is organized and established for the purpose of obtaining the USCG Cutter Storis from the government of the United States of America and establishing a non-profit museum in Alaska that will maintain the Storis in Alaska when the vessel is declared surplus. It is the intent of the Storis Museum to make the USCG Cutter Storis available to the public as a museum and to work cooperatively with other museums to provide education and memorialize the maritime heritage of the Storis and other maritime activities in Alaska, the Pacific Northwest, the Arctic Ocean and adjacent oceans and seas and such other lawful affairs allowed in Alaska.

Requesting Member: Congressman DON YOUNG

Bill Number: H.R. 3619

Provision: Section 1302

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Stabbert Maritime

Address of Requesting Entity: 2629 NW 54th Street, #W-201, Seattle, WA 98107

Description of Request: This provision would restore the coastwise privileges to the U.S.-built research ship, the Ocean Veritas, that was sold foreign in 1997 but now is in the process of being reflagged to the U.S. flag. The ship was built in 1974 by Halter Marine Fabricators, Gulfport, MS, which is also its homeport. However, unless this provision is enacted the vessel would be without coastwise privileges as a result of that prior sale to a foreign owner.

Requesting Member: Congressman DON YOUNG

Bill Number: H.R. 3619

Provision: 1302

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Alaska Industrial Develop. and Export Authority

Address of Requesting Entity: 813 West Northern Lights Blvd., Anchorage, AK 99503

Description of Request: This provision would restore the coastwise privileges to AK Ship and Drydock #2.

RECOGNIZING SANDRA BECKLEY

HON. VERN BUCHANAN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 2, 2009

Mr. BUCHANAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize a dedicated public servant, Sarasota National Cemetery Director Sandra Beckley, who will retire from 37 years of public service at the end of this year.

Ms. Beckley began her career with the U.S. Veterans' Administration in 1972 and has served as the Director of national cemeteries in Sarasota, Florida; Atlanta, Georgia; Pensacola, Florida; Mobile, Alabama; and Florence, South Carolina.

The veterans of Florida's Sun Coast, and their families, were fortunate that the VA appointed Sandra as Director of Sarasota National Cemetery on October 14, 2007. Since then, she has done an outstanding job overseeing the timely construction, dignified burial, and maintenance operations of this first-class facility.

She has worked extremely well with my office, the local veterans' community, and other stakeholders to ensure that veterans in the Sarasota-Bradenton area are memorialized

with the honor and respect that they deserve, close to home.

Madam Speaker, I have very much enjoyed having had the opportunity to work with Sandra and will miss her strong, candid, and caring leadership. While we will miss her in Sarasota-Bradenton, we wish her all of the very best in her retirement, which she has richly earned.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 2, 2009

Ms. WOOLSEY. Madam Speaker, on October 29, 2009, I was unavoidably detained and was unable to record my vote for rollcall No. 831. Had I been present I would have voted: Rollcall No. 831: "yea"—Expressing support for designation of a "National Firefighters Memorial Day" to honor and celebrate the firefighters of the United States.

VARIABLE RATE MORTGAGE INSURANCE PREMIUMS: ARE THEY HOLDING BACK POTENTIAL HOMEOWNERS?

HON. DAN BURTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 2, 2009

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Madam Speaker, although unemployment, now at 9.8 percent, is expected to keep rising, and consumer confidence is down, the latest Federal Reserve report on economic activity shows some small signs that the recession may finally be starting to bottom out.

In particular, I am encouraged that we are starting to see indications that a rebound in the housing sector may be developing. A few weeks ago, for example, the Commerce Department said new-home building rose for the third time in four months during September, and, the National Association of Realtors announced that demand for previously-owned homes surged in September.

In late October, the Case-Shiller home-price indexes showed that U.S. home prices logged their third monthly increase in August. The indexes showed prices in 10 major metropolitan areas rose 1.3 percent from July. In 20 major metropolitan areas, home prices were up 1.2 percent from the previous month.

