United States of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 111th CONGRESS, SECOND SESSION

Vol. 156 WASHINGTON, WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 27, 2010 No. 11

House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker.

PRAYER

Rabbi Gil Steinlauf, Congregation Adas Israel, offered the following prayer:

Our God and God of all of our ancestors, we ask that the light of Your presence guide the hearts and minds of the leaders of this great Nation gathered here today.

May the wisdom of Your teachings guide them to act for justice, and to lift up the cause of the stranger, the orphan, and the widow.

Master of the universe, open the hearts of our leaders with Your compassion. Help them to lead with integrity, always remembering that Your wisdom resides in every heart as the deepest truth of our humanity.

May our leaders always remember that Your guidance is not in the heavens alone nor far beyond the sea, but within each of us, in our mouths and in our hearts, to carry into action in the world. May our leaders therefore serve as beacons of justice and compassion, making this country a light to the nations. Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House her approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. SHUSTER) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. SHUSTER led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

HONORING RABBI GIL STEINLAUF

The SPEAKER. Without objection, the gentleman from California (Mr. WAXMAN) is recognized for 1 minute.

There was no objection.

Mr. WAXMAN. Madam Speaker, it is my honor to welcome Rabbi Gil Steinlauf of Adas Israel Congregation in Washington, DC, as our guest chaplain today.

When I was first elected to Congress and our family moved to Washington, we joined Adas Israel Congregation in Cleveland Park in the Washington, DC, area. Adas Israel is the largest conservative synagogue in our Nation's capital and one of its oldest. It also has a reputation for outreach to young families and Washington, DC, transplants. We have been members for more than 30 years.

Rabbi Steinlauf came to Adas Israel in August 2008 to serve as its senior rabbi. He quickly made his mark as a charismatic, energetic, and dynamic spiritual leader. It has been a great pleasure to get to know him and his family.

Originally from Jericho, New York, Rabbi Steinlauf was ordained in 1998 at the Jewish Theological Seminary in New York. He graduated from Princeton in 1991 with honors, and also studied at the Pardes Institute in Jerusalem and the University of Judaism, now known as the American Jewish University, which is located in my district in Los Angeles.

Rabbi Steinlauf is joined this morning by his wife, Rabbi Batya Steinlauf, and his children Elana, Noah, and Meirav, his parents Bernard and Sandra, some of his extended family, and a proud delegation of Adas Israel.

Thank you, Rabbi Steinlauf, for your inspirational words.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. The Chair will entertain up to 15 additional 1-minutes on each side of the aisle.

FINANCIAL REFORM, WALL STREET AND CONSUMER PROTECTION

(Mr. BACA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BACA. Madam Speaker, the House passed the Wall Street Reform Consumer Protection Act.

It will reform the rules of the road that oversee Wall Street. It will end bailouts by helping ensure that taxpayers are never again on the hook for Wall Street's risky decisions.

It will protect retirement funds, college savings, homes, and businesses' financial futures from unnecessary risk by executives, lenders, and speculators.

It will protect consumers from predatory lending abuses, fine print, and industry gimmicks, and inject transparency and accountability into a financial system run amok.

It ends predatory lending practice with tougher enforcement.

We ask the Senate to pass this legislation to protect our consumers.

IN MEMORY OF STAFF SERGEANT MATTHEW N. INGHAM, USMC

(Mr. SHUSTER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, on Saturday, I attended the funeral service of a constituent, Staff Sergeant Matthew Ingham, United States Marine Corps, who was killed in action in southern Afghanistan on January 11, 2010. I rise today to recognize his life and his extraordinary service and sacrifice for our country.

Matt's parents, Gary and Tammi Ingham of Altoona, Pennsylvania, and

Printed on recycled paper.

his wife, Yasmin Ingham, mourn the loss of a remarkable young man and a brave Marine. They are in my thoughts and prayers, and I pass on my sincere condolences.

Sergeant Ingham was awarded the Bronze Star with Valor for the heroic actions that ultimately led to his death. He was responsible for saving the lives of nine Marines by crawling to a radio to call in air support after his unit was ambushed. Although apparently wounded, Sergeant Ingham exposed himself to more enemy fire, and put the lives of his fellow Marines above his own.

Sergeant Ingham was a 2002 Altoona High School graduate. He enlisted in the Marine Corps in July 2002, and was promoted to staff sergeant in April. He served two tours in Iraq and went to Afghanistan in the fall as part of a reconnaissance outfit assigned to the 3rd Marine Division in Okinawa, Japan.

The Ninth District of Pennsylvania and our entire Nation owes a great debt of gratitude to Sergeant Matthew N. Ingham, his family, and all those who have sacrificed their lives in the pursuit of freedom.

JOBS

(Mr. SIRES asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. SIRES. Mr. Speaker, since the beginning of this Congress, this House has taken significant steps to grow our economy and create jobs at home.

Almost 1 year ago, we passed the Recovery Act to jump-start our economy by creating and saving millions of jobs while beginning to rebuild our Nation's infrastructure.

To build off this progress, in December we passed the Jobs for Main Street Act to create and save even more jobs at home, with targeted investment for highways, transit, and school renovations; the hiring of teachers, police, and firefighters; increased lending to small business; job training initiatives; and affordable housing.

Furthermore, to spur growth within small business, we passed the Small Business Financing and Investment Act to make it easier and more affordable for small businesses to get loans and access to capital, which in turn could save and create millions of jobs in this sector alone.

Mr. Speaker, while I am proud of the steps that this Chamber has taken to lift our economy, I know that our work is not done. We will continue to fight to create jobs until we find a solution to repair the damage left by the economic downturn of the last 8 years.

A DEAF GOVERNMENT ASLEEP IN DENIAL

(Mr. POE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, government's view of the economy could be summed up this way: ''If it moves, tax it. If it keeps moving, regulate it. And if it stops moving, subsidize it.''

The American people are uneasy about their financial future. Taxing and borrowing and spending are out of control. Government is the problem. The people are frustrated.

We in Washington should listen to the people of America. They talked to us at town hall meetings. They got louder with their marches on Washington. The American people say stop the spending, cut up the credit cards. We should listen to America.

America is a representative Republic. That means the people talk, we listen. We implement their ideas. That is the way it works. Lately, the government dictates, the people comply. That is backwards, and it is arrogant.

In America, the people are the sovereign, not the government. We in Congress should make the government work for the people, work with them, not over them; stand by their side, not ride their backs. The people are talking, and their voices cannot continue to fall on a deaf government asleep in denial.

And that's just the way it is.

SUPREME COURT'S DECISION ON CAMPAIGN FINANCE

(Mr. YARMUTH asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. YARMUTH. Mr. Speaker, among all of the potentially disastrous consequences of last week's Supreme Court decision on campaign finance, one of them is a really cruel irony. Those of us who think we need public financing of Federal campaigns may now watch as taxpayer dollars actually are used for Federal campaigns.

AIG, which this Congress and our taxpayers bailed out to the tune of $180 billion, may now be able to spend our money, your money, to actually influence Federal elections.

Not only that. We passed the Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act to regulate Wall Street, finally, after they brought us to the brink of disaster. We spent a lot of money doing that, taxpayer dollars.

The companies that were saved by those dollars can now directly advocate for the election or defeat of candidates for Federal office.

This is a disgrace. And, unfortunately, we still haven't acted sufficiently to put an end to the risky behavior of Wall Street. I hope the Senate will act and we can sign the Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act into law before the Supreme Court destroys the country.

□ 1015

CBO REPORTS MORE STIMULUS STUMBLES

(Mr. WILSON of South Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, yesterday, the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office announced that the cost of the President's spending plan has jumped another $75 billion. Stephen Dinan at the Washington Times reported that ''the country faces giant budget deficits for the foreseeable future and has the biggest debt problem it has seen since just after World War II.''

On the heels of these reports, the President will deliver the State of the Union address and will present his agenda tonight. I hope the President will be substantive about tackling out-of-control Washington spending to promote bipartisan cooperation. I believe we need to freeze spending based on 2008 levels. The Washington liberal majority needs to explain the 85 percent spending spike in just 2 years. American families who are trying to stay financially afloat do not have time for any more stimulus stumbles. We need jobs, not more spending.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and we will never forget September the 11th in the global war on terrorism.

Congratulations, Coach Darrin Horn and the USC Gamecocks, for their 68–62 victory over number one ranked Kentucky.

WALL STREET REFORM AND CONSUMER PROTECTION ACT

(Mr. POLIS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. POLIS. Mr. Speaker, in the last Congress, with the last administration, President Bush came to Congress during the financial meltdown, along with Secretary Paulson, and asked for hundreds of billions of dollars. They said they were going to use it to buy bad debt from the banks. It was threatening to bring down our financial system. Did they use it for that? No. Instead, they started to use it to nationalize American companies. They bought automobile companies; they bought banks. They used the government to take over the means of production.

It now falls to us to break this socialist stranglehold on our country. The Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act is one of the first steps. We ban future TARP bailouts. We require the companies pay into a fund. No longer will companies be bailed out by taxpayer dollars. I call upon the United States Senate to pass the Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act and for us to take additional steps to privatize these companies that the Federal Government now owns.

JOB CREATION ACT OF 2010

(Mr. BUCHANAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BUCHANAN. Mr. Speaker, yesterday, I introduced the Job Creation

Act of 2010. The number one priority in America should be jobs and helping small businesses. My five-point plan is to provide tax relief for small businesses. Instead of writing off equipment over 5 years, have them write it off over 1 year and sunset it in a year or two. Eliminate capital gains tax on companies. There's plenty of capital. People don't have confidence in the administration; they don't have confidence in this Congress. But there is capital to invest. The small businesses need that capital to create jobs.

We're taxing unemployment benefits at 11 percent. That needs to stop. We need to sunset that. TARP funds, $750 billion: we committed to the American people that would be paid back. They are paying back much of the funds. It needs to go to pay down the $12 trillion debt. Also, we need to curb frivolous lawsuits. It's driving up health care, it's killing businesses, it's killing jobs.

I urge Members from both sides of the aisle to support this bill.

RECOGNIZING THE SCOOTER STORE

(Mr. CUELLAR asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise with my good friend, Representative LAMAR SMITH, to honor The SCOOTER Store, a hometown business in our home State of Texas. They've been recognized by Fortune magazine as one of the top 100 places to work in America. Fortune magazine has recognized this excellent work environment for their employees, ranking The SCOOTER Store the 38th Best Place to Work in 2010. The SCOOTER Store was founded in New Braunfels, Texas, by Doug and Susanna Harrison almost 19 years ago. Today, they serve more than 460,000 people across 48 States and Puerto Rico, with more than 70 facilities and approximately 2,000 employees.

Mr. Speaker, this is not the first time they have been recognized. They were recognized 6 years ago. They're a company built on teamwork and good values. And this is why, Mr. Speaker, I'm honored to have the time to recognize The SCOOTER Store for their ranking as the 38th Best Place to Work in 2010 by Fortune magazine.

RONALD AND GLENDA KRONGOLD'S WORK WITH ISRAEL BONDS

(Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. I rise today to recognize two outstanding Americans, my good friends, Ronald and Glenda Krongold, constituents of my congressional district. For decades, the Krongolds have dedicated themselves to the safety and security of our democratic Jewish State of Israel, including through their leadership in the National Israel Bonds Campaign. Ron served as vice chairman and chairman of new leadership.

Their work on Israel bonds has contributed greatly to Israel's thriving economy and its booming scientific, technological, and entrepreneurial sectors. Ron's expertise has also benefited our home State of Florida. He played a pivotal role in the negotiations of the Trade Understanding between our State of Florida and Israel, signed by then-Secretary of Commerce for Florida, Jeb Bush.

Ron and Glenda, for your dedication you have the appreciation of this House and of countless Americans and Israelis. Thank you for your work. Keep it up.

FREEDOM FROM FOREIGN-BASED MANIPULATION IN AMERICAN ELECTIONS ACT

(Mr. HALL of New York asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. HALL of New York. I rise today to urge Congress to overturn the Supreme Court's ruling last week that allows corporations to buy Federal elections. Yesterday, I introduced the Freedom from Foreign-Based Manipulation in American Elections Act, which will prevent foreign-influenced companies from buying U.S. elections. Should a Chinese corporation decide U.S. copyright policy or civil rights law? Should Saudi Arabia have a say on American energy policy? How about Venezuela? Should Hugo Chavez have a voice in American elections? These are the questions we must ask if the Supreme Court's decision is allowed to stand.

The Court's decision flies in the face of a century of precedent keeping corporations out of elections. By giving corporations the same rights as individuals, the Court is handing corporations a blank check to decide elections instead of letting the voters do it. I urge my colleagues to join me in saying ''no'' to this decision and ''yes'' to democracy.

THANKS TO THE MINNESOTA RED BULLS

(Mr. PAULSEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PAULSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to say welcome home to a group of Minnesota heroes, the National Guard's 34th Infantry Division, known as the Red Bulls. Many of the Red Bulls have begun arriving home from their most recent tour of duty in Iraq. These brave Minnesotans have played a very crucial role in transitioning security responsibilities from American troops to the Iraqi forces, as well as leading more than 1,000 new reconstruction projects to help the Iraqi people. The 1,200 soldiers that are now returning home come from more than 275 communities in Minnesota and represent the American spirit of selflessness, sacrifice, and service.

I had the chance to personally meet with some of the Red Bulls when I visited Iraq not too long ago. I was humbled to see their selfless work that they accomplish every single day. Today, I'm thrilled to see them returning home from Iraq safely to their friends, to their families, and to a State that is especially grateful for all that they do.

ECONOMIC CLIMATE FOR JOB GROWTH

(Mr. ARCURI asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. ARCURI. Mr. Speaker, we have asked the American people to do a lot over the past year in order to work together to rebuild our economy. Tonight, we await the President's words to see how the country will move forward to continue to put people back to work and make reforms necessary to jump-start our economy. I applaud the President for putting a freeze on all nonsecurity discretionary spending for fiscal year 2011, because as the American family tightens its belt, so must Congress. I would encourage the President to continue to call for increased fiscal responsibility in Congress, and I will do my part in ensuring that we spend responsibly to protect the people of my district.

I joined several of my Blue Dog colleagues in a letter led by Congressman PATRICK MURPHY of Pennsylvania to call for a spending freeze earlier this month and will continue to look for ways that we can continue to hold ourselves fiscally accountable for PAYGO and other budget cuts. My predecessor in Congress used to say that we here in Congress can't create jobs, but we can create an economic climate for job growth and development to boost our local economies. That should be our primary goal in 2010.

A RETURN TO BALANCED BUDGETS AND JOB CREATION

(Mr. FLEMING asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. FLEMING. Mr. Speaker, according to a poll released this week by CNN, nearly three out of four Americans think that much of the money spent in the so-called stimulus plan has been wasted. I agree. Should we be surprised that a bill chock-full of earmarks and pet projects did nothing to inspire confidence among Americans? And with a record drop in real estate sales, a languishing stock market, and an unemployment rate remaining above 10 percent, should we blame them? The CBO just offered that after only 1 year in total control, Democrats more than tripled the annual deficit, from $408 billion to $1.4 trillion. These

are not the changes Americans voted for.

Mr. Speaker, when it comes to the idea of a spending freeze, this country needs more than just window dressing. It needs to return to balanced budgets and a real focus on job creation.

WORKING TOGETHER TO HELP THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

(Mr. ENGEL asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. ENGEL. Tonight, when our President gives his State of the Union Address, I'm going to listen very intently. I know that he's going to talk about creating jobs, improving the economy, lowering unemployment, and also health care reform. Let's rally behind our President. The people sent us here to work together in a bipartisan fashion. Let's not talk about what is best politically for this party or that party, let's look at what is best for the American people.

I ask my Republican friends, stop being the Party of No. Work with us on health care. We can do it if we all put our heads together. Let me remind my friends that the TARP bailout and the bailout of the banks happened under President Bush. It was President Bush's recommendation, and I and other Democrats supported it because it was the right thing to do.

Let's support the President when he says the right things, as he will tonight. Let's understand that we can only succeed if we work together. We were left a mess by the previous administration. One year to clean it up is not enough. We prevented a depression. Now we have to move on. So I ask the other side of the aisle, please work with us. Please work with us to help the American people.

VISA FAILURE

(Mr. PITTS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, we know that the best way to prevent an attack on U.S. soil is to ensure that terrorists are stopped before they reach our shores. Unfortunately, we failed to do so on Christmas Day and al Qaeda came close to significant victory. While the terrorist Abdulmutallab was noted in a terrorist identity database, he was not placed on a separate screening database and his U.S. visa was not revoked. Clearly, we did not connect the dots to notice that a man on a U.S. watch list also held a current U.S. visa. This has not been the first time terrorists have obtained U.S. visas. Several of the 9/11 hijackers did so as well.

We need to strengthen the visa application process. We need to streamline the intelligence gathering and sharing process. We need to end the visa lottery. We need to ensure that terrorists are turned around before they get to the airport before they even attempt to go through security. Were it not for the quick action of passengers on that flight, 288 innocent lives would have been lost. Passengers should not have to rely on last-minute heroics in order to travel safely. This administration must get serious about addressing this problem.

□ 1030

OUR ELECTIONS ARE NOT FOR SALE

(Ms. EDWARDS of Maryland asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. EDWARDS of Maryland. Mr. Speaker, Justice Brandeis got it right: democracy or wealth concentrated in the hands of a few, but not both. And that's truer today as the United States Supreme Court just wiped away decades of legal precedent, allowing corporations to spend unlimited money from their treasuries in our elections.

The American people already believe that corporate special interests and their lobbyists run the show around here. I mean, the halls are crawling with them. But that's not enough. Now the Court says to the big banks, the credit card companies, the drug companies and to the insurance companies, Hey, all bets are off, and it's open season. Our elections are for sale. So that's right. If the corporations don't like what this Congresswoman is doing, they'll just forget the voters, buy TV ads, send robocalls, send a lot of mail, and beat her in November.

A law won't fix this. We have to fix it in the Constitution. So today I will introduce a constitutional amendment so that we, the people, can take back our elections and our democracy. This is not the People's House, Incorporated. We are the people. It's our House, it's our Constitution, and it's our elections. And we intend to take it back from the United States Supreme Court.

CREATING JOBS WHILE CLEANING UP THE ENVIRONMENT

(Mr. TIM MURPHY of Pennsylvania asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. TIM MURPHY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, since the $862 billion stimulus bill was signed into law last February, nearly 3 million more Americans have lost jobs. The projected deficit for this year is $1.3 trillion, second only to last year's $1.4 trillion. It's time to stop Washington's wild spending and start creating hometown jobs. Families want paychecks, not unemployment checks. That's why we introduced a bipartisan American Conservation and Clean Energy Independence Act, H.R. 2227, which opens up the U.S. coasts for environmentally responsible oil and gas exploration.

This bill produces 1.2 million new, good-paying jobs and an $8 trillion economic boost over 20 years. We will clean up America's waterways. We will clean our air by replacing old coal plants with new clean coal, nuclear, wind, solar, and geothermal energy generation. We will conserve energy by rebuilding our old infrastructure and a smart grid. Americans will modernize buildings to cut energy waste by 25 percent. We stop spending hundreds of billions of dollars on OPEC oil. We stop borrowing from China, and we do all of this without raising a single tax.

Join me in supporting H.R. 2227 with new jobs for a new energy-independent America.

THE PROPOSED 3-YEAR SPENDING FREEZE

(Mr. BRIGHT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BRIGHT. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased that the President, according to the press reports that we are getting over the last couple of days, will be proposing a 3-year freeze on nonsecurity-related discretionary spending. This is a good and necessary first step to control government spending and reduce budget deficits.

However, our ballooning deficits mandate that we go even further. Wasteful and unnecessary programs need to be ID'd. They need to be reduced. They need to be eliminated, and they need to be eliminated immediately. I have and will consistently oppose legislation that I believe unnecessarily increases Federal spending or funding programs that do not warrant support during a recession, even when they are only a few million dollars.

You know, we must have the mindset that every little bit counts if we're going to be serious about cutting government wasteful spending. I hope the President goes further in explaining some of his proposals in the State of the Union tonight, and I will be listening very closely with many others.

Yesterday, the Blue Dogs, my colleagues, released a set of proposals that outline the steps that we must take to have meaningful budget reform. The President and leadership would be well-served to adopt and support these proposals in the coming weeks and months.

AMERICAN TAXPAYERS DO NOT WANT TO FUND ABORTION

(Mrs. SCHMIDT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. SCHMIDT. Mr. Speaker, last Friday, almost 500,000 folks gathered at the Capitol to remind us once again that all life is precious and that the unborn are guaranteed the right to life. While abortion has been allowed in this country for the past 37 years, Americans have made it crystal clear that they do not want their tax dollars being used to pay for it.

For 34 years, the Hyde amendment has stopped Federal funds from being used to pay for abortion. The current bill passed by the Senate will erode this. This bill will change that longstanding law and allow for tax dollars to be used for abortion.

Mr. Speaker, the American people do not want their money to be used to pay for abortions. As we continue to debate the health care bill, we must honor their wish.

REBUILDING AMERICA'S ECONOMY

(Mrs. CAPPS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. CAPPS. Mr. Speaker, one year ago, our economy was on the brink of collapse; Wall Street was in a downward spiral, credit markets were completely frozen, and more than 700,000 Americans were losing their jobs every month. But President Obama and the Democratic-led Congress responded quickly and responsibly with historic measures. These measures may be unpopular, unpleasant, and expensive, but they have worked.

I have been meeting recently with business, labor, and community leaders throughout my district to get a better sense of how the recovery is working for Main Street. My constituents have made it clear to me that we have made great progress. Financial and housing markets have stabilized, monthly job losses have abated, and banks have begun to lend again. However, they also made it clear that they need more help, and that's why this Democratic-led Congress has passed the Jobs for Main Street Act in the House.

This plan builds economic opportunity for the long term, creates new jobs that are sustainable for years ahead, rebuilds our infrastructure, creates new energy sources, and develops the new technologies and innovative products that we and the world want to buy. We are committed to rebuilding America's economy, putting Americans back to work and ensuring our Nation's economic future.

RECOUPING MONEY LENT TO WALL STREET

(Mr. KAGEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. KAGEN. Mr. Speaker, tonight the President of the United States will be addressing the Nation on where we are at, how we got here, and what we must do now to dig out of this economic mess.

Well, where are we? We're coming out of the deepest worldwide economic downturn of our time. And how did we get here? Never forget, never forget that it was George Bush's Republican policies that drove us into the ditch, and without paying a dime for them.

Republicans gave away huge tax cuts to the rich, got us into two wars at the same time, created the biggest trillion-dollar prescription drug entitlement plan in American history, and deregulated the banks on Wall Street who looted our Treasury. And worse yet, they borrowed all the money from China, asking our children and grandchildren to pay it back. The fact is, we're cleaning up after the biggest elephant parade in American history. And never forget these facts.

Well, folks in the middle class rescued Wall Street, and now it's Wall Street's turn to turn back the favor. We want our money back, and that's why we are proposing a transfer fee on all trades on Wall Street speculators.

GETTING OUR FISCAL HOUSE IN ORDER

(Mr. PENCE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PENCE. Tonight, the President of the United States will return to this well of Congress and deliver his report on the state of the Union, and House Republicans welcome the President back to the people's House. Now we've heard that after a year of runaway Federal spending, trillion-dollar deficits, borrowing, bailouts, and Big Government schemes in energy and health care, after a year where Democrats have been on a spending binge, the President is going to tell us that he's going to get his party on the wagon here in Congress.

Well, let me say, we welcome that. We welcome word that the President may call for a 3-year spending freeze. Frankly, I never met a spending freeze I didn't like. But let me say this emphatically: House Republicans will welcome any effort to restore fiscal discipline to Washington, D.C., and work with this administration.

But Mr. President, the American people want action. We don't need another lofty speech from this historic well from the President of the United States. Mr. President, set aside your Big Government plans to take over health care, send us a budget that reduces spending and reduces taxes on the American people. Mr. President, deeds, not words—deeds, not words are what are required to put our fiscal house in order.

REMEMBERING HAITI

(Mr. HOLT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express the compassionate concern of Congress to those affected by the recent earthquake in Haiti, including thousands of American families of those missing and injured.

My thoughts are especially with the Gianacaci family of Hopewell, New Jersey, at this time from the appropriately named town of Hopewell. Their daughter, Christine, a student of Lynn University, was doing service work in Haiti when the quake struck. I have assured the Gianacaci family that we will not rest until Christine and so many others are accounted for and returned to their loved ones.

I pay a special tribute to the Fairfax County Search and Rescue Team which, like others, have been at the Hotel Montana site continuously for more than 2 weeks looking for Christine and other Americans believed to be at the hotel. Also, thanks must go to the Department of State and the many people in the 82nd Airborne, the Marine Expeditionary Group, the DOT, HHS, and other government personnel who reflect and carry out the compassionate concern of the American people who again demonstrate their core generosity.

CHUTZPAH

(Mr. PERLMUTTER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I have listened to my friends on the Republican side of the aisle, and the only word that comes to mind is a Yiddish word called ''chutzpah.'' Here my friends on the Republican side of the aisle are talking about the debt, they're talking about jobs, they're talking about fiscal restraint when, in fact, it was the Republican administration under George Bush and the Republican programs under their Congress that drove us in the ditch and created this mess that we have.

President Obama inherited a $1.4 trillion deficit, the biggest debt ever in history. Now the Republicans would like to say, Hey, Democrats, why haven't you gotten rid of that? Hey, country, why don't you take care of this? Well, this was a big mess that was created under their watch. We have tried to create jobs. We're going to deal with this long-term debt, but the Republican prescription for America—you know what it is? Mass amnesia. They want people to forget. Well, we're not going to forget, and we're not going to let the people forget that the programs and the policies of the last administration almost took this country in the tank, and that's got to stop.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 3726, CASTLE NUGENT NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE ESTABLISHMENT ACT OF 2010 AND H.R. 4474, IDAHO WILDERNESS WATER FACILITIES ACT

Mr. POLIS. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 1038 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 1038

Resolved, That upon the adoption of this resolution it shall be in order to consider in

the House the bill (H.R. 3726) to establish the Castle Nugent National Historic Site at St. Croix, United States Virgin Islands, and for other purposes. All points of order against consideration of the bill are waived except those arising under clause 9 or 10 of rule XXI. The amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on Natural Resources now printed in the bill shall be considered as adopted. The bill, as amended, shall be considered as read. All points of order against provisions in the bill, as amended, are waived. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill, as amended, to final passage without intervening motion except: (1) one hour of debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Natural Resources; and (2) one motion to recommit with or without instructions.

SEC. 2. Upon the adoption of this resolution it shall be in order to consider in the House the bill (H.R. 4474) to authorize the continued use of certain water diversions located on National Forest System land in the Frank Church-River of No Return Wilderness and the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness in the State of Idaho, and for other purposes. All points of order against consideration of the bill are waived except those arising under clause 9 or 10 of rule XXI. The bill shall be considered as read. All points of order against provisions in the bill are waived. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill to final passage without intervening motion except: (1) one hour of debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Natural Resources; and (2) one motion to recommit.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. PASTOR of Arizona). The gentleman from Colorado is recognized for 1 hour.

Mr. POLIS. Mr. Speaker, for the purpose of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. SESSIONS). All time yielded during consideration of the rule is for debate only.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. POLIS. I also ask unanimous consent that all Members be given 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks on House Resolution 1038.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Colorado?

There was no objection.

Mr. POLIS. I yield myself as much time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, House Resolution 1038 is a single rule that provides for separate consideration of two measures. The rule provides for consideration of H.R. 3726, the Castle Nugent National Historic Site Establishment Act, and H.R. 4474, the Idaho Wilderness Water Facilities Act.

□ 1045

Each bill has 1 hour of general debate to be controlled by the Committee on Natural Resources. The rule also allows a motion to recommit with or without instructions for each of the two bills.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 3726, the Castle Nugent National Historic Site Establishment Act of 2010, and H.R. 4474, the Idaho Wilderness Water Facilities Act, are 2 pieces of legislation that represent years of hard work by their sponsors and the local communities that are at the heart of both bills. H.R. 3726, the Castle Nugent National Historic Site Establishment Act of 2010, introduced by Congresswoman DONNA CHRISTENSEN, will add a new treasure to our Nation's National Park System. From the early times of Yosemite and Yellowstone to the national monuments right here in Washington, D.C., our country has had the foresight to preserve the tangible places which house our Nation's character, identity and history. Today, the Castle Nugent National Historic Site Establishment Act of 2010 does the same for the history and identity of a unique place in our country, the U.S. Virgin Islands.

This area of St. Croix holds a great number of historical remnants, not only from the colonial age, when the West Indies played a prominent role in shaping world history, but also pre-Columbian archeological sites, continuing a proud and long tradition of preserving the remnants and artifacts of our first nations in this hemisphere begun by the Park Service in my State of Colorado with Mesa Verde National Park. Largely of Danish origin, the colonial history of St. Croix preserved at Castle Nugent is among the oldest in the West Indies. This national historic site preserves much more than history. It also preserves a great deal of natural habitat. The site includes sensitive sea turtle nesting areas and habitat, healthy and increasingly scarce coral reefs, and a lagoon that provides habitat to a wealth of wildlife and plants.

For any proposed National Park System addition, the first step is to have the Park Service complete a study of the proposed addition, and to ensure that the proposed addition does, in fact, deserve to be included among the treasures of our Nation that the Park System includes. The National Park Service concurred, and found that Castle Nugent area does in fact deserve to be included as a part of our Nation's national parks. This rule also provides for consideration of H.R. 4474, the Idaho Wilderness Water Facilities Act, a bill that has undoubtedly been the focus of a great deal of work by its key sponsors, Congressman MINNICK of Idaho and Congressman SIMPSON.

The Wilderness Act of 1964 provided our Nation with a tool to preserve its last remaining wild places untrammeled by man. Like my home State of Colorado, Idaho's sweeping beauty, rugged mountains, wildlife, and waterways form the foundation of our country's cultural identity and our civic pride. The Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness area was created in 1946 as one of our country's first wilderness areas and has preserved the wild nature of a truly breathtaking landscape. Adjoining the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness area is the Frank Church River of No Return Wilderness area designated in 1980. Predating the existence of these two wilderness areas, private land owners had received permits to maintain and repair water diversions that existed on National Forest Service lands. Many of these permits have since expired, leaving those who own the water diversions unable to mechanically maintain their water systems since they're within designated wilderness areas.

H.R. 4474 would give the Secretary of Agriculture the authority to issue special use authorization to owners of these water storage transport or diversion facilities to allow for their continued maintenance of their water facilities, allowing local water rights and ensuring that they continue to access their water.

Mr. Speaker, this rule and both these bills are straightforward and provide a great deal of benefit, not only to our country, but also to the communities and residents who are most directly involved and impacted. I urge passage of the rule.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to this closed rule, yet another closed rule before the Congress, and I object to the process by which this bill was brought to the floor. Last week, both of the bills we're discussing today under this rule failed to get the two-thirds vote in this body. Instead of working together to resolve the differences with the bills between the leadership, my friends on the other side of the aisle, the majority, simply rescheduled them for floor action today with no Republican input.

Today, Mr. Speaker, we're going to debate these bills, and once again, the Democrat leadership's priorities in this Congress—let's be honest about that—it's about spending money. Spending money, Mr. Speaker, is what this Democrat leadership priority is all about. However, tonight our body will welcome the President of the United States. And the President will be here for the State of the Union, and we will be able to hear from the President about his priorities and about—I think we will hear about how he wants us to work together, work together. Ideas from both sides.

Hey, I get it. The Republican Party is not in the majority. The American people get that. We're in the middle of Democrat majorities that have been in place for 3 years now. And I suspect we'll hear from the President about how important it is to work together and use bipartisan measures to reconcile our differences for the American people so that they can have confidence in Congress, our ability to work together on big issues and small issues, set priorities that the American people can understand.

Yet, Democrat leadership just last week took down the Idaho Wilderness bill and then placed it on the calendar for today with the exact same language, but they removed my colleague, a Republican, Dr. MIKE SIMPSON, as sponsor of the bill and replaced him

with a member of the majority party. Payback time, I guess, is once again in order here on the floor of the House of Representatives, on the exact same day that we're going to welcome the President, and we're all going to put that big smiley face on tonight. We're all working together. Boy, we don't know what's wrong with the problems of the country, but we're going to work together, and then be admonished about telling the truth, which is, Congress is the problem.

Mr. Speaker, the Republican Party is here to do the people's work. We're here to work together. We continue to have ideas that are shut out in the room just above this floor, just above this body, up there called the Rules Committee. We've been trying for years to do that. I wonder if the President would consider that working together by the way we're doing this. I hope he does not. I hope he admonishes us, and I hope he takes us to task and says that foolish political gamesmanship is wasting America's money and America's time, because time is important to the American people, because there are a whole lot of people who are without jobs. They're without jobs because of the lack of bipartisanship and working together in this body, all for spending money because that's what this Speaker wants to do. I think the American people want Democrats to rein in their borrowing, taxing, and spending ways. That's what I think. I don't know. Maybe you'd have to ask the American people.

Oh, by the way, I think they've spoken in New Jersey and Virginia and again last week in Massachusetts. I think they want Congress to stop talking about what they will do to provide jobs and talk about all the things that are happening and actually get to the work of getting it done.

Mr. Speaker, I have a lot to say today, but at this time I'd like to yield 5 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from California (Mr. DREIER) who, last night, very clearly in the Rules Committee, as ranking member talked about what Republicans' hopes and dreams were just on this bill and the process.

(Mr. DREIER asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DREIER. I thank both of my Rules Committee colleagues for being here. And I will say that this is obviously a very important day. We're anxiously looking forward to the message that the President of the United States will be delivering right behind me here as he provides his State of the Union address. And there is an early indication of what it is that he might say. He is, according to reports, going to be talking about the need for fiscal responsibility, the need for us to do everything that we can to bring about a freeze in spending, and we all think that that's a good first step. I will say that if you look at the two omnibus appropriations bills, coupled with the stimulus bill, the report that we just got of an additional $75 billion on top of the $787 billion for the stimulus bill, we have over the last 2 years seen an 86 percent increase in spending. An 86 percent increase. And I guess freezing with an 86 percent increase that is proposed in spending for the next 2 years is something that may not be all that painful for people who want to maintain a high level of Federal spending.

So, as we look at that, and then recognize that this measure that is before us, that allows for the up to $50 million, $50 million, not billion, not trillion, which are the terms we use around here, but $50 million to be authorized for the purchase of beachfront property in St. Croix, I just don't understand how, on the day that we're going to have the President of the United States stand here talking about a spending freeze, that we could possibly consider taking action such as this.

The American people get it. Last night I had a telephone town hall meeting with my constituents in southern California in the Los Angeles area, and they have been raising grave concerns about the size and scope and reach of the Federal Government, and they have made it clear that they want us to work, not just to have a freeze, but to bring about major spending cuts. The message that the American people have been sending to us that we got, as my friend from Dallas said, a week ago yesterday, is that getting the economy back on track is a very, very high priority. Job creation is a high priority. And we know that.

In my State of California, where we have a national 10 percent unemployment rate in the area that I represent, suburban Los Angeles, we have an unemployment rate in some areas that is in excess of 14 percent. People are losing their homes and their businesses, and they want us to focus on creating good, long-term, private-sector, not temporary government, jobs, not jobs that are going to be engaged in collecting the numbers and information through the census and that sort of thing, those sorts of temporary jobs. They want long-term job creation. And we have an opportunity, in fact, the President has an opportunity, to do just that, Mr. Speaker.

If he were to send us the three pending trade agreements, and I know I've talked to my friend from Colorado about the issue of trade, and I know that he joins me in being a supporter of free trade. I would hope that if the President were to send the three pending trade agreements, Panama, Colombia, and South Korea, here to the Congress, I am convinced that at least the Panama and Colombia agreements, based on conversations that I've had with Members on both sides of the aisle, we could have a bipartisan win, and that in passing, if we passed these three agreements, we could create more than a quarter of a million good, private-sector jobs.

Why? Well, if you look on average, the tariff on manufactured goods and other products going into the 40 million-consumer-strong Colombia is 14 percent. That means union and nonunion members who are working for Caterpillar in Peoria, Illinois, manufacturers working for Whirlpool in Ohio, would have an opportunity to sell their manufactured products, their tractors, their washing machines and refrigerators into this market.

Now, Mr. Speaker, what that would do is create again, good, long-term private-sector jobs. If we were to be able to do the Korea deal it would be the single largest trade agreement in the history of the world. Korea has a $1 trillion economy, Mr. Speaker, a $1 trillion economy. We have about $83 billion in trade with Korea right now. By and large, Korean products, automobiles and other things get to the U.S. consumer tariff free, virtually tariff free. I think that's a good thing. I think imports benefit the consumer.

□ 1100

What we need to do is we need to pry open their market, Mr. Speaker.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to yield the gentleman an additional 5 minutes.

Mr. DREIER. I thank my friend for yielding, and I won't take the 5 minutes. I am going to wrap up here because I think what we need to do is we need to not just talk, we need to engage in action.

So, Mr. Speaker, I was just mentioning Korea. The fact is we would have the single largest agreement that has ever been put together. They're our seventh largest trading partner right now, South Korea; and it would mean that while we have their products coming here virtually tariff free, there would be an opportunity for us to have access to the millions of consumers in South Korea which we don't today.

And I also have to say that our inaction, the fact that we've had these agreements signed by our executive branch, the executive branches of those countries, they're awaiting passage here in the United States Congress. Our inaction has really jeopardized our potential for economic growth. Why? If you look at the fact that Colombia has already embarked on a free trade agreement with Canada, if you look at the fact that South Korea is working with the European Union right now, there are other countries and blocs in the world that are taking advantage of our inaction here. And remember again, Mr. Speaker, our action is going to create probably in excess of a quarter of a million good private sector jobs.

So as the President talks this evening about job creation and economic growth and fiscal responsibility, I hope that he will follow his words because he has told me that he believes in free trade and wants to do this Colombia deal. We're awaiting it. We anxiously look forward to his sending it up

so that U.S. workers will have the opportunity to enjoy the kind of success we've seen in the past and I am convinced we will see in the future.

And I thank my friend for his yielding and for his leadership.

Mr. POLIS. I find little objectionable in what my colleague from California said. Certainly there is great opportunity for trade with South Korea and Panama and Colombia to create jobs, but none of those agreements are the topic of the rule before us today.

And I want to give a little background on this and talk about how we can move forward.

First of all, we could have moved forward in a more bipartisan way had these passed on suspension. What does suspension mean? A suspension requires a two-thirds vote of the House. The bills are nonamendable in that form. Both bills passed with a majority instead of two-thirds. H.R. 3726 passed 241–173 and H.R. 3538, which was the version identical to H.R. 4474, passed by 225–191.

So since they both passed by majorities but not two-thirds, they came before us in the Rules Committee. And we would have loved ideas. My colleague, Mr. SESSIONS, talked about how can we work better together. Well, there weren't any amendments that were submitted. This would have been the time, whether the ideas came from Republicans or Democrats, and our Rules Committee has an excellent record of allowing amendments from Members in the minority party as well as the majority party. And I know we take our role very conscientiously in terms of making sure that both parties are represented. There simply weren't any better ideas represented.

The fact is that both of these bills deal with important local issues. They have important buy-in from the stakeholders.

I have personally more familiarity with the wilderness designation aspects because we're working in Colorado in wilderness designation. It's a very real issue when you're dealing with legacy water installations, how can they be maintained if they're on wilderness, how do you grandfather them. And this affects real people.

And it took both Mr. SIMPSON and Mr. MINNICK working across the aisle in Idaho coming together and coming before Congress and saying this is our local solution and asking for us to approve it. It would have been nice if we had been able to get that done on suspension. If there weren't any other ideas to improve it, well, now is a good chance to have a good bipartisan vote to pass the bill.

Same with the other bill, the Castle Nugent National Historic Site Establishment Act. One key thing about this bill is it doesn't spend any money, doesn't spend one dime. You've heard the figure tossed around, oh, it might be worth $40 million, might be worth $25 million. This is merely an authorization bill, as my colleagues on the other side of the aisle are fully aware.

The bill simply designates this area as a new unit. But the bill contains no direct spending. And any land acquisition, if it occurs, would be subject to appropriations or to fund-raising or donations.

Enactment of this legislation is just the beginning of a very important process that we've been through with many other national monuments to preserve a unique and stunning area for inclusion in our national park system.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate what the gentleman said. I know he was busy. I find times when I cannot attend a Rules Committee meeting, and I know the gentleman was not there yesterday. But I need to help him with what actually happened.

As a matter of fact, the Republicans did ask for an open rule. We were not without ideas. You have to open the rule to get amendments in, and we were denied. I also would point to, you know, the idea that we're all sitting around here, Oh, golly gee, we're all bipartisan—when, in fact, the gentleman voted against the bill just this last week, I assume because he disagreed with the substance of the bill. But he was joined by lots of Democratic colleagues that actually took down the bill because once again, I assume substance—not because it was a Republican's name on there. It will be interesting to see what happens today when there is a Democrat Member's name on there to find out if the same policy differences that existed last week, even though it's the exact same bill, whether those same policy problems still exist today or really whether it was just politics.

And we'll be able to know this afternoon. We'll be able to know because it's the exact same bill and the argument the gentleman is making, We're just all getting our job done around here.

Mr. Speaker, we disagree with the bill. And we spoke yesterday not just about Dr. SIMPSON's bill; we also spoke about the bill with the $50 million in St. Croix. And I am going to outline part of that here. But it's based upon substance. And the substance that we believe is important is directly related to the National Park Service giving us their study which they spent $500,000 doing. And last night upstairs, we just blew it off: don't worry about that recommendation; National Park Service, they're going to say it's okay.

I'm sorry. In testimony: Do you know what the substance, what they're going to say? No, but I have a good idea. You know, I sit on the committee. I am a ranking member or I am the committee chairman.

Mr. Speaker, that's the wrong way to run this House. It's the wrong way to run the Rules Committee. That's the wrong way to do things, to ask somebody to do a study and spend half a million dollars and just go ahead and move the legislation without even hearing from people about the substance of the issue.

Forget about it being beachfront property, $50 million, $9 billion backlog of taking care of national parks in this country, and yet it's going to take another million dollars annually just to take care of this beachfront property that the Democratic leadership wants to push.

Americans across the Nation are struggling, Mr. Speaker. They're struggling to provide for their own families and their loved ones. Last week, the Department of Labor released data showing that 12 million Americans are collecting unemployment benefits and over 15 million are currently unemployed. That is double, that is double in 1 year.

There is only so much blame that goes around. At some point the Democratic leadership is going to have to say after 3 years of running this economy into the ground, they're going to have to stand up and be big about it. It's the policies of taxing and spending that the Democratic leadership, the Democratic Members are letting them get away with in this body.

I think somebody is going to have to explain the priorities at some point: why they're putting these two bills back to back, why they're trying to oppose it 1 week with the same policy, the next week presumably will pass it. I will watch with great interest, Mr. Speaker, to see exactly what happens today on the vote.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. POLIS. Mr. Speaker, first of all, I take some degree of offense coming from Colorado if people were to call our wilderness area kind of denigrated as mountain-front property. It so happens that our State is a mountainous State so property happens to be mountainous.

Likewise, when you're talking about an island, you can call it beachfront property, but it's an island. It's by the beach. That is what an island is. We're a mountainous State; St. Croix is an island.

I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. PERLMUTTER.)

MR. PERLMUTTER. I thank my friend, Mr. POLIS, and Mr. Speaker, I heard my friend from Texas talk about our Rules Committee meeting last night, and what he forgot to mention to you and to this body was that this bill that is before us concerning the Virgin Islands is an authorization bill. Now, to the world, what does that mean? It means it only gives the authority for the National Park System to decide whether they want to accept a donation of the property, they want to pay for the property, or make an exchange for the property. There is no appropriation. There is no money spent.

And I appreciate my friend's comment about the need for the study. Well, the study will be there before any money is spent by the United States of America.

But according to the testimony, this is property that has cultural value as

well as scenic value, something that is important to the preservation of these islands and that is important to the United States of America. So this bill just authorizes it; doesn't pay anything for it.

Now, my friend from Texas talked about jobs. What he forgot to tell you, tell all of us, was that when George Bush left office last year, we lost 785,000 jobs in that month. Last month in December, we lost 85,000. Still not good enough, and we all know that. Still not good enough. But 785,000 at the end of the Bush administration and in 1 year we reduced that to 85,000 a month.

Now, we've got a lot of work to do, and we need to do it in a bipartisan way. So my friend is right: we need to work together. And I intend to work with him and with others to reverse this system and get people back to work. We've got to roll up our sleeves. We've got a big job ahead of us to get people back to work and to create jobs in this country.

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, it's all about priorities; and, you know, I welcome the debate that we're having here today.

We asked that we not do this. We asked, at the Rules Committee, let's not do this bill. Isn't it better that we don't go spend $50 million right now?

It is an island. By the way, every piece of land on the island is not beachfront property.

The bottom line is that we are choosing because it's a priority to do this. It's a priority, and those priorities the Republican Party disagrees with.

Additionally, the second bill that comes under this rule that failed to get two-thirds vote last week is the one we're talking about, H.R. 3726, the Castle Nugent National Historic Site Establishment Act. And what this bill really does, as we've heard, is it authorizes but does not appropriate $50 million. If there is anybody in this body who believes that we're going to have a significant debate about the $50 million when it comes in a huge package of appropriations, they're wrong. This puts it in line to be a part of another massive spending bill.

Meanwhile, as we go and buy new Federal land in the Virgin Islands, unemployment rate at 10 percent, that's problematic to me. Even more, Americans, lots of them, don't even have the opportunity to go visit this new $50 million purchase because economic climates are so bad. And you know, even if we weren't running a $1.4 trillion deficit and raising the debt limit by another $1.9 trillion in the next few weeks, there's still this backlog that we could prioritize and put the $50 million in to take care of the $9 billion maintenance backlog that we have in this country.

And by the way, that's cultural. Lots of sites in this country are cultural that are national parks. And the priorities should be of existing decisions that we have made.

□ 1115

I just think it's a bad way to go. But I think it represents exactly the mindset of the Democratic leadership: another good way to spend money, put a happy, smiley face on it, and talk about it's a really good thing for taxpayers.

We're going to find out more when the National Park Service finally releases their study. We are going to find out what they would say. But the Republicans up in the room in the Rules Committee last night said let's wait. Let's not spend the money. Let's wait to find out what we do. And most of all, let's make this an open rule so every Member can bring their ideas down here.

It's not going to happen. Party-line vote.

So what today's legislation should show the American people is about this Congress' priorities: First, that the Democrats refuse—once again, nothing new—to work with Republicans on anything from water bills to national health care reform. Secondly, that jobs and the economy come second to the $50 million worth of taxpayer funds for beachfront property that most Americans will never, never, ever see.

Mr. Speaker, Americans want jobs. They want fiscal responsibility by this body. They want us to work together on the issues and the problems facing this country. And I think they are seeing, once again today, after what was called the wake-up call last week, that we are not doing any of those.

Mr. Speaker, the Democrat majority continues to serve initiatives and policies that will lead to more unemployment, more debt, and more taxation. This administration and the Democrat Congress promised Americans they would be serious about jobs, economic recovery, health care, cleaner energy, and better education. The list goes on and on and on. And what we see after 3 years, now entering the fourth, of Democratic leadership majority in this body is that they are driving our country to record deficits, record unemployment, record spending, and record inability to take responsibility for what they have done on their watch being the policy arm of this government.

