United States of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 111th CONGRESS, SECOND SESSION

Vol. 156 WASHINGTON, TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 2010 No. 15

House of Representatives

The House met at 12:30 p.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin).

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

I hereby appoint the Honorable GWEN MOORE to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

NANCY PELOSI,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 6, 2009, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning-hour debate.

The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties, with each party limited to 30 minutes and each Member, other than the majority and minority leaders and the minority whip, limited to 5 minutes.

FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. CONNOLLY) for 5 minutes.

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Madam Speaker, the time for fiscal responsibility is now. Unfortunately, budget deficits are not a new phenomenon. We had budget deficits in 74 of the past 100 years. In fiscal year 1969, under Lyndon Johnson, we had a budget surplus of $3.2 billion. However, each of the next 28 budgets was in deficit. But starting in fiscal year 1998, under President Clinton, we had four straight budget surpluses, totalling more than $559 billion. In fact, the long term budget outlook predicted $5.6 trillion in surpluses. The last time we had four consecutive budget surpluses was in fiscal year 1930.

The Great Recession, which began in 2007, dramatically increased unemployment to a peak of 10.2 percent, a 26-year high. For those fortunate enough to remain employed, the recession led to depressed wages and benefits; growing at just 1.5 percent, the lowest level since 1982. As a result, families suffered and Federal income revenues declined precipitously. In 2009, corporate income revenue declined 55 percent, or $166 billion, from its 2007 level, and individual income revenues fell 20 percent, or $230 billion.

In addition to the tremendous toll this recession took on the American public, rising unemployment and stagnant wages added almost $400 billion to our debt. In fact, total Federal revenues, which historically have represented roughly 20 percent of our gross domestic product declined to 14.8 percent in 2009. Although the recession did not create budget deficits, it exacerbated their severity enormously.

In the face of this budgetary maelstrom, we took decisive action. Last year, the House of Representatives voted to reinstitute a statutory pay-as-you-go piece of legislation. In 1990, Congress enacted that statutory PAYGO rule, and required spending increases and revenue decreases to be offset so as not to increase the deficit. PAYGO was one of the critical tools used to control Federal spending and effectuate eventual budget surpluses.

Unfortunately, in 2002, a Republican Congress and a Republican President, President Bush, failed to reenact PAYGO, and allowed it to expire. The results were predictable and disastrous with respect to the Federal deficit. The expiration of PAYGO conveniently allowed the Bush administration to enact three budget-busting initiatives: tax cuts for the wealthy; a prescription drug plan, prescription part D, unpaid for; and two wars, one in Iraq and Afghanistan, none of these initiatives paid for. These actions dramatically increased spending and reduced revenues, adding $6.7 trillion to the national debt, and leaving the Federal budget fundamentally unbalanced for the foreseeable future.

Combined with the Great Recession, these actions led to the fiscal year 2009 budget, which began in October of '08, with a deficit of more than $1 trillion. For the better part of the past decade budget deficits were ignored and fiscally irresponsible behavior reigned supreme. A true commitment to deficit reduction will require further action. And just as the previous surpluses were the result of prolonged fiscal responsibility, we must demonstrate a long term focus. Budgets do not go from significant deficits to surpluses overnight. Therefore, it is critical that we set specific milestones and identifiable budget reduction goals.

The President's new budget reduces deficits to 3.9 percent of the GDP, a more sustainable level. This is a reasonable beginning for the next several years. However, more will be necessary, and our goals should continue to further reduce the deficit over the long term.

President Obama's spending freeze proposal is painful, but itself it is a small, though significant action. It demonstrates a return to fiscal responsibility, and represents $250 billion in deficit reduction. Additional action, however, will have to be taken. For example, the ever-rising cost of health care not only affects every American family pocketbook, but also is a significant contributor to budget deficits. Today health care costs are 18 percent of our GDP. Without reform, that will rise to a staggering 34 percent by 2040. The House health insurance reform legislation was a first step in controlling these costs, and reduced the budget deficit by $139 billion over the next decade.

Printed on recycled paper.

Our efforts already have shown modest success. Although we are still in the throes of a fragile economic recovery, the improving conditions recently resulted in a $50 billion reduction from the '09 deficit. While we cannot completely grow our way out of deficits, creating conditions for economic growth is critical to deficit reduction, and the President's budget reflects that.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until 2 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 12 o'clock and 38 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess until 2 p.m.

□ 1400

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. CAPUANO) at 2 p.m.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Daniel P. Coughlin, offered the following prayer:

Lord, pour out on this Nation Your Spirit of understanding, truth and peace. May this Congress prove to be Your fit instrument to foster yet a greater union and assure equal justice for all Your people. We ask this because You have given us Your just commands and reveal Your redeeming love—both now and forever. Amen.

THE JOURNAL

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

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. LUETKEMEYER) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. LUETKEMEYER 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.

BUDGET THAT SPENDS TOO MUCH, TAXES TOO MUCH AND BORROWS TOO MUCH

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

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, in his State of the Union address last week, the President stepped up his rhetoric about fiscal responsibility. But just yesterday the President presented a budget reminiscent of last year's that spends too much, taxes too much, and borrows too much. The reality behind the President's budget proposal is that it more than doubles the debt. It drives up spending to $3.8 trillion in 2011. It pushes the deficit to a record $1.6 trillion. It raises taxes by over $2 trillion through 2020.

During these tough economic times, lawmakers should be tightening our fiscal belts just like families across America are doing with their own budgets. Increasing taxes and spending is not the way to rejuvenate our economy and revitalize small businesses to create jobs.

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

PRESIDENT'S OBAMA'S PROPOSED BUDGET

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

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Mr. Speaker, for more than a year, the people back home in the Ninth District of Missouri have expressed their anger about the way our government and this administration are spending their hard-earned money. They are even angrier today after learning that the next proposed budget comes in at a whopping $3.8 trillion with a record deficit of $1.6 trillion. I give the President credit for his idea of a spending freeze, but the problem is that it freezes spending at record levels. It comes in after he has signed spending bills and a failed stimulus that have increased some spending by as much as 84 percent in the last 2 years. And the spending freeze applies to just 13 percent of the budget and doesn't even take effect until next year.

In other words, using good old fashioned Missouri logic, this spending freeze is a lot like trying to close the door after the horse is already out. It just doesn't work. The good folks at home are tired of lip service and fancy speeches about getting spending under control. The people of the Show-Me State want us to show them that we are serious about getting spending under control.

THE STATES ARE FIGHTING BACK

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

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, the attack on the Constitution continues. In spite of the will of the people, there are those who still want to force-feed us with government-run health care. The Constitution gives no power to the Feds to nationalize health care. The Feds plan to force Americans to buy health insurance or pay a fine or go to jail, or both. And that plan is unconstitutional. So 34 States are fighting back with legislation to block unconstitutional Federal insurance mandates.

Also, Texas Attorney General Greg Abbott and other AGs are ready to fight the Feds in court over the unconstitutional ''Corn Husker Kickback.'' The Kickback and the ''Louisiana Purchase'' were secret backroom deals, payoffs, paybacks, and rip-offs that gave special health care favors to these States while discriminating against other States who must pay for these corrupt sweetheart deals.

It seems that business as usual is going on in D.C., and it's hazardous to our health. President Reagan said there are two ways to do some things: ''The right way and the way they do things in Washington.'' And that's just the way it is.

NASA AND THE CONSTELLATION PROGRAM

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

Mr. GRIFFITH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of NASA and the Constellation Program. I am disappointed that the administration seeks to discontinue manned space exploration. Last week, an administration official was quoted in The Orlando Sentinel as saying it was not necessary for us to return to the moon. Language like this is a slap in the face. It's disrespectful for the lives lost, the thousands of hours of research and development that have gone into manned space flight. As we are being challenged internationally by China, Russia and others, this administration is not accepting the challenge as President Kennedy did in the 1960s. This administration is asking us to walk away from this challenge, and we will not do so.

We, the scientists, the American public, deserve to be number one in space exploration. The things that NASA has done for medicine, for regular space flight, for regular airlines, the safety, all that's concerned in our society, has been touched by NASA. The very idea that this administration is lowering the expectations of America as far as manned space flight is concerned is a disgrace and we, in Congress, will reject it.

THE ADMINISTRATION IS NOT SERIOUS ABOUT IMMIGRATION ENFORCEMENT

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

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, the President's budget proves once again that the Obama administration is not serious about enforcing our Nation's immigration laws. They found money for 25 new positions in the Secretary of Homeland Security's management office, but there is no funding for a single new immigration detention

bed, no new money to find and deport immigration fugitives or criminal aliens, no additional special agents to investigate workplace immigration violations, and no money to expand the visa security program. The President ought to use immigration enforcement to open up jobs for American workers. Instead, the administration maintains the status quo. Citizens and legal immigrants will be forced to continue to compete with 8 million illegal immigrants for very scarce jobs.

AN EMPOWERMENT AGENDA

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

Mr. NEUGEBAUER. Mr. Speaker, the Federal Government is simply trying to do too much at too high a cost to the American people. Thomas Jefferson called for ''a wise and frugal government which shall leave men free to regulate their own pursuits of industry, and shall not take from the mouth of labor the bread it has earned.'' And he was right. Government should be empowering citizens to succeed in our economy, not eroding their freedoms and encouraging dependency.

The American people are fed up with rapidly growing government intruding into their lives. They want us to do something about it. My message is simple: To get America back, we must restore our Founders' principles of empowerment. I'm working on an empowerment agenda and will be here in the weeks to come talking about how we can advance empowerment and reduce entitlement. This has been an empowerment moment, and there will be many more as we watch our administration continue to tax and spend money that we don't have and steal the future of our future generations by leaving them with a legacy of debt.

FISCAL YEAR 2011 BUDGET

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

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, when I look at the President's budget for fiscal year 2011, I think about what Albert Einstein said one time. He said that doing the same thing over and over again and expecting a different result is the very definition of insanity. Well, after years of runaway Federal spending under both political parties, and after promises by this administration of fiscal discipline and reform, the President's budget more than doubles the debt. It drives spending to a record $3.8 trillion. It pushes the deficit to a record $1.6 trillion, and raises taxes by more than $2 trillion by 2020, during the worst recession in 25 years.

Despite future spending freezes promised and commissions, it doesn't change the fact that, by any measure, this budget is insane. The American people know we can't borrow and spend and bail our way back to prosperity. They know that deficits and debt threaten our prosperity and our posterity. House Republicans have a better plan, a plan built on hard choices, fiscal responsibility, and entitlement reform. On behalf of our families, on behalf of our economy, we say, let's reject this irresponsible and unsustainable budget, and let's come together around the principles of fiscal responsibility and reform, and let's put our house in order.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. 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 after 6:30 p.m. today.

JIM KOLBE POST OFFICE

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (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 Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 4495

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

SECTION 1. JIM KOLBE POST OFFICE.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 100 North Taylor Lane in Patagonia, Arizona, shall be known and designated as the ''Jim Kolbe Post Office''.

(b) REFERENCES.—Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the facility referred to in subsection (a) shall be deemed to be a reference to the ''Jim Kolbe Post Office''.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New York (Mr. TOWNS) and the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. MCHENRY) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and to extend their remarks.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to present H.R. 4495 for consideration. This legislation will designate the United States Postal Service facility located at 100 North Taylor Lane in Patagonia, Arizona, as the Jim Kolbe Post Office. Introduced by my colleague, Representative GABRIELLE GIFFORDS of Arizona, on January 21, 2010, and reported out of the Oversight and Government Reform Committee on January 27, 2010, by unanimous consent, H.R. 4495 enjoys the support of the entire Arizona House delegation.

Born on June 28, 1942, in Evanston, Illinois, United States Navy veteran and former Congressman Jim Kolbe began his public service and political career serving as a United States Senate page for Barry Goldwater and graduating from the United States Capitol Page School in 1960. In 1976, Kolbe ran for the Arizona State Senate and served three terms in that body. In 1985 Mr. Kolbe was sworn in to Congress, becoming the first Republican to represent southern Arizona in the House. During his 22 years in office, Mr. Kolbe served as the chair of the Subcommittee on Foreign Operations, Export Financing and Related Programs of the House Appropriations Committee for his last 6 years in Congress. For four years, he was chairman of the Treasury, Post Office and Related Agencies Subcommittee.

□ 1415

Mr. Kolbe decided not to run for reelection in 2006 and now serves as a senior Trans-Atlantic Fellow at the German Marshall Fund advising on trade matters. He also serves as an adjunct professor in the College of Business at the University of Arizona.

Mr. Speaker, let us honor former Congressman Kolbe through the passage of this resolution and by designating the North Taylor Lane Post Office in honor of Congressman Kolbe. I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this bill.

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

Mr. MCHENRY. I rise today in support of H.R. 4495, designating the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 100 North Taylor Lane in Patagonia, Arizona, as the ''Jim Kolbe Post Office.''

Congressman Kolbe is a former colleague of mine here. We had one term overlapping. I certainly appreciate the chairman's words in support of this bipartisan resolution. He served in the United States Navy and the Naval Reserves before being elected to the State Senate in Arizona and elected to the United States Congress in 1984, and he served very ably on the Appropriations Committee for Foreign Operations, Export Financing, and Related Programs. He was one of this institution's hallowed—well, the big guys in this institution seem to be on the Appropriations Committee. And he was an appropriations subcommittee chair, which, as we all know, actually wields a significant amount of weight, especially when you're running a major portion of the budget, such as foreign operations.

In addition to foreign policy, this Congressman served his constituents

ably. He was committed to constituent service and believed that assisting the hardworking individuals and families of his district was a real, everyday good part of his job and was focused on their first priorities in southern Arizona.

Mr. Speaker, Jim Kolbe served his constituents of Arizona in this country honorably for years, and we support this resolution.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. TOWNS. In closing, again, I urge my colleagues to join me in honoring Jim Kolbe through the passage of H.R. 4495, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New York (Mr. TOWNS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4495.

The question was taken.

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

Mr. TOWNS. 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 and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

HONORING JIMMIE JOHNSON

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 957) honoring Jimmie Johnson, 2009 NASCAR Sprint Cup Champion.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 957

Whereas Jimmie Kenneth Johnson, born in El Cajon, California, and a resident of Charlotte, North Carolina, successfully defended his Sprint Cup Championships from 2006, 2007, and 2008;

Whereas Jimmie Johnson becomes the first driver in NASCAR history to win the Sprint Cup Championship in 4 consecutive seasons, surpassing the previous record of 3 straight by Cale Yarborough;

Whereas Jimmie Johnson's #48 Lowe's Chevrolet is backed by the finest team in motorsports, including Crew Chief Chad Knaus, Team Owner Rick Hendrick, and Car Owner, and racing legend Jeff Gordon;

Whereas Jimmie Johnson's life story is the embodiment of the American dream, rising from humble roots to the pinnacle of his profession;

Whereas Jimmie Johnson and his wife Chandra founded the Jimmie Johnson Foundation to provide assistance to disadvantaged children in pursuit of their dreams;

Whereas Jimmie Johnson, now regarded as perhaps the greatest driver in the sport's history, is universally regarded as humble and gracious, unaffected by the enormity of his achievements; and

Whereas Jimmie Kenneth Johnson's remarkable contributions to NASCAR and the communities of El Cajon, California, and Charlotte, North Carolina: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives honors the historic achievements of Jimmie Kenneth Johnson and the #48 Lowe's Chevrolet team.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New York (Mr. TOWNS) and the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. MCHENRY) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, I am proud to present House Resolution 957 for consideration.

This resolution honors Jimmie Kenneth Johnson and the No. 48 Lowe's Chevrolet team for winning the NASCAR Sprint Cup Championship in 2006, 2007, 2008, and 2009.

H. Res. 957 was introduced by my colleague, Representative PATRICK MCHENRY of North Carolina, on December 8, 2009, and favorably reported out of the House Oversight Committee by a voice vote on January 27, 2010. In addition, H. Res. 957 enjoys the support of more than 60 Members of Congress.

Mr. Speaker, this resolution congratulates Jimmie Johnson for winning a historic fourth consecutive NASCAR Sprint Cup Championship. By winning the 2009 championship, Mr. Johnson becomes the first driver in history to win the Sprint Cup Championship four consecutive times, breaking Cale Yarborough's previous record of three straight championships.

In true American fashion, Mr. Johnson, a native of El Cajon, California, and a resident of Charlotte, North Carolina, rose from humble roots to the pinnacle of the NASCAR world. This year Mr. Johnson accomplished something no other driver in NASCAR history has accomplished. Not only has he won the last four NASCAR Sprint Cup Championships but has done so with unwavering poise, class, and humility.

To put Mr. Johnson's unprecedented achievement in context, only NASCAR legends Lee Petty, Richard Petty, David Pearson, Cale Yarborough, Darrell Waltrip, Dale Earnhardt Sr., and Jeff Gordon have won more than two NASCAR Sprint Cup Championships in their career. Furthermore, Mr. Johnson's most recent NASCAR Sprint Cup series championship ties him with teammate Jeff Gordon on the list of all-time champions.

Mr. Speaker, I would be remiss if I failed to take this opportunity to also congratulate all of the people who helped Mr. Johnson, of course, win. Mr. Johnson's success would not have been possible without the help of crew chief Chad Knaus, team owner Rick Hendrick, and, of course, car owner and racing legend Jeff Gordon, and the countless other team members who helped Mr. Johnson win the last four NASCAR Sprint Cup Championships.

Beyond his impressive accomplishments on the race track, Mr. Johnson has never forgotten his humble beginnings and continues to give back to the community, and I think that is so important.

In 2006, Mr. Johnson and his wife, Chandra, founded the Jimmie Johnson Foundation, which is dedicated to assisting children, families, and communities in need throughout the United States. The foundation helps build places to play and places to live, saves lives through blood collection and adding individuals to the National Bone Marrow Program registry, and helps grant the wishes of children and adults who are in need. Since its inception nearly 4 years ago, the Jimmie Johnson Foundation has contributed more than $2 million to various organizations.

Mr. Speaker, for his racing accomplishments and his charitable efforts, let us, as a body, take this opportunity to congratulate Jimmie Johnson, the Associated Press Male Athlete of 2009, and of course the Lowe's Chevrolet team, for winning the NASCAR Sprint Cup Championship in 2006, 2007, 2008, and 2009.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting H. Res. 957. And I say to the gentleman from North Carolina, this is a great thing. And, of course, sometimes we do not pay tribute to people that need to have tribute paid to them, but this is a person that has accomplished great things, and I am happy my colleague (Mr. MCHENRY) has recommended that we recognize this effort.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. MCHENRY. I thank the chairman for his kind words.

Today, Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the resolution honoring the accomplishments of Jimmie Johnson, the 2009 NASCAR Sprint Cup champion. Now, this is a politically charged issue for my district because I represent a number of drivers and a number of NASCAR teams; and to honor any one of them, well, it's tough. It's like baseball in certain areas of the country or football or college football or college basketball in North Carolina. But NASCAR teams are real and potent in my district.

But this is a special resolution because Jimmie Johnson has achieved something no one else in NASCAR history has achieved, and that is four straight championships. He is with a great team, with a great crew chief, Chad Knaus. Powered by Hendrick Motor Sports and Chevrolet, the No. 48 Lowe's Chevy has done something unique in NASCAR history.

Jimmie Johnson started out in very humble roots in El Cajon, California; and now he resides in my home State

of North Carolina. He grew up in a working-class suburb, the son of a bulldozer operator and school bus driver who raised Jimmie Johnson and his two younger brothers in a modest home and made financial sacrifices to give their sons the best opportunity to pursue their passions; and for Jimmie, that was racing.

His love of speed was evident even from the time he was just a young child. He began his racing career on 50cc motorcycles when he was just 5 years old. From there, he moved up to four-wheelers where he found his true calling with four wheels—not two—and moved into his 2002 rookie season in NASCAR at the top level of the series. And he became the first rookie to sweep both races at one track, and that was done at Dover International Speedway in 2002. He also became the first rookie ever to lead in the point standings; and to date, that remains the case. He is still the only one in their rookie season to lead the point standing.

And he is named the Male Athlete of 2009 by the Associated Press, the 2009 Sprint Cup Series Driver of the Year, and was contender for Driver of the Decade for the 2000s.

In 2006, together with his wife, Chandra, he founded the Jimmie Johnson Foundation to assist children, families, and communities in need throughout the United States.

Jimmie rose from humble roots and achieved the pinnacle of success. Now he is on for the Drive for Five. He wants five in a row. His story is truly an embodiment of the American Dream. Jimmie Johnson and the No. 48 Lowe's Chevy have made history by being a part of the Nation's number one spectator sport.

NASCAR represents the best of American professional sports, especially in my region. They're unmatched by the loyalty of their fans and participation by Fortune 500 companies more so than any other sport. And with the iconic Daytona 500 quickly approaching in just over a week's time, please join me in honoring Jimmie Johnson for his seven wins, 16 top fives, 24 top tens, an unmatched Race for the Chase. In the final 10 races of 2009, he had an average Chase finish of 6.8, which is absolutely amazing considering the competition they currently have in NASCAR.

And we pay honor to Jimmie Johnson, Chad Knaus, and the whole crew of the No. 48 Chevrolet sponsored by Lowe's.

With that, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, again, I encourage my friends on both sides of the aisle to join me in congratulating Jimmie Johnson and the Lowe's Chevrolet team on the impressive accomplishment through the passage of House Resolution 957, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New York (Mr. TOWNS) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 957.

The question was taken.

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

Mr. TOWNS. 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 and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

NORTH AMERICAN INCLUSION MONTH

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 1014) recognizing and supporting the goals and ideals of North American Inclusion Month.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 1014

Whereas one in every five Americans struggles with some sort of disability, be it intellectual, physical or otherwise, and the need for inclusion of individuals with disabilities is a family, community, and national priority;

Whereas a similar ratio exists in the Jewish community, with over one million Jewish individuals living with a form of disability;

Whereas individuals with disabilities face significant disadvantages in educational and employment opportunities;

Whereas 70 percent of individuals with disabilities are unemployed or significantly underemployed;

Whereas special education and related programming do not address underlying needs for appropriate training to lead to greater independence and employment;

Whereas Yachad, the National Jewish Council for Disabilities, and its parent organization, the Union of Orthodox Jewish Congregations of America, is dedicated to addressing the needs of all individuals with disabilities and including them in the Jewish community;

Whereas Yachad provides programming for individuals with disabilities and their families to foster inclusion in communal happenings and assists in placing individuals with disabilities in employment; and

Whereas Yachad and the Union of Orthodox Jewish Congregations of America are cosponsoring North American Inclusion Month in February to increase public awareness of the life circumstances of individuals with disabilities, and the need for increased employment opportunities, better special education and increased inclusion of these individuals on the family, communal, and national levels: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives recognizes and supports the goals and ideals of North American Inclusion Month.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New York (Mr. TOWNS) and the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. MCHENRY) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York.

□ 1430

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days in which to revise and to extend their remarks.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, I am pleased to present H. Res. 1014 for consideration. This resolution draws public attention to the need for inclusion of individuals with disabilities into the greater community.

I introduced H. Res. 1014 on January 13, 2010, and the measure was favorably reported out of the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform by unanimous consent on January 27, 2010. I am proud to say that the measure has bipartisan support from 59 Members of Congress.

Mr. Speaker, one in every five Americans has some form of disability. They face great difficulty in everyday life and significant disadvantages in education and employment. Men and women around the country work hard in areas like special education, job training, rehabilitation, and other efforts to address the needs of individuals with disabilities, and we can all be very proud of their work. But we should be sure to remember that individuals with disabilities still face a great deal of hardship.

These are our friends, our neighbors, and our family members and, of course, many, many, many times people that we see on a daily basis. They are our veterans. We must be sure to do our part to include these individuals in all facets of life.

North American Inclusion Month, recognized during the month of February, was first created in 2005, by Yachad, the Hebrew word for ''together,'' the National Jewish Council for Disabilities, and its parent organization, the Union of Orthodox Jewish Congregations of America. I would like to thank these groups for all the hard work they have done to educate people on this important issue, particularly in my district in Brooklyn.

In closing, I would also like to thank the gentleman from California, Congressman ISSA, who has worked very closely with me on this issue. And, of course, I really appreciate his involvement and his support to get us where we are today.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting H. Res. 1014, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. MCHENRY. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the chairman's very kind and appropriate words. And I, too, rise in support of House Resolution 1014, recognizing and supporting the goals and ideals of North American Inclusion Month, being the month of February.

Approximately 41.2 million Americans have a disability of some kind, and many of them are unemployed or underemployed and struggling to live on what they make or even to survive. Mildly disabled individuals make less each month than those who are not disabled, and the severely disabled individuals take home almost $1,000 less than they otherwise would.

And while there are programs in place that provide job training for those with special needs, they often do not focus enough on helping those individuals become independent or find permanent employment. Many do, and there are many programs in our communities across the country, but both the Union of Orthodox Jewish Congregations of America and Yachad, the National Jewish Council for Disabilities, have partnered together for 2010 to promote North American Inclusion Month, observed each February to bring public attention to the needs of those with disabilities.

These organizations have taken it upon themselves to become leaders in promoting the message of Inclusion Month: The need for increased employment opportunities, better special education, and greater inclusion of disabled individuals at the family, community, and national levels.

It's something we all should support. And I certainly believe that this is a bipartisan resolution. I urge my colleagues to support it.

And with that, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, Martin Luther King said that I cannot be what I ought to be until the world is what it should be. And I think that this legislation really addresses that issue to say that we have to be concerned about others, those who are disabled. And let me again urge my colleagues to join me in calling for the great inclusion of individuals with disabilities by supporting H. Res. 1014.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New York (Mr. TOWNS) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 1014.

The question was taken.

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

Mr. TOWNS. 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 and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

RECOGNIZING BRESCIA UNIVERSITY

Ms. FUDGE. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 1043) recognizing Brescia University for 60 years of leadership in higher education, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 1043

Whereas Brescia University was founded in 1950;

Whereas Brescia University is a Catholic University located in Owensboro, Kentucky;

Whereas Brescia offers 6 different degrees in over 60 different programs;

Whereas students at Brescia University receive a personalized education with a 12 to 1 student to teacher ratio;

Whereas the Brescia Bearcats have 15 athletic teams that participate in National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics in the Kentucky Intercollegiate Athletic Conference;

Whereas Brescia University emphasizes ''Making a difference'', encouraging students to serve others in the community, and has established a history of serving Owensboro, Kentucky, and the surrounding region; and

Whereas for 60 years, Brescia University has provided a quality liberal arts education and worked to prepare its students for successful careers and service to others: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) recognizes Brescia University for 60 years of service as an institution of higher education; and

(2) commends Brescia University for leadership and service to students and the community of Owensboro, Kentucky, and the surrounding region.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. FUDGE) and the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. PETRI) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Ohio.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. FUDGE. Mr. Speaker, I request 5 legislative days during which Members may revise and extend their remarks and insert extraneous material on H. Res. 1043 into the RECORD.

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

There was no objection.

Ms. FUDGE. I yield myself as much time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today and support H. Res. 1043, which recognizes Brescia University for its 60 years of commitment and leadership in higher education.

Brescia University was founded in 1950 in Owensboro, Kentucky. It was created by the Ursuline Sisters of Mount St. Joseph as a Catholic institution, emphasizing the liberal arts and preparing its traditional and nontraditional students for successful careers and service to others. With a school motto of ''Make a difference,'' the university instills the values of community, leadership, justice, and service in its students through the classes and activities they offer, as well as the staff and faculty that teach them. The university provides its students with a sense of faith in community on campus with courses in theology, philosophy, ministry and spirituality, as well as opportunities for religious expression and faith enhancement. Throughout its existence, Brescia University has established a history of serving Owensboro and the surrounding region.

Brescia University also provides each of their students with a quality liberal arts education, helping to shape them into rounded citizens. Brescia offers six different degrees in over 60 different programs and offers small classes with frequent one-on-one time between teachers and students. Continuing the emphasis on the sense of community, the university takes pride in knowing all of their students individually. Each are provided all the resources and opportunities they need to find success in their lives so that they may fully participate in the life of the campus.

Brescia University also excels athletically. The university is home to 15 intercollegiate athletic teams. The Brescia Bearcats, as they are called, are members of the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics in the Kentucky Intercollegiate Athletic Conference, and recently added competitive men's and women's track teams this year.

The mission of Brescia University to form well-educated, well-rounded young adults with a sense of community and service to others is one that should be encouraged in all educational institutions in our country. I urge my colleagues to support this resolution and thank Mr. GUTHRIE for bringing this resolution forward.

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

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

I rise today in support of the resolution before us, House Resolution 1043, recognizing Brescia University for 60 years of leadership in higher education.