However, if a housing rebound is starting, it is still very fragile. For example, applications for home building permits—a key gauge of future construction—fell in September by the largest amount in five months. And, according to figures recently released by the Commerce Department, sales of new homes dropped unexpectedly in September; the first such decline since March.

The foreclosure crisis all but erased the gains we have made in increasing homeownership rates in the last 20 years. The financial gains families thought they had achieved through increases in home equity also disappeared, as now roughly 20 percent of homeowners owe more on their homes than they are worth.

Nevertheless, homeownership remains the single most important wealth-building tool available to families in this country. In fact, housing experts are saying that now is the time to buy. A sustained rebound in housing is therefore absolutely vital to Federal, State and local efforts to spark a broader economic recovery.

Regrettably, I have spoken to a number of mortgage brokers in Indiana and they tell me that many first-time homebuyers, who could otherwise buy a home, are finding themselves locked out of the housing market by the very rules and regulations we put into place to protect consumers from the so-called predatory lending practices that created the sub-prime mortgage mess in the first place.

I am not suggesting that we should return to the unchecked lending of the last decade, where someone could put no money down, show no proof of income or employment and walk away with a million dollar mortgage. But I am suggesting that we need to be vigilant for circumstances where—either through legislative or regulatory action—the Federal government may have inadvertently swung the pendulum too far in the direction of restricting access to the mortgage market in the name of consumer protection.

There are two letters I received from mortgage brokers in Indiana that point to one potential example. The issue relates to variable rate pricing of mortgage insurance for Federal mortgage loans.

These letters show these two mortgage agents both believe that the Federal Housing Administration's shift in policy from charging a flat-rate for mortgage insurance to charging a variable rate based on a person's credit score, has unfairly excluded some qualified buyers from the dream of home ownership.

I am not a mortgage expert; Madam Speaker, so I will defer to the experts as to whether the shift from flat-rate pricing to variable rate pricing is truly preventing would be homeowners from buying a home; but I would like to cite for the record a 2007 report done by the nonpartisan General Accountability Office regarding the proposed changes to the Federal Housing Administration's lending standards, including the shift to variable rate pricing of mortgage insurance premiums. The report reads, in part:

"... our analysis of data for FHA's home purchase borrowers in 2005 showed that, under FHA's risk-based pricing proposal, about 43 percent of those borrowers would have paid the same or less than they actually paid, 37 percent would have paid more, and 20 percent would not have qualified for FHA insurance."

In other words, GAO's analysis, based on my understanding of the report, seems to suggest that variable rate premiums, based on perceived risk, send little extra money into the mortgage insurance trust fund to protect the funds from increased defaults but deny 20 percent of applicants FHA mortgage insurance—and by extension a mortgage.

If GAO's analysis is correct, and I have no reason to doubt GAO's findings, it would seem to support the arguments offered by the mortgage brokers from Indiana I cited earlier. In that case, Madam Speaker, I would ask my colleagues on the Finance Committee to give all due consideration to investigating the policy of variable rate pricing, in order to ensure that truly qualified borrowers are not being unfairly pushed out of the housing market.

ALL STAR MORTGAGE COMPANY,
August 19, 2009.

Congressman DAN BURTON,
Rayburn H.O.B.,
Washington, DC.

DEAR CONGRESSMAN BURTON: I am writing this letter as a follow up in regards to our meeting last week. The American consumer that desires to purchase a new home or refinance their existing home is at a distinct disadvantage considering Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac's unfair increased risk based pricing and mandatory delivery fees. These excessive fees and higher down payments are stifling the real estate market. They are overly burdensome to consumers, even those with perfect payment histories. This is not only stalling the housing recovery, but also inhibiting the overall economy, as many industries are housing related. This unfair practice is excluding many well-qualified borrowers from the dream of home ownership. It would be my hope that Congress would call for Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac to revisit their current policy of charging higher fees and requiring larger down payments to certain qualified borrowers, than they would charge an equally qualified borrower based solely upon credit score without regard to the borrower's actual credit repayment history.

Sincerely,

GREG EVANS,
President.

1ST MORTGAGE OF INDIANA, INC.,
Indianapolis, IN, August 19, 2009.