This rule does not represent any commitment to fiscal sustainability, either. And with this legislation, Congress only continues to increase Federal debt, slows down our economic recovery, increases the Federal burden and the financial burden placed on our children and grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, the Obama administration promised Americans if Congress passed the stimulus bill that unemployment would not go beyond 8 percent. That was a long time ago. They promised that it would save millions of jobs. Here we are 1 year later, record unemployment and more than 2 million Americans have lost their jobs since the package that was called the ''jobs bill,'' a $1.2 trillion stimulus package, and today in the papers we read about not only is it not working, it is doing what Republicans said at the time. It is going to add to unemployment and debt that will increase at an exponential rate.

In June of last year, my friends on the other side of the aisle passed a cap-and-trade bill that would also raise prices on energy and goods and services for hardworking Americans across this country. In my home State of Texas, the average household would expect to pay more than $1,100 extra a year. No wonder—no wonder there is an outcry. Once again, part of a legislative package, an initiative, that would lose 1.38 million manufacturing jobs. They are in the middle of that right now.

Somebody is going to have to stand up and take accountability for this, because it is happening on the leadership of the Democratic Party's watch. And today, despite these facts, we are spending more money and going to place America in a deficit position again.

Mr. Speaker, in November this last year, the Democrat-controlled House passed sweeping health care reform that effectively diminished employer-based insurance and now is a part of a debate as we continue to lose jobs. It's time that the Democratic Party began working with Republicans if you want to bring jobs back.

Mr. Speaker, the majority party is out of touch. They are out of touch with Americans. Their priorities on borrowing, taxing, and spending are killing our economy and ruining progress for job growth. I know, once again, today I, Republicans, are the minority party. All we can do is stand on the floor and talk. But we believe that the processes up in the Rules Committee are important. That's why we were there even last night trying to say this is the wrong thing to do and that $50 million more does matter. We cannot remedy the economic circumstances that we're in by increasing spending, not on national parks in the Virgin Islands and not on a $1.3 trillion health care bill that will destroy 5½ million jobs.

Huge energy and health bills are going to raise taxes and kill jobs, and certainly raise expenses for States. And people over the last year, we've heard our constituents say that they want stability, they want us to work together, and they want us to focus on the things that would bring about a better tomorrow.

I disagree with what we are doing again today, and I respectfully would say to the American people and my colleagues we should defeat this bill. It's the wrong direction. It's a bad idea, and the timing of this is very bad.

Mr. Speaker, we are going to welcome the President of the United States tonight. I hope we listen to what he says.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. POLIS. Mr. Speaker, once again, I want to reiterate that this bill does not cost $50 million, does not cost $40

million, does not cost $30 million, and does not cost one penny. It's simply an authorization. And as my colleague knows in the scene he has gone through, it is just simply part of the process.

If there ever is an appropriation—and there are a number of avenues under which there might not even be an appropriation. There could be a donation of the property. There could be other involvement from other sources. If there is an appropriation, that's when this would be debated. That would be part of a bill, and somebody could offer an amendment that would come before the Rules Committee. And I would certainly support ruling that in order to make sure that that is a topic that this body has the time to discuss. But now is not the debate with regard to the expenditure of any Federal dollars with regard to this matter.

The procedure that has been used, again, when bills come up on suspension, as these bills did, there was no opportunity for the minority party or the majority party to amend the bills or offer alternatives. When the bill then did not get the requisite two-thirds, it came before our Rules Committee. There were no other amendments that were offered by members of the minority party or the majority party.

We are very open, along with my colleagues on the Rules Committee, and I know the House, as a whole, to ideas from both sides of the aisle regardless of where they come from. If somebody had an improvement to the settlement of the water rights in Idaho or adjustments to the borders of the proposed designation in St. Croix, I'm sure that they would have been likely referred to the House for full consideration.

In fact, the minority party has, under both this rule, the opportunity for a motion to recommit with or without instructions with regard to each of the bills. So there is ample opportunity, and we are hearing a deafening silence from the other side with regard to how to improve these bills. The door is more than open.

The first step, again, in finding that they were unable to reach a two-thirds majority was that they would be open for input. There were no amendments, not one, that was presented to the Rules Committee for either of these bills. And I look forward to seeing what the motions to recommit may entail. Again, if they are constructive and improve these bills in any substantial way, I'm confident that my colleagues will join me in supporting them.

I am the last speaker for my side, so I will reserve the balance of my time until the gentleman from Texas has closed for his side and yielded back the balance of his time.

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, I do appreciate the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. POLIS) for representing the Democratic Party today. I think that it's important as we approach today that the hopes and expectations of a Nation who tonight will listen to our President will be in our hearts and our minds.

This country has had serious days in our past, and we are in serious days today. I don't think there is any problem bigger than a solution in this country. I do believe, however, and I have believed this, that when it comes to the economy, building jobs and working to create a better environment where America is competitive in the world, that it will require not just a basic sense of understanding marketplaces, but really, Mr. Speaker, of discipline, of seeing the problem for what it is.

It is a problem that has been self-induced. It is self-induced by this body, who in the midst of the greatest expansion—and I remember just a few years ago with my friends who were Democrats, oh, all this money that this country has, we are not spending it the right way. The priorities are mixed. We should go spend more money and help people who do not have the advantages because this booming economy has not gotten to them yet.

Mr. Speaker, I do understand that. I do understand that a lot. I spend a lot of time working with disabled people in this country. But what happened in that process was we flipped so far over to where we are now killing the goose that lays the golden egg, and that is the free enterprise system. The free enterprise system, as a result of this Speaker and the policies of the Democratic Party, are pushing an agenda that would lose this country 10 million jobs. We are in the middle of that.

The assault on employers is part of the political agenda. I get that. I think the free enterprise system gets that. But the American people have now caught on. And I think it's time, if we really want to talk about having jobs, jobs that can be competitive with the world, jobs that are not nickel-and-dime jobs or here today and gone tomorrow, that it will require a discipline and a philosophy of understanding how jobs are created and the free enterprise system and the decisionmaking.

The decisionmaking is that this Congress needs to do at least three things:

Number one, they need to make sure that we cut capital gains taxes so that people will invest in this country. They will invest in this country, and the creation of jobs will occur.

Secondly, we need to make sure that we do away with, or greatly diminish, depreciation. Depreciation is government competing against the free enterprise system for money.

And perhaps most importantly, or lastly, the death tax. The death tax because literally, after three generations, anybody who owns a family-owned business has to lose it. It's gone. It's gone from taxation from a Federal Government that is controlled by those who want to tax and spend and diminish that for the spending of the government rather than people who have jobs.

So, look, I think we ought to take the responsibility today. I think, just like somebody going to a meeting and admitting that they made a mistake and they were wrong and they have a problem, being honest about the problem, the creation of jobs won't come through some trickery. It will only come from doing the things that business itself will tell you it needs: reducing capital gains on a permanent basis, reducing the problem that we have with depreciation, and lastly, the death tax. We don't have to take it to $1 billion or half a billion dollars. We could move it probably to $50 million or $60 million and stop the burden, the bleeding, that is happening where people are losing their land, their property, and their businesses. But it takes someone who understands that.

I spent 16 years in the free enterprise system, 16 years where I never missed a day of work. I loved what I did. But I saw Washington as the problem. That's why I came to Congress. I still see government as being the problem. And here today, we give a lot of lip service to jobs, and people act like, well, I just really don't know what to do.

The fact of the matter is the political agenda of losing 10 million American jobs, which we are in the middle of, health care, cap-and-trade, and card check are strangling this country. If we want to be honest about this, just like an alcoholic showing up at an AA meeting and admitting there is a 12-step process to coming back, we need to understand that we are taxing too much, we are spending too much, we are borrowing too much, and the debt is strangling this country.

Mr. Speaker, where are the jobs?

I yield back my time.

Mr. POLIS. Mr. Speaker, the gentleman mentioned health care, cap-and-trade, and card check are strangling the country. Fortunately, none of those are included in this rule.

I hope my colleague will join me in support of this rule which simply brings to the floor two very important issues: the Castle Nugent designation as well as the settlement of access to wilderness area with regard to water rights in the State of Idaho.

Mr. Speaker, my district in Colorado is very lucky to have in it protected places, places that are important not only for the economic well-being of our State, but important for the very foundation of our civic pride and our identity. In many cases, these protections are also part of the fundamental basis of the economy in many of our tourist areas. We know the benefits to local communities from the National Park System. Recreation and tourism provide a long-term and sustainable economic base. Gateway communities thrive from recreationists basing their adventures and their experiences from these nearby communities.

□ 1130

Both the Castle Nugent National Historic Site Establishment Act of 2010 and the Idaho Wilderness Water Facilities Act share the story that land preservation done right is a winning local

policy, and yes, a job creator and winning economic policy.

For the Castle Nugent area, this bill represents the preservation of historic habitat that will lead to future tourism and future small businesses and local sustainable jobs. The park proposal would preserve nearly 2,900 acres of former ranch lands as well as 8,600 acres just off the coast which is owned by the Virgin Islands, respecting the wishes of the local and current landowners that their land go towards preservation instead of development, landowners who have fought for years to fend off aggressive development.

For the communities that surround the Selway-Bitterroot and Frank Church River of No Return Wilderness areas, this means that the land that is protected will continue to draw backpackers, fishermen, hunters, climbers, and adventurers from all around to Idaho, and would ensure that the preservation of these valuable local assets would not mean the loss of others.

This bill includes a well-thought-out approach to this challenging set of circumstances, and ensures a number of safeguards that protect the wilderness and the wilderness act while protecting individual rights as well. The permits that this bill creates would only be issued if the owner could prove that the facility existed prior to the designated wilderness area designation, the facility had been used to deliver water to the owner's land since the designation, and the owner had a valid water right, and it would not be practical to move the facility outside the wilderness area.

Again, I would encourage any colleagues on the other side of the aisle who have constructive ideas to improve this bill, it would have been nice if they had offered amendments before, and I hope to hear any additional ideas in the motion to recommit.

It is estimated that several dozen different individuals or businesses have water diversions in the aforementioned wilderness areas. And this bill is a commonsense solution that balances the protection of wilderness areas with the important ability to maintain and access water rights for those who have historically used that water.

Mr. Speaker, passage of both these bills today will be a quick step forward that will benefit local economies at the same time as providing recreational users and tourists seeking exploration and discovery a great experience with history and nature.

I do share with my colleague from Texas, I agree that there is the opportunity to reduce capital gains tax to promote growth. I have two bills in that regard, H.R. 1783 and H.R. 1784, and I encourage my colleague to join me in cosponsoring these efforts. However, much to my chagrin, neither are scheduled for floor consideration in this rule either.

Again, this rule simply schedules for floor consideration the designation of the Castle Nugent Wilderness National Historic Site Act of 2009 and the Idaho Wilderness Water Facilities Act. Both have the opportunity to have a strong bipartisanship majority to settle the access to water rights in Idaho.

And again, with regard to St. Croix, there is zero taxpayer money being spent at this juncture. It is a very legitimate discussion when and if that time needs to arise do we want to spend money on this. That is a totally separate question, and I look forward to a debate regarding that matter. But the authorization is the first step. And I am hopeful that we can preserve the historic legacy and attract good jobs to the U.S. Virgin Islands.

I urge a ''yes'' vote on the previous question and on the rule.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time, and I move the previous question on the resolution.

The previous question was ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the resolution.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. POLIS. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, this 15-minute vote on the adoption of House Resolution 1038 will be followed by a 5-minute vote on the motion to suspend the rules on House Resolution 1024.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 234, nays 174, not voting 25, as follows:

[Roll No. 20]

YEAS—234

Ackerman
Adler (NJ)
Altmire
Andrews
Arcuri
Baca
Baird
Baldwin
Barrow
Bean
Becerra
Berkley
Berman
Berry
Bishop (NY)
Blumenauer
Boccieri
Boren
Boswell
Boucher
Boyd
Brady (PA)
Braley (IA)
Bright
Brown, Corrine
Butterfield
Capps
Capuano
Cardoza
Carnahan
Carney
Carson (IN)
Chandler
Childers
Chu
Clarke
Clay
Cleaver
Clyburn
Cohen
Connolly (VA)
Conyers
Cooper
Costa
Costello
Courtney
Crowley
Cuellar
Cummings
Dahlkemper
Davis (CA)
Davis (IL)
Davis (TN)
DeFazio
DeGette
Delahunt
DeLauro
Dicks
Dingell
Doggett
Doyle
Driehaus
Edwards (MD)
Ellison
Ellsworth
Engel
Eshoo
Etheridge
Farr
Fattah
Filner
Foster
Fudge
Garamendi
Gonzalez
Gordon (TN)
Grayson
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Grijalva
Gutierrez
Hall (NY)
Halvorson
Hare
Harman
Hastings (FL)
Heinrich
Herseth Sandlin
Higgins
Himes
Hinchey
Hinojosa
Hirono
Hodes
Holden
Holt
Honda
Hoyer
Inslee
Israel
Jackson (IL)
Jackson Lee (TX)
Johnson (GA)
Kagen
Kanjorski
Kaptur
Kildee
Kilpatrick (MI)
Kind
Kirkpatrick (AZ)
Kissell
Klein (FL)
Kosmas
Kratovil
Kucinich
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Lee (CA)
Levin
Lewis (GA)
Lipinski
Loebsack
Lofgren, Zoe
Lowey
Luján
Lynch
Maffei
Maloney
Markey (CO)
Marshall
Massa
Matheson
Matsui
McCarthy (NY)
McCollum
McDermott
McGovern
McIntyre
McMahon
McNerney
Meek (FL)
Meeks (NY)
Melancon
Michaud
Miller (NC)
Miller, George
Minnick
Mollohan
Moore (KS)
Moore (WI)
Murphy (CT)
Murphy, Patrick
Murtha
Nadler (NY)
Napolitano
Neal (MA)
Nye
Oberstar
Obey
Olver
Owens
Pallone
Pascrell
Pastor (AZ)
Payne
Perlmutter
Perriello
Peterson
Pingree (ME)
Polis (CO)
Pomeroy
Price (NC)
Quigley
Rahall
Rangel
Reyes
Richardson
Rodriguez
Ross
Rothman (NJ)
Roybal-Allard
Ruppersberger
Rush
Ryan (OH)
Salazar
Sánchez, Linda T.
Sanchez, Loretta
Sarbanes
Schakowsky
Schauer
Schiff
Schrader
Schwartz
Scott (GA)
Scott (VA)
Serrano
Sestak
Shea-Porter
Sherman
Simpson
Sires
Skelton
Slaughter
Smith (TX)
Smith (WA)
Snyder
Space
Spratt
Stark
Stupak
Sutton
Tanner
Teague
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Tierney
Titus
Tonko
Towns
Tsongas
Van Hollen
Velázquez
Visclosky
Walz
Wasserman Schultz
Watson
Watt
Weiner
Welch
Wilson (OH)
Woolsey
Wu
Yarmuth

NAYS—174

Aderholt
Akin
Alexander
Austria
Bachmann
Bachus
Bartlett
Biggert
Bilbray
Bilirakis
Bishop (UT)
Blackburn
Blunt
Boehner
Bonner
Bono Mack
Boozman
Boustany
Brady (TX)
Broun (GA)
Brown (SC)
Brown-Waite, Ginny
Buchanan
Burgess
Burton (IN)
Buyer
Calvert
Camp
Campbell
Cantor
Cao
Capito
Carter
Cassidy
Castle
Chaffetz
Coble
Coffman (CO)
Cole
Conaway
Culberson
Davis (KY)
Dent
Diaz-Balart, L.
Diaz-Balart, M.
Donnelly (IN)
Dreier
Duncan
Ehlers
Emerson
Fallin
Flake
Fleming
Forbes
Fortenberry
Foxx
Franks (AZ)
Frelinghuysen
Gallegly
Garrett (NJ)
Gerlach
Giffords
Gingrey (GA)
Gohmert
Goodlatte
Granger
Graves
Griffith
Guthrie
Hall (TX)
Harper
Hastings (WA)
Heller
Hensarling
Herger
Hill
Hoekstra
Hunter
Inglis
Issa
Jenkins
Johnson (IL)
Johnson, Sam
Jones
Jordan (OH)
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kingston
Kirk
Kline (MN)
Lamborn
Lance
Latham
LaTourette
Latta
Lee (NY)
Lewis (CA)
Linder
LoBiondo
Luetkemeyer
Lummis
Lungren, Daniel E.
Mack
Manzullo
Marchant
McCarthy (CA)
McCaul
McClintock
McCotter
McKeon
Mica
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Miller, Gary
Mitchell
Murphy (NY)
Murphy, Tim
Myrick
Neugebauer
Nunes
Olson
Paul
Paulsen
Pence
Peters
Petri
Pitts
Platts
Poe (TX)
Posey
Price (GA)
Putnam
Rehberg
Reichert
Roe (TN)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rogers (MI)
Rohrabacher
Rooney
Ros-Lehtinen
Roskam
Royce
Ryan (WI)
Scalise
Schmidt
Schock
Sensenbrenner
Sessions
Shadegg
Shimkus
Shuler
Shuster
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Souder
Stearns
Sullivan
Taylor
Terry
Thompson (PA)
Thornberry
Tiahrt
Tiberi
Turner
Upton
Walden
Westmoreland
Whitfield
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Wolf
Young (AK)
Young (FL)

NOT VOTING—25

Abercrombie
Barrett (SC)
Barton (TX)
Bishop (GA)
Castor (FL)
Crenshaw

Davis (AL)
Deal (GA)
Edwards (TX)
Frank (MA)
Johnson, E. B.
Kennedy
Kilroy
Lucas
Markey (MA)
McHenry
McMorris Rodgers
Moran (KS)
Moran (VA)
Ortiz
Radanovich
Speier
Wamp
Waters
Waxman

□ 1200

Messrs. TURNER, UPTON, TERRY, and YOUNG of Alaska changed their vote from ''yea'' to ''nay.''

So the resolution was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

Stated against:

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, on January 27, 2010, I voted "yea" on rollcall 20 for H. Res. 1024. Please let the RECORD show that my intention was to vote "nay" on agreeing to this resolution.

POVERTY IN AMERICA AWARENESS MONTH

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 1024, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Washington (Mr. MCDERMOTT) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 1024.

This will be a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 387, nays 18, not voting 28, as follows:

[Roll No. 21]

YEAS—387

Ackerman
Aderholt
Adler (NJ)
Akin
Alexander
Altmire
Andrews
Arcuri
Austria
Baca
Bachmann
Bachus
Baird
Baldwin
Barrow
Bartlett
Bean
Becerra
Berkley
Berman
Berry
Biggert
Bilbray
Bilirakis
Bishop (NY)
Bishop (UT)
Blackburn
Blumenauer
Boccieri
Boehner
Bonner
Bono Mack
Boozman
Boren
Boswell
Boucher
Boustany
Boyd
Brady (PA)
Brady (TX)
Braley (IA)
Bright
Brown (SC)
Brown, Corrine
Brown-Waite, Ginny
Buchanan
Burton (IN)
Buyer
Calvert
Camp
Campbell
Cantor
Cao
Capito
Capps
Capuano
Cardoza
Carnahan
Carney
Carson (IN)
Cassidy
Castle
Castor (FL)
Chaffetz
Chandler
Childers
Chu
Clarke
Clay
Cleaver
Clyburn
Coffman (CO)
Cohen
Cole
Connolly (VA)
Conyers
Cooper
Costa
Costello
Courtney
Crowley
Cuellar
Culberson
Cummings
Dahlkemper
Davis (CA)
Davis (IL)
Davis (KY)
Davis (TN)
DeFazio
DeGette
Delahunt
DeLauro
Dent
Diaz-Balart, L.
Diaz-Balart, M.
Dicks
Dingell
Doggett
Donnelly (IN)
Doyle
Dreier
Driehaus
Duncan
Edwards (MD)
Ehlers
Ellison
Ellsworth
Emerson
Engel
Eshoo
Etheridge
Fallin
Farr
Fattah
Filner
Fleming
Forbes
Fortenberry
Foster
Frelinghuysen
Fudge
Gallegly
Garamendi
Garrett (NJ)
Gerlach
Giffords
Gonzalez
Goodlatte
Gordon (TN)
Granger
Graves
Grayson
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Griffith
Grijalva
Guthrie
Gutierrez
Hall (NY)
Hall (TX)
Halvorson
Hare
Harman
Harper
Hastings (FL)
Hastings (WA)
Heinrich
Heller
Herger
Herseth Sandlin
Higgins
Hill
Himes
Hinchey
Hinojosa
Hirono
Hodes
Hoekstra
Holden
Holt
Honda
Hoyer
Hunter
Inglis
Inslee
Israel
Jackson (IL)
Jackson Lee (TX)
Jenkins
Johnson (GA)
Johnson (IL)
Jones
Kagen
Kanjorski
Kaptur
Kildee
Kilpatrick (MI)
Kilroy
Kind
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kirk
Kirkpatrick (AZ)
Kissell
Klein (FL)
Kline (MN)
Kosmas
Kratovil
Kucinich
Lamborn
Lance
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Latham
LaTourette
Latta
Lee (CA)
Lee (NY)
Levin
Lewis (CA)
Lewis (GA)
Linder
Lipinski
LoBiondo
Loebsack
Lofgren, Zoe
Lowey
Luetkemeyer
Luján
Lungren, Daniel E.
Lynch
Mack
Maffei
Maloney
Manzullo
Markey (CO)
Markey (MA)
Marshall
Massa
Matheson
Matsui
McCarthy (CA)
McCarthy (NY)
McCaul
McCollum
McCotter
McDermott
McGovern
McHenry
McIntyre
McKeon
McMahon
McMorris Rodgers
McNerney
Meek (FL)
Meeks (NY)
Melancon
Mica
Michaud
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Miller (NC)
Miller, Gary
Miller, George
Minnick
Mitchell
Mollohan
Moore (KS)
Moore (WI)
Murphy (CT)
Murphy (NY)
Murphy, Patrick
Murphy, Tim
Murtha
Myrick
Nadler (NY)
Napolitano
Neal (MA)
Neugebauer
Nunes
Nye
Oberstar
Obey
Olson
Olver
Owens
Pallone
Pascrell
Pastor (AZ)
Paul
Paulsen
Payne
Perlmutter
Perriello
Peters
Peterson
Petri
Pingree (ME)
Pitts
Platts
Polis (CO)
Pomeroy
Posey
Price (NC)
Putnam
Quigley
Rahall
Rangel
Rehberg
Reichert
Reyes
Richardson
Rodriguez
Roe (TN)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rogers (MI)
Rohrabacher
Rooney
Ros-Lehtinen
Roskam
Ross
Rothman (NJ)
Roybal-Allard
Royce
Ruppersberger
Rush
Ryan (OH)
Ryan (WI)
Salazar
Sánchez, Linda T.
Sanchez, Loretta
Sarbanes
Schakowsky
Schauer
Schiff
Schmidt
Schock
Schrader
Schwartz
Scott (GA)
Scott (VA)
Sensenbrenner
Serrano
Sessions
Sestak
Shadegg
Shea-Porter
Sherman
Shimkus
Shuler
Shuster
Simpson
Sires
Skelton
Slaughter
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Smith (WA)
Snyder
Souder
Space
Spratt
Stark
Stearns
Stupak
Sullivan
Sutton
Tanner
Taylor
Teague
Terry
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Thompson (PA)
Thornberry
Tiahrt
Tiberi
Tierney
Titus
Tonko
Towns
Tsongas
Turner
Upton
Van Hollen
Velázquez
Visclosky
Walden
Walz
Wasserman Schultz
Watson
Watt
Waxman
Weiner
Whitfield
Wilson (OH)
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Wolf
Woolsey
Wu
Yarmuth
Young (AK)
Young (FL)

NAYS—18

Broun (GA)
Burgess
Carter
Conaway
Flake
Foxx
Franks (AZ)
Hensarling
Johnson, Sam
Kingston
Lummis
Marchant
McClintock
Pence
Poe (TX)
Price (GA)
Scalise
Westmoreland

NOT VOTING—28

Abercrombie
Barrett (SC)
Barton (TX)
Bishop (GA)
Blunt
Butterfield
Coble
Crenshaw
Davis (AL)
Deal (GA)
Edwards (TX)
Frank (MA)
Gingrey (GA)
Gohmert
Issa
Johnson, E. B.
Jordan (OH)
Kennedy
Lucas
Moran (KS)
Moran (VA)
Ortiz
Radanovich
Smith (NE)
Speier
Wamp
Waters
Welch

□ 1208

Messrs. WESTMORELAND, KINGSTON, and BURGESS changed their vote from ''yea'' to ''nay.''

So (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the resolution was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. MCCOLLUM). Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on motions to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or on which the vote incurs objection under clause 6 of rule XX.

Record votes on postponed questions will be taken later.

ADDITIONAL TEMPORARY EXTENSION OF SMALL BUSINESS PROGRAMS

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4508) to provide for an additional temporary extension of programs under the Small Business Act and the Small Business Investment Act of 1958, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 4508

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. ADDITIONAL TEMPORARY EXTENSION OF AUTHORIZATION OF PROGRAMS UNDER THE SMALL BUSINESS ACT AND THE SMALL BUSINESS INVESTMENT ACT OF 1958.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 1 of the Act entitled ''An Act to extend temporarily certain authorities of the Small Business Administration'', approved October 10, 2006 (Public Law 109–316; 120 Stat. 1742), as most recently amended by section 1 of Public Law 111–89 (123 Stat. 2975), is amended by striking ''January 31, 2010'' each place it appears and inserting ''April 30, 2010''.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by subsection (a) shall take effect on January 30, 2010.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. VELÁZQUEZ) and the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. GRAVES) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from New York.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the bill under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from New York?

There was no objection.

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

As we work to foster job growth, small businesses will be central to the equation. Time and again, when Americans face economic uncertainty, they respond with innovative ideas and new ventures. While larger companies are slower to reverse the trend and start hiring again, small firms are often more nimble and can lead us out of downturns more quickly.

□ 1215

For many dislocated workers, starting a new business can help pay the bills and even launch a new career. However, for entrepreneurs to fulfill their traditional role as job creators, they need the right tools.

The legislation before us today will extend programs at the SBA that help new businesses form and existing firms grow. This bill extends some of the agency's most valuable efforts. Reauthorizing certain capital access programs will help small businesses survive the credit crunch.

Earlier this year, the House passed legislation to strengthen those initiatives. We have also approved bills reauthorizing the Small Business Innovation Research initiative. However, before these measures are updated, they will have to be extended.

H.R. 4508 ensures these programs continue operating as we keep working with the Senate to fully update them. This bill is not a comprehensive reauthorization, but it does represent another step toward a more suitable solution.

Given the valuable role that small businesses play in our economy, we cannot afford any of the SBA services to lapse. I, therefore, urge my colleagues to vote ''yes.''

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of the chairwoman's request to suspend the rules and pass H.R. 4508. The bill is straightforward, and it's a clean extension that prolongs the authorization of all programs authorized by the Small Business Act, Small Business Investment Act, and any program operated by the Small Business Administration for which Congress has already appropriated the funds. This extension is going to last until April 30, 2010. This legislation is essential because authorization for various programs operated by the SBA expire on January 31 of this year.

Over the past 3 years, our committee has worked in a bipartisan fashion, reported out a number of bills to reauthorize and extend programs operated by the SBA. Despite our efforts to come to terms with the Senate over the broader reauthorization, the extension passed late last year will expire before the legislative process can run its course. Without enactment of this extension, a vital number of programs that the SBA operates would cease to function. Given the continued importance that small businesses play in the revitalization of the American economy, we simply cannot allow the SBA authorizations to run out.

The work needed to help America's entrepreneurs revitalize the economy simply cannot be accomplished within the time frame outlined in the current legislation. We not only need to reauthorize these critical programs, but also update them to respond to new economic conditions. The extra time contained in this legislation allows us to fully explore and implement the ideas that will give our Nation's entrepreneurs the tools they need to be successful.

Passage of this legislation will enable the House and the Senate to continually work in a conscientious manner to address the necessary changes to SBA programs. I urge all my colleagues to suspend the rules and pass H.R. 4508.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Madam Speaker, I yield as much time as he may consume to Mr. DAVID WU from Oregon.

Mr. WU. Madam Speaker, I rise in somewhat reluctant support of this legislation which temporarily, among other things, extends the Small Business Innovative Research and Small Business Technology Transfer programs. The truth is that we should have reauthorized these programs long ago, and we should not be dragging this process out. But that is not a problem that we have in this Chamber. It is very, very important because SBIR and STTR are innovation programs which invest in small businesses, the ones best positioned to drive economic growth and to create new jobs.

Innovation is the key to resuscitating our ailing economy and to creating good, family-wage jobs for the American middle class. By investing in innovation, SBIR and STTR create more than good-paying jobs; they encourage the development of growth industries. And that, Madam Speaker, is what our Nation needs most.

AMGEN, Apple, Microsoft, and Research In Motion all started out as cutting-edge small businesses. These creative, high-tech companies spurred new industries, new jobs, new technologies that now employ hundreds of thousands of Americans.

By facilitating creative renewal, SBIR and STTR are not only helping guide our economy out of a recession, they are building our Nation's capacity to thrive in a very competitive global economy. SBIR and STTR have a proven track record of over 25 years' success in creating good-paying jobs in high-growth industries, and we must continue our commitment to these programs and reauthorize them immediately.

But we cannot continue to fuel the 21st century economy with 20th century programs. We must modernize SBIR and STTR so that they can meet their potential as innovation catalysts. Some of these improvements are simple, like making awards more reflective of today's technology development costs. Others, like ensuring that our most innovative companies are eligible for public investments regardless of their capital structure, require a more nuanced approach.

The Science and Technology Committee and the Small Business Committee, led by my colleague Chairwoman VELÁZQUEZ, have been working hard with our Senate colleagues to strike the right balance for these improvements. We're not there yet, but I am confident that we will get there. In the meantime, we must pass today's temporary extension.

Madam Speaker, I urge support of this bill and its swift passage.

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I would like to associate myself with the words of the gentleman from Oregon. It's not this Chamber's fault that we have to pass an extension. The reauthorization should be finished by now. I want to thank the chairwoman for all of her work in the committee and the work that we've been able to accomplish so far in the committee.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. VELÁZQUEZ) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4508.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Madam Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

HONORING 95TH ANNIVERSARY OF SIGNING OF ROCKY MOUNTAIN NATIONAL PARK ACT

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 1020) honoring the 95th anniversary of the signing of the Rocky Mountain National Park Act.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 1020

Whereas, on January 26, 1915, President Woodrow Wilson signed the Rocky Mountain

National Park Act to establish Rocky Mountain National Park (RMNP) in the State of Colorado;

Whereas, years ago, the foresight of so many Coloradans to set aside and conserve RMNP benefits so many of us today;

Whereas, the fragile alpine tundra encompasses one-third of RMNP and is one of the largest examples of alpine tundra ecosystems preserved in the National Park System in the lower 48 States;

Whereas, RMNP remains a place for visitors to enjoy the Rocky Mountain West by hiking, backpacking, climbing, biking, picnicking, wildlife viewing, snowshoeing, cross-country skiing, and horseback riding;

Whereas, the National Park Service provides unique outdoor educational opportunities within RMNP and teaches visitors about the diverse park ecosystem, environmental stewardship, wilderness areas, and the principles of Leave No Trace so our recreational areas can be enjoyed by everyone;

Whereas, RMNP is the highest national park in the United States with at least 60 mountains higher than 12,000 feet including the highest summit, Longs Peak, at 14,259 feet;

Whereas, the Continental Divide runs through RMNP and the park contains the headwaters of several river systems including the Colorado River;

Whereas, RMNP is consistently one of the top 10 visited national parks in the United States with approximately 3 million visitors every year;

Whereas, on March 30, 2009, 249,339 acres of RMNP's total 265,770 acres was designated as Wilderness Area, thereby conferring the highest level of conservation protection for Federal lands to protect the park's majestic terrain from future development; and

Whereas this designation marks the culmination of decades of work by many committed stakeholders, from the local communities to the Federal Government: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives honors the 95th anniversary of the signing of the Rocky Mountain National Park Act and commends the National Park Service and so many Coloradans for their dedication to preserving this region of the Southern Rocky Mountains for future generations to come.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from the Virgin Islands (Mrs. CHRISTENSEN) and the gentleman from Washington (Mr. HASTINGS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from the Virgin Islands.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the resolution under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from the Virgin Islands?

There was no objection.

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, this resolution to honor the 95th anniversary of the signing of the act that created the Rocky Mountain National Park was introduced by Representative BETSY MARKEY and the entire Colorado delegation. President Woodrow Wilson signed the act on January 26, 1915, creating a park that preserves the remarkable beauty of some of the highest peaks in the continental United States. Some 3 million people visit Rocky Mountain National Park each year, making it one of the top 10 most visited national parks in the United States.

In March of last year, Congress passed and President Obama signed legislation designating much of the park's majestic terrain as wilderness, marking the culmination of decades of work by many committed park supporters. Therefore, Madam Speaker, it is appropriate to mark this important anniversary for Rocky Mountain National Park, and I commend Representative MARKEY for introducing this resolution.

I ask my colleagues to support the passage of this measure.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Madam Speaker, I yield myself 15 seconds.

House Resolution 1020 has been adequately explained by the majority, and we have no objection to this resolution.

I yield back the balance of my time, Madam Speaker.

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Madam Speaker, as we said, this resolution is an important resolution, marking the anniversary of the Rocky Mountain National Park.

I had hoped I would have another speaker. At this time, Madam Speaker, not seeing any other speakers on my side, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. I ask unanimous consent to reclaim my time and ask unanimous consent that the gentlelady from the Virgin Islands has her time also.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the time is reclaimed.

There was no objection.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Madam Speaker, I am pleased to yield as much time as he may consume to the gentleman from Georgia.

Mr. KINGSTON. I thank the Speaker, the gentleman from Washington, and the gentlewoman from the Virgin Islands.

I had a lot of interest in this bill because I have spent so many wonderful hours at the Rocky Mountain National Park. My family has been going there off and on for nearly 25 years about once a year, and I can tell you, there is not a greater playground in the United States of America if you like the outdoors, if you like elk, if you like mule deer, if you like family, if you like just to get out and exercise and do the fresh air.

I have had the experience of hiking up Longs Peak three times, and those of you out West are very familiar with fourteeners and what a great thrill that is. But for somebody who comes from zero sea level in Savannah, Georgia, to go 14,000 feet in altitude up in the tundra—the tundra starts at around 11,000—it is such a great thrill to go through the Keyhole, to go through the Narrows, to go through the Boulder Field, to get on the summit of Longs Peak and look out for miles and miles. I will tell you, it is just such a great thrill.

I have also climbed Flattop Mountain, Chiquita, Otis, Hallett Peak, and Ypsilon Mountain. So many times doing that, I have done it with my family, my cousins, my small children and now my grown children. I have had a couple of them up on Longs with me.

My mother, who is now in her eighties, was the one who first got addicted to Rocky Mountain National Park. We had the opportunity many years ago to go to Chasm Lake together, and I remember my mother was probably in her seventies at the time, but that is a great hike. They actually rate hikes in terms of A, B, and C; A being the most difficult and C being a very moderately tough hike. Chasm Lake is one of those. My mother has been all over the Rockies, as has my sister Jean, both in snowshoes, in cross-country skis, and in tennis shoes and hiking boots.

I have gone trout fishing there many times with barbless hooks with my childhood friend Ross Fox. It's kind of discouraging for me to have to release trout, but I understand the big picture here. It has been a lot of fun. I have photographed elk and the deer and looked for marmots on the peak.

I just can't emphasize enough what a great vision that Enos Mills had, who is the father of the Rocky Mountain National Park, when he promoted this to become a national park. It was his vision. His brother Joe Mills also was a very passionate lover of the Rocky Mountain National Park. I have had the opportunity to meet Enos Mills' daughter who lives right next door to it. They are great advocates.

I'm sorry to rant and rave on a personal basis about something, but I want to recommend to anybody in Congress and anybody out there who is listening who doesn't live in Colorado who hasn't been there, it is a wonderful place. Regardless of your age, regardless of your interests, there is something there for you.

Madam Speaker, if you guys are interested—and I can tell you are—I would like to invite you to let me come show you my slides. I would be willing to do that. Y'all can come to my office and I'm going to show you my many picture albums, because it is something that is great.

Anyway, I'm glad we're doing this, and there are some things I think Congress does well. The National Park System certainly is one of those great things that Congress has done on a bipartisan basis and has a lot of support for it. So I thank the gentleman for letting me go down this personal trail today.

□ 1230

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Madam Speaker, I yield to Congresswoman MARKEY such time as she may consume.

Ms. MARKEY of Colorado. Madam Speaker, I rise today to urge my colleagues to vote for House Resolution 1020, to honor the 95th anniversary of President Woodrow Wilson signing the Rocky Mountain National Park Act. And I thank my colleague for his offer of slides. I represent this beautiful district, and I also welcome anyone to come and visit Colorado and see for yourself this crown jewel of the West. This legislation set aside roughly 360 square miles of the southern Rockies to establish Rocky Mountain National Park. When the National Park Service was established the following year in 1916, the park was one of the original 12 parks transferred to the agency's control. Today the Rocky Mountain National Park remains one of Colorado's most treasured destinations, and is consistently one of the top 10 visited national parks in the United States.

Rocky Mountain National Park truly embodies the spirit of the conservation and preservation movement at the turn of the century. The park's ecosystems range from the montane low lands to the alpine tundra and includes a diverse range of flora and fauna. Rocky Mountain National Park also remains one of the largest examples of the alpine tundra ecosystem in the national park system in the lower 48 States and offers invaluable opportunities for visitors to learn and enjoy the great outdoors. On March 30, 2009, 405 square miles of the park were designated as a wilderness area, thereby conferring the highest level of conservation protection for Federal lands.

President Theodore Roosevelt once said, ''Of all the questions which can come before this Nation, short of the actual preservation of its existence in a great war, there is none which compares in importance with the great central task of leaving this land even a better land for our descendants than it is for us.'' This week we celebrate the foresight of so many Coloradans to conserve this majestic landscape for the present and future generations to come.

I urge all Members to support this resolution.

Mr. LAMBORN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 95th anniversary of the signing of the Rocky Mountain National Park Act and I commend the gentle lady from the Fourth District of Colorado for introducing this resolution. President Woodrow Wilson established Rocky Mountain National Park on January 26th, 1915, and preserved the acreage to be enjoyed by millions of visitors each year.

The Rocky Mountain National Park displays the majesty of Colorado, and some of the Nation's most striking scenery. As the country's highest National Park in elevation—with over 60 peaks reaching over 12,000 feet—the Rocky Mountain National Park is among the ten most visited national parks in the United States, drawing an average of 3 million visitors each year. The Continental Divide and headwaters for the Colorado River lie within the Park's boundaries, creating stunning vistas.

I am a frequent visitor of the Rocky Mountain National Park. Located in the Park is Trail Ridge Road. According to the National Park Service, it is the highest continuous motorway in the United States, with more than 8 miles lying above 11,000 feet and a maximum elevation of 12,183 feel.

Like my fellow Coloradans, I am proud our State hosts this property, and would recommend my colleagues plan a visit to enjoy the magnificent natural beauty and plentiful recreational opportunities. It is a memorable experience our Nation is preserving for future generations. I commend the work of committed staff at the National Parks Service for preserving and facilitating ongoing access to this true national treasure. Rocky Mountain National Park is truly one of the crown jewels in our National Park System.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from the Virgin Islands (Mrs. CHRISTENSEN) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 1020.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Madam Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

IDAHO WILDERNESS WATER FACILITIES ACT

Mr. RAHALL. Madam Speaker, pursuant to House Resolution 1038, I call up the bill (H.R. 4474) to authorize the continued use of certain water diversions located on National Forest System land in the Frank Church-River of No Return Wilderness and the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness in the State of Idaho, and for other purposes, and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 1038, the bill is considered as read.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 4474

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the ''Idaho Wilderness Water Facilities Act''.

SEC. 2. TREATMENT OF EXISTING WATER DIVERSIONS IN FRANK CHURCH-RIVER OF NO RETURN WILDERNESS AND SELWAY-BITTERROOT WILDERNESS, IDAHO.

(a) AUTHORIZATION FOR CONTINUED USE.—The Secretary of Agriculture is authorized to issue a special use authorization to each of the 20 owners of a water storage, transport, or diversion facility (in this section referred to as a ''facility'') located on National Forest System land in the Frank Church-River of No Return Wilderness or the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness (as identified on the map titled ''Unauthorized Private Water Diversions located within the Frank Church River of No Return Wilderness'', dated December 14, 2009, or the map titled ''Unauthorized Private Water Diversions located within the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness'', dated December 11, 2009) for the continued operation, maintenance, and reconstruction of the facility if the Secretary determines that—

(1) the facility was in existence on the date on which the land upon which the facility is located was designated as part of the National Wilderness Preservation System (in this section referred to as ''the date of designation'');

(2) the facility has been in substantially continuous use to deliver water for the beneficial use on the owner's non-Federal land since the date of designation;

(3) the owner of the facility holds a valid water right for use of the water on the owner's non-Federal land under Idaho State law, with a priority date that predates the date of designation; and

(4) it is not practicable or feasible to relocate the facility to land outside of the wilderness and continue the beneficial use of water on the non-Federal land recognized under State law.

(b) TERMS AND CONDITIONS.—

(1) EQUIPMENT, TRANSPORT, AND USE TERMS AND CONDITIONS.—In a special use authorization issued under subsection (a), the Secretary is authorized to—

(A) allow use of motorized equipment and mechanized transport for operation, maintenance, or reconstruction of a facility, if the Secretary determines that—

(i) the use is necessary to allow the facility to continue delivery of water to the non-Federal land for the beneficial uses recognized by the water right held under Idaho State law; and

(ii) after conducting a minimum tool analysis for the facility, the use of nonmotorized equipment and nonmechanized transport is impracticable or infeasible; and

(B) preclude use of the facility for the storage, diversion, or transport of water in excess of the water right recognized by the State of Idaho on the date of designation.

(2) ADDITIONAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS.—In a special use authorization issued under subsection (a), the Secretary is authorized to—

(A) require or allow modification or relocation of the facility in the wilderness, as the Secretary determines necessary, to reduce impacts to wilderness values set forth in section 2 of the Wilderness Act (16 U.S.C. 1131) if the beneficial use of water on the non-Federal land is not diminished; and

(B) require that the owner provide a reciprocal right of access across the non-Federal property, in which case, the owner shall receive market value for any right-of-way or other interest in real property conveyed to the United States, and market value may be paid by the Secretary, in whole or in part, by the grant of a reciprocal right-of-way, or by reduction of fees or other costs that may accrue to the owner to obtain the authorization for water facilities.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from West Virginia (Mr. RAHALL) and the gentleman from Washington (Mr. HASTINGS) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from West Virginia.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. RAHALL. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to

revise and extend their remarks and insert extraneous material on H.R. 4474.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from West Virginia?

There was no objection.

Mr. RAHALL. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 4474, introduced by our colleagues, Mr. WALT MINNICK and MIKE SIMPSON of Idaho. This bill would authorize the continued use of certain water diversions located in wilderness areas on national forest system land in the Frank Church-River of No Return Wilderness and the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness in the State of Idaho. Predating the existence of the two wilderness areas, private land owners had received permits to maintain and repair these water diversions. The water is used for a combination of purposes, including drinking water for private cabins and ranches. Many of the permits have since expired, leaving those who own the water diversions without the ability to mechanically maintain the systems because they are located in designated wilderness. Under the terms of this legislation, the Secretary of Agriculture could only issue new permits if the owner demonstrates that the facility existed prior to the designated wilderness, the facility had been used to deliver water to the owner's land since the designation, the owner had a valid water right, and it would not be practical to move the facility out of the wilderness area.

This is narrowly tailored legislation designed to put in place a balanced reasonable solution to a specific conflict. Mr. MINNICK and Mr. SIMPSON are to be commended for working cooperatively and in a bipartisan fashion to craft this legislation.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Madam Speaker, I yield myself as much time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I will first speak to the merits of this legislation before focusing on the partisan reasons why the House is having to debate this bill and this legislation for a second week in a row. This bill was originally introduced by Mr. SIMPSON of Idaho to require the Forest Service to issue special use maintenance permits to owners of a small number of existing water systems in two Idaho wilderness areas. Although these water diversions continue to operate, their owners currently lack the authority to maintain and repair these facilities. Failure to maintain these facilities can harm not only those who depend on access to the water that these structures provide but also damage the environment and watersheds of the Forest Service land.

H.R. 4474 will allow the owners of the existing water systems to do the necessary maintenance. The legislation is narrowly tailored to apply only to a small number of sites that meet specific criteria. To qualify, the water diversion facility must have been in existence on the date that the area was designated as part of the National Wilderness Preservation System. It must have been in substantially continuous use since the date of that designation, and the owner of the facilities must hold a valid water right under Idaho law that predates the wilderness designation.

Additionally, sites can only be covered by the bill if it is not practical or feasible to relocate the facilities to land outside the wilderness area and continue the beneficial use of water recognized under State law.

This is a bill and policy that I believe merits strong support in this House. Congress needs to have a reasonable and commonsense approach to managing our Federal lands. Wilderness designations preclude such commonsense management. The restrictions on activity are so severe and inflexible, the designation is often applied to unsuitable lands, and problems and conflicts arise out of that designation.

And so here we are today. Congress must go back once again and fix the problems created by previous wilderness designation law. Congress needs to execute far more caution and care and forethought before designating wilderness areas, as the effects are to lock up these areas for human activity. We ought to be wise enough to devise sound conservation practices on our land without creating the unintended threats to neighboring families that poorly thought out wilderness designation can bring to many. There is no reason why we cannot be both good stewards and good neighbors.

So, Madam Speaker, as I said, this is a matter of good public policy, and I support the changes this legislation will make in the law. However, as a matter of how the Democrat leaders who control this House are choosing to operate this House, I object to the extreme partisan maneuvering surrounding this bill. Last week the House voted on this exact same bill, but there are only two differences between that bill and this bill. First, this is a new bill with a new number. And second, the lead sponsor is now a Democrat instead of a Republican. Last week this bill was H.R. 3538, sponsored by Republican MIKE SIMPSON of Idaho. Today the bill is numbered H.R. 4474, and the lead sponsor is Democrat WALT MINNICK of Idaho. So let me repeat. The bill is word for word the same that the House voted on last week, except the sponsorship has been switched so that a Democrat is now the prime sponsor.

Now, I have to say, Madam Speaker, this is truly a remarkable display of partisanship. First, Democrat leaders directed their Members to vote against this legislation last week because a totally separate piece of legislation failed to pass on the suspension calendar. And now these Democrat leaders are playing a partisan switcheroo in sponsorship of this bill so a Democrat gets credit for this bill's passing. I assume it's going to pass now that the switcheroo has happened. I might add, by the way, that the area that we're talking about is in Mr. SIMPSON's district.

So, Madam Speaker, with unemployment in double digits, millions of Americans without jobs, and with record deficits set last year by a Democrat President and this Congress, one would think that this House would have more important things to do than to engage in such overt and obvious partisan tactics.

With that, Madam Speaker, I support the bill.

I reserve my time.

Mr. RAHALL. Madam Speaker, I yield myself 30 seconds. I do appreciate the manner which the gentleman from Washington, the ranking member, has stressed the bipartisan nature of this legislation. As he knows, in our Committee on Natural Resources, it's always our effort to improve a product the second time we consider it, and that's what we're doing here today with this legislation.

Madam Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Idaho (Mr. MINNICK), who has been so instrumental in bringing this legislation forward and worked so hard in crafting it.

Mr. MINNICK. I thank the chairman. And I would like to indicate that the partisanship which leads to this particular procedural process for bringing this bill back to the floor has nothing to do with the merits of the legislation. Congressman SIMPSON has done a great deal of work on these remote water systems that were ignored when two wilderness areas were protected, and exist in both of our districts, carefully crafting, as the ranking minority on the committee has stated, the Congressman from Washington, carefully crafting a very narrow bill which creates some exceptions that allow 22 land holders who have, since before these areas were created as wilderness, operated very simple gravity-fed water systems whose points of intake are now in wilderness because they're upstream, up small creeks in almost every incident, and who need to maintain these systems from time to time, occasionally using mechanical means.