Brescia University, located in Owensboro, Kentucky, was founded by the Ursuline Sisters of Mount St. Joseph in 1950. Brescia began as Brescia Hall, was founded as Brescia College in 1950, and became Brescia University in 1998. The university now offers undergraduate and graduate course work for career preparation firmly rooted in the liberal arts.

Brescia University offers various degrees, including associate degrees, bachelor degrees, and master degrees. The institution offers degrees in various programs, including education, medical technology, and computer and mathematical science. Brescia also aims to meet the needs of the adult learners by providing tailored programs in their STARS program for adults returning to school.

Brescia University Bearcats have 15 intercollegiate athletic teams. The Bearcats participate in baseball, basketball, cross-country, golf, soccer, softball, tennis, volleyball, and outdoor track as of this spring. Brescia competes in the Kentucky Intercollegiate Athletic Conference in the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics and has excelled in such.

Brescia provides invaluable services to its students, as well as to the community. Since the founding of the university, Brescia has emphasized service to others. In keeping with the tradition of the founders, Brescia students are encouraged to assist and serve the Owensboro community and the surrounding region.

It is a privilege to stand before the House today to congratulate Brescia University on the occasion of their 60th anniversary and to recognize the university for 60 years of leadership in higher education. I extend my congratulations to Brescia University, the faculty and staff, the students and the alumni. I also want to thank my colleague from Kentucky, BRETT GUTHRIE, for introducing this resolution.

I ask my colleagues to support this resolution, and I yield such time as he might consume to my colleague, BRETT GUTHRIE.

Mr. GUTHRIE. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding, and I thank the gentlelady from Ohio for her kind words about Brescia University. I rise today in support of House Resolution 1043 recognizing Brescia University for 60 years of leadership in higher education.

Brescia University, located in Owensboro, Kentucky, has provided quality liberal arts education and worked to prepare its students for successful careers since 1950. The only Catholic university in western Kentucky, Brescia's mission and spirit emphasizes ''Making a difference,'' encouraging students to serve others in the community.

For over 60 years, the faculty, staff, and students have carried out the vision of their founder, Sister Angela Merici, who believed that education creates a stronger and more just society. These individuals have given so much to the Owensboro community and the entire region.

Students at Brescia enjoy a more personalized education with a 12:1 student-to-teacher ratio. Brescia takes pride in creating an atmosphere of community, while paying close attention to the individuality of their students. The university offers six different degrees in over 60 different programs, as well as 15 athletic teams that participate in the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics.

I'm proud to represent Brescia University in Washington, and I'm proud to represent the Owensboro-Daviess County community in which it is located. I ask my colleagues to support this resolution and join me in commending Brescia for its commitment to service, faith, and education.

Mr. PETRI. I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. FUDGE. Mr. Speaker, again, I thank Mr. GUTHRIE and urge all of my colleagues to support House Resolution 1043.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. FUDGE) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 1043, as amended.

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. FUDGE. 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 and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

RECOGNIZING 49TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE INTEGRATION OF NEW ORLEANS SCHOOLS

Ms. FUDGE. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 901) recognizing November 14, 2009, as the 49th anniversary of the first day of integrated schools in New Orleans, Louisiana, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 901

Whereas, in 1954, the Supreme Court ruled that segregated schools violated the Equal Protection Clause of the 14th amendment to the Constitution;

Whereas Judge J. Skelly Wright, of the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Louisiana, ordered the Orleans Parish School Board to develop a school desegregation plan in 1956 and, after years of delay, in 1960, ordered the Orleans Parish School Board to carry out a plan designed by the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Louisiana;

Whereas 6 years after the Brown v. Board of Education (347 U.S. 483) decision, on November 14, 1960, Ruby Bridges, at the age of 6, became the first African-American student to attend the all-white William Frantz Elementary School in New Orleans, Louisiana;

Whereas Ruby Bridges had the courage to attend the William Frantz Elementary School every day during the 1960–61 school year despite ongoing riots and protests in New Orleans, having to be escorted to school by Federal marshals, and having no other students in her classroom;

Whereas Ruby Bridges was also supported by her white first-grade school teacher, Ms. Barbara Henry, whose lessons remain with Ruby Bridges to this day;

Whereas Ms. Henry faced retaliation for teaching Ruby Bridges by not being invited to come back and teach at William Frantz School following the 1960–61 school year;

Whereas, in 1995, Ruby Bridges contributed to ''The Story of Ruby Bridges'', a book for children, and, in 1999, wrote ''Through My Eyes'' to help educate children and people of all ages about her experiences and the importance of tolerance;

Whereas Ruby Bridges established the Ruby Bridges Foundation in 1999 to help eliminate racism and improve society by educating students about the experiences of Ruby Bridges, discuss ongoing efforts to promote diversity, and provide lessons students can take back to their own communities; and

Whereas, in 2002, the Ruby Bridges Foundation, along with the Simon Wiesenthal Center's Museum for Tolerance in Los Angeles, launched The Ruby's Bridges Project, a program that brought together students from diverse backgrounds to develop relationship-building skills and promote an appreciation of one another: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) recognizes the 49th anniversary of the first day of integrated schools in New Orleans, Louisiana;

(2) remembers Judge J. Skelly Wright for his advocacy, support, and lifelong commitment to promoting civil rights, fairness, and equality;

(3) commends Ruby Bridges for her bravery and courage 49 years ago, and for her lifetime commitment to raising awareness of diversity through improved educational opportunities for all children; and

(4) supports policies and efforts to promote equal opportunities for all students regardless of their backgrounds.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. FUDGE) and the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. PETRI) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Ohio.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. FUDGE. Mr. Speaker, I request 5 legislative days during which Members may revise and extend their remarks and insert extraneous materials on H. Res. 901 into the RECORD.

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

There was no objection.

Ms. FUDGE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself as much time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 901, which recognizes the 49th anniversary of integrated schools in New Orleans, Louisiana.

Forty-nine years ago, Ruby Bridges became the first African American student to attend the all-white William Frantz Elementary School in New Orleans. Amidst deadly threats, violence, and abuse, Ruby attended her first grade class every day over the course of the year. She was escorted to school by Federal marshals just so she could receive the same education as her white peers. When Ruby entered her new classroom, the white students refused to sit and learn next to her.

Ruby was fortunate to have Ms. Barbara Henry as her teacher during this tumultuous year. Ms. Henry instructed Ruby in an empty classroom over the course of the school year. The two played games, talked, and learned from each other amongst the racially tense times. It is not surprising that Ms. Bridges still considers her year with Ms. Henry as one of the most pleasant times in her life.

Outside the classroom, Ruby came face to face with the ugliness that erupted during this time. Militant segregationists took to the streets in protest, and riots erupted all over the city. Her family also felt the impact of her bravery. Her father, Abon Bridges, and her grandparents were all fired from their jobs. However, many folks, both black and white, supported the Bridges family during their trying

time. People sent letters of support, neighbors watched after their house, and helpful friends and community members made financial contributions.

□ 1445

In 1954, the Supreme Court ruled in Brown v. Board of Education that segregated schools violated the equal protection clause of the 14th Amendment. Prominent figures like the Reverend Martin Luther King, Justice Thurgood Marshall, and the Little Rock Nine are civil rights activists who are typically credited with moving the civil rights movement forward. While the story of Ruby Bridges is not widely known, her contributions to the movement are equally deserving of great recognition.

Today, Ruby stands as a hero to all of us. She has taken the lessons she has learned from her youth and dedicated her life to helping students. Her foundation helps students deal with racism and diversity at school and within their own community. She also wrote ''Through My Eyes,'' explaining her first-grade experience, and now partners with organizations that promote nonviolence in schools. Her monumental contributions to the American civil rights movement deserve to be recognized.

I want to thank Representative GWEN MOORE for bringing this resolution forward, and urge my colleagues to support this measure.

I reserve the balance of my time.

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

I am delighted today to rise in support of the resolution before us, House Resolution 901, introduced by my colleague from the State of Wisconsin, GWEN MOORE, recognizing November 14, 2009, as the 49th anniversary of the first day of integrated schools in New Orleans, Louisiana.

In 1954, the United States Supreme Court ruled in Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka that State laws establishing separate public schools for black and white students denied black children equal educational opportunities. Louisiana District Judge J. Skelly Wright ordered the Orleans Parish Board to carry out a plan to integrate the State's schools. After a 6-year delay, Ruby Bridges became the first African American to attend the all-white William Frantz Elementary School in New Orleans, Louisiana.

Ruby Bridges faced many challenges during her first day and ongoing years at William Frantz. Only Barbara Henry was willing to teach Ruby, and for over a year Mrs. Henry taught her alone. Mrs. Henry's lessons left an indelible mark on Ruby and remain with her to this day.

Ruby and her family suffered many hardships as a result of Ruby's attendance at William Frantz. However, many of the community showed support in a variety of ways. Some white families continued to send their children to Frantz, despite the protests, and local members of the community walked behind the Federal marshals' car on the trips to school.

Today, Ruby Bridges is the chair of the Ruby Bridges Foundation, which she formed in 1999 to promote the values of tolerance, respect, and appreciation of all differences.

In 2002, the Ruby Bridges Foundation, along with the Simon Wiesenthal Center Museum for Tolerance in Los Angeles, launched the Ruby's Bridges Project. The project brought together students from diverse backgrounds to develop relationship-building skills and promote an appreciation of one another.

So I stand before you today to recognize the 49th anniversary of the first integrated schools in New Orleans, Louisiana. I also want to acknowledge Judge J. Skelly Wright and Mrs. Barbara Henry for their support and lifelong commitment to civil rights and equal opportunity. In addition, I want to commend Ruby Bridges for her bravery and courage 49 years ago and for her commitment to raising awareness of diversity through educational opportunities for all children.

I thank my colleague, GWEN MOORE of the State of Wisconsin, for giving us an opportunity to recognize her contribution. I urge my colleagues to support this resolution.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. FUDGE. I am pleased to recognize the gentlewoman from Wisconsin (Ms. MOORE) for such time as she may consume.

Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank my colleague from Wisconsin for supporting House Resolution 901.

I can tell you that you have heard the history of Ruby Bridges, but in my own Fourth Congressional District of Wisconsin, last spring another teacher, a first-grade teacher, started a class project to teach her 6-year-old students the historic impact of Ruby Bridges during last February's Black History Month.

The students, recognizing the bravery of another child their age, thought Ruby Bridges should have her own special day of recognition. So what started as a very modest class project sort of built this groundswell where 2,200 signatures were collected throughout the Fourth Congressional District of Wisconsin, and indeed throughout the State. The project gained letters of commendation from Milwaukee Mayor Tom Barrett and from then-State Superintendent of Education Elizabeth Burmaster. They sent the full list to President Barack Obama and other elected officials in support of a Ruby Bridges Day.

It is so truly remarkable that a first-grade class in my district not only learned the historic lessons of 6-year-old Ruby Bridges, but also learned how extraordinary it is to have a voice in this great country of ours through the power of the pen. In fact, the initiative of these small children brings me to the floor of the House of Representatives today seeking support for H. Res. 901.

Ruby Bridges is the young black girl in the classic Norman Rockwell painting wearing a white dress, escorted, for her safety, by Federal marshals to school. And years after the Supreme Court had ruled the segregated schools were unconstitutional, Louisiana was finally forced, under a Federal court order, to implement a desegregation plan for the New Orleans public schools.

How frightened but how brave was a 6-year-old girl who took that test and qualified to become one of the first official African American students to attend this all-white school. And although she was only 6 years old, Mr. Speaker, and the lone black student at the school, she never missed a day, attended each and every day. Ruby, a jewel, Bridges, bridging a cultural gap.

I am so proud to support this resolution honoring Ruby Bridges.

Mr. PETRI. Mr. Speaker, I am delighted to yield such time as he may consume to my colleague, the Representative from New Orleans, Louisiana, JOSEPH CAO.

Mr. CAO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to request my colleagues to join me in supporting House Resolution 901.

In 1956, the Orleans Parish School Board was ordered to develop a school desegregation plan. After years of delay, a young girl by the name of Ruby Bridges became one of the first black children to attend an integrated school. Upon her arrival, every white parent came to remove their child. All but one white teacher refused to teach. That one teacher instructed Ruby in a room by herself for a full year.

This experience did not deter Ruby, who not only completed her education but went on to found the Ruby Bridges Foundation. The foundation's mission: To promote the values of tolerance, respect, and appreciation of all differences.

I was honored to have met Mrs. Bridges in New Orleans on a number of occasions, and she still expresses the same radiant smile now as she did in 1956. She is truly an extraordinary woman.

At a time when my city is fighting to rebuild its schools and build up young people, I am thankful to have her as an ally and an inspiration for future generations. And, having lived in New Orleans all of her life, I am sure she would like to join me in proclaiming ''Who Dat.''

I hope that my colleagues will join me in supporting House Resolution 901, recognizing the 49th anniversary of the first day of integrated schools in New Orleans, Louisiana.

Mr. PETRI. I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. FUDGE. Mr. Speaker, I just want to close by of course recognizing the fact that, as we begin Black History Month, there is no better person for us to recognize today than Ruby Bridges. I want to thank her for her courage,

her determination, and the work she is doing today to help students across our great Nation.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all of my colleagues to support this resolution, H. Res. 901.

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to support H. Res. 901, a resolution to recognize November 14, 2009 as the 49th anniversary of the first day of integrated schools in New Orleans, Louisiana. I urge my colleagues to support this meaningful and important resolution.

In 1954, the Supreme Court ruled that segregated schools violated the equal protection clause of the 14th Amendment. On November 14, 1960, Ruby Bridges, at the age of six, became the first African American student to attend an all-white school in New Orleans, Louisiana. Ruby Bridges attended William Frantz Elementary School every day, despite riots and protests. Ruby was taught by Barbara Henry in a classroom with no other students. Sadly, due to her efforts to educate young Ruby, Ms. Henry was not invited back to teach at William Frantz Elementary school after that year. In 1999, Ruby Bridges established the Ruby Bridges Foundation that fights racism and works to improve society by sharing the experiences of Ruby Bridges.

Of course the need to integrate schools was not unique to New Orleans. The University Of Georgia, UGA, was a segregated school until 1961. UGA had strict admissions requirements—such as requiring personal recommendations from alumni, all of whom were white—in order to block African Americans from being admitted. In 1960, Charlayne Hunter and Hamilton Holmes applied to UGA. They were more than qualified for admission. Holmes was valedictorian of his high school and senior class president. Hunter finished third in her graduating class and edited the school paper. The University rejected their applications, providing a number of different—and ultimately false—reasons for denying their admission. On January 6, 1961, federal judge William A. Bootle found that "the two plaintiffs are fully qualified for immediate admission, and would already have been admitted if not for their race and color." This ruling became national news and the students were admitted and met on registration day by protests. On the third evening after their registration, a large group of students showed up outside of their residence and began hurling bricks and bottles before being dispersed by police. After this incident, the Dean of Students then told them that he was withdrawing them from admission for "their own safety." This decision was quickly overruled by a court order after over 400 faculty members signed a resolution to bring them back. Holmes graduated from UGA and earned a medical degree from Emory University in Georgia. Hunter graduated with a degree in journalism and worked for the New York Times, PBS, and CNN.

Thanks to the courage of these individuals and many others like them, we are now as close to full integration as we have ever been, and continue to gain ground on that ultimate goal.

As President Obama recently stated during his unveiling of his new budget proposal, "the most important tool to combat poverty is a world class education." Prior to November 14, 1960, African Americans were a long way from having the opportunity to receive a world class education. Although the desegregation of schools did not instantly give African Americans a high quality education, it was the first step in a long battle for equality in educational opportunities. Without the events that took place on November 14, 1960, and the bravery of Ruby Bridges, Barbara Henry, Hamilton Holmes, and Charlayne Hunter, we would not be where we are today in relation to educational equality for African Americans. As a member of the House Judiciary Committee, I urge my colleagues to support this resolution.

Ms. FUDGE. I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. FUDGE) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 901, as amended.

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. FUDGE. 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 and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

HONORING MEDGAR EVERS

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 1022) honoring the life and sacrifice of Medgar Evers and congratulating the United States Navy for naming a supply ship after Medgar Evers.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 1022

Whereas Medgar Evers was born on July 2, 1925, in Decatur, Mississippi;

Whereas Mr. Evers was hired by Dr. Theodore Roosevelt Mason Howard to sell insurance for the Magnolia Mutual Life Insurance Company;

Whereas Mr. Evers was inducted into United States Army in 1943 and fought in the Battle of Normandy;

Whereas Dr. Howard, as President of the Regional Council of Negro Leadership, helped to introduce Mr. Evers to civil rights activism;

Whereas Mr. Evers applied to the then-segregated University of Mississippi School of Law in February 1954;

Whereas Mr. Evers' application was rejected resulting in a National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) campaign to desegregate the school;

Whereas Mr. Evers was hired as a field secretary for the NAACP;

Whereas Mr. Evers was the target of a number of death threats as a result of his activism;

Whereas, on May 28, 1963, a Molotov cocktail was thrown into the carport of Mr. Evers's home and five days before his death Mr. Evers was assaulted by a car outside of an NAACP office;

Whereas Mr. Evers was assassinated in the driveway of his home in Jackson after returning from a meeting with NAACP lawyers on June 12, 1963;

Whereas this assassination occurred just hours after President John F. Kennedy's speech on national television in support of civil rights;

Whereas the death of Mr. Evers helped to prompt President John F. Kennedy to ask Congress for a comprehensive civil rights bill;

Whereas that bill, the Civil Rights Act of 1964, was signed into law by President Lyndon Johnson;

Whereas Mr. Evers' assassination has been memorialized in numerous popular songs, movies, and written pieces;

Whereas in 1969, Medgar Evers College was established in Brooklyn, New York, as part of the City University of New York;

Whereas, on June 28, 1992, the city of Jackson, Mississippi erected a statue in honor of Mr. Evers;

Whereas in December 2004, the Jackson City Council changed the name of the city's airport to Jackson-Evers International Airport; and

Whereas, on October 9, 2009, Secretary of the Navy Ray Mabus announced that the United States Naval Ship (USNS) Medgar Evers (T–AKE–13), a Lewis and Clark-class dry cargo ship, will be named after Mr. Evers: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) honors the life and sacrifice of Medgar Evers;

(2) recognizes the important role Mr. Evers played in securing civil rights for all people in the United States; and

(3) congratulates the United States Navy for honoring Medgar Evers by naming the United States Naval Ship Medgar Evers after him.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. JOHNSON) and the gentleman from Texas (Mr. POE) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Georgia.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. 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 resolution under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, as we begin Black History Month, I rise in support of H. Res. 1022, to honor the life of Medgar Evers and congratulate the United States Navy for naming a ship in his honor.

Medgar Evers was born in Decatur, Mississippi, on July 2, 1925, and he was murdered on June 12, 1963, in the driveway of his Jackson, Mississippi, home. His upbringing was marked by the racism and violence of that time. Before Evers even reached high school, he had endured the lynching of a close family friend.

As a young man, Mr. Evers was determined to get his education. He earned his high school diploma, enduring taunts and abuse from white schoolchildren.

In 1943, he was drafted into the Army, and he bravely fought for his country

at the Battle of Normandy and was honorably discharged in 1946.

Upon his return home, Mr. Evers completed a degree in business administration at Alcorn State University. He played football, ran track, joined the debate team, and sang in the university choir. He married his classmate, Myrlie Beasley, in 1951.

□ 1500

Beside me is a photograph of Medgar Evers. He looks to be very fit and focused, and I daresay Herschel Walker has a slight resemblance to Mr. Evers. And that is a compliment, by the way.

After completing that degree and getting married, Mr. Evers then moved to Mound Bayou, Mississippi, and joined the Regional Council of Negro Leadership. He helped organize a boycott of service stations that denied African Americans use of their restrooms. In 1954, the year I was born, Mr. Evers applied to the segregated University of Mississippi School of Law. When his application was rejected, he became the focus of an NAACP campaign to desegregate the school.

He was hired as the NAACP's first field secretary in Mississippi. Mr. Evers was instrumental in desegregating the University of Mississippi, and gained prominence through his work with the NAACP. As his fame and success grew, so did the danger that he faced. Death threats became commonplace. But he persisted, a true American pioneer. In May of 1963, a Molotov cocktail was thrown into the carport of his home. And then 5 days before his death, he was nearly run over by a car outside of a NAACP office.

On June 12, 1963, while carrying T-shirts that read, quote, ''Jim Crow Must Go,'' Medgar Evers was assassinated in the driveway of his home in Jackson, Mississippi. Just hours earlier, President John F. Kennedy had delivered his speech in support of civil rights legislation on national television. Evers' assassination is said to have helped prompt President Kennedy to ask for a comprehensive civil rights bill, which became the Civil Rights Act of 1964, and which was an historic and mighty blow to the institutionalized racism in America. Mr. Evers was buried in Arlington National Cemetery, and received full military honors in front of a crowd of about 3,000 people.

This resolution, Mr. Speaker, not only honors the life and sacrifice of Mr. Evers, but it also commends the Navy for its recent decision to name a ship in his honor. On October 9, 2009, Secretary of the Navy Ray Mabus announced the United States Naval Ship MEDGAR EVERS, a Lewis and Clark-class dry cargo ship.

For decades, Medgar Evers' legacy has inspired Americans. He fought diligently for what was right, and gave his life to the cause of civil rights. His life has been memorialized in song, in film, in sculpture, and now by the United States Navy.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to insert at this point in the RECORD an exchange of letters between House Judiciary Committee Chairman JOHN CONYERS and House Armed Services Committee Chairman IKE SKELTON. I am privileged to serve on both of these very important committees.

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, January 28, 2010.

Hon. JOHN CONYERS, Jr.,
Chairman, Committee on the Judiciary, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: On January 20, 2010, the House Resolution 1022, ''Honoring the life and sacrifice of Medgar Evers and congratulating the United States Navy for naming a supply ship after Medgar Evers,'' was introduced in the House. As you know, this measure was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary, 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.

Our Committee recognizes the importance of H. Res. 1022 and the need for the legislation to move expeditiously. Therefore, while we have a valid claim to jurisdiction over this legislation, the Committee on Armed Services will waive further consideration of H. Res. 1022. I do so with the understanding that by waiving further consideration of the resolution, the Committee does not waive any future jurisdictional claims over similar measures.

I would appreciate the inclusion of this letter and a copy of your response in the Congressional Record during consideration of the measure on the House floor.

Very truly yours,

IKE SKELTON,
Chairman.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY,
Washington, DC, February 2, 2010.

Hon. IKE SKELTON,
Chairman, Committee on Armed Services, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you for your letter regarding your Committee's jurisdictional interest in H. Res 1022, Honoring the life and sacrifice of Medgar Evers and congratulating the United States Navy for naming a supply ship after Medgar Evers.

I appreciate your willingness to support expediting floor consideration of this important resolution today. I understand and agree that this is without prejudice to your Committee's jurisdictional interests in this or similar legislation in the future.

Per your request, I will include a copy of your letter and this response in the Congressional Record in the debate on the resolution. Thank you for your cooperation as we work towards passing this resolution.

Sincerely,

JOHN CONYERS, Jr.,
Chairman.

I urge my colleagues to support this important resolution, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I support House Resolution 1022. This resolution honors the life and sacrifice of Medgar Evers, and also it congratulates the United States Navy for naming a supply ship after Mr. Evers in 2009. Known today for his struggles in the civil rights movement in Mississippi and his untimely death at the hands of an assassin, Medgar Evers left behind an impressive record of achievement.

He was born in 1925 near Decatur, Mississippi, and he entered the United States Army in 1943 and served in Normandy in World War II. He received a B.A. degree in 1952, and began to establish local chapters of the NAACP. He organized boycotts of gasoline stations that refused to allow blacks to use the restrooms there. In 1954, he applied to the then-segregated University of Mississippi School of Law. And when his application was rejected, he filed a lawsuit against the university. He became the focus of the NAACP effort to desegregate the school, a case aided by the United States Supreme Court in a ruling of Brown v. Board of Education that segregation was unconstitutional.

Evers and his wife eventually moved to Jackson, Mississippi, where they worked together to set up an NAACP office. Evers began investigating violent crimes committed against African Americans, and sought ways to prevent them in the future. His boycott of Jackson, Mississippi merchants in the early 1960s attracted national media attention. And his efforts to have James Meredith admitted to the University of Mississippi in 1962 led to much needed Federal help. Due in part to Mr. Evers' work, Meredith was admitted to the University of Mississippi.

On June 12, 1963, Evers returned home just after midnight from a series of NAACP functions, and he was leaving his car with a handful of T-shirts that read, ''Jim Crow Must Go.'' When he was leaving his vehicle, he was shot in the back by an assassin. His wife and children, who had been waiting for him, found him bleeding to death on the doorstep some 30 feet from where he was gunned down. Shortly thereafter, he died.

The death of Mr. Evers helped prompt President John F. Kennedy and others to ask Congress to pass a comprehensive civil rights bill. And in 1964, the Civil Rights Act was signed into law. In the years following his death, a number of songs, books, and movies paid tribute to Mr. Evers' sacrifice and his peaceful pursuit of justice and equality for all Americans. Mr. Evers is quoted as saying, ''When you hate, the only one that suffers is you, because most of the people you hate don't know it, and the rest don't care.'' He also continually advised that violence is not the way.

His life serves as an inspiration to all Americans on how citizens can use peaceful and democratic means to effect a positive change within our democracy. I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this resolution.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. I yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from the great city of Washington, D.C. I would point out that she is a civil rights legend of her own accord.

Ms. NORTON. I thank the generous gentleman from Georgia and our colleague on the other side as well for

their words and for bringing forward this resolution honoring the United States Navy, and especially honoring Medgar Evers.

There is some context that is necessary here. Mississippi was not only late to the civil rights movement, Mississippi was last to the civil rights movement. And there was a reason for that. Because it was delayed. Remember the sit-ins began February 1960, just 50 years ago. That was celebrated just yesterday with the opening of a civil rights museum in Greensboro. Years passed. And you did not see young people coming forward in Mississippi, young and foolish, and a young law student, because Mississippi was so heralded for its reputation for violently opposing civil rights. That is where I wanted to be.

From my first day in Mississippi in June of 1963, I was baptized by crisis. I spent the day with Medgar Evers. I was only a second-year law student, but there were so few people with the skills associated with lawyers who had been in the movement, that he tried to get me to stay in Jackson. But I had committed to Bob Moses, the legendary head of a tiny movement in the delta area of Mississippi, to go to the Mississippi delta.

I spent the day with Medgar Evers taking me around to meet members of the movement, to try to get me to remain, and finally depositing me at—was it a Greyhound or a Trailways bus station? I do not recall. But he put me on that bus, he went home, and he was assassinated in his own driveway. I had learned about it the next morning when a tiny little girl came to wake me up in a sharecropper's house who had accommodated me as a member of the movement to say that Mr. Evers has been shot. The moment exists in my brain and in my heart to this very moment, that unspeakable moment.

Mr. Speaker, I was a member of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee. John Lewis was the chair of SNCC at that time. Young people had come forward to risk arrest and beatings literally in every State of the union except Mississippi. But there was nobody like the four young students in Greensboro who stepped forward in 1960. And yet I come to Mississippi in 1963, and I assure you not to sit in. But there hadn't been a single sit-in in Mississippi. So here came a middle-aged father and husband and said, ''Okay, I will lead the sit-ins in the biggest city in Mississippi.''

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

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. I yield the gentlewoman 1 additional minute.

Ms. NORTON. Medgar Evers was not a student. He was not young and foolish the way the students were. He had a lot to risk, and he risked it all. He and a very few others stepped forward to do that first sit-in at a Woolworth's. He paid a price that day. They were beat horribly. And he paid the ultimate price when they took his life in that driveway.

It is time for the United States of America now to step forward, as Medgar Evers did, and recognize this one of a kind American hero. I applaud our country and our Navy for naming a United States Naval ship the MEDGAR EVERS.

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res 1022, to honor the life and sacrifices of Medgar Evers as well as his contributions to the African American Civil Rights Movement.

Evers was born in segregated Decatur, Mississippi, on July 2, 1925, and had to deal with daily threats, insults and institutionalized discrimination and racism. Like many of his fellow African Americans, Evers returned to the United States after serving in France during World War II only to learn that nothing had changed for African Americans.

Despite this, Evers went to Acorn College in Lorman, Mississippi, and received his BA in Business Administration, an amazing accomplishment for any African American at the time. He went on to marry his classmate and sweetheart, Mrylie Beasley.

The young couple moved to Mound Bayou, Mississippi, where Evers worked at the Magnolia Mutual Life Insurance Company. The president of the company, Dr. T.R.M. Howard, also served as president of the Regional Council of Negro Leadership, and helped to introduce Mr. Evers to civil rights activism. Evers became heavily involved in successful boycotts of service stations that denied Blacks to use their restrooms throughout the state.