Congressman DAN BURTON,
Rayburn H.O.B.,
Washington, DC.

DEAR CONGRESSMAN BURTON: Many American consumers that desire to purchase a new home, or refinance their existing home, are being discriminated against based solely upon their Fico credit scores. We believe that Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac's increased risk based pricing, and mandatory delivery fees are unfair and excessive. These fees are overly burdensome to consumers, including many consumers with perfect payment histories. This is stalling the housing recovery and also inhibiting the overall economic rebound, as many industries are housing related. This unfair practice is excluding many well-qualified borrowers from the dream of home ownership. Please allow me to cite one real life example. We recently attempted to assist a 1st time home buyer who had a long credit history. Her re-payment history was perfect! She never had a single late payment! She had sacrificed and saved for years to come up with a 20% down payment. However, due to the type of credit she had established and had utilized (mostly revolving accounts vs. installment loans), her Fico score was 679. Based on Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac's risk based pricing, an additional fee of 2.5% of the loan amount would have been due and payable directly to Fannie or Freddie. With her loan amount of \$250,000, that equated to \$6250 in additional fees. This unfair additional fee caused her family to delay their dream of homeownership, and also prevented the would-be seller from selling their home and purchasing another. Sadly, this scenario is being repeated over and over nationally. Please call on FNMA and FHLMC to stop charging these excessive fees!

Sincerely,

J. MICHAEL STRAWN,
VP.
CATHERINE J. STRAWN,
President.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE LIFE OF
JAMES W. ANDERSON

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 2, 2009

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Madam Speaker, I would like to request the House's attention today to pay recognition to the memory of James Anderson of Salem, Alabama.

Mr. Anderson was born on December 12, 1969, and grew up in Smiths Station, Alabama. Mr. Anderson was married to Corinna and blessed with two children, Kristopher and Kelli, and a grandson, Jason James. Mr. Anderson loved Alabama football and Columbus Cottonmouth hockey.

Mr. Anderson served our community as a deputy for the Lee County Sheriff's Office. On September 24, 2009, Mr. Anderson was intentionally and tragically struck by an automobile during a traffic stop. He was transported to Columbus Medical Center where he, despite best efforts, later passed away.

He will be sorely missed, but remembered as a man who gave selflessly for his fellow Alabamians. Let us continue to pray for his loved ones at this difficult time.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON FISCAL
YEAR 2010 DEPARTMENT OF
HOMELAND SECURITY APPRO-
PRIATIONS ACT (H.R. 2892)

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 2, 2009

Ms. McCOLLUM. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of the Conference Report on the Fiscal Year 2010 Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Act. Chairman OBEY and Chairman PRICE deserve recognition for their leadership in crafting a fiscally responsible bill that provides vital aid for our first responders and also makes key investments to improve the security of our borders, ports, and aviation and transit systems.

With this bill, Congress takes important steps to close the Guantanamo Bay Detention Facility while also ensuring the security of the United States. H.R. 2892 prohibits the transfer of Guantanamo detainees to the United States, except for the purpose of criminal prosecution. The President must report to Congress any detainee transferred to the U.S. or any other country. This bill mandates the inclusion of all Guantanamo detainees on the TSA "No Fly List."

Madam Speaker, I also oppose the Republican Motion to Recommit on H.R. 2892, which would prevent detainees held at Guantanamo Bay to be brought into the United States for prosecution or incarceration. This motion is unnecessary due to the safeguards contained in this conference report. The Guantanamo Bay Detention Facility is a disturbing and unfortunate chapter in our Nation's history. Under the leadership of President Obama, the United States will close the detention center and restore our commitment to human rights and justice.

I urge a "no" vote on the Republican Motion to Recommit and urge my colleagues to support final passage.

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 Tuesday, November 3, 2009 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED
NOVEMBER 4

10 a.m.

Finance

To hold hearings to examine the nominations of Michael W. Punke, of Montana, to be a Deputy United States Trade Representative, with the rank of Ambassador, Department of State, Islam A. Siddiqui, of Virginia, to be Chief Agricultural Negotiator, Office of the United States Trade Representative, with the rank of Ambassador, and Michael F. Mundaca, of New York, to be Assistant Secretary of the Treasury.