Congressman SIMPSON looked and catalogued these 22 inholdings, drafted very carefully legislation to deal with this issue to correct the oversight. And the oversight was not the wilderness; it was just not considering the continued use of these private inholdings. The legislation will allow them to continue operating as they are in perpetuity. This is good legislation. It's good for Idaho. It's good for wilderness.

I want to congratulate my colleague on his diligence, and to urge my colleagues to support this remedial legislation.

□ 1245

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. I yield myself as much time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I wanted to respond to my distinguished chairman. It is true that we do have a lot of bipartisanship on our committee, and I appreciate the gentleman for making that point, and I am certainly doing everything on my part to ensure that that continues on. However, I will make the point we did have a hearing on H.R. 3538, the measure sponsored by Mr. SIMPSON.

We have not had a hearing, however, on H.R. 4474 which is before us today sponsored by Mr. MINNICK. I just wanted to point that out because we try to be in regular order as much as we possibly can, and I think that is worth pointing out.

So I would hope that this legislation does pass the House with strong bipartisan support. Maybe it will be able to send the signal that we can indeed work in a bipartisan way if only we change sponsorships of certain bills; but that remains to be seen, Madam Speaker, but I look forward to that time.

Mr. SIMPSON. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 4474, the Idaho Wilderness Water Resources Protection Act.

This bipartisan, non-controversial legislation is a technical fix intended to enable the Forest Service to authorize and permit existing historical water diversions within Idaho wilderness.

Last year, one of my constituents came to me for help with a problem. The Middle Fork Lodge has a water diversion within the Frank Church-River of No Return Wilderness Area that has existed since before the wilderness area was established and is protected under statute.

The diversion was beginning to leak and is in desperate need of repairs to ensure that it does not threaten the environment and watershed, but when the Forest Service began the process of issuing the Lodge a permit to allow them to make the necessary repairs, we discovered that the Forest Service did not have the authority to issue the required permit.

As we looked into this issue, we discovered that the Forest Service lacks this authority throughout both the Frank Church-River of No Return Wilderness and the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness, where there are a number of these diversions. These diversions are primarily used to support irrigation and minor hydropower generation for use on non-Federal lands.

The damage to the water diversion at the Middle Fork Lodge is severe enough that the Forest Service had to do temporary emergency repairs last fall, but without authority to issue them the necessary special use permit, they will be unable to do the work needed to permanently fix the problem.

While the urgent situation at the Middle Fork Lodge brought this issue to my attention, it is obvious to me that this problem is larger than just one diversion. At some point in the future, all 20 of these existing diversions will need maintenance or repair work done to ensure their integrity.

H.R. 4474 authorizes the Forest Service to issue special use permits for 20 qualifying historic water systems in these wilderness areas. I believe it is important to get ahead of this problem and ensure that the Forest Service has the tools necessary to manage these lands.

For these reasons I have worked with my colleague, WALT MINNICK, to introduce H.R. 4474. This legislation allows the Forest Service to issue the required special use permits to owners of these historic water systems and sets out specific criteria for doing so.

Providing this authority will ensure that existing water diversions can be properly maintained and repaired when necessary and preserves beneficial use for private property owners who hold water rights under State law.

I have deeply appreciated the cooperation of the Forest Service in addressing this problem. Not only have they communicated with me the need to find a system-wide solution to this issue, but at my request they have worked with me on this legislation to ensure that it only impacts specific targeted historical diversions—those with valid water rights that cannot feasibly be relocated outside of the wilderness area.

H.R. 4474 is bipartisan and non-controversial. It is intended as a simple, reasonable solution to a problem that I think we can all agree should be solved as quickly as possible. I was encouraged that the bill passed out of Committee without objection, and I am hopeful that today we can pass it without delay so that the necessary maintenance to these diversions may be completed before the damage is beyond repair.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. I yield back my time.

Mr. RAHALL. I yield back the balance of my time, Madam Speaker.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. All time for debate has expired.

Pursuant to House Resolution 1038, the previous question is ordered on the bill.

The question is on the engrossment and third reading of the bill.

The bill was ordered to be engrossed and read a third time, and was read the third time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the passage of the bill.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Madam Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

CASTLE NUGENT NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE ESTABLISHMENT ACT OF 2010

Mr. RAHALL. Madam Speaker, pursuant to House Resolution 1038, I call up the bill (H.R. 3726) to establish the Castle Nugent National Historic Site at St. Croix, United States Virgin Islands, and for other purposes, and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 1038, the amendment in the nature of a substitute printed in the bill is adopted and the bill, as amended, is considered as read.

The text of the bill, as amended, is as follows:

H.R. 3726

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the ''Castle Nugent National Historic Site Establishment Act of 2010''.

SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) HISTORIC SITE.—The term ''historic site'' means the Castle Nugent National Historic Site established in section 3.

(2) SECRETARY.—The term ''Secretary'' means the Secretary of the Interior.

SEC. 3. CASTLE NUGENT NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established as a unit of the National Park System the Castle Nugent National Historic Site on the Island of St. Croix, U.S. Virgin Islands, in order to preserve, protect, and interpret, for the benefit of present and future generations, a Caribbean cultural landscape that spans more than 300 years of agricultural use, significant archeological resources, mangrove forests, endangered sea turtle nesting beaches, an extensive barrier coral reef system, and other outstanding natural features.

(b) BOUNDARIES.—The historic site consists of the approximately 2,900 acres of land extending from Lowrys Hill and Laprey Valley to the Caribbean Sea and from Manchenil Bay to Great Pond, along with associated submerged lands to the three-mile territorial limit, as generally depicted on the map titled ''Castle Nugent National Historic Site Proposed Boundary Map'', numbered T22/100,447, and dated October 2009.

(c) MAP AVAILABILITY.—The map referred to in subsection (b) shall be on file and available for public inspection in the appropriate offices of the National Park Service, Department of the Interior.

(d) ACQUISITION OF LAND.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in paragraph (2), the Secretary is authorized to acquire lands and interests in lands within the boundaries of the historic site by donation, purchase with donated or appropriated funds, or exchange.

(2) U.S. VIRGIN ISLAND LANDS.—The Secretary is authorized to acquire lands and interests in lands owned by the U.S. Virgin Islands or any political subdivision thereof only by donation or exchange.

SEC. 4. ADMINISTRATION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall administer the historic site in accordance with this Act and with laws generally applicable to units of the National Park System, including—

(1) the National Park Service Organic Act (39 Stat. 535; 16 U.S.C. 1 et seq.); and

(2) the Act of August 21, 1935 (49 Stat. 666; 16 U.S.C. 461 et seq.).

(b) SHARED RESOURCES.—To the greatest extent practicable, the Secretary shall use the resources of other sites administered by the National Park Service on the Island of St. Croix to administer the historic site.

(c) CONTINUED USE.—In order to maintain an important feature of the cultural landscape of the historic site, the Secretary may lease to the University of the Virgin Islands certain lands within the boundary of the historic site for the purpose of continuing the university's operation breeding Senepol cattle, a breed developed on St. Croix. A lease under this subsection shall contain such terms and conditions as the Secretary considers appropriate, including those necessary to protect the values of the historic site.

(d) MANAGEMENT PLAN.—Not later than three years after funds are made available for this subsection, the Secretary shall prepare a general management plan for the historic site.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from West Virginia (Mr. RAHALL) and the gentleman from Washington (Mr. HASTINGS) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from West Virginia.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. RAHALL. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and insert extraneous material on H.R. 3726.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from West Virginia?

There was no objection.

Mr. RAHALL. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise today in strong support of the pending measure introduced by my very good friend and a valued member of our Committee on Natural Resources, the gentlelady from the Virgin Islands, Dr. DONNA CHRISTENSEN.

The pending legislation establishes the Castle Nugent National Historic Site on the island of St. Croix in the U.S. Virgin Islands. The Castle Nugent area possesses a wide range of historic resources, including the remnants of small Danish cotton, sugar, indigo, and cattle plantations. Pre-Columbian archaeological sites also exist on the property. The cattle ranch there is one of the oldest in the West Indies.

The diverse and undisturbed natural resources of the site include the most substantial black mangrove stand left in the Virgin Islands, sea turtle nesting areas, large and healthy coral reefs, and a lagoon that is home to many different species of birds and wildlife.

Congress authorized a special resource study for this area in 2006. The National Park Service has completed all of the work for that study and found that the area meets all of the applicable criteria for significance, suitability, and feasibility for designation as a National Park Service unit.

The proposed park would include 2,900 acres of privately owned ranch lands as well as 8,600 acres of submerged lands owned by the Government of the Virgin Islands. The family which owns the majority of the site has fought off aggressive developers for years, seeking instead to have their land preserved for future generations to enjoy.

This legislation includes no direct spending, and any land acquisition would be subject to appropriations. This is an excellent piece of legislation, and I commend once again Dr. CHRISTENSEN for her tireless efforts to preserve the unique and stunning resources that are located in her beautiful district.

Thanks to the recent Public Broadcasting System series by Ken Burns chronicling the amazing history of our National Park System, many Americans are asking themselves and asking this Congress what can we do to build upon the incredible legacy left to us by those who invented the idea of national parks. The answer to that question is simple: work to identify and study significant, unique areas of natural and historic significance and then make certain they are protected.

The answer is to support the pending legislation, H.R. 3726.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I cannot support this legislation, and I urge my colleagues to oppose it for two reasons.

First, this Congress in prior times enacted a law that authorized and directed the National Park Service to conduct a feasibility study on whether this site should be preserved and, if so, in what manner. Madam Speaker, we don't have that report. Hundreds of thousands of dollars have been spent on this study, and yet this House is charging ahead, making a decision without having that study in our hands. I think that is wasteful, and I think it's irresponsible.

It has been said that the report is done, but Congress hasn't gotten a copy of that report. We are told its recommendations will support the approach taken in this bill, yet we don't know that because we have not received the report.

Even if the final report were to recommend establishing a historic site, we would benefit from the information they have gathered to better craft such legislation. This bill is clearly putting the cart before the horse.

The Park Service itself has testified on this Castle Nugent bill before us today, and they stated: ''We would ask that the committee defer action on this legislation until the special resource study is completed, which is consistent with the Department's general policy on legislation establishing a new unit of the National Park System when a study is pending.''

Madam Speaker, if the $500,000 study that Congress passed to initiate is nearly completed, then we should wait to consider this bill until we have that information. That seems to be a rather logical conclusion of the events. There hasn't been a single compelling reason given as to the need to act right now before this study is in hand.

Now, Madam Speaker, the second reason for opposition to this bill is its cost. With 10 percent unemployment nationwide and with millions of Americans without jobs and the fact that we are running record budget deficits and the public debt is skyrocketing, now is not the time to potentially spend up to $50 million of the taxpayers' money to buy nearly 3,000 acres of beachfront property on a Caribbean island. And on top of that, it will probably cost an estimate of $1 million a year to maintain.

Madam Speaker, we can't afford the price tag for a new park in St. Croix, just as many Americans will never be able to afford a visit there. I had my staff, Madam Speaker, actually look up the cost of getting to St. Croix over the Presidents' Day weekend next month. From my home town in Pasco, Washington, it would take two plane changes, over 12 hours of time and around a thousand dollars to visit the island which would be the home of this new park.

For a resident in the wild and wonderful State of West Virginia, just to pick a State, flying out of the Charleston airport, the time to get there is a little less, but the price is still around a thousand dollars.

On top of the cost of buying this beachfront Caribbean property and the yearly cost of maintaining it, we need to be honest about the backlog that we have in caring for land already owned by the Federal Government.

Madam Speaker, there is $9 billion, that is billion with a ''b,'' worth of needed repairs and maintenance on existing park lands. If we aren't caring for what we already have, then Congress shouldn't be making the problem worse by authorizing new park lands.

Our existing treasures should be our focus to ensure families that load up the minivan or SUV to take a summer vacation to a national park have a safe, enjoyable, and accessible visit, like my colleague from Georgia (Mr. KINGSTON) expressed a moment ago about the Rocky Mountain National Park. I guarantee you that no family from any State will ever load up their minivan and drive to this park in the Caribbean ocean.

This Congress must get serious about controlling spending. The American people are concerned. They're worried and they're angered by the spending that has gone on in Washington, D.C. In the first year of the Obama administration, the largest spending deficit in our Nation's history has been set.

Whether it's the $787 billion stimulus bill that has failed to create the jobs that were promised or the government takeover—potential government takeover of the health care costs that will cost, if it is put in place—the health care bill that is being debated, over a trillion dollars—I think is very, very clear: spending in America's mind is out of control.

For Congress to buckle down, it needs to not only put the brakes on mega-spending bills but it also must start taking a hard look at smaller bills like this one.

Just take a look, Madam Speaker, at some of the bills that have been advanced out of the Natural Resources Committee this year. We passed a bill to create a $700 million welfare program for wild horses; they've approved another bill to increase spending for neotropical birds by millions of dollars; and, today, there is a committee hearing on a bill to spend millions of more dollars overseas to assist apes.

There is a lot of talk that the President may propose a spending freeze in his State of the Union speech tonight. The news media and blogs have been

talking about it for several days; yet this House is positioned to vote on creating a new $50 million park in the middle of the Caribbean ocean just hours before the State of the Union speech tonight. Madam Speaker, those that control this House will send quite a message on spending and their real priorities if it approves this bill before the President even makes it here to give his speech tonight.

So, Madam Speaker, for those two reasons, I urge my colleagues to oppose this bill.

And with that, I reserve my time.

Mr. RAHALL. Madam Speaker, I am very happy at this point to yield to the gentlelady from the Virgin Islands who has worked so long, so hard, so diligently, and so patiently to bring this bill before us today, Dr. DONNA CHRISTENSEN, such time as she may consume.

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Thank you, Chairman RAHALL, for yielding.

Today I rise once again to speak on behalf of H.R. 3726, a bill that I introduced to establish the Castle Nugent Historic Site on St. Croix, Virgin Islands, for the first time in the 110th Congress.

The introduction of this bill, or the reintroduction, stands as testimony to our country's legacy of preserving our Nation's special places. H.R. 3726 deepens the commitment of our conservation trail blazers such as Henry Thoreau, George Perkins Marsh, and John Muir who worked tirelessly to protect our collective natural history in such a way that it would live on for generations.

□ 1300

As noted by Ken Burns when discussing the need to document the National Park System, the chronicle of America's parks isn't a mere celebration of our Nation's national treasures, but also a story of our people, of the forces that help shape our lands and the influences that will guide our children.

The site to be designated as the Castle Nugent National Historic Site continues to be heralded as one of the last pristine areas in the region. Without hesitation, I can attest to the fact that the Castle Nugent Farm is worthy of preservation, worthy of inclusion in the National Park System and truly worthy of being shared as more than just a ''beachfront property in the Caribbean'' but, instead, as an invaluable chapter in our Nation's official record of the American story. The National Park Service testified as such in November at the subcommittee hearing.

H.R. 3726 calls for the preservation of 2,900 acres, which include a Caribbean dry forest, sea turtle nesting areas, large and healthy fringe coral reefs, and Great Pond Bay, home to numerous species of bird and other wildlife. Today the landscape remains pretty much as it did historically with its rolling hills and open grassy shrub plains sloping into the Caribbean Sea.

In addition to guaranteeing the protection of one of the most ecologically sensitive areas on the island, H.R. 3726 also preserves a rich part of our historical and cultural past by preserving the archeological remains of our indigenous Taino inhabitants as well as a Danish estate house now listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Estate Castle Nugent is one of the last working cattle ranches on St. Croix and one of the ranches instrumental in the development and exportation of the unique and sturdy Senepol cattle throughout the Caribbean and, really, throughout the world. H.R. 3726 would ensure the rearing of the Senepol cattle with a provision that guarantees a continued relationship with the University of the Virgin Islands Agricultural Experiment Station to support ongoing scientific research.

The family which owns the majority of this property has been incredibly patient. The pressure to sell their land to developers has been overwhelming and has created some conflict among family members, but they have held out because their first choice has always been that the ranch and its assets be preserved, which I agree is the best for all concerned.

There is no intent to interfere with privately held property. The sole purpose of this bill is to protect and preserve the historic, cultural, and environmental assets and the opportunity for the people of the Virgin Islands and our fellow Americans to continue to enjoy the area and to preserve it for future generations.

And while it might cost almost $1,000 to get there on President's weekend, President's weekend is the most heavily traveled time of the year to any part of the Caribbean, and most times of the year the cost to get to St. Croix is far less.

There is also no final assessment of how much the site would cost. This simply authorizes the Secretary to acquire it. We do not know that the entire 2,900 acres will remain in the park, and we expect to acquire some of what would be the National Historic Site through donations, easements, and possibly also exchanges.

There is no substantive reason to oppose this legislation. This is a beautiful and important natural and cultural resource that is in danger of being lost to the Nation's public forever. If we do not move forward now without waiting for the final process to get the study here, after having heard from the National Park Service that it is indeed determined to have been appropriate for inclusion into the park, if we don't move forward today, there is a real risk that when the study is formally transmitted to Congress supporting the designation, the land will already have been sold and condominium owners will be the only people who ever get to visit the area.

In places such as the U.S. Virgin Islands, there is always a danger of development getting out of control and the balance between development and conservation being lost in favor of development. With development brings the risk of restricting local residents' use of the area far more than park regulations would. There are examples, as well, of developers disregarding the relationship between the people of our community and the areas that they have purchased. Bringing this ranch into the Park Service is the best way to allow those who have purchased part of the property or adjacent property to develop, but to do so in a way that is sensitive to the importance of the land and least restrictive to all of my constituents.

Both the Bush and Obama administrations have supported this designation every step of the way. The current administration has determined that the site meets the criteria set by the National Park Service to determine national significance, suitability, and feasibility. The designation is supported by my constituents, including those who originally questioned the expansion of the park, and, as far as I'm aware, no one is challenging the conclusions of the study.

The people of St. Croix have long enjoyed the picturesque scenery and use of the area for various activities. For years, thousands of Virgin Islanders and visitors have frequented the property to learn about the natural, cultural, historical, archeological, and marine resources found in Estate Castle Nugent. Anyone who visits the property leaves with a deepened appreciation of our community's treasure and our place in American history. Failure to act now will guarantee the area to be developed privately, risking our historic and natural jewels and having them untold and lost to future generations.

I want to take this opportunity to thank Chairman RAHALL and Subcommittee Chair GRIJALVA for their support in ushering this bill through the Resources Committee and back to the floor. I would like to thank the numerous community members and organizations who wrote in support of it.

Madam Speaker and colleagues, on behalf of the people of the Virgin Islands, I ask for a ''yes'' vote on H.R. 3726. This is timely and responsible legislation, and I urge my colleagues to support it.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Madam Speaker, I am pleased to yield as much time as he may consume to the ranking member of the National Parks, Forest and Public Lands Subcommittee, Mr. BISHOP of Utah.

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Washington for yielding me some time.

It is with mixed emotions that I speak on this particular bill. This is not the worst bill our committee has ever produced. We have produced some real stinkers that we have hidden in other pieces of legislation. However, it

is symbolic of the problem that this administration and leaders of this Congress have.

We have a Secretary of the Interior who, every time we wish to use Federal land to actually help improve the lives of Americans or creating jobs, will always yell that we have a process we have to do; we cannot commit a rush to judgment. And now when we have a piece of territory, land that will be taken off the tax rolls in a territory that is in deep financial problems today, this historic cattle ranch is now considered something that we must hustle through the system.

We just voted on a bill to solve problems in the wilderness areas of Idaho, which, if we had taken the time to see what was in there instead of rushing to create the most restrictive environment we can on this land in Idaho, we would not have needed the legislation. That is why this administration and this Department of the Interior have said they want to wait until the study is completed and the process is done.

If one of the arguments in favor of passing this bill is we don't really know how much land we will ultimately have and how much it will ultimately cost, that is a great argument to wait until the study is done and we figure out how much land we really want to have and how much it will ultimately cost.

But it is also symbolic of a deeper problem. This Federal Government already owns 650 million acres of land. One-third of this Nation is owned by the Federal Government. Now think of that. One out of every three acres in this country is owned by the Federal Government. I have had three land transfer bills in the past few years here, and in each case, the land that was controlled by the Federal Government was land they did not need, they did not use, and in every case, they did not even know they had the land until a land title search pointed out that, indeed, it belonged to the Federal Government.

At some time you have to say enough is enough. The States with the biggest problem in funding their education system are found in States that have a predominance of public lands. It is a one-to-one relationship between States that have that problem. In my State of Utah, only 18 percent of the State is in private property. The Governor of Utah controls 18 percent. The rest of the State is under the heavy hand of the Secretary of the Interior, and both my adjective and noun are appropriate.

One of the issues that we simply have here is we will be hearing that we should have a spending freeze on nondefense and nonentitlement programs, and we will hear that tonight. Does it seem logical that we should spend up and then decide to freeze? Does that indeed solve our problem?

As I said before, this particular bill, which will probably cost $50 million, give or take $50 million, this particular bill is not necessarily bad in and of itself, but it is symbolic of the problem that we have, that we do not have a large-scale picture of what this Nation should control, should own, should do, and we are moving in a pell-mell process to try and add more and more acreage to the heavy hand of the Federal Government. And at some time, we should stand up and say enough is enough.

One-third of this country owned by the Federal Government is enough. For that reason, we should at least wait until the Department of the Interior has finished their study and the process and they sign off and we actually know how much land and how much cost we are talking.

Mr. RAHALL. I reserve the balance of my time, Madam Speaker.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Madam Speaker, I am pleased to yield as much time as he may consume to a new member of the House Resources Committee, Mr. CHAFFETZ from Utah.

Mr. CHAFFETZ. With all due respect to the great people of the Virgin Islands and to my colleague, I stand in opposition to this bill. No doubt, the Virgin Islands is one of the most spectacular, beautiful places on the face of the planet. But this bill is about priorities of the United States of America.

We are $12 trillion in debt. We are spending $600 million a day just in interest on that debt. This Congress momentarily is going to have to raise the debt ceiling another $1.8 trillion. We don't have the money to do this.

Currently, the National Park Service has an estimated $9 billion in backlog, $9 billion that they need to help with the national parks to preserve and to upgrade what we already have in our current holdings.

We don't have the money. We don't have the resources. If you look at what the President is probably going to say here in less than 8 hours, he might come in and try to create this air of, oh, we have to be a little fiscally responsible. We should probably freeze a few things.

For the second time in just over a week here, we are going to actually come and look at this bill to acquire at the cost of $40 million to $50 million property with funds that we don't have.

No longer can this government continue to use the government credit card to rack up debt. Those that decide to vote in favor of this bill, although it's just an authorization—I know it's not an appropriation—are saying, sure, yeah, let's go buy some beachfront property.

We don't have the money. Think of all the other things that we could do and should do in prioritizing this country. We have 1,500 people a day that die from cancer, and we're not adequately funding those types of things. We deal with homelessness, and we have Homeland Security issues. But this government continues to acquire private property and put it into the Federal Treasury. I think it's fundamentally wrong.

As was pointed out earlier, there is no report. The National Park Service does not recommend we make this transaction because they haven't even finished the study. Why does this government spend hundreds of thousands of dollars on a study if it doesn't matter? Maybe what we should have also done is add an amendment to stop the study and recover as much money in funds as we can. There is absolutely no reason, if the Democrats are going to move forward and push this thing through, to actually do the study. I don't care if it's $2,000. Let's save it. And until this body has that type of attitude, we will continue to have the systemic problems that we have in this government.

Just yesterday, the Governor of the territory stood up before the people and said this: ''However, the global economic crisis has had a great impact on our economy. It has devastated our government funds, where we are running a monthly deficit of $25 million and our tax revenues fell by over 30 percent. This means that we had 234 million fewer dollars to spend than we had just the year before. To put this in perspective, $234 million is almost half of the cost of salaries and benefits of our government workers for a full year.''

Now some will say, well, we should move forward with this. Well, guess what? It's going to take property off of the tax rolls and put the burden on the Federal taxpayer. Why should the people of Iowa or Rhode Island or Utah or California have to continue to pay and supplement the people there on St. Croix for this property? I don't think it's fair. I don't think it's right. The Federal taxpayers will be the ones responsible for reimbursing on the lost property tax, plus the million dollars a year that it's going to take in order to just maintain the facility.

Again, as we said, there are existing parks that need our help, $9 billion in backlog. If this was really such a great thing for the island and they really wanted to do it, my suggestion is to do it locally. Locally they can go and acquire this. It does not require the Federal taxpayers to take on this burden.

I think one of the arguments back to that would say, well, we can't afford it. Well, neither can the Federal taxpayers. Neither can the United States of America. It's time we stand up and say ''no'' to a bill like this.

□ 1315

Mr. RAHALL. Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Madam Speaker, I am pleased to yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GOHMERT), another member of the Natural Resources Committee.

Mr. GOHMERT. Madam Speaker, I had the privilege of hearing the esteemed economist, Art Laffer, who is credited with bringing the United States out of a worse recession than we are in right now by overcoming double

digit inflation, double digit unemployment, and double digit interest rates, and he did it by cutting taxes. Of course, we know taxes are going to jump up like crazy a year from now. But what he said is if you want to get this government out of the tremendous trouble we are in, quit buying things, quit buying land and things, and start selling off some of the assets.

That is what a regular family would do when they find themselves in debt. That is what I am doing right now to pay off student loans. We are selling our house and going to downsize. Why can't the government do that? Let's quit spending like crazy. Let's sell off some of our assets, pay down our debt, and let America find jobs again.

Mr. RAHALL. Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time pending any further speakers on the minority side.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. I understand the gentleman from West Virginia is the final speaker on that side. With that, I yield myself the balance of the time.

Madam Speaker, I again urge my colleagues to vote ''no'' on this. And if you were listening to the debate here of the several speakers that we had on our side of the aisle, if you noticed, we were not criticizing the merits of this purchase. We are simply saying that there is a procedure that this Congress set up. That procedure was a study. Taxpayer dollars funded that study in order to see if this project actually merits congressional support.

Well, that study, Madam Speaker, is not made public. We have not seen the study. We don't know if it is good or bad. It may be good, as the gentleman from Utah (Mr. BISHOP) said. In fact, he alluded that he has seen worse pieces of legislation rather than this one. But for goodness sakes, if we are spending taxpayer dollars on a study, then shouldn't we at least find out what the study says? That might lead us in the right direction of spending, as this bill would authorize, up to $50 million without really knowing the ramifications.

So our argument on this side, and I think an argument on this side probably resonates better with the American people due to the fiscal health of our country, I think this resonates very, very well today, especially, as I alluded to in my earlier remarks, since the President is going to come and speak to a joint session of Congress tonight on fiscal responsibility, this is our opportunity on that very day to show some fiscal responsibility by saying ''no'' to this bill and waiting for the study to come back.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote ''no'' on this piece of legislation.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. RAHALL. Madam Speaker, may I inquire of the remaining time?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman has 10½ minutes.

Mr. RAHALL. Thank you. I yield myself the balance of my time.

I would close this debate by making the following observations on the allegations that we have heard on the other side. With respect to the technicality that a new area study has not been sent to the Congress, let me state that at a hearing before the Parks Subcommittee held last November, the National Park Service testified on the record that the draft study is completed and finds that the site meets the NPS criteria for addition to the National Park System.

The official agency testimony goes on for four pages describing the amazing natural, cultural, and historical resources found on the site. For example, that testimony states that, and I quote, ''Enactment of H.R. 3726 would provide the opportunity to preserve and protect this outstanding Caribbean cultural landscape and interpret the cotton era and related agricultural themes that have been instrumental in the development of St. Croix in the Virgin Islands. It would also help protect five pre-Columbian archeological sites, two of which are among the oldest sites on St. Croix.''

I was not able to attend this hearing, but my staff does inform me that at no time did any member of the committee, even for a moment, question the conclusions or opinions that were expressed by the National Park Service. The formal findings contained in the study will be enormously valuable as the NPS moves forward creating a management plan for this area, and in future years as the Congress contemplates appropriating funds for the site.

For now, I am satisfied that the NPS has provided us more than ample information to move forward with the initial designation. The fact that the formal study has not been transmitted to the Congress is a technicality, one that is either significant or not to the other side, the minority, depending upon what day it is. House Republicans have supported designations with incomplete studies. House Republicans have supported designations with no study at all. House Republicans have opposed designations when the study was complete and fully supported designation. So this concern for NPS studies by those on the other side of the aisle is newly discovered. Their record on this is inconsistent and simply not credible.

Like the Republican concern for following the recommendations of NPS studies, this concern for the NPS maintenance backlog is newfound as well. The NPS maintenance backlog is real, no doubt about it, and needs to be addressed. Democrats are serious about addressing it. We continue to work closely with the agency to document the work that needs to be done to prioritize it and provide the funding and the people needed to get the most pressing work done.

But I completely disagree with the Republican claim that the National Park Service, quote, ''can't take care of what it already owns.'' That kind of park bashing may score some points, but it is nothing more than a low blow. Millions of American families visit our national parks every year and come away feeling inspired, energized, and downright patriotic. The National Park Service could use more money, but they are the very best in the world at what they do, and claims to the contrary are false. Our National Park Service takes care of what they already own, to the enormous satisfaction of most Americans, and they can take care of this beautiful area of St. Croix as well.

I would ask the American people to keep an eye on the issue. You watch. When the President submits his budget request for the next fiscal year, it will contain critical funding for the NPS. And Democrats will support that request and pass it. And many of the same Republicans on this floor today expressing deep concern over the NPS maintenance backlog will come to this floor and vote against the funding needed to address it.

In fact, it was Republicans who insisted on drastically underfunding and understaffing this agency that caused the maintenance backlog to increase on their watch. The future health and growth of our NPS system should not be stunted because Republicans mismanaged it when they were in charge of government. Democrats will correct the mistakes of the past, not be held hostage by them. And just like other arguments offered today, the Republican record on this issue is so inconsistent it simply cannot be taken seriously.

Finally, Madam Speaker, H.R. 3726 does not spend one dime, and every Member on this floor knows it. The legislation designates this area as a new unit, but the bill contains no direct spending. Any land acquisition will be subject, of course, to appropriations. Enactment of this legislation is the beginning of the process, not the end. This is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to preserve a unique and stunning area, and I fully support having this land at least be eligible for land acquisition funding over the next few cycles.

Yes, the former Republican majority went on an irresponsible spending spree that damaged this country and resulted in the largest increase in the deficit since World War II. And yes, fixing the damage caused by those Republican mistakes will be an enormous challenge for all of us going forward. But I believe Democrats can do it. I believe we can get our fiscal house in order, and when we do it, Castle Nugent should be a unit of the National Park System so we can allocate funding to protect it and preserve it for generations to come.

As for unemployment, the unemployment rate on St. Croix was 8.9 percent last November. If this private land is successfully transformed into a popular tourist destination, it will create jobs

and help ease unemployment on the island. It will increase tourism, benefiting airlines, car rentals, travel agents, restaurants, hotels, and might even lead to hiring a few new park rangers. Democrats support creating jobs by building things up—investing in the long-term growth and health of this nation. H.R. 3726 does just that.

I would conclude by pointing out the obvious: We as a Nation have a responsibility to our territorial possessions. And if we shirk from that duty, we would be nothing more than the European empires which once ruled over vast swaths of Africa and the Americas. The U.S. Virgin Islands are a unique and fascinating place. Native people lived on these islands as far back as the Stone Age. And some of the evidence of that can be found on the site protected in this bill.

Christopher Columbus gave the islands early versions of the names we use today, Santa Cruz, San Tomas, and San Juan. And last, as we move forward in this legislation, recognize that these islands were then occupied by foreign nations, England, Holland, France and Denmark, a period that saw the native people enslaved and then driven almost to extinction. Remains of these times can be found on the land protected in this bill as well.

It is not only the history and the culture found in the continental United States that matters, but St. Croix is a part of these United States. And we owe it to those who live there now and those who were there long before this Nation came into being to value this history and to respect its culture. This legislation does that. This legislation deserves our support.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. All time for debate has expired.

Pursuant to House Resolution 1038, the previous question is ordered on the bill, as amended.

The question is on the engrossment and third reading of the bill.

The bill was ordered to be engrossed and read a third time, and was read the third time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the passage of the bill.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Madam Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, proceedings will resume on questions previously postponed.

Votes will be taken in the following order:

Passage of H.R. 4474 and H.R. 3726, and motions to suspend the rules with regard to H.R. 4508 and House Resolution 1020, in each case by the yeas and nays.

The first electronic vote will be conducted as a 15-minute vote. Remaining electronic votes will be conducted as 5-minute votes.

IDAHO WILDERNESS WATER FACILITIES ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the vote on passage of H.R. 4474, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the passage of the bill.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 415, nays 0, not voting 18, as follows:

[Roll No. 22]

YEAS—415

Ackerman
Aderholt
Adler (NJ)
Akin
Alexander
Altmire
Andrews
Arcuri
Austria
Baca
Bachmann
Bachus
Baird
Baldwin
Barrow
Bartlett
Barton (TX)
Bean
Becerra
Berkley
Berman
Berry
Biggert
Bilbray
Bilirakis
Bishop (NY)
Bishop (UT)
Blackburn
Blumenauer
Blunt
Boccieri
Boehner
Bonner
Bono Mack
Boozman
Boren
Boswell
Boucher
Boustany
Boyd
Brady (PA)
Brady (TX)
Braley (IA)
Bright
Broun (GA)
Brown (SC)
Brown, Corrine
Brown-Waite, Ginny
Buchanan
Burgess
Burton (IN)
Butterfield
Buyer
Calvert
Camp
Campbell
Cantor
Cao
Capito
Capps
Capuano
Cardoza
Carnahan
Carney
Carson (IN)
Carter
Cassidy
Castle
Castor (FL)
Chaffetz
Chandler
Childers
Chu
Clarke
Clay
Cleaver
Clyburn
Coffman (CO)
Cohen
Cole
Conaway
Connolly (VA)
Conyers
Cooper
Costa
Costello
Courtney
Crowley
Cuellar
Culberson
Cummings
Dahlkemper
Davis (CA)
Davis (IL)
Davis (KY)
Davis (TN)
DeFazio
DeGette
Delahunt
DeLauro
Dent
Diaz-Balart, L.
Diaz-Balart, M.
Dicks
Dingell
Doggett
Donnelly (IN)
Doyle
Dreier
Driehaus
Duncan
Edwards (MD)
Edwards (TX)
Ehlers
Ellison
Ellsworth
Emerson
Engel
Eshoo
Etheridge
Fallin
Farr
Fattah
Filner
Flake
Fleming
Forbes
Fortenberry
Foster
Foxx
Franks (AZ)
Frelinghuysen
Fudge
Gallegly
Garamendi
Garrett (NJ)
Gerlach
Giffords
Gingrey (GA)
Gohmert
Gonzalez
Goodlatte
Gordon (TN)
Granger
Graves
Grayson
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Grijalva
Guthrie
Gutierrez
Hall (NY)
Hall (TX)
Halvorson
Hare
Harman
Harper
Hastings (FL)
Hastings (WA)
Heinrich
Heller
Hensarling
Herger
Herseth Sandlin
Higgins
Hill
Himes
Hinchey
Hinojosa
Hirono
Hodes
Hoekstra
Holden
Holt
Honda
Hoyer
Hunter
Inglis
Inslee
Israel
Issa
Jackson (IL)
Jackson Lee (TX)
Jenkins
Johnson (IL)
Johnson, Sam
Jones
Jordan (OH)
Kagen
Kanjorski
Kaptur
Kennedy
Kildee
Kilpatrick (MI)
Kilroy
Kind
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kingston
Kirk
Kirkpatrick (AZ)
Kissell
Klein (FL)
Kline (MN)
Kosmas
Kratovil
Kucinich
Lamborn
Lance
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Latham
LaTourette
Latta
Lee (CA)
Lee (NY)
Levin
Lewis (CA)
Lewis (GA)
Linder
Lipinski
LoBiondo
Loebsack
Lofgren, Zoe
Lowey
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Luján
Lummis
Lungren, Daniel E.
Lynch
Mack
Maffei
Maloney
Manzullo
Marchant
Markey (CO)
Markey (MA)
Marshall
Massa
Matheson
Matsui
McCarthy (CA)
McCarthy (NY)
McCaul
McClintock
McCollum
McCotter
McDermott
McGovern
McHenry
McIntyre
McKeon
McMahon
McMorris Rodgers
McNerney
Meek (FL)
Meeks (NY)
Melancon
Mica
Michaud
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Miller (NC)
Miller, Gary
Miller, George
Minnick
Mitchell
Mollohan
Moore (KS)
Moore (WI)
Moran (VA)
Murphy (CT)
Murphy (NY)
Murphy, Patrick
Murphy, Tim
Murtha
Myrick
Nadler (NY)
Napolitano
Neal (MA)
Neugebauer
Nunes
Nye
Oberstar
Obey
Olson
Olver
Owens
Pallone
Pascrell
Pastor (AZ)
Paul
Paulsen
Payne
Pence
Perlmutter
Perriello
Peters
Peterson
Petri
Pingree (ME)
Pitts
Platts
Poe (TX)
Polis (CO)
Pomeroy
Posey
Price (GA)
Price (NC)
Putnam
Quigley
Radanovich
Rahall
Rangel
Rehberg
Reichert
Reyes
Richardson
Rodriguez
Roe (TN)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rogers (MI)
Rohrabacher
Rooney
Ros-Lehtinen
Roskam
Ross
Rothman (NJ)
Roybal-Allard
Royce
Ruppersberger
Rush
Ryan (OH)
Ryan (WI)
Salazar
Sánchez, Linda T.
Sanchez, Loretta
Sarbanes
Scalise
Schakowsky
Schauer
Schiff
Schmidt
Schrader
Schwartz
Scott (GA)
Scott (VA)
Sensenbrenner
Serrano
Sessions
Sestak
Shadegg
Shea-Porter
Sherman
Shimkus
Shuler
Shuster
Simpson
Sires
Skelton
Slaughter
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Smith (WA)
Snyder
Souder
Space
Spratt
Stark
Stearns
Stupak
Sullivan
Tanner
Taylor
Teague
Terry
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Thompson (PA)
Thornberry
Tiahrt
Tiberi
Tierney
Titus
Tonko
Towns
Tsongas
Turner
Upton
Van Hollen
Velázquez
Visclosky
Walden
Walz
Wasserman Schultz
Watson
Watt
Waxman
Weiner
Welch
Westmoreland
Whitfield
Wilson (OH)
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Wolf
Woolsey
Wu
Yarmuth
Young (AK)
Young (FL)

NOT VOTING—18

Abercrombie
Barrett (SC)
Bishop (GA)
Coble
Crenshaw
Davis (AL)
Deal (GA)
Frank (MA)
Griffith
Johnson (GA)
Johnson, E. B.
Moran (KS)
Ortiz
Schock
Speier
Sutton
Wamp
Waters

□ 1353

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California and Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ changed their vote from ''nay'' to ''yea.''

So the bill was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

Stated for:

Mr. GRIFFITH. Madam Speaker, on rollcall No. 22 I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

CASTLE NUGENT NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE ESTABLISHMENT ACT OF 2010

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the vote on passage of H.R. 3726, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the passage of the bill.

This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 240, nays 175, not voting 18, as follows:

[Roll No. 23]

YEAS—240

Ackerman
Adler (NJ)
Altmire
Andrews
Arcuri
Baca
Baird
Baldwin
Barrow
Bean
Becerra
Berkley
Berman
Berry
Bishop (NY)
Blumenauer
Boccieri
Boren
Boswell
Boucher
Boyd
Brady (PA)
Braley (IA)
Brown, Corrine
Butterfield
Capps
Capuano
Cardoza
Carnahan
Carney
Carson (IN)
Castor (FL)
Chandler
Childers
Chu
Clarke
Clay
Cleaver
Clyburn
Cohen
Connolly (VA)
Conyers
Cooper
Costa
Costello
Courtney
Crowley
Cuellar
Cummings
Dahlkemper
Davis (CA)
Davis (IL)
Davis (TN)
DeFazio
DeGette
Delahunt
DeLauro
Dicks
Dingell
Doggett
Donnelly (IN)
Doyle
Driehaus
Edwards (MD)
Edwards (TX)
Ellison
Ellsworth
Engel
Eshoo
Etheridge
Farr
Fattah
Filner
Foster
Fudge
Garamendi
Giffords
Gonzalez
Gordon (TN)
Grayson
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Grijalva
Gutierrez
Hall (NY)
Halvorson
Hare
Harman
Hastings (FL)
Heinrich
Herseth Sandlin
Higgins
Hill
Himes
Hinchey
Hinojosa
Hirono
Hodes
Holden
Holt
Honda
Hoyer
Inslee
Israel
Jackson (IL)
Jackson Lee (TX)
Johnson (GA)
Kagen
Kanjorski
Kaptur
Kennedy
Kildee
Kilpatrick (MI)
Kilroy
Kind
Kirkpatrick (AZ)
Kissell
Klein (FL)
Kosmas
Kratovil
Kucinich
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Lee (CA)
Levin
Lewis (GA)
Lipinski
Loebsack
Lofgren, Zoe
Lowey
Luján
Lynch
Maffei
Maloney
Markey (CO)
Markey (MA)
Marshall
Massa
Matheson
Matsui
McCarthy (NY)
McCollum
McDermott
McGovern
McIntyre
McMahon
McNerney
Meek (FL)
Meeks (NY)
Melancon
Michaud
Miller (NC)
Miller, George
Minnick
Mollohan
Moore (KS)
Moran (VA)
Murphy (CT)
Murphy, Patrick
Murtha
Nadler (NY)
Napolitano
Neal (MA)
Nye
Oberstar
Obey
Olver
Pallone
Pascrell
Pastor (AZ)
Payne
Perlmutter
Perriello
Peters
Peterson
Pingree (ME)
Polis (CO)
Pomeroy
Price (NC)
Quigley
Rahall
Rangel
Reyes
Richardson
Rodriguez
Ross
Rothman (NJ)
Roybal-Allard
Ruppersberger
Rush
Ryan (OH)
Salazar
Sánchez, Linda T.
Sanchez, Loretta
Sarbanes
Schakowsky
Schauer
Schiff
Schrader
Schwartz
Scott (GA)
Scott (VA)
Serrano
Sestak
Shea-Porter
Sherman
Shuler
Sires
Skelton
Slaughter
Smith (WA)
Snyder
Space
Spratt
Stark
Stupak
Sutton
Tanner
Taylor
Teague
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Tierney
Titus
Tonko
Towns
Tsongas
Van Hollen
Velázquez
Visclosky
Wasserman Schultz
Watson
Watt
Waxman
Weiner
Wilson (OH)
Woolsey
Wu
Yarmuth

NAYS—175

Aderholt
Akin
Alexander
Austria
Bachmann
Bachus
Bartlett
Barton (TX)
Biggert
Bilbray
Bilirakis
Bishop (UT)
Blackburn
Blunt
Boehner
Bonner
Bono Mack
Boozman
Boustany
Brady (TX)
Bright
Broun (GA)
Brown (SC)
Brown-Waite, Ginny
Buchanan
Burgess
Burton (IN)
Buyer
Calvert
Camp
Campbell
Cantor
Cao
Capito
Carter
Cassidy
Castle
Chaffetz
Coffman (CO)
Cole
Conaway
Culberson
Davis (KY)
Dent
Diaz-Balart, L.
Diaz-Balart, M.
Dreier
Duncan
Ehlers
Emerson
Fallin
Flake
Fleming
Forbes
Fortenberry
Foxx
Franks (AZ)
Frelinghuysen
Gallegly
Garrett (NJ)
Gerlach
Gingrey (GA)
Gohmert
Goodlatte
Granger
Graves
Griffith
Guthrie
Hall (TX)
Harper
Hastings (WA)
Heller
Hensarling
Herger
Hoekstra
Hunter
Inglis
Issa
Jenkins
Johnson (IL)
Johnson, Sam
Jones
Jordan (OH)
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kingston
Kirk
Kline (MN)
Lamborn
Lance
Latham
LaTourette
Latta
Lee (NY)
Lewis (CA)
Linder
LoBiondo
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Lummis
Lungren, Daniel E.
Mack
Manzullo
Marchant
McCarthy (CA)
McCaul
McClintock
McCotter
McHenry
McKeon
McMorris Rodgers
Mica
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Miller, Gary
Mitchell
Murphy (NY)
Murphy, Tim
Myrick
Neugebauer
Nunes
Olson
Owens
Paul
Paulsen
Pence
Petri
Pitts
Platts
Poe (TX)
Posey
Price (GA)
Putnam
Radanovich
Rehberg
Reichert
Roe (TN)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rogers (MI)
Rohrabacher
Rooney
Ros-Lehtinen
Roskam
Royce
Ryan (WI)
Scalise
Schmidt
Sensenbrenner
Sessions
Shadegg
Shimkus
Shuster
Simpson
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Souder
Stearns
Sullivan
Terry
Thompson (PA)
Thornberry
Tiahrt
Tiberi
Turner
Upton
Walden
Westmoreland
Whitfield
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Wolf
Young (AK)
Young (FL)

NOT VOTING—18

Abercrombie
Barrett (SC)
Bishop (GA)
Coble
Crenshaw
Davis (AL)
Deal (GA)
Frank (MA)
Johnson, E. B.
Moore (WI)
Moran (KS)
Ortiz
Schock
Speier
Walz
Wamp
Waters
Welch

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (during the vote). There are 2 minutes remaining in this vote.

□ 1402

So the bill was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

ADDITIONAL TEMPORARY EXTENSION OF SMALL BUSINESS PROGRAMS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4508, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. VELÁZQUEZ) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4508.