Evers went on to work as a member of the Mississippi NAACP as its field secretary and had an instrumental role in the desegregation of the University of Mississippi, which led to constant threats against his life and his family. On June 12, 1963, at the age of 37, Medgar Evers was shot outside his home. He died 50 minutes later in the hospital. His murderer, Bryan De La Beckwith, went to trial twice before finally being found guilty of murder and being sent to prison on February 5, 1994, three decades after Evers' death.

Medgar Evers, in life and in death, left an impact on America. His death helped prompt President John F. Kennedy to ask Congress for a comprehensive civil rights bill, one that would be passed during the Johnson administration and finally ended legal segregation in the United States.

I commend Representative HENRY JOHNSON of Georgia's Fourth Congressional District for introducing this important piece of legislation to the House and I urge my colleagues to join me in voting for this measure.

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, today, we recognize a brave martyr of the civil rights movement, Medgar Evers, who also is being honored by the U.S. Navy with the naming of a dry cargo ship after him.

Medgar Evers served his country in the U.S. Army during World War II and fought to liberate Europe at the Battle of Normandy. After he was honorably discharged in 1946, he returned home to Mississippi to find racial discrimination and rampant prejudice. This injustice compelled him to fight another battle, this time for civil rights and racial equality at home. As NAACP's first field secretary in Mississippi, he played a leading role in desegregating the University of Mississippi in 1962, as well as led a public investigation into the murder of Emmett Till.

Medgar Evers received numerous death threats, yet he was never deterred. He once said, ''You can kill a man, but you can't kill an idea.'' There is bittersweet truth to his words as Evers was murdered in 1963 by one intent on maintaining segregation. Although Evers' dedication to ensuring equality cost him his life, his sacrifice was not in vain. Following Medgar Evers' death, there was a renewed impetus toward passing a civil rights bill, allowing Medgar Evers' ideas to live on.

Two months after Evers' murder, President John F. Kennedy, while addressing the U.S. Naval Academy, said, ''any man who may be asked in this century what he did to make his life worthwhile, I think can respond with a good deal of pride and satisfaction: 'I served in the United States Navy.' ''

With the christening of the USNS *Medgar Evers,* there is now a physical link between honorable naval service and the courageous life of Medgar Evers. I hope that as this ship sails from port-to-port, it will remind all nations, including our own, of the ultimate sacrifice Evers made in the pursuit of justice.

I want to commend my friend and colleague from Georgia, HANK JOHNSON, for introducing this resolution, and I urge its adoption by the full House.

Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I stand before you today in support of H. Res. 1022 ''Honoring the life and sacrifice of Medgar Evers and congratulating the United States Navy for naming a supply ship after Medgar Evers.''

I would like to begin by thanking my colleague Representative HANK JOHNSON for introducing this resolution in the House, as it is important that we honor and remember Medgar Evers for his service to the United States both on the battlefield as an Army sergeant in World War II as well as his service to the United States through his leadership in the Civil Rights Movement of the 20th Century.

Evers was born in Decatur, Mississippi, to Jessie and James Evers in 1925 and grew up on his father's small farm. After reaching adolescence, Evers had a difficult time in obtaining the high school level education he so desperately wanted. Evers however was determined. Every day he would walk 12 miles, each way to school and frequently had objects thrown at him by White children passing by in school buses.

In addition to the heckling he frequently received on his way to school, Evers suffered several other seriously traumatic events as a child. In one such instance, a close family friend was kidnapped, beaten up and lynched by a group of White supremacists. Evers was shocked when there was no response to this horrible attack by any local law enforcement officers and no subsequent legal action was taken up in the judicial system.

Evers witnessed several other brutal actions taken against local blacks in Decatur, Mississippi, as a youth. He was once quoted as saying: ''I used to watch the Saturday night sport of White men trying to run down a Negro with their car, or White gangs coming through town to beat up a Negro.'' Evers said that sometimes the attackers would even leave the dead bodies of Black men out in the streets and would hang the bloody clothes in public to leave a message of fear.

Fortunately, Evers was able to keep his head high and eventually earned his high

school diploma in Decatur, Mississippi, before joining the U.S. Army. Evers joined the Army during World War II, fought in France, the European Theatre of WWII and was honorably discharged in 1945 as a Sergeant after admirably serving his country.

After being discharged, Evers attended Alcorn College, (now known as Alcorn State University) in Lorman, Mississippi and participated in a wide variety of activities from debate team to the track and football teams. At Alcorn College, Evers met and began dating Myrlie Beasley. The two were eventually married on December 24, 1951.

Soon after marriage, the couple moved to Mound Bayou, Mississippi, where Evers began selling insurance for the Magnolia Mutual Life Insurance Company. It was there that Evers met Dr. Theodore Roosevelt Mason Howard, the president of the Regional Council of Negro Leadership, RCNL, a civil rights and pro self-help organization. Evers soon became a dynamic member of the RCNL and thus began his political activism career.

When his application to the then-segregated University of Mississippi Law School was rejected, Evers filed a lawsuit against the university, and became the focus of an NAACP campaign to desegregate the university. That same year, due to his involvement, the NAACP's National Office suggested he become Mississippi's first field secretary for the NAACP.

On November 24, 1954, Evers was appointed Mississippi's first field secretary for the NAACP. After becoming field secretary, Evers was involved in a boycott campaign against White merchants and was instrumental in eventually desegregating the University of Mississippi when that institution was finally forced to enroll James Meredith in 1962.

Sadly, Evers was assassinated outside his home on June 12, 1963, just after returning from a meeting with several NAACP lawyers. Though he was killed in this tragic attack, the legacy that Evers left behind helped to change the course of history and left a strong impact on the Civil Rights Movement.

Designated T–AKE 13, *Medgar Evers* will be the 13th ship of the class, and is being built by General Dynamics NASSCO in San Diego. As a combat logistics force ship, *Medgar Evers* will help the Navy maintain a worldwide forward presence by delivering ammunition, food, fuel, and other dry cargo to U.S. and allied ships at sea.

As part of Military Sealift Command's Naval Fleet Auxiliary Force, *Medgar Evers* will be designated as a United States Naval Ship, USNS, and will be crewed by 124 civil service mariners and 11 Navy sailors. The ship is designed to operate independently for extended periods at sea, can carry a helicopter, is 689 feet in length, has an overall beam of 106 feet, has a navigational draft 30 feet, displaces approximately 42,000 tons, and is capable of reaching a speed of 20 knots using a single-shaft, diesel-electric propulsion system.

Because of the extensive role Evers had in the Civil Rights Movement and because of his exemplary service in the Armed Forces during World War II, it is important that we recognize this hero for his service to our Nation. I ask my colleagues for their support of this resolution and ask for their continued support of similar national heroes.

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, before I yield back I will say that if Medgar Evers were alive today, he would be fighting alongside Delegate ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON for freedom in Washington, D.C. What I am talking about is the ability of residents of Washington, D.C., to be able to vote, to have a Congressperson who has full voting rights in this body.

With that, Mr. Speaker, I will yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. JOHNSON) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 1022.

The question was taken.

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

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. 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 and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

□ 1515

NATIONAL STALKING AWARENESS MONTH

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 960) expressing support for designation of January 2010 as ''National Stalking Awareness Month'' to raise awareness and encourage prevention of stalking.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 960

Whereas in a 1-year period, an estimated 3,400,000 people in the United States reported being stalked, and 75 percent of victims are stalked by someone who is not a stranger;

Whereas 81 percent of women, who are stalked by an intimate partner, are also physically assaulted by that partner, and 76 percent of women, who are killed by an intimate partner, were also stalked by that intimate partner;

Whereas 11 percent reported having been stalked for more than 5 years and one-fourth of victims reported having been stalked almost every day;

Whereas 1 in 4 victims reported that stalkers had used technology, such as e-mail or instant messaging, to follow and harass them, and 1 in 13 said stalkers had used electronic devices to intrude on their lives;

Whereas stalking victims are forced to take drastic measures to protect themselves, such as changing jobs, obtaining protection orders, relocating, and changing their identities;

Whereas 1 in 7 victims moved in an effort to escape their stalker;

Whereas approximately 130,000 victims reported having been fired or asked to leave their job because of the stalking, and about 1 in 8 lost time from work because they feared for their safety or were taking steps, such as seeking a restraining order, to protect themselves;

Whereas less than half of victims report stalking to police and only 7 percent contacted a victim service provider, shelter, or hotline;

Whereas stalking is a crime that cuts across race, age, culture, gender, sexual orientation, physical and mental ability, and economic status;

Whereas stalking is a crime under Federal law and under the laws of all 50 States, the United States Territories, the District of Columbia, and the Uniform Code of Military Justice;

Whereas there are national organizations, local victim service organizations, prosecutors' offices, and law enforcement agencies that stand ready to assist stalking victims and who are working diligently to craft competent, thorough, and innovative responses to stalking;

Whereas there is a need to enhance the criminal justice system's response to stalking and stalking victims, including aggressive investigation and prosecution, and increase the availability of victim services across the country tailored to meet the needs of stalking victims;

Whereas, 2010 marks 10 years in which the Stalking Resource Center has increased national awareness of stalking and enhanced local responses to stalking victims through training over 35,000 law enforcement, prosecutors, victim service providers, and other community stakeholders, and provided assistance to jurisdictions working to enhance their stalking laws; and

Whereas January 2010 would be an appropriate month to designate as ''National Stalking Awareness Month'': Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) supports the designation of ''National Stalking Awareness Month'' to educate the people of the United States about stalking;

(2) encourages the people of the United States to applaud the efforts of the many victim service providers, law enforcement, prosecutors, national and community organizations, and private sector supporters for their efforts in promoting awareness about stalking;

(3) encourages policymakers, criminal justice officials, victim service and social service agencies, colleges and universities, nonprofits, and others to recognize the need to increase awareness of stalking and the availability of services for stalking victims; and

(4) urges national and community organizations, businesses in the private sector, and the media to promote awareness of the crime of stalking through ''National Stalking Awareness Month''.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. JOHNSON) and the gentleman from Texas (Mr. POE) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Georgia.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days 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 gentleman from Georgia?

There was no objection.

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, H. Res. 960 expresses support for January 2010, being designated as ''National Stalking Awareness Month.'' Every year, Mr. Speaker,

an estimated 3.4 million people are the victims of stalking. Stalking occurs through many different behaviors, such as unwanted phone calls, letters or emails, the victim being followed, or a stalker showing up at places without a legitimate reason. While these individual acts may not be criminal in and of themselves, collectively and repetitively these behaviors can cause a victim to fear for his or her safety.

This crime of stalking can be extremely dangerous. The fear and mental anguish that stalking causes can leave a victim's life in shambles. Anxiety, insomnia, or severe depression is much more prevalent among stalking victims than within the general population. This is especially the case if the stalking involves being followed or having one's property destroyed.

Over 12 percent of employed stalking victims report losing time from work as a result of their victimization, and more than half lose 5 days of work or more. In fact, many stalking victims have been forced to relocate their residences, and they often need psychological counseling. Stalking is often a precursor to physical attacks on a victim. This is why stalking is a crime in all 50 States and in the District of Columbia and is a crime under Federal law as well. Over 75 percent of women murdered by an intimate partner had been stalked by that partner before being killed. Victims are increasingly vulnerable to the crime of stalking, with advances in technology giving stalkers more access to the victims' personal information.

I would like to thank my Judiciary Committee colleague, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. POE), for introducing this bipartisan resolution; and I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting House Resolution 960.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. POE of Texas. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I'm proud to be the sponsor of this legislation. Stalking is described as repeated harassment or threatening behavior toward somebody else. The stalker can be a stranger or someone the victim knows very well—an ex-partner, a family member. Laws vary from State to State, but stalking is usually considered under the law to be any unwanted contact between the stalker and the victim, that he or she either directly or indirectly communicates a threat or places fear in the victim. Some examples include, but are not limited to, unwanted phone calls; letters; emails; instant messages; following the victim; showing up at the location where the victim is without any reason; leaving unwanted items or presents; and spreading false information or rumors about the victim.

Stalking can turn any ordinary day and any ordinary activity, like walking to your car, into a terrifying experience for the victim. Victims of stalking will never really know if they are safe whether they are at home, in their cars, at their work, or even just walking down the street. Stalkers show up at the oddest places. They will be sitting out in front of someone's home; they'll be there when the lady drops her child off at school; when she picks him up in the afternoon; when she goes to church. The stalker is everywhere.

One example is a wonderful young lady from Maryland by the name of Yvette Cade. Yvette Cade was severely burned by her husband shortly after a restraining order against him was removed by the judge. Just 3 weeks before, she begged a judge to reinstate a restraining order that had been ordered against her husband. And she told him, the judge, that she feared for her life. But the judge, in his incompetence, refused to reinstate the restraining order. The judge has been reprimanded for that conduct—for refusing to listen to Mrs. Cade's case—which could have prevented the horrible tragedy.

Let me make it clear: when the judge refused to reinstate the restraining order, her husband followed her to the store that she worked in. He walked in the store. He had a bottle of gasoline. He poured it over the top of her head and he set Yvette Cade on fire, all because he had been stalking her, but also a judge had the ability to intervene and prevent that activity—and he did not do so.

Yvette Cade survived those injuries, and she is an advocate for victims' rights to this day. This case is a reminder why we must educate law enforcement and others, including judges, about stalking and domestic violence in order to help them recognize situations as happened to Mrs. Yvette Cade. During a 12-month period, an estimated 3.4 million people ages 18 and older are victims of stalking.

There's a similar story of a woman named Peggy Klinke. She lived in Albuquerque, New Mexico, and broke up with her boyfriend, named Patrick Kennedy, after dating him for 3 years. He couldn't handle not being with Peggy and stalked her outside of her work. He waited for her outside of her gym. He followed her everywhere she went. And she could always find his truck wherever she showed up.

She filed stalking charges against him and had a protective order put out against him. Eventually, Peggy started dating someone else and tried to move on with her life. Patrick set her boyfriend's house on fire and flew to Peggy's mother's house in Ohio and spray painted her house with profanity. The police then thought they had enough evidence to take him to court. Six months before the trial began, Peggy moved to California to hide from Patrick. He hired a private investigator to find her, and he did so in California. Two weeks before the trial, he located her and then killed her and then killed himself.

The most effective way of preventing stalking is making people aware it exists and how dangerous it can be. While not every instance of stalking ends in violence, many do. Stalking must be taken seriously and decisive measures must be taken by law enforcement officials as soon as the behavior begins in order to prevent the escalation into a violent situation.

House Res. 960 expresses support for the designation of January 2010 as National Stalking Awareness Month to raise awareness and encourage the prevention of stalking. I support this bill and urge my colleagues to support it as well.

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. POE of Texas. I yield 5 minutes to the original author of the national stalking criminal legislation some years ago, the gentleman from California (Mr. ROYCE).

Mr. ROYCE. My colleague, Judge POE, the Representative from Texas, has told you some of the examples about women who have found themselves in this dire situation. We had in my county, Orange County, California, a total of four young women in 1990 who were, in the span of 6 weeks, all confronted by the same situation. They were being stalked by an acquaintance or a former beau, someone they knew. Each knew they were going to be attacked. Each had been threatened that they would be attacked.

I spoke after the attack with a law enforcement officer there who said it was the hardest thing he ever had to do in his life was to tell one of these young women, I know you feel he's going to attack you, but there's nothing we can do until you're physically attacked. Despite the threats he's made, there's nothing we can do. So he said, I took it upon myself to follow this individual because I knew he intended to carry out that attack. He said, I came within 2 minutes of preventing him from killing her. But, unfortunately, he took her life, and then when he saw me, he took his own. This was the example given in this one case, but there were four cases within that 6 weeks in 1990.

I had previously passed legislation in the State senate on terrorism as it related to credible threats made against synagogues and churches by those who threatened to blow up synagogues. And I thought, Well, perhaps we can extend this and actually give law enforcement the chance to step in. Since that other law had been upheld by the State supreme court, perhaps it would uphold a law if we passed an anti-stalker law that said if you threatened the victim with a credible threat of great bodily harm, it became a stalking crime, and thereby perhaps you would have the deterrent effect of having law enforcement able to go to these victims or go, more importantly, to perpetrators and tell them, You may not understand this, but under this new law you face 3 years or more in State prison if you do this.

We passed the legislation in California after some debate. We had particularly effective testimony from one young woman who had been stalked for

years by a high school acquaintance who she didn't even know, and finally taken at knifepoint. There was a 12-hour standoff. But because he didn't drag her more than the allotted number of feet, it was not a kidnapping. So, finally, with her testimony, we got that through the State house.

And then we found that the very advice we were giving these victims—get away from your stalker; move, because there's little we can do—meant that when they moved from the State of California to another State—let's say Florida, an example that I'm familiar with—the restraining order was no longer in effect, which meant that he couldn't be charged with stalking.

So the answer to that was a Federal law. By that time, we had used the California law as a template. We passed it in all 50 States. Japan had adopted the law. Parliaments in Europe adopted the law. But the question was: How do you protect those who go from State to State when those restraining orders are no longer in effect?

So in the United States House of Representatives I introduced that legislation. As a result, this new law provides a uniform Federal law protecting stalking victims when they cross State lines either to travel or work or to get away from their stalkers, or for any other purpose; and when they're on Federal property; if they're on a military base, for example; if they're at a post office.

It was signed into law in 1996. And I will tell you now why I am appreciative of these Members bringing this law up to date, of which I am a cosponsor. Our key problem is getting people aware of the existence of this law. Our key challenge today is deterrence. As mentioned, you have a case today where one out of every four young women who is killed is being murdered by someone who formerly stalked her. And there is a deterrent effect to law enforcement coming to you and saying you could be serving 3 years in a Federal penitentiary or in jail. You've got 3.4 million people being stalked every year, according to the Department of Justice.

□ 1530

If we had those in law enforcement, if judges were more cognizant of the challenges of this problem, we'd be better able to handle this situation.

Many communities have come to understand that stalking is a serious problem. Many have come up with programs that can support victims and combat this crime, but we really need law enforcement to have more focus because how many times can you look at a situation and say, All right. There's something we could have done to help deter this. We know the incidences where that has been effective here.

Most stalkers are known by their victims. It isn't always the case, but most are known.

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

Mr. POE of Texas. I yield to the gentleman for 1 additional minute.

Mr. ROYCE. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

And in today's world, stalkers, unfortunately, are using a very new and upgraded type of technology from what, traditionally, they used. It used to be that, you know, they'd leave a message on the phone. Today it's computers, it's GPS units, it's cell phones, it's social networking, and all of this can be used to harass victims.

If anyone would like more information on National Stalking Awareness Month, I urge you to visit www.stalkingawarenessmonth.org, and try—for those out there in law enforcement—try to understand just how devastating this can be to victims, and try to give them a hand, and try to deter these attacks before they occur.

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. I will close just after making this statement. My sister Lynnette Maria Johnson was murdered back on May 30, 1973. That happened right here in Washington, D.C.

From high school sweethearts to college, these two individuals, my sister and this gentleman who stalked her and killed her, were an item. But when she went to college, she started meeting new people and her interests changed, and the gentleman just could not take it and so he continued to stalk her. Finally, it resulted in him killing her. At that time, I don't think there were any stalking laws that would have prevented his misconduct, and so I personally have a zero tolerance level for stalkers.

I am proud to support this bill. Representative POE, a trial lawyer and a trial judge who has seen so many cases like these in his career, I'm sure. And Mr. ROYCE of California spoke eloquently on this issue as well. So I want to congratulate him for introducing the Federal legislation that came before this.

I would advise all victims that as soon as it starts happening, let the police know and go get some counseling so that you don't allow this thing to get out of control. If you hit it hard when it first rears up, I think that the chances are much better that the result down the line will be positive and not negative.

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

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I am ready to yield but I did want to make comments regarding my colleague Mr. JOHNSON.

I appreciate his comments about his family and how stalking violence can happen anywhere in the United States to anybody. We, as a body, must be aware that victims throughout the country go through terrible tragedies in their lives. This legislation brings awareness of stalking to the national front.

Stalking laws are imposed to protect the right to be left alone, and that's a right that all people have in this country, to be left alone. I want to thank the victims groups that have supported this legislation and, as chairman of the Victims' Rights Caucus, all of the numerous members of the caucus who also support this. I urge its adoption.

Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of S. 2950, "To extend the pilot program for volunteer groups to obtain criminal history background checks and for other purposes, introduced by my distinguished colleague from New York, Senator SCHUMER. "The Criminal History Background Checks Pilot Extension Act of 2009," will be revising the 78–month requirement to a 92–month requirement.

This act is particularly important to protect our children as they participate in so many activities throughout the community.

Mr. POE of Texas. I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. JOHNSON) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 960.

The question was taken.

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

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

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.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

CRIMINAL HISTORY BACKGROUND CHECKS PILOT EXTENSION ACT OF 2009

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (S. 2950) to extend the pilot program for volunteer groups to obtain criminal history background checks.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

S. 2950

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 "Criminal History Background Checks Pilot Extension Act of 2009".

SEC. 2. EXTENSION OF PILOT PROGRAM.

Section 108(a)(3)(A) of the PROTECT Act (42 U.S.C. 5119a note) is amended by striking "a 78-month" and inserting "a 92-month".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. JOHNSON) and the gentleman from Texas (Mr. POE) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Georgia.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all

Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the bill now under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. I yield myself as much time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, S. 2950, the Criminal History Background Checks Pilot Extension Act of 2009, will extend the national Child Safety Pilot Program for another 14 months. Passed in 2003 as part of the PROTECT Act, the national Child Safety Pilot Program assists organizations in checking the criminal records of volunteers before placing them as mentors with our children. Every year, millions of Americans generously give their time and energy to volunteer and mentor children throughout the country. While the vast majority of these volunteers act out of purely benevolent intentions, it is important that we are able to identify those who may seek to do harm.

Since 2003, the national Child Safety Pilot Program has enabled youth-serving organizations to work with the State governments to access the FBI's national fingerprint-based background checks system. By providing access to the more comprehensive data in the FBI's database, the pilot program has helped prevent child predators and sex offenders from getting access to children through legitimate mentoring programs. Notably, 6 percent of checks came back with serious criminal records.

This is a noncontroversial, fee-based program that we have authorized twice before, Mr. Speaker. It's been extremely successful in providing invaluable information to mentoring organizations, and it's at no cost to the taxpayers. Now we hope that this 14-month extension will give us more time to work with the Department of Justice on permanently authorizing this program.

I urge my colleagues to support this important legislation.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

The Child Safety Pilot Program, originally created in 2003 as part of the PROTECT Act, has proven to be a valuable resource for groups that work with children, such as the Boys & Girls Clubs of America, the National Mentoring Partnership, and the National Council of Youth Sports. Using this pilot program, nonprofit organizations that provide youth-focused care, as defined in the National Child Protection Act of 1993, may request criminal history background checks from the FBI on applicants for volunteer or employee positions that involve working with children.

Currently, nearly 68,000 background checks have been administered through the Child Safety Pilot Program. Of those checks, over 6 percent of all workers screened had criminal records of concern, including serious crimes such as murder, rape, and child assault cases. More than 41 percent of applicants with a criminal record committed crimes in other States other than the one in which they were applying to work as a volunteer. Only a nationwide check, such as the Child Safety Pilot Program, could have provided this information to employers.

A nationwide check is vital to these organization since many of these applicants are looking for work in other States specifically to escape their criminal pasts. That's why I support S. 2950, the Criminal History Background Checks Pilot Extension Act of 2009, which extends this program for 14 more months.

Unfortunately, organizations that work with children are often the targets of those with criminal backgrounds and less than honest intentions. We need to equip these organizations so they can spot individuals with criminal records before it's too late, allowing them to only hire professional and responsible people. S. 2950 extends the Child Safety Pilot Program that has successfully helped these groups and their missions to provide a safe learning environment for children. This is a commonsense piece of legislation that should enjoy widespread support, so I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this legislation.

I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. JOHNSON) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, S. 2950.

The question was taken.

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

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

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.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

COMMEMORATING 65TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE LIBERATION OF AUSCHWITZ

Mr. KLEIN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 1044) 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, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 1044

Whereas during the Holocaust, an estimated 6,000,000 Jews and other targeted groups were murdered by the Nazis and their collaborators;

Whereas, on January 27, 1945, Auschwitz, a Nazi concentration and extermination camp, including Birkenau and other related camps, was liberated by the Soviet Army;

Whereas Auschwitz, located in Poland, was the largest complex of the Nazi concentration and extermination camps;

Whereas according to the Holocaust Memorial Museum, between 1940 and 1945, the Nazis deported at a minimum 1,300,000 people to Auschwitz, and of these, murdered 1,100,000;

Whereas an estimated 960,000 Jews were systematically murdered in Auschwitz during the Holocaust;

Whereas Auschwitz was also used to murder Poles, Roma, Soviet Prisoners of War, those helping to hide Jews and others the Nazis deemed inferior or that held different political views;

Whereas victims of Auschwitz were systematically murdered in gas chambers and many were starved to death, tortured, and subjected to forced labor and criminal medical experiments;

Whereas the complex of the Auschwitz concentration and extermination camp has come to symbolize the mass murder and inhumanity committed during the Holocaust;

Whereas the famous ''Arbeit Macht Frei'' (Work Will Make You Free) sign over the entrance to Auschwitz was stolen on December 18, 2009, and later recovered and the Polish police arrested the alleged culprits behind the theft;

Whereas according to the Contemporary Global Anti-Semitism Report released by the Department of State's Office of the Special Envoy to Monitor and Combat Anti-Semitism, ''[o]ver the last decade, United States embassies and consulates have reported an upsurge in anti-Semitism . . . and that [a]nti-Semitic crimes range from acts of violence, including terrorist attacks against Jews, to the desecration and destruction of Jewish property . . .''; and

Whereas in 2005, United Nations General Assembly resolution 60/7 established January 27, the anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz, as International Holocaust Remembrance Day for the world to honor the victims of the Holocaust: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) commemorates the 65th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz;

(2) honors the victims of Auschwitz and other Nazi concentration and extermination camps, and all those who perished at the hands of the Nazis;

(3) expresses gratitude to the Allied soldiers, underground fighters, and all those whose efforts helped defeat the Nazi regime and liberate Auschwitz and other concentration and extermination camps during World War II;

(4) reaffirms its commitment to enhance Holocaust education at home and abroad and to ensure that what happened in Auschwitz and other Nazi concentration and extermination camps is never allowed to happen again; and

(5) urges all countries to enhance their efforts to combat bigotry, racism, intolerance, and anti-Semitism.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from

Florida (Mr. KLEIN) and the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Florida.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. KLEIN of Florida. Mr. 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 resolution under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. KLEIN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of this resolution and yield myself as much time as I may consume.

As an original cosponsor of this legislation, I would like to thank the author of this resolution, my good friend from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) for authoring this important statement. This resolution recognizes the 65th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz.

As the many in this Chamber know, Auschwitz was one of several Nazi concentration and extermination camps. Auschwitz served as a death factory of Eastern Europe's Jewish community and many others who were persecuted and murdered by the Nazis. On January 27, 1945, Auschwitz was liberated by Allied Forces, and that day is commemorated around the world as International Day of Holocaust Remembrance.

Today, Auschwitz is a reminder of the consequences of hatred, bigotry, and humanity's worst. The words, ''Never again,'' are a mission, a goal to ensure that humanity never again sinks to those depths. This resolution reminds us of this purpose and focuses our efforts on education and prevention.

This is something that I have personally been working on for many years. As a member of the Florida Senate, I helped pass the first requirement for Holocaust education in public school curriculum. Now, many States have followed suit, and more American children of all walks of life are learning these important lessons.

In Congress, I have learned that Holocaust education can take many forms. Just down the street from the U.S. Capitol is the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum. Since I've come to Congress, Congressman MIKE PENCE and I have sought to bring new Members of Congress every 2 years to the Holocaust Museum so they can bear witness to this tragic history. They take this knowledge with them and bring it back to their districts across America and use their new understanding to raise awareness of anti-Semitism and bigotry around the world.

I would like to thank Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN for focusing this resolution on Holocaust education. As the generation of American liberators and Holocaust survivors begins to pass away, the mission of education and of ''Never again'' is more critical than ever.

Finally, I would like to acknowledge the many ceremonies that were held last week in honor of International Holocaust Remembrance Day, including one at Auschwitz, attended by Poland's President and Prime Minister, along with education ministers from nearly 30 nations and about 150 Holocaust survivors. At this commemoration, Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu proclaimed, ''We will not allow the deniers of the Holocaust . . . to erase or distort the memory [of what happened].'' This is our mission as well, and today the House of Representatives should speak with one voice in support of this mission.

I urge my colleagues to support this resolution, and I reserve the balance of my time.