SD-215

Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

Business meeting to resume consideration of S. 1649, to prevent the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, to prepare for attacks using weapons of mass destruction, S. 1862, to provide that certain Secret Service employees may elect to transition to coverage under the District of Columbia Police and Fire Fighter Retirement and Disability System, H.R. 553, to require the Secretary of Homeland Security to develop a strategy to prevent the over-classification of homeland security and other information and to promote the sharing of unclassified homeland security and other information, S. 1755, to direct the Department of Homeland Security to undertake a study on emergency communications, H.R. 730, to strengthen efforts in the Department of Homeland Security to develop nuclear forensics capabilities to permit attribution of the source of nuclear material, S. 1825, to extend the authority for relocation expenses test programs for Federal employees, S. 1860, to permit each current member of the Board of Directors of the Office of Compliance to serve for 3 terms, H.R. 955, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 10355 Northeast Valley Road in Rollingbay, Washington, as the "John 'Bud' Hawk Post Office", H.R. 1516, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 37926 Church Street in Dade City, Florida, as the "Sergeant Marcus Mathes Post Of-

ice", H.R. 1713, to name the South Central Agricultural Research Laboratory of the Department of Agriculture in Lane, Oklahoma, and the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 310 North Perry Street in Bennington, Oklahoma, in honor of former Congressman Wesley "Wes" Watkins, H.R. 2004, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 4282 Beach Street in Akron, Michigan, as the "Akron Veterans Memorial Post Office", H.R. 2760, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1615 North Wilcox Avenue in Los Angeles, California, as the "Johnny Grant Hollywood Post Office Building", H.R. 2972, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 115 West Edward Street in Erath, Louisiana, as the "Conrad DeRouen, Jr. Post Office", H.R. 3119, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 867 Stockton Street in San Francisco, California, as the "Lim Poon Lee Post Office", H.R. 3386, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 165 2nd Avenue in Des Moines, Iowa, as the "Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans Memorial Post Office", H.R. 3547, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 936 South 250 East in Provo, Utah, as the "Rex E. Lee Post Office Building", and H.R. 2215, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 140 Merriman Road in Garden City, Michigan, as the "John J. Shivnen Post Office Building".

SD-342

Commerce, Science, and Transportation
Oceans, Atmosphere, Fisheries, and Coast
Guard Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine the future of ocean governance, focusing on building national ocean policy.

SR-253

2 p.m.

Judiciary

To hold hearings to examine the nominations of Thomas I. Vanaskie, of Pennsylvania, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Third Circuit, Christina Reiss, to be United States District Judge for the District of Vermont, Louis B. Butler, Jr., to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Wisconsin, Abdul K. Kallon, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Alabama, and Victoria Angelica Espinel, of the District of Columbia, to be Intellectual Property Enforcement Coordinator, Executive Office of the President.

SD-226

2:15 p.m.

Indian Affairs

To hold an oversight hearing to examine the Federal acknowledgment process.

SD-628

2:30 p.m.

Foreign Relations

To hold hearings to examine the nominations of Jide J. Zeitlin, of New York, to be Alternate Representative to the Sessions of the General Assembly of the United Nations during his tenure of service as Representative to the United Nations for U.N. Management and Reform, and to be Representative to the United Nations for U.N. Management and Reform, with the rank of Ambassador, Frederick D. Barton, of Maine, to be Representative of the United States of America on the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations,

with the rank of Ambassador, and Carmen Lomellin, of Virginia, to be Permanent Representative to the Organization of American States, with the rank of Ambassador, all of the Department of State, Gustavo Arnavat, of New York, to be United States Executive Director of the Inter-American Development Bank, and Daniel W. Yohannes, of Colorado, to be Chief Executive Officer, Millennium Challenge Corporation.