This will be a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 410, nays 4, not voting 19, as follows:

[Roll No. 24]

YEAS—410

Ackerman
Aderholt
Adler (NJ)
Akin
Alexander
Altmire
Andrews
Arcuri
Austria
Baca
Bachmann
Bachus
Baird
Baldwin
Barrow
Bartlett
Barton (TX)
Bean
Becerra
Berkley
Berman
Berry
Biggert
Bilbray
Bilirakis
Bishop (NY)
Bishop (UT)
Blackburn
Blumenauer
Blunt
Boccieri
Boehner
Bonner
Bono Mack
Boozman
Boren
Boswell
Boucher
Boustany
Boyd
Brady (PA)
Brady (TX)
Braley (IA)
Bright
Brown (SC)
Brown, Corrine
Brown-Waite, Ginny
Buchanan
Burgess
Burton (IN)
Butterfield
Buyer
Calvert
Camp
Campbell
Cantor
Cao
Capito
Capps
Capuano
Cardoza
Carnahan
Carney
Carson (IN)
Carter
Castle
Castor (FL)
Chaffetz
Chandler
Childers
Chu
Clarke
Clay
Cleaver
Clyburn
Coffman (CO)
Cohen
Cole
Conaway
Connolly (VA)
Conyers
Cooper
Costa
Costello
Courtney
Crowley
Cuellar
Culberson
Cummings
Dahlkemper
Davis (CA)
Davis (IL)
Davis (KY)
Davis (TN)
DeFazio
DeGette
Delahunt
DeLauro
Dent
Diaz-Balart, L.
Diaz-Balart, M.
Dicks
Dingell
Doggett
Donnelly (IN)
Doyle
Dreier
Driehaus
Duncan
Edwards (MD)
Edwards (TX)
Ehlers
Ellison
Ellsworth
Emerson
Engel
Eshoo
Etheridge
Fallin
Farr
Fattah
Filner
Fleming
Forbes
Fortenberry
Foxx
Franks (AZ)
Frelinghuysen
Fudge
Gallegly
Garamendi
Garrett (NJ)
Gerlach
Giffords
Gingrey (GA)
Gohmert
Gonzalez
Goodlatte
Gordon (TN)
Granger
Graves
Grayson
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Griffith
Grijalva
Guthrie
Gutierrez
Hall (NY)
Hall (TX)
Halvorson
Hare
Harman
Harper
Hastings (FL)
Hastings (WA)
Heinrich
Heller
Hensarling
Herger
Herseth Sandlin
Higgins
Hill
Himes
Hinchey
Hinojosa
Hirono
Hodes
Hoekstra
Holden
Holt
Honda
Hoyer
Hunter
Inglis
Inslee
Israel
Issa
Jackson (IL)
Jackson Lee (TX)
Jenkins
Johnson (GA)
Johnson (IL)
Johnson, Sam
Jones
Jordan (OH)
Kagen
Kanjorski
Kaptur
Kennedy
Kildee
Kilpatrick (MI)
Kilroy
Kind
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kingston
Kirk
Kirkpatrick (AZ)
Kissell
Klein (FL)
Kline (MN)
Kosmas
Kratovil
Kucinich
Lamborn
Lance
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Latham
LaTourette
Latta
Lee (CA)

Lee (NY)
Levin
Lewis (CA)
Lewis (GA)
Linder
Lipinski
LoBiondo
Loebsack
Lofgren, Zoe
Lowey
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Luján
Lummis
Lungren, Daniel E.
Lynch
Mack
Maffei
Maloney
Manzullo
Marchant
Markey (CO)
Markey (MA)
Marshall
Massa
Matheson
Matsui
McCarthy (CA)
McCarthy (NY)
McCaul
McCollum
McCotter
McDermott
McGovern
McHenry
McIntyre
McKeon
McMahon
McMorris Rodgers
McNerney
Meek (FL)
Meeks (NY)
Melancon
Mica
Michaud
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Miller (NC)
Miller, Gary
Miller, George
Minnick
Mitchell
Mollohan
Moore (KS)
Moore (WI)
Moran (VA)
Murphy (CT)
Murphy (NY)
Murphy, Patrick
Murphy, Tim
Murtha
Myrick
Nadler (NY)
Napolitano
Neal (MA)
Neugebauer
Nunes
Nye
Oberstar
Obey
Olson
Olver
Owens
Pallone
Pascrell
Pastor (AZ)
Paulsen
Payne
Pence
Perlmutter
Perriello
Peters
Peterson
Petri
Pingree (ME)
Pitts
Platts
Poe (TX)
Polis (CO)
Pomeroy
Posey
Price (GA)
Price (NC)
Putnam
Quigley
Radanovich
Rahall
Rangel
Rehberg
Reichert
Reyes
Richardson
Rodriguez
Roe (TN)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rogers (MI)
Rohrabacher
Rooney
Ros-Lehtinen
Roskam
Ross
Rothman (NJ)
Roybal-Allard
Royce
Ruppersberger
Rush
Ryan (OH)
Ryan (WI)
Salazar
Sánchez, Linda T.
Sanchez, Loretta
Sarbanes
Scalise
Schakowsky
Schauer
Schiff
Schmidt
Schrader
Schwartz
Scott (GA)
Scott (VA)
Sensenbrenner
Serrano
Sessions
Sestak
Shadegg
Shea-Porter
Sherman
Shimkus
Shuler
Shuster
Sires
Skelton
Slaughter
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Smith (WA)
Snyder
Souder
Space
Spratt
Stark
Stearns
Stupak
Sullivan
Sutton
Tanner
Taylor
Teague
Terry
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Thompson (PA)
Thornberry
Tiahrt
Tiberi
Tierney
Titus
Tonko
Towns
Tsongas
Turner
Upton
Van Hollen
Velázquez
Visclosky
Walden
Walz
Wasserman Schultz
Watson
Watt
Waxman
Weiner
Westmoreland
Whitfield
Wilson (OH)
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Wolf
Woolsey
Wu
Yarmuth
Young (AK)
Young (FL)

NAYS—4

Broun (GA)
Flake
McClintock
Paul

NOT VOTING—19

Abercrombie
Barrett (SC)
Bishop (GA)
Cassidy
Coble
Crenshaw
Davis (AL)
Deal (GA)
Foster
Frank (MA)
Johnson, E. B.
Moran (KS)
Ortiz
Schock
Simpson
Speier
Wamp
Waters
Welch

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (during the vote). Members are reminded there are 2 minutes left on this vote.

□ 1409

So (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

HONORING 95TH ANNIVERSARY OF SIGNING OF ROCKY MOUNTAIN NATIONAL PARK ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 1020, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from the Virgin Islands (Mrs. CHRISTENSEN) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 1020.

This will be a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 408, nays 0, not voting 25, as follows:

[Roll No. 25]

YEAS—408

Ackerman
Aderholt
Adler (NJ)
Akin
Alexander
Altmire
Andrews
Arcuri
Austria
Baca
Bachmann
Bachus
Baird
Baldwin
Barrow
Bartlett
Barton (TX)
Bean
Becerra
Berkley
Berman
Berry
Biggert
Bilbray
Bilirakis
Bishop (NY)
Bishop (UT)
Blackburn
Blumenauer
Boccieri
Boehner
Bonner
Bono Mack
Boozman
Boren
Boswell
Boucher
Boustany
Boyd
Brady (PA)
Brady (TX)
Braley (IA)
Bright
Broun (GA)
Brown (SC)
Brown, Corrine
Brown-Waite, Ginny
Buchanan
Burgess
Burton (IN)
Butterfield
Buyer
Calvert
Camp
Campbell
Cantor
Cao
Capito
Capps
Capuano
Cardoza
Carnahan
Carney
Carson (IN)
Carter
Cassidy
Castle
Castor (FL)
Chaffetz
Chandler
Childers
Chu
Clarke
Clay
Cleaver
Clyburn
Coffman (CO)
Cohen
Cole
Conaway
Connolly (VA)
Conyers
Cooper
Costa
Costello
Courtney
Crowley
Cuellar
Culberson
Cummings
Dahlkemper
Davis (CA)
Davis (IL)
Davis (KY)
Davis (TN)
DeFazio
DeGette
Delahunt
DeLauro
Dent
Diaz-Balart, L.
Diaz-Balart, M.
Dicks
Dingell
Doggett
Donnelly (IN)
Doyle
Dreier
Driehaus
Duncan
Edwards (MD)
Edwards (TX)
Ehlers
Ellison
Ellsworth
Emerson
Engel
Eshoo
Etheridge
Fallin
Farr
Fattah
Filner
Flake
Fleming
Forbes
Foster
Foxx
Franks (AZ)
Frelinghuysen
Fudge
Gallegly
Garamendi
Garrett (NJ)
Gerlach
Giffords
Gingrey (GA)
Gohmert
Gonzalez
Goodlatte
Granger
Graves
Grayson
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Griffith
Grijalva
Guthrie
Gutierrez
Hall (NY)
Hall (TX)
Halvorson
Hare
Harman
Harper
Hastings (FL)
Hastings (WA)
Heinrich
Heller
Hensarling
Herger
Herseth Sandlin
Hill
Himes
Hinchey
Hinojosa
Hirono
Hodes
Hoekstra
Holden
Holt
Honda
Hoyer
Hunter
Inglis
Inslee
Israel
Issa
Jackson (IL)
Jackson Lee (TX)
Jenkins
Johnson (GA)
Johnson (IL)
Johnson, Sam
Jones
Jordan (OH)
Kagen
Kanjorski
Kaptur
Kennedy
Kildee
Kilpatrick (MI)
Kilroy
Kind
King (NY)
Kingston
Kirk
Kirkpatrick (AZ)
Kissell
Klein (FL)
Kline (MN)
Kosmas
Kratovil
Kucinich
Lamborn
Lance
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Latham
LaTourette
Latta
Lee (CA)
Lee (NY)
Levin
Lewis (CA)
Lewis (GA)
Lipinski
LoBiondo
Loebsack
Lofgren, Zoe
Lowey
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Luján
Lummis
Lungren, Daniel E.
Lynch
Mack
Maffei
Maloney
Manzullo
Marchant
Markey (CO)
Markey (MA)
Marshall
Massa
Matheson
Matsui
McCarthy (CA)
McCarthy (NY)
McCaul
McClintock
McCollum
McCotter
McDermott
McGovern
McHenry
McIntyre
McKeon
McMahon
McMorris Rodgers
McNerney
Meeks (NY)
Melancon
Mica
Michaud
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Miller (NC)
Miller, Gary
Miller, George
Minnick
Mitchell
Mollohan
Moore (WI)
Moran (VA)
Murphy (CT)
Murphy (NY)
Murphy, Patrick
Murphy, Tim
Murtha
Myrick
Nadler (NY)
Napolitano
Neal (MA)
Neugebauer
Nunes
Nye
Oberstar
Obey
Olson
Olver
Owens
Pallone
Pascrell
Pastor (AZ)
Paul
Paulsen
Payne
Pence
Perlmutter
Perriello
Peters
Peterson
Petri
Pingree (ME)
Pitts
Platts
Poe (TX)
Polis (CO)
Pomeroy
Posey
Price (GA)
Price (NC)
Putnam
Quigley
Radanovich
Rahall
Rangel
Rehberg
Reichert
Reyes
Richardson
Rodriguez
Roe (TN)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rogers (MI)
Rohrabacher
Rooney
Ros-Lehtinen
Roskam
Ross
Rothman (NJ)
Roybal-Allard
Royce
Ruppersberger
Rush
Ryan (OH)
Ryan (WI)
Salazar
Sánchez, Linda T.
Sanchez, Loretta
Sarbanes
Scalise
Schakowsky
Schauer
Schiff
Schmidt
Schrader
Schwartz
Scott (GA)
Scott (VA)
Sensenbrenner
Serrano
Sessions
Sestak
Shadegg
Shea-Porter
Sherman
Shimkus
Shuler
Shuster
Simpson
Sires
Skelton
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Smith (WA)
Snyder
Souder
Space
Spratt
Stark
Stearns
Stupak
Sullivan
Sutton
Tanner
Taylor
Teague
Terry
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Thompson (PA)
Thornberry
Tiahrt
Tiberi
Tierney
Titus
Tonko
Towns
Tsongas
Turner
Upton
Van Hollen
Velázquez
Visclosky
Walden
Walz
Wasserman Schultz
Watson
Watt
Waxman
Weiner
Westmoreland
Whitfield
Wilson (OH)
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Wolf
Woolsey
Wu
Yarmuth
Young (AK)
Young (FL)

NOT VOTING—25

Abercrombie
Barrett (SC)
Bishop (GA)
Blunt
Coble
Crenshaw
Davis (AL)
Deal (GA)
Fortenberry
Frank (MA)
Gordon (TN)
Higgins
Johnson, E. B.
King (IA)
Linder
Meek (FL)
Moore (KS)
Moran (KS)
Ortiz
Schock
Slaughter
Speier
Wamp
Waters
Welch

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (during the vote). Members are reminded there are 2 minutes left on this vote.

□ 1417

So (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the resolution was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

PRIVILEGED REPORT ON RESOLUTION OF INQUIRY TO THE PRESIDENT

Mr. REYES, from the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, submitted an adverse privileged report (Rept. No. 111–402) on the resolution (H. Res. 978) requesting the President to transmit to the House of Representatives all documents in the possession of the President relating to the inventory and review of intelligence related to the shooting at Fort Hood, Texas, described by the President in a memorandum dated November 10, 2009, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

PRIVILEGED REPORT ON RESOLUTION OF INQUIRY TO SECRETARY OF HOMELAND SECURITY

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, from the Committee on Homeland Security, submitted an adverse privileged report (Rept. No. 111–403) on the resolution (H. Res. 980) of inquiry directing the Secretary of Homeland Security to transmit to the House of Representatives a copy of the Transportation Security Administration's Aviation Security Screening Management Standard Operating Procedures manual in effect on December 5, 2009, and any subsequent revisions of such manual in effect prior to the adoption of this resolution, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

PRIVILEGED REPORT ON RESOLUTION OF INQUIRY TO THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

Mr. CONYERS, from the Committee on the Judiciary, submitted an adverse privileged report (Rept. No. 111–404) on the resolution (H. Res. 994) directing the Attorney General to transmit to the House of Representatives all information in the Attorney General's possession relating to the decision to dismiss United States v. New Black Panther Party, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM

(Mr. CANTOR asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. CANTOR. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Maryland, the majority leader, for the purpose of announcing next week's schedule.

Mr. HOYER. I thank the gentleman for yielding. On Monday the House is not in session.

On Tuesday the House will meet at 12:30 p.m. for morning-hour debate and 2 p.m. for legislative business, with votes postponed, Mr. Speaker, until 6:30 p.m.

On Wednesday and Thursday the House will meet at 10 a.m. for legislative business, and on Friday the House will be in pro forma session at 9 a.m. No votes are expected in the House on Friday. We will consider several bills under suspension of the rules. The complete list of suspension bills will be announced by the close of business Friday. In addition, we will consider H.R. 4061, the Cybersecurity Enhancements Act of 2009. Also possible consideration of Senate amendments to H.J. Res. 45, to permit continued financing of government operations.

Mr. CANTOR. I thank the gentleman. Mr. Speaker, as this is the scheduling colloquy, I'd like to follow up with a few questions regarding the schedule. Mr. Speaker, I'd ask the majority leader if he could tell us what he expects to have on the floor the second week of February, the week before we head into President's Day Recess.

Mr. HOYER. Well, as the gentleman probably knows, there are some 260 bills that we've sent from the House to the Senate and we look forward to them sending some of those back to us. And my expectation is they will. In addition to that, we are considering a number of pieces of legislation, but they are not yet ripe, and what I mean by that simply is the committee chairs have not signed off that they're ready to go, so we are still, frankly, working with the committees to see what legislation they will have ready to move forward. I know that wasn't very responsive, and I wish I had a more responsive answer but that's the accurate answer

Mr. CANTOR. I thank the gentleman for his accuracy. And I would ask, Mr. Speaker, if the gentleman could tell us whether he believed there would be a vote on another health care bill prior to President's Day Recess. I yield.

Mr. HOYER. It is possible, but, again, as the gentleman knows, given the differences between the two Houses, there's still ongoing discussions as to whether they can be resolved, and if they can't, what alternative steps should be taken. So it is possible

Mr. CANTOR. I thank the gentleman. Mr. Speaker, in the spirit of brevity, I just have one final question for the gentleman, and that is, we would anticipate the gentleman and his party bringing forward a budget at some point, and laying out the fiscal narrative, if you will, or plan for the year. And I know recent reports have indicated the President believes that Congress has a spending problem. We, and I'm sure the gentleman, accept the admonition that Congress does have a spending problem, and Mr. Speaker, I'd ask when we anticipate bringing that forward, and does the gentleman expect the House to follow the President's lead in freezing nonsecurity discretionary spending?

Mr. HOYER. I thank the gentleman for his question. As you know, the President has not yet submitted his budget, so anticipating when we're going to pass it or bring his budget to the floor is a little premature. But I would certainly hope that we would bring it forward in the regular course of business. We're getting the budget significantly earlier this year. As you know, at the transition we get it later, as we did last year. But I expect to get it early. I think Mr. SPRATT and Mr. RYAN will be working on the budget, and I expect it to come forward certainly either late in March, which is when I would expect it to come forward.

The Easter break, as you know, is the last week in March, first week in April, I believe, so I would be hopeful—let me make it clear: I'm not saying that's when it's going to happen, but I'd be hopeful we'd do it before we leave on the Easter break. And the second part of your question, which I think is the most important part of the question, because the other is speculative, I would expect the Congress to honor the President's suggestion of freeze with respect to the overall numbers on discretionary spending. But let me make an observation that I know you know, but I think it's important for us to remember that we have: There is no doubt the deficits that confront us are of very large proportions. It is, I think, a critical problem confronting our Nation, not just the Congress, but our Nation. It is an issue on which I think we need to focus and address.

I will tell my friend, as he knows, that with respect to the freeze, that deals with a relatively small portion of the budget, about 14 to 15 percent of the budget. As the gentleman knows, defense discretionary spending is not covered by the President's. As you know as well, because of Afghanistan and Iraq, expenditures on defense have escalated substantially. And as the gentleman knows as well, the other portion of the budget deals with entitlements and interest payments on the national debt. So that I would simply observe that if we're going to get a handle on the budget and spending, sometimes people view spending as only spending on discretionary nondefense amounts. That's not accurate. Every nickel that we apply to some objective that we have decided to apply it to is spending. And we're, frankly, going to have to look at the whole gamut of spending if we're going to get back to a fiscal balance, which I think is absolutely essential. I yield back.

Mr. CANTOR. I thank the gentleman. And Mr. Speaker, in closing, I would first note, I agree with the gentleman. Discretionary spending is not the only piece that this Congress must address in terms of trying to get our fiscal house in order. But it is a point that should be made that over the last year, nondefense discretionary spending at the baseline has increased 67 percent. So that when we're calling for a small freeze, as the gentleman indicates, in terms of percentages of the budget, you know, we certainly could do more. As the gentleman knows, we have tried to advocate for a spending freeze that would incorporate rescinding some of

the increases, again, the 67 percent increases that we have seen over the last year.

As a result of all the spending, as the gentleman knows, the Nation's deficit now stands at a record $1.35 trillion, something that all of us, I know, are very mindful of and would like very much to see reduced if not erased.

Mr. HOYER. Would the gentleman yield just for one minute?

Mr. CANTOR. I yield.

Mr. HOYER. I don't want to get into what we've been getting into, but simply to observe that as the gentleman knows when he uses the 60 some odd percent, much of that, a significant part of that spending, was specifically not included in the baseline, so that it will not be incorporated in the freeze. It will be a lower number than that because, although some of it was in the baseline, a significant portion of it, as the gentleman knows, was not in the baseline.

□ 1430

Mr. CANTOR. Mr. Speaker, again in trying to maintain my brevity today, we do know that in the omnibus spending bill there was a 12 percent increase in the spending of the omnibus bill, something that all of us should try and eliminate and erase, given working families and small businesses are having to do much more and actually cut their expenditures right now.

With that, I thank the gentleman, Mr. Speaker.

ADJOURNMENT TO FRIDAY, JANUARY 29, 2010

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that when the House adjourns today, it adjourn to meet at noon on Friday, January 29, and further, that when the House adjourns on that day, it adjourn to meet at 12:30 p.m. on Tuesday, February 2, for morning-hour debate.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. GARAMENDI). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Maryland?

There was no objection.

APPOINTMENT OF MEMBER TO BOARD OF TRUSTEES FOR JOHN C. STENNIS CENTER FOR PUBLIC SERVICE TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to section 114(b) of the John C. Stennis Center for Public Service Training and Development Act (2 U.S.C. 1103), and the order of the House of January 6, 2009, the Chair announces the Speaker's appointment of the following Member on the part of the House to the Board of Trustees for the John C. Stennis Center for Public Service Training and Development for a term of 6 years:

Mr. Travis Childers, Booneville, Mississippi

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. After consultation among the Speaker and the Majority and Minority leaders, and with their consent, the Chair announces that, when the two Houses meet tonight in joint session to hear an address by the President of the United States, only the doors immediately opposite the Speaker and those immediately to her left and right will be open.

No one will be allowed on the floor of the House who does not have the privilege of the floor of the House. Due to the large attendance that is anticipated, the rule regarding the privilege of the floor must be strictly enforced. Children of Members will not be permitted on the floor. The cooperation of all Members is requested.

The practice of reserving seats prior to the joint session by placard will not be allowed. Members may reserve their seats only by physical presence following the security sweep of the Chamber.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until approximately 8:35 p.m. for the purpose of receiving in joint session the President of the United States.

Accordingly (at 2 o'clock and 34 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess until approximately 8:35 p.m.

□ 2025

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order at 8 o'clock and 37 minutes p.m.

JOINT SESSION OF CONGRESS PURSUANT TO HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 228 TO RECEIVE A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

The Speaker of the House presided.

The Majority Floor Services Chief, Mr. Barry Sullivan, announced the Vice President and Members of the U.S. Senate, who entered the Hall of the House of Representatives, the Vice President taking the chair at the right of the Speaker, and the Members of the Senate the seats reserved for them.

The SPEAKER. The Chair appoints as members of the committee on the part of the House to escort the President of the United States into the Chamber:

The gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER);

The gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. CLYBURN);

The gentleman from Connecticut (Mr. LARSON);

The gentleman from California (Mr. BECERRA);

The gentleman from Maryland (Mr. VAN HOLLEN);

The gentleman from California (Mr. GEORGE MILLER);

The gentlewoman from Connecticut (Ms. DELAURO);

The gentleman from Michigan (Mr. DINGELL);

The gentleman from Ohio (Mr. BOEHNER);

The gentleman from Virginia (Mr. CANTOR);

The gentleman from Indiana (Mr. PENCE);

The gentleman from Michigan (Mr. MCCOTTER);

The gentlewoman from Washington (Mrs. MCMORRIS RODGERS);

The gentleman from Texas (Mr. CARTER);

The gentleman from Texas (Mr. SESSIONS); and

The gentleman from California (Mr. MCCARTHY).

The VICE PRESIDENT. The President of the Senate, at the direction of that body, appoints the following Senators as members of the committee on the part of the Senate to escort the President of the United States into the House Chamber:

The Senator from Nevada (Mr. REID);

The Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN);

The Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER);

The Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY);

The Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ);

The Senator from North Dakota (Mr. DORGAN);

The Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW);

The Senator from Kentucky (Mr. MCCONNELL);

The Senator from Arizona (Mr. KYL);

The Senator from Tennessee (Mr. ALEXANDER);

The Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI);

The Senator from South Dakota (Mr. THUNE); and

The Senator from Texas (Mr. CORNYN);

The Majority Floor Services Chief announced the Dean of the Diplomatic Corps, His Excellency Roble Olhaye, Ambassador from the Republic of Djibouti.

The Dean of the Diplomatic Corps entered the Hall of the House of Representatives and took the seat reserved for him.

The Majority Floor Services Chief announced the Chief Justice of the United States and the Associate Justices of the Supreme Court.

The Chief Justice of the United States and the Associate Justices of the Supreme Court entered the Hall of the House of Representatives and took the seats reserved for them in front of the Speaker's rostrum.

The Majority Floor Services Chief announced the Cabinet of the President of the United States.

The members of the Cabinet of the President of the United States entered

the Hall of the House of Representatives and took the seats reserved for them in front of the Speaker's rostrum.

At 9 o'clock and 7 minutes p.m., the Majority Floor Services Chief and the Sergeant at Arms, the Honorable Wilson Livingood, announced the President of the United States.

The President of the United States, escorted by the committee of Senators and Representatives, entered the Hall of the House of Representatives and stood at the Clerk's desk.

(Applause, the Members rising.)

The SPEAKER. Members of the Congress, I have the high privilege and the distinct honor of presenting to you the President of the United States.

(Applause, the Members rising.)

The PRESIDENT. Madam Speaker, Vice President BIDEN, Members of Congress, distinguished guests, and fellow Americans:

Our Constitution declares that, from time to time, the President shall give to Congress information about the state of our union. For 220 years, our leaders have fulfilled this duty. They have done so during periods of prosperity and tranquility. And they have done so in the midst of war and depression, at moments of great strife and great struggle.

It's tempting to look back on these moments and assume that our progress was inevitable—that America was always destined to succeed. But when the Union was turned back at Bull Run and the Allies first landed at Omaha Beach, victory was very much in doubt. When the market crashed on Black Tuesday and civil rights marchers were beaten on Bloody Sunday, the future was anything but certain. These were the times that tested the courage of our convictions, and the strength of our union. And despite all our divisions and disagreements, our hesitations and our fears, America prevailed because we chose to move forward as one nation—as one people.

Again, we are tested. And again, we must answer history's call.

One year ago, I took office amid two wars, an economy rocked by severe recession, a financial system on the verge of collapse and a government deeply in debt. Experts from across the political spectrum warned that, if we did not act, we might face a second Depression. So we acted—immediately and aggressively. And 1 year later, the worst of the storm has passed.

But the devastation remains. One in 10 Americans still cannot find work. Many businesses have shuttered. Home values have declined. Small towns and rural communities have been hit especially hard. And for those who had already known poverty, life has become that much harder.

This recession has also compounded the burdens that America's families have been dealing with for decades—the burden of working harder and longer for less, of being unable to save enough to retire or help kids with college.

So I know the anxieties that are out there right now. They're not new. These struggles are the reason I ran for President. These struggles are what I've witnessed for years in places like Elkhart, Indiana, and Galesburg, Illinois. I hear about them in the letters that I read each night. The toughest to read are those written by children—asking why they have to move from their home, asking when their mom or dad will be able to go back to work.

For these Americans and so many others, change has not come fast enough. Some are frustrated; some are angry. They don't understand why it seems like bad behavior on Wall Street is rewarded but hard work on Main Street isn't; or why Washington has been unable or unwilling to solve any of our problems. They are tired of the partisanship and the shouting and the pettiness. They know we can't afford it. Not now.

So we face big and difficult challenges. And what the American people hope—what they deserve—is for all of us, Democrats and Republicans, to work through our differences, to overcome the numbing weight of our politics. For, while the people who sent us here have different backgrounds, different stories, different beliefs, the anxieties they face are the same. The aspirations they hold are shared. A job that pays the bills. A chance to get ahead. Most of all, the ability to give their children a better life.

And you know what else they share? They share a stubborn resilience in the face of adversity. After one of the most difficult years in our history, they remain busy building cars and teaching kids, starting businesses and going back to school. They're coaching Little League and helping their neighbors. One woman wrote to me and said, ''We are strained but hopeful, struggling but encouraged.''

It's because of this spirit—this great decency and great strength—that I have never been more hopeful about America's future than I am tonight. Despite our hardships, our union is strong. We do not give up. We do not quit. We do not allow fear or division to break our spirit. In this new decade, it's time the American people get a government that matches their decency, that embodies their strength.

And tonight, I'd like to talk about how, together, we can deliver on that promise.

It begins with our economy.

Our most urgent task upon taking office was to shore up the same banks that helped cause this crisis. It was not easy to do. And if there is one thing that has unified Democrats and Republicans and everybody in between is that we all hated the bank bailout. I hated it. You hated it. It was about as popular as a root canal.

But when I ran for President, I promised I wouldn't just do what was popular—I would do what was necessary. And if we had allowed the meltdown of the financial system, unemployment might be double what it is today. More businesses would certainly have closed. More homes would have surely been lost.

So I supported the last administration's efforts to create the financial rescue program. And when we took that program over, we made it more transparent and more accountable. And as a result, the markets are now stabilized, and we recovered most of the money we spent on the banks—most but not all.

To recover the rest, I have proposed a fee on the biggest banks. Now, I know Wall Street isn't keen on this idea, but if these firms can afford to hand out big bonuses again, they can afford a modest fee to pay back the taxpayers who rescued them in their time of need.

As we stabilized the financial system, we also took steps to get our economy growing again, save as many jobs as possible, and help Americans who had become unemployed.

That's why we extended or increased unemployment benefits for more than 18 million Americans, made health insurance 65 percent cheaper for families who get their coverage through COBRA, and passed 25 different tax cuts.

Now, let me repeat: We cut taxes. We cut taxes for 95 percent of working families. We cut taxes for small businesses. We cut taxes for first-time home buyers. We cut taxes for parents trying to care for their children. We cut taxes for 8 million Americans paying for college.

As a result, millions of Americans had more to spend on gas and food and other necessities, all of which helped businesses keep more workers. And we haven't raised income taxes by a single dime on a single person. Not a single dime.

Because of the steps we took, there are about 2 million Americans working right now who would otherwise be unemployed. 200,000 work in construction and clean energy. 300,000 are teachers and other education workers. Tens of thousands are cops, firefighters, correctional officers, first responders. And we are on track to add another 1.5 million jobs to this total by the end of the year.

The plan that has made all of this possible, from the tax cuts to the jobs, is the Recovery Act. That's right—the Recovery Act, also known as the stimulus bill. Economists on the left and the right say this bill has helped saved jobs and avert disaster. But you don't have to take their word for it.

Talk to the small business in Phoenix that will triple its workforce because of the Recovery Act.

Talk to the window manufacturer in Philadelphia who said he used to be skeptical about the Recovery Act until he had to add two more work shifts just because of the business it created. Talk to the single teacher raising two kids who was told by the principal in the last week of school that, because of

the Recovery Act, she wouldn't be laid off at all.

There are stories like this all across America. And after 2 years of recession, the economy is growing again. Retirement funds have started to gain back some of their value. Businesses are beginning to invest again, and slowly, some are starting to hire again.

But I realize that, for every success story, there are other stories—of men and women who wake up with the anguish of not knowing where their next paycheck will come from, who send out resumes week after week and hear nothing in response. That is why jobs must be our number one focus in 2010, and that is why I am calling for a new jobs bill tonight.

Now, the true engine of job creation in this country will always be America's businesses. But government can create the conditions necessary for businesses to expand and hire more workers.

We should start where most new jobs do—in small businesses, companies that begin when an entrepreneur takes a chance on a dream or a worker decides it's time she became her own boss.

Through sheer grit and determination, these companies have weathered the recession, and they are ready to go. But when you talk to small business owners in places like Allentown, Pennsylvania or Elyria, Ohio, you find out that, even though banks on Wall Street are lending again, they are mostly lending to bigger companies. Financing remains difficult for small business owners across the country. Even those who are making a profit.

So, tonight, I am proposing that we take $30 billion of the money that Wall Street banks have repaid and use it to help community banks give small businesses the credit they need to stay afloat. I am also proposing a new small business tax credit—one that will go to over 1 million small businesses who hire new workers or raise wages.

While we're at it, let's also eliminate all capital gains taxes on small business investment; and provide a tax incentive for all large businesses and all small businesses to invest in new plants and equipment.

Next, we can put Americans to work today building the infrastructure of tomorrow. From the first railroads to the Interstate Highway System, our nation has always been built to compete. There is no reason Europe or China should have the fastest trains or the new factories that manufacture clean energy products.

Tomorrow, I'll visit Tampa, Florida where workers will soon break ground on a new high-speed railroad funded by the Recovery Act. There are projects like that all across this country that will create jobs and help move our Nation's goods, services and information. We should put more Americans to work building clean energy facilities, and give rebates to Americans who make their homes more energy efficient, which supports clean energy jobs. And to encourage these and other businesses to stay within our borders, it is time to finally slash the tax breaks for companies that ship our jobs overseas and give those tax breaks to companies that create jobs right here in the United States of America.

Now, the House has passed a jobs bill that includes some of these steps. As the first order of business this year, I urge the Senate to do the same, and I know they will. They will. People are out of work. They are hurting. They need our help. And I want a jobs bill on my desk without delay.

But the truth is, these steps won't make up for the 7 million jobs that we've lost over the last 2 years. The only way to move to full employment is to lay a new foundation for long-term economic growth and finally address the problems that America's families have confronted for years.

We can't afford another so-called economic expansion like the one from the last decade—what some call the ''lost decade''—where jobs grew more slowly than during any prior expansion, where the income of the average American household declined while the cost of health care and tuition reached record highs, where prosperity was built on a housing bubble and financial speculation.

From the day I took office, I have been told that addressing our larger challenges is too ambitious—that such an effort would be too contentious. I've been told that our political system is too gridlocked and that we should just put things on hold for a while.

For those who make these claims, I have one simple question:

How long should we wait? How long should America put its future on hold?

You see, Washington has been telling us to wait for decades even as the problems have grown worse. Meanwhile, China's not waiting to revamp its economy. Germany's not waiting. India's not waiting. These nations, they're not standing still. These nations aren't playing for second place. They're putting more emphasis on math and science. They're rebuilding their infrastructure. They're making serious investments in clean energy because they want those jobs.

Well, I do not accept second place for the United States of America. As hard as it may be, as uncomfortable and contentious as the debates may become, it's time to get serious about fixing the problems that are hampering our growth.

Now, one place to start is with serious financial reform. Look, I am not interested in punishing banks; I'm interested in protecting our economy. A strong, healthy financial market makes it possible for businesses to access credit and create new jobs. It channels the savings of families into investments that raise incomes. But that can only happen if we guard against the same recklessness that nearly brought down our entire economy.

We need to make sure consumers and middle class families have the information they need to make financial decisions. We can't allow financial institutions, including those that take your deposits, to take risks that threaten the whole economy.

The House has already passed financial reform with many of these changes. And the lobbyists are trying to kill it. Well, we cannot let them win this fight. And if the bill that ends up on my desk does not meet the test of real reform, I will send it back until we get it right. We've got to get it right.

Next, we need to encourage American innovation. Last year, we made the largest investment in basic research funding in history—an investment that could lead to the world's cheapest solar cells or treatment that kills cancer cells but leaves healthy ones untouched. And no area is more ripe for such innovation than energy. You can see the results of last year's investments in clean energy—in the North Carolina company that will create 1,200 jobs nationwide, helping to make advanced batteries; or in the California business that will put 1,000 people to work making solar panels.

But to create more of these clean energy jobs, we need more production, more efficiency, more incentives. And that means building a new generation of safe, clean nuclear power plants in this country. It means making tough decisions about opening new offshore areas for oil and gas development. It means continued investment in advanced biofuels and clean coal technologies. And yes, it means passing a comprehensive energy and climate bill with incentives that will finally make clean energy the profitable kind of energy in America.

I am grateful to the House for passing such a bill last year. And this year, I am eager to help advance the bipartisan effort in the Senate. I know there have been questions about whether we can afford such changes in a tough economy. I know that there are those who disagree with the overwhelming scientific evidence on climate change. But here is the thing, even if you doubt the evidence, providing incentives for energy efficiency and clean energy are the right things to do for our future—because the nation that leads the clean energy economy will be the nation that leads the global economy. And America must be that nation.

Third, we need to export more of our goods. Because the more products we make and sell to other countries, the more jobs we support right here in America. So, tonight, we set a new goal: we will double our exports over the next 5 years, an increase that will support 2 million jobs in America. To help meet this goal, we're launching a national export initiative that will help farmers and small businesses increase their exports and reform export controls consistent with national security.

We have to seek new markets aggressively, just as our competitors are. If

America sits on the sidelines while other nations sign trade deals, we will lose the chance to create jobs on our shores. But realizing those benefits also means enforcing those agreements so our trading partners play by the rules. And that's why we will continue to shape a Doha trade agreement that opens global markets, and why we will strengthen our trade relations in Asia and with key partners like South Korea and Panama and Colombia.

Fourth, we need to invest in the skills and education of our people.

Now, this year, we've broken through the stalemate between left and right by launching a national competition to improve our schools. And the idea here is simple: instead of rewarding failure, we only reward success. Instead of funding the status quo, we only invest in reform—reform that raises student achievement, inspires students to excel in math and science and turns around failing schools that steal the future of too many young Americans, from rural communities to the inner cities. In the 21st century, the best anti-poverty program around is a world-class education. And in this country, the success of our children cannot depend more on where they live than on their potential.

When we renew the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, we will work with Congress to expand these reforms to all 50 States. Still, in this economy, a high school diploma no longer guarantees a good job. That's why I urge the Senate to follow the House and pass a bill that will revitalize our community colleges, which is a career pathway to the children of so many working families. To make college more affordable, this bill will finally end the unwarranted taxpayer subsidies that go to banks for student loans. Instead, let's take that money and give families a $10,000 tax credit for 4 years of college and increase Pell Grants. And let's tell another 1 million students that, when they graduate, they will be required to pay only 10 percent of their income on student loans, and all of their debt will be forgiven after 20 years—and forgiven after 10 years if they choose a career in public service. Because in the United States of America, no one should go broke because they chose to go to college. And by the way, it's time for colleges and universities to get serious about cutting their own costs—because they, too, have a responsibility to help solve this problem.

Now, the price of college tuition is just one of the burdens facing the middle class. That's why, last year, I asked Vice President BIDEN to chair a task force on middle class families. That's why we're nearly doubling the child care tax credit and making it easier to save for retirement by giving access to every worker a retirement account and expanding the tax credit for those who start a nest egg. That's why we're working to lift the value of a family's single largest investment—their home. The steps we took last year to shore up the housing market have allowed millions of Americans to take out new loans and save an average of $1,500 on mortgage payments. This year, we will step up refinancing so that homeowners can move into more affordable mortgages. And it is precisely to relieve the burden on middle class families that we still need health insurance reform.

Now let's clear a few things up. I didn't choose to tackle this issue to get some legislative victory under my belt. And by now, it should be fairly obvious that I didn't take on health care because it was good politics.

I took on health care because of the stories I've heard from Americans with preexisting conditions whose lives depend on getting coverage, patients who have been denied coverage, families—even those with insurance—who are just one illness away from financial ruin.

After nearly a century of trying—Democratic administrations, Republican administrations—we are closer than ever to bringing more security to the lives of so many Americans. The approach we've taken would protect every American from the worst practices of the insurance industry. It would give small businesses and uninsured Americans a chance to choose an affordable health care plan in a competitive market. It would require every insurance plan to cover preventative care. And by the way, I want to acknowledge our First Lady, Michelle Obama, who, this year, is creating a national movement to tackle the epidemic of childhood obesity and make kids healthier.

Our approach would preserve the right of Americans who have insurance to keep their doctor and their plan. It would reduce costs and premiums for millions of families and businesses. And according to the Congressional Budget Office—the independent organization that both parties have cited as the official scorekeeper for Congress—our approach would bring down the deficit by as much as $1 trillion over the next 2 decades.

Still, this is a complex issue, and the longer it was debated, the more skeptical people became. I take my share of the blame for not explaining it more clearly to the American people. And I know that, with all the lobbying and horse-trading, the process left most Americans wondering, what's in it for me.

But I also know this problem is not going away. By the time I'm finished speaking tonight, more Americans will have lost their health insurance. Millions will lose it this year. Our deficit will grow. Premiums will go up. Patients will be denied the care they need. Small business owners will continue to drop coverage all together. I will not walk away from these Americans, and neither should the people in this Chamber.

So, as temperatures cool, I want everyone to take another look at the plan we've proposed. There is a reason why many doctors, nurses, and health care experts, who know our system best, consider this approach a vast improvement over the status quo. But if anyone from either party has a better approach that will bring down premiums, bring down the deficit, cover the uninsured, strengthen Medicare for seniors, and stop insurance company abuses, let me know. I'm eager to see it. Here's what I ask Congress, though: Don't walk away from reform. Not now. Not when we are so close. Let us find a way to come together and finish the job for the American people. Let's get it done.

Now, even as health care reform would reduce our deficit, it's not enough to dig us out of a massive fiscal hole in which we find ourselves. It's a challenge that makes all others that much harder to solve and one that's been subject to a lot of political posturing.

So let me start the discussion of government spending by setting the record straight. At the beginning of the last decade, the year 2000, America had a budget surplus of over $200 billion. By the time I took office, we had a 1-year deficit of over $1 trillion and projected deficits of $8 trillion over the next decade. Most of this was the result of not paying for two wars, two tax cuts, and an expensive prescription drug program. On top of that, the effects of the recession put a $3 trillion hole in our budget. All this was before I walked in the door. I'm just stating the facts.

Now, if we had taken office in ordinary times, I would have liked nothing more than to start bringing down the deficit. But we took office amid a crisis, and our efforts to prevent a second Depression have added another $1 trillion to our national debt. That, too, is a fact.

I'm absolutely convinced that was the right thing to do. But families across the country are tightening their belts and making tough decisions. The Federal Government should do the same. So, tonight, I'm proposing specific steps to pay for the $1 trillion that it took to rescue the economy last year.

Starting in 2011, we are prepared to freeze government spending for 3 years. Spending related to our national security, Medicare, Medicaid, and Social Security will not be affected. But all other discretionary government programs will. Like any cash-strapped family, we will work within a budget to invest in what we need and sacrifice what we don't. And if I have to enforce this discipline by veto, I will.

We will continue through the budget line by line, page by page to eliminate programs that we can't afford and don't work. We've already identified $20 billion in savings for next year. To help working families, we will extend our middle class tax cuts. But at a time of record deficits, we will not continue tax cuts for oil companies, for investment fund managers, and for those

making over $250,000 a year. We just can't afford it.

Now, even after paying for what we spent on my watch, we'll still face the massive deficit we had when I took office. More importantly, the cost of Medicare, Medicaid, and Social Security will continue to skyrocket. That's why I've called for a bipartisan fiscal commission, modeled on a proposal by Republican JUDD GREGG and Democrat KENT CONRAD. This can't be one of those Washington gimmicks that lets us pretend we solved a problem. The commission will have to provide a specific set of solutions by a certain deadline. Now, yesterday, the Senate blocked a bill that would have created this commission. So I will issue an Executive order that will allow us to go forward because I refuse to pass this problem on to another generation of Americans. And when the vote comes tomorrow, the Senate should restore the pay-as-you-go law that was a big reason for why we had record surpluses in the 1990s.

I know that some in my party will argue that we can't address the deficit or freeze government spending when so many are still hurting. And I agree, which is why this freeze won't take effect until next year, when the economy is stronger. That's how budgeting works. But understand, if we don't take meaningful steps to rein in our debt, it could damage our markets, increase the cost of borrowing and jeopardize our recovery—all of which would have an even worse effect on our job growth and family incomes.

From some on the right, I expect we'll hear a different argument—that if we just make fewer investments in our people, extend tax cuts, including those for wealthier Americans, eliminate more regulations, and maintain the status quo on health care, our deficits will go away. The problem is, that's what we did for 8 years. That's what helped us into this crisis. It's what helped lead to these deficits. We can't do it again.

Rather than fight the same tired battles that have dominated Washington for decades, it's time to try something new. Let's invest in our people without leaving them a mountain of debt. Let's meet our responsibility to the citizens who sent us here. Let's try common sense—a novel concept.

To do that, we have to recognize that we face more than a deficit of dollars right now. We face a deficit of trust—deep and corrosive doubts about how Washington works that have been growing for years. To close that credibility gap, we have to take action on both ends of Pennsylvania Avenue to end the outsized influence of lobbyists, to do our work openly, to give our people the government they deserve.

That's what I came to Washington to do. That's why—for the first time in history—my administration posts on our White House visitors online. That's why we've excluded lobbyists from policymaking jobs or seats on Federal boards and commissions.

But we can't stop there. It's time to require lobbyists to disclose each contact they make on behalf of a client with my administration or with Congress. It's time to put strict limits on the contributions that lobbyists give to candidates for Federal office. With all due deference to the separation of powers, last week, the Supreme Court reversed a century of law that I believe will open the floodgates for special interests—including foreign corporations—to spend without limit in our elections. I don't think American elections should be bankrolled by America's most powerful interests, or worse, by foreign entities. They should be decided by the American people. And I would urge Democrats and Republicans to pass a bill that helps correct some of these problems.

I'm also calling on Congress to continue down the path of earmark reform—Democrats and Republicans. You've trimmed some of this spending. You've embraced some meaningful change. But restoring the public trust demands more. For example, some Members of Congress post some earmark requests online. Tonight, I am calling on Congress to publish all earmark requests on a single Web site before there is a vote so that the American people can see how their money is being spent.

Of course, none of these reforms will even happen if we don't also reform how we work with one another.

Now, I am not naive. I never thought that the mere fact of my election would usher in peace and harmony and some post-partisan era. I knew that both parties have fed divisions that are deeply entrenched. And on some issues, there are simply philosophical differences that will always cause us to part ways. These disagreements about the role of government in our lives, about our national priorities and our national security, they've been taking place for over 200 years. They are the very essence of our democracy.

But what frustrates the American people is a Washington where every day is an election day. We can't wage a perpetual campaign where the only goal is to see who can get the most embarrassing headlines about the other side—a belief that, if you lose, I win. Neither party should delay or obstruct every single bill just because they can. I'm speaking to both parties now. The confirmation of well-qualified public servants shouldn't be held hostage to the pet projects or grudges of a few individual Senators. Washington may think that saying anything about the other side—no matter how false, no matter how malicious—is just part of the game. But it's precisely such politics that has stopped either party from helping the American people. Worse yet, it is sowing further division among our citizens, further distrust in our government.

So, no, I will not give up on trying to change the tone of our politics. I know it's an election year. And after last week, it's clear that campaign fever has come even earlier than usual. But we still need to govern. To Democrats, I would remind you that we still have the largest majority in decades, and the people expect us to solve problems, not run for the hills. And if the Republican leadership is going to insist that 60 votes in the Senate are required to do any business at all in this town—a super majority—then the responsibility to govern is now yours as well. Just saying ''no'' to everything may be good short-term politics, but it's not leadership. We were sent here to serve our citizens, not our ambitions. So let's show the American people that we can do it together. This week, I'll be addressing a meeting of the House Republicans. I'd like to begin monthly meetings with both the Democratic and Republican leadership. I know you can't wait.

Throughout our history, no issue has united this country more than our security. Sadly, some of the unity we felt after 9/11 has dissipated. We can argue all we want about who is to blame for this, but I'm not interested in relitigating the past. I know that all of us love this country. All of us are committed to its defense. So let's put aside the schoolyard taunts about who is tough. Let's reject the false choice between protecting our people and upholding our values. Let's leave behind the fear and division, and do what it takes to defend our Nation and forge a more hopeful future—for America and for the world.

That's the work we began last year. Since the day I took office, we've renewed our focus on the terrorists who threaten our Nation. We've made substantial investments in our homeland security and disrupted plots that threatened to take American lives. We are filling unacceptable gaps revealed by the failed Christmas attack, with better airline security and swifter action on our intelligence. We've prohibited torture and strengthened partnerships from the Pacific to South Asia to the Arabian Peninsula. And in the last year, hundreds of al Qaeda's fighters and affiliates, including many senior leaders, have been captured or killed—far more than in 2008.

And in Afghanistan, we are increasing our troops and training Afghanistan Security Forces so they can begin to take the lead in July of 2011, and our troops can begin to come home. We will reward good governance, work to reduce corruption, and support the rights of all Afghans—men and women alike. We are joined by allies and partners who have increased their own commitments and who will come together tomorrow in London to reaffirm our common purpose. There will be difficult days ahead. But I am absolutely confident we will succeed.

As we take the fight to al Qaeda, we are responsibly leaving Iraq to its people. As a candidate, I promised that I would end this war, and that is what I am doing as President. We will have all

of our combat troops out of Iraq by the end of this August. We will support the Iraqi Government as they hold elections, and we will continue to partner with the Iraqi people to promote regional peace and prosperity. But make no mistake: this war is ending, and all of our troops are coming home.

Tonight, all of our men and women in uniform—in Iraq, in Afghanistan, and around the world—have to know that they have our respect, our gratitude, our full support. And just as they must have the resources they need in war, we all have a responsibility to support them when they come home. That's why we made the largest increase in investments for veterans in decades last year. That's why we're building a 21st century VA. And that's why Michelle has joined with Jill Biden to forge a national commitment to support military families.

Even as we prosecute two wars, we are also confronting, perhaps, the greatest danger to the American people—the threat of nuclear weapons. I've embraced the vision of John F. Kennedy and Ronald Reagan through a strategy that reverses the spread of these weapons and seeks a world without them. To reduce our stockpiles and launchers, while ensuring our deterrent, the United States and Russia are completing negotiations on the farthest reaching arms control treaty in nearly 2 decades. And at April's Nuclear Security Summit, we will bring 44 nations together, here in Washington, D.C., behind a clear goal—securing all vulnerable nuclear materials around the world in 4 years so that they never fall into the hands of terrorists.

Now, these diplomatic efforts have also strengthened our hand in dealing with those nations that insist on violating international agreements in pursuit of these weapons. That is why North Korea now faces increased isolation and stronger sanctions—sanctions that are being vigorously enforced. That's why the international community is more united and the Islamic Republic of Iran is more isolated. And as Iran's leaders continue to ignore their obligations, there should be no doubt: they, too, will face growing consequences. That is a promise.