□ 1545

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise today in support of my bill, House Resolution 1044, commemorating this year as the 65th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz, the largest of the Nazi extermination camps. Over a million people were systematically tortured and brutally murdered there. The Nazis at Auschwitz conducted cruel medical experiments on prisoners, including children. They intentionally infected prisoners with diseases and performed forced sterilizations and castrations on adults.

Most of those who perished at Auschwitz were Jews. But others that the Nazis perceived as enemies or inferior to Hitler's Aryan image were also murdered at Auschwitz. It was hell on Earth. Leo Schneiderman, a Holocaust survivor said the following about his arrival at Auschwitz, and I quote: ''When we came in, the minute the gates opened up, we heard screams and barking of dogs, and then we got out of the train. And everything went so fast. Men separated from women. Children torn from the arms of mothers. The elderly chased like cattle. The sick, the disabled were handled like packs of garbage. My mother ran over to me and grabbed me by the shoulders, and she told me, 'Leibele, I'm not going to see you no more. Take care of your brother.' ''

After years of misery and suffering, only a few thousands had remained when the Soviet Army arrived on a snowy day in 1945. Most of those survivors were too weak to realize that they had been liberated. We must remember what happened and ensure that humanity always prevails over hateful savagery and oppression.

The resolution we are considering today, Mr. Speaker, commemorates the 65th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz and honors the victims who perished at the hands of the Nazis. It expresses gratitude to the people whose efforts helped defeat the Nazi regime. It reaffirms the commitment of the House to bolster Holocaust education here in the United States and abroad, and to ensure that what happened during the Holocaust is never allowed to happen again.

And it also urges all countries to enhance their efforts to fight bigotry, racism, intolerance, and anti-Semitism. We must heed the lessons of history, remain vigilant, and stand firmly against purveyors of hatred who incite to violence against Israel, against the Jewish people, and all of us who stand for liberty and the fundamental rights of all human beings. As Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu said at a ceremony last week which marked the 65th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz, and I quote: ''We will always remember what the Nazi Amalek did to us, and we won't forget to be prepared for the new Amalek, who is making an appearance on the stage of history and once again threatening to destroy the Jews. We will not take this lightly and believe that these are empty statements. We will never forget and always remember to stand guard.''

So as we commemorate the 65th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz, I urge my colleagues to keep those words in mind and work to support and ensure that the world will never again see another Holocaust. I would also like to use this opportunity to say that I will be introducing a bill this week that will open the door for Holocaust survivors to bring Holocaust-era insurance claims against insurance companies in the U.S. courts. This bill will force insurance companies to disclose the names of Holocaust insurance policy holders.

With that, Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to render their full support to this resolution.

I reserve the balance of our time.

Mr. KLEIN of Florida. I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I would like to yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Texas, Judge POE, a member of our Committee on Foreign Affairs.

Mr. POE of Texas. Auschwitz was one of several if not many concentration camps that were established by the Nazis. In 1945, a young, 18-year old teenager who'd never been more than 50 miles from home showed up, along with other members of the Seventh Army, at a place called Dachau in Germany, and he helped liberate that concentration camp. That camp had been open from 1933 to 1945, where scientific experiments were done on people, ordered by the Nazis. This was the first concentration camp in Germany. That 18-year old that helped liberate that camp was my father. And he never talked much about World War II. But from time to time, even to this day, he mentions the word Dachau because that had such a tremendous impact on him.

I have had the opportunity, along with my son Kurt, to go to Germany to

see this place where people were tortured, humiliated, and murdered by the Nazis. Auschwitz was one. There are many others. And yet we should remember all the places where people were tortured in the name of hate, and we should remember the survivors of these concentration camps, and we should remember them forever.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I'd like to yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. ROYCE), the ranking member on the Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on Terrorism, Nonproliferation and Trade.

Mr. ROYCE. I rise in support of this resolution commemorating the 65th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz. I'm an original cosponsor of this bill. But I'd like to thank the author of this resolution, Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN, and Chairman BERMAN as well for their leadership.

Mr. Speaker, during World War II, my father was part of the Allied Forces who liberated Dachau. It was a concentration camp of similar horrors to that of Auschwitz, as Mr. POE expressed. And when they took the camp, he took pictures to document the tragedy, to document the horror of what he witnessed, and he has used them ever since, even to this day, in terms of lecturing to high school classes.

Mr. Speaker, importantly, we are marking this anniversary. We do so to remember the Holocaust and its victims. Inevitably the refrain ''Never Again'' comes to our lips. But, unfortunately, we know that this type of terror continues. Maybe not on the magnitude that it occurred during the Holocaust, but in the North Korean police state, where 200,000 are held in a system of political concentration camps which are modern day gulags, and the pictures of those imprisoned in North Korea, malnourished, with striped pajamas, are jarringly familiar to those of us who saw those photographs, either at Dachau or at Auschwitz.

Of course, like Nazi Germany, many of the regimes that have no respect for their own, like North Korea, are hostile also to us. High school students my father has lectured about World War II often ask why the world was so asleep to Adolf Hitler's horrors. Of course the world was only slowly learning about the depth of what was occurring in camps like Auschwitz. But with respect to today's tragedies, we don't have such an excuse.

Mr. Speaker, on the 65th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz, all of us, Congress and the administration, can resolve to do more in the cause of freedom, to do more to commit the United States to make certain that nothing like the Holocaust ever occurs again. And we can do more to remember the victims of that senseless slaughter.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and we yield back the balance of our time.

Mr. KLEIN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlelady and the speakers this afternoon on this very important resolution. I urge Members of this Chamber to support this resolution and send a strong message worldwide, never again.

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, the Auschwitz concentration camp serves as a tragic reminder of the millions of innocent men, women and children who lost their lives in the Holocaust. Yet it also is a standing testament to all those who risked their own lives to defeat the Nazi regime.

I would like to thank the Ranking Member, Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN, for bringing this resolution to the floor, and I am proud to cosponsor H. Res. 1044, a resolution commemorating the 65th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz.

On January 27, 1945, Allied Forces liberated the Auschwitz concentration camp where victims were systematically murdered in gas chambers, starved, tortured and subjected to forced labor and cruel medical experiments. According to the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum, over one million people lost their lives at Auschwitz.

Auschwitz was the largest Nazi concentration and extermination camp, and its buildings have come to symbolize the sheer inhumanity of the Holocaust. As we mark the 65th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz, let us recommit ourselves to combating bigotry, racism, intolerance and anti-Semitism.

As the co-chair of the Congressional Anti-Semitism Caucus, I stand in support of the resolution. With its passage, we remember the truth of the Holocaust and say with one resounding voice, "Never again!"

Mr. KLEIN of Florida. I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Florida (Mr. KLEIN) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 1044, as amended.

The question was taken.

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

Mr. KLEIN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

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.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE HONORABLE TIM HOLDEN, MEMBER OF CONGRESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Honorable TIM HOLDEN, Member of Congress:

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
January 27, 2010.

Hon. NANCY PELOSI,
Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MADAM SPEAKER: This is to notify you formally, pursuant to rule VIII of the rules of the House of Representatives, that I have been served with an administrative subpoena, issued before the Environmental Hearing Board of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, for documents. This is in reference to the landfill in Blythe Township, Pennsylvania which I opposed due to environmental concerns.

After consultation with the Office of General Counsel, I have determined that compliance with the subpoena is consistent with the precedents and privileges of the House.

Sincerely,

TIM HOLDEN,
Member of Congress.

COMMUNICATION FROM PROJECTS DIRECTOR, THE HONORABLE TIM HOLDEN, MEMBER OF CONGRESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from William Hanley, projects director, the Honorable TIM HOLDEN, Member of Congress:

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
January 27, 2010.

Hon. NANCY PELOSI,
Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MADAM SPEAKER: This is to notify you formally, pursuant to rule VIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, that I have been served with an administrative subpoena, issued before the Environmental Hearing Board of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, for documents.

After consultation with the Office of General Counsel, I have determined that it is consistent with the precedents and privileges of the House to notify the party that issued the subpoena that I have no responsive documents.

Sincerely,

WILLIAM HANLEY,
Projects Director.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, February 1, 2010.

Hon. NANCY PELOSI,
The Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MADAM SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of Rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, I have the honor to transmit a sealed envelope received from the White House on Monday, February 1, 2010 at 2:47 p.m., and said to contain a message from the President whereby submits his Budget of the United States Government for Fiscal Year 2011.

With best wishes, I am

Sincerely,

LORRAINE C. MILLER,
Clerk of the House.

BUDGET OF THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2011—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES (H. DOC. NO. 111–82)

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following message

from the President of the United States; which was read and, together with the accompanying papers, referred to the Committee on Appropriations and ordered to be printed:

To the Congress of the United States:

We begin a new year at a moment of continuing challenge for the American people. Even as we recover from crisis, millions of families are still feeling the pain of lost jobs and savings. Businesses are still struggling to find affordable loans to expand and hire workers. Our Nation is still experiencing the consequences of a deep and lasting recession, even as we have seen encouraging signs that the turmoil of the past 2 years is waning. Moving from recession to recovery, and ultimately to prosperity, remains at the heart of my Administration's efforts. This Budget provides a blueprint for the work ahead.

But in order to understand where we are going in the coming year, it is important to remember where we started just 1 year ago. Last January, the United States faced an economic crisis unlike any we had known in generations. Irresponsible risk-taking and debt-fueled speculation—unchecked by sound oversight—led to the near-collapse of our financial system. Our Gross Domestic Product (GDP) was falling at the fastest rate in a quarter-century. Five trillion dollars of Americans' household wealth had evaporated in just 12 weeks as stocks, pensions, and home values plummeted. We were losing an average of 700,000 jobs each month, equivalent to the population of the State of Vermont. The capital and credit markets, integral to the normal functioning of our economy, were virtually frozen. The fear among economists—from across the political spectrum—was that we risked sinking into a second Great Depression.

Immediately, we undertook a series of difficult steps to prevent that outcome. We acted to get lending flowing again so that businesses could get loans to buy equipment and ordinary Americans could get financing to buy homes and cars, go to college, and start or run businesses. We enacted measures to foster greater stability in the housing market, help responsible homeowners stay in their homes, and help to stop the broader decline in home values. To achieve this, and to prevent an economic collapse that would have affected millions of additional families, we had no choice but to use authority enacted under the previous Administration to extend assistance to some of the very banks and financial institutions whose actions had helped precipitate the turmoil. We also took steps to prevent the rapid dissolution of the American auto industry—which faced a crisis partly of its own making—to prevent the loss of hundreds of thousands of additional jobs during an already fragile time. Many of these decisions were not popular, but we deemed them necessary to prevent a deeper and longer recession.

Even as we worked to stop the economic freefall and address the crises in our banking sector, our housing market, and our auto industry, we also began attacking the economic crisis on a broader front. Less than 1 month after taking office, we enacted the most sweeping economic recovery package in history: the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. The Recovery Act not only provided tax cuts to small businesses and 95 percent of working families and provided emergency relief to those out of work or without health insurance; it also began to lay a new foundation for long-term economic growth and prosperity. With investments in health care, education, infrastructure, and clean energy, the Recovery Act both saved and created millions of jobs and began the hard work of transforming our economy to thrive in the modern, global marketplace and reverse the financial decline working families experienced in the last decade. Because of these and other steps, we can safely say we have avoided the depression many feared, and we are no longer facing the potential collapse of our financial system. But our work is far from complete.

First and foremost, there are still too many Americans without work. The steps we have taken have helped stop the staggering job losses we were experiencing at the beginning of last year. But the damage has been done. More than seven million jobs were lost since the recession began 2 years ago. This represents not only a terrible human tragedy, but also a very deep hole from which we have to climb out. Until our businesses are hiring again and jobs are being created to replace those we have lost—until America is back at work—my Administration will not rest and this recovery will not be finished.

That is why this Budget includes plans to encourage small businesses to hire as quickly and effectively as possible, to make additional investments in infrastructure, and to jump-start clean energy investments that will help the private sector create good jobs in America.

Long before this crisis hit, middle-class families were under growing strain. For decades, Washington failed to address fundamental weaknesses in the economy: rising health-care costs, a growing dependence on foreign oil, and an education system unable to prepare our children for the jobs of the future. In recent years, spending bills and tax cuts for the wealthy were approved without paying for any of it, leaving behind a mountain of debt. And while Wall Street gambled without regard for the consequences, Washington looked the other way.

As a result, the economy may have been working very well for those at the very top, but it was not working for the middle class. Year after year, Americans were forced to work longer hours and spend more time away from their loved ones, while their incomes flat-lined and their sense of economic security evaporated. Beneath the statistics are the stories of hardship I've heard all across America. For too many, there has long been a sense that the American dream—a chance to make your own way, to support your family, save for college and retirement, own a home—was slipping away. And this sense of anxiety has been combined with a deep frustration that Washington either didn't notice, or didn't care enough to act.

Those days are over. In the aftermath of this crisis, what is clear is that we cannot simply go back to business as usual. We cannot go back to an economy that yielded cycle after cycle of speculative booms and painful busts. We cannot continue to accept an education system in which our students trail their peers in other countries, and a health-care system in which exploding costs put our businesses at a competitive disadvantage and squeeze the incomes of our workers. We cannot continue to ignore the clean energy challenge and stand still while other countries move forward in the emerging industries of the 21st Century. And we cannot continue to borrow against our children's future, or allow special interests to determine how public dollars are spent. That is why, as we strive to meet the crisis of the moment, we are continuing to lay a new foundation for the future.

Already, we have made historic strides to reform and improve our schools, to pass health insurance reform, to build a new clean energy economy, to cut wasteful spending, and to limit the influence of lobbyists and special interests so that we are better serving the national interest. However, there is much left to do, and this Budget lays out the way ahead.

Because an educated workforce is essential in a 21st Century global economy, we are undertaking a reform of elementary and secondary school funding by setting high standards, encouraging innovation, and rewarding success; making the successful Race to the Top fund permanent and opening it up to innovative school districts; investing in educating the next generation of scientists and engineers; and putting our Nation closer to meeting the goal of leading the world in new college graduates by 2020. Moreover, since in today's economy learning must last a lifetime, my Administration will reform the job-training system, streamlining it and focusing it on the high-growth sectors of the economy.

Because even the best-trained workers in the world can't compete if our businesses are saddled with rapidly increasing health-care costs, we're fighting to reform our Nation's broken health insurance system and relieve this unsustainable burden. My Budget includes funds to lay the groundwork for these reforms—by investing in health information technology, patient-centered research, and prevention and wellness—as well as to improve the health of the Nation by increasing the

number of primary care physicians, protecting the safety of our food and drugs, and investing in critical biomedical research.

Because small businesses are critical creators of new jobs and economic growth, the Budget eliminates capital gains taxes for investments in small firms and includes measures to increase these firms' access to the loans they need to meet payroll, expand their operations, and hire new workers.

Because we know the nation that leads in clean energy will be the nation that leads the world, the Budget creates the incentives to build a new clean energy economy—from new loan guarantees that will encourage a range of renewable energy efforts and new nuclear power plants to spurring the development of clean energy on Federal lands. More broadly, the Budget makes critical investments that will ensure that we continue to lead the world in new fields and industries: doubling research and development funding in key physical sciences agencies; expanding broadband networks across our country; and working to promote American exports abroad.

And because we know that our future is dependent on maintaining American leadership abroad and ensuring our security at home, the Budget funds all the elements of our national power—including our military—to achieve our goals of winding down the war in Iraq, executing our new strategy in Afghanistan, and fighting al Qaeda all over the world. To honor the sacrifice of the men and women who shoulder this burden and who have throughout our history, the Budget also provides significant resources, including advanced appropriations, to care for our Nation's veterans.

Rising to these challenges is the responsibility we bear for the future of our children, our grandchildren, and our Nation. This is an obligation to change not just what we do in Washington, but how we do it.

As we look to the future, we must recognize that the era of irresponsibility in Washington must end. On the day my Administration took office, we faced an additional $7.5 trillion in national debt by the end of this decade as a result of the failure to pay for two large tax cuts, primarily for the wealthiest Americans, and a new entitlement program. We also inherited the worst recession since the Great Depression—which, even before we took any action, added an additional $3 trillion to the national debt. Our response to this recession, the Recovery Act, which has been critical to restoring economic growth, will add an additional $1 trillion to the debt—only 10 percent of these costs. In total, the surpluses we enjoyed at the start of the last decade have disappeared; instead, we are $12 trillion deeper in debt. In the long term, we cannot have sustainable and durable economic growth without getting our fiscal house in order.

That is why even as we increased our short-term deficit to rescue the economy, we have refused to go along with business as usual, taking responsibility for every dollar we spend, eliminating what we don't need, and making the programs we do need more efficient. We are taking on health care—the single biggest threat to our Nation's fiscal future—and doing so in a fiscally responsible way that will not add a dime to our deficits and will lower the rate of health-care cost growth in the long run.

We are implementing the Recovery Act with an unprecedented degree of oversight and openness so that anyone anywhere can see where their tax dollars are going. We've banned lobbyists from serving on agency advisory boards and commissions, which had become dominated by special interests. We are using new technology to make Government more accessible to the American people. And last year, we combed the budget, cutting millions of dollars of waste and eliminating excess wherever we could—including outdated weapons systems that even the Pentagon said it did not want or need.

We continued that process in this Budget as well, streamlining what does work and ending programs that do not—all while making it more possible for Americans to judge our progress for themselves. The Budget includes more than 120 programs for termination, reduction, or other savings for a total of approximately $23 billion in 2011, as well as an aggressive effort to reduce the tens of billions of dollars in improper Government payments made each year.

To help put our country on a fiscally sustainable path, we will freeze nonsecurity discretionary funding for 3 years. This freeze will require a level of discipline with Americans' tax dollars and a number of hard choices and painful tradeoffs not seen in Washington for many years. But it is what needs to be done to restore fiscal responsibility as we begin to rebuild our economy.

In addition to closing loopholes that allow wealthy investment managers to not pay income taxes on their earnings and ending subsidies for big oil, gas, and coal companies, the Budget eliminates the Bush tax cuts for those making more than $250,000 a year and devotes those resources instead to reducing the deficit. Our Nation could not afford these tax cuts when they passed, and it cannot afford them now.

And the Budget calls for those in the financial sector—who benefited so greatly from the extraordinary measures taken to rescue them from a crisis that was largely of their own making—to finally recognize their obligation to taxpayers. The legislation establishing the Troubled Asset Relief Program (TARP) included a provision requiring the Administration to devise a way for these banks and firms to pay back the American taxpayer. That is why in this Budget we have included a fee on the largest and most indebted financial firms to ensure that taxpayers are fully compensated for the extraordinary support they provided, while providing a deterrent to the risky practices that contributed to this crisis.

Yet even after taking these steps, our fiscal situation remains unacceptable. A decade of irresponsible choices has created a fiscal hole that will not be solved by a typical Washington budget process that puts partisanship and parochial interests above our shared national interest. That is why, working with the Congress, we will establish a bipartisan fiscal commission charged with identifying additional policies to put our country on a fiscally sustainable path—balancing the Budget, excluding interest payments on the debt, by 2015.

This past year, we have seen the consequences of those in power failing to live up to their responsibilities to shareholders and constituents. We have seen how Main Street is as linked to Wall Street as our economy is to those of other nations. And we have seen the results of building an economy on a shaky foundation, rather than on the bedrock fundamentals of innovation, small business, good schools, smart investment, and long-term growth.

We have also witnessed the resilience of the American people—our unique ability to pick ourselves up and forge ahead even when times are tough. All across our country, there are students ready to learn, workers eager to work, scientists on the brink of discovery, entrepreneurs seeking the chance to open a small business, and once-shuttered factories just waiting to whir back to life in burgeoning industries.

This is a Nation ready to meet the challenges of this new age and to lead the world in this new century. Americans are willing to work hard, and, in return, they expect to be able to find a good job, afford a home, send their children to world-class schools, receive high-quality and affordable health care, and enjoy retirement security in their later years. These are the building blocks of the middle class that make America strong, and it is our duty to honor the drive, ingenuity, and fortitude of the American people by laying the groundwork upon which they can pursue these dreams and realize the promise of American life.

This Budget is our plan for how to start accomplishing this in the coming fiscal year. As we look back on the progress of the past 12 months and look forward to the work ahead, I have every confidence that we can—and will—rise to the challenge that our people and our history set for us.

These have been tough times, and there will be difficult months ahead. But the storms of the past are receding; the skies are brightening; and the horizon is beckoning once more.

BARACK OBAMA.

THE WHITE HOUSE, *February 1, 2010.*

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair

declares the House in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

Accordingly (at 4 o'clock and 15 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

□ 1831

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. QUIGLEY) at 6 o'clock and 31 minutes p.m.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 4061, CYBERSECURITY ENHANCEMENT ACT OF 2009

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 111–410) on the resolution (H. Res. 1051) providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 4061) to advance cybersecurity research, development, and technical standards, and for other purposes, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, proceedings will resume on motions to suspend the rules previously postponed.

Votes will be taken in the following order:

H.R. 4495, House Resolution 957, and House Resolution 1014, in each case by the yeas and nays.

Remaining postponed questions will be taken later in the week.

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

JIM KOLBE POST OFFICE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4495, 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 gentleman from New York (Mr. TOWNS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4495.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 390, nays 0, not voting 43, as follows:

[Roll No. 26]

YEAS—390

Abercrombie
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 (GA)
Bishop (NY)
Bishop (UT)
Blackburn
Blumenauer
Blunt
Boccieri
Boehner
Bonner
Bono Mack
Boozman
Boren
Boswell
Boucher
Boustany
Brady (PA)
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
Carson (IN)
Carter
Castle
Castor (FL)
Chaffetz
Chandler
Childers
Chu
Clarke
Clay
Cleaver
Clyburn
Coble
Coffman (CO)
Cohen
Cole
Conaway
Connolly (VA)
Conyers
Cooper
Costello
Courtney
Crenshaw
Crowley
Cuellar
Culberson
Cummings
Dahlkemper
Davis (CA)
Davis (KY)
Davis (TN)
DeFazio
DeGette
Delahunt
DeLauro
Dent
Diaz-Balart, L.
Diaz-Balart, M.
Dicks
Dingell
Doggett
Donnelly (IN)
Dreier
Driehaus
Duncan
Edwards (MD)
Edwards (TX)
Ellsworth
Eshoo
Etheridge
Fallin
Farr
Fattah
Filner
Flake
Fleming
Forbes
Fortenberry
Foster
Foxx
Frank (MA)
Franks (AZ)
Frelinghuysen
Fudge
Gallegly
Garamendi
Gerlach
Giffords
Gingrey (GA)
Gohmert
Gonzalez
Goodlatte
Gordon (TN)
Granger
Graves
Grayson
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Griffith
Guthrie
Hall (TX)
Halvorson
Hare
Harman
Harper
Hastings (FL)
Hastings (WA)
Heinrich
Heller
Hensarling
Herger
Herseth Sandlin
Higgins
Hill
Himes
Hinchey
Hinojosa
Hirono
Hodes
Holden
Holt
Honda
Hoyer
Hunter
Inglis
Inslee
Israel
Issa
Jackson (IL)
Jackson Lee (TX)
Jenkins
Johnson (GA)
Johnson (IL)
Johnson, E. B.
Johnson, Sam
Jones
Jordan (OH)
Kanjorski
Kaptur
Kennedy
Kildee
Kilpatrick (MI)
Kilroy
Kind
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kingston
Kissell
Klein (FL)
Kline (MN)
Kosmas
Kratovil
Kucinich
Lamborn
Lance
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Latham
LaTourette
Latta
Lee (CA)
Lee (NY)
Levin
Lewis (CA)
Lewis (GA)
Linder
LoBiondo
Lofgren, Zoe
Lowey
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Luján
Lummis
Lungren, Daniel E.
Lynch
Mack
Maffei
Maloney
Manzullo
Marchant
Markey (CO)
Markey (MA)
Marshall
Matheson
Matsui
McCarthy (CA)
McCarthy (NY)
McCaul
McClintock
McCollum
McCotter
McDermott
McGovern
McHenry
McIntyre
McKeon
McMahon
McMorris Rodgers
McNerney
Meek (FL)
Meeks (NY)
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
Myrick
Nadler (NY)
Napolitano
Neal (MA)
Neugebauer
Nunes
Nye
Oberstar
Obey
Olson
Olver
Ortiz
Owens
Pallone
Pascrell
Pastor (AZ)
Paul
Payne
Pence
Perlmutter
Perriello
Peters
Peterson
Petri
Pingree (ME)
Pitts
Platts
Poe (TX)
Polis (CO)
Pomeroy
Posey
Price (GA)
Price (NC)
Putnam
Quigley
Rahall
Rangel
Rehberg
Reichert
Reyes
Richardson
Rodriguez
Roe (TN)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rogers (MI)
Rooney
Ros-Lehtinen
Roskam
Ross
Rothman (NJ)
Roybal-Allard
Royce
Ruppersberger
Ryan (OH)
Ryan (WI)
Salazar
Sanchez, Loretta
Sarbanes
Scalise
Schauer
Schiff
Schmidt
Schock
Schrader
Schwartz
Scott (GA)
Scott (VA)
Sensenbrenner
Serrano
Sessions
Sestak
Shadegg
Shea-Porter
Sherman
Shuler
Shuster
Simpson
Sires
Skelton
Slaughter
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Snyder
Space
Speier
Spratt
Stearns
Stupak
Sullivan
Sutton
Tanner
Taylor
Teague
Terry
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Thompson (PA)
Thornberry
Tiberi
Tierney
Titus
Tonko
Towns
Tsongas
Turner
Upton
Van Hollen
Velázquez
Visclosky
Walden
Walz
Wamp
Wasserman Schultz
Watson
Watt
Waxman
Weiner
Westmoreland
Whitfield
Wilson (OH)
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Wolf
Woolsey
Wu
Yarmuth
Young (AK)

NOT VOTING—43

Barrett (SC)
Boyd
Brady (TX)
Carney
Cassidy
Costa
Davis (AL)
Davis (IL)
Deal (GA)
Doyle
Ehlers
Ellison
Emerson
Engel
Garrett (NJ)
Grijalva
Gutierrez
Hall (NY)
Hoekstra
Kagen
Kirk
Kirkpatrick (AZ)
Larson (CT)
Lipinski
Loebsack
Massa
Melancon
Moran (KS)
Murtha
Paulsen
Radanovich
Rohrabacher
Rush
Sánchez, Linda T.
Schakowsky
Shimkus
Smith (WA)
Souder
Stark
Tiahrt
Waters
Welch
Young (FL)

□ 1858

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 JIMMIE JOHNSON

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 957, 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 New York (Mr. TOWNS) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 957.