SD-419

Energy and Natural Resources
National Parks Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine S. 1369, to amend the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act to designate segments of the Molalla River in the State of Oregon, as components of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System, S. 1405, to redesignate the Longfellow National Historic Site, Massachusetts, as the "Longfellow House-Washington's Headquarters National Historic Site", S. 1413, to amend the Adams National Historical Park Act of 1998 to include the Quincy Homestead within the boundary of the Adams National Historical Park, S. 1767 and H.R. 1121, bills to authorize a land exchange to acquire land for the Blue Ridge Parkway from the Town of Blowing Rock, North Carolina, S. Res. 275, honoring the Minute Man National Historical Park on the occasion of its 50th anniversary, H.R. 2802, to provide for an extension of the legislative authority of the Adams Memorial Foundation to establish a commemorative work in honor of former President John Adams and his legacy, H.R. 3113, to amend the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act to designate a segment of the Elk River in the State of West Virginia for study for potential addition to the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System, and H.R. 1287, to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to enter into a partnership with the Porter County Convention, Recreation and Visitor Commission regarding the use of the Dorothy Buell Memorial Visitor Center as a visitor center for the Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore.

SD-366

NOVEMBER 5

10 a.m.

Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs

To hold hearings to examine the nominations of Steven L. Jacques, of Kansas, to be Assistant Secretary of Housing and Urban Development for Public Affairs, and Eric L. Hirschhorn, of Maryland, to be Under Secretary of Commerce for Export Administration.

SD-538

Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

To hold hearings to examine the Employment Non-Discrimination Act.

SD-430

Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

To hold hearings to examine business formation and financial crime, focusing on finding a legislative solution.

SD-342

Judiciary

Business meeting to consider S. 448 and H.R. 985, bills to maintain the free flow of information to the public by providing conditions for the federally compelled disclosure of information by certain persons connected with the news media, S. 714, to establish the National Criminal Justice Commission, S. 1490, to prevent and mitigate identity

theft, to ensure privacy, to provide notice of security breaches, and to enhance criminal penalties, law enforcement assistance, and other protections against security breaches, fraudulent access, and misuse of personally identifiable information, S. 139, to require Federal agencies, and persons engaged in interstate commerce, in possession of data containing sensitive personally identifiable information, to disclose any breach of such information, S. 1624, to amend title 11 of the United States Code, to provide protection for medical debt homeowners, to restore bankruptcy protections for individuals experiencing economic distress as caregivers to ill, injured, or disabled family members, and to exempt from means testing debtors whose financial problems were caused by serious medical problems, S. 1472, to establish a section within the Criminal Division of the Department of Justice to enforce human rights laws, to make technical and conforming amendments to criminal and immigration laws pertaining to human rights violations, S. 1147, to prevent tobacco smuggling, to ensure the collection of all tobacco taxes, and the nominations of Ketanji Brown Jackson, of Maryland, to be a Member of the United States Sentencing Commission, Jane Branstetter Stranch, of Tennessee, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Sixth Circuit, Benjamin B. Tucker, of New York, to be Deputy Director for State, Local, and Tribal Affairs, Office of National Drug Control Policy, and Kenyen Ray Brown, to be United States Attorney for the Southern District of Alabama, Stephanie M. Rose, to be United States Attorney for the Northern District of Iowa, and Nicholas A. Klinefeldt, to be United States Attorney for the Southern District of Iowa, all of the Department of Justice.

SD-226

Veterans' Affairs

To hold hearings to examine Veterans' Affairs and Indian Health Service cooperation.

SR-418

2 p.m.

Judiciary

Crime and Drugs Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine reducing recidivism at the local level.

SD-226

2:30 p.m.

Foreign Relations

To hold hearings to examine the nominations of Jeffrey L. Bleich, of California, to be Ambassador to Australia, David Huebner, of California, to be Ambassador to New Zealand, and to serve concurrently and without additional compensation as Ambassador to Samoa, and Robert R. King, of Virginia, to be Special Envoy on North Korean Human Rights Issues, with the rank of Ambassador, all of the Department of State.