That is the leadership we are providing—engagement that advances the common security and prosperity of all people. We are working through the G–20 to sustain a lasting global recovery. We are working with Muslim communities around the world to promote science and education and innovation. We have gone from a bystander to a leader in the fight against climate change. We are helping developing countries to feed themselves, and continuing the fight against HIV/AIDS. And we are launching a new initiative that will give us the capacity to respond faster and more effectively to bioterrorism or an infectious disease—a plan that will counter threats at home and strengthen public health abroad.

As we have for over 60 years, America takes these actions because our destiny is connected to those beyond our shores. But we also do it because it is right. That's why, as we meet here tonight, over 10,000 Americans are working with many nations to help the people of Haiti recover and rebuild. That's why we stand with the girl who yearns to go to school in Afghanistan, why we support the human rights of the women marching through the streets of Iran, why we advocate for the young man denied a job by corruption in Guinea. For America must always stand on the side of freedom and human dignity. Always.

Abroad, America's greatest source of strength has always been our ideals. The same is true at home. We find unity in our incredible diversity, drawing on the promise enshrined in our Constitution: the notion that we are all created equal, that no matter who you are or what you look like, if you abide by the law, you should be protected by it; if you adhere to our common values, you should be treated no different than anyone else.

We must continually renew this promise. My administration has a Civil Rights division that is, once again, prosecuting civil rights' violations and employment discrimination. We finally strengthened our laws to protect against crimes driven by hate. This year, I will work with Congress and our military to finally repeal the law that denies gay Americans the right to serve the country they love because of who they are. It's the right thing to do. We're going to crack down on violations of equal pay laws—so that women get equal pay for an equal day's work. And we should continue the work of fixing our broken immigration system—to secure our borders and enforce our laws and ensure that everyone who plays by the rules can contribute to our economy and enrich our nation.

In the end, it is our ideals, our values, that built America—values that allowed us to forge a nation made up of immigrants from every corner of the globe; values that drive our citizens still. Every day, Americans meet their responsibilities to their families and their employers. Time and again, they lend a hand to their neighbors and give back to their country. They take pride in their labor and are generous in spirit. These aren't Republican values or Democratic values that they're living by; business values or labor values. They are American values.

Unfortunately, too many of our citizens have lost faith that our biggest institutions—our corporations, our media and, yes, our government—still reflect these same values. Each of these institutions are full of honorable men and women doing important work that helps our country prosper. But each time a CEO rewards himself for failure or a banker puts the rest of us at risk for his own selfish gain, people's doubts grow. Each time lobbyists game the system or politicians tear each other down instead of lifting this country up, we lose faith. The more that TV pundits reduce serious debates to silly arguments, big issues into sound bites, our citizens turn away.

No wonder there's so much cynicism out there.

No wonder there's so much disappointment.

I campaigned on the promise of change—change we can believe in, the slogan went. And right now, I know there are many Americans who aren't sure if they still believe we can change—or that I can deliver.

But remember this—I never suggested that change would be easy or that I could do it alone. Democracy in a nation of 300 million people can be noisy and messy and complicated. And when you try to do big things and make big changes, it stirs passions and controversy. That's just how it is.

Those of us in public office can respond to this reality by playing it safe and avoid telling hard truths and pointing fingers. We can do what's necessary to keep our poll numbers high and get through the next election instead of doing what's best for the next generation.

But I also know this: If people had made that decision 50 years ago or 100 years ago or 200 years ago, we wouldn't be here tonight. The only reason we are here is because generations of Americans were unafraid to do what was hard, to do what was needed even when success was uncertain, to do what it took to keep the dream of this nation alive for their children and their grandchildren.

Our administration has had some political setbacks this year, and some of them were deserved. But I wake up every day knowing that they are nothing compared to the setbacks that families all across this country have faced this year. And what keeps me going—what keeps me fighting—is that, despite all these setbacks, that spirit of determination and optimism—that fundamental decency that has always been at the core of the American people—lives on.

It lives on in the struggling small business owner who wrote to me of his company, ''None of us,'' he said, ''are willing to consider, even slightly, that we might fail.''

It lives on in the woman who said that, even though she and her neighbors have felt the pain of recession, ''We are strong. We are resilient. We are American.''

It lives on in the 8-year-old boy in Louisiana, who just sent me his allowance, and asked if I would give it to the people of Haiti. And it lives on in all the Americans who've dropped everything to go someplace they've never been and pull people they've never known from the rubble, prompting chants of ''USA! USA! USA!'' when another life was saved.

The spirit that has sustained this Nation for more than two centuries lives on in you, its people.

We have finished a difficult year. We have come through a difficult decade.

But a new year has come. A new decade stretches before us. We don't quit. I don't quit. Let's seize this moment—to start anew, to carry the dream forward, and to strengthen our union once more.

Thank you. God bless you. And God bless the United States of America.

(Applause, the Members rising.)

At 10 o'clock and 26 minutes p.m., the President of the United States, accompanied by the committee of escort, retired from the Hall of the House of Representatives.

The Majority Floor Services Chief escorted the invited guests from the Chamber in the following order:

The members of the President's Cabinet; the Chief Justice of the United States and the Associate Justices of the Supreme Court; the Dean of the Diplomatic Corps.

JOINT SESSION DISSOLVED

The SPEAKER. The Chair declares the joint session of the two Houses now dissolved.

Accordingly, at 10 o'clock and 27 minutes p.m., the joint session of the two Houses was dissolved.

The Members of the Senate retired to their Chamber.

MESSAGE OF THE PRESIDENT REFERRED TO THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE HOUSE ON THE STATE OF THE UNION

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I move that the message of the President be referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union and ordered printed.

The motion was agreed to.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. ABERCROMBIE (at the request of Mr. HOYER) for today on account of medical reasons.

Mr. ORTIZ (at the request of Mr. HOYER) for today on account of medical reasons.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 10 o'clock and 28 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until Friday, January 29, 2010, at noon.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 2 of rule XXIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

5817. A letter from the Assistant General Counsel for Legislation, Regulation and Energy Efficiency, Department of Energy, transmitting the Department's ''Major'' final rule — Weatherization Assistance Program for Low-Income Persons [Docket No.: EEWAP0515] (RIN: 1904-AB97) received January 25, 2010, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

5818. A letter from the Assistant General Counsel for Legislation, Regulation and Energy Efficiency, Department of Energy, transmitting the Department's ''Major'' final rule — Energy Conservation Program: Energy Conservation Standards for Certain Consumer Products (Dishwashers, Dehumidifiers, Microwave Ovens, and Electric and Gas Kitchen Ranges and Ovens) and for Certain Commercial and Industrial Equipment (Commercial Clothes Washers) [Docket Number: EERE-2006-STD-0127] (RIN: 1904-AB93) received January 25, 2010, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

5819. A letter from the Deputy Assistant Administrator, Bureau for Legislative and Public Affairs, United States Agency for International Development, transmitting letter to provide formal response of the Agency to the GAO report numbered GAO-10-1; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

5820. A letter from the Executive Director, Christopher Columbus Fellowship Foundation, transmitting the Fellowship's Performance and Accountability Report for FY 2009; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

5821. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Commerce, transmitting the Department's Performance and Accountability Report for fiscal year 2009; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

5822. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Bombardier, Inc. Model CL-600-2B19 (Regional Jet Series 100 & 440) Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2009-1196; Directorate Identifier 2009-NM-170-AD; Amendment 39-16146; AD 2008-09-12 R1] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received January 12, 2010, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5823. A letter from the General Counsel, Federal Retirement Thrift Investment Board, transmitting the Board's final rule — Availability of Records received January 19, 2010, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

5824. A letter from the Assistant Deputy Associate Administrator for Acquisition Policy, General Services Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Federal Acquisition Regulation; Federal Acquisition Circular 2005-38; Small Entity Compliance Guide [Docket FAR 2009-0002, Sequence 9] received December 9, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

5825. A letter from the Assistant Deputy Associate Administrator for Acquisition Policy, General Services Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Federal Acquisition Regulation; Technical Amendments [FAC 2005-38; Item VII; Docket 2009-0003; Sequence 6] received December 9, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

5826. A letter from the Assistant Deputy Associate Administrator for Acquisition Policy, General Services Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Federal Acquisition Regulation; FAR Case 2006-024, Travel Costs [FAC 2005-38; FAR Case 2006-024; Item VI; Docket 2009-0044, Sequence 1] (RIN: 9000-AK86) received December 9, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

5827. A letter from the Assistant Deputy Associate Administrator for Acquisition Policy, General Services Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Federal Acquisition Regulation; FAR Case 2006-021, Postretirement Benefits (PRB), FAS 106 [FAC 2005-38; FAR Case 2006-021; Item V; Docket 2009-0043, Sequence 1] (RIN: 9000-AK84) received December 9, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

5828. A letter from the Assistant Deputy Associate Administrator for Acquisition Policy, General Services Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Federal Acquisition Regulation; FAR Case 2008-017, Federal Food Donation Act of 2008 (Pub. L. 110-247) [FAC 2005-38; FAR Case 2008-017; Item IV; Docket 2009-0007, Sequence 1] (RIN: 9000-AL49) received December 9, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

5829. A letter from the Assistant Deputy Associate Administrator for Acquisition Policy, General Services Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Federal Acquisition Regulation; FAR Case 2005-041, Internet Protocol Version 6 (IPv6) [FAC 2005-38; FAR Case 2005-041; Item III; Docket 2009-0042, Sequence 1] (RIN: 9000-AK57) received December 9, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

5830. A letter from the Assistant Deputy Associate Administrator for Acquisition Policy, General Services Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Federal Acquisition Regulation; FAR Case 2006-026, Governmentwide Commercial Purchase Card Restrictions for Treasury Offset Program Debts [FAC 2005-38; FAR Case 2006-026; Item II; Docket 2009-0041, Sequence 1] (RIN: 9000-AK87) received December 9, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

5831. A letter from the Assistant Deputy Associate Administrator for Acquisition Policy, General Services Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Federal Acquisition Regulation; FAR Case 2009-017, Revocation of Executive Order 13201, Notification of Employee Rights Concerning Payment of Union Dues or Fees [FAC 2005-38; FAR Case 2009-017; Item I; Docket 2009-0040, Sequence 1] (RIN: 9000-AL47) received December 9, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

5832. A letter from the Acting Director, Trade and Development Agency, transmitting the Agency's fiscal year 2009 annual report; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

5833. A letter from the Secretary, Department of the Interior, transmitting the Department's 2009 Report to Congress for the North Slope Science Initiative; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

5834. A letter from the Writer/Editor, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's ''Major'' final rule — Safe-Harbor Procedures for Employers Who received a No-Match Letter: Rescission [ICE 2377-06; DHS Docket No. ICEB-2006-0004] (RIN: 1653-AA59) received January 20, 2010, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on the Judiciary.

5835. A letter from the Acting Director, Department of Justice, transmitting the Department's report entitled, ''Report to the Nation 2009'' from the Office for Victims of Crime for fiscal years 2007-2008, pursuant to Section 1407(g) of the Victims of Crime Act of 1984; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

5836. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting

the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Boeing Model 737-300, -400, and -500 Series Airplanes Equipped with a Digital Transient Suppression Device (DTSD) Installed in Accordance with Supplemental Type Certificate (STC) ST00127BO [Docket No.: FAA-2009-0521; Directorate Identifier 2008-NM-187-AD; Amendment 39-16034; AD 2009-20-11] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received January 12, 2010, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5837. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Turbomeca Arriel 1A1, 1A2, 1B, 1C, 1C1, 1C2, 1D, 1D1, 1E2, 1K1, 1S, and 1S1 Turboshaft Engines [Docket No.: FAA-2009-0544; Directorate Identifier 2009-NE-17-AD; Amendment 39-16142; AD 2009-26-07] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received January 12, 2010, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5838. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; AeroSpace Technologies of Australia Pty Ltd Models N22B, N22S, and N24A Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2009-0987; Directorate Identifier 2009-CE-054-AD; Amendment 39-16143; AD 2009-26-08] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received January 12, 2010, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5839. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; The Boeing Company Model 767-200, -300, -300F, and -400ER Series Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2009-1195; Directorate Idenifier 2009-NM-152-AD; Amendment 39-16145; AD 2008-11-01 R1] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received January 12, 2010, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5840. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Boeing 737-300, -400, -500, -600, -700, -700C, -800, and -900, and 747-400 Series Airplanes; and Model 757, 767, and 777 Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2009-0911; Directorate Identifer 2002-NM-12-AD; Amendment 39-16138; AD 2009-26-03] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received January 12, 2010, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5841. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Boeing Model 737-600, -700, -700C, -800, and -900 Series Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2007-29087; Directorate Identifier 2007-NM-094-AD; Amendment 39-16139; AD 2009-26-04] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received January 12, 2010, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5842. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; PILATUS Aircraft Ltd. Model PC-7 Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2009-0938; Directorate Identifer 2009-CE-052-AD; Amendment 39-16140; AD 2009-26-05] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received January 12, 2010, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5843. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Establishment of Class E Airspace; Riverside/Rubidous Flabob Airport, Riverside, CA [Docket No.: FAA-2009-0690; Airspace Docket No. 09-AWP-6] received January 12, 2010, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5844. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Establishment of Class D and E Airspace and Modification of Class E Airspace; State College, PA [Docket No.: FAA-2009-0750; Airspace Docket No. 09-AEA-16] received January 12, 2010, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5845. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Modification of Class E Airspace; Sarasota, FL [Docket No.: FAA-2009-0652; Airspace Docket 09-ASO-21] received January 12, 2010, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5846. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Modification of Class D and E Airspace; Albemarle, NC [Docket No.: FAA-2009-0203; Airspace Docket No. 09-ASO-12] received January 12, 2010, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5847. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Establishment of Class E Airspace; Spencer, WV [Docket No.: FAA-2009-0602; Airspace Docket No. 09-AEA-13] received January 12, 2010, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5848. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Modification of Class E Airspace; Gadsden, AL [Docket No.: FAA-2009-0955; Airspace Docket No. 09-ASO-28] received January 12, 2010, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5849. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Amendment of Class E Airspace; Burnet, TX [Docket No.: FAA-2009-0859; Airspace Docket No. 09-ASW-23] received January 12, 2010, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5850. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Amendment of Class E Airspace; Myrtle Beach [Docket No.: FAA-2009-0650; Airspace Docket No. 09-ASO-20] received January 12, 2010, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5851. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; The Boeing Company Model 707 Airplanes, and Model 720 and 720B Series Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2009-1209; Directorate Identifier 2009-NM-151-AD; Amendment 39-16147; AD 2008-04-11 R1] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received January 12, 2010, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5852. A letter from the Deputy Chief Privacy Officer, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's Privacy Office's report entitled, ''2009 Data Mining Report to Congress'', pursuant to Public Law 110-53 (121 Stat. 266); to the Committee on Homeland Security.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES ON PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XIII, reports of committees were delivered to the Clerk for printing and reference to the proper calendar, as follows:

Mr. REYES: Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence. House Resolution 978. Resolution requesting the President to transmit to the House of Representatives all documents in the possession of the President relating to the inventory and review of intelligence related to the shooting at Fort Hood, Texas, described by the President in a memorandum dated November 10, 2009, adversely; (Rept. 111–402). Referred to the House Calendar.

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi: Committee on Homeland Security. House Resolution 980. Resolution of inquiry directing the Secretary of Homeland Security to transmit to the House of Representatives a copy of the Transportation Security Administration's Aviation Security Screening Management Standard Operating Procedures manual in effect on December 5, 2009, and any subsequent revisions of such manual in effect prior to the adoption of this resolution, adversely; (Rept. 111–403). Referred to the House Calendar.

Mr. CONYERS: Committee on the Judiciary. House Resolution 994. Resolution directing the Attorney General to transmit to the House of Representatives all information in the Attorney General's possession relating to the decision to dismiss United States v. New Black Panther Party, adversely; (Rept. 111–404). Referred to the House Calendar.

Mr. GORDON of Tennessee: Committee on Science and Technology. H.R. 4061. A bill to advance cybersecurity research, development, and technical standards, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 111–405). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union.

Mr. TOWNS: Committee on Oversight and Government Reform. H.R. 1387. A bill to amend title 44, United States Code, to require a preservation of certain electronic records by Federal agencies, to require a certification and reports relating to Presidential records, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 111–406). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union.

PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XII, public bills and resolutions of the following titles were introduced and severally referred, as follows:

By Mr. SABLAN (for himself, Mr. GRIJALVA, and Ms. NORTON):

H.R. 4526. A bill to establish a program that enables college-bound residents of the Northern Mariana Islands to have greater choices among institutions of higher education, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and Labor.

By Mr. DRIEHAUS:

H.R. 4527. A bill to amend the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 to require certain campaign-related communications paid for by a corporation or labor organization to include a statement identifying the chief executive officer of the corporation or the president of the labor organization, and for other purposes; to the Committee on House Administration.

By Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas (for himself and Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida):

H.R. 4528. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to require individuals to provide their Social Security number in order to claim the refundable portion of the child tax credit; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin (for himself, Mr. BARTLETT, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. BURGESS, Mr. CAMPBELL, Mr. HENSARLING, Mr. NUNES, and Mr. PRICE of Georgia):

H.R. 4529. A bill to provide for the reform of health care, the Social Security system,

the tax code for individuals and business, job training, and the budget process; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committees on Energy and Commerce, Education and Labor, Rules, the Budget, and the Judiciary, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. POLIS of Colorado (for himself, Mr. ACKERMAN, Ms. BALDWIN, Ms. BERKLEY, Mr. BERMAN, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania, Mrs. CAPPS, Mr. CAPUANO, Ms. CASTOR of Florida, Ms. CHU, Ms. CLARKE, Mr. COURTNEY, Mr. CROWLEY, Mr. CUMMINGS, Mrs. DAVIS of California, Ms. DEGETTE, Mr. DOYLE, Mr. ELLISON, Mr. ENGEL, Mr. FARR, Mr. FILNER, Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts, Mr. GARAMENDI, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. GUTIERREZ, Mr. HALL of New York, Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. HOLT, Mr. HONDA, Mr. ISRAEL, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Ms. LEE of California, Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mr. MCDERMOTT, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mrs. MALONEY, Mr. MEEKS of New York, Mr. MORAN of Virginia, Mr. NADLER of New York, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Ms. NORTON, Ms. PINGREE of Maine, Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN, Mr. ROTHMAN of New Jersey, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. SERRANO, Mr. SHERMAN, Ms. SLAUGHTER, Ms. SPEIER, Mr. STARK, Mr. TOWNS, Mr. WELCH, Ms. WOOLSEY, Mr. WU, Mr. KUCINICH, and Ms. KILROY):

H.R. 4530. A bill to end discrimination based on actual or perceived sexual orientation or gender identity in public schools, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and Labor.

By Mr. ADLER of New Jersey (for himself and Mr. LEE of New York):

H.R. 4531. A bill to amend title 5, United States Code, to deny Federal retirement benefits to an individual convicted of a felony which occurred in connection with such individual's Government employment or service, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Mr. TANNER (for himself, Mr. MCDERMOTT, Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas, and Mr. LINDER):

H.R. 4532. A bill to provide for permanent extension of the attorney fee withholding procedures under title II of the Social Security Act to title XVI of such Act, and to provide for permanent extension of such procedures under titles II and XVI of such Act to qualified non-attorney representatives; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Ms. SCHAKOWSKY:

H.R. 4533. A bill to provide for a study and report on access by blind consumers to certain electronic devices and to provide for the establishment of minimum nonvisual access standards for such devices and for the establishment of an office within the Department of Commerce to enforce such standards, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. KILDEE (for himself, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. LEWIS of Georgia, Mr. HINCHEY, Ms. LEE of California, Mrs. DAVIS of California, Mr. CLEAVER, Ms. DELAURO, Mr. PETERS, Mr. HOLT, Mrs. MILLER of Michigan, Mrs. MALONEY, Mr. CONYERS, Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California, Ms. HERSETH SANDLIN, Mrs. CAPPS, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, and Mr. RANGEL):

H.R. 4534. A bill to amend title 40, United States Code, to require that restrooms in public buildings be equipped with baby changing facilities; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. BISHOP of New York (for himself, Ms. MCCOLLUM, and Mr. CASTLE):

H.R. 4535. A bill to reduce and prevent the sale and use of fraudulent degrees in order to protect the integrity of valid higher education degrees that are used for Federal employment purposes; to the Committee on Education and Labor, and in addition to the Committees on Oversight and Government Reform, Energy and Commerce, and the Judiciary, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. BOCCIERI:

H.R. 4536. A bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1332 Sharon Copley Road in Wadsworth, Ohio, as the ''Emil Bolas Post Office''; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Mr. CAPUANO (for himself, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, Ms. PINGREE of Maine, and Mr. GRAYSON):

H.R. 4537. A bill to amend the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 to require the express authorization of a majority of shareholders of a public company for certain political expenditures by that company, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. COHEN (for himself, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Mr. GUTIERREZ, Mr. NADLER of New York, Mr. BUTTERFIELD, Mr. CARSON of Indiana, Mr. CLAY, Mr. DELAHUNT, Mr. DOGGETT, Ms. KAPTUR, Mr. MCDERMOTT, Mr. RANGEL, Mr. STARK, Mr. TOWNS, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, and Mr. WATT):

H.R. 4538. A bill to amend the Fair Credit Reporting Act to require the inclusion of credit scores with free annual credit reports provided to consumers, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. CROWLEY (for himself, Ms. BEAN, and Mr. TIBERI):

H.R. 4539. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to modify the treatment of foreign investments in United States real property, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Ms. DELAURO (for herself, Mr. COHEN, Mr. DEFAZIO, Mr. KAGEN, and Mrs. LOWEY):

H.R. 4540. A bill to amend the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 to extend the ban on election activity by foreign nationals to election activity by domestic corporations which are subsidiaries of foreign principals; to the Committee on House Administration.

By Mr. HASTINGS of Florida (for himself, Mr. HALL of New York, Ms. RICHARDSON, Mr. ISRAEL, Mr. KISSELL, Mr. MEEK of Florida, Mr. WALZ, Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida, Mr. SHULER, Mr. BUYER, Ms. SUTTON, Mr. ROONEY, Mr. MASSA, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Mr. KLEIN of Florida, Ms. BORDALLO, Mr. ROHRABACHER, Mr. KAGEN, Mr. GRIJALVA, and Mr. BUCHANAN):

H.R. 4541. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to exempt reimbursements of expenses related to accident, theft, loss, or casualty loss from determinations of annual income with respect to pensions for veterans and surviving spouses and children of veterans, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. KING of New York (for himself, Mr. SMITH of Texas, Mr. SOUDER, Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California, Mr. ROGERS of Alabama, Mr. MCCAUL, Mr. DENT, Mr. BILIRAKIS, Mr. BROUN of Georgia, Mrs. MILLER of Michigan, Mr. OLSON, Mr. CAO, and Mr. AUSTRIA):

H.R. 4542. A bill to prohibit the use of funds made available to the Department of Justice to prosecute individuals detained at Naval Station, Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, in the United States; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California:

H.R. 4543. A bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 4285 Payne Avenue in San Jose, California, as the ''Anthony J. Cortese Post Office Building''; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Mr. MCMAHON:

H.R. 4544. A bill to change references in Federal law to mental retardation to references to an intellectual disability, and change references to a mentally retarded individual to references to an individual with an intellectual disability; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Education and Labor, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. MURPHY of New York:

H.R. 4545. A bill to amend the Rural Electrification Act of 1936 to establish an Office of Rural Broadband Initiatives in the Department of Agriculture, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, and in addition to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. PATRICK J. MURPHY of Pennsylvania (for himself and Mrs. MYRICK):

H.R. 4546. A bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to require certain institutions of higher education to commit to, and provide notice of, tuition levels for students; to the Committee on Education and Labor.

By Mr. SESTAK (for himself, Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania, Mr. FATTAH, Mrs. DAHLKEMPER, Mr. ALTMIRE, Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania, Mr. GERLACH, Mr. PATRICK J. MURPHY of Pennsylvania, Mr. SHUSTER, Mr. CARNEY, Mr. KANJORSKI, Mr. MURTHA, Ms. SCHWARTZ, Mr. DOYLE, Mr. DENT, Mr. PITTS, Mr. HOLDEN, Mr. TIM MURPHY of Pennsylvania, and Mr. PLATTS):

H.R. 4547. A bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 119 Station Road in Cheyney, Pennsylvania, as the ''Captain Luther H. Smith, U.S. Army Air Forces Post Office''; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Mr. TIAHRT (for himself, Mr. BILBRAY, Mr. HUNTER, and Mr. ALEXANDER):

H.R. 4548. A bill to enforce the restriction on in-State tuition for aliens unlawfully present in the United States; to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committee on Education and Labor, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. TONKO:

H.R. 4549. A bill to authorize the Administrator of the Small Business Administration to make grants to small business concerns to assist the commercialization of research developed with funds received under the second phase of the Small Business Innovation Research Program; to the Committee on Small

Business, and in addition to the Committee on Science and Technology, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. TSONGAS:

H.R. 4550. A bill to prohibit entities from using Federal funds to contribute to political campaigns or participate in lobbying activities; to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committee on House Administration, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. VAN HOLLEN (for himself, Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida, Mr. WOLF, Ms. BORDALLO, Ms. SHEA-PORTER, Mr. BARTLETT, Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Mr. ELLISON, Mrs. CAPPS, Mr. NEAL of Massachusetts, Mr. BOSWELL, Mr. LOBIONDO, Mr. SCOTT of Georgia, Mr. DELAHUNT, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. MORAN of Virginia, Mr. JONES, Mr. TAYLOR, Mr. MOORE of Kansas, Mr. PAUL, Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas, Mr. SESTAK, Mr. KAGEN, Mr. ISRAEL, Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas, Mr. DEFAZIO, Mr. GONZALEZ, Mr. HARE, Mr. MCINTYRE, and Mr. GORDON of Tennessee):

H.R. 4551. A bill to restore health care coverage to retired members of the uniformed services, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services, and in addition to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. BROUN of Georgia (for himself, Mrs. MYRICK, Mr. FRANKS of Arizona, Mr. ROONEY, Mr. GINGREY of Georgia, Mr. MANZULLO, Mr. PITTS, Ms. GRANGER, Mr. BURTON of Indiana, and Mr. JONES):

H.J. Res. 73. A joint resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States to balance the Federal budget; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. LEE of California (for herself, Mrs. CHRISTENSEN, Ms. WATERS, Mr. MEEKS of New York, Mr. WAXMAN, Mr. CONYERS, Mr. CAO, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania, Ms. CASTOR of Florida, Mr. SERRANO, Mr. RANGEL, Mr. CARNAHAN, Mr. CLEAVER, Ms. NORTON, Mr. BERMAN, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. TOWNS, Mr. JACKSON of Illinois, Mr. ELLISON, Mr. HONDA, and Ms. EDWARDS of Maryland):

H. Con. Res. 233. Concurrent resolution supporting the goals and ideals of National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. MINNICK (for himself and Mr. SIMPSON):

H. Res. 1041. A resolution congratulating and commending the University of Idaho's football team for winning the 2009 Humanitarian Bowl in Boise, Idaho; to the Committee on Education and Labor.

By Mr. MINNICK (for himself and Mr. SIMPSON):

H. Res. 1042. A resolution commending the Boise State University Broncos football team for winning the 2010 Fiesta Bowl; to the Committee on Education and Labor.

By Mr. GUTHRIE:

H. Res. 1043. A resolution recognizing Brescia University for 60 years of leadership in higher education; to the Committee on Education and Labor.

By Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN (for herself, Mr. PENCE, Mr. KLEIN of Florida, Mr. MCCOTTER, Mr. MEEK of Florida, Mr. GALLEGLY, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Mr. BURTON of Indiana, Mr. BILIRAKIS, Mr. MANZULLO, Mr. ROHRABACHER, Mr. ROYCE, and Mr. MACK):

H. Res. 1044. A resolution commemorating the 65th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz, a Nazi concentration and extermination camp, honoring the victims of the Holocaust, and expressing commitment to strengthen the fight against bigotry and intolerance; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. GERLACH:

H. Res. 1045. A resolution recognizing First Friday Main Line and its executive director Sherry Tillman and publicist Carla Zambelli for launching ''Operation Angel Wings''; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and in addition to the Committee on Armed Services, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. AL GREEN of Texas (for himself, Mr. FATTAH, Ms. BORDALLO, Mr. MEEKS of New York, Ms. CLARKE, Ms. LEE of California, Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. SERRANO, Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida, Mr. WATT, Mr. MARKEY of Massachusetts, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA, Ms. SPEIER, Ms. FUDGE, Mr. RUSH, Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania, Mr. COHEN, Mr. SIRES, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, Ms. NORTON, Mr. CUELLAR, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mrs. CHRISTENSEN, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Mr. CLAY, Mr. CLEAVER, Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas, Ms. RICHARDSON, Mr. LEWIS of Georgia, Ms. KILPATRICK of Michigan, and Mr. GRIJALVA):

H. Res. 1046. A resolution recognizing the significance of Black History Month; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Ms. KILROY (for herself, Mr. DRIEHAUS, Mrs. SCHMIDT, Mr. TURNER, Mr. JORDAN of Ohio, Mr. LATTA, Mr. WILSON of Ohio, Mr. AUSTRIA, Ms. KAPTUR, Mr. KUCINICH, Ms. FUDGE, Mr. TIBERI, Ms. SUTTON, Mr. LATOURETTE, Mr. BOCCIERI, Mr. RYAN of Ohio, Mr. SPACE, Mr. BECERRA, Mr. COURTNEY, Mr. KLEIN of Florida, Mr. MASSA, Mr. MURPHY of Connecticut, Mr. PERRIELLO, Mr. SNYDER, Ms. TITUS, and Mr. TONKO):

H. Res. 1047. A resolution commending The Ohio State University Buckeyes football team for its victory in the 2010 Rose Bowl; to the Committee on Education and Labor.

By Mr. TIM MURPHY of Pennsylvania:

H. Res. 1048. A resolution commending the efforts and honoring the work of the men and women of USNS Comfort and the United States Navy in the immediate response to those affected by the earthquake that struck Haiti on January 12, 2010; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and in addition to the Committee on Armed Services, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

MEMORIALS

Under clause 4 of rule XXII,

231. The SPEAKER presented a memorial of the House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, relative to House Resolution No. 399 memorializing the Congress of the United States to work with General Motors Corporation to ensure that the General Motors brand dealership owners are treated justly and compensated fairly; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions as follows:

H.R. 211: Mrs. CHRISTENSEN and Ms. RICHARDSON.

H.R. 268: Mr. MASSA.

H.R. 303: Mr. ELLISON, Ms. HERSETH SANDLIN, and Mr. BACHUS.

H.R. 417: Ms. RICHARDSON.

H.R. 500: Mr. SESTAK.

H.R. 558: Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania.

H.R. 613: Mr. BOUCHER.

H.R. 615: Mr. MASSA.

H.R. 669: Mr. MARKEY of Massachusetts.

H.R. 690: Mr. PERRIELLO.

H.R. 840: Mr. MARKEY of Massachusetts.

H.R. 930: Mr. LYNCH.

H.R. 1067: Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania.

H.R. 1079: Mr. COURTNEY.

H.R. 1161: Mr. GRIJALVA and Mr. CONYERS.

H.R. 1166: Ms. MARKEY of Colorado.

H.R. 1205: Mr. BOUCHER and Mr. HIMES.

H.R. 1324: Mr. FOSTER, Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California, and Mr. HALL of New York.

H.R. 1423: Mr. HIGGINS, Mr. COLE, and Mr. EHLERS.

H.R. 1443: Mr. LANGEVIN.

H.R. 1444: Mr. CONYERS.

H.R. 1500: Ms. RICHARDSON.

H.R. 1640: Mr. CUMMINGS and Mr. PERRIELLO.

H.R. 1740: Mr. CAPUANO.

H.R. 1766: Mr. LOEBSACK.

H.R. 1844: Mr. MCINTYRE.

H.R. 1879: Mr. KLINE of Minnesota and Mr. KISSELL.

H.R. 1964: Ms. RICHARDSON.

H.R. 1990: Mr. AL GREEN of Texas.

H.R. 2193: Mr. MCCOTTER.

H.R. 2220: Mr. WELCH.

H.R. 2256: Mr. HALL of New York.

H.R. 2262: Ms. HIRONO.

H.R. 2308: Mr. HALL of New York.

H.R. 2324: Mr. BISHOP of New York, Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania, and Mr. TONKO.

H.R. 2365: Mr. LEE of New York and Mr. HASTINGS of Florida.

H.R. 2406: Mr. BILIRAKIS.

H.R. 2446: Mr. MORAN of Kansas.

H.R. 2478: Mr. ENGEL.

H.R. 2517: Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD.

H.R. 2546: Mr. CONAWAY.

H.R. 2556: Mr. LAMBORN, Mr. GINGREY of Georgia, Mr. KING of Iowa, Mr. SCALISE, Mr. OLSON, Mrs. MYRICK, Mr. SHADEGG, Mr. PITTS, Mrs. BACHMANN, Ms. GRANGER, Mr. MARCHANT, Mr. ROE of Tennessee, and Mrs. LUMMIS.

H.R. 2578: Ms. FUDGE.

H.R. 2594: Mr. GINGREY of Georgia.

H.R. 2692: Mr. SPACE.

H.R. 2764: Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. ADLER of New Jersey, and Mr. STARK.

H.R. 2819: Mr. WELCH.

H.R. 2866: Mr. SCHOCK.

H.R. 2906: Mr. TONKO.

H.R. 2963: Ms. RICHARDSON and Mr. CARNAHAN.

H.R. 3024: Mr. DEFAZIO.

H.R. 3047: Ms. FUDGE.

H.R. 3070: Mr. QUIGLEY.

H.R. 3101: Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts, Mr. DOGGETT, and Mrs. MALONEY.

H.R. 3106: Mr. SESTAK.

H.R. 3110: Mr. QUIGLEY.

H.R. 3149: Ms. SLAUGHTER.

H.R. 3185: Mr. ELLISON.

H.R. 3227: Mr. LOEBSACK.
H.R. 3256: Mr. TERRY.
H.R. 3289: Mr. COBLE.
H.R. 3294: Mr. THOMPSON of California.
H.R. 3308: Mr. BILIRAKIS.
H.R. 3363: Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California.
H.R. 3393: Mr. BOYD, Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California, Ms. MARKEY of Colorado, and Mr. DONNELLY of Indiana.
H.R. 3401: Ms. TITUS, Mr. CARNAHAN, and Mr. CLAY.
H.R. 3421: Mr. LOEBSACK.
H.R. 3510: Ms. SLAUGHTER, Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, and Mr. SCHIFF.
H.R. 3519: Mr. MARSHALL.
H.R. 3551: Mr. TONKO.
H.R. 3578: Ms. KOSMAS.
H.R. 3656: Mr. DAVIS of Kentucky.
H.R. 3699: Mr. MASSA.
H.R. 3712: Mr. LOEBSACK.
H.R. 3715: Mr. LOEBSACK.
H.R. 3724: Mr. REICHERT.
H.R. 3758: Mr. WITTMAN and Mrs. CHRISTENSEN.
H.R. 3813: Mr. TIM MURPHY of Pennsylvania.
H.R. 3936: Ms. KILROY, Mr. SKELTON, and Mr. DRIEHAUS.
H.R. 3974: Mr. MORAN of Virginia.
H.R. 3986: Mr. PIERLUISI.
H.R. 3990: Mr. SNYDER, Mr. MEEKS of New York, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Mr. LEWIS of Georgia, Mr. CLAY, and Mr. PAYNE.
H.R. 4000: Mr. ELLISON.
H.R. 4004: Mr. LEWIS of Georgia, Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, and Mr. SCHOCK.
H.R. 4034: Mr. LAMBORN.
H.R. 4046: Mr. KLEIN of Florida.
H.R. 4070: Mr. MCINTYRE and Ms. MARKEY of Colorado.
H.R. 4114: Mr. ROTHMAN of New Jersey.
H.R. 4128: Ms. WOOLSEY, Mr. PERRIELLO, Ms. LEE of California, and Ms. DELAURO.
H.R. 4150: Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. HENSARLING, Mr. SMITH of Texas, Mr. MCCAUL, Mr. BARTON of Texas, and Mr. OLSON.
H.R. 4160: Ms. PINGREE of Maine.
H.R. 4190: Ms. PINGREE of Maine and Mr. ISRAEL.
H.R. 4198: Ms. PINGREE of Maine.
H.R. 4220: Mr. TIAHRT.
H.R. 4247: Mr. KILDEE, Mr. NEAL of Massachusetts, Mr. LANGEVIN, and Mr. SIRES.
H.R. 4255: Ms. NORTON, Mr. CHAFFETZ, Mr. MAFFEI, Mr. MCHENRY, and Mrs. EMERSON.
H.R. 4268: Mr. DINGELL, Mr. MARKEY of Massachusetts, and Mr. NEAL of Massachusetts.
H.R. 4278: Mr. RODRIGUEZ.
H.R. 4296: Mr. RAHALL and Mr. MCCOTTER.
H.R. 4301: Mr. FILNER and Mr. PETRI.
H.R. 4302: Mr. BARROW, Mr. COSTA, Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts, and Mr. HODES.
H.R. 4308: Mr. PAUL and Mr. OLSON.
H.R. 4325: Ms. SLAUGHTER.
H.R. 4341: Ms. PINGREE of Maine.
H.R. 4371: Mr. COBLE, Mrs. KIRKPATRICK of Arizona, Mr. BUCHANAN, Mr. KIRK, and Mrs. BLACKBURN.
H.R. 4375: Ms. WATSON, Mr. MORAN of Virginia, and Mr. LIPINSKI.
H.R. 4377: Mr. LIPINSKI.
H.R. 4386: Mr. TONKO and Mr. MCNERNEY.
H.R. 4396: Mr. BOYD, Mr. KAGEN, and Ms. HERSETH SANDLIN.
H.R. 4402: Mr. CUMMINGS and Mr. BERMAN.
H.R. 4403: Mr. BARROW, Mr. CONAWAY, and Mr. MASSA.
H.R. 4415: Mr. HOEKSTRA, Mr. SOUDER, and Mr. DENT.
H.R. 4426: Ms. PINGREE of Maine, Mr. PALLONE, Mr. WILSON of Ohio, and Mr. TONKO.
H.R. 4436: Mr. COBLE, Mr. ROYCE, Mr. PENCE, Mr. HOEKSTRA, Mr. POE of Texas, and Mrs. MYRICK.
H.R. 4463: Mr. TIAHRT and Mr. YOUNG of Florida.
H.R. 4464: Mr. TIAHRT and Mr. LAMBORN.
H.R. 4465: Mr. LAMBORN.
H.R. 4466: Mr. TIBERI, Mr. CARTER, and Mr. MASSA.
H.R. 4490: Mr. LEE of New York, Mr. OLSON, Mr. KIRK, and Mr. MARCHANT.
H.R. 4503: Mr. PENCE and Mrs. MILLER of Michigan.
H.R. 4517: Mr. KAGEN and Mr. SCHAUER.
H.R. 4522: Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi and Mr. SERRANO.
H.J. Res. 1: Mr. COOPER, Mr. CASSIDY, Mr. PAULSEN, Mr. GERLACH, and Mr. JOHNSON of Illinois.
H.J. Res. 13: Mr. DEFAZIO.
H. Con. Res. 49: Mr. OWENS.
H. Con. Res. 98: Mr. CLEAVER.
H. Res. 526: Mr. RANGEL, Mr. MEEKS of New York, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. RUSH, Mr. JACKSON of Illinois, Ms. WOOLSEY, Mr. FATTAH, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. RYAN of Ohio, Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin, Mr. KANJORSKI, Mr. CUMMINGS, Mr. WEINER, Mr. AL GREEN of Texas, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. ETHERIDGE, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, and Ms. BALDWIN.
H. Res. 542: Mr. TIAHRT.
H. Res. 699: Mr. MASSA and Mr. WILSON of South Carolina.
H. Res. 763: Mr. ROHRABACHER.
H. Res. 869: Mr. CONAWAY and Mr. OLSON.
H. Res. 902: Mr. LATOURETTE, Ms. DEGETTE, Mr. SCALISE, Mr. GRIJALVA, and Mr. MACK.
H. Res. 959: Mr. SCALISE.
H. Res. 974: Mr. BURTON of Indiana.
H. Res. 975: Mr. LARSON of Connecticut.
H. Res. 977: Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN and Mr. JORDAN of Ohio.
H. Res. 982: Mr. MCCOTTER, Mr. BURTON of Indiana, Mr. BILIRAKIS, Mr. LINDER, Mrs. MYRICK, Mrs. EMERSON, Mr. GALLEGLY, Mr. COBLE, Mr. MILLER of Florida, and Mr. PENCE.
H. Res. 1014: Mr. CLAY, Mr. MARKEY of Massachusetts, Ms. SCHWARTZ, Mr. CAPUANO, Mrs. DAVIS of California, Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida, Mr. HIMES, Mr. HIGGINS, Mr. TIBERI, Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California, Mr. COHEN, Mr. MCINTYRE, Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas, Mr. LEWIS of Georgia, Mr. PASCRELL, Mr. AL GREEN of Texas, Mr. CARSON of Indiana, Mr. ROTHMAN of New Jersey, and Mr. WEINER.
H. Res. 1019: Mr. CAO.
H. Res. 1022: Mr. ISRAEL.
H. Res. 1026: Mr. CAMPBELL, Mr. HELLER, Mr. BILBRAY, Mr. MCCAUL, Mr. GALLEGLY, Mr. YOUNG of Florida, Mr. BROWN of South Carolina, Mr. TIAHRT, Mr. KING of Iowa, Mr. BILIRAKIS, Mr. LATHAM, Mr. COBLE, Mr. MARCHANT, Mr. GRIFFITH, Mr. ROHRABACHER, and Mr. BACHUS.
H. Res. 1032: Mr. DREIER, Mr. SCHIFF, Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. RODRIGUEZ, Mrs. DAVIS of California, Mr. PIERLUISI, Mr. KING of New York, and Mr. PRICE of North Carolina.

PETITIONS, ETC.

Under clause 1 of rule XXII,

102. The SPEAKER presented a petition of Center for Regulatory Effectiveness, District of Columbia, relative to requesting that the EPA be in compliance with the Congressional Review Act; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

United States of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 111th CONGRESS, SECOND SESSION

Vol. 156 WASHINGTON, WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 27, 2010 No. 11

Senate

The Senate met at 8:20 p.m. and was called to order by the Honorable MARK BEGICH, a Senator from the State of Alaska.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

O God, whose mercies cannot be numbered, accept our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to You. As we prepare to hear the President speak to the Nation, inspire our lawmakers with Your goodness and truth that they may not become overwhelmed by the vast difficulties confronting our land.

Lord, reveal Your supernatural guidance and power so that they will not be detoured from the path of integrity. May their perplexities compel them to seek You and Your limitless grace. May intimate communion with You always be the source of ethical conduct in our leadership.

We pray in Your merciful name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable MARK BEGICH led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. BYRD).

The assistant legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S . SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, January 27, 2010.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable MARK BEGICH, a Senator from the State of Alaska, to perform the duties of the Chair.

ROBERT C. BYRD,
President pro tempore.

Mr. BEGICH thereupon assumed the chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, leadership time is reserved.

JOINT SESSION OF THE TWO HOUSES—ADDRESS BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will now proceed as a body to the Hall of the House of Representatives to hear the address by the President of the United States.

Thereupon, the Senate, preceded by the Deputy Sergeant at Arms, Drew Willison, The Secretary of the Senate, Nancy Erickson, and the Vice President of the United States, JOSEPH R. BIDEN, Jr., proceeded to the Hall of the House of Representatives to hear the address by the President of the United States Barack H. Obama.

(The address delivered by the President of the United States to the joint session of the two Houses of Congress is printed in the proceedings of the House of Representatives in today's RECORD.)

REPORT ON THE STATE OF THE UNION DELIVERED TO A JOINT SESSION OF CONGRESS ON JANUARY 27, 2010—PM 42

The PRESIDING OFFICER laid before the Senate the following message from the President of the United States which was ordered to lie on the table:

To the Congress of the United States:

Madam Speaker, Vice President BIDEN, Members of Congress, distinguished guests, and fellow Americans:

Our Constitution declares that from time to time, the President shall give to Congress information about the state of our Union. For 220 years, our leaders have fulfilled this duty. They have done so during periods of prosperity and tranquility. And they have done so in the midst of war and depression; at moments of great strife and great struggle.

It's tempting to look back on these moments and assume that our progress was inevitable—that America was always destined to succeed. But when the Union was turned back at Bull Run and the Allies first landed at Omaha Beach, victory was very much in doubt. When the market crashed on Black Tuesday and civil rights marchers were beaten on Bloody Sunday, the future was anything but certain. These were times that tested the courage of our convictions, and the strength of our Union. And despite all our divisions and disagreements; our hesitations and our fears; America prevailed because we chose to move forward as one Nation, and one people.

Again, we are tested. And again, we must answer history's call.

One year ago, I took office amid two wars, an economy rocked by severe recession, a financial system on the verge of collapse, and a Government deeply in debt. Experts from across the political spectrum warned that if we did not act, we might face a second depression. So we acted—immediately and aggressively. And 1 year later, the worst of the storm has passed.

But the devastation remains. One in ten Americans still cannot find work. Many businesses have shuttered. Home values have declined. Small towns and rural communities have been hit especially hard. For those who had already known poverty, life became that much harder.

This recession has also compounded the burdens that America's families

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

Printed on recycled paper.

have been dealing with for decades—the burden of working harder and longer for less; of being unable to save enough to retire or help kids with college.

So I know the anxieties that are out there right now. They're not new. These struggles are the reason I ran for President. These struggles are what I've witnessed for years in places like Elkhart, Indiana and Galesburg, Illinois. I hear about them in the letters that I read each night. The toughest to read are those written by children—asking why they have to move from their home, or when their mom or dad will be able to go back to work.

For these Americans and so many others, change has not come fast enough. Some are frustrated; some are angry. They don't understand why it seems like bad behavior on Wall Street is rewarded but hard work on Main Street isn't; or why Washington has been unable or unwilling to solve any of our problems. They are tired of the partisanship and the shouting and the pettiness. They know we can't afford it. Not now.

So we face big and difficult challenges. And what the American people hope—what they deserve—is for all of us, Democrats and Republicans, to work through our differences; to overcome the numbing weight of our politics. For while the people who sent us here have different backgrounds, different stories and different beliefs, the anxieties they face are the same. The aspirations they hold are shared. A job that pays the bills. A chance to get ahead. Most of all, the ability to give their children a better life.

You know what else they share? They share a stubborn resilience in the face of adversity. After one of the most difficult years in our history, they remain busy building cars and teaching kids; starting businesses and going back to school. They're coaching little league and helping their neighbors. As one woman wrote me, ''We are strained but hopeful, struggling but encouraged.''

It is because of this spirit—this great decency and great strength—that I have never been more hopeful about America's future than I am tonight. Despite our hardships, our union is strong. We do not give up. We do not quit. We do not allow fear or division to break our spirit. In this new decade, it's time the American people get a Government that matches their decency; that embodies their strength. And tonight, I'd like to talk about how together, we can deliver on that promise.

It begins with our economy.

Our most urgent task upon taking office was to shore up the same banks that helped cause this crisis. It was not easy to do. And if there's one thing that has unified Democrats and Republicans, it's that we all hated the bank bailout. I hated it. You hated it. It was about as popular as a root canal.

But when I ran for President, I promised I wouldn't just do what was popular—I would do what was necessary. And if we had allowed the meltdown of the financial system, unemployment might be double what it is today. More businesses would certainly have closed. More homes would have surely been lost.