This will be a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 391, nays 1, not voting 41, as follows:

[Roll No. 27]

YEAS—391

Abercrombie
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 (GA)
Bishop (NY)
Bishop (UT)
Blackburn
Blumenauer
Blunt
Boccieri
Boehner
Bonner
Bono Mack
Boozman
Boren
Boswell
Boucher
Boustany
Brady (PA)
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
Carson (IN)
Carter
Castle
Castor (FL)
Chaffetz
Chandler
Childers
Chu
Clarke
Clay
Cleaver
Clyburn
Coble
Coffman (CO)
Cohen
Cole
Conaway
Connolly (VA)
Conyers
Cooper
Costello
Courtney
Crenshaw
Crowley
Cuellar
Culberson
Cummings
Dahlkemper
Davis (CA)
Davis (KY)
Davis (TN)
DeFazio
DeGette
Delahunt
DeLauro
Dent
Diaz-Balart, L.
Diaz-Balart, M.
Dicks
Dingell
Doggett
Donnelly (IN)
Dreier
Driehaus
Duncan
Edwards (MD)
Edwards (TX)
Ellsworth
Eshoo
Etheridge
Fallin
Farr
Fattah
Filner
Flake
Fleming
Forbes
Fortenberry
Foster
Foxx
Frank (MA)
Franks (AZ)
Frelinghuysen
Fudge
Gallegly
Garamendi
Gerlach
Giffords
Gingrey (GA)
Gohmert
Gonzalez
Goodlatte
Gordon (TN)
Granger
Graves
Grayson
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Griffith
Guthrie
Hall (TX)
Halvorson
Hare
Harman
Harper
Hastings (FL)
Hastings (WA)
Heinrich
Heller
Hensarling
Herger
Herseth Sandlin
Higgins
Hill
Himes
Hinchey
Hinojosa
Hirono
Hodes
Holden
Holt
Honda
Hoyer
Hunter
Inglis
Inslee
Israel
Issa
Jackson (IL)
Jackson Lee (TX)
Jenkins
Johnson (GA)
Johnson (IL)
Johnson, E. B.
Johnson, Sam
Jones
Jordan (OH)
Kanjorski
Kaptur
Kennedy
Kildee
Kilpatrick (MI)
Kilroy
Kind
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kingston
Kissell
Klein (FL)
Kline (MN)
Kosmas
Kratovil
Kucinich
Lamborn
Lance
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Latham
LaTourette
Latta
Lee (CA)
Lee (NY)
Levin
Lewis (CA)
Lewis (GA)
Linder
LoBiondo
Lofgren, Zoe
Lowey
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Luján
Lummis
Lungren, Daniel E.
Lynch
Mack
Maffei
Maloney
Manzullo
Marchant
Markey (CO)
Markey (MA)
Marshall
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
Myrick
Nadler (NY)
Napolitano
Neal (MA)
Neugebauer
Nunes
Nye
Oberstar
Obey
Olson
Olver
Ortiz
Owens
Pallone
Pascrell
Pastor (AZ)
Paul
Payne
Pence
Perlmutter
Perriello
Peters
Peterson
Petri
Pingree (ME)
Pitts
Platts
Poe (TX)
Polis (CO)
Pomeroy
Posey
Price (GA)
Price (NC)
Putnam
Quigley
Rahall
Rangel
Rehberg
Reichert
Reyes
Richardson
Rodriguez
Roe (TN)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rogers (MI)
Rooney
Ros-Lehtinen
Roskam
Ross
Rothman (NJ)
Roybal-Allard
Royce
Ruppersberger
Ryan (OH)
Ryan (WI)
Salazar
Sanchez, Loretta
Sarbanes
Scalise
Schauer
Schiff
Schmidt
Schock
Schwartz
Scott (GA)
Scott (VA)
Sensenbrenner
Serrano
Sessions
Sestak
Shadegg
Shea-Porter
Sherman
Shuler
Shuster
Simpson
Sires
Skelton
Slaughter
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Snyder
Space
Speier
Spratt
Stearns
Stupak
Sullivan
Sutton
Tanner
Taylor
Teague
Terry
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Thompson (PA)
Thornberry
Tiberi
Tierney
Titus
Tonko
Towns
Tsongas
Turner
Upton
Van Hollen
Velázquez
Visclosky
Walden
Walz
Wamp
Wasserman Schultz
Watson
Watt
Waxman
Weiner
Welch
Westmoreland
Whitfield
Wilson (OH)
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Wolf
Woolsey
Wu
Yarmuth
Young (AK)

NAYS—1

Schrader

NOT VOTING—41

Barrett (SC)
Boyd
Brady (TX)
Carney
Cassidy
Costa
Davis (AL)
Davis (IL)
Deal (GA)
Doyle
Ehlers
Ellison
Emerson
Engel
Garrett (NJ)
Grijalva
Gutierrez
Hall (NY)
Hoekstra
Kagen
Kirk
Kirkpatrick (AZ)
Larson (CT)
Lipinski
Loebsack
Massa
Moran (KS)
Murtha
Paulsen
Radanovich
Rohrabacher
Rush
Sánchez, Linda T.
Schakowsky
Shimkus
Smith (WA)
Souder
Stark
Tiahrt
Waters
Young (FL)

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (during the vote). Members have 2 minutes to vote.

□ 1907

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.

NORTH AMERICAN INCLUSION 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. 1014, 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 New York (Mr. TOWNS) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 1014.

This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 389, nays 0, not voting 44, as follows:

[Roll No. 28]

YEAS—389

Abercrombie
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 (GA)
Bishop (NY)
Bishop (UT)
Blackburn
Blumenauer
Blunt
Boccieri
Boehner
Bonner
Bono Mack
Boozman
Boren
Boswell
Boucher
Boustany
Brady (PA)
Braley (IA)
Bright
Broun (GA)
Brown (SC)
Brown, Corrine
Brown-Waite, Ginny
Buchanan
Burgess
Burton (IN)
Butterfield
Buyer
Calvert
Campbell
Cantor
Cao
Capito
Capps
Capuano
Cardoza
Carnahan
Carson (IN)
Carter
Castle
Castor (FL)
Chaffetz
Chandler
Childers
Chu
Clarke
Clay
Clyburn
Coble
Coffman (CO)
Cohen
Cole
Conaway
Connolly (VA)
Conyers
Cooper
Costello
Courtney
Crenshaw
Crowley
Cuellar
Culberson
Cummings
Dahlkemper
Davis (CA)
Davis (KY)
Davis (TN)
DeGette
Delahunt
DeLauro
Dent
Diaz-Balart, L.
Diaz-Balart, M.
Dicks
Dingell
Doggett
Donnelly (IN)
Dreier
Driehaus
Duncan
Edwards (MD)
Edwards (TX)
Ellsworth
Engel
Eshoo
Etheridge
Fallin
Farr
Fattah
Filner
Flake
Fleming
Forbes
Fortenberry
Foster
Foxx
Frank (MA)
Franks (AZ)
Frelinghuysen
Fudge
Gallegly
Garamendi
Gerlach
Giffords
Gingrey (GA)
Gohmert
Gonzalez
Goodlatte
Gordon (TN)
Granger
Graves
Grayson
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Griffith
Guthrie
Hall (TX)
Halvorson
Hare
Harman
Harper
Hastings (FL)
Hastings (WA)
Heinrich
Heller
Hensarling
Herger
Herseth Sandlin
Higgins
Hill
Himes
Hinchey
Hinojosa
Hirono
Hodes
Holden
Holt
Honda
Hoyer
Hunter
Inglis
Inslee
Israel
Issa
Jackson (IL)
Jackson Lee (TX)
Jenkins
Johnson (GA)
Johnson (IL)
Johnson, E. B.
Johnson, Sam
Jones
Jordan (OH)
Kanjorski
Kaptur
Kennedy
Kildee
Kilpatrick (MI)
Kilroy
Kind
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kingston
Kissell
Klein (FL)
Kline (MN)
Kosmas
Kratovil
Kucinich
Lamborn
Lance
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Latham
LaTourette
Latta
Lee (CA)
Lee (NY)
Levin
Lewis (CA)
Lewis (GA)
Linder
LoBiondo
Lofgren, Zoe
Lowey
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Luján
Lummis
Lungren, Daniel E.
Lynch
Mack
Maffei
Maloney
Manzullo
Marchant
Markey (CO)
Markey (MA)
Marshall
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
Myrick
Nadler (NY)
Napolitano
Neal (MA)
Neugebauer
Nunes
Nye
Oberstar
Obey
Olson
Olver
Ortiz
Owens
Pallone
Pascrell
Pastor (AZ)
Paul
Payne
Pence
Perlmutter
Perriello
Peters
Peterson
Petri
Pingree (ME)
Pitts
Platts
Poe (TX)
Polis (CO)
Pomeroy
Posey
Price (GA)
Price (NC)
Putnam
Quigley
Rahall
Rangel
Rehberg
Reichert
Reyes
Richardson
Rodriguez
Roe (TN)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rogers (MI)
Rooney
Ros-Lehtinen
Roskam
Ross
Rothman (NJ)
Roybal-Allard
Royce
Ruppersberger
Ryan (OH)
Ryan (WI)
Salazar
Sanchez, Loretta
Sarbanes
Scalise
Schauer
Schiff
Schmidt
Schock
Schrader
Schwartz
Scott (GA)
Scott (VA)
Sensenbrenner
Serrano
Sessions
Sestak
Shadegg
Shea-Porter
Sherman
Shuler
Shuster
Simpson
Sires
Skelton
Slaughter
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Snyder
Space
Speier

Spratt
Stearns
Stupak
Sullivan
Sutton
Tanner
Taylor
Teague
Terry
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Thompson (PA)
Thornberry
Tiberi
Tierney
Titus
Tonko
Towns
Tsongas
Turner
Upton
Van Hollen
Velázquez
Visclosky
Walden
Walz
Wamp
Watson
Watt
Waxman
Weiner
Welch
Westmoreland
Whitfield
Wilson (OH)
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Wolf
Woolsey
Wu
Yarmuth
Young (AK)

NOT VOTING—44

Barrett (SC)
Boyd
Brady (TX)
Camp
Carney
Cassidy
Cleaver
Costa
Davis (AL)
Davis (IL)
Deal (GA)
DeFazio
Doyle
Ehlers
Ellison
Emerson
Garrett (NJ)
Grijalva
Gutierrez
Hall (NY)
Hoekstra
Kagen
Kirk
Kirkpatrick (AZ)
Larson (CT)
Lipinski
Loebsack
Massa
Moran (KS)
Murtha
Paulsen
Radanovich
Rohrabacher
Rush
Sánchez, Linda T.
Schakowsky
Shimkus
Smith (WA)
Souder
Stark
Tiahrt
Wasserman Schultz
Waters
Young (FL)

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (during the vote). Members have 2 minutes to vote.

□ 1914

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.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. GUTIERREZ. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably absent from this Chamber this evening. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall votes 26, 27 and 28.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall Nos. 26, 27, and 28, I was unavoidably detained and missed the votes. Had I been present and voting, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall votes Nos. 26, 27, and 28.

PROVIDING AMOUNTS FOR FURTHER EXPENSES OF THE COMMITTEE ON STANDARDS OF OFFICIAL CONDUCT IN THE 111TH CONGRESS

Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on House Administration be discharged from further consideration of House Resolution 1050 and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

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

There was no objection.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 1050

Resolved,

SECTION 1. AMOUNTS FOR COMMITTEE EXPENSES.

For further expenses of the Committee on Standards of Official Conduct (hereafter in this resolution referred to as the ''Committee'') for the One Hundred Eleventh Congress, there shall be paid out of the applicable accounts of the House of Representatives not more than $600,000.

SEC. 2. SESSION LIMITATION.

The amount specified in section 1 shall be available for expenses incurred during the period beginning at noon on January 3, 2010, and ending immediately before noon on January 3, 2011

SEC. 3. VOUCHERS.

Payments under this resolution shall be made on vouchers authorized by the Committee, signed by the Chairman of the Committee, and approved in the manner directed by the Committee on House Administration.

SEC. 4. REGULATIONS.

Amounts made available under this resolution shall be expended in accordance with regulations prescribed by the Committee on House Administration.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on the matter just considered.

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

There was no objection.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, February 2, 2010.

Hon. NANCY PELOSI,
The Speaker, U.S. Capitol, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MADAM SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of Rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, I have the honor to transmit a sealed envelope received from the White House on Tuesday, February 2, 2010 at 4:58 p.m., and said to contain a message from the President whereby he submits a copy of a notice filed earlier with the Federal Register continuing the national emergency with respect to Côte d'Ivoire first declared by Executive Order 13396 of February 7, 2006.

With best wishes, I am
Sincerely,

LORRAINE C. MILLER,
Clerk of the House.

CONTINUATION OF NATIONAL EMERGENCY WITH RESPECT TO CÔTE D'IVOIRE—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES (H. DOC. NO. 111–90)

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following message from the President of the United States; which was read and, together with the accompanying papers, referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs and ordered to be printed:

To the Congress of the United States:

Section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1622(d)) provides for the automatic termination of a national emergency, unless, prior to the anniversary date of its declaration, the President publishes in the Federal Register and transmits to the Congress a notice stating that the emergency is to continue in effect beyond the anniversary date. In accordance with this provision, I have sent to the Federal Register for publication the enclosed notice stating that the national emergency declared in Executive Order 13396 of February 7, 2006, with respect to the situation in or in relation to Côte d'Ivoire is to continue in effect beyond February 7, 2010.

The situation in or in relation to Côte d'Ivoire, which has been addressed by the United Nations Security Council in Resolution 1572 of November 15, 2004, and subsequent resolutions, has resulted in the massacre of large numbers of civilians, widespread human rights abuses, significant political violence and unrest, and fatal attacks against international peacekeeping forces. In March 2007, the Ouagadougou Political Agreement was signed by the two primary protagonists in Côte d'Ivoire's conflict. Although considerable progress has been made in implementing this agreement, the situation in or in relation to Côte d'Ivoire poses a continuing unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security and foreign policy of the United States.

For these reasons, I have determined that it is necessary to continue the national emergency and related measures blocking the property of certain persons contributing to the conflict in Côte d'Ivoire.

BARACK OBAMA.
THE WHITE HOUSE, *February 2, 1010.*

NOTICE

CONTINUATION OF THE NATIONAL EMERGENCY WITH RESPECT TO THE SITUATION IN OR IN RELATION TO CÔTE D'IVOIRE

On February 7, 2006, by Executive Order 13396, the President declared a national emergency, pursuant to the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1701–1706), to deal with the unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security and foreign policy of the United States constituted by the situation in or in relation to Côte d'Ivoire and ordered related measures blocking the property of certain persons contributing to the conflict in Côte d'Ivoire. The situation in or in relation to Côte d'Ivoire, which has been addressed by the United Nations Security Council in Resolution 1572 of November 15, 2004, and subsequent resolutions, has resulted in the

massacre of large numbers of civilians, widespread human rights abuses, significant political violence and unrest, and fatal attacks against international peacekeeping forces. Because the situation in or in relation to Côte d'Ivoire continues to pose an unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security and foreign policy of the United States, the national emergency declared on February 7, 2006, and the measures adopted on that date to deal with that emergency, must continue in effect beyond February 7, 2010. Therefore, in accordance with section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1622(d)), I am continuing for 1 year the national emergency declared in Executive Order 13396.

This notice shall be published in the Federal Register and transmitted to the Congress.

BARACK OBAMA.

THE WHITE HOUSE, *February 2, 2010*.

HONORING THE SACRIFICE OF NAVY PETTY OFFICER SECOND CLASS XIN QI

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

Mr. COHEN. I rise today to honor the sacrifice of Navy Hospital Petty Officer Second Class Xin Qi, who died in Helmand Province in Afghanistan on the 23rd day of January. Petty Officer Qi was assigned to the Operational Health Support Unit in Dallas, Texas, when he volunteered to deploy to Afghanistan with the Fourth Light Armored Reconnaissance Battalion out of Camp Pendleton. He was there for three months in his first tour in Afghanistan when a suicide bomber attacked while he was on a foot patrol in Helmand Province.

Simply 25 years of age, Petty Officer Qi is survived by his mother and his father. They are residents of my county, Shelby County, and he is the third casualty from Shelby County in the last few months and the second this year in Operation Enduring Freedom. We've had 13 heroic soldiers die in the Middle East since 2002.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that this House take a moment to remember the sacrifices of our Armed Forces, including the ultimate sacrifice of Petty Officer Xin Qi. I thank the family for their wonderful son and the sacrifice he's made for his country.

A PLEA FOR HELP

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

Mr. KINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise to ask House Members within my voice maybe for some help. About three or 4 years ago we found a man in Savannah, Georgia, who's in his late forties, maybe early fifties, who does not have identity. We have no idea who he is or where he came from. But he is an intelligent, apparently college-educated, middle management type guy, maybe from Indiana. Mr. BURTON actually helped us on him a little bit because he has memories of Indiana and Denver, Colorado. We've talked to the FBI. They've done a background check. We've talked to Social Security. They've done a background check. We've gone to many Federal agencies and asked them for their assistance trying to identify this gentleman. He has no Social Security number so he can't get a job. And he is totally in abeyance, basically forced to be homeless if not for the charity of some people who've taken an interest in his case.

So if anybody knows of a way to identify somebody, I would respectfully ask you to please let me know what it is, and I will be glad to follow whatever lead you can give me. And I appreciate that and thank you very much.

SEEKING THE RELEASE OF AMERICAN CITIZENS HELD IN IRAN

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

Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, each Nation is sovereign, but across the airwaves of American television today we saw flashed three Americans who have been held by the leadership in Iran, three innocent Americans who crossed, by mistake, on a hike into the sovereign area of Iran. I make a plea today for the President of Iran to release those individuals.

Today he sent a missive, a message to say that he would release them if we release Iranians who are held in American jails. I believe that the right thing to do is to assess the innocence of these Americans, and to be able to engage in diplomacy on setting them free. If there is any cause for any innocent person who happens to be of Iranian descent that is here in the United States jails, I know that our leadership and criminal justice system will engage. But to hold hostage our innocent Americans who, by accident, during a hike, conspicuously crossed over and admitted it was a mistake is a shame on the international front and does not do justice to human rights around the world.

TRY KHALID SHEIKH MOHAMMED IN GUANTANAMO

(Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California. Mr. Speaker, the administration made a tragic mistake when it decided to try Khalid Sheikh Mohammed and his confederates in a civilian courtroom in New York City. We now find that they realize there's been a mistake, but we don't know where they're going to go next. I'll give them a clue: If you didn't have Guantanamo Bay, you'd have to build it. That's the place he should remain. That's the place he should be tried. We should resume the military tribunals where he and his confederates had already indicated they wanted to plead guilty. We should forget this nonsense about bringing them to civilian courts in the United States. If it's too dangerous for New York, if it doesn't make sense for New York, it doesn't make sense for anywhere in the sovereign territory of the United States. Guantanamo is the perfect place for them to remain.

Do not close Guantanamo. Keep them there. Try them there. Give them their meeting with justice there as well.

Mr. Speaker, they're not attacking us because of Guantanamo Bay. They're attacking us because of the Statue of Liberty.

□ 1930

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2009, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

THE IRANIAN OPPOSITION PROTESTS ARE TO BE ADMIRED

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. POE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, there's a grim update coming out of the nation of Iran. Last week, the Government of Iran executed two of the 11 people who had been arrested and sentenced to death for peacefully protesting the government. They were hanged. Iran announced yesterday that nine more people sentenced to death will be hanged in the public square.

On Saturday, 16 more protestors went on trial for their lives. Hundreds of people were arrested in December when liberty advocates again protested in the streets of Iran by the thousands and at least eight people were murdered by the government.

What was their crime? Speaking out against the rigged presidential election last June, speaking out against a dictator who murders his own people, Ahmadinejad.

The people reject the Tiny Tyrant of the Desert, Ahmadinejad, and they're killed in the streets and sentenced by the government-controlled courtrooms to die for peacefully objecting to fraudulent elections.

So death by hanging from the Liberty Tree was their fate, but their silent voices are still heard proclaiming freedom throughout the land of Iran. They died martyrs for their country; they died for human dignity; they died alone but not for themselves alone but for every Iranian that believes in the human right of freedom.

Next week on February 11, Iran will mark the 31st anniversary of the Islamic Revolution. The revolution promised the people of Iran liberty, but it has imposed tyranny. The occasion is usually marked by government-run rallies throughout the country, but the leaders of the freedom movement are asking the people to once again risk their lives and stand in opposition to government tyranny and government-controlled rallies.

The government is accused by opposition leaders of executing two protestors to scare the people into silence on the anniversary of the revolution. Now, the Tiny Tyrant in the Desert, Ahmadinejad, says, The Islamic Revolution opened a window to liberty for the human race. What a lie. The Iranian Government doesn't know what the word ''liberty'' even means.

The head of the Islamic Revolution Guards in Tehran, Brigadier General Hossein Hamedani, warned in the media that the opposition movement would be barred from making an appearance on February 11. He said, ''Any voice, color, or gesture which is different from that of the Islamic Revolution and from the Iranians' voice should be driven out of people's marches,'' saying violators would be ''severely dealt with.'' So much for freedom of speech. So much for freedom to peaceably assemble and protest the government.

Plus, those in the media are being controlled as to what they can report, allowing only government propaganda to be preached to the people. Is this what the Iranian Government calls liberty? This is tyranny by Dictator Ahmadinejad.

The United States should not remain silent about the oppressions of the Iranian people. The next great hope for the world and world peace is that the people of Iran remove their illegitimate regime and put in a government that is duly and legally authorized by the people. The United States should stand with the Iranian people with their request for freedom and let them know we support their voice for freedom over tyranny, liberty over oppression. And while the dictator may kill the body of those freedom fighters, he will not succeed in killing the spirit of freedom that they have proclaimed when they lived.

The Tiny Tyrant of the Desert, Ahmadinejad, is trying to intimidate his people and intimidate the world. He is trying to divert attention away from his unpopular government. He is threatening the world again saying Iran will ''deliver a telling blow to global powers on February 11.'' Could this be a threat? Another advance in Iran's quest for nuclear weapons?

Our quarrel is not with the people of Iran. Our quarrel, the world's quarrel, is with the Government of Iran. The legitimate government of Iran is the world threat to peace. Ahmadinejad and his henchmen are waging internal war against the Iranian people, and he desires to rage war against other nations. We should join hands with the sons of liberty and the daughters of Iran in protest of tyranny, oppression, and murder in that country.

Iran needs a regime change because a nuclear Iran is not a nuclear option.

And that's just the way it is.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. CONYERS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. CONYERS addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

IMPROVING WOMEN'S RIGHTS IS THE KEY TO PEACE IN AFGHANISTAN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WOOLSEY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, Secretary of State Hillary Clinton announced a new ''Women's Action Plan'' for Afghanistan last week. I want to praise Secretary Clinton for this critically important initiative because I believe that improving women's rights is one of the important keys to peace in Afghanistan and in many other parts of the world as well.

The action plan includes the following initiatives: improved security for women in Afghanistan; provide girls and women with better education; expand women's access to judicial institutions; improve women's health care; expand economic development opportunities for women; and increase women's participation in the political process in every level of government.

Mr. Speaker, there is a great need for those initiatives because women's rights have been ignored or destroyed in Afghanistan for many years, especially under Taliban rule. In Afghanistan, the lives of girls and women are at risk every single day because many laws actually don't exist to protect women, and there are many laws that actually discriminate against women. It's also important to remember that the health care is so poor in Afghanistan that it has the second highest mortality rate in the world. Hundreds of girls' schools in Afghanistan have also been destroyed by extremists. The list, Mr. Speaker, goes on and on.

But in the United States, we can help. We can help improve the lives of women in Afghanistan. If we do this, it would be a devastating defeat for the violent extremists in that country and a great victory for progress in Afghanistan.

As a State Department official said last week, ''Progress is not possible if half a country's population is left behind. Afghan women must not be viewed simply as victims who need to be sheltered. They must be respected and valued as leaders—a reserve of talent that Afghan society needs to draw upon in order to prosper and succeed.''

Mr. Speaker, I want to mention just one particular example of how women can help Afghanistan to prosper because when women are allowed to work, they invest up to 90 percent of their earnings in their family and communities. That's twice the rate of men. And it has a powerful multiplier effect.

So, Mr. Speaker, improving the status of women has been a central part of this SMART security platform which I have been urging for Afghanistan. I am convinced that SMART security would do far more to win the hearts and minds of the Afghan people than military action. That's why I have opposed President Obama's plan to send 30,000 more troops to Afghanistan. We don't need more troops. We need a new strategy.

This new strategy must focus on economic development, humanitarian aid, better education and health care, and human rights. We must encourage and we must help the Afghan people to build a better future and show that we, the United States, are on their side. Certainly women's rights must be at the heart of this new strategy. In fact, advancing women's rights might be the most effective anti-terrorist strategy we can have in Afghanistan.

So let's support Secretary Clinton's ideas, suggestions, by empowering the women of Afghanistan. It will help keep them safe and it certainly will keep us safer.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Kansas (Mr. MORAN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. MORAN of Kansas addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

TEN THINGS EVERY AMERICAN SHOULD KNOW ABOUT PRESIDENT OBAMA'S BUDGET

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BURTON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, the President of the United States, President Obama, is sending a budget up here that we've just found out about in the last couple of days. It's $3.8 trillion in the fiscal year beginning October 1, and that's about a 30 percent increase in outlays since 2008: $3.8 trillion.

The President's budget includes more than $2 trillion in tax hikes at a time when this economy is really suffering with a nearly 20-percent jump in taxes in the first year alone, and it's going to hit tax increases on small businesses, investors, and families, and it's going to violate the President's campaign pledge.

The President's budget borrows too much from our kids and grandkids. Under the President's budget, the Federal Government will run a record budget deficit of $1.6 trillion in fiscal

year 2011; and throughout the next decade, the deficit will never go below $700 billion a year. At the end of the decade in 2020, it will still be over $1 trillion a year and the national debt's going to double within the next 5 years. We just can't sustain this kind of spending.

This President's proposed spending freeze that he talked about is a step in the right direction, but it's only $15 billion. $15 billion out of a budget of $3.8 trillion is less than a drop in the bucket. So when he talks about freezing spending, that's not going to solve the problem. We need budget caps. We need spending caps that will be continual year in and year out if we're going to get in control of spending.

The President pushed through the stimulus package which ended up costing over a trillion dollars, and it hasn't helped unemployment at all. In fact, he said it was going to be no more than 8 percent, and it went up to 10½ percent and it's still over 10 percent right now.

The President says he wants to have another stimulus package. He calls it a jobs bill. It's going to cost billions of dollars more, and it's not going to create jobs; it's just going to increase the deficit more.

And CBO says that if we pass the energy tax he is talking about because of ''climate change,'' it's going to increase taxes on energy by $870 billion.

And then to cap everything off, the President continues to want to bring these terrorists to the United States for trial. These people are enemy combatants. As my colleague, DAN LUNGREN of California, talked about a while ago, they should be tried in a military court in Guantanamo where people won't be intimidated by them.

Can you imagine what it would be like to be on a jury with one of those people? Everybody on the jury would be scared to death that their life is at risk if they render a decision to put those people to death or cause them a great deal of harm. So we really need to deal with them as an enemy combatant. We need to deal with them at Guantanamo with a military tribunal and give them the justice that they deserve.

This is what is going on with this administration right now, and I hope that the President might be paying attention—I can't address him because we can't address people outside the Chamber—but if he were listening tonight, I wish he would take all of these things to heart because the American people are very concerned about the direction of this country.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Nevada (Ms. BERKLEY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. BERKLEY addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. JONES) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. JONES addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

PRESIDENT OBAMA'S VISION FOR AMERICA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. CONAWAY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. CONAWAY. Mr. Speaker, I'd like to continue the theme that my colleague just had, and that is the President's vision for these United States over the next 10 years. That vision is exemplified in his budget that he brought to Congress yesterday, which, for fiscal year 2011, which doesn't start until October of this coming fall, which spent $3.8 trillion, a record, it would generate another deficit of $1.3 trillion in 2011; it would have some $2 trillion in tax increases over the 10 years; and it would accumulate $8.5 trillion in cumulative deficits during that 10 years. It would double the national debt.

Mr. Speaker, I would argue that that's not much of a vision for America that my grandkids really want to look at and want to see.

To put that in context, if you look at the cumulative deficits during the 8 years of the previous administration, they total $2 trillion.

□ 1945

To put that in context, if you look at the cumulative deficits during the 8 years of the previous administration, they totaled $2 trillion, a number that we ought to be embarrassed about. But if you look at the deficit in the first 15 months of the current administration, it is $1.8 trillion, and we will surpass the $2 trillion number some time during this second quarter. If you look at just the first quarter deficit under this administration in 2010, in 15 months, it is larger than all but two annual deficits in our Nation's history. Again, Mr. Speaker, that is not a vision for America that my grandchildren would embrace, nor is it one that we ought to embrace on behalf of our grandchildren.

My appeal tonight is to the Budget Committee. The Budget Committee now takes up the President's budget, and I would appeal to my former colleagues on the Budget Committee to simply ignore this flawed vision for America. It is unsustainable, and it is not one that is worthy of us to even consider in the least.

What I would ask the Budget Committee to do instead is to bring forth a budget that truly addresses what I believe is the single greatest threat to our way of life that we face these days, and that is the growth of this government as represented by spending growth, 29 percent growth in spending since 2008. And again, that is unsustainable. Our budget colleagues on the Budget Committee, Mr. Speaker, have the ability to do that. They have the ability to say let's put out a budget that truly does address this threat, this grave threat to our Nation's prosperity.

There are a couple of suggestions I would make. Let's roll back spending to fiscal 2008 levels and start the spending freeze there. Let's put a hiring freeze on today for all Federal Government agencies except perhaps DOD, Homeland Security, and maybe intel communities. That is a true action that every business and every family around this country knows exactly what it means and exactly why we have to do that.

I'm reminded of the folks, and you see them all the time, who are constantly searching for a way to lose weight. They are always looking for that new diet plan, and they are always willing to start, however draconian the plan might be, ''tomorrow.''

Well, Mr. Speaker, any of us can start a diet tomorrow, but we need a spending diet that starts today. And I ask that our Budget Committee brethren start that process. We need a spending diet that starts today, not 20 months from today when the President's statement of a freeze would actually start. His freeze won't start until October 1, 2011, and then it's a bit of a fig leaf at that.

Mr. Speaker, these are tough times. These are hard times. This isn't about being Republicans. This isn't about being Democrats. This is about a vision that we all ought to have for this country. That vision ought to include ways of fixing today's problems, however difficult those might be, with today's money. We have taken the process of using future generations' money to fix today's problem as far as it will go, and we simply cannot continue to do that.

Mr. Speaker, I would also ask that my colleagues consider a balanced budget amendment. If you were to ask me what is the most important constitutional amendment that we ought to be considering among that broad array of important constitutional amendments, it would be a balanced budget amendment that would force Congress to make those tough decisions; not a commission out there that could be some sort of a facade to try to get it done, but a true balanced budget amendment that every State government except one has to operate under.