SD-419

Energy and Natural Resources

Water and Power Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine S. 1757, to provide for the prepayment of a repayment contract between the United

States and the Uintah Water Conservancy District, S. 1758, to provide for the allocation of costs to project power with respect to power development within the Diamond Fork System, and S. 1759, to authorize certain transfers of water in the Central Valley Project.

SD-366

3 p.m.

Intelligence

To hold closed hearings to consider certain intelligence matters.

S-407, Capitol

NOVEMBER 6

9:30 a.m.

Joint Economic Committee

To hold hearings to examine the employment situation for October 2009.

SD-106

NOVEMBER 10

9 a.m.

Foreign Relations

To hold hearings to examine protocol Amending the Convention between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of the French Republic for the Avoidance of Double Taxation and the Prevention of Fiscal Evasion with Respect to Taxes on Income and Capital, signed at Paris on August 21, 1994, as Amended by the Protocol signed on December 8, 2004, signed January 13, 2009, at Paris, together with a related Memorandum of Understanding, signed January 13, 2009 (Treaty Doc. 111-04), protocol Amending the Convention between the United States of America and New Zealand for the Avoidance of Double Taxation and the Prevention of Fiscal Evasion With Respect to Taxes on Income, signed on December 1, 2008, at Washington (Treaty Doc. 111-03), convention between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of Malta for the Avoidance of Double Taxation and the Prevention of Fiscal Evasion with Respect to Taxes on Income, signed on August 8, 2008, at Valletta (Treaty Doc. 111-01), treaty between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of the Republic of Rwanda Concerning the Encouragement and Reciprocal Protection of Investment, signed at Kigali on February 19, 2008 (Treaty Doc. 110-23), and international Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, adopted by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations on November 3, 2001, and signed by the United States on November 1, 2002 (the "Treaty") (Treaty Doc. 110-19).

SD-419

10 a.m.

Energy and Natural Resources

To hold hearings to examine policy options for reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

SD-366

Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

To hold hearings to examine the nominations of Erroll G. Southers, of California, to be Assistant Secretary of Homeland Security, and Daniel I. Gordon, of the District of Columbia, to be

Administrator for Federal Procurement Policy.

SD-342

2:15 p.m.

Foreign Relations

Business meeting to consider S. 1524, to strengthen the capacity, transparency, and accountability of United States foreign assistance programs to effectively adapt and respond to new challenges of the 21st century, S. 1739, to promote freedom of the press around the world, S. 1067, to support stabilization and lasting peace in northern Uganda and areas affected by the Lord's Resistance Army through development of a regional strategy to support multilateral efforts to successfully protect civilians and eliminate the threat posed by the Lord's Resistance Army and to authorize funds for humanitarian relief and reconstruction, reconciliation, and transitional justice, H. Con. Res. 36, calling on the President and the allies of the United States to raise in all appropriate bilateral and multilateral for a the case of Robert Levinson at every opportunity, urging Iran to fulfill their promises of assistance to the family of Robert Levinson, and calling on Iran to share the results of its investigation into the disappearance of Robert Levinson with the Federal Bureau of Investigation, and the nominations of Jose W. Fernandez, of New York, to be Assistant Secretary for Economic, Energy, and Business Affairs, William E. Kennard, of the District of Columbia, to be Representative of the United States of America to the European Union, with the rank and status of Ambassador, John F. Tefft, of Virginia, to be Ambassador to Ukraine, Michael C. Polt, of Tennessee, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Estonia, and Cynthia Stroum, of Washington, to be Ambassador to Luxembourg, all of the Department of State, and James LaGarde Hudson, of the District of Columbia, to be United States Director of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development.

S-116, Capitol

NOVEMBER 17

2:30 p.m.

Foreign Relations

To hold hearings to examine the United States and the G-20, focusing on re-making the international economic architecture.

SD-419

NOVEMBER 18

9:30 a.m.

Veterans' Affairs

To hold hearings to examine easing the burdens through employment.

SR-418

2:30 p.m.

Energy and Natural Resources

Public Lands and Forests Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine managing Federal forests in response to climate change, focusing on natural resource adaptation and carbon sequestration.

SD-366