So I supported the last Administration's efforts to create the financial rescue program. And when we took the program over, we made it more transparent and accountable. As a result, the markets are now stabilized, and we have recovered most of the money we spent on the banks.

To recover the rest, I have proposed a fee on the biggest banks. I know Wall Street isn't keen on this idea, but if these firms can afford to hand out big bonuses again, they can afford a modest fee to pay back the taxpayers who rescued them in their time of need.

As we stabilized the financial system, we also took steps to get our economy growing again, save as many jobs as possible, and help Americans who had become unemployed.

That's why we extended or increased unemployment benefits for more than 18 million Americans; made health insurance 65 percent cheaper for families who get their coverage through COBRA; and passed 25 different tax cuts.

Let me repeat: we cut taxes. We cut taxes for 95 percent of working families. We cut taxes for small businesses. We cut taxes for first-time homebuyers. We cut taxes for parents trying to care for their children. We cut taxes for 8 million Americans paying for college. As a result, millions of Americans had more to spend on gas, and food, and other necessities, all of which helped businesses keep more workers. And we haven't raised income taxes by a single dime on a single person. Not a single dime.

Because of the steps we took, there are about 2 million Americans working right now who would otherwise be unemployed. Two hundred thousand work in construction and clean energy. Three hundred thousand are teachers and other education workers. Tens of thousands are cops, firefighters, correctional officers, and first responders. And we are on track to add another one and a half million jobs to this total by the end of the year.

The plan that has made all of this possible, from the tax cuts to the jobs, is the Recovery Act. That's right—the Recovery Act, also known as the Stimulus Bill. Economists on the left and the right say that this bill has helped saved jobs and avert disaster. But you don't have to take their word for it.

Talk to the small business in Phoenix that's about to triple its workforce because of the Recovery Act.

Talk to the window manufacturer in Philadelphia who said he used to be skeptical about the Recovery Act, until he had to add two more work shifts just because of the business it created.

Talk to the single teacher raising two kids who was told by her principal on the last week of school that because of the Recovery Act, she wouldn't be laid off after all.

There are stories like this all across America. And after 2 years of recession, the economy is growing again. Retirement funds have started to gain back some of their value. Businesses are beginning to invest again, and slowly some are starting to hire again.

But I realize that for every success story, there are other stories, of men and women who wake up with the anguish of not knowing where their next paycheck will come from; who send out resumes week after week and hear nothing in response. That is why jobs must continue to be our number one focus in 2010. And that is why I am calling for a new jobs bill tonight.

Now, the true engine of job creation in this country will always be America's businesses. But Government can create the conditions necessary for businesses to expand and hire more workers.

We should start where most new jobs do—in small businesses, companies that begin when an entrepreneur takes a chance on a dream, or a worker decides it's time she became her own boss.

Through sheer grit and determination, these companies have weathered the recession and are ready to grow. But when you talk to small business owners in places like Allentown, Pennsylvania or Elyria, Ohio, you find out that even though banks on Wall Street are lending again, they are mostly lending to bigger companies. But financing remains difficult for small business owners across the country.

So tonight, I'm proposing that we take $30 billion of the money Wall Street banks have repaid and use it to help community banks give small businesses the credit they need to stay afloat. I am also proposing a new small business tax credit—one that will go to over 1 million small businesses who hire new workers or raise wages. While we're at it, let's also eliminate all capital gains taxes on small business investment; and provide a tax incentive for all businesses, large and small, to invest in new plants and equipment.

Next, we can put Americans to work today building the infrastructure of tomorrow. From the first railroads to the interstate highway system, our Nation has always been built to compete. There's no reason Europe or China should have the fastest trains, or the new factories that manufacture clean energy products.

Tomorrow, I'll visit Tampa, Florida, where workers will soon break ground on a new high-speed railroad funded by the Recovery Act. There are projects like that all across this country that will create jobs and help our Nation move goods, services, and information. We should put more Americans to work building clean energy facilities, and give rebates to Americans who make their homes more energy efficient, which supports clean energy jobs. And

to encourage these and other businesses to stay within our borders, it's time to finally slash the tax breaks for companies that ship our jobs overseas and give those tax breaks to companies that create jobs in the United States of America.

The House has passed a jobs bill that includes some of these steps. As the first order of business this year, I urge the Senate to do the same. People are out of work. They are hurting. They need our help. And I want a jobs bill on my desk without delay.

But the truth is, these steps still won't make up for the seven million jobs we've lost over the last 2 years. The only way to move to full employment is to lay a new foundation for long-term economic growth, and finally address the problems that America's families have confronted for years.

We cannot afford another so-called economic ''expansion'' like the one from last decade—what some call the ''lost decade''—where jobs grew more slowly than during any prior expansion; where the income of the average American household declined while the cost of health care and tuition reached record highs; where prosperity was built on a housing bubble and financial speculation.

From the day I took office, I have been told that addressing our larger challenges is too ambitious—that such efforts would be too contentious, that our political system is too gridlocked, and that we should just put things on hold for awhile.

For those who make these claims, I have one simple question:

How long should we wait? How long should America put its future on hold?

You see, Washington has been telling us to wait for decades, even as the problems have grown worse. Meanwhile, China's not waiting to revamp its economy. Germany's not waiting. India's not waiting. These nations aren't standing still. These nations aren't playing for second place. They're putting more emphasis on math and science. They're rebuilding their infrastructure. They are making serious investments in clean energy because they want those jobs.

I do not accept second-place for the United States of America. As hard as it may be, as uncomfortable and contentious as the debates may be, it's time to get serious about fixing the problems that are hampering our growth.

One place to start is serious financial reform. Look, I am not interested in punishing banks, I'm interested in protecting our economy. A strong, healthy financial market makes it possible for businesses to access credit and create new jobs. It channels the savings of families into investments that raise incomes. But that can only happen if we guard against the same recklessness that nearly brought down our entire economy.

We need to make sure consumers and middle-class families have the information they need to make financial decisions. We can't allow financial institutions, including those that take your deposits, to take risks that threaten the whole economy.

The House has already passed financial reform with many of these changes. And the lobbyists are already trying to kill it. Well, we cannot let them win this fight. And if the bill that ends up on my desk does not meet the test of real reform, I will send it back.

Next, we need to encourage American innovation. Last year, we made the largest investment in basic research funding in history—an investment that could lead to the world's cheapest solar cells or treatment that kills cancer cells but leaves healthy ones untouched. And no area is more ripe for such innovation than energy. You can already see the results of last year's investment in clean energy—in the North Carolina company that will create 1,200 jobs making advanced batteries; or in the California business that's putting thousands to work making solar panels.

But to create more of these clean energy jobs, we need more production, more efficiency, more incentives. That means building a new generation of safe, clean nuclear power plants in this country. It means making tough decisions about opening new offshore areas for oil and gas development. It means continued investment in advanced biofuels and clean coal technologies. And yes, it means passing a comprehensive energy and climate bill with incentives that will finally make clean energy the profitable kind of energy in America.

I am grateful to the House for passing such a bill last year. This year, I am eager to help advance the bipartisan effort in the Senate. I know there have been questions about whether we can afford such changes in a tough economy; and I know that there are those who disagree with the overwhelming scientific evidence on climate change. But even if you are a doubter, providing incentives for energy efficiency and clean energy are the right thing to do for our future—because the nation that leads the clean energy economy will be the nation that leads the global economy. And America must be that Nation.

Third, we need to export more of our goods. Because the more products we make and sell to other countries, the more jobs we support here in America. So tonight, we set a new goal: We will double our exports over the next 5 years, an increase that will support two million jobs in America. To help meet this goal, we're launching a National Export Initiative that will help farmers and small businesses increase their exports, and reform export controls consistent with national security.

We have to seek new markets aggressively, just as our competitors are. If America sits on the sidelines while other nations sign trade deals, we will lose the chance to create jobs on our shores. But realizing those benefits also means enforcing those agreements so our trading partners play by the rules. And that's why we will continue to shape a Doha trade agreement that opens global markets, and why we will strengthen our trade relations in Asia and with key partners like South Korea, Panama, and Colombia.

Fourth, we need to invest in the skills and education of our people.

This year, we have broken through the stalemate between left and right by launching a national competition to improve our schools. The idea here is simple: instead of rewarding failure, we only reward success. Instead of funding the status quo, we only invest in reform—reform that raises student achievement, inspires students to excel in math and science, and turns around failing schools that steal the future of too many young Americans, from rural communities to inner-cities. In the 21st century, one of the best anti-poverty programs is a world-class education. We cannot settle for an America where the success of our children depends more on their zip code than their potential. And when we renew the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, we will work with Congress to expand these reforms to all 50 states.

Still, in this economy, a high school diploma no longer guarantees a good job. I urge the Senate to follow the House and pass a bill that will revitalize our community colleges, which are a career pathway to the children of so many working families. To make college more affordable, this bill will finally end the unwarranted taxpayer-subsidies that go to banks for student loans. Instead, let's take that money and give families $10,000 for 4 years of college and increase Pell Grants. And let's tell another one million students that when they graduate, they will be required to pay only ten percent of their income on student loans. Because in the United States of America, no one should go broke because they chose to go to college. And it's time for colleges and universities to get serious about cutting their own costs—because they too have a responsibility to help solve this problem.

Now, the price of college tuition is just one of the burdens facing the middle-class. That's why last year I asked Vice President BIDEN to chair a task force on Middle-Class Families. That's why we're nearly doubling the child care tax credit, and making it easier to save for retirement by giving every worker access to a retirement account and expanding the tax credit for those who start a nest egg. That's why we're working to lift the value of a family's single largest investment—their home. The steps we took last year to shore up the housing market have allowed millions of Americans to take out new loans and save an average of $1,500 on mortgage payments. This year, we will step up re-financing so that homeowners can move into more affordable mortgages.

And that's why we still need health insurance reform—because there is no greater long-term burden on middle-class families.

Now let's be clear—I did not choose to tackle this issue to get some legislative victory under my belt. And by now it should be fairly obvious that I didn't take on health care because it was good politics.

I took on health care because of the stories I've heard from Americans with pre-existing conditions whose lives depend on getting coverage; patients who've been denied coverage; and families—even those with insurance—who are just one illness away from financial ruin.

After nearly a century of trying, we are closer than ever to bringing more security to the lives of so many Americans. The approach we've taken would protect every American from the worst practices of the insurance industry. It would give small businesses and uninsured Americans a chance to choose an affordable health care plan in a competitive market. It would require every insurance plan to cover preventive care. And I want to acknowledge our First Lady, Michelle Obama, who this year is creating a national movement to tackle the epidemic of childhood obesity and make our kids healthier.

Our approach would preserve the right of Americans who have insurance to keep their doctor and their plan. It would reduce costs and premiums for families and businesses. And according to the Congressional Budget Office—the independent organization that both parties have cited as the official scorekeeper for Congress—our approach would bring down the deficit by as much as $1 trillion over the next two decades.

Still, this is a complex issue, and the longer it was debated, the more skeptical people became. I take my share of the blame for not explaining it more clearly to the American people. And I know that with all the lobbying and horse-trading, this process left most Americans wondering what's in it for them.

But I also know this problem is not going away. By the time I'm finished speaking tonight, more Americans will have lost their health insurance. Millions will lose it this year. Our deficit will grow. Premiums will go up. Patients will be denied the care they need. Small business owners will continue to drop coverage altogether.

I will not walk away from these Americans. And neither should the people in this chamber. As temperatures cool, I want everyone to take a second look at the plan we've proposed. There's a reason why many doctors, nurses, and health care experts across the country consider this approach a vast improvement over the status quo. But if anyone from either party has a better approach that will bring down premiums, bring down the deficit, cover the uninsured, strengthen Medicare for seniors, and stop insurance company abuses, let me know. Here's what I ask of Congress, though: Do not walk away from reform. Not now. Not when we are so close. Let us find a way to come together and finish the job for the American people.

Now, even as health care reform would reduce our deficit, it's not enough to dig us out of a massive fiscal hole in which we find ourselves. It's a challenge that makes all others that much harder to solve, and one that's been subject to a lot of political posturing.

So let me start the discussion of Government spending by setting the record straight. At the beginning of the last decade, America had a budget surplus of over $200 billion. By the time I took office, we had a 1 year deficit of over $1 trillion and projected deficits of $8 trillion over the next decade. Most of this was the result of not paying for two wars, two tax cuts, and an expensive prescription drug program. On top of that, the effects of the recession put a $3 trillion hole in our budget. That was before I walked in the door.

Now if we had taken office in ordinary times, I would have liked nothing more than to start bringing down the deficit. But we took office amid a crisis, and our efforts to prevent a second Depression have added another $1 trillion to our national debt.

I am absolutely convinced that was the right thing to do. But families across the country are tightening their belts and making tough decisions. The Federal Government should do the same. So tonight, I'm proposing specific steps to pay for the $1 trillion that it took to rescue the economy last year.

Starting in 2011, we are prepared to freeze government spending for 3 years. Spending related to our national security, Medicare, Medicaid, and Social Security will not be affected. But all other discretionary Government programs will. Like any cash-strapped family, we will work within a budget to invest in what we need and sacrifice what we don't. And if I have to enforce this discipline by veto, I will.

We will continue to go through the budget line by line to eliminate programs that we can't afford and don't work. We've already identified $20 billion in savings for next year. To help working families, we will extend our middle-class tax cuts. But at a time of record deficits, we will not continue tax cuts for oil companies, investment fund managers, and those making over $250,000 a year. We just can't afford it.

Now, even after paying for what we spent on my watch, we will still face the massive deficit we had when I took office. More importantly, the cost of Medicare, Medicaid, and Social Security will continue to skyrocket. That's why I've called for a bipartisan, Fiscal Commission, modeled on a proposal by Republican JUDD GREGG and Democrat KENT CONRAD. This can't be one of those Washington gimmicks that lets us pretend we solved a problem. The Commission will have to provide a specific set of solutions by a certain deadline. Yesterday, the Senate blocked a bill that would have created this commission. So I will issue an executive order that will allow us to go forward, because I refuse to pass this problem on to another generation of Americans. And when the vote comes tomorrow, the Senate should restore the pay-as-you-go law that was a big reason why we had record surpluses in the 1990s.

I know that some in my own party will argue that we cannot address the deficit or freeze Government spending when so many are still hurting. I agree, which is why this freeze will not take effect until next year, when the economy is stronger. But understand—if we do not take meaningful steps to rein in our debt, it could damage our fragile markets, increase the cost of borrowing, and jeopardize our recovery—all of which could have an even worse effect on our job growth and family incomes.

From the right, I expect we'll hear that we should make fewer investments in our people, extend tax cuts for wealthier Americans, eliminate more regulations, and maintain the status quo on health care. The problem is, that's what we did for 8 years. That's what helped lead us into this crisis. It's what helped lead to these deficits. And we cannot do it again.

Rather than fight the same tired battles that have dominated Washington for decades, it's time to try something new. Let's invest in our people without leaving them a mountain of debt. Let's meet our responsibility to the citizens who sent us here. Let's try common sense.

To do that, we have to recognize that we face more than a deficit of dollars right now. We face a deficit of trust—deep and corrosive doubts about how Washington works that have been growing for years. To close that credibility gap we must take action on both ends of Pennsylvania Avenue to end the outsized influence of lobbyists; to do our work openly; and to give our people the Government they deserve.

That's what I came to Washington to do. That's why—for the first time in history—my Administration posts our White House visitors online. And that's why we've excluded lobbyists from policy-making jobs or seats on Federal boards and commissions.

But we can't stop there. It's time to require lobbyists to disclose each contact they make on behalf of a client with my Administration or Congress. And it's time to put strict limits on the contributions that lobbyists give to candidates for Federal office. Last week, the Supreme Court reversed a century of law to open the floodgates for special interests—including foreign corporations—to spend without limit in our elections. Well, I don't think American elections should be bankrolled by America's most powerful interests, or worse, by foreign entities. They should be decided by the American people, and that's why I'm urging

Democrats and Republicans to pass a bill that helps to right this wrong.

I'm also calling on Congress to continue down the path of earmark reform. You have trimmed some of this spending and embraced some meaningful change. But restoring the public trust demands more. For example, some members of Congress post some earmark requests online. Tonight, I'm calling on Congress to publish all earmark requests on a single website before there's a vote so that the American people can see how their money is being spent.

Of course, none of these reforms will even happen if we don't also reform how we work with one another.

I am not naïve. I never thought the mere fact of my election would usher in peace, harmony, and some post-partisan era. I knew that both parties have fed divisions that are deeply entrenched. And on some issues, there are simply philosophical differences that will always cause us to part ways. These disagreements, about the role of Government in our lives, about our national priorities and our national security, have been taking place for over 200 years. They are the very essence of our democracy.

But what frustrates the American people is a Washington where every day is Election Day. We cannot wage a perpetual campaign where the only goal is to see who can get the most embarrassing headlines about their opponent—a belief that if you lose, I win. Neither party should delay or obstruct every single bill just because they can. The confirmation of well-qualified public servants should not be held hostage to the pet projects or grudges of a few individual Senators. Washington may think that the vitriol spilled out on cable and talk radio is just part of the game; that saying anything about the other side, no matter how false, is what it takes to get power. But it is precisely such politics that has stopped either party from helping the American people. Worse yet, it is sowing further division among our citizens and further distrust in our Government.

So no, I will not give up on changing the tone of our politics. I know it's an election year. And after last week, it is clear that campaign fever has come even earlier than usual. But we still need to govern. To Democrats, I would remind you that we still have the largest majority in decades, and the people expect us to solve some problems, not run for the hills. And if the Republican leadership is going to insist that 60 votes in the Senate are required to do any business at all in this town, then the responsibility to govern is now yours as well. Just saying no to everything may be good short-term politics, but it's not leadership. We were sent here to serve our citizens, not our ambitions. So let's show the American people that we can do it together. This week, I'll be addressing a meeting of the House Republicans. And I would like to begin monthly meetings with both the Democratic and Republican leadership. I know you can't wait.

Throughout our history, no issue has united this country more than our security. Sadly, the unity we felt after 9/11 has dissipated. We can argue all we want about who's to blame for this, but I am not interested in re-litigating the past. I know that all of us love this country. All of us are committed to its defense. So let's put aside the schoolyard taunts about who is tough. Let's reject the false choice between protecting our people and upholding our values. Let's leave behind the fear and division, and do what it takes to defend our Nation and forge a more hopeful future—for America and the world.

That is the work we began last year. Since the day I took office, we have renewed our focus on the terrorists who threaten our Nation. We have made substantial investments in our homeland security and disrupted plots that threatened to take American lives. We are filling unacceptable gaps revealed by the failed Christmas attack, with better airline security, and swifter action on our intelligence. We have prohibited torture and strengthened partnerships from the Pacific to South Asia to the Arabian Peninsula. And in the last year, hundreds of al Qaeda's fighters and affiliates, including many senior leaders, have been captured or killed—far more than in 2008.

In Afghanistan, we are increasing our troops and training Afghan Security Forces so they can begin to take the lead in July of 2011, and our troops can begin to come home. We will reward good governance, reduce corruption, and support the rights of all Afghans—men and women alike. We are joined by allies and partners who have increased their own commitment, and who will come together tomorrow in London to reaffirm our common purpose. There will be difficult days ahead. But I am confident we will succeed.

As we take the fight to al Qaeda, we are responsibly leaving Iraq to its people. As a candidate, I promised that I would end this war, and that is what I am doing as President. We will have all of our combat troops out of Iraq by the end of this August. We will support the Iraqi government as they hold elections, and continue to partner with the Iraqi people to promote regional peace and prosperity. But make no mistake: this war is ending, and all of our troops are coming home.

Tonight, all of our men and women in uniform—in Iraq, Afghanistan, and around the world—must know that they have our respect, our gratitude, and our full support. And just as they must have the resources they need in war, we all have a responsibility to support them when they come home. That is why we made the largest increase in investments for veterans in decades. That is why we are building a 21st century VA. And that is why Michelle has joined with Jill Biden to forge a national commitment to support military families.

Even as we prosecute two wars, we are also confronting the greatest danger to the American people—the threat of nuclear weapons. I have embraced the vision of John F. Kennedy and Ronald Reagan through a strategy that reverses the spread of these weapons, and seeks a world without them. To reduce our stockpiles and launchers, while ensuring our deterrent, the United States and Russia are completing negotiations on the farthest-reaching arms control treaty in nearly two decades. And at April's Nuclear Security Summit, we will bring 44 nations together behind a clear goal: securing all vulnerable nuclear materials around the world in 4 years, so that they never fall into the hands of terrorists.

These diplomatic efforts have also strengthened our hand in dealing with those nations that insist on violating international agreements in pursuit of these weapons. That is why North Korea now faces increased isolation, and stronger sanctions—sanctions that are being vigorously enforced. That is why the international community is more united, and the Islamic Republic of Iran is more isolated. And as Iran's leaders continue to ignore their obligations, there should be no doubt: they, too, will face growing consequences.

That is the leadership that we are providing—engagement that advances the common security and prosperity of all people. We are working through the G–20 to sustain a lasting global recovery. We are working with Muslim communities around the world to promote science, education, and innovation. We have gone from a bystander to a leader in the fight against climate change. We are helping developing countries to feed themselves, and continuing the fight against HIV/AIDS. And we are launching a new initiative that will give us the capacity to respond faster and more effectively to bio-terrorism or an infectious disease—a plan that will counter threats at home, and strengthen public health abroad.

As we have for over 60 years, America takes these actions because our destiny is connected to those beyond our shores. But we also do it because it is right. That is why, as we meet here tonight, over 10,000 Americans are working with many nations to help the people of Haiti recover and rebuild. That is why we stand with the girl who yearns to go to school in Afghanistan; we support the human rights of the women marching through the streets of Iran; and we advocate for the young man denied a job by corruption in Guinea. For America must stand on the side of freedom and human dignity.

Abroad, America's greatest source of strength is our ideals. The same is true at home. We find unity in our incredible diversity, drawing on the promise enshrined in our Constitution: that no matter who you are or what you look like, if you abide by the law you should be protected by it; if you adhere to our common values you should be treated no different than anyone else.

We must carry this promise forward. My Administration has a Civil Rights Division that is once again prosecuting civil rights violations and employment discrimination. We finally strengthened our laws to protect against crimes driven by hate. This year, I will work with Congress and our military to finally repeal the law that denies gay Americans the right to serve the country they love because of who they are. We are going to crack down on violations of equal pay laws—so that women get equal pay for an equal day's work. And we should continue the work of fixing our broken immigration system—to secure our borders and enforce our laws so that everyone plays by the rules.

In the end, it is our ideals, our values that built America—values that allowed us to forge a Nation made up of immigrants from every corner of the globe; values that drive our citizens still. Every day, they meet their responsibilities to their families and their employers. Time and again, they lend a hand to their neighbors and give back to their country. They take pride in their labor, and are generous in spirit. These aren't Republican values or Democratic values they're living by; business values or labor values. They are American values.

Unfortunately, too many of our citizens have lost faith that our biggest institutions—our corporations, our media, and yes, our Government—still reflect these same values. Each of these institutions are full of honorable men and women doing important work for the country. But each time a CEO rewards himself for failure, or a banker puts the rest of us at risk for his own selfish gain, people's doubts grow. Each time lobbyists game the system or politicians tear each other down instead of lifting this country up, we lose faith. The more that TV pundits reduce serious debates into silly arguments, and big issues into sound bites, our citizens turn away.

No wonder there's so much cynicism out there. No wonder there's so much disappointment.

I campaigned on the promise of change—change we can believe in, the slogan went. And right now, I know there are many Americans who aren't sure if they still believe we can change.

But remember this—I never suggested that change would be easy. Democracy in a Nation of three hundred million people can be noisy and messy and complicated. And when you try to do big things and make big changes, it stirs passions and controversy. That's just how it is.

Of course, those of us in public office can respond to this reality by playing it safe and keeping our poll numbers high. We can avoid telling hard truths. We can kick hard problems down the road. We can do what's necessary to get through the next election instead of what's best for the next generation.

But I also know this: if people had made that decision 50 years ago or 100 years ago or 200 years ago, we wouldn't be here tonight. The only reason we are is because generations of Americans were unafraid to do what was hard; to do what was needed even when success was uncertain; to do what it took to keep the dream of this Nation alive for their children and grandchildren.

Our Administration has had some political setbacks this year, and some of them were deserved. But I wake up every day knowing that they are nothing compared to the setbacks that families all across this country have faced this year. And what keeps me going—what keeps me fighting—is that despite all these setbacks, that spirit of determination and optimism—that fundamental decency that has always been at the core of the American people—lives on.

It lives on in the struggling small business owner who wrote to me of his company, ''None of us,'' he said, '' . . . are willing to consider, even slightly, that we might fail.''

It lives on in the woman who said that even though she and her neighbors have felt the pain of recession, ''We are strong. We are resilient. We are American.''

It lives on in the 8-year-old boy in Louisiana, who just sent me his allowance and asked if I would give it to the people of Haiti. And it lives on in all the Americans who've dropped everything to go some place they've never been and pull people they've never known from rubble, prompting chants of ''U.S.A.! U.S.A.! U.S.A!'' when another life was saved.

The spirit that has sustained this Nation for more than two centuries lives on in you, its people. We have finished a difficult year. We have come through a difficult decade. But a new year has come. A new decade stretches before us. We don't quit. I don't quit. Let's seize this moment—to start anew, to carry the dream forward, and to strengthen our Union once more.

Thank you. God Bless You. And God Bless the United States of America.

BARACK OBAMA.

THE WHITE HOUSE, *January 27, 2010*.

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE RECEIVED DURING ADJOURNMENT

ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

Under the authority of the order of the Senate of January 6, 2009, the Secretary of the Senate, on January 26, 2009, during the adjournment of the Senate, received a message from the House of Representatives announcing that the Speaker has signed the following enrolled bill:

S. 2949. An act to amend section 1113 of the Social Security Act to provide authority for increased fiscal year 2010 payments for temporary assistance to United States citizens returned from foreign countries, to provide necessary funding to avoid shortfalls in the Medicare cost-sharing program for low-income qualifying individuals, and for other purposes.

Under the authority of the order of the Senate of January 6, 2009, the enrolled bill was signed on today, January 27, 2009, during the adjournment of the Senate by the President pro tempore (Mr. BYRD).

ENROLLED BILL PRESENTED

The Secretary of the Senate reported that on today, January 27, 2010, she had presented to the President of the United States the following enrolled bill:

S. 2949. An act to amend section 1113 of the Social Security Act to provide authority for increased fiscal year 2010 payments for temporary assistance to United States citizens returned from foreign countries, to provide necessary funding to avoid shortfalls in the Medicare cost-sharing program for low-income qualifying individuals, and for other purposes.

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and were referred as indicated:

EC–4502. A communication from the Under Secretary of Defense (Comptroller), transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a violation of the Antideficiency Act that occurred within the Army in fiscal year 2004, and has been assigned Army case number 08–06; to the Committee on Appropriations.

EC–4503. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Office of Policy, Economics, and Innovation, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Revisions to the California State Implementation Plan, Ventura County Air Pollution Control District'' (FRL No. 9094–1) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 5, 2010; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC–4504. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Office of Policy, Economics, and Innovation, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Extension of Tolerances for Emergency Exemptions (Multiple Chemicals)'' (FRL No. 8801–9) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 5, 2010; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC–4505. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Office of Policy, Economics, and Innovation, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Dibenzylidene Sorbitol; Exemption from the Requirement of a Tolerance'' (FRL No. 8802–5) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 5, 2010; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC–4506. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Office of Policy, Economics, and Innovation, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Choline Chloride; Exemption from the Requirement of a Tolerance'' (FRL No. 8802–4) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 5, 2010; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC–4507. A communication from the Executive Director, Commodity Futures Trading

Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Revised Adjusted Net Capital Requirements for Futures Commission Merchants and Introducing Brokers'' (RIN3038–AC66) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 20, 2010; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC–4508. A communication from the Executive Director, Commodity Futures Trading Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Commodity Pool Operator Periodic Account Statements and Annual Financial Reports'' (RIN3038–AC38) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 20, 2010; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC–4509. A communication from the Executive Director, Commodity Futures Trading Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Electronic Filing of Financial Reports and Notices'' (RIN3038–AB87) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 20, 2010; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC–4510. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Review Group, Commodity Credit Corporation, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Payment Eligibility and Payment Limitation; Miscellaneous Technical Corrections'' ((7 CFR 1400)(RIN0560–AH85)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 12, 2010; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC–4511. A communication from the Congressional Review Coordinator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Tuberculosis in Cattle and Bison; State and Zone Designations; Michigan'' (Docket No. APHIS–2009–0046) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 5, 2010; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC–4512. A communication from the Congressional Review Coordinator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Karnal Bunt; Regulated Areas'' (Docket No. APHIS–2009–0036) as received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 5, 2010; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC–4513. A communication from the Congressional Review Coordinator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Change in Disease Status of the Republic of Korea with Regard to Foot-and-Mouth Disease and Rinderpest'' (Docket No. APHIS–2008–0147) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 5, 2010; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC–4514. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Review Group, Farm Service Agency, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Supplemental Revenue Assistance Payments Program'' (RIN0560–AH90) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 5, 2010; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC–4515. A communication from the Congressional Review Coordinator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Importation of Haas Avocados from Peru'' (Docket No. APHIS–2008–0126) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 5, 2010; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC–4516. A communication from the Assistant Director, Executive and Political Personnel, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a vacancy in the position of Assistant Secretary of the Army (Financial Management), received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 21, 2010; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC–4517. A communication from the Assistant Director, Executive and Political Personnel, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, (52) reports relative to vacancies in the Department of Defense, received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 5, 2010; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC–4518. A communication from the Director of Defense Procurement and Acquisition Policy, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement; Trade Agreements—Costa Rica and Peru'' (DFARS Case 2008–D046) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 20, 2010; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC–4519. A communication from the Deputy Director of the Acquisition Policy and Legislation Branch, Office of the Chief Procurement Officer, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Revision of Department of Homeland Security Acquisition Regulation; Restrictions on Foreign Acquisition (HSAR Case 2009–004)'' (RIN1601–AA57) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 5, 2010; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC–4520. A communication from the Deputy Director of the Acquisition Policy and Legislation Branch, Office of the Chief Procurement Officer, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Prohibition on Federal Protective Service Guard Services Contracts with Business Concerns Owned, Controlled, or Operated by an Individual Convicted of a Felony (HSAR Case 2009–001)'' (RIN1601–AA55) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 5, 2010; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC–4521. A communication from the Assistant Secretary for Congressional and Intergovernmental Relations, Department of Housing and Urban Development, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the awarding of a sole-source bridge contract to provide property management support for Federal Housing Administration Single Family Homes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–4522. A communication from the General Counsel of the Federal Housing Finance Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Reporting of Fraudulent Financial Instruments'' (RIN2590–AA11) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 25, 2010; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–4523. A communication from the Assistant to the Board of Governors, Federal Reserve System, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Fair Credit Reporting Risk-Based Pricing Regulations'' (Docket No. R–1316) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 22, 2010; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–4524. A communication from the Secretary of the Federal Trade Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Annual Adjustment of Ceiling on Allowable Charge for Certain Disclosures Under Section 612(f) of the Fair Credit Reporting Act'' received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 22, 2010; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–4525. A communication from the Assistant General Counsel for Legislation and Regulatory Law, Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, Department of Energy, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Energy Conservation Program: Energy Conservation Standards for Certain Consumer Products (Dishwashers, Dehumidifiers, Microwave Ovens, and Electric and Gas Kitchen Ranges and Ovens) and for Certain Commercial and Industrial Equipment (Commercial Clothes Washers)'' (RIN1904–AB93) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 25, 2010; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC–4526. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Office of Policy, Economics, and Innovation, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Endocrine Disruptor Screening Program; Policies and Procedures for Initial Screening'' (FRL No. 8399–9) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 25, 2010; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–4527. A communication from the Commissioner, Social Security Administration, transmitting proposed legislation relative to extending funding authority for two work incentive provisions; to the Committee on Finance.

EC–4528. A communication from the Chief of Protocol, Department of State, transmitting, a report relative to listings of foreign gifts of more than minimal value reported to employing agencies in calendar year 2009; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC–4529. A communication from the Acting Director, Legislative and Regulatory Department, Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Allocation of Assets in Single-Employer Plans; Benefits Payable in Terminated Single-Employer Plans; Interest Assumptions for Valuing and Paying Benefits'' (29 CFR Parts 4022 and 4044) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 4, 2010; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC–4530. A communication from the Acting Director, Legislative and Regulatory Department, Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Benefits Payable in Terminated Single-Employer Plans; Limitations on Guaranteed Benefits; Maximum Guaranteed Benefit'' (29 CFR Part 4022) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 4, 2010; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC–4531. A communication from the Secretary of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Performance Report of the Food and Drug Administration's Office of Combination Products for fiscal year 2008; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC–4532. A communication from the Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, Farm Credit Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the Administration's compliance with the Sunshine Act

during calendar year 2009; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–4533. A communication from the General Counsel, Office of Compliance, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Counsel's Report on Americans with Disabilities Act inspections conducted during the 110th Congress; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–4534. A communication from the Program Manager, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, Department of Justice, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Commerce in Explosives—Storage of Shock Tube with Detonators (2005R–3P)'' ((RIN1140–AA30)(Docket No. ATF 15F)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 21, 2010; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC–4535. A communication from the Secretary of the Commission, Bureau of Competition, Federal Trade Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Revised Jurisdictional Thresholds for Section 8 of the Clayton Act'' received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 22, 2010; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–4536. A communication from the Director, Bureau of Economic Analysis, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Direct Investment Surveys: BE–10, 2009 Benchmark Survey of U.S. Direct Investment Abroad'' (RIN0691–AA71) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 19, 2010; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–4537. A communication from the Acting Deputy Director, National Institute of Standards and Technology, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Precision Measurement Grants Program; Availability of Funds'' (RIN0693–ZA93) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 15, 2010; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–4538. A communication from the Assistant Secretary for Communications and Information, National Telecommunications and Information Administration, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Broadband Technology Opportunities Program'' (RIN0660–ZA28) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 25, 2010; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–4539. A communication from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Atlantic Highly Migratory Species; North and South Atlantic Swordfish Quotas'' (RIN0648–AX07) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 5, 2010; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–4540. A communication from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Atlantic Highly Migratory Species; Atlantic Swordfish Quotas'' (RIN0648–AV10) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 21, 2010; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–4541. A communication from the Chief of Staff, Media Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Television Broadcasting Services; Cincinnati, OH'' (MB Docket No. 09–178) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 4, 2010; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–4542. A communication from the Chief of Staff, Media Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Television Broadcasting Services; High Point, North Carolina'' (MB Docket No. 09–196) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 4, 2010; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–4543. A communication from the Chief of Staff, Media Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Television Broadcasting Services; Columbus, Ohio'' (MB Docket No. 09–124) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 4, 2010; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–4544. A communication from the Chief of Staff, Media Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Television Broadcasting Services; Anchorage, Alaska'' (MB Docket No. 09–210) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 21, 2010; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–4545. A communication from the Chief of Staff, Media Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Amendment of Section 73.202(b), Table of Allotments, FM Broadcast Stations (Maupin, Oregon)'' (MB Docket No. 09–130) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 22, 2010; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–4546. A communication from the Assistant General Counsel for Regulatory, Consumer Product Safety Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Civil Penalty Factors'' (16 CFR Part 1119) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 4, 2010; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–4547. A communication from the Assistant General Counsel for Regulatory, Consumer Product Safety Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Children's Products Containing Lead; Determinations Regarding Lead Content Limits on Certain Materials or Products; Final Rule'' (16 CFR Part 1500) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 4, 2010; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–4548. A communication from the Assistant General Counsel for Regulatory, Consumer Product Safety Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Children's Products Containing Lead; Interpretive Rules on Inaccessible Component Parts'' (16 CFR Part 1500) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 4, 2010; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–4549. A communication from the Assistant General Counsel for Regulatory, Consumer Product Safety Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Ban of Lead-Containing Paint and Certain Consumer Products Bearing Lead-Containing Paint'' (16 CFR Part 1303) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 4, 2010; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–4550. A communication from the Assistant General Counsel for Regulatory, Consumer Product Safety Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Labeling Amendment of Blasting Caps'' (16 CFR Part 1500) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 4, 2010; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–4551. A communication from the Assistant General Counsel for Regulatory, Consumer Product Safety Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Final Rule: Standard for All Terrain Vehicles'' (16 CFR Part 1420) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 4, 2010; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–4552. A communication from the Assistant General Counsel for Regulatory, Consumer Product Safety Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Children's Products Containing Lead; Final Rule; Procedures and Requirements for a Commission Determination or Exclusion'' (16 CFR Part 1500) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 4, 2010; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–4553. A communication from the Assistant General Counsel for Regulatory, Consumer Product Safety Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Children's Products Containing Lead; Exemptions for Certain Electronic Devices; Interim Final Rule'' (16 CFR Part 1500) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 4, 2010; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–4554. A communication from the Assistant General Counsel for Regulatory, Consumer Product Safety Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Labeling Requirement for Toy and Game Advertisements; Final Rule'' (16 CFR Part 1500) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 4, 2010; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–4555. A communication from the Assistant General Counsel for Regulatory, Consumer Product Safety Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Exemption From Classification as Banned Hazardous Substance; Exemption for Boston Billow Nursing Pillow and Substantially Similar Nursing Pillows'' (16 CFR Part 1500) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 4, 2010; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–4556. A communication from the Assistant General Counsel for Regulatory, Consumer Product Safety Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Information Disclosure Under Section 6(b) of the Consumer Product Safety Act'' (16 CFR Part 1101) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 4, 2010; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–4557. A communication from the Assistant General Counsel for Regulatory, Consumer Product Safety Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Certificates of Compliance'' (16 CFR Part 1110) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 4, 2010; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–4558. A communication from the Assistant General Counsel for Regulatory, Consumer Product Safety Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Technical Amendment to the Flammability Standards for Carpets and Rugs'' (RIN3041–AC38) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 4, 2010; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–4559. A communication from the Assistant General Counsel for Regulatory, Consumer Product Safety Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Portable Generators; Final Rule; Labeling Requirements'' (RIN3041–AC37) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 4, 2010; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. MENENDEZ:

S. 2958. A bill to provide funding and incentives for caregiver support and long-term care assistance; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. FRANKEN:

S. 2959. A bill to amend the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 to protect Federal, State, and local elections from the influence of foreign nationals; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 827

At the request of Mr. ROCKEFELLER, the name of the Senator from Louisiana (Ms. LANDRIEU) was added as a cosponsor of S. 827, a bill to establish a program to reunite bondholders with matured unredeemed United States savings bonds.

S. 833

At the request of Mr. SCHUMER, the name of the Senator from Arkansas (Mrs. LINCOLN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 833, a bill to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to permit States the option to provide Medicaid coverage for low-income individuals infected with HIV.

S. 1320

At the request of Mr. TESTER, the names of the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND) and the Senator from Idaho (Mr. RISCH) were added as cosponsors of S. 1320, a bill to provide assistance to owners of manufactured homes constructed before January 1, 1976, to purchase Energy Star-qualified manufactured homes.

S. 1400

At the request of Ms. STABENOW, the name of the Senator from Florida (Mr. LEMIEUX) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1400, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to make permanent the depreciation classification of motorsports entertainment complexes.

S. 1524

At the request of Mr. KERRY, the name of the Senator from Washington (Ms. CANTWELL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1524, a bill 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, and for other purposes.

S. 1532

At the request of Mrs. MURRAY, the name of the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1532, a bill to establish partnerships to create or enhance educational and skills development pathways to 21st century careers, and for other purposes.

S. 1627

At the request of Mr. HARKIN, the name of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. LUGAR) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1627, a bill to improve choices for consumers for vehicles and fuel, and for other purposes.

S. 1674

At the request of Mr. WYDEN, the name of the Senator from Arkansas (Mrs. LINCOLN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1674, a bill to provide for an exclusion under the Supplemental Security Income program and the Medicaid program for compensation provided to individuals who participate in clinical trials for rare diseases or conditions.

S. 2924

At the request of Mr. LEAHY, the names of the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER), the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) and the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) were added as cosponsors of S. 2924, a bill to reauthorize the Boys & Girls Clubs of America, in the wake of its Centennial, and its programs and activities.

S. RES. 396

At the request of Mr. UDALL of New Mexico, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Mr. BEGICH) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 396, a resolution to enable each newly constituted Senate to carry out its responsibility to determine the Rules of its Proceedings at the beginning of each Congress.

AMENDMENT NO. 3305

At the request of Mr. REID, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 3305 proposed to H.J. Res. 45, a joint resolution increasing the statutory limit on the public debt.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 9:30 A.M. TOMORROW

At the conclusion of the joint session of the two Houses, and in accordance with the order previously entered, at 10:27 p.m., the Senate adjourned until Thursday, January 28, 2010, at 9:30 a.m.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

RECOGNITION OF MID-CITY ELECTRIC FOR 50 YEARS OF SERVICE

HON. MARY JO KILROY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 27, 2010

Ms. KILROY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Mid-City Electric for fifty years of dedicated service to central Ohio. Mid-City Electric is a family-owned electrical contracting company that is known for its high-quality craftsmanship, exceptional customer service, and tradition of giving back to the surrounding community.

Mid-City Electric began operation in 1960. Mid-City Chairman and Founder Jim Dew built his company on the core values of responsibility, hard-work, and loyalty to customers. His children Brian, Dennis, Steve, and Mary, work alongside the company's award-winning electricians to ensure the quality of their services. Their craftsmanship is displayed through numerous major projects in central Ohio, specifically in the 15th Congressional District, including Mt. Carmel West Hospital, Hilliard Bradley High School, Nationwide Children's Hospital, and Grant Medical Center.

Since the company was founded in 1960, Mid-City Electric has generously supported a number of industry and community causes. The company is an active member of the Builders Exchange of Central Ohio, which fosters communication, respect, and cooperation between building industry members. In 2006, the Mid-City Electric Company Scholarship was started in honor of Jim Dew's contributions to the construction industry in central Ohio. This scholarship recognizes and supports students who exhibit a strong commitment to a career in construction. The company also has sponsored charitable events, such as the annual Katie Fischer Golf Scramble, which raises funds for scholarships to Madison-Plains High School students.

For fifty years, this family-run business has provided top-quality, reliable service to central Ohio. The leadership, generosity, and commitment to excellence displayed by Jim Dew, his family, and his company have left a lasting legacy in our community. I am proud to recognize and honor Mid-City Electric for its decades of service to Columbus area businesses and families.

RECOGNIZING THE CHAMPIONSHIP SEASON OF BEXLEY'S GIRLS SOCCER TEAM

HON. PATRICK J. TIBERI

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 27, 2010

Mr. TIBERI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to Bexley High School in Columbus, Ohio. Bexley High School is in my congressional district, and I am proud to recognize a school that not only excels in academics but also distinguishes itself in athletics. The Bexley Girls Soccer Team recently won the 2009 Ohio Division II Girls Soccer Championship. The Bexley Lions finished their amazing season 21-0-3.

The squad, led by team captains Kendra Wilson, Second Team All-Ohio Charolotte Myers and "Ms. Ohio" (girls soccer player of the year) Leah Levey, showed considerable determination throughout the season. For their work on and off the field, members garnered a number of awards. Most notably, the Ohio Scholastic Soccer Coaches Association recognized five members as "Scholar Athletes," including: Leah Levey, Rebecca Carroll, Rachael Crane, Katie Grady and Mara Kinney.

Head Coach Scott Dempsey, and assistant coaches, Stephanie Bowshier, Chuck Crawford and Natalie Contosta comprise the soccer coaching staff. Coach Dempsey was recognized for his leadership by being named "Coach of the Year" by the Scholastic Soccer Coaches Association.

It is an honor to represent such a fine group of young people who have a strong dedication to team work and academics. I know each one of them will treasure the memories of their championship season and I commend them, and the Bexley community, for this truly great achievement.

TRIBUTE TO LIEUTENANT GENERAL JAMES F. RECORD

HON. MIKE PENCE

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 27, 2010

Mr. PENCE. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor the memory of a fellow Hoosier whose long and distinguished career in the United States Air Force spanned four decades.

Retired Lieutenant General James F. Record, who was born and raised in central Indiana, passed away on December 22, 2009 with his loving family beside him.

The son of Edwin and Enid Record, General Record, like many Hoosier boys of his generation, grew up on the family farm. In between his chores, young Jim would watch with wonder as military aircraft flew in and out of what was then Bunker Hill Air Force Base. He dreamed to one day fly those fighter jets in the Air Force.

Upon graduating high school, he enrolled at Purdue University in West Lafayette. As a member of the Reserve Officer Training Corps Program and Purdue University Drill Team, not only did he hone skills that taught him discipline and teamwork, but he served as a leader and mentor to his younger classmates.

General Record's Air Force Career began when he was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in 1961. He completed flight training a year later and served as an instructor pilot for nearly six years. While serving multiple tours in Vietnam, he distinguished himself and flew more than six hundred combat missions.

Following his service in Southeast Asia, he went on to command three fighter wings, the 833rd Air Division, and served as the first deputy commander of Joint Task Force Middle East, which operated in the Persian Gulf and Arabian Sea.

General Record also served in the Pentagon, U.S. Central Command, United Nations Command, and U.S. Combined Forces Command. This Michigantown native also found himself again serving in the Far East from 1990 through 1992 as the commander of Joint Task Force Southwest Asia.

Rated as a command pilot with more than 6,000 hours flying time behind some of our nation's most legendary fighter aircraft, General Record was decorated with twenty seven Air Medals, the Vietnam Service Medal with six service stars, three Distinguished Flying Crosses, the Legion of Merit with three oak leaf clusters, the Defense Superior Service Medal, and the Defense Distinguished Service Medal with one oak leaf cluster.

While family, friends, and colleagues will forever remember and respect General Record's military career, those closest to him will remember a caring father, husband, son or friend. Even while battling the illness that ultimately took his life, he often checked up on those he cared about to make sure they were doing okay.

Memorial services were held for General Record at Davis-Monthan Air Force Base in Arizona, where he commanded the 12th Air Force, as well as Michigantown Christian Church, where he was an active member as a young man.

As we mourn Lieutenant General James F. Record's passing, let us keep his mother Enid, loving wife Peggy, sons James, John, and Joe, as well as his brother Ray and sisters Arlene and Barbara in our thoughts and prayers.

Though the pain of his loss is tremendous, I am sure his family takes tremendous pride in knowing that General Record will join ranks with all those who rest in the hallowed grounds of Arlington National Cemetery.

TRIBUTE TO FIRST CLASS PETTY OFFICER JAMES KENNETH BROWN

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 27, 2010

Mr. LATHAM. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize the service of Intelligence Specialist First Class Petty Officer James Kenneth Brown, and to express my appreciation for his dedication and commitment to his country.

For the past 20 years, Petty Officer Brown has served faithfully and honorably around the globe. He first enlisted in the United States Navy in August 1989 through the delayed entry program and proceeded to Recruit Training Command in June of 1990 in Great Lakes,

III. In 1990, he participated in Desert Storm and Desert Shield earning the Combat Action ribbon. Petty Officer Brown then became the first Seaman onboard USS *Nassau* to earn the Enlisted Surface Warfare Specialist Pin in 1993. Later in the same year, he joined the Navy Marine Intelligence Training Command to become an Intelligence Specialist. In 1994, he participated in Operation Southern Watch and operations in Kosovo.

Petty Officer Brown reported to the USS *Carl Vinson* as the Leading Petty Officer of Multi-Sensor Interpretation Branch in December 1999. Two years later, the USS *Carl Vinson* launched the first attack of the Global War on Terrorism into Afghanistan in response to 9/11. His second deployment on the USS *Carl Vinson* was off the Korean Peninsula and included the FOAL EAGLE and TANDUM THRUST exercises.