Municipalities, counties, families, and businesses have to operate under the exact same discipline. We ought to be doing the same thing. Mr. Speaker, I would call for both of those things tonight.

HONORING THE U.S. COAST GUARD CUTTER ''MOHAWK''

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise tonight to honor the brave work and the supreme dedication of the command and crew of the U.S. Coast Guard Cutter *Mohawk*.

The *Mohawk* has just returned from a 2-month deployment and is now home at Coast Guard Sector Key West. During their deployment, they were diverted to Haiti in response to the earthquake that hit on January 12. The *Mohawk* was the second cutter on the scene and the first to have Coast Guard crew members on the ground in Port-au-Prince.

On behalf of our grateful Nation, I thank each and every crew member for their role in this humanitarian mission. My most supreme appreciation goes out to Corpsman Second Class Elias Gomez. Corpsman Gomez will certainly be receiving commendations and awards in the coming months for his heroic actions in the gruesome scene that was Port-au-Prince.

Corpsmen Gomez set up a minihospital and triage directly in the streets of the capital. He set broken bones and he closed wounds, all the while having to create tools and making do with limited supplies. His actions were as resourceful, were as inventive and as innovative as they were lifesaving. Corpsman Gomez's ''dirt medicine'' was an example of American values at its finest. This great young American and father of four truly led by example, and I join with those whose lives he saved in thanking him for all that he has done.

Through efforts like those of Corpsman Gomez, the wonderful crew of the U.S. Coast Guard Cutter *Mohawk* helped save countless lives and performed their mission in accordance with the best traditions of the U.S. Coast Guard. Their assistance was both essential and invaluable.

We have all seen the devastation that is present at the island nation of Haiti, and it is beyond words. The United States has a unique duty to protect, to defend, and to support freedom, and all peoples, around the globe. As proven by the men and women of the U.S. Coast Guard Cutter *Mohawk*, this noble cause lives on in our Nation's oldest continuous seagoing service.

The efforts of the command and crew of the *Mohawk* have supplied a lifeline of humanitarian assistance to Haiti and will certainly help ignite the spirit of hope for recovery in that devastated island nation.

Every day, I give thanks to our local Coast Guard personnel, no matter how they serve. Their efforts are first and foremost to safeguard our Florida coastline. This fact is never lost on me or anyone else in south Florida. We feel their presence every day and take comfort in the fact that the men and women of the Coast Guard Sector Miami, as well as the Sector Key West, truly lived their motto, ''Always ready.''

We as a nation can never repay those who serve, but we can take pride in knowing that those men and women have served not just our community but our neighbors in need as well. Their humanitarian mission reminds us all of what it means to be an American and why we should be so proud to say, every day, ''I am an American.''

The commitment of the U.S. Coast Guard is illustrative of how we must all do our part to help with continuing relief efforts in Haiti. To each and every crew member on the U.S. Coast Guard Cutter *Mohawk*, I say thank you: Commanding Officer Robert T. Hendrickson, Executive Officer John J. Driscoll, Corpsman Second Class Elias Gomez, and all of the crew as well as the families who support these heroes, thank you. Your works are testimony to our great Nation. ''Always ready,'' and we thank you for it.

Thank you, U.S. Coast Guard. Thank you, Coast Guard Cutter *Mohawk*. Welcome home. Godspeed.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. DEFAZIO) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. DEFAZIO addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

ATTORNEY GENERAL ERIC HOLDER MUST BE HELD ACCOUNTABLE IN WAR ON TERROR

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Michigan (Mrs. MILLER) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, several weeks ago, our Nation received a very vivid reminder that Islamic terrorists are still at war with our Nation and are bent on killing innocent American citizens. On Christmas Day, an Islamic extremist attempted to blow up Northwest Flight 253 as it was on its final approach from Amsterdam into Detroit Metro Airport with a sophisticated bomb that was smuggled onto the plane in his underwear. This terrorist had been radicalized by al Qaeda on the Arabian Peninsula and trained in camps in Yemen.

Following his capture in Detroit, he was only questioned by FBI agents for a total of 50 minutes. Then, after that initial questioning, the bomber was sent to the University of Michigan Burn Center, which is probably the best medical care in the entire world, all at taxpayer expense. Then Attorney General Eric Holder had to decide how to proceed.

Did Attorney General Holder and the Justice Department immediately share the information that they had gathered, the intelligence, with senior intelligence officials? No. Did Attorney General Holder declare this terrorist an enemy combatant and turn him over to the military for further questioning? No. Did Attorney General Holder have the FBI continue the questioning in order to obtain more actionable intelligence? No.

So what did Attorney General Holder have the FBI do? He instructed them to give full Miranda rights to this terrorist, including the right to remain silent, and gave him not one, not two, but actually three taxpayer-funded attorneys. And guess what? After he lawyered up, he shut up.

The Attorney General did this even though this terrorist had fresh, first-hand knowledge of al Qaeda on the Arabian Peninsula, even though he had previously given actionable intelligence. And now we have made it very difficult to obtain any further intelligence, intelligence that could have led to the disruption of other planned terrorist attacks or assistance in unwinding this terrorist network.

And we need to ask the question, ''Why?''

I believe that Attorney General Holder has built a culture within the Justice Department that seems to put the rights of terrorists ahead of the safety of our Nation. Let us remember that prior to becoming the Attorney General, Eric Holder and his law firm represented many, many terrorists pro bono; that is, for free. These terrorists were held in the military justice system, and they argued for their transfer to the civilian justice system, wanting to give them full constitutional rights. As well, he has placed other attorneys who have also represented terrorists held by our government into high-ranking positions within the Justice Department.

The Attorney General, Mr. Speaker, has not answered questions as to why senior intelligence officials were not consulted on how to proceed or why this terrorist was not treated as an enemy combatant. Mr. Speaker, it almost seems like Attorney General Holder has gone into the Witness Protection Program with regard to the Christmas Day bomber. If this Congress is to do its duty to provide appropriate oversight in the handling of these issues, Attorney General Holder must answer these questions.

Unfortunately, the lack of his consulting with intelligence officials or senior national security officials is nothing new. Attorney General Holder did not consult with senior military or intelligence officials before deciding to try Khalid Sheikh Mohammed and other 9/11 conspirators in New York City. He did not consult with the police commissioner or the mayor about security concerns before making that decision. And now New York officials have finally come forward and objected to this trial being held just a few blocks away from Ground Zero because of

their security concerns and, of course, the cost that is associated as well.

The administration is now looking for new locations to hold this trial as well as budgeting $200 million for the first year alone to cover security costs. So this decision not only makes us less secure and gives a terrorist a platform from which to spew their hateful, anti-American rhetoric, it will cost the United States taxpayers hundreds of millions of dollars, all to extend a pre-9/11 mindset that views terrorism as a criminal offense instead of illegal acts of war.

Mr. Speaker, I would respectfully offer some advice to President Obama and Attorney General Holder: Hand over the Christmas Day bomber to the military and intelligence officials and allow for an appropriate interrogation that will yield additional intelligence that will protect America, and keep Khalid Sheikh Mohammed and the other terrorists slated for civilian trials in New York City or wherever they end up at, keep them at Gitmo and try them before military commissions. Just over a year ago, they were prepared to plead guilty before military commissions, before Eric Holder made the decision to give them special rights. We could have executed one of them by now.

I sincerely hope that the President and his Attorney General rethink their current approach which, I believe, Mr. Speaker, is very dangerous for America.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. KAPTUR) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. KAPTUR addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

AMERICA'S BEST DOING INCREDIBLE WORK IN AFGHANISTAN AND PAKISTAN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. INGLIS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. INGLIS. Mr. Speaker, I'm just back from a trip led by our colleague, STEVE LYNCH, to Afghanistan and Pakistan, and what we saw there, Mr. Speaker, was America's best doing incredible work. The U.S. military is clearly the best trained, best equipped and most disciplined fighting force in the world.

I'm committed to keeping it that way and to supplying them with the resources they need to get their work done. I'm also committed to confining their mission to achievable objectives and to the protection of America's national security interest.

There are many memorable moments from this trip, Mr. Speaker. When we stepped off the plane in Pakistan, the first person I saw was Lieutenant Colonel Rick Simmons of Pickens, South Carolina. Formerly the Veterans Affairs Officer of Pickens County, Colonel Simmons is now the Chief of Protocol in the Office of the Defense Representative to Pakistan.

Skipping a dinner with the delegation gave me the opportunity to have dinner with Colonel Simmons and seven other American service personnel at Simmons' apartment in Islamabad.

□ 2000

In Kabul, Afghanistan, I talked with Susan Anderson, who is serving in the American Embassy as an economic analyst. Susan is a graduate of Union High School and the College of Charleston.

In Kandahar, I met two members of the National Guard unit from Wellford, South Carolina, which deployed recently to Afghanistan. Justin McAbee of Travelers Rest and Zack Gregg of Pelzer. Justin's home is about 5 miles from mine. Passing by Benson Road as I travel on Highway 25 North will remind me to pray for Justin and those serving with him.

He is on the explosive ordnance detonation team. When I thanked him for serving our country and tried to compliment him on doing his very dangerous work, he gave me the standard response of our incredible all-volunteer force: ''It's my job, sir.''

At a dinner hosted by America's ambassador, Mr. Eikenberry, with female members of the Afghan parliament, we were called on to offer comments. I used my remarks to remember Geoff Whitsitt of Travelers Rest, who was killed last month by an improvised explosive device in Afghanistan. I wanted them to hear his name in Afghanistan, exactly one week to the hour after the Upstate paused for his funeral. I wanted them to know how precious his life was to his parents, to his brother, and to our mutual friends. I wanted them to understand that Geoff died for the protection of America.

I told them that we were willing to give our treasure in Afghanistan to help build their nation because we are sure that, using our creativity and entrepreneurship, we will make the money back. But, I told them we are willing to give the lives of our sons and daughters only for America.

On this point, Mr. Speaker, we must be clear. While we are hunting down terrorists, we are going to give the Afghan people the opportunity to reject al Qaeda outsiders and to build a future free of the Taliban. The Afghan people should seize the opportunity, as it will not last indefinitely.

At present, more of America's best are arriving in Afghanistan. They are there to kill terrorists. They are there to facilitate the work of an army of American civil servants and contractors who can show a way forward to a stable constitutional republic. They are there to serve America's national security interests by draining a terrorist cesspool.

But there will come a day when the brave men and women of America's Armed Forces will have completed their work. Not that they will have taken out every terrorist, for that would be impossible. But there will come a day when we will have destroyed enough of the terrorist networks in Afghanistan that America will be reasonably safe from murderous plottings, at least from within Afghanistan's borders.

Until then, we fight on, committed to finishing the job, clear-eyed and determined to avoid mission creep.

The trip also include crew rest stops in Romania and in Tunisia. In Tunisia, we visited the World War II North Africa American Cemetery and Memorial near Tunis, where 2,841 Americans are buried and 3,724 missing Americans are memorialized on a limestone wall called the Tablets of the Missing.

After a wreath-laying ceremony, the delegation walked among the graves. It was especially meaningful to walk among the graves with two of our young military escorts, Sergeant Rob Mennell and Sergeant Aaron Moss.

We tend to think of the members of the Greatest Generation as granddads, but they weren't granddads as they were serving in World War II. They were young, very young, as young as the two Army sergeants who were accompanying us on this trip.

I was grateful for the opportunity to tell those sergeants how much their service means to me and to all Americans, and I was grateful to remember why freedom is worth fighting for.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Washington (Mr. REICHERT) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. REICHERT addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

FORT HOOD

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2009, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. CARTER) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. CARTER. Mr. Speaker, I hail from Central Texas, and I am very, very proud to say that I have the largest military facility in the world in my district, Fort Hood, Texas. If you are in the Army, you know where Fort Hood is. In fact, I think if you find any 20-year veteran of the Army, you will find out they have been to Fort Hood, some of them once, twice, three, four times, because it is a huge training post. And it is the great place, as they call it, in Central Texas.

The great place had a great disaster happen to us on November 5 of last year, when Major Nidal Hasan attacked and killed 13 soldiers and a baby in the womb, and wounded 43 others before two courageous police officers, responding to this violence at Fort Hood,

came and basically shot the man and brought him down, one of them, a young lady, getting shot in the process. They got him captured. He is now the subject of much discussion around this House of Representatives.

And by the way, I don't know if anyone noticed. I was very surprised at the State of the Union to see those two officers sitting right up here with the First Lady of the United States, and I was very surprised also that they weren't introduced to the House. But if you noticed two police officers sitting by Michelle Obama, they weren't introduced at the State of the Union, but those were the two officers who responded to Major Hasan when he went on his shooting rampage. We honored them, and the President and the First Lady were honoring them as heroes of the United States, and rightfully so.

But I want us to first realize what happened at Fort Hood. And everybody says, Oh, come on. I know what happened. Sure, you listened to all the reports. But today I was talking with the mayor of Belton, which is actually the county seat of Bell County.

Fort Hood sits in two counties, Bell and Coryell County. Fort Hood is hundreds of thousands of acres and it straddles the county line between those two great counties. The combined population of the two counties is over 300,000 people. So this is a growing area of Texas, and much of that growth that is in the western part of Bell County and the eastern part of Coryell County is military folks that have retired and come back to live close to Fort Hood, or they are presently serving in the military in some form or fashion, or they got out and went to work for something that is related to the military in Central Texas.

We are a military community. We love our soldiers. I would argue that no place on Earth does more for the families and soldiers than Fort Hood, Texas.

I love to tell the story of being in a Rotary Club meeting back in 2003 or 2004, I don't remember what it was, but I know that the 4th Infantry Division was deployed overseas from Fort Hood at that time. And it was along about March, somewhere around that time, when I was going to give a talk to that Rotary Club. It is a huge club, meets in the morning. Hundreds of people were there. And one of the Rotarians got up and said, Ladies and gentlemen, I want to remind you, our soldiers are deployed. Baseball season is starting. Our coaches for our Little League, Pony, Colt, and other leagues where our kids play baseball are over fighting a war to protect our freedom, and we need coaches. So it is up to us Rotarians to stand in for those fathers and mothers who are not going to be able to coach their kids.

Now, that is a community that thinks outside the box to make sure that the kids and families of these deployed soldiers can live as normal a life as they can while these soldiers are deployed. I wanted to tell you that story, Members, because it tells you the heart of the Fort Hood community in an easy story.

But when I was visiting with the mayor of Belton today, you don't realize the ramifications of something like what this Major Hasan did.

First, we very quickly realized after the shooting and the days and weeks that came after the shooting that you had a lot of soldiers saying to themselves: Wait, a minute. This guy wasn't in some other Army. This guy was in my Army. He was in the same uniform I wear, and he shot my brother and sister soldiers and killed them and he was targeting soldiers to kill. Now, that plays upon the psyche of soldiers.

Now, let me explain to you how important this is at Fort Hood, Texas, because the Fourth Infantry Division deploys out of there, III Corps Command is at Fort Hood, and the 1st Cavalry Division, as well as various other organizations. All of these folks have been deployed multiple times. The people that are stationed at Fort Hood are war fighters, and they have been involved in this war since its inception, and they will continue to do their duty, which is a great strain upon their families and a great strain upon these individual soldiers. But they do it because it is the right thing to do and they know that.

These are our great generation. These are heroes, real true heroes. And do you know what? Just doing any job that is that stressful that many times repetitively wears upon you even if you weren't getting shot at or blown up. So this is a highly stressed, highly strung-out community.

When this happened at Fort Hood, first responders from all the surrounding communities headed to Fort Hood. SWAT teams headed for Fort Hood. And if you recall, if you were listening during the play-by-play as it was being developed, you heard people say there are some who say there were three shooters, and so they are looking for the other two. What I didn't realize until I was talking to the mayor of Belton—and Belton is like 26 miles from Fort Hood—he said that, because they didn't know if the other shooters had gotten out of the post and were loose in the community, they locked down all the schools where there were soldiers' children just in case this was a plan to spread out and kill family members.

And so we had, from high school down to elementary school, children locked down in the schools, and we were keeping people out and their parents couldn't pick them up. And the first responders' communications systems were overwhelmed with concerned parents from two full counties, 300,000 people.

So what this man did at Fort Hood that day frightened all the kids in two counties. And there are tens of thousands of kids going to those schools in those counties, multiple high schools. These are our largest high schools in Texas. They were locked down.

I tell you all this because I want you to know that this was truly, not just a traumatic event for the Army, this was a traumatic event for the people who support the Army and for the families who are supported by the people who support the Army.

Now, the mental health professionals came in in droves, and a lot of great work was done, and I praise everyone who did that. But when I heard that story about these little kids locked down, let's take some little sixth-grade kid or fifth-grade kid, or maybe someone smaller, a first-grade kid who had the trauma of all of a sudden the doors were locked to his school and his mama couldn't pick him up or her mama couldn't pick her up. And then they started hearing why: There has been somebody shot over at Fort Hood.

Now, all these kids have soldiers at Fort Hood who are their parents. Some of them have two parents who are soldiers at Fort Hood. Now, there has got to be fear in the hearts of these little kids, and they want to know what happened. And when school is out and people are talking about it and they are watching it on television, they are trying to figure out what happened. And I am sure parents tried to sit down and explain it where they calmed the little children down. But I am going to argue with you or state to you here tonight that a recent report that was put out by a commission that was appointed by the Obama administration to tell us about the incident at Fort Hood, I would say if you read that report or you explained that report to little kids who were locked down at Fort Hood, you wouldn't even know that Mr. Major Nidal Hasan gave every indication that he was a radical Islamic Muslim terrorist, because it is not discussed in the report, and it should be.

□ 2015

I don't know who pulled the strings on this, but I know who is responsible, and that is the administration. We learned all kinds of things the Army needs to do differently and all kinds of things they need to talk about, the chain of command, yada, yada, yada, as my college-age girl would say. But we didn't hear anything about radical Islam. We didn't hear anything about this because, I would argue, and I think there are people across this country that are arguing, that it was because of political correctness. Political correctness.

Excuse me, at some point in time it is just good intelligence, good police work to look at what makes up the chances are of the next terrorist attack. And to ignore it, and to act like you can't talk about it because you might hurt somebody's feelings—I tried sitting here tonight to remember as far back as I could, and I don't know how many years ago it was that the Munich Olympics was, but that was a radical Muslim terrorist attack. And every attack since that time has been a radical

Muslim terrorist attack. So why can't we talk about the fact that our enemy seems to be, good intelligence seems to tell us, is radical Islamic terrorists?

Now, why in the world can you write a report about a guy who walked down a peaceable line, some of the people checking in from being at war, and some of the people checking out to go to war, doing their everyday duty of getting through that process of processing in, processing out, and this guy walks down the line shooting soldiers in uniform, shouting out, ''Allahu Akbar,'' God is great, which is a part of the declaration of that religion. And I am not attacking that religion. But you can't talk about it. If you can't talk about it, you can't figure it out.

And to write a report with this many Americans killed where they should have been safe, and this many Americans wounded where they should have been safe, and not mention the profile of the guy that did the shooting, and to give me the excuse when I asked the question, well, we are afraid it will mess up their murder case. Well, let me tell you, I will state this again for the record, if you have got a law degree and you are supposed to be able to practice law and you can't prove a murder case where you got 200 eyewitnesses, you need to send your law degree back to law school and turn in your bar card because you are an ineffective lawyer. And there are at least 200 people that witnessed this guy shooting these folks.

So I mean give me a break. They don't have any proof problems to prove this case. That is not a reason not to talk about who did the shooting or who is alleged to do it. And I am an old judge, use the term alleged. It is perfectly good. But they don't even talk about who is alleged to have done the shooting or what kind of person that was.

What do we know about him now? I will have to give our news organizations a lot of credit. We know that he acted erratically for months before the attack. That he promoted radical Islamic views while at Walter Reed Hospital. That he exchanged emails with Anwar al-Awlaki, a Yemen cleric which we are reading about every day in the newspaper who is one of the now major promoters of terrorism. No action was taken against him when he would have debates with other members of the military, and his position was what our soldiers were doing in Iraq and Afghanistan was worse than what terrorist attacks do or the 9/11 attack. That the 9/11 attack doesn't equal America's war fighting efforts. And nobody reported him? In fact, they promoted him to get him out of their hair, to move him to another duty station so they didn't have to put up with him.

And it was all about Islamic terrorism, and yet our government writes a report and just fails to mention it. And what is really amazing, really amazing to me, I mean there are a lot of people pointing a finger at me and saying that guy is a right wing wacko. That is why he is standing up there. I won't shy away from the right wing part of it. I will shy away from the wacko part.

But I will tell you, who else has raised this question? Kind of interesting. Time Magazine has raised the question in an article, ''Fort Hood Report: Why No Mention of Islam?'' Now, that is certainly not a famous right wing radical group. I would call them leaning over pretty hard to the left. Here is another one. You sure wouldn't consider people at the San Francisco Chronicle to be right wing wackos, but here it is: ''Political Correctness on Fort Hood at the Pentagon.'' And it is about why didn't they talk about who this guy was.

So that is one of the things I got up for. And I see I am joined by one of my dear friends, who is always there for me, PHIL GINGREY from Georgia. He and I are classmates. He always has something good to say.

Doc, I yield whatever time you would like to use.

Mr. GINGREY of Georgia. Judge CARTER, I thank you. I am glad to be with you tonight talking about a very, very serious issue. I will make the light comment before I begin and say that my good friend from Texas is not a right wing wacko, he is just a regular wacko. I am a right wing wacko from Georgia. But Judge CARTER is actually not right wing nor is he a wacko, Mr. Speaker.

What he is talking about tonight is extremely important. And I hope our colleagues on both sides of the aisle are listening. I know that my former colleagues on the House Armed Services Committee listened very carefully ever since this incident occurred. And now of course the judge is talking about this 50-page report that our Secretary of Defense, Robert Gates, ordered, commissioned to be done by a former Army Secretary and former Chief of Naval Operations.

And Judge CARTER, Mr. Speaker, I think expresses the view of probably most members of the House Armed Services Committee. I can't put words in their mouth, but I have served with them 6 years, loved being on that committee, led by the great chairman IKE SKELTON and our ranking member BUCK MCKEON from California. And it is a great committee. And it is a bipartisan committee. It is probably the most bipartisan committee in the entire House of Representatives. I bet that is true on the Senate side as well.

But Judge CARTER is disappointed in this report, Mr. Speaker, and I am disappointed in this report. When we heard about this tragedy at Fort Hood in the great State of Texas at this Army military installation, which really is probably the epitome of the Army military installations—when you think about the Army you think about Fort Benning, the home of the infantry in my great State of Georgia down in Columbus, and you think about Fort Hood, probably the first two that come to your mind.

But we were briefed. We, all members of the House of Representatives, all 435 of us, had an opportunity to go to a briefing that the military, the people from Fort Hood, commanders, I forget their names, probably good I don't remember the names because I don't want to use them here tonight, but they were telling us, ''Well, look, we responded correctly.'' Mr. Speaker, this is exactly what was said. ''The response to this incident, you would be proud. Members of Congress, you would be proud. Everything, we got all the emergency teams in, we locked down.'' The judge is talking about locking down the schools and all that and making sure the kids were safe.

And they went on for about 30 minutes, describing how the response to this tragic attack, where this guy kills 14 and wounds 43 before we were able to take him down, and I want to say of course that we salute the heroism that was shown that day at Fort Hood, and I don't know who they were, but Judge CARTER probably does, and God bless them for what they did. But my concern at the time was how do we have ourselves in a situation where anybody that goes nuts—of course we know this situation was far more than just an incident of somebody going nuts. And that is the purpose of the hour tonight the judge is talking about. But we should have been able to take this guy out you would think after he had shot three or four people at the most. But that is kind of another story, Mr. Speaker.

I was just so concerned when I heard that briefing shortly after the incident that it was like the military was telling us, you know, you should be proud of the fact that we responded after the fact. And that is my whole point, Judge, in sharing a little bit of this time with you. It was like locking the barn door after the horse is long gone. And that is what we did. We did a good job of that.

But what the judge is talking about here tonight, Mr. Speaker, is that when you have clear evidence that someone is a radical, has become radicalized, and you have this information and you don't share it—and indeed, as was pointed out tonight, Major Hasan was promoted during this time just right up through the ranks. You know, no holes on his promotion, no concern, because of, yes, I will say it, political correctness. They did not want to be in a position where let's say somebody could lose their job because they were calling out someone, blowing the whistle and saying this guy is showing signs of Islamic extremism. And we need to connect these dots, and somebody needs to examine this person and let a psychiatrist see him, the psychiatrist, Dr. Hasan. Doctor, you can't treat yourself, you need some help.

Well, and I think that what the judge is saying, Mr. Speaker, is that we have got to stop this political correctness

nonsense. We did the same thing I think, in my humble opinion, on Christmas Day with the undie bomber, when a decision was made after 50 minutes by one or two FBI agents talking with someone in the Justice Department, and that someone most likely was the Attorney General, Eric Holder, and saying, all right, this is not a terrorist, let's Mirandize this guy. And so he immediately gets lawyered up, as the expression goes, and shuts up on the advice of counsel.

I was reading today, looking over the budget, the $3.8 trillion budget proposal which the President delivered to Congress on Monday. And in that budget the line item section in regard to what we have always called, and I think the world has known the global war on terrorism and the amount of money that we want to fund for that, we call it overseas contingency operations or some such nonsense like that. Nowhere in that budget, no matter how many hundreds of billions of dollars we need to fight that war, do we call it a war on terror. Oh, God no. God forbid we do that because it is politically incorrect. We don't want to offend anybody. I say call a spade a spade.

And that is exactly, Mr. Speaker, what Judge CARTER is trying to point out to our colleagues tonight. Make sure people understand if we are serious about protecting this country, the security of this country, we are going to stop all this nonsense and we are going to call a spade a spade and we are going to fight terrorism where we find it.

Mr. CARTER. Reclaiming my time, we are going to call a terrorist a terrorist and say who he is, what he is, where he comes from, what his background is, and if religion has a part in it, what religion has a part in it.

□ 2030

We cannot afford—it's bad police work, if nothing else—to ignore that evidence. What do you tell that kid over at the high school when his dad is deployed and he asks his mom, he said, Wasn't this guy a soldier? Well, I can't say what kind of soldier he was because we've got to be politically correct. But, yes, he was a soldier. But how do I know my dad is safe with other soldiers? How do I know?

Mr. GINGREY of Georgia. Judge, would you yield just for a second? Judge CARTER, I don't know whether you pointed this out before I got to the floor, but this guy, Major Hasan, was quoted as saying that sharia law should trump the United States Constitution. Am I correct on that?

Mr. CARTER. That is correct.

Mr. GINGREY of Georgia. I yield back.

Mr. CARTER. And this guy was radicalized. And now we're hearing—only from the news sources, not from the people in the administration that should be informing the public about this, but from news sources—we're hearing just how radicalized he was by conversations he's had. In fact, a Member of this House called a relative who went to medical school in the Army and happened to know the guy in medical school and said clear back in medical school he was talking about this stuff. That means we gave him—by the way, we paid for his medical education. And the good doctor from Georgia can tell you that's no small ticket right there. But we took this man and we put him through education and we educated him all the way through university, medical school, and all of his specialty stuff. The Army paid for that. You did. The taxpayers paid for that. And even then he was talking like this. Why can't we start being honest with ourselves and talk about these people? That's the issue.

You mentioned the Christmas Day bomber. Our good friend, Dr. BURGESS—maybe he doesn't want me to tell you this—but he said, There's a guy that ought to be the easiest guy in the world to interrogate because this guy has just set himself on fire in his crotch area. Now his choice is to go back to Yemen and get treated over there, or be treated by the best medical community on Earth, as was pointed out. It wouldn't be hard to say, Tell us what you know and we'll get you the best doctors, the best reconstruction surgeons in America. And we are the best. And the guy would gratefully share, it would seem to me, but not after you've lawyered him up after an hour.

So, once again, though, I would argue we're playing the political correctness game. We wouldn't do the same thing for a regular criminal defendant, I'll tell you that. I'll tell you that. So it's different. And I worry about the fact. And that comment about overseas contingency. If they can't identify the war on terror as the war on terror, then we've got some black-and-white-striped cats that they're welcome to come down to Texas and pet those cats, because their really skunks. If you don't want to call them a skunk, call them a pussycat and start playing with them. See what happens to you. That's the same thing that happens to terrorists. If you're not going to call them a terrorist and point out what ideology is driving their thinking, then what are you going to do to identify your enemy and defeat your enemy? If you're not even going to call them an enemy, what are we doing?

I yield back.

Mr. GINGREY of Georgia. Thank you, Judge. I want to thank JOHN CARTER, Mr. Speaker, for introducing two pieces of legislation. I hope he'll discuss that with our Members tonight in regard to the Whistleblower Protection Enhancement Act. H.R. 4267 is the number of that bill, Mr. Speaker. And then the other one, equally important, the Fort Hood Families Benefits Protection Act, H.R. 4088. I know Judge CARTER, Representative CARTER, will talk about that as a great Member who is actually cochairman of the House Army Caucus.

So this is a labor of love on the part of this Member, Mr. Speaker. I can understand how upset he must be, as we all are, regarding this 50-page report. Here, again, distinguished cochairs—the former Army Secretary, the former Chief of Naval Operations—who were charged by our Secretary of Defense, Secretary Gates, in a very timely manner to produce a 50-page report. But, you know, Mr. Speaker, this report, again, there's not a word in there in regard to terrorism, Islamic extremism. I don't know whether they scrubbed it before they did the report or they scrubbed it after they did the report.

It's so disappointing to see that you spend all that time saying, Well, maybe we need to streamline the way the sergeant talks to the lieutenant and the lieutenant talks to the captain and the captain talks to the major and the majors talk to the colonels and lieutenant colonels and then finally we get the information to the generals and to the admirals. That's all well and good, but it's almost like a deliberate attempt to miss the point.

The point is, as Judge CARTER has pointed out, Mr. Speaker, that we are dealing with an individual, in the case of Major Hasan, that is a terrorist. He has been radicalized. The judge has pointed out that there was information even from his time in the Army Medical School that he made radical statements. I mentioned just a second ago that he was quoted as saying that sharia law should trump our Constitution. Well, when you're commissioned as an officer in the military, when you enlist in the military, you make a pledge of fidelity to this country. And so the warning sign was there.

I will go back to the time, Mr. Speaker, when Representative CARTER, Judge CARTER, and I were freshmen Members of the 108th Congress. The 9/11 issue had occurred shortly before we got here. And the families of those victims, over 3,000, insisted that we form a commission, a 9/11 Commission, and we really look into this. Quite honestly, President Bush at the time was a little reluctant. He felt like the Department of Homeland Security, the CIA, and the military intelligence could do all that.

In any regard, a commission was formed. And we were told by the commissioners that this was a problem in regard to Islamic extremism and we needed to do something about it. And to then come along with this report that was commissioned by Secretary Gates, I think, is a tremendous disservice and disappointment. And I will yield back to Judge CARTER.

Mr. CARTER. I thank my friend for yielding. I thank my friend for mentioning these two bills that we've got out here. I tried a whistleblower case back about the mid-nineties sometime. A very interesting case. I won't go into the details. But it involved some organizations that were major political players and major financial players in Texas and a little small accountant who made a right statement but had

stepped on some good-old-boy toes and so they fired the guy when the truth was he was telling that there was a lot of money that they were losing. It showed me why we have whistleblower laws: so the little guy who discovers a wrong can be comfortable in going to right that wrong without fear of retaliation, of getting fired because he did—told about something that the big boys didn't like.

Well, we've got this Military Whistleblower Protection Enhancement Act. It protects military personnel from any negative action for reporting any regulation or law violation. Proposed protections for reporting ideologically based threat or actions a servicemember reasonably believes could be counterproductive or detrimental to the United States interests or security.

Basically, what we're saying to the ordinary soldier, to the soldier that was going through medical school with Mr. Hasan, to the soldier that was stationed with Mr. Hasan when he was a second lieutenant and then a first lieutenant and then a captain and as he got promoted to major, that somebody didn't have a fear that something would happen to their military career if they reported this guy was talking radical ideas to service people. He wasn't preaching religion to them. He was talking that blowing people up was good, fighting conventional war against terrorists was bad.

I mean, that's the kind of way he was talking. It didn't have anything to do with the Muslim religion. It had to do with terrorism being the right way to straighten out America. Excuse me? He was educated by the United States military. It kills me to hear that.

So I think it's a good bill. I hope we can get some action on it. I hope we can get it written into law. And I'm going to be working on it. I feel confident. I have a lot of folks that are cosigners to that bill.

This other one is pretty simple, too, really. What we had—and I can say this almost without—and I don't know the names and background of every one of these soldiers, but I have personally talked to several of them and the general consensus is everybody that got shot had either just come back from Iraq or getting ready to deploy again to either Iraq or Afghanistan.

And the reason we had mixed units that day at that center is because normally units go through as a group as they deploy, but these were the guys that were absent for some purpose. May have still been on the training range or something else. So they had to go make up by getting all the paperwork shuffled to get ready to deploy. That's why you heard it wasn't just one outfit that had all the deaths. It was multiple outfits around the Army because there are multiple outfits stationed at Fort Hood.

Anyway, I would argue these were warriors either returning from the war or going to the war and an enemy soldier, terrorist, disguised in a uniform of the United States military, walked into our warriors as they were peacefully getting ready and processing paper and started killing soldiers. And I do argue that's a combat situation. Whether you're killing a soldier in Afghanistan or Iraq or whether you're killing a soldier in a center at Fort Hood, if your intent is to kill soldiers to keep them out of the war against terror, you are an enemy combatant killing our soldiers. Therefore, they should be treated with combat respect.

This incident should be like we did for what happened at the Pentagon when it was attacked on 9/11. We declared that to be an incident in combat in the war on terror and the people who did heroic acts there received the appropriate medals and the appropriate benefits for being injured or killed in a combat zone.

I think Fort Hood and the incident that happened with Major Hasan should be a combat zone; and I'm trying to do it by statute. But it's been done by act of the Defense Department. I think it's time for it to be done. There are a lot of Purple Hearts that ought to be awarded, at least 43 that we know of. There are a lot of folks that should get civilian medals that were civilians that were accidentally wounded in the misfires. And there are benefits that attach to being killed or injured in combat. I think these people ought to get it. Just because they just got back from another country but they got shot in our country by an enemy soldier, I would argue they still ought to be treated as if they were wounded in combat.

Mr. GINGREY of Georgia. If the gentleman will yield, and, Mr. Speaker, I thank Judge CARTER for yielding. I don't think that the logic of this legislation is a stretch in any way. I'm sitting hear listening, Mr. Speaker, to my colleague from Texas describe this bill, Fort Hood Families Benefits Protection Act, H.R. 4088.

I would think that you ought to get 434 votes, if not 435, in the House of Representatives, and 100 in the Senate, Judge, is my opinion, because that Islamic extremist—and, as you say, camouflaged in an Army uniform with officer's insignia on that uniform—is every bit of an Islamic extremist as those characters in Afghanistan, in Iraq, aided and abetted, I think, by Iran, in many instances, that make those improvised explosive devices, that put them in the ground, that detonate them cowardly in a remote fashion and blow our young men and women to smithereens. I've had over 30 from my congressional district in the 11th of Georgia pay the last full measure. And that's what these 14 that were killed and 43 or whatever the number is in Fort Hood. Same thing. Exact same thing.

□ 2045

And so, Mr. Speaker, I commend them. I think it's absolutely right. They should have a status to ensure full benefits and eligibility for the Purple Heart and a civilian equivalent award for those who are civilians. They were killed not by just some ordinary nut. They were killed by an Islamic extremist in the same fashion that our men and women are being killed in Afghanistan and Iraq.

Mr. CARTER. That's exactly right. And reclaiming my time, once again—and I'm not going to mention who said this, but it was said at the time. And although I understand why it was said, I think it was inappropriate. A statement was made, I certainly hope this incident at Fort Hood doesn't affect the Army's diversity program.

Excuse me. We had folks that had risked their lives for our country killed in their own backyard by an Islamic terrorist, and I think that it's not the time to be worrying about whether somebody's feelings may have gotten hurt because we're talking about this guy being an Islamic terrorist. He is. That's a fact. Why can't we talk about it?

I understand people talking about profiling, and what they're talking about is, in its ultimate extent, what offends people is situations in our historic past where, for example, there has been a shooting on the square. It's been identified. It was an African American. Round up all African Americans because the profile is African American. And that's where the whole idea of profiling—and you can expand it to American Indian, to Hispanic, to Vietnamese—identifying a whole group as evil because one was bad. And that's bad. And the police will tell you that that is not good police work.

But if the shooter is wearing a major's uniform, answers to the name of Hasan, and 200 people can identify him in a lineup for having done the shooting, then you ought to talk about what the guy looks like, where he comes from, what his background is, and what motivated him to do this, which is a radical religious belief, the bottom line. That's not being politically incorrect. That's being intelligent. I'm sorry. It's just common sense.

There's one thing I tell people back in Texas—I'm sure my friend in Georgia gets frustrated with it, too, sometimes. Inside this Beltway, the thing we lack the most seems to be common sense most of the time. Average American people know this, and I think that the Members of this House know that the folks back home know that this is something the administration should have addressed. Secretary Gates ordered it, but he's part of and takes his orders from the Commander in Chief, and they should be held responsible for their yielding the truth to political correctness. It's not the right thing to do. It harms those people who fearfully today, as I am talking, are standing in harm's way on our behalf, on my behalf, on your behalf, on everybody's behalf. They're doing the hard job.

There is a movie that's out that really is realistic. I'm going to quote it because I'm not trying to promote movies. But it makes you feel the stress that soldiers have to deal with when they have these explosive devices and having to deal with those explosive devices. It was so tense, my wife covered her head with a pillow because she just couldn't stand the tension of it. And then you think about it and say, You know, we eat in the mess hall at Fort Hood with these guys. They go through that every day, the stress. She covered her head with a pillow. These kids—kids—they deal with it every day. So they're not kids anymore when they go over there. They're men and women of courage and honor, and they understand what it means to be courageous.

So I think it's wrong for us to avoid describing our enemy to keep from stepping on somebody's toes. I have nothing against any—and when I say all this, let me preface this or finish this up by saying this is not about a religion. It's about a criminal defendant and his ID. And that's the way we should treat it. For that reason, I have raised this issue.

I will yield some more time to my friend from Georgia if he wishes to speak.

Mr. GINGREY of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman again for yielding.

I just wanted to quote some of my friends on the Armed Services Committee, the ranking member—actually also on the Education and Labor Committee—Colonel JOHN KLINE. Colonel KLINE is a subcommittee Chair, I believe, on Armed Services as well. He has been there since we were elected in the 108th, back in 2003. So this is his eighth year on the Armed Services Committee. It is very appropriate that Colonel JOHN KLINE is there because of his service in the United States Marines.

But Judge CARTER, here is what Colonel KLINE said. Mr. Speaker, I want to quote this. ''The American people recognize that the 9/11 Commission was correct when it said we have an enemy, and it's Islamist extremists—their words—and the concern is that we may not be paying attention to the fact that the alleged perpetrator was, in fact, an Islamic extremist.''

Judge CARTER is telling us, Mr. Speaker—and certainly I agree with him—that this is not about diversity, the importance of diversity in the military. We all understand that. We all understand that. We have great men and women of all kinds of ethnic backgrounds, religious backgrounds. They have one thing in common: They swear, as we do, as Members of Congress, to uphold the Constitution and defend this country. And that will be continued to be held in common. But this business of being politically correct for fear of offending but not being able to say, He did it, and here is the evidence, and everybody knows it, and for fear that you are going to get reprimanded—and that's what Judge CARTER's other bill is all about, Mr. Speaker. So I thank him for giving me the opportunity to join a good friend on the floor to encourage our colleagues on both sides of the aisle.

There are 95 cosponsors. I hope tomorrow there will be 150, and the next day there will be 300, and that when this comes to a vote—and hopefully it will—we'll get a near—maybe we can put it on the suspension calendar and it will pass without controversy.

I yield back to my friend.

Mr. CARTER. I thank my friend for that comment, because what a heartwarming experience that would be for the families and some of the soldiers who were there and who are now in the combat zone to know that this Congress said, We recognize this was a combat situation. We acknowledge it unanimously. It is hard to get unanimous around here, but it would be nice. And I thank my friend for his participation.

Well, this is all a part of the chance that I get every now and then to talk about the rule of law and doing what's right and identifying what's wrong in this country and not being afraid to speak out and to point out when things are wrong. I want to end by saying that this is a wrong that needs to be righted, and this House and the Defense Department has the ability to right this wrong, and we should do it.

I want you to know that I consider Secretary Gates a friend. I have the highest respect for him. I had the highest respect for him when he was the top man at Texas A&M University when I represented that wonderful institution, and I still have the highest regard for him. But I do criticize and will continue to criticize letting political correctness interfere with making correct statements about what happened so that, if nothing else, the kids of these people in the Army who know that a major shot other people will have a good explanation as to why he did it and what the indications are as to why he did it so they're not worried about their mom or dad getting shot by another guy in uniform. That's a tragic situation.

I want to thank the Speaker for allowing me to have this time. I hope that we can right this wrong, and I hope that we can let common sense and right over wrong prevail in these two bills and in letting our heroes know what the right thing to do is and that we're going to do it.

TELEVISE HEALTH CARE NEGOTIATIONS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. OWENS). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2009, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BURGESS) is recognized for 60 minutes.

Mr. BURGESS. I thank the Speaker for the recognition.

Well, Mr. Speaker, here we are at the end of another workday on Capitol Hill. It's a snowy night outside in the Nation's Capitol, and we are having a conversation, you and I, here on the House floor. I will do most of the talking, but I know that my remarks must be addressed to the Chair, and they certainly are addressed to the Chair. But, Mr. Speaker, both you and I know that people can listen in on our conversation because the cameras of C–SPAN are here in the Chamber. And although they don't record the faces and presence of everyone else on both sides of the aisle who are here in the Chamber, they do record what we say here and they do record the conversation that goes on between us. And people across the country, whether it be late at night, as it is here on the east coast, or very early in the evening, as it is in the Mountain States or on the west coast, the people across the country have an opportunity to tune in and see what is happening on the floor of the people's House in their Nation's Capital.

It almost seems like it's always been that way, but it hasn't. March 19, 1979—if I've done my research correctly—was the first broadcast of the proceedings from the floor of the House. So not quite 30 years ago. In fact, we'll have the 30-year anniversary here in just a few weeks—I suspect that will be a big celebration—of the C–SPAN cameras coming to cover the activities of the House. Yes, the other body as well. They cover the high-level meetings that go on here on Capitol Hill and, of course, meetings that are of importance in State legislatures across the country.

It is the public service access channel for all things government, and people of my generation, people who came of age during the Nixon administration and the Watergate years and the excesses of some of those activities, people of my generation equate C–SPAN with good governance. C–SPAN is sort of like the rainbow after the rainstorm which is the promise that we will never have to go through that again because C–SPAN is there, and C–SPAN will keep the lights on and C–SPAN will keep the sunshine in on the legislative process. And if what we are doing here in the people's House is not to the people's liking, they shall be aware of it, and they shall be able to register their displeasure and change some of our faces if they can't change our hearts, such as the ideal in the American democracy.

So C–SPAN is important. C–SPAN is equivalent with good governance. C–SPAN is equivalent with open governance. And that's why many of us, toward the end of the year, all of the things that were happening in the end of December and the beginning of January, were somewhat taken aback by the fact that Brian Lamb, the chief executive officer of C–SPAN, wrote a letter to the White House and said, Hey, let's bring the cameras in to all of these health care negotiations that are going on in the Capitol and the White

House and points in between. We'll provide the camera. You provide the discussion, and the American people can tune in, if they like, and see if they like what they see or not.

Of course, Mr. Lamb's invitation was declined by both the White House and the Democratic leadership in both the House and the Senate, and the cameras stayed off and the deals were done in the dark. And as a consequence, arguably, that's one of the reasons why the health care bill still languishes out there somewhere. No one really is sure what its health or state is today. I submit to you that despite the effects of the election in Massachusetts 2 weeks ago, one of the main drivers of the lack of success was the lack of transparency during that debate and during that process.

It has been a year full of twists and turns as we watched how health care policy has risen and fallen and risen again and then fallen again through the course of many twists and turns this past year, but C–SPAN should have been there. In fact, we were promised that C–SPAN would be there. We weren't promised it once or twice or three times. We were promised over and over again. And we weren't promised that C–SPAN would be there by myself, Mr. Speaker, or yourself, Mr. Speaker. We were promised that C–SPAN would be in the room by the person who was then the candidate for the highest elected office in the land, who ultimately won that office and was inaugurated just a little over a year ago.

□ 2100

Barack Obama repeatedly said that he would invite the C–SPAN cameras into the room. We'll have everyone around a big table; everyone will get to see who's on whose side, and who's on the side of the special interests, and who's on the side of the people because C–SPAN will be there and C–SPAN will report dispassionately, and people will be able to make up their own minds; the ultimate we report, you decide scenario.

But it didn't happen that way. And as a consequence, whether you liked the health care legislation or didn't like the health care legislation, as a consequence, right now its fate is very, very much in limbo. What I wanted to do tonight was just sort of take us through some of the history that has gone on over this past year. I want to talk specifically about something that happened in my committee, the Committee on Energy and Commerce, last week on Wednesday when we heard a resolution of inquiry in the committee, and what the result of that hearing was and what people can actually look to next. But interwoven through this entire process is the fact that the whole reason we're having this discussion is because the lights were turned off, the cameras were silenced, and the American people could not participate, if they so chose, in at least the observation of the debate, in the observation of the deal-making, if you will, that occurred in both the House and the Senate and the White House as this bill worked its way through the process.

So it's no wonder that people were skeptical of this bill last summer. We heard about that in the summer town halls. It's no wonder that people were skeptical of this bill as it came through the House in November and then the Senate on Christmas Eve. And then it's no wonder that people continued to be skeptical as it worked its way ultimately to the nondecision that it has achieved today.

So here we have the quote from Brian Lamb on December 30, 2009, the CEO of C–SPAN, Brian Lamb sent a letter to the Congressional leadership requesting that they ''open all important negotiations, including any conference committee meetings, to electronic media coverage because the legislation will affect the lives of every single American.'' I would just add to that every single American for the next three generations at least, so far-reaching was the scope of the legislation to be considered.

You know, several years ago, long before I was in any way active in politics, the first President Bush, the 41st President of the United States, made a very famous statement that perhaps he came to regret afterwards, which was ''Read my lips—no new taxes.'' That one quote was replayed over and over and over again, and it may have at least participated in the event that cost the 41st president a second term in office. And we had the situation this past 2 years, while the current President was running where he repeatedly made statements about his commitment to transparency, about a new way of governing and, oh, by the way, we'll throw the doors and the window open, invite the C–SPAN cameras in, and you'll all be able to see what has transpired.

Going back on that word, I submit, will be every bit as significant as the ''read my lips'' quote has become. Well, let's go through a few of these, because, again, they are important. While the theme, thematically they're all very similar, there are differences. The first one, this is January 2008 at the Democratic debate: ''Not negotiating behind closed doors, but bringing all parties together and broadcasting those negotiations on C–SPAN so the American people can see what the choices are, because part of what we have to do is enlist the American people in this process.''

January 2008 the Democratic Debate. The second quotation on this board: ''These negotiations will be on C–SPAN. The public will be a part of the conversation and will see the choices that are being made.''

January 2008, to an editorial board at the San Francisco Chronicle. Important concepts that the then-presidential candidate and now President discussed at those venues, important concepts that he emphasized multiple times during the runup to the Presidential election. The third quote in our series: ''I respect what the Clintons tried to do in 1993 in moving health reform forward. But they made one really big mistake, and that is, they took all their people and all their experts into a room and then they closed the door. We will work on this process publicly. It will be on C–SPAN. It will be streaming over the Net.''

November 14, 2008, in a Google question-and-answer. This was after the actual presidential election had been won by Mr. Obama that this quote was made. You know, I stop for an observation here for a moment. I was a physician in practice in 1993 and 1994 when the Clintons very famously took everyone, the 500 folks, behind closed doors and made all these deals. It was kind of a little bit of levity around the doctors' lounge that one day a doctor would be elected President of the United States and bring 500 other doctors into a room and lock them all together and help figure out a way that we could figure out how much to pay lawyers in the future. Okay. That's my attempt at humor for the night, Mr. Speaker.

Number 4: ''We'll have these negotiations televised on C–SPAN so the people can see who is making arguments on behalf of their constituents and who is making arguments on behalf of the drug companies or the insurance companies.'' August 8, 2008, Virginia town hall. This is probably one, of all of the series of quotes, this is one of the most important, because, again, the presidential candidate was saying, Look, these negotiations are going to be going on. You're going to have people around the table, Members of Congress, Senators, and yes, the special interests will be there. In this case, the drug companies were mentioned. In this case the insurance companies were mentioned. There are other special interest groups of course, unions that negotiate through competitive bidding, negotiate insurance contracts, they might have an interest. An organization like the American Association of Retired Persons that sells insurance, they might have an interest around the table. But nevertheless, the special interests will be there because, after all, this is Washington, D.C., and the very least that the people should ask is that the cameras be turned on and the event be filmed so that they can watch it as it occurs, or they can refer back to it after the fact.

Many of these videos, of course, would have been captured in perpetuity up on YouTube or some other site, so the American people would have had an ability to look in there and gauge for themselves, hey, is my Senator really arguing more on behalf of the people of his or her State, or are they arguing more on behalf of the drug company or the insurance company, medical device company or the labor union? We didn't get that chance. It was promised to us but not delivered.

Number 5: ''But here's the thing. We're going to do all these negotiations on C–SPAN so that the American people will be able to watch these negotiations.'' March 1, 2008, State of Ohio, town hall.

Number 6: ''We will have a public process for forming this plan. It will be televised on C–SPAN. I can't guarantee you that it will be exciting, so that not everyone will be watching, but it will be transparent and it will be accountable to the American people.'' November 27, 2007, Keene Sentinel.

Number 7. ''I want the negotiations to take place on C–SPAN.'' May 2008, Saint Petersburg Times. Number 8, ''I'll put forward my plan. But what I'll say is, 'look, if you've got better ideas, I'm happy to listen to them.' But all this will have to be done on C–SPAN in front of the public.'' April 25, 2008, Indiana town hall.

What a great idea, Mr. President. I simply could not agree with you more. Well, Mr. Speaker, as it turns out, in May of last year, May the 11th, the White House engaged in a major stakeholder meeting at the beginning of this health reform debate. The attendees at the White House in May were the Advanced Medical Technology Association, the American Medical Association, America's Health Insurance Plans, the Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of America, the American Hospital Association, the Service Employees International Union.

Now, each of these individuals was there because, number one, they provide a service to the American people and they have a very strong interest in the process going forward of what was going to happen with health care reform. So I don't fault any of these groups to responding to the call of the White House. Hey, will you come down here and talk to us as we get this process started because we don't want to leave anyone not included in this process? So I think the fact that these six groups showed up down at the White House, I think that's fine. That's what the process was supposed to be about.

Now, when these participants emerged from the meeting, an agreement was announced that they would work to decrease by 1½ percentage points the annual health care spending growth rate, saving upwards of $2 trillion over 10 years time. Since then, however, questions, questions that I have submitted, questions that others have submitted to the White House as to how this would be accomplished have simply been left unanswered. Now, whatever happened down at the White House last May, call them gentlemen's agreements, backroom negotiations, power politics, we know that they happened. What none of us in this Chamber and none of us in the other body know is what was agreed to.

Along the way I started to read and hear reports in the press about amendments being rejected in committee hearings and markups because of previously agreed-to deals. Now, in the other body, in the Senate Finance Committee's markup, Senator NELSON of Florida introduced an amendment regarding drug prices. The Senator from Delaware, Senator CARPER, arguing against that amendment said, whether you like PHARMA or not, we have a deal. We have a deal. Well, what deal? Who has a deal? Where was the deal made, and who was it made with?

Secondly, in the same markup, the Finance Committee endorsed a commission to slow Medicare spending. Now, I may not agree with the principle involved in that, but nevertheless, let's have this debate out in the open and let it win or lose on its merits. But in that same markup in the Senate Finance Committee they endorsed a commission to slow Medicare spending. However, the bill had to be rescored and rewritten, had to go back to the Congressional Budget Office to be rescored to exclude hospitals because, according to Congress Daily, ''They already negotiated a cost cutting agreement'' with the White House. They had a deal. They had a deal. What deal? Who made that deal? Under whose authority was that deal made?

Number three, Senators DORGAN and MCCAIN introduced a floor amendment on prescription drug reimportation in December. According to The Hill, the newspaper that's circulated up here in the Capitol, according to The Hill, ''A deal between the White House and the pharmaceutical industry held up and helped defeat the amendment.'' What deal? With who? On whose authority was this deal made?

Now, for all my affection for Senator MCCAIN, I disagree with him about reimportation. But at the same time, let's have that debate. Let's have that debate and let the people hear what the pros and cons are, but let's not carve up a deal behind closed doors. Even though my position arguably won in that exchange, that doesn't make me feel any better that some sort of deal was cut behind closed doors that then would not allow reimportation to be included or considered in the process.

□ 2115

You know, Mr. Speaker, here's the frustration: as a Member of Congress, the press seems to know more about these deals and this process than any of us in this body or the other body. The press knows more about this stuff than we do.

Now, while the Democratic majority was pushing a health reform bill through both Chambers of Congress and Members were expected to debate these far-reaching bills, real deals were being cut down at the White House; the real deals were being cut down in the Speaker's Office or over in the Majority leader's office with ample input by the White House, I might add, but all behind closed doors and very few people in the room besides a few select Members of the House and the Senate, of course the people from the White House, and of course respective staff members from those offices.

But none of us who were elected by the good and long-suffering people of the United States of America to represent their interests, none of us were included in that process on either side. Now, I am saying this as a Republican. We're in the minority, okay. We lost the last election. Maybe we don't deserve a place at the table. What about Democrats? Shouldn't Democrats who are freshman, Democrats who've been here four terms, five terms, six terms, shouldn't they have at least had the opportunity to at least know what was going on in those deals? To the best any of us know, no one from either side, outside of a few select persons in Democratic leadership in the House and the Senate and, of course, the White House, was involved in those negotiations. They clearly circumvented the legislative process.

Now, the six groups that I referenced early in this discussion, while they were meeting at the White House, our very own Committee on Energy and Commerce was marking up what at the time was called H.R. 3200, which was the original health care bill that went through all three committees of jurisdiction of the House, a 1,000-page bill—eventually got a lot longer—but that's another story. But while we were marking this up, this stuff was going on down at the White House. And, again, none of us knew any of these things. Now, how could our markup be viewed with any integrity if the real deals were being cut at the White House?

And I'll tell you something else—and this is particularly, particularly troubling—we worked on that bill in good faith in committee. I submitted I can't tell you how many amendments. I prepared 50. A lot of my amendments were shot down along party lines. Okay. I get that. That's what the deal about partisan makeup is. That's why elections are important; and, Mr. Speaker, I hope people pay attention to that fact. But I did get some amendments accepted, and some of those passed on a voice vote where there was no objection from the other side. One in particular was a bill that took part of the old concept of the patient bill of rights from the late 1990s that if we're going to have a public option insurance company, patients should at least have the opportunity for internal and external review, that is, a review board from inside the insurance company or one outside the insurance company if they don't like the insurance that was rendered.

So internal and external review was a very important part of what was called the patient bill of rights legislation. Charlie Norwood from Georgia was the principle author of that concept along with JOHN DINGELL, who's the chairman emeritus on our committee. So clearly a bipartisan concept from within our committee.

I submitted an amendment that essentially embodied that internal/external review. It was accepted by the committee unanimously, and Mr. DINGELL and I both spoke on it in committee; and it seemed like, well, if nothing else, Charlie Norwood's legacy will be enclosed in this bill in the form of this amendment.

But we passed that bill out of committee July 31. We went home for our summer recess. We had the summer town halls, which are another story in and of themselves. Many people may remember some of the excitement around the country when the health care town halls were going on this summer.

Then we come back in September and most of October, and then we get a new copy of the bill. It's now 2,000 pages. You say, Well, it's 2,000 pages because you added a lot of amendments in committee. Yeah. But guess what? Those amendments were gone. They were struck from the bill. No discussion. No one called me up and said, Hey, look, we're sorry, but your amendment that you offered in committee kind of conflicts with some other language in the bill. We've got to take it out. No discussion as to what occurred, and that amendment was removed from the bill.

It wasn't just me. It wasn't just a personal vendetta against a relatively junior Member from Texas. Mr. WALDEN, who was going to be on the floor with me tonight, the ranking member of the Oversight and Investigation Subcommittee on Energy and Commerce, had amendments that he had gotten into the bill, and those were struck at the same time.

And you have to ask yourself, well, why would you strike an amendment on internal and external review? What's the purpose? Who gains there? Was there one of those six groups that were down at the White House that didn't like the language of the bill so they had to get it out of there? Was there someone in the Speaker's Office or on the Speaker's staff who had a problem with the fact that that language was in there? Was it perhaps a lingering bit of friction between the former chairman of the committee and the Speaker? No one knows. No one knows. All we're left with is to fantasize about what might have caused that relatively innocuous amendment to be stricken from the bill.