In 2004, Petty Officer Brown took orders to the Chief of Naval Operations—Intelligence Plot and worked in National Military Joint Intelligence Center in the Pentagon. Three years later he reported to the USS *Cole* for a tour as the Assistant Destroyer Squadron Twenty-Two Intelligence Officer. In 2008, Petty Officer Brown transferred to Joint Forces Transformational Command, where he worked as an Intelligence Analyst rewriting and providing critical insight for limited distributed intelligence products. In December 2008, he reported to U.S. Naval Station Guantanamo as his last duty station in the United States Navy. He is currently serving as the Leading Petty Officer and the Special Security Officer for the Naval Station and Tenant Commands.

During his service, Petty Officer Brown also furthered his education and earned numerous recognitions and awards for his dedicated service. He earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Intelligence Studies from the Joint Military Intelligence College in 2004 and earned Post Graduate Certificate in Intelligence in 2007 from the National Defense Intelligence College. He also earned the Joint Service Achievement Medal, Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal (second award), Combat Action ribbon, Good Conduct Medal (sixth award), NATO Medal for Yugoslavia, Joint Staff Identification Badge along with several unit and campaign awards.

I congratulate Petty Officer Brown for his many years of loyalty and service to our great nation. It is an immense honor to represent First Class Petty Officer Brown in the United States Congress, and I wish him and his wife Nichole a happy retirement from the United States Navy and all the best in their future endeavors.

RECOGNIZING MARYANNE WEISS, NATIONAL BANK OF ARIZONA WOMEN'S FINANCIAL GROUP WOMAN OF THE YEAR

HON. HARRY E. MITCHELL

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 27, 2010

Mr. MITCHELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Maryanne Weiss, on being named "Woman of the Year" by the National Bank of Arizona Women's Financial Group. This prestigious honor is given to women in business whose contributions and leadership positively influence our community.

Ms. Weiss is deeply involved with promoting strong business values in the Valley. In 2008, she was named the first woman Chair of Greater Phoenix SCORE. Additionally, Maryanne is a Skills Commissioner for the Arizona Department of Education. Through these platforms, she serves as a positive mentor for Valley women, helping them reach their full leadership potential.

In creating the foundation for business women to thrive, Maryanne has become a shining example of true community service. Her dedication to connecting women with the resources necessary to grow their businesses should serve as an inspiration to us all.

Madam Speaker, please join me in recognizing Maryanne Weiss as she is honored with this well-deserved "Woman of the Year" award.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO DAN AHOUSE

HON. MAURICE D. HINCHEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 27, 2010

Mr. HINCHEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to my longtime staff member and dear friend, Daniel J. Ahouse, as he parts from his distinguished service in the Congress and embarks upon a new venture. For nearly 15 years, Dan has held several positions of responsibility in my office, most importantly as my chief of staff. Dan has served with an unrivaled commitment to the people of the 26th and now 22nd Congressional District of New York. Although he will be profoundly missed, in my office and in the communities I represent, we will continue to enjoy the benefits of his successful accomplishments.

Dan Ahouse originally hailed from Boiceville, a hamlet in the Town of Olive, in Ulster County, New York. He attended Hamilton College where he studied government and, as he had in high school, quarterbacked the football team. Dan began serving in my office as an intern in 1995 and, after quickly establishing himself as a hard worker and a team player, he was promoted to staff assistant, scheduler, legislative assistant, district representative, district director and finally chief of staff.

As with any good quarterback, Dan demonstrated his talent for calling plays and creating opportunities off the field. He is never deterred by a challenge. The great accomplishments we've recently made to establish New York as a hub for solar energy research and development would not have been achieved at the same level were it not for Dan Ahouse's hard work and determination. He has always been anchored by a sense of optimism and his belief that with hard work even the most difficult obstacles can be overcome.

Dan's level-headed judgment and strong leadership have been critically important, and his loyalty has been unfailing. But, as is often the case, his public service has come at the price of many personal sacrifices, including postponing his honeymoon in order to focus on the needs of the congressional operation and, more recently, spending a great deal of time away from his wife, Christina, and three lovely daughters, Madison, Abigail, and Julia, in order to manage my Washington and district offices.

All the while, Dan created an environment for staff and colleagues, in Washington and in the district, conducive to fresh ideas and productivity. A strong figure in his own community and an integral part of my team, from intern to chief of staff, Dan Ahouse will be sorely missed. I owe Dan my own personal heartfelt thanks, especially for his friendship, support, and counsel over the many years. I wish him a well-deserved, happy, and healthy new beginning.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. RON KIND

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 27, 2010

Mr. KIND. Madam Speaker, I was unable to have my vote recorded on the House floor on Tuesday, January 26, 2010 due to a flight delay caused by mechanical difficulties. Had I been present, I would have voted in favor of H. Res. 990 (Roll No. 17), H. Res. 1011 (Roll No. 18), and H. Res. 1003 (Roll No. 19).

CONGRATULATING MESSIAH COLLEGE

HON. TODD RUSSELL PLATTS

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 27, 2010

Mr. PLATTS. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of House Resolution 1030—Congratulating Messiah College men's and women's soccer teams on winning the 2009 NCAA Division III national championships.

Messiah College, located in my home district, is a private four-year Christian college of the liberal and applied arts and sciences in Grantham, Pennsylvania. With a population of 2,744 full-time undergraduate students and a student to faculty ratio of 13 to 1, each of these students are encouraged to grow through their education, faith and community involvement. Recently, Messiah was distinguished as one of only seven colleges in Pennsylvania to be placed on the President's Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll for its service to disadvantaged youth. Additionally, Messiah received the 2009 Carnegie Foundation Community Engagement Classification for its outreach to the local community.

For the men's and women's soccer teams at Messiah College, 2009 proved to be a remarkable and historic year. On December 5th 2009, both teams won the Division III national soccer championships, remaining the only men's and women's soccer teams at any level in the NCAA to do so in the same year. The women's team garnered their third national title since 2005 and the men's team won their seventh national championship in the last ten seasons.

The Messiah women's team defeated Washington University-St. Louis by a score of 1–0. The lone goal was scored early in the game by senior Amanda Naeher, who was later named the offensive player of the tournament. She was joined on the all-star team by her fellow teammates Katie Hoffsmith, Amy Horst, and Katlyn Musser. Musser was named defensive player of the tournament.

Remaining players on the women's team include: Seniors Emily Cope and Carey Cortese;

Juniors Molly Bletz, Shalisa Brubaker, Joanna Haqq, Erin Hench, Sarah Henningsen, Katie Hoffsmith, Marla Sensi and Meagan Wademan; Sophomores Kelsey Gorman, Rachel Loya, Autumn Reilly, Olivia Scott, Jessica Shirk, Leah Sipe and Lisa Wingard; and Freshmen Stephanie Andrews, Tannia Nieto, Elizabeth Phillips, Anne Trapp and Corinne Wulf. Assistant coaches and athletic trainers include: Todd Balsbaugh, Maggie Futato, Bethany Sauer, Sandy Bush and Jason Besse.

Later that same evening, the men's team defeated Calvin College in a 2–0 victory, making them an unprecedented 7–0 in national championship game appearances. Senior goalkeeper Jared Clugston was named defensive player of the tournament, while junior Geoff Pezon was named the offensive player. Trey Overholt and Derek Black both joined them on the all-star team.

Remaining players on the men's team include: Seniors Brett Faro, Jevon Gondwe, Josh Mull and Calvin Todd; Juniors Jon Burke, Sean Cunningham, Kyle Fulks, Mark Jeschke, Keaton Kasiguran and Nick Thompson; Sophomores Trevor Lee, Kent Ramirez, Tom Renko, Jordan Sands, Danny Thompson and Sam Woodworth; and Freshmen Jake Berry, JP Fulton, Luke Helmuth, Dan Squire, Logan Thompson and Joshua Wood. Assistant coaches, managers and athletic training staff include: Aaron Faro, Troy Sauer, Dustin Shambach, Ken Heck, Gerard Marrone, and Beau Herndon.

It is with great pride that I congratulate these two outstanding teams, led by head coaches Scott Frey and Brad McCarthy. The teams, coaches, faculty and students at Messiah College have much to be proud of with both their commitment to academics and this remarkable display of athletic excellence.

I urge my colleagues to support House Resolution 1030.

IN COMMEMORATION OF NATIONAL NURSE ANESTHETIST WEEK: JANUARY 24–30, 2010

HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 27, 2010

Mr. SHIMKUS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize that this week of January 24–30, 2010, is National Nurse Anesthetist Week and want to acknowledge the high quality health care that Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetists (CRNAs) provide in my district and to patients around the U.S.

Nurse anesthetists have been providing anesthesia care to patients in the United States for nearly 150 years and are anesthesia professionals who safely administer approximately 32 million anesthetics to patients each year in the United States. They are the primary anesthesia providers in rural America, enabling healthcare facilities in these medically underserved areas to offer obstetrical, surgical, and trauma stabilization services. In some states, CRNAs are the sole providers in nearly 100 percent of the rural hospitals. Without CRNAs, America's seniors would lack the care they need since CRNAs predominate where more Medicare patients reside.

Furthermore, CRNAs practice in every setting in which anesthesia is delivered: traditional hospital surgical suites and obstetrical delivery rooms; critical access hospitals; ambulatory surgical centers; the offices of dentists, podiatrists, ophthalmologists, plastic surgeons, and pain management specialists; and U.S. military, Public Health Services, and Department of Veterans Affairs healthcare facilities.

In fact, nurse anesthetists have been the main providers of anesthesia care to U.S. military men and women on the front lines since WWI, including current conflicts in the Middle East, and they are currently providing much needed care to patients in Haiti as they seek to recover from the recent devastating earthquakes.

Not only do they provide high quality anesthesia care in rural and medically underserved areas, they do so cost-effectively. It is no surprise that health plans increasingly recognize CRNAs for providing high-quality anesthesia care to patients, and for helping to control healthcare costs without cutting corners. In a time of escalating health care costs, it is important to note that the cost-efficiency of CRNAs helps control escalating healthcare costs.

In my own congressional district, Southern Illinois University at Edwardsville is home to one of America's 108 accredited nurse anesthesia educational programs. The people of my community appreciate the very fine work of this institution, and the care provided by SIUE's CRNAs across central and southern Illinois and around the country.

For CRNAs across the U.S. and those serving our nation in the Armed Forces, I commend you for your work as a profession and your passion for patients.

COMMENDING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF LOUISIANA STATE UNIVERSITY AT ALEXANDRIA

HON. RODNEY ALEXANDER

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 27, 2010

Mr. ALEXANDER. Madam Speaker, I proudly rise today to commemorate the 50th Anniversary of Louisiana State University at Alexandria (LSUA).

Ever since the Louisiana Constitution of 1852 reauthorized the establishment of Louisiana's first seminary of learning by stipulating that it would be located in Rapides Parish, LSUA has shared a rich and historical legacy with Louisiana State University. On January 2, 1860, Louisiana's pioneer public higher education institution opened its doors in Central Louisiana.

LSUA saw its beginning in 1959, when the Louisiana State Legislature approved the establishment of a two-year commuter college to serve the residents of this region. In 1960, LSUA registered its first students, and in 1964 established the first degree program, an Associate in Nursing degree.

Today, more that 3,000 nurses have earned their degrees at this institution, and the school currently boasts a 100 percent employment rate of graduate nurses.

At the beginning of the new millennium, the Louisiana State Legislature voted to expand college access in one of the most educationally underserved areas of Louisiana by providing students with the opportunity to earn baccalaureate degrees from LSUA. Since there were students at LSUA who had completed upper-level course work through LSU Senior College, LSUA was able to produce its first bachelor's degree graduates in December 2003.

LSUA's transformation into a four-year university resulted in its being Louisiana's only public college focused exclusively on undergraduate education. LSUA continues to offer access to affordable associate and bachelor's degrees and challenges students to seek excellence in their studies and lives.

Nowadays, LSUA plays an integral role in the business community providing specialized training through continuing education programs. Moreover, this institution is a vital component of Central Louisiana's identity through the involvement of its faculty, staff, administrators, and students in community activities. In addition, former students and graduates of LSUA have fulfilled productive and rightful leadership and citizenship roles in business, industry, the arts, science, education, the military and government.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing LSUA for its exceptional contributions and remarkable influence on higher education, and the community at large, in Central Louisiana. As it celebrates its 50th year of service to Louisiana, LSUA looks to the future as it strives to become a university of choice for Louisianans.

CONGRATULATIONS TO SCOTT PIERCE FOR RECEIVING THE POLLIN AWARD

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 27, 2010

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend Scott Pierce of Fairfax, Va. for receiving the Pollin Award, honoring outstanding dedication to one's community. The Pollin Award is named after the late Abe Pollin and his wife, Irene, noted philanthropists and chairpersons of the Washington Wizards and the Verizon Center.

Scott received the Pollin Award on January 20, 2010 for his tireless efforts on behalf of youth in his community. Over the years, Scott has served on the Board of Directors for both Fairfax Fall Ball and the 17th District American Legion Baseball, and he coached numerous players in Fairfax Little League, Mantua Basketball and Mantua Swim.

Youth sports provide a tremendous opportunity for our children to learn teamwork, dedication and sportsmanship. Constructive activities provide a healthy alternative for our children's time and are an effective deterrent to more destructive behavior, such as participation in gangs. Coaches like Scott Pierce provide invaluable mentoring to our children, and are vital in helping them become productive members of society.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues join me in congratulating Scott Pierce for this important recognition. I thank him for his dedication to our children and for making Northern Virginia a better place.

EMERGENCY AID TO SURVIVORS OF THE HAITI EARTHQUAKE ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. AL GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 26, 2010

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Madam Speaker, I offer my strong support to S. 2949, a bipartisan measure to extend temporary aid to help the thousands of Americans who are evacuating Haiti in the aftermath of the devastating earthquake that occurred on January 12, 2010.

This is the worst disaster to hit Haiti in over two centuries, with an estimated 150,000 deaths, three million adversely affected, and severe damage to roads, ports, hospitals, and homes.

Nearly 14,000 American citizens have been evacuated from Haiti, with 40 percent of them receiving temporary repatriation assistance.

The Department of Health and Human Services Repatriation program provides assistance, such as travel expenses, medical care, temporary lodging and food assistance, to U.S. citizens repatriating to the United States in the wake of a natural disaster or other hardship. Americans receiving this assistance must reimburse the government costs incurred on their behalf, unless repayment is deemed to be infeasible due to the recipient's overall lack of financial resources.

This important legislation would raise the annual funding limit on the U.S. Repatriation Program, from $1 million to $25 million, for Fiscal 2010.

Thank you to my colleagues for acting swiftly to move this bill and provide assistance to all Americans in need of help returning to their homes from Haiti.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. W. TODD AKIN

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 27, 2010

Mr. AKIN. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 19—On motion to suspend the Rules and Agree, as amended—H. Res. 1003—Expressing Support for the designation of January 16, 2010 as National Influenza Vaccination Week, had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

RECOGNITION OF ALEXANDER CITY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE'S 100 YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE BUSINESS COMMUNITY

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 27, 2010

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Madam Speaker, I would like to request the House's attention today to pay recognition to the Alexander City Chamber of Commerce's 100 years of service to the business community. Governor Bob Riley will be a special guest and keynote speaker at the ceremony honoring the occasion.

On February 19th, the Chamber will host their annual meeting to give recognition to incoming Board of Directors as well as those retiring this year. As always, during this annual meeting they also plan to pay tribute to the Business Person of the Year, the "Community Spirit" award recipient, Firefighter of the Year, Police Officer of the Year, Teacher of the Year and Chamber Ambassador of the Year.

This event will be held at the Betty Carol Graham Technology Center on the campus of Central Alabama Community College in Alexander City.

All of us across Tallapoosa County and East Alabama are deeply proud of the successes of organizations like the Alexander City Chamber, and look forward to the next 100 years of service from this important community organization and so many others like it.

TRIBUTE TO THE HICKORY LOG RESTAURANT

HON. JO ANN EMERSON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 27, 2010

Mrs. EMERSON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Hickory Log restaurant in Dexter, Missouri, for its induction to the Missouri Restaurant Hall of Fame. For decades, travelers along Highway 60 in the southern part of our state have been tempted by the thought of delicious barbeque at the Hickory Log. And I can attest from personal experience that no one ever leaves the Hickory Log dissatisfied with the food or the service at a staple of the region's barbeque scene.

The Hickory Log has been owned and operated by the Banken family since they purchased the restaurant in 1967. In that time, they have built a reputation for barbeque that brings enthusiasts from miles around. The restaurant has grown over the years, but the uncompromising quality of the fare is unchanged, and so is the commitment of John and Laveda Banken to be active participants in the life of their community.

Election to the Missouri Restaurant Hall of Fame is a tremendous honor for this barbeque restaurant from Dexter Missouri. Only establishments in business for longer than 25 years are eligible for the honor. Later this month, the award ceremony in St. Louis will bring together some 400 restaurant-industry colleagues of the Banken family.

Owning a restaurant is truly one of the most demanding vocations in the world of small business. It requires around-the-clock time and attention, a continuously positive attitude, and focus on serving the customer with good food. The Hickory Log excels in all of these areas, and the restaurant also serves as a reminder to this House to seriously consider the ramifications of the policies we consider here on the owners, proprietors and workers at restaurants and family-owned small businesses all over the country. We also ought to have in mind the savory taste of the barbeque ribs, like no others, that they proudly serve in Dexter, Missouri.

RECOGNIZING PRINCE WILLIAM COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS TEACHERS WHO HAVE ACHIEVED NATIONAL BOARD CERTIFICATION

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 27, 2010

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 17 Prince William County Public Schools teachers who recently received certification from the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards. The National Board is an independent nonprofit organization governed by classroom teachers, school administrators, school board leaders, governors and state legislators, higher education officials, teacher union leaders, and business and community leaders.

Certified teachers are required to meet standards established by the National Board to demonstrate the knowledge, skills and accomplishments that comprise teaching excellence. A Board Certified teacher supports a vision of teaching based on the following core principles.

1. Teachers are committed to students and their learning;
2. Teachers know the subjects they teach and how to teach those subjects to students;
3. Teachers are responsible for managing and monitoring student learning;
4. Teachers think systematically about their practice and learn from experience; and
5. Teachers are members of learning communities.

I congratulate the following National Board Certified Teachers on achieving this professional recognition:

Kristen Augsburger, mathematics/adolescence and young adulthood, Battlefield High School;

Melissa Callaghan, generalist/early childhood, Cedar Point Elementary School;

Heather Davids, English language arts/adolescence and young adulthood, Osbourn Park High School;

Diane Dunn, mathematics/early adolescence, New Dominion;

Julie Faith, social studies—history/adolescence and young adulthood, Stonewall Jackson High School;

Brenda Hayden, career and technical education/early adolescence through young adulthood, Stonewall Jackson High School;

Marge Hopkins, library media/early childhood through young adulthood, McAuliffe Elementary School;

Bobbie Mandro, career and technical education/early adolescence through young adulthood, Gar-Field High School;

Susan Mangicaro, mathematics/adolescence through young adulthood, Brentsville District High School;

Janice McCurdy, exceptional needs specialist/early childhood through young adulthood, Gar-Field High School;

Amanda Proch, literacy: reading-language arts/early and middle childhood, Marshall Elementary School;

Christopher Proch, art/early adolescence through young adulthood, Gar-Field High School;

Krystle Quinlan, generalist/early childhood, Coles Elementary School;

Jennifer Roberts, generalist/early childhood, West Gate Elementary School;

Connie Schumacher, social studies-history/early adolescence, Stonewall Middle School;

Judy Swank, library media/early childhood through young adulthood, Swans Creek Elementary School;

Laura Whitman, English as a second language/early adolescence through young adulthood, Potomac High School.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in commending these teachers for their commitment to education and professional development. Prince William County Public Schools delivers a world class education with the help of teachers like these who make excellence a system-wide standard.

MARINE CORPORAL NICHOLAS UZENSKI

HON. SCOTT MURPHY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 27, 2010

Mr. MURPHY of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise today with the solemn duty to report the tragic passing of Marine Cpl Nicholas Uzenski. Corporal Uzenski was taken from us on January 11, 2010, in an ambush by insurgents in Southern Afghanistan.

Corporal Uzenski was a member of the 3rd Reconnaissance Battalion, Bravo Company, based in Okinawa, Japan. A beloved son, grandson, brother, friend, and soldier, Corporal Uzenski will be sorely missed by the entire Franklin community, and a grateful nation whose freedom he fought to protect.

Just 21 years old, Corporal Uzenski followed in the footsteps of his father and uncle in joining the Marines. It was his lifelong dream to serve the nation he loved and defend the ideals for which he gave the ultimate sacrifice.

Corporal Uzenski is survived by his mother Lisa, his father William, stepmother Rebakah, and six siblings. Our thoughts and prayers are with the entire Uzenski family during this difficult time.

As we stand on this floor and debate the important issues of our time, let us never forget the true cost of the freedoms that we so often take for granted.

HONORING WILLIE BRANDON ON A LIFETIME OF SERVICE

HON. BART GORDON

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 27, 2010

Mr. GORDON of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Willie Brandon, an admired and respected citizen of Murfreesboro, Tennessee, who lived and worked up until the age of 103. My hometown was saddened by Willie's passing on January 5, 2010.

He was known for his kind heart, his wealth of knowledge, and his optimistic outlook on life. People said he would brighten their day just by talking with him for a few minutes. He expressed his admiration of Murfreesboro by knowing its history backward and forward, and his wisdom was conveyed through his past experiences and stories. Willie was considered a role model and friend to many.

He began his life in Readyville, Tennessee, with his parents, Charles and Jimmie Brandon, and his sister, Lizzie. His parents were sharecroppers, but his father became a janitor when they moved to Illinois. At the age of 12, Willie dropped out of school to work and help support the family.

For the next 91 years, Willie never quit working. He worked as a cook at the James K. Polk Hotel, City Café, Sewart Air Force Base, Lamb's Grill, and Po Folks Restaurant. He also picked blackberries, cut timber, and mowed grass. Willie took pride in his work, and his dedication was an inspiration to his coworkers.

Over the last 30 years of his life, Willie was the keeper of the Rutherford County courthouse, a historical place many people pass through for business or sight-seeing. Willie could tell very personal stories about the courthouse and his family's history—150 years ago, his own grandfather, a slave, helped to build the courthouse and was later sold there.

Willie's legacy lives on through his daughter, stepson, three granddaughters, two great-granddaughters and one great-great granddaughter. Supporting them through his continued employment is a testament to how much he loved them.

Willie Brandon's life had a significant impact on everyone he met. He lifted their spirits, shared his wisdom, and gave them hope. He will always be remembered as an institution in Rutherford County and a luminary to all of his friends and family.

RECOGNIZING THE RETIREMENT OF DAWN PHILLIPS-HERTZ, GENERAL COUNSEL TO THE MICHIGAN PRESS ASSOCIATION

HON. PETER HOEKSTRA

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 27, 2010

Mr. HOEKSTRA. Madam Speaker, I rise here today to recognize the retirement of Dawn Phillips-Hertz.

Dawn has served as General Counsel to the Michigan Press Association for nearly 30 years, offering free legal advice to anybody from the more than 300 newspapers in Michigan, including those located within Michigan's Second Congressional District.

Journalists throughout the state admired her for gracefully offering a hotline to answer tough questions with thoughtful and accurate answers to any number of open government questions.

She was committed to the cause of freedom of the press, and was a staunch advocate and aggressive defender of it.

Her knowledge of the Freedom of Information Act and all laws pertaining to open government meetings helped countless reporters, editors and publishers to fulfill their duty of providing citizens with information necessary for them to know the activities of their elected representatives and other government officials.

She helped countless editors and reporters from committing troublesome mistakes whenever it was necessary, fully understanding at times intense deadline pressure.

She also helped elected officials understand potential pitfalls in introducing or voting upon legislation that would impact the public's right to know.

Madam Speaker, I congratulate Ms. Phillips-Hertz on her retirement following a successful career in supporting journalism endeavors in Michigan.

IN HONOR OF THE CITY OF NOVATO

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 27, 2010

Ms. WOOLSEY. Madam Speaker, I rise with pleasure today to congratulate the City of Novato, California, on the fiftieth anniversary of its incorporation.

Novatans are rightfully proud of their community, which has tripled in size since its founding without losing the warm, small-town atmosphere that makes it a charming place to live. As the city has grown from an agricultural settlement to a destination in its own right, residents have kept their focus on the qualities that make Novato unique—strong sense of community, attachment to the natural surroundings, and an appreciation of the region's vibrant and diverse history.

Indeed, the history of Novato long predates its formal establishment half a century ago. Hundreds of years before the arrival of the Spanish, the Coast Miwok inhabited the area around Novato, valuing it for many of the same reasons that Novatans do today. The city's warm summers, tranquil hills, and fertile soil make it a unique corner of Marin County.

Early European settlers realized this as well, and Novato quickly became the site of some of Alta California's early Mexican land grants, including the 1839 Rancho Novato grant that later gave the city its name. It was also during this time that another Novato rancho became one of the first in the region to experiment with growing wine grapes, an industry that has since contributed so much to the identity and economy of our region. After California joined the United States, Novato grew into a more diverse agricultural hub, attracting Portuguese and Swiss-Italian pioneers to farm the land.

Since the 1930's, however, Novato has had to adapt to dramatic changes. During the Great Depression, as local farms struggled to survive, construction began on what would become Hamilton Air Force Base. The Base served as a critical center for defense and pilot training on the Pacific Coast, both during and after the Second World War. The city subsequently began a process of rapid development, attracting tens of thousands of new residents.

In face of this change, Novatans chose to incorporate in 1960 (with 72 percent of voters in favor) in order to take control over their collective future. They adopted their first General Plan in 1966 and have worked together ever since to maintain what matters to them. For instance, many of the structures that arose in the late 19th and early 20th centuries are preserved in modern Novato as a treasured part of the community's heritage. The downtown area, first subdivided in 1888, still recalls its original spirit as a rural outpost far removed from the cares of urban life.

The story of Novato is one of reinvention and perseverance. From its rural beginnings, the city has grown into a home for innovators in industries from biotechnology to winemaking and from insurance to artisanal tea. From a small settlement of Mexican ranchos, Novato has become a thriving city and only the second in California governed by an all-woman city council.

Hamilton Air Force Base, one of the most successful base closure efforts in the Nation, has been reclaimed as a vibrant, mixed-use community with one of the largest wetlands restoration projects in the State. I am especially proud to have worked in partnership with residents, city leaders, and government agencies in the ongoing efforts to achieve this transformation.

This is also a community committed to a healthy and sustainable future. Novato offers recreational facilities and support programs for people of all ages, including one of the country's premier research institutes on aging. The city boasts 27 parks and over 3,600 acres of open space protected by urban growth boundaries. Even now, Novato residents are setting a leading example on promoting sustainable practices and adopting green building standards.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to represent the City of Novato. I ask that you join me in celebrating its achievements and in wishing all its residents the best for the future. Congratulations, Novato, on your 50th birthday!

RECOGNIZING THE NOMINEES FOR THE PRINCE WILLIAM COUNTY TEACHER OF THE YEAR/AGNES MEYER OUTSTANDING TEACHER AWARD

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 27, 2010

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize the nominees for the Prince William County Teacher of the Year/Agnes Meyer Outstanding Teacher Award.

The Agnes Meyer Outstanding Teacher Award program was established by the Washington Post to "recognize excellence in teaching, to encourage creative and quality instruction, and to contribute in a substantive way to the improvement of education in the Washington metropolitan area."

The annual recipients represent each of the 19 public school systems in the metropolitan region and a single representative from the region's private schools. The educator selected from Prince William County Public Schools also is recognized as the Prince William County Teacher of the Year. Teachers who meet the criteria for the award are those who instill a desire to learn and achieve, understand the individual needs of students, and demonstrate a thorough knowledge of subject matter and have the ability to share it effectively with students.

I congratulate the 2010 Prince William County nominees for the Agnes Meyer Outstanding Teacher Award:

Karen Bentall, library media specialist, Sudley Elementary School;

Margaret Bozzard, third-grade teacher, Enterprise Elementary School;

Toni Anne Cipriano, learning disabilities teacher, Buckland Mills Elementary School;

Colleen Crownhart, physical education teacher, Dale City Elementary School;

Elizabeth Genova, K–5 reading teacher, Swans Creek Elementary School;

Artise Gill, 11th- and 12th-grade English and photojournalism teacher, Brentsville District High School;

Tammy Hinkle, fifth-grade teacher, Buckland Mills Elementary School;

Megan Howland, fourth-grade teacher/reading specialist, Buckland Mills Elementary School;

Elizabeth Johnson, third-grade teacher, Buckland Mills Elementary School;

Leota Johnson, art teacher, Marshall Elementary School;

Mary Tate Kenneally, 11th- and 12th-grade algebra 2 and 11th-grade geometry teacher, Battlefield High School;

Joseph Kirrane, sixth-grade social studies teacher, Graham Park Middle School.

Terri Lawson, seventh-grade life sciences teacher, Saunders Middle School;

Erin Lips, 9th–12th-grade business teacher, Stonewall Jackson High School;

Donald Magee, band director, Forest Park High School;

Bobbie Mandro, family and consumer sciences teacher, Gar-Field High School;

Dory McAllister, 9th–12th-grade special education teacher, Hylton High School;

Heather Oberle, 9th-grade English teacher, Brentsville District High School;

Doreen Raymond, French and gifted education teacher, Bull Run Middle School;

Erin Steinebach, fourth-grade reading specialist, Buckland Mills Elementary School.

Madam Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in commending the nominees for the Prince William County Teacher of the Year/Agnes Meyer Outstanding Teacher Award. Their continued service will ensure that Prince William County students are provided with a world-class education in a more vibrant learning community.

THE REFUNDABLE CHILD TAX CREDIT ELIGIBILITY VERIFICATION REFORM ACT

HON. SAM JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 27, 2010

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce along with my colleague from Florida, Representative Ginny Brown-Waite, the Refundable Child Tax Credit Eligibility Verification Reform Act, a bill to prevent those who are here illegally from claiming the refundable child tax credit due to a loophole in our tax code. According to the March 31, 2009 report by the Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration entitled "Actions Are Needed to Ensure Proper Use of Individual Taxpayer Identification Numbers and to Verify or Limit Refundable Credit Claims," this tax credit "appears to provide an additional incentive for aliens to enter, reside, and work in the U.S. without authorization, which contradicts Federal law and policy to remove such incentives." Because this credit is refundable, parents who owe no taxes can receive cash back for their children through the tax code.

In other words illegal immigrants may not only be receiving this public benefit through the tax code but may also be tempted to come to the U.S. because of it. This is just plain wrong.

Unfortunately, this refundable tax credit can be provided to an illegal immigrant so long as the immigrant is able to obtain from the IRS an Individual Taxpayer Identification Number (ITIN). It is because of this very situation that I am introducing the Refundable Child Tax Credit Eligibility Verification Reform Act, a simple, commonsense bill to require tax filers to provide their Social Security numbers in order to claim the credit. This simple change can go a long way toward protecting taxpayers by helping to ensure that the refundable child tax credit is going to those who are here legally. This is the fair and right thing to do. I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

HONORING BOB BURES ON BEING NAMED WESTERN SPRINGS ''MAN OF THE YEAR''

HON. DANIEL LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 27, 2010

Mr. LIPINSKI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Bob Bures on being named the 2009 Western Springs "Man of the Year." Mr. Bures was selected by the Citizen of the Year Committee from nominations sent in by community organizations and residents. He will be honored on January 30, 2010, at a dinner I will be attending with my wife, Judy.

Bob Bures, a resident of Western Springs since 1975, has dedicated his life to the service of others. Mr. Bures worked in the Chicago Public School system for 30 years, and has remained a fixture in the community through his many involvements. He has served as executive director of the Retired Teachers Association of Chicago and on the Western Springs Village Board. He is a member of the Knights of Columbus, the Western Springs Masonic Lodge 1136, the Affairs Committee and Education Subcommittee for the Union Club of Chicago, and the Western Springs Business Association. Mr. Bures is also involved with the West Suburban Chamber of Commerce and Industry Foundation and helps to transition special education students into local jobs. Currently he is the auditor for the Czech & Slovak Genealogy Society of Illinois, and previously served as treasurer of the Thomas Ford Memorial Library Foundation. And in 2008, Mr. Bures was appointed to the Lyons Township Mental Health Commission.

Previously a recipient of the City of Chicago Superior Service Award and the Excellence of Service Award from the Aquin Guild of the Archdiocese of Chicago, Bob Bures is very deservedly being honored for his dedication to Western Springs.

I ask you to join me in honoring Bob Bures for his outstanding service to his community and his recognition as the 2009 Western Springs Man of the Year.

IN COMMEMORATION OF THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE KENTUCKY COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS

HON. JOHN A. YARMUTH

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 27, 2010

Mr. YARMUTH. Madam Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to the Kentucky Commission on Human Rights on the occasion of the organization's fiftieth year.

In 1960, while the civil rights debate was raging across the country over the extension of Civil Rights to all Americans, Kentucky became the first state south of the Mason-Dixon line to establish a human rights commission.

Since that time, the pioneering members of the Commission have been an ally of all Kentuckians fighting for equality, fairness, and the equal application of justice. The Kentucky Commission on Human Rights is charged with enforcing State and Federal Civil Rights law. It is also tasked with a powerful mandate, remarkable in its scope and comprehensive in its aims;

''To safeguard all individuals within the state from discrimination because of familial status, race, color, religion, national origin, sex, age 40 and over, or because of the person's status as a qualified individual with a disability,'' reads the mandate. ''Thereby to protect their interest in personal dignity and freedom from humiliation, to make available to the state their full productive capacities, to secure the state against domestic strife and unrest which would menace its democratic institutions, to preserve the public safety, health, and general welfare, and to further the interest, rights, and privileges of individuals within the state.''

Those who have worked with the Commission throughout the last five decades have committed themselves to meeting the goals of that mandate. And that dedication is reflected not just in the law books of the Commonwealth, but in communities throughout Kentucky.

It was Kentucky that was the first southern state to pass a civil rights act and the first in the Nation to enact a fair housing law. And each and every day, the Kentucky Commission on Human Rights continues to fight to educate our citizens about how far we have come and how far we still have to go.

Every citizen of our Commonwealth can be proud of the legacy of the Kentucky Commission on Human Rights. I urge my colleagues to join me in congratulating the Commission for fifty years of dedication to the expansion of equal rights across our Commonwealth and honor their vision of a people united against discrimination and united for equality.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. W. TODD AKIN

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 27, 2010

Mr. AKIN. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 17—On the motion to suspend the rules and agree—H. Res. 990, Expressing support for designation of January 2010 as National Mentoring Month, had I been present, I would have voted ''yea.''

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MICHELE BACHMANN

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 27, 2010

Mrs. BACHMANN. Madam Speaker, on January 26, 2010, I was unexpectedly detained and could not vote on H. Res. 1003, expressing support for the designation of January 10, 2010, through January 16, 2010, as National Influenza Vaccination Week. Had I been present, I would have voted ''yea.''

HONORING JOHN TOUPS' CONTRIBUTION TO HEALTH CARE IN NORTHERN VIRGINIA

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 27, 2010

Mr. WOLF. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize John Toups' contribution to health care in northern Virginia. He has recently stepped down after more than 20 years of service on the Board of Trustees at Inova Health System in Fairfax County, Virginia.

In 1986, John began his service as a trustee on the board of the Fairfax Hospital Association, which is now known as the Inova Health System Board of Trustees. He served as vice-chairman from 1999–2003, and then as chairman from 2004–2007. For the past two years, John served on the board as past chairman.

During his voluntary tenure on the Inova board, John led Inova through a merger with Alexandria Hospital in 1997 and then with Loudoun Hospital in 2005. He has helped to establish funding for other health care initiatives to benefit patients and their families, and has long supported Inova's philanthropic priorities, including the Life with Cancer program.

Along with his work on the Board of Trustees for Inova, John found the time to serve as president of various community organizations, including the Northern Virginia Community Foundation, the George Mason University Foundation, and the Northern Virginia Roundtable.

In his professional life, John founded a civil engineering firm which later merged with the Planning Research Corporation. He retired as president and CEO of PRC in 1987.

I ask that my colleagues join me in recognizing John Toups and his significant contribution to the Inova Health System, the Commonwealth of Virginia, and the entire northern Virginia community.

HONORING LINDA JOHNSON ON BEING NAMED WESTERN SPRINGS ''WOMAN OF THE YEAR''

HON. DANIEL LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 27, 2010

Mr. LIPINSKI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Linda Johnson on being named the 2009 Western Springs ''Woman of the Year.'' Ms. Johnson was selected by the Citizen of the Year Committee from nominations sent in by community organizations and residents. She will be honored on January 30, 2010, at a dinner I will be attending with my wife, Judy.

A lifelong resident of Western Springs and the owner of Village True Value Hardware, Linda Johnson is a fixture of the community who is always there in her store helping customers. In 2005, Ms. Johnson started the ''Glory Days'' project, which enables students to deliver small American flags to each home in Western Springs every July 3rd.

Linda Johnson's many commitments make her a fixture in the community including serving as chair of the Adventist La Grange Memorial Hospital Foundation and events chair of the Western Springs Business Association. She is a member of the Western Springs Rotary Club, Lyons Township High School Alumni Board, West Suburban Chamber of Commerce and Industry, La Grange Area Business and Professional Women, and Earlham College Alumni Council. Ms. Johnson also served as president of the Western Springs Business Association and on the Village of Western Spring's Economic Development Commission.

Previously honored as ''A Person of Distinction'' in 2005 and a recipient of the State of Illinois Volunteerism Award in 2007, Linda Johnson will very deservedly being honored for her dedication to Western Springs.

I ask you to join me in honoring Linda Johnson for her outstanding service to her community and her recognition as the 2009 Western Springs Woman of the Year.

HONORING THE VITAMIN L PROJECT

HON. MAURICE D. HINCHEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 27, 2010

Mr. HINCHEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Vitamin L Project of Ithaca, New York on 20 years of service, and to commend the founders of this group, Jan and Janice Nigro, on their steadfast dedication to community service.

For two decades, the Vitamin L Project has taught young people throughout New York state the power of diversity and positive character development. In 1989, Jan and Janice conceptualized and launched the Project as an innovative model for teaching character education through the magic of song. It all began in Ithaca, New York when a teacher friend of Jan Nigro's asked him to write some songs for elementary-age children about the universal human values of diversity, love, truth, peace, and non-violence. This single request blossomed in 17 songs, and the Vitamin L transformative magic of character building was underway creating a library of uplifting and inspirational music.

Over time, the Vitamin L Chorus was established, which today includes approximately 80 young performers as well as a growing group of Vitamin L alumni. Jan's wife, Janice, serves as Vitamin L Project Director and works tirelessly to sustain the Project's mission through outreach to elementary schools, recruitment and training of youth singers, organizing concerts, and serving as mentor and coach to all Chorus members. Together, this husband-and-

wife team, along with enthusiastic Chorus members, and a host of supportive parents and community members, has touched the hearts and minds of children across New York State and other locations where Vitamin L has been invited to perform.

With its focus on early childhood development, Vitamin L encourages children to think about moral issues in a non-threatening, fun, and very personal way. By singing the songs, watching the Vitamin L Chorus act out scenes of things like the consequences of ''jumping to conclusions'' and having opportunities to talk with Vitamin L Chorus members, young audiences see the importance of valuing positive character and moral behavior.

Vitamin L's first published group character-building songs titled, ''Walk a Mile,'' won the nationally recognized Parent's Choice Gold Award shortly after its release in 1989. Three more Vitamin L recordings of character building songs received similar praise from the Parent's Choice Gold Awards in subsequent years. The recordings have also received very positive reviews in numerous national publications, such as School Library Journal, Booklist, and Time Magazine.

I thank Jan and Janice Nigro for their unwavering commitment to improving their community and congratulate them on 20 successful years with the Vitamin L Project. Their contributions have touched countless people, and enriched the lives of my constituents in New York's 22nd Congressional District and well beyond. The world could use more people who contribute to their county, state, and country, like Jan and Janice and I am grateful for the work they have done, what they are doing today, and their bright future.

RECOGNIZING KAZAKHSTAN FOR ASSUMING LEADERSHIP OF THE ORGANIZATION FOR SECURITY AND CO-OPERATION IN EUROPE (OSCE)

HON. ENI F.H. FALEOMAVAEGA

OF AMERICAN SAMOA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 27, 2010

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Madam Speaker, amid regional combat, conflicts, and challenges, Kazakhstan assumed leadership this month of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE), an organization of 56 member states with vast potential for strengthening regional and global cooperation, security, peace, and prosperity.

This is a remarkable historic achievement for a nation that only 19 years ago gained its independence from the former Soviet Union. It is also a recognition of the vision and leadership of Kazakh President Nursultan Nazarbayev who has charted a course to establish not only a modem state but an emerging democracy.

In the early days of its statehood and under the leadership of President Nazarbayev, Kazakhstan demonstrated to the international community its commitment to nuclear disarmament and nonproliferation. It voluntarily renounced the world's fourth largest nuclear and missile arsenal and shut down the Semipalatinsk nuclear test site. This decision has enhanced global security and reduced the threat of weapons of mass destruction falling into the hands of terrorists. Kazakhstan's experience qualifies it to lead the OSCE in its efforts to increase regional security.

Meanwhile, Kazakhstan has consistently demonstrated its commitment to the principles and values that OSCE member states embrace. The nation has achieved significant progress on democratization, human rights, and economic liberalization. This is no small feat for a country in which more than 140 different nationalities and 40 religions are represented. Yet surprisingly in Kazakhstan, these people and faiths coexist peaceably because of a commitment to the shared values of tolerance, understanding, cooperation, and unity.

Great steps have been made on the path of democracy, but many more strides must be taken before the goal is reached. That is why Kazakhstan views democracy not as a sprint but a marathon; its perspective is not for the short but the long term.

Because Kazakhstan understands the challenges of democracy-building and the importance of inter-ethnic and inter-faith dialogue to avoid or resolve conflict, this perspective and experience will serve it well in its OSCE leadership role.

Kazakhstan is a leading democratic force in Central Asia today, a region of growing strategic importance to the United States, the OSCE, and the world. Central Asia is where East and West meet. Increasingly, it is where much of our focus will and must be now and in the years ahead. As Chairman of the House Foreign Affairs subcommittee overseeing this region, I can state this unequivocally. It is also the reason my colleague Representative BUCK MCKEON and I recently established the Congressional Caucus on Central Asia.

Kazakhstan moves and interacts with ease and confidence in its home region and the surrounding areas that include Afghanistan, Iraq, Pakistan, and Iran—all areas where it has interests that make dialogue and cooperation possible but not involvement that precludes it. Because of this, Kazakhstan can function as an honest and trusted broker, helping the United States and other OSCE members. This can lead to improved East-West dialogue and, hopefully, to conflict resolution.

For all the strengths, experiences, and perspectives that Kazakhstan offers, OSCE member states' choice of this new democracy to lead the organization showed correct judgment and foresight in light of the challenges and threats confronting the world. President Nazarbayev has matched the OSCE's judgment and foresight in appointing Secretary of State–Foreign Minister Kanat Saudabayev to serve as the OSCE Chairman-in-Office. This skilled and seasoned diplomat, who once served as Kazakhstan's Ambassador to the United States, will bring to his new post and the OSCE the needed leadership and focus on measurable results.

His recent speech in Vienna outlining Kazakhstan's priorities during its OSCE chairmanship reveals a commitment to revitalize the organization, reestablish its relevance on key issues, and refocus it to achieve meaningful outcomes. I am encouraged by the vision he sketched. In a world where new crises often seemingly intractable, even insoluble—emerge almost daily, we need an OSCE infused with purpose and energy and committed to full engagement and results. Knowing the OSCE Chairman-in-Office as I do, I am confident that he can and will lead the organization to achieve the outcomes that all OSCE member states desire.

As a major step toward that end, I fully support the proposal that President Nazarbayev and OSCE Chairman-in-Office Saudabayev have put forward—namely, that of holding an OSCE summit. Not since 1999 has a summit been held. In my view, such an assembly would offer many advantages and opportunities to the United States and other OSCE member states for advancing the prospects and priorities of regional and global cooperation, security, peace, and prosperity.

The proposed summit warrants the United States' support and is worthy of our best efforts because it is in our national interest. For this reason, I call on President Obama and Secretary of State Clinton to help facilitate the summit through their good offices, and I look forward to working with Chairman-in-Office Saudabayev and the leaders of OSCE member states in any way I can to help execute the forward-looking vision that Kazakhstan has outlined for the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe.

HONORING THE ALBANY PARK COMMUNITY CENTER

HON. MIKE QUIGLEY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 27, 2010

Mr. QUIGLEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Albany Park Community Center for receiving the League of Women Voters Award for outstanding leadership in voter education.

The Center received the award for its dedicated service to increase voter awareness and civic participation in the Albany Park community, a multi-ethnic, working class neighborhood in Chicago. In order to accomplish its goals, the Center held 25 adult education classes that focused on voting, placed bulletin boards with election-related content inside the Center, assisted voters in locating their polling places and understanding their local ballots, registered voters, and participated in the 2008 Mock Election coordinated with the League of Women Voters of Illinois. The Mock Election showed how successful their efforts had been when 318 of the 322 ballots were cast correctly.

They succeeded in reaching over 300 students through their adult education classes and successfully registered newly-naturalized citizens and others who had never voted or who let their registration lapse. Many of the students had levels of education or English language skills, and the program catered directly to their needs.

As part of the ''Albany Park Votes!'' program, members of the Center went above and beyond their job descriptions, aiding and registering 58 members of the community, most of whom went on to vote in the next election. The program was especially successful in educating the entire community in the civil process, as most of the adult students brought educational materials to their children and encouraged them to vote in the Mock Election, thereby reinforcing the importance of voting and preparing them for when they become eligible voters. In this way, Albany Park Community Center's program will have a long term

impact on the community's involvement in the civil process.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the Albany Park Community Center for their dedicated efforts to increase voter awareness and civic participation. Their efforts demonstrate how great the democratic process can be.

EMERGENCY AID TO AMERICAN SURVIVORS OF THE HAITI EARTHQUAKE ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. NIKI TSONGAS

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 26, 2010

Ms. TSONGAS. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of S. 2949, the Emergency Aid to American Survivors of the Haiti Earthquake Act. The true scope and magnitude of the heartbreaking tragedy in Haiti continue to unfold. Hundreds of thousands of Haitians are still without reliable access to water, food, shelter, and other basic essentials. Children of all ages find themselves without family, relatives, or loved ones. While remarkable humanitarian efforts continue to reach more of those in need every day, the rebuilding effort in Haiti is one that will take more than a decade.

Americans across the country have been moved by the terrible disaster and have generously given support in any way that they can. In the Merrimack Valley and the Fifth District of Massachusetts which I represent, concerned residents have volunteered their time, donated money, organized fundraising efforts, and provided needed supplies. For example, this weekend, a restaurant in Lawrence, Massachusetts is providing free lunch to all those making a donation to the Haiti relief fund.

Our military has also done incredible work in reaching survivors, opening airports in order to facilitate the distribution of aid, and helping to maintain order.

I am pleased that the House of Representatives will pass bipartisan legislation to extend temporary aid to help the thousands of Americans who are evacuating Haiti in the aftermath of the devastating earthquake.

As of Monday, 14,000 American citizens have been evacuated from Haiti, with 40 percent of them receiving temporary repatriation assistance. The Emergency Aid to American Survivors of the Haiti Earthquake Act will provide these individuals with help in securing and paying for connecting flights, temporary lodging, food, and medical assistance.

Last week, Congress passed and the President signed bipartisan legislation, which I cosponsored, speeding up the tax deduction for charitable contributions for Haiti so that individuals making contributions by the end of February can claim these charitable contributions on their 2009 tax return.