And, again, it wasn't just my amendment. Other amendments were stricken from the bill, too, and was it because they crossed some line with some of the deals that were struck with this group of six individuals down at the White House?

Now, after months of frustration with working on the bill through committee and getting amendments in and having them struck, I sent a letter to the White House in September, and I requested full disclosure on what had happened to those meetings in May and June specifically to the following areas: number one, a list of all agreements entered into in writing or in principle between any and all individuals associated with the White House and any and all individuals, groups, associations, companies, or entities who are stakeholders in health care reform, as well as the nature, sum, and substance of the agreements;

Number two, the name of any and all individuals associated with the White House who participated in the decision-making process during these negotiations and the names and dates and titles of meetings that they participated in regarding negotiations with the aforementioned entities in question one.

So we wanted to know who was there, and we wanted to know who negotiated and what the parameters of those negotiations were, who in the White House had the clout and the authority to make these decisions. And then, number three, the names of any and all individuals, groups, associations, companies, or entities who requested a meeting with the White House regarding health care reform who were denied a meeting.

So who were the stakeholders who were locked out of these meetings? We had six different groups around the table. Were there others who wished to be there but were not permitted? A question we just simply don't know how to answer today.

I noted in my letter that during the Democratic Presidential primary debate on January 31, 2008, then-candidate Obama said, That's what I will do in bringing all parties together, not negotiating behind closed doors, but bringing all parties together and broadcasting those negotiations on C–SPAN so that the American people can see what the choices are, because part of what we have to do is enlist the American people in this process.

You know what? I agree with the President on that part. Part of what we have to do is enlist the American people in this process. And can there be any doubt, can there be any doubt after watching the anxiety in this country in August during the summer town halls, after watching the gubernatorial returns in November from New Jersey and Virginia and then 2 weeks ago the senatorial returns from Massachusetts, can there be any doubt that they failed to enlist the American people in this process? And as a consequence—as a consequence—the American people have said and keep saying, No, we don't want this health care bill, we don't trust a 1,000-page bill; we really don't trust 2,000-page bills and 2,700-page bills are simply out of the question. You guys never read it. You wouldn't take this insurance yourself. No way are we going to accept this.

And underneath it all, underlying it all, is the fact the American people were shut out of the room during the process after they had been promised a front row aisle seat to the proceedings on C–SPAN.

Now, I sent that letter to the White House in September. Answering my letter would have been the chance for the White House to prove to America that this actually was a good campaign promise and they really were for transparency down at the White House. But I didn't get an answer.

December 16, this House was rapidly trying to wrap up its business. The Weather Channel was forecasting a huge snowstorm for that weekend. Everyone in the House of Representatives wanted to get out of here and to their district. They didn't want to be stuck here in the Nation's Capital for a single day more than necessary, and we were rapidly wrapping up our work. And on December 16 I introduced a resolution, House Resolution 983 for people who want to look it up at home, because it became clear to me that the White House had no intention of responding to my letter.

So I introduced a bill, which was a resolution of inquiry. Now, this is a kind of an uncommon parliamentary tool. It's very powerful, puts some power in the hands of the minority. We don't have many tools at our disposal, and we don't have many tools that are very powerful at our disposal; but, realistically, it was my only option. I had no place else to go because I had been rebuffed by the White House. I have been rebuffed in committee. I had been rebuffed at the Speaker's Office. I had nowhere else to go.

So to me it was very important that the details of any negotiations made behind closed doors be made public for all to see: the integrity of the process, literally the integrity of the whole health care reform effort, the whole health care reform legislation, the integrity of the whole health care reform legislation is in fact at stake.

Now, President Obama promised to run the most transparent and open administration in history, and his decision to sequester, his decision to hoard, his decision to hide and obscure this information from Congress and from the American people is, in fact, indefensible.

Now, on January 26, just last week, I got a letter from the White House. Months of silence. One hundred and nineteen days from the date I sent the letter, right before the scheduled markup of the resolution of inquiry, I did receive a response from the White House.

The response was 81 pages long. There was a two-page letter from White House counsel Robert Bauer. There were 24 pages printed off the White House Web site. Anybody can go get them and print them off. There is a thank-you letter from the President to the six groups for showing up on May 11. There were some blog posts. There were some speech transcripts. There were some press releases, 18 pages of already-published White House visitor logs, 36 pages of print-offs from Web sites of the six groups.

And you know, Mr. Speaker, I was pleased to finally get a response from the White House; but, you know, it

wasn't what we were asking for in the resolution of inquiry, and it's not the information needed to really understand the scope of the agreements that were entered into.

Now think about it for a minute. You have these six very powerful groups—AdvaMed, Pharma, AMA, American Hospital Association, the Service Employee International Union, all meeting down at the White House coming up with proposals to shave $2 trillion off health care expenses over the next 10 years, $2 trillion and no one wrote anything down. Mr. Speaker, do you believe that? That strains credulity, doesn't it? $2 trillion in deals and just a handshake? Just a wink and a nod? Nothing written down? Nothing on paper?

Mr. Speaker, would you make a deal like that? More importantly, Mr. Speaker, would you ask the American people to accept a deal like that?

Well, last week on January 27, the Energy and Commerce Committee began a markup of the resolution of inquiry. The markup was called not by me but by the chairman of the committee because the committee had to consider this resolution, and if the committee failed to consider the resolution, it automatically becomes a privileged resolution: we come directly to floor of the House.

□ 2130

Now, in fact, HENRY WAXMAN, Chairman WAXMAN, the chairman of my committee, a Democrat on the other side of most issues, agreed to help. He agreed to help me. He agreed to help Ranking Member BARTON get answers, not to everything I submitted, but to six out of the ten things that I had requested. It certainly showed a step in the right direction. In fact, it was the first positive step toward getting any sort of sunlight onto these deals that were cut down at the White House.

So the committee will soon send a letter to the White House signed by Chairman WAXMAN and Ranking Member BARTON of the full committee asking for more information. What that information will comprise, number one, a list of all agreements entered into in writing as well as the details, including the sum and substance, of all deals and agreements; number two, the names of any individuals, groups, associations, or companies that attended meetings at the White House regarding health care; the name of the administration officials who attended the meetings on health care in the White House. As part of the release of visitor logs, we know who brings people into the White House. We just now want to know who met with the person who was being allowed in. The time and date of such health care meetings, and who, from the administration and from the outside groups was in attendance; written materials memorializing any agreements made during the meetings with administration officials and provided to outside participants; finally, number six, any paper or electronic communication, including emails in the possession of the Secretary of Health and Human Services or the staff of Health and Human Services, between HHS and the health industry in regard to health reform negotiations or the White House deals.

That's what I will get. I asked for more than I actually will receive. What I will not get are written notes made by a stenographer or other note-taker of meetings with White House officials and/or outside groups memorializing discussions or agreements; number two, I will not get written material summarizing negotiations or agreements made with administration officials and outside groups and possessed by the Secretary of Health and Human Services or other officials within the Department of Health and Human Services; I will not get written material memorializing discussions between the President, his senior advisers and those in attendance written for the President and not provided to outside groups; and number four, I will not get internal emails within Health and Human Services and all agencies regarding the possible implementation of policies discussed at White House meetings in regard to health reform.

So those are some significant omissions. But the six things will be requested of the White House by the chairman, and for that we are very grateful. Of course, the White House will assert, if any of these other four had been included in that list, the White House would assert executive privilege and it likely would lead to a court fight, and likely the White House's assertion of executive privilege would be upheld.

But I will say one thing. It has certainly shown me some of the items that, in fact, I should be allowed to see occur because they are communications at the level of the Federal agency. Internal communications of the White House and internal communications between the President's advisers are not, are not going to be made available because that's White House executive privilege.

We've had the interposition of multiple czars this past year. Well, every Presidential administration has had czars. We've certainly seen a great number of those positions now come into being, and because of the position of the White House czar, those emails between the health care czar and the President's Chief of Staff, for example, the health care czar and anyone else in the President's inner circle, those emails are protected under executive privilege, so having the czar in the White House is another way of helping to keep that information from public view.

Information that comes from the Secretary of Health and Human Services through the Federal agency, that information is information that I was allowed to request. But information from the health care czar to the White House Chief of Staff is information that I will not receive. And that is a shame because I really believe that within those communications, within those communications is really where these deals would occur.

But at least with the six things that are going to be allowed, at least with getting that information out into the open, certainly provides some additional places for, if the press is at all curious about this—they may not be, they have been relatively incurious about many of these aspects through the course of this last year. But if there is any curiosity on the part of the fourth estate, this will perhaps give them some direction to go into where they might inquire further to get additional information. It's an honest attempt to understand the deals that were made.

I'm a member of the American Medical Association. I pay my dues every year. I have to admit I was somewhat surprised when the AMA agreed to endorse the bill when it included none, none, zero, none of their top priorities. It didn't include anything about tort reform in the bill. It didn't include anything about SGR or physician payment reform. It didn't include anything about the ability of physicians to get together and negotiate price. None of that was included in the bills that we saw, and yet the AMA endorsed H.R. 3200 before it ever got to our committee for a markup.

What was in it for them? Why would they do this when their top issues were not included in the bill? That is something as an AMA member, not as a Member of Congress necessarily, but as an AMA member, I would like to know.

Last Monday, the President said: I didn't make a bunch of deals. Now, this claim contradicts everything that has been reported. If he didn't, somebody did. Who did? And again, on whose behalf and under what authority? There is nothing inherently wrong with the President engaging in such an important topic or encouraging groups to act in the best interest of the public. There is nothing wrong with the groups acting in their own self-interest or the self-interest of the members of their industry. But we don't know if the deals struck were in the best interest of the public. We don't know if the deals that were sealed were the best deals for the American people.

The American people certainly don't know because they were completely shut out of the process. Now, these questions will linger over my Committee of Energy and Commerce and the Senate Finance Committee. Indeed, this very House will have the specter of those questions lingering until we fill in its history. And it's really as simple as that. So my resolution of inquiry last week was simply to fill in a few of those pages in the historical record which otherwise are going to be lost to the sands of time.

Let me reiterate, this is not about the groups included in the resolution. I

know there are plenty of people on both sides who like to beat up on any number of people who are part of the six groups. There are people who like to beat up on unions. There are people who like to beat up on drug companies. This isn't about—this isn't about any of the people who responded to the President's call and went down to the White House that day to work for, arguably, what would be a good thing in reforming some aspects of our Nation's health care system.

The problem is that the American people didn't get to see what it was they had on the table, what the offers were, what the counteroffers were, what wasn't offered, and who agreed to what, who was on the side of the people and who was on the side of the special interests. As the President said, we didn't get to see that.

As it stands now, I asked, I want to know what the White House negotiated, with whom, and on what terms. I want to know how those deals influenced the legislative process. Certainly, there were several times where we bumped up against it. Certainly, the Senate Finance Committee did, and they were told, Hold on, you can't do that. We've got a deal. But did it also influence the legislative process when my amendments and GREG WALDEN's amendments were stripped out of the committee-passed bill and were stripped out of the Speaker's office never to see the light of day? So was that part of the legislative process influenced by those deals? We will never know if we don't get that information.

And I want to know why a President who committed himself to transparency feels really no need to heed requests for transparency by the committee; why the President who ran on transparency feels no need to heed a request for documents by an elected Member of Congress, why they think it is okay to just simply not respond to a letter, ignore it, and we hope it goes away.

Now, last week, the President, on one of the interviews, said that his lack of transparency was ''a mistake.'' If true, if he feels it is a mistake, he can correct the mistake. It's not too late. He can correct the mistake by turning over the information requested, and, in fact, turning over all of the information, saying, Do you know what? We are not going to hide behind executive privilege here. If there is an e-mail between my Chief of Staff and the health care czar that you think is important, we're willing to let you see that as well. We're willing to let the American people see that, because we have nothing to hide.

If they don't do that, what are we left to surmise? That they've got something to hide. And what would they have to hide? I don't know. Here the fantasy can become worse than the reality. It would be better for the White House to provide this information. Again, the truth, the truth will, in all likelihood, be much less significant than what each of us will be left to imagine on our own if we are not provided that information.

Now, to fully understand the policy choices going forward, we need to know what took place at the White House last year. I can't say it enough. I can't say it in enough different ways. The American people expect us to act in their interest rather than protect the business interests of those currying favor in Washington. We hear that all the time. In fact, we hear this President say that lobbyists won't have any access to his administration, and then we have secret deals with six groups that play a big role, a big role, in the cost of delivering health care in this country, and we don't get to see that.

If any member of those six groups down at the White House sought protections or made unreciprocated concessions to Washington politicians, I think the American people deserve to know. The American people would likely want to know that information. These negotiations may have produced consensus on policy changes that are proper and needed, but we will never be certain until the facts are known. And if the facts aren't known, then the reality is not known. And if the reality is not known, then the fantasy becomes the reality, the worst excess that you could imagine is probably what happened; otherwise, they would open the books and tell us.

Now, I will just leave you with the same thought one last time about the promises made during the Presidential campaign and after about how this process would be an open process, how this process would be an inclusive process, and inclusive not just to Members of Congress on both sides of the aisle, which it has not been, but an inclusive process that would include the American people; because, after all, these decisions on health care, yeah, they're tough, yeah, there are going to be likely some winners and losers in whatever is finally crafted by the House and Senate, but it's going to affect the delivery of health care. It's going to affect the life of every doctor, nurse, hospital administrator, every mother, father, child, every husband, wife, every citizen of the United States, not just next year, not just the year after that, and not just the year after that, but for the next three generations; how health care is delivered in the country, who gets what, who pays for it, when it's administered, who can't get what they need. All of that is going to be governed by language in this legislation.

And if there were outside influences on crafting that language in this legislation, we need to know about that because, otherwise, we don't know the questions to ask. We don't know whether to embrace or reject the legislation, because we simply don't know who, what, and where was involved in the process. And as a consequence, it makes it impossible, literally impossible, to evaluate the worth of this legislation.

So here we sit, on Groundhog Day, sort of revisiting what happened over the last year with health care reform. On February 2 of 2010, the passage of a comprehensive health care bill looks as unlikely as at any time in our history past of this Congress. A year ago, it looked like a certainty. Today, it looks extremely problematic.

□ 2145

And what is the one thing that could have given us a better bill, given us a better process, given people some reason to be behind this legislation that Congress is considering?

The one thing that could have happened that didn't was opening the process up, turning on the C–SPAN cameras, inviting them in to that big conference table in the Speaker's office or that big conference table in the majority leader's office over in the Senate, or that big conference table down in the Cabinet room at the White House. Turn those cameras on, let the American people see who was around that table, who was willing to talk, who was willing to give, who was only willing to get. That would bring powerful information to provide to the American people.

The President could have recruited, could have recruited from the American people, folks who like this legislation who would then ask for it. But, instead, they pushed everyone away, pushed them away from the table, turned off the camera, turned off the lights. ''Don't look at the man behind the curtain. We know what is best for you. This bill will be good for you. Trust us. You will like this bill once we get it passed.'' Well, that is nonsense. The American people know that is nonsense.

Turn on the lights, turn on C–SPAN, let the people in, and let's give this bill the full public airing that it has deserved.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois (at the request of Mr. HOYER) for today on account of business in the district.

Mr. ELLISON (at the request of Mr. HOYER) for today on account of business in the district.

Mr. TIAHRT (at the request of Mr. BOEHNER) for today on account of being unavoidably detained in Kansas.

Mr. YOUNG of Florida (at the request of Mr. BOEHNER) for today and the balance of the week on account of a death in the family.

Mr. EHLERS (at the request of Mr. BOEHNER) for today on account of a family member's medical emergency.

SPECIAL ORDERS GRANTED

By unanimous consent, permission to address the House, following the legislative program and any special orders heretofore entered, was granted to:

(The following Members (at the request of Ms. WOOLSEY) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. CONYERS, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. BERKLEY, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. WOOLSEY, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. DEFAZIO, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. KAPTUR, for 5 minutes, today.

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. BURTON of Indiana) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. POE of Texas, for 5 minutes, February 3, 4, and 9.

Mr. JONES, for 5 minutes, February 3, 4, and 9.

Mr. MORAN of Kansas, for 5 minutes, February 3, 4, and 9.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. BURTON of Indiana, for 5 minutes, today and February 3 and 4.

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. REICHERT, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. CONAWAY, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. INGLIS, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. DEAL of Georgia, for 5 minutes, February 3.

BILL PRESENTED TO THE PRESIDENT

Lorraine C. Miller, Clerk of the House reports that on January 29, 2010 she presented to the President of the United States, for his approval, the following 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.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 9 o'clock and 45 minutes p.m.), the House adjourned until tomorrow, Wednesday, February 3, 2010, at 10 a.m.

EXPENDITURE REPORTS CONCERNING OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL

Reports concerning the foreign currencies and U.S. dollars utilized for Speaker-authorized official travel during the first, second, third, and fourth quarters of 2009 pursuant to Public Law 95–384 are as follows:

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON THE BUDGET, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN OCT. 1 AND DEC. 31, 2009

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem [1]		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]
Stephen Elmore	11/6	11/15	Kenya		1,344.00		9,367.10				10,711.10
Jeffrey Holland (CBO Detailee)	11/6	11/17	Kenya		1,344.00		8,073.10				9,417.10
Hon. Cynthia M. Lummis	11/24	11/27	Kuwait		159.00		7,138.60				7,297.60
Committee total					2,847.00		24,578.80				27,425.80

[1] Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.
[2] If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.

HON. JOHN M. SPRATT, Jr., Chairman, Jan. 26, 2010.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON FINANCIAL SERVICES, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN OCT. 1 AND DEC. 31, 2009

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem [1]		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]
Daniel McGlinchey	10/2	10/7	Turkey		2,960.45		8,244.60				
Sabahat Qamar	10/2	10/7	Turkey		2,960.45		8,244.60				
Joseph Pinder	10/2	10/7	Turkey		2,960.00		8,244.50				
Hon. Christopher John Lee	10/30	10/31	United Arab Emirates		484.30		8,149.10				
Hon. Christopher John Lee	10/31	11/1	Afghanistan		15.00		(3)				
Hon. Christopher John Lee	11/1	11/2	UAE		193.00						
Hon. Erik Paulsen	12/12	12/14	Kuwait		448.00		7,138.60				
Hon. Erik Paulsen	12/13	12/14	Iraq				(3)				
Hon. Randy Neugebauer	12/4	12/5	Kuwait		466.00		7,138.60				
Hon. Randy Neugebauer	12/5	12/7	Afghanistan		78.00		(3)				
Hon. Tom Price	11/25	11/26	UAE		505.00		9,463.50				
Hon. Tom Price	11/26	11/27	Afghanistan		28.00		(3)				
Hon. Tom Price	11/27	11/29	Pakistan		76.00		438.60				
Committee total											

[1] Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.
[2] If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.
[3] Military air transportation.

HON. BARNEY FRANK, Chairman, Jan. 20, 2010.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON RULES, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN OCT. 1 AND DEC. 31, 2009

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem [1]		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]
Bradley W. Smith	11/9	11/14	Macedonia		1,000.00		9,059.20		480.00		10,539.20
	11/14	11/15	Vienna		424.00				188.00		612.00
Bradley W. Smith	11/21	11/30	Kenya		2,503.01		8,033.10		1,125.45		11,661.56
Committee total					3,927.01		17,092.30		1,793.45		22,812.76

[1] Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.
[2] If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.

HON. LOUISE M. SLAUGHTER, Jan. 19, 2010.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON STANDARDS OF OFFICIAL CONDUCT, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN OCT. 1 AND DEC. 31, 2009

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem [1]		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]
HOUSE COMMITTEES											
Please Note: If there were no expenditures during the calendar quarter noted above, please check the box at right to so indicate and return. ☒											

[1] Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.
[2] If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.

HON. ZOE LOFGREN, Chairman, Jan. 16, 2010.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, SELECT COMMITTEE ON ENERGY INDEPENDENCE AND GLOBAL WARMING, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN JAN. 1 AND MAR. 31, 2009

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem [1]		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]
HOUSE COMMITTEES											
Please Note: If there were no expenditures during the calendar quarter noted above, please check the box at right to so indicate and return. ☒											

[1] Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.
[2] If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.

ALI BRODSKY.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, SELECT COMMITTEE ON ENERGY INDEPENDENCE AND GLOBAL WARMING, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN APR. 1 AND JUNE 30, 2009

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem [1]		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]
Harlon Watson	5/31	6/13	Germany		4,294.00		7,584.35				11,878.35
Harlon Watson	3/27	4/9	Germany		2,160.00		7,584.64				9,744.64
Committee total					6,454.00		15,168.99				21,622.99

[1] Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.
[2] If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.

ALI BRODSKY.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, SELECT COMMITTEE ON ENERGY INDEPENDENCE AND GLOBAL WARMING, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN JULY 1 AND SEPT. 30, 2009

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem [1]		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]
Barton Forsyth	8/2	8/9	China		1,534.97		11,931.87				13,466.84
Harlon Watson	8/8	8/22	Germany		3,377.58		7,605.50				10,983.08
Committee total					4,912.55		19,537.37				24,449.92

[1] Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.
[2] If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.

ALI BRODSKY

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, SELECT COMMITTEE ON ENERGY INDEPENDENCE AND GLOBAL WARMING, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN OCT. 1 AND DEC. 31, 2009

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem [1]		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]
Harlon Watson	10/31	11/8	Spain		3,845.00		8,690.20				12,535.00
Joel Beauvais	11/1	11/8	Spain		3,605.00		5,937.20				9,542.00
Harlon Watson	9/25	10/11	Thailand		1,876.00		8,623.30				10,499.00
Michael Goo	9/25	10/11	Thailand		1,876.00		4,388.10				6,264.00
Hon. Edward J. Markey	10/23	10/25	Denmark		1,026.00		8,961.00				9,987.80
Gerard Waldron	10/23	10/25	Denmark		1,026.00		8,961.00				9,987.80
Gerard Waldron	12/16	12/20	Denmark		892.00		(3)				892.00
Hon. Edward J. Markey	12/16	12/20	Denmark		892.00		(3)				892.00
Jeff Duncan	12/16	12/20	Denmark		892.00		(3)				892.00
Ana Unruh Cohen	12/14	12/20	Denmark		1,115.00		8,325.00				9,440.00
Harlon Watson	12/6	12/20	Denmark		3,122.00		6,720.00				9,842.00
Joel Beauvais	12/10	12/20	Denmark		2,230.00		8,983.20				11,213.20
Michael Goo	12/8	12/19	Denmark		2,453.00		7,456.00				9,909.00
Barton Forsyth	12/13	12/22	Denmark		2,007.00		8,983.20				10,990.20
Thomas Schreibel	12/13	12/19	Denmark		1,338.00		8,018.20				9,356.10
Elan Burnham-Snyder	12/16	12/20	Denmark		892.00		10,003.10				10,895.10
Committee total					29,087.00		104,051.00				133,138.00

[1] Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.
[2] If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.
[3] Military air transportation.

ALI BRODSKY.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMISSION ON SECURITY AND COOPERATION IN EUROPE, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN OCT. 1 AND DEC. 31, 2009

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem [1]		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]
Hon. Alcee L. Hastings	11/11	11/14	Switzerland		1,986.18		8,198.40				10,184.58
Alex Johnson	11/10	11/15	Switzerland		3,310.00		6,109.60				9,419.60
Committee total					5,296.18		14,308.00				19,604.18

[1] Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.
[2] If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS, Chairman, Jan. 27, 2010.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, JOINT COMMITTEE ON TAXATION, EXPENDED BETWEEN OCT. 1 AND DEC. 31, 2009

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem [1]		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]

HOUSE COMMITTEES
Please Note: If there were no expenditures during the calendar quarter noted above, please check the box at right to so indicate and return. ☒

[1] Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.
[2] If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL, Jan 21, 2010.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

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

5872. A letter from the Director, Program Development and Regulatory Analysis, Rural Utilities Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule — Electric Program: Definition of Rural Area (RIN: 0572-AC15) received January 7, 2010, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

5873. A letter from the Congressional Review Coordinator, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule — National Veterinary Accreditation Program [Docket No.: APHIS-2006-0093] (RIN: 0579-AC04) received December 14, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

5874. A letter from the NRCS Acting Farm Bill Coordinator, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule — Compliance With NEPA (RIN: 0578-AA55) received January 7, 2010, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

5875. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Review Group, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule — Supplemental Revenue Assistance Payments Program (RIN: 0560-AH90) received January 7, 2010, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

5876. A letter from the Deputy Director, Regulations Policy and Management Staff, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's final rule — Listing of Color Additives Exempt From Certification; Paracoccus Pigment [Docket No.: FDA-2007-C-0456] (formerly Docket No.: 2007-C-0245) received January 7, 2010, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

5877. A letter from the Chairman and Chief Excutive Officer, Farm Credit Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Federal Agricultural Mortgage Corporation Funding and Fiscal Affairs; Risk-Based Capital Requirements (RIN: 3052-AC51) received January 7, 2010, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

5878. A communication from the President of the United States, transmitting the Budget of the United States Government for Fiscal Year 2011, pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 1105(a); (H. Doc. No. 111—82); to the Committee on Appropriations and ordered to be printed.

5879. A letter from the Deputy to the Chairman, Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, transmitting the Corporation's final rule — Prepaid Assessments (RIN: 3064-AD51) received January 7, 2010, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

5880. A letter from the General Counsel, National Credit Union Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Prompt Corrective Action; Amended Definition of Post-Merger Net Worth (RIN: 3133-AD43) received January 7, 2010, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

5881. A letter from the General Counsel, National Credit Union Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Organization and Operations of Federal Credit Unions; Underserved Areas (IRPS 08-2) (RIN: 3133-AD48) received January 7, 2010, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

5882. A letter from the General Counsel, National Credit Union Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — National Credit Union Share Insurance Fund Premium and One Percent Deposit (RIN: 3133-AD63) received January 7, 2010, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

5883. A letter from the Acting Director, Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation, transmitting the Corporation's final rule — USERRA Benefits Under Title IV of ERISA (RIN: 1212-AB19) received January 7, 2010, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Education and Labor.

5884. A letter from the Acting Director, Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation, transmitting the Corporations's final rule — Allocation of Assets in Single-Employer Plans; Valuation of Benefits and Assets; Expected Retirement Age received January 7, 2010, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Education and Labor.

5885. A letter from the Acting Director, Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation, transmitting the Corporation's final rule — Benefits Payable in Terminated Single-Employer Plans; Limitations on Guaranteed Benefits; Maximum Guaranteeable Benefit received January 7, 2010, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Education and Labor.

5886. A letter from the Acting Director, Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation, transmitting the Corporaton's final rule — Allocation of Assets in Single-Employer Plans; Benefits Payable in Terminated Single-Employer Plans; Interest Assumptions for Valuing and Paying Benefits received January 7, 2010, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Education and Labor.

5887. A letter from the Deputy Director, Regulations Policy and Management Staff, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's final rule— Current Good Manufacturing Practice for Positron Emission Tomography Drugs [Docket No.: FDA-2004-N-0449] (formerly Docket No.: 2004N-0439) received January 7, 2010, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

5888. A letter from the General Counsel, FERC, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — Revised Filing Requirements for Centralized Service Companies Under the Public Utility Holding Company Act of 2005, the Federal Power Act, and the Natural Gas Act [Docket No.: RM09-21-000; Order No. 731) received January 7, 2010, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

5889. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the Distict of Columbia, transmitting Transmittal of D.C. ACT 18-292, ''Advisory Neighborhood Commission Vacancy Amendment Act of 2010''; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

5890. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting Transmittal of D.C. ACT 18-296, ''Hospital and Medical Services Corporation Regulatory Temporary Amendment Act of 2010''; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

5891. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting Transmittal of D.C. ACT 18-295, ''High Technology Commercial Real Estate Database and Service Providers Tax Abatement Act of 2010''; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

5892. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting

Transmittal of D.C. ACT 18-302, ''Anacostia River Clean Up and Protection Clarification Temporary Amendment Act of 2010''; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

5893. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting Transmittal of D.C. ACT 18-301, ''Unauthorized Contract Stop Payment Temporary Act of 2010''; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

5894. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting Transmittal of D.C. ACT 18-299, ''Abe Pollin City Title Championship and Title Trophy Designation Temporary Act of 2010''; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

5895. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting Transmittal of D.C. ACT 18-298, ''Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect Temporary Act of 2010''; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

5896. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting Transmittal of D.C. ACT 18-297, ''Agreements Between the District of Columbia and Boys and Girls Club of Greater Washington Temporary Approval Act of 2010''; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

5897. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting Transmittal of D.C. ACT 18-291, ''Affordable