The need in Haiti will be great for many years to come. Support from U.S. foreign aid agencies and the international community will be essential, along with efforts from ordinary citizens, like the one taking place in Lawrence this weekend.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. PARKER GRIFFITH

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 27, 2010

Mr. GRIFFITH. Madam Speaker, on rollcall Nos. 17, 18, and 19 I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

INTRODUCTION OF THE SOCIAL SECURITY DISABILITY APPLICANTS' ACCESS TO PROFESSIONAL REPRESENTATION ACT

HON. JOHN S. TANNER

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 27, 2010

Mr. TANNER. Madam Speaker, I am joined today by my colleagues, JIM MCDERMOTT Chairman of the Subcommittee on Income Security and Family Support, SAM JOHNSON, Ranking Member of the Subcommittee on Social Security, and JOHN LINDER, Ranking Member of the Subcommittee on Income Security and Family Support, in introducing the Social Security Disability Applicants' Access to Professional Representation Act. This important, bipartisan legislation will help individuals with severe disabilities navigate the often lengthy and complex process of applying for Social Security and Supplemental Security Income, SSI, disability benefits.

Specifically, this bill will improve access to quality, professional representation for disability applicants by making permanent a temporary provision to expand access that is due to expire on March 1.

For many years, attorneys who represent Social Security disability claimants have been able to have their fees withheld from the claimant's past-due benefits and paid directly to them by SSA. By providing a way to ensure that attorneys are paid if the claim is successful, this system has helped to ensure that disability applicants—even those who are very low income—have access to professional representation. This representation is particularly important for those applicants who appeal their case by seeking a hearing before an Administrative Law Judge. The fee paid to representatives is limited to 25 percent of the claimant's past-due benefits, subject to a dollar cap, and is only paid if the claimant wins.

In 2004, Congress adopted a provision to temporarily expand this fee-withholding system in two ways: by extending the system to SSI claims, and also by allowing qualified non-attorney representatives to participate. To be a "qualified non-attorney," a representative must pass an examination administered by the Social Security Administration, SSA, and meet other criteria designed to protect applicants.

This expansion of the fee-payment system has been very successful, and disability groups and other stakeholders have strongly supported making it permanent. In addition, both SSA and the Government Accountability Office have examined the program to extend fee-withholding to non-attorney representatives and found it was working well.

The Social Security Disability Applicants' Access to Professional Representation Act would ensure that these successful programs continue. The bill has no cost, and even generates some savings—$55 million over 10 years—due to user fees paid by representatives who participate.

Ensuring that individuals with severe disabilities have the help they need to navigate the complex benefit application process is a goal on which we can all agree. I urge you to support this bipartisan legislation to move us closer to this goal.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MICHELE BACHMANN

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 27, 2010

Mrs. BACHMANN. Madam Speaker, on January 26, 2010, I was unexpectedly detained and could not vote on H. Res. 1011, recognizing the importance of cervical health and of detecting cervical cancer during its earliest stages and supporting the goals and ideals of Cervical Health Awareness Month. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

HONORING PIT MARTIN

HON. MIKE QUIGLEY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 27, 2010

Mr. QUIGLEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of former Chicago Blackhawk, Pit Martin. Pit was born in Rouyn-Noranda, Quebec, played 17 seasons in the NHL, and died in a tragic snowmobile accident two winters ago. He was only 64.

Pit is remembered as a hockey player, and for good reason because he was a darned great one. His storied career spanned four teams and 19 years—including 11 seasons with the Chicago Blackhawks. In 740 games, Pit scored 243 goals, dished out 384 assists, and was the "M" on the Chicago Stadium's iconic "MPH" line with Jim Pappin and Dennis Hull. He was named to four All-Star teams and led the Hawks to two Stanley Cup Finals.

But anyone who stood 5 feet, 8 inches tall and weighed 168 pounds in the NHL can never be defined by numbers alone—and so it was with Pit. After the 1969–70 season, he was awarded the Bill Masterson Trophy, exemplifying the qualities of perseverance, sportsmanship, and dedication to hockey. He was never the biggest dog in the fight, but during the 1,101 games he suited up for, no one fought harder, worked harder, and did more with less.

When Pit passed away, Hall-of-Fame linesman Matt Pavelich summed it up best: "He was small, but he wasn't timid. I just remember him as a real nice guy." The Blackhawk family and the city of Chicago miss him.

Let's see if we can finish what he helped start, and bring home a Stanley Cup this year, for Pit, and all of Chicago.

CONCERNING THE RECENT DEPLOYMENT OF THE 143RD AIRLIFT WING OF THE RHODE ISLAND AIR NATIONAL GUARD TO ASSIST WITH RELIEF OPERATIONS IN HAITI

HON. JAMES R. LANGEVIN

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 27, 2010

Mr. LANGEVIN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the service of the Rhode Island Air National Guard members who deployed to Haiti on Friday, January 22nd, to assist in the critical aid and evacuation effort taking place after the devastating earthquake that hit the country two weeks ago. Immediately after the earthquake struck, members of the U.S. armed services, first responders and relief agencies began their work to help the people of Haiti recover from this tragedy. With an alarming death toll of over one hundred thousand and the number of displaced Haitians reaching one million, the national and the international community must do all it can to support and help rebuild this shattered nation.

I am especially proud that the 143rd Airlift Wing, based out of Quonset Point Air National Guard Station, is helping in this recovery effort with transport and medical evacuation assistance. They will provide critical assets to the relief operation and will help deliver aid and supplies expeditiously to the Haitian people. During the past several years, the 143rd has answered their call to duty with the courage and bravery our Nation has come to rely on from our National Guard. The 143rd provided assistance to the citizens of New Orleans after Hurricane Katrina, made numerous tours to Iraq and have recently deployed again to Afghanistan. Both our state and our nation are incredibly grateful for their service and the service of all our men and women in uniform serving at home and abroad. I hope all our Rhode Island National Guard members return home safely and soon.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. SOLOMON P. ORTIZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 27, 2010

Mr. ORTIZ. Madam Speaker, on January 26–27, 2010, I missed rollcall votes 17 through 25 because of medical reasons. If I had been present, I would have voted as follows:

Rollcall vote 17, ''yea;'' rollcall vote 18, ''yea;'' rollcall vote 19, ''yea;'' rollcall vote 20, ''yea;'' rollcall vote 21, ''yea;'' rollcall vote 22, ''yea;'' rollcall vote 23, ''yea;'' rollcall vote 24, ''yea;'' rollcall vote 25, ''yea.''

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. NEIL ABERCROMBIE

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 27, 2010

Mr. ABERCROMBIE. Madam Speaker, I regret that I missed rollcall vote Nos. 1–5, 9–11, 15–16, and 20–25. Had I been present, I would have voted ''aye'' on rollcall votes 3–5, 9–10, 15–16, and 20–25. I would have voted ''nay'' on rollcall votes 2, 11. I would have voted ''present'' on rollcall vote 1.

IN MEMORY OF MS. DONICE HARBOR, 2010 NAACP HUMANITARIAN OF THE YEAR

HON. BOB ETHERIDGE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 27, 2010

Mr. ETHERIDGE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to remember Ms. Donice Harbor who will be honored, posthumously, as the North Carolina National Association for the Advancement of Colored People's 2010 Humanitarian of the Year at the 26th Annual Humanitarian Banquet on Saturday, January 30, 2010 in Raleigh, North Carolina.

This is a fitting tribute for an outstanding North Carolinian tragically taken from us long before her time. Donice was thoughtful and hardworking. She often put the needs of others before her own. Though only 36 years old at the time of her passing, Donice's wisdom and breadth of knowledge exceeded her years on this earth. For those who were blessed to know her, she will always be remembered for her leadership, her quiet determination and her ever-present smile.

A native of Winston-Salem, North Carolina, Donice received her undergraduate degree in Political Science from Fayetteville State University and her Masters degree in Public Administration from North Carolina Central University. While in graduate school, Donice began her career in public service as a Legislative Intern with state Senator Jeanne Lucas, the first African-American woman to serve in the North Carolina State Senate.

In 2001, Donice began working with then Lt. Governor Bev Perdue as Director of Public Liaison. In 2009, when Perdue was elected to the office of Governor, Donice became the Governor's Director of Faith and Citizens Outreach. In addition to being a dependable public servant, Donice was also a passionate advocate who was an active member of the Wendell-Wake County NAACP, Delta Sigma Theta Sorority and a valiant supporter of the North Carolina Legislative Black Caucus and its Foundation.

The tragic loss of Donice Harbor reminds us that cancer touches nearly every family in North Carolina. The U.S. House recently passed my legislation to raise awareness of the importance of early detection of cancer. Simply put, early detection saves lives.

Donice Harbor was an outstanding North Carolinian and very deserving of the NAACP's Humanitarian Award. She was a very special friend to members of my staff and myself personally, and she will be missed.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring this extraordinary public servant.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. J. GRESHAM BARRETT

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 27, 2010

Mr. BARRETT of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, unfortunately, I missed the following recorded votes on the House floor on Tuesday, January 26, 2010.

I ask that the RECORD reflect that had I been present I would have voted ''aye'' on rollcall vote No. 17 (on motion to suspend the rules and agree to H. Res. 990), ''aye'' on rollcall vote No. 18 (on motion to suspend the rules and agree to H. Res. 1011), ''aye'' on rollcall vote No. 19 (on motion to suspend the rules and agree to H. Res. 1003).

RECOGNITION OF SOLAR TECHNOLOGIES

HON. JAY INSLEE

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 27, 2010

Mr. INSLEE. Madam Speaker, there have been times in history where great technological challenges have been overcome by the combined efforts from both government policy and scientific innovation. We are sitting at one of those critical junctions today. Our country is taking active steps to curb our energy consumption by implementing energy efficiency policies and is also highly engaged in scientific innovation to make renewable technologies, such as solar, a sustainable part of our total energy portfolio. I am here today to discuss several promising technological advancements in solar systems that might one day help reduce our country's dependence on foreign energy sources.

As we know, solar technologies come in several flavors. Some systems such as solar photovoltaic convert the sun's energy directly into useable electricity. Other technologies such as solar-thermal systems use the sun's energy to boil water that then turns a steam turbine which ultimately generates electricity.

Development of solar photovoltaic systems has relied on manufacturing processes developed in the microelectronics industry, which has relied heavily on silicon as the main material component. These manufacturing methods can be slow and they yield relatively expensive solar cells. Through technological advancements in material science, new materials such as copper-indium-selenide (CIS) or copper-indium-gallium-selenide (CIGS) have resulted in low-cost solar cells. Solar cells made with these materials can even be printed much like you would print a document with your inkjet printer at home.

While CIS/CIGS photovoltaic advancements are driving manufacturing costs down, further advancements in silicon solar cells are also progressing. Advancements have been possible through new techniques used in nanotechnology labs across the country. The new generation of solar cells, instead of being constructed of flat layers of material on a silicon wafer, may end up looking more like microscopic cities. These ''3D'' solar cells are showing promise as they may be able to better absorb the sun's energy and convert it to usable electricity.

Great things are happening in the solar photovoltaic world, but important advancements in the solar thermal world are also taking place. Recently concerns about the amount of water used in generation of electricity with solar-thermal power plants were raised; these concerns can be misleading as similar amounts of cool water are needed for coal or natural gas power plants. Regardless the solar-thermal industry has responded with an innovative dry-cooling process which could reduce the water consumed to almost nothing.

There are some that want a silver bullet to lay to rest our country's issues with foreign energy sources. While no such bullet exists, we can make real progress by encouraging development in all these promising technologies in parallel. Doing so can help States, like Washington State, achieve goals outlined in their renewable portfolio standards. On a larger scale we can move our entire country towards a clean energy source.

I hope that my colleagues here in Congress will help me in moving relevant bills swiftly through our legislative process.

IN RECOGNITION OF MR. CECIL MOORE'S 90TH BIRTHDAY ON FEBRUARY 13, 2010

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 27, 2010

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Madam Speaker, I would like to request the House's attention today to pay recognition to Mr. Cecil Moore, a constituent of mine who will be turning 90 on February 13th this year. Mr. Moore is a World War II Veteran and American hero and deserves our greatest praise.

He was so determined to serve our Nation, he hitch-hiked all the way from Sylacauga, Alabama, to Atlanta, Georgia, to enlist in the Marines in 1939. During World War II, he served most of his time in the Pacific and participated in the Marshall Islands campaign.

He eventually retired in 1965 at the rank of Colonel.

On February 13th, this hometown war hero will be celebrating his 90th birthday. All of us across Talladega County and East Alabama are deeply honored to be a part of celebrating this extraordinary veteran's 90th birthday celebration. Our best wishes and happy birthday to Mr. Cecil Moore.

IN HONOR OF TECHNICAL SERGEANT ADAM K. GINETT

HON. BOB ETHERIDGE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 27, 2010

Mr. ETHERIDGE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Air Force Technical Sergeant Adam K. Ginett, a 29-year-old from Knightdale, NC, who was killed on Tuesday, January 19 near Kandahar Air Field, Afghanistan, of wounds suffered from an improvised explosive device. Ginett was assigned to the 31st Civil Engineer Squadron at Aviano Air Base, Italy. It was his second tour of duty in Operation Enduring Freedom. Ginett received a Bronze Star for his role in a firefight on his first tour in Afghanistan. He also served two tours in Operation Iraqi Freedom.

According to his grandfather, Jim Haslam, Sergeant Ginett's unit was walking toward a location where a cache of IEDs was thought to be hidden. Another servicemember was killed in the incident and three were wounded.

In brave service to our Nation, Ginett opted for explosive ordnance duty after he graduated from boot camp. According to Ginett's mom, Christina Kazakavage of Coats, NC, he chose this dangerous work because it would mean that he would be able to directly save American lives by searching for and defusing bombs that were meant to take someone else's life. Sadly, last week that calling led to his own death from an IED in a field that he was working to make safe for others.

Though he had planned for a career in the military since he was in high school, Ginett had other interests, including artistic pursuits. He interned for four summers during high school with cartoonists at Walt Disney World in Florida, and he worked in a pottery studio in Knightdale during his last year at East Wake High School.

Ginett's body returned to North Carolina yesterday. A funeral mass will be held Friday, January 29 at St. Bernadette Catholic Church in Fuquay-Varina and Ginett will be buried with military honors in Raleigh Memorial Park. He is survived by his parents, James and Christina Kazakavage, and sister, Sarah Kazakavage, of Coats; paternal grandfather, Joe Kazakavage of Port St. Lucie, FL.; and maternal grandparents, James and Mary Haslam of Cary.

Madam Speaker, Adam Ginett is a true American hero whose selfless devotion to his fellow soldiers should be remembered. I hope that my colleagues will join me in saluting this brave young soldier for his sacrifice on behalf of our Nation. I would like to extend my deepest condolence to Sergeant Ginett's family and to all who knew him. Our Nation lost a true hero and he will be missed.

ON INTRODUCING THE VETERANS PENSIONS PROTECTION ACT OF 2010

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 27, 2010

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Veterans Pensions Protection Act of 2010, which will protect veterans from losing their pension benefits because they received payments to cover expenses incurred after an accident, theft, loss or casualty loss.

When assessing a veteran's eligibility for a pension, the Department of Veterans Affairs, VA, considers a variety of sources of revenue to determine a veteran's annual income. If such income exceeds the income limit set by the VA, the veteran does not qualify for a pension or loses their benefits. Currently, the VA considers any reimbursement that compensates a veteran for his/or her expenses due to accidents, theft or loss as income. Only reimbursements of expenses related to casualty loss are currently exempted from determination of income.

Under current law, if a veteran is seriously injured in an accident or the victim of a theft and receives insurance compensation to cover his/or her medical expenses, the cost of replacement of the stolen items, or for pain and suffering, he/or she will likely lose their pension. This means that the law effectively punishes veterans when they suffer from such an accident or theft.

Such a tragedy happened to one of my constituents, a Navy veteran with muscular dystrophy who was hit by a truck when crossing the street in his wheelchair. His pension was abruptly cut off after he received an insurance settlement payment to cover medical expenses for himself and his service dog, and material expenses to replace his wheelchair. As a result, he could not cover his daily expenses and mortgage payments and almost lost his home. This is unacceptable!

The Veterans Pensions Protection Act will amend the U.S. Code to exempt the reimbursement of expenses related to accidents, theft, loss or casualty loss from being included into the determination of a veteran's income. This will guarantee the continuity of our veterans' pensions and that no veteran will have their benefits unfairly and abruptly depreciated or cancelled.

Madam Speaker, we must ensure that pensions are issued to veterans who legitimately meet the income criteria and rely on such benefits to survive. We must enact regulations that help veterans live better lives, not hurt them. No veterans should be unable to pay their medical bills, unable to get the care they need, or in a situation where they could lose their home. After serving our country so valiantly, our veterans deserve no less than the very best benefits.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 27, 2010

Mr. COFFMAN of Colorado. Madam Speaker, today our national debt is $12,308,886,504,801.94.

On January 6th, 2009, the start of the 111th Congress, the national debt was $10,638,425,746,293.80.

This means the national debt has increased by $1,670,460,758,508.14 so far this Congress.

Yesterday the Congressional Budget Office released their Budget and Economic Outlook: Fiscal Years 2010–2020. They estimate a deficit of $1.3 trillion for fiscal year 2010. This debt and its interest payments we are passing to our children and all future Americans.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. W. TODD AKIN

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 27, 2010

Mr. AKIN. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 18—On the motion to suspend the rules and agree—H. Res. 1011, Recognizing the importance of cervical health and of detecting cervical cancer during its earliest stages and supporting the goals and ideals of Cervical Health Awareness Month. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MICHELE BACHMANN

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 27, 2010

Mrs. BACHMANN. Madam Speaker, on January 26, 2010, I was unexpectedly detained and could not vote on H. Res. 990, expressing support for designation of January 2010 as "National Mentoring Month." Had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

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

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

Meetings scheduled for Thursday, January 28, 2010 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

FEBRUARY 2

9:30 a.m.

Armed Services
To hold hearings to examine the Defense Authorization request for fiscal year 2011, the Future Years Defense Program, the 2011 Quadrennial Defense Review, and the 2011 Missile Defense Review.
SD–G50

10 a.m.

Budget
To hold hearings to examine the President's proposed budget request for fiscal year 2011.
SD–608

Energy and Natural Resources
To hold hearings to examine the nominations of Larry Persily, of Alaska, to be Federal Coordinator for Alaska Natural Gas Transportation Projects, and Patricia A. Hoffman, of Virginia, to be Assistant Secretary of Energy for Electricity Delivery and Energy Reliability.
SD–366

Finance
To hold hearings to examine the President's proposed budget request for fiscal year 2011.
SD–215

Foreign Relations
To hold hearings to examine the nominations of Donald E. Booth, of Virginia, to be Ambassador to the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, Bisa Williams, of New Jersey, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Niger, and Beatrice Wilkinson Welters, of Virginia, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago, all of the Department of State.
SD–419

Rules and Administration
To hold hearings to examine the Supreme Court's decision to allow unlimited corporate spending in elections.
SR–301

Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe
To hold hearings to examine Kazakhstan's leadership of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE).
SR–485

2 p.m.

Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs
Contracting Oversight Subcommittee
To hold hearings to examine business perspectives on the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) reconstruction and development contracts in Afghanistan.
SD–342

2:30 p.m.

Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs
To hold hearings to examine prohibiting certain high-risk investment activities by banks and bank holding companies.
SD–538

Foreign Relations
To hold hearings to examine the nominations of Rosemary Anne DiCarlo, of the District of Columbia, to be Representative of the United States of America to the Sessions of the General Assembly of the United Nations, during her tenure of service as Deputy Representative of the United States of America to the United Nations, and to be the Deputy Representative of the United States of America to the United Nations, with the rank and status of Ambassador and the Deputy Representative of the United States of America in the Security Council of the United Nations, Brooke D. Anderson, of California, to be an Alternate Representative of the United States of America to the Sessions of the General Assembly of the United Nations during her tenure of service as Alternate Representative of the United States of America for Special Political Affairs in the United Nations, and to be Alternate Representative of the United States of America for Special Political Affairs in the United Nations, with the rank of Ambassador, Allan J. Katz, of Florida, to be Ambassador to the Portuguese Republic, Ian C. Kelly, of Maryland, to be U.S. Representative to the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, with the rank of Ambassador, and Judith Ann Stewart Stock, of Virginia, to be Assistant Secretary of State for Educational and Cultural Affairs, all of the Department of State.
SD–419

Judiciary
To hold hearings to examine certain nominations.
SD–226

Intelligence
To hold hearings to examine the world wide threat.
SH–216

3:30 p.m.

Foreign Relations
To hold hearings to examine the nominations of Scott H. DeLisi, of Minnesota, to be Ambassador to the Federal Democratic Republic of Nepal, Harry K. Thomas, Jr., of New York, to be Ambassador to the Republic of the Philippines, and David Adelman, of Georgia, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Singapore, all of the Department of State.
SD–419

FEBRUARY 3

9:30 a.m.

Finance
To hold hearings to examine the President's proposed budget request for fiscal year 2011 for health care proposals.
SD–215

10 a.m.

Judiciary
To hold an oversight hearing to examine United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement, focusing on immigration detention reform.
SD–226

FEBRUARY 4

9:30 a.m.

Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs
Investigations Subcommittee
To hold hearings to examine keeping foreign corruption out of the United States, focusing on four case histories.
SD–342

10 a.m.

Energy and Natural Resources
To hold hearings to examine the President's proposed budget request for fiscal year 2011 for the Department of Energy.
SD–366

2:30 p.m.

Judiciary
Antitrust, Competition Policy and Consumer Rights Subcommittee
To hold hearings to examine the Comcast/NBC Universal Merger, focusing on the future of competition and consumers.
SD–226

Intelligence
Closed business meeting to consider pending calendar business.
SH–219

FEBRUARY 9

9:30 a.m.

Armed Services
To hold hearings to examine the President's proposed budget request for fiscal year 2011 for Defense Authorization and the Future Years Defense Program.
SDG–50

10 a.m.

Energy and Natural Resources
To hold hearings to examine the Department of Energy's Loan Guarantee Program.
SD–366

2:30 p.m.

Energy and Natural Resources
Water and Power Subcommittee
To hold an oversight hearing to examine the Bureau of Reclamation's implementation of the SECURE Water Act, (Title 9501 of Public Law 111–11) and the Bureau of Reclamation's Water Conservation Initiative which includes the Challenge Grant Program, the Basin Study Program and the Title XVI Program.
SD–366

FEBRUARY 10

9:30 a.m.

Energy and Natural Resources
Business meeting to consider any pending nominations; to be immediately followed by a hearing to examine the President's proposed budget request for fiscal year 2011 for the Department of the Interior.
SD–366

Veterans' Affairs
To hold hearings to examine the President's proposed budget request for fiscal year 2011 for the Department of Veterans Affairs.
SR–418

10 a.m.

Judiciary
To hold hearings to examine combating cyber crime and identity theft in the digital age.
SD–226

FEBRUARY 11

11:30 a.m.

Energy and Natural Resources
Business meeting to consider any pending nominations.
SD–366

FEBRUARY 23

9:30 a.m.

Armed Services
To hold hearings to examine proposed defense authorization request for fiscal year 2011 for the Future Years Defense Program.
SDG–50

FEBRUARY 25

9:30 a.m.

Armed Services
To hold hearings to examine the Department of the Navy in review of the Defense Authorization request for fiscal year 2011 and the Future Years Defense Program; with the possibility of a closed session in SVC–217 following the open session.
SD–G50

MARCH 2

2 p.m.

Veterans' Affairs
To hold hearings to examine a legislative presentation from Disabled Veterans of America.
345, Cannon Building

MARCH 4

9:30 a.m.

Veterans' Affairs
To hold hearings to examine legislative presentations from the Paralyzed Veterans of America, Jewish War Veterans, Military Order of the Purple Heart, Ex-Prisoners of War, Blinded Veterans Association, Military Officers Association of America, Air Force Sergeants Association, and the Wounded Warrior Project.
345, Cannon Building

MARCH 9

9:30 a.m.

Armed Services
To hold hearings to examine U.S. European Command and U.S. Africa Command in review of the Defense Authorization request for fiscal year 2011 and the Future Years Defense Program; with the possibility of a closed session in SR–222 following the open session.
SH–216

Veterans' Affairs
To hold hearings to examine a legislative presentation from Veterans of Foreign Wars.
SDG–50

MARCH 18

9:30 a.m.

Veterans' Affairs
To hold hearings to examine legislative presentations from AMVETS, National Association of State Directors of Veterans Affairs, Non Commissioned Officers Association, Gold Star Wives, The Retired Enlisted Association, Fleet Reserve Association, Vietnam Veterans of America, and Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America.
SDG–50

Daily Digest

HIGHLIGHTS

House and Senate met in a Joint Session to receive a State of the Union Address from the President of the United States.

House and Senate met in a Joint Session to receive a message from the President of the United States.

Senate

Chamber Action

Routine Proceedings, pages S263–S271

Measures Introduced: Two bills were introduced, as follows: S. 2958–2959. **Page S271**

Message from the President: Senate received the following message from the President of the United States:

Transmitting the report on the State of the Union delivered to a Joint Session of Congress on January 27, 2010; which was ordered to lie on the table. (PM–42) **Pages S263–68**

Messages from the House: **Page S268**

Enrolled Bills Presented: **Page S268**

Executive Communications: **Pages S268–71**

Additional Cosponsors: **Page S271**

Adjournment: Senate convened at 8:20 p.m. and adjourned at 10:27 p.m., until 9:30 a.m. on Thursday, January 28, 2010.

Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

CYBER SECURITY

Committee on Armed Services: Committee met in closed session to receive a briefing to examine cyber security from General James E. Cartwright, USMC, Vice Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, and James N. Miller, Principal Deputy Under Secretary for Policy, both of the Department of Defense.

FEDERAL GOVERNMENT ENERGY COSTS

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs: Subcommittee on Federal Financial Management, Government Information, Federal Services, and International Security concluded a hearing to examine cutting the Federal government's energy bill, focusing on an examination of the sustainable Federal government executive order, after receiving testimony from Nancy H. Sutley, Chair, Council on Environmental Quality; Richard Kidd, Program Manager, Federal Energy Management Program, Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, Department of Energy; Dorothy Robyn, Deputy Under Secretary of Defense for Installations and Environment; and Samuel M. Pulcrano, Vice President, Sustainability, United States Postal Service.

House of Representatives

Chamber Action

Public Bills and Resolutions Introduced: 26 public bills, H.R. 4526–4551; and 10 resolutions, H.J. Res. 73; H. Con. Res. 223; and H. Res. 1041–1048 were introduced. **Pages H421–23**

Additional Cosponsors: **Pages H423–24**

Reports Filed: Reports were filed today as follows:

H. Res. 978, requesting the President to transmit to the House of Representatives all documents in the possession of the President relating to the inventory and review of intelligence related to the shooting at Fort Hood, Texas, described by the President in a memorandum dated November 10, 2009; adversely (H. Rept. 111–402);

H. Res. 980, a resolution of inquiry directing the Secretary of Homeland Security to transmit to the House of Representatives a copy of the Transportation Security Administration's Aviation Security Screening Management Standard Operating Procedures manual in effect on December 5, 2009, and any subsequent revisions of such manual in effect prior to the adoption of this resolution; adversely (H. Rept. 111–403);

H. Res. 994, directing the Attorney General to transmit to the House of Representatives all information in the Attorney General's possession relating to the decision to dismiss United States v. New Black Panther Party; adversely (H. Rept. 111–404);

H.R. 4061, to advance cybersecurity research, development, and technical standards, with an amendment (H. Rept. 111–405); and

H.R. 1387, to amend title 44, United States Code, to require preservation of certain electronic records by Federal agencies and to require a certification and reports relating to Presidential records, with an amendment (H. Rept. 111–406). **Page H421**

Chaplain: The prayer was offered by the Guest Chaplain, Rabbi Gil Steinlauf, Congregation Adas Israel. **Page H389**

Suspension—Proceedings Resumed: The House agreed to suspend the rules and agree to the following measure which was debated on Tuesday, January 26th:

Expressing support for designation of January as Poverty in America Awareness Month: H. Res. 1024, to express support for designation of January as Poverty in America Awareness Month, by a ⅔ yea-and-nay vote of 387 yeas to 18 nays, Roll No. 21. **Page H400**

Suspensions: The House agreed to suspend the rules and pass the following measures:

Providing for an additional temporary extension of programs under the Small Business Act and the Small Business Investment Act of 1958: H.R. 4508, to provide for an additional temporary extension of programs under the Small Business Act and the Small Business Investment Act of 1958, by a ⅔ yea-and-nay vote of 410 yeas to 4 nays, Roll No. 24 and **Pages H400–01, H411–12**

Honoring the 95th anniversary of the signing of the Rocky Mountain National Park Act: H. Res. 1020, to honor the 95th anniversary of the signing of the Rocky Mountain National Park Act, by a ⅔ yea-and-nay vote of 408 yeas with none voting "nay", Roll No. 25. **Pages H401–03, H412**

Idaho Wilderness Water Facilities Act: The House passed H.R. 4474, to authorize the continued use of certain water diversions located on National Forest System land in the Frank Church-River of No Return Wilderness and the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness in the State of Idaho, by a yea-and-nay vote of 415 yeas with none voting "nay", Roll No. 22. **Pages H403–05, H410–11**

H. Res. 1038, the rule providing for consideration of the bills (H.R. 3726 and H.R. 4474) was agreed to by a yea-and-nay vote of 234 yeas to 174 nays, Roll No. 20, after the previous question was ordered without objection. **Pages H393–99**

Castle Nugent National Historic Site Establishment Act of 2010: The House passed H.R. 3726, to establish the Castle Nugent National Historic Site at St. Croix, United States Virgin Islands, by a yea-and-nay vote of 240 yeas to 175 nays, Roll No. 23. **Pages H393–H400, H405–10, H411**

Pursuant to the rule, the amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on Natural Resources now printed in the bill shall be considered as adopted. **Pages H393–94**

H. Res. 1038, the rule providing for consideration of the bills (H.R. 3726 and H.R. 4474) was agreed to by a yea-and-nay vote of 234 yeas to 174 nays, Roll No. 20, after the previous question was ordered without objection. **Pages H393–H400**

Meeting Hour: Agreed that when the House adjourns today, it adjourn to meet at noon on Friday, January 29th, and further, that when the House adjourns on that day, it adjourn to meet at 12:30 p.m. on Tuesday, February 2nd for morning hour debate. **Page H414**

Board of Trustees for the John C. Stennis Center for Public Service Training and Development—Appointment: The Chair announced the Speaker's appointment of the following Member on the part of the House to the Board of Trustees for the John C. Stennis Center for Public Service Training and Development for a term of six years: Mr. Childers of Mississippi. **Page H414**

Recess: The House recessed at 2:34 p.m. and reconvened at 8:25 p.m. **Page H414**

State of the Union Address: President Barack H. Obama delivered his State of the Union address to a joint session of Congress, pursuant to the provisions of H. Con. Res. 228. He was escorted into the House Chamber by a committee comprised of Representatives Hoyer, Clyburn, Larson (CT), Becerra, Van Hollen, George Miller (CA), DeLauro, Dingell, Boehner, Cantor, Pence, McCotter, McMorris Rodgers, Carter, Sessions, and McCarthy (CA) and Senators Reid, Durbin, Schumer, Murray, Menendez, Dorgan, Stabenow, McConnell, Kyl, Alexander, Murkowski, Thune, and Cornyn. The President's message was referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union and ordered printed (H. Doc. 111–80). **Pages H414–20**

Quorum Calls—Votes: Six yea-and-nay votes developed during the proceedings of today and appear on pages H399–400, H400, H410, H411, H411–12, H412. There were no quorum calls.

Adjournment: The House met at 10 a.m. and adjourned at 10:28 p.m.

Committee Meetings

AL QA'IDA IN 2010

Committee on Armed Services: Held a hearing on AL Qa'ida in 2010: How Should the U.S. Respond? Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

CBO'S BUDGET AND ECONOMIC OUTLOOK

Committee on the Budget: Held a hearing on the Budget and Economic Outlook. Testimony was heard from Douglas Elmendorf, Director, CBO.

ADMINISTRATION'S HEALTH CARE REFORM DOCUMENTS

Committee on Energy and Commerce: Ordered reported without recommendation H. Res. 983, Requesting the President, and directing the Secretary of Health and Human Services, to transmit to the House of Representatives copies of documents, records, and communications in their possession relating to certain agreements regarding health care reform.

BEREAVED CONSUMER'S BILL OF RIGHTS ACT OF 2010

Committee on Energy and Commerce: Subcommittee on Commerce, Trade, and Consumer Protection held a hearing on H.R. 3655, Bereaved Consumer's Bill of Rights Act of 2009. Testimony was heard from Chuck Harwood, Deputy Director, Bureau of Consumer Protection, FTC; and public witnesses.

STATE OF GLOBAL MICROFINANCE

Committee on Financial Services: Subcommittee on International Monetary Policy and Trade, held a hearing entitled "The State of Global Microfinance: How Public and Private Funds Can Effectively Promote Financial Inclusion for All." Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

FLIGHT 253—BOMBING ATTEMPTS LESSONS

Committee on Homeland Security: Held a hearing entitled "Flight 253: Learning Lessons from an Averted Tragedy." Testimony was heard from Jane Holl Lute, Deputy Secretary, Department of Homeland Security; Patrick F. Kennedy, Under Secretary, Management, Department of State; and Michael E. Leiter, Director, National Counterterrorism Center, Office of the Director of National Intelligence.

COMMITTEE FUNDING REVIEW

Committee on House Administration: Held a hearing on Review of the Use of Committee Funds in the First Session of the 111th Congress. Testimony was heard from the following Committees, Chairman and Ranking Members: Chairwoman Zoe Lofgren of California and Jo Bonner, Ranking Member, Committee on Standards of Official Conduct; Chairman Silvestre Reyes, Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence; Chairman Charles B. Rangel and Dave Camp, Ranking Member, Committee on Ways and Means; Chairman Henry A. Waxman and Joe Barton of Texas, Ranking Member, Committee on Energy and Commerce; Chairman Collin C. Peterson and Frank D. Lucas, Ranking Member, Committee on Agriculture; Chairman Bob Filner and Steve Buyer, Ranking Member, Committee on Veterans Affairs; Chairman Howard L. Berman and Ileana Ros-Lehtinen, Ranking Member, Committee on Foreign Affairs; Chairman James L. Oberstar and John L. Mica, Ranking Member, Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure; Chairman Edward J. Markey and F. James Sensenbrenner, Jr., Ranking Member, Select Committee on Energy Independence and Global Warming; Chairman Bart Gordon of Tennessee and Ralph M. Hall of Texas, Ranking Member, Committee on Science and Technology; Chairman Bennie G. Thompson of Mississippi and Pete Olson of Texas, Ranking Member, Committee on

Homeland Security; Chairman George Miller of California and John Kline of Minnesota, Ranking Member, Committee on Education and Labor; Chairman John M. Spratt, Jr., Committee on the Budget; Chairman Ike Skelton and Howard P. McKeon, Ranking Member, Committee on Armed Services; and Chairwoman Nydia M. Velázquez and Sam Graves, Ranking Member, Committee on Small Business.

Hearings continue February 3.

MISCELLANEOUS MEASURES

Committee on the Judiciary: Ordered reported the following measures: H.R. 569, as amended, Equal Justice for Our Military Act of 2009; H.R. 3695, as amended, Billy's Law; H. Res. 1031, Impeaching G. Thomas Porteous, Jr., judge of the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Louisiana, for high crimes and misdemeanors; and H.R. 4506, Bankruptcy Judgeship Act of 2010.

GREAT APE CONSERVATION REAUTHORIZATION AMENDMENTS

Committee on Natural Resources: Subcommittee on Insular Affairs, Oceans and Wildlife held a hearing on H.R. 4416, Great Ape Conservation Reauthorization Amendments Act of 2010. Testimony was heard from Jane Lyder, Deputy Assistant Secretary, Fish, Wildlife and Parks, Department of the Interior; and public witnesses.

MISCELLANEOUS MEASURES; FEDERAL BAILOUT OF AIG

Committee on Oversight and Government Reform: Ordered reported the following measures: H. Res. 267, Recognizing the cultural and historical significance of Nowruz, expressing appreciation to Iranian-Americans for their contributions to society, and wishing Iranian-Americans and the people of Iran a prosperous new year; H. Res. 957, Honoring Jimmie Johnson, 2009 NASCAR Sprint Cup Champion; H. Res. 1014, Recognizing and supporting the goals and ideals of North American Inclusion Month; H.R. 4238, To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 930 39th Avenue in Greeley, Colorado, as the ''W.D. Farr Post Office Building;'' H.R. 4425, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 2–116th Street in North Troy, New York, as the ''Martin G. 'Marty' Mahar Post Office;'' and H.R. 4495, To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 100 North Taylor Lane in Patagonia, Arizona, as the ''Jim Kolbe Post Office.''

The Committee also held a hearing entitled ''The Federal Bailout of AIG.'' Testimony was heard from Timothy F. Geithner, Secretary of the Treasury; Thomas C. Baxter, General Counsel, Federal Reserve Bank of New York; Neil M. Barofsky, Special Inspector General, Troubled Asset Relief Program; Henry N. Paulson, Jr., former Secretary of the Treasury; and Stephen Friedman, former Chairman, Federal Reserve Bank of New York; and a public witness.

U.S. ENERGY INNOVATION SYSTEM

Committee on Science and Technology: Held a hearing on the Advanced Research Projects Agency-Energy (ARPA–E): Assessing the Agency's Progress and Promise in Transforming the U.S. Energy Innovation System. Testimony was heard from Arun Majumdar, Director, Advanced Research Projects Agency, Department of Energy; and public witnesses.

MISCELLANEOUS MEASURES

Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure: Ordered reported, as amended, the following measures: H.R. 3562, To designate the Federal building under construction at 1220 Echelon Parkway in Jackson, Mississippi, as the ''Chaney, Goodman, Schwerner Federal Building;'' H. Res. 197, To commend the American Sail Training Association for its advancement of character building under sail and for its advancement of international goodwill; H. Res. 917, Recognizing the Florida Keys Highway on the occasion of its designation as an All American Road by the U.S. Department of Transportation; and H. Res. 995, Of Inquiry requesting the President to transmit to the House of Representatives all information in the possession of the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency relating to nutrient management of the Illinois River Watershed, Arkansas and Oklahoma.

NTSB REAUTHORIZATION

Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure: Subcommittee on Aviation held a hearing on Reauthorization of the National Transportation Safety Board. Testimony was heard from Deborah A.P. Hersman, Chairman, National Transportation Safety Board; and Gerald Dillingham, Director, Physical Infrastructure Issues, GAO.

BRIEFING—FORT HOOD

Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence: Met in executive session to receive a briefing on Fort Hood. The Committee was briefed by departmental witnesses.

BRIEFING—PERU

Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence: Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations met in executive session to receive a briefing on Peru. The Subcommittee was briefed by departmental witnesses.

Joint Meetings

No joint committee meetings were held.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR THURSDAY, JANUARY 28, 2010

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Senate

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies, to hold an oversight hearing to examine the Department of Commerce's Broadband Technology Opportunities Program funded by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, 9:30 a.m., SD–192.

Committee on the Budget: to hold hearings to examine the budget and economic outlook, focusing on fiscal years 2011–2020, 9 a.m., SD–608.

Committee on Environment and Public Works: with the Subcommittee on Green Jobs and the New Economy, to hold joint hearings to examine solar energy technology and clean energy jobs, 9 a.m., SD–406.

Committee on Foreign Relations: to hold hearings to examine Haiti, focusing on rescue, recovery and reconstruction, 9 a.m., SD–419.

Full Committee, to hold hearings to examine the nominations of Ian Hoddy Solomon, of Maryland, to be United States Executive Director of the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development, Walter Crawford Jones, of Maryland, to be United States Director of the African Development Bank, Douglas A. Rediker, of Massachusetts, to be United States Alternate Executive Director of the International Monetary Fund, and Leocadia Irine Zak, of the District of Columbia, to be Director of the Trade and Development Agency, 3:30 p.m., SD–419.

Committee on Indian Affairs: to hold hearings to examine the nomination of Lillian A. Sparks, of Maryland, to be Commissioner of the Administration for Native Americans, Department of Health and Human Services; to be immediately followed by an oversight hearing to examine unemployment on Indian reservations at 50%, focusing on the need to create jobs in Indian Country, 2:15 p.m., SD–628.

Committee on the Judiciary: business meeting to consider S. 2924, to reauthorize the Boys & Girls Clubs of America, in the wake of its Centennial, and its programs and activities, 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. 1765, to amend the Hate Crime Statistics Act to include crimes against the homeless, S. 1554, to amend the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act of 1974 to prevent later delinquency and improve the health and well-being of maltreated infants and toddlers through the development of local Court Teams for Maltreated Infants and Toddlers and the creation of a National Court Teams Resource Center to assist such Court Teams, S. 1789, to restore fairness to Federal cocaine sentencing, H.R. 1741, to require the Attorney General to make competitive grants to eligible State, tribal, and local governments to establish and maintain certain protection and witness assistance programs, S. 1749, to amend title 18, United States Code, to prohibit the possession or use of cell phones and similar wireless devices by Federal prisoners, and the nominations of James A. Wynn, Jr., of North Carolina, and Albert Diaz, of North Carolina, both to be United States Circuit Judge for the Fourth Circuit, Edward Milton Chen, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of California, and Louis B. Butler, Jr., to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Wisconsin, and Willie Lee Richardson, Jr., to be United States Marshal for the Middle District of Georgia, André Birotte, Jr., to be United States Attorney for the Central District of California, Richard S. Hartunian, to be United States Attorney for the Northern District of New York, Ronald C. Machen, Jr., to be United States Attorney for the District of Columbia, and Christopher H. Schroeder, of North Carolina, Mary L. Smith, of Illinois, and Dawn Elizabeth Johnsen, of Indiana, all to be an Assistant Attorney General, all of the Department of Justice, 10 a.m., SD–226.

Committee on Veterans' Affairs: business meeting to consider S. 1237, to amend title 38, United States Code, to expand the grant program for homeless veterans with special needs to include male homeless veterans with minor dependents and to establish a grant program for reintegration of homeless women veterans and homeless veterans with children, an original bill entitled Examination of Exposures to Environmental Hazards During Military Service and Health Care for Camp Lejeune and Atsugi Naval Air Facility Veterans and Their Families Act, and the nomination of Raul Perea-Henze, of New York, to be Assistant Secretary of Veterans Affairs for Policy and Planning, 9:30 a.m., SR–418.

Select Committee on Intelligence: to hold closed hearings to examine certain intelligence matters, 2:30 p.m., SH–219.

House

No Committee meetings are scheduled.

Next Meeting of the SENATE

9:30 a.m., Thursday, January 28

Senate Chamber

Program for Thursday: Senate will resume consideration of H.J. Res. 45, increasing the statutory limit on the public debt, and after a period of debate, vote on or in relation to Brownback No. 3309 (to Amendment No. 3299), Sessions Amendment No. 3308 (to Amendment No. 3299), Reid Amendment No. 3305 (to Amendment No. 3299), Baucus (for Reid) Amendment No. 3299, and passage of the resolution; following which, Senate will resume consideration of the nomination of Ben S. Bernanke, of New Jersey, to be Chairman of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, and after a period of debate, vote on the motion to invoke cloture thereon.

Next Meeting of the HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

12 Noon, Friday, January 29

House Chamber

Program for Friday: The House will meet in pro forma session at 12 noon.

Extensions of Remarks, as inserted in this issue

HOUSE

Abercrombie, Neil, Hawaii, E104
Akin, W. Todd, Mo., E98, E101, E105
Alexander, Rodney, La., E97
Bachmann, Michele, Minn., E101, E103, E105
Barrett, J. Gresham, S.C., E104
Coffman, Mike, Colo., E105
Connolly, Gerald E., Va., E97, E98, E100
Emerson, Jo Ann, Mo., E98
Etheridge, Bob, N.C., E104, E105
Faleomavaega, Eni F.H., American Samoa, E102
Gordon, Bart, Tenn., E99
Green, Al, Tex., E98
Griffith, Parker, Ala., E103
Hastings, Alcee L., Fla., E105
Hinchey, Maurice D., N.Y., E96, E101
Hoekstra, Peter, Mich., E99
Inslee, Jay, Wash., E104
Johnson, Sam, Tex., E100
Kilroy, Mary Jo, Ohio, E95
Kind, Ron, Wisc., E96
Langevin, James R., R.I., E104
Latham, Tom, Iowa, E95
Lipinski, Daniel, Ill., E100, E101
Mitchell, Harry E., Ariz., E96
Murphy, Scott, N.Y., E99
Ortiz, Solomon P., Tex., E104
Pence, Mike, Ind., E95
Platts, Todd Russell, Pa., E96
Quigley, Mike, Ill., E102, E103
Rogers, Mike, Ala., E98, E105
Shimkus, John, Ill., E97
Tanner, John S., Tenn., E103
Tiberi, Patrick J., Ohio, E95
Tsongas, Niki, Mass., E103
Wolf, Frank R., Va., E101
Woolsey, Lynn C., Calif., E99
Yarmuth, John A., Ky., E101

Congressional Record

The *Congressional Record* (USPS 087–390). The Periodicals postage is paid at Washington, D.C. The public proceedings of each House of Congress, as reported by the Official Reporters thereof, are printed pursuant to directions of the Joint Committee on Printing as authorized by appropriate provisions of Title 44, United States Code, and published for each day that one or both Houses are in session, excepting very infrequent instances when two or more unusually small consecutive issues are printed one time. ¶Public access to the *Congressional Record* is available online through *GPO Access*, a service of the Government Printing Office, free of charge to the user. The online database is updated each day the *Congressional Record* is published. The database includes both text and graphics from the beginning of the 103d Congress, 2d session (January 1994) forward. It is available through *GPO Access* at www.gpo.gov/gpoaccess. Customers can also access this information with WAIS client software, via telnet at swais.access.gpo.gov, or dial-in using communications software and a modem at 202–512–1661. Questions or comments regarding this database or *GPO Access* can be directed to the *GPO Access* User Support Team at: E-Mail: gpoaccess@gpo.gov; Phone 1–888–293–6498 (toll-free), 202–512–1530 (D.C. area); Fax: 202–512–1262. The Team's hours of availability are Monday through Friday, 7:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., Eastern Standard Time, except Federal holidays. ¶The *Congressional Record* paper and 24x microfiche edition will be furnished by mail to subscribers, free of postage, at the following prices: paper edition, $252.00 for six months, $503.00 per year, or purchased as follows: less than 200 pages, $10.50; between 200 and 400 pages, $21.00; greater than 400 pages, $31.50, payable in advance; microfiche edition, $146.00 per year, or purchased for $3.00 per issue payable in advance. The semimonthly *Congressional Record Index* may be purchased for the same per issue prices. To place an order for any of these products, visit the U.S. Government Online Bookstore at: bookstore.gpo.gov. Mail orders to: Superintendent of Documents, P.O. Box 371954, Pittsburgh, PA 15250–7954, or phone orders to 866–512–1800 (toll free), 202–512–1800 (D.C. area), or fax to 202–512–2250. Remit check or money order, made payable to the Superintendent of Documents, or use VISA, MasterCard, Discover, American Express, or GPO Deposit Account. ¶Following each session of Congress, the daily *Congressional Record* is revised, printed, permanently bound and sold by the Superintendent of Documents in individual parts or by sets. ¶With the exception of copyrighted articles, there are no restrictions on the republication of material from the *Congressional Record*.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to the Superintendent of Documents, *Congressional Record*, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402, along with the entire mailing label from the last issue received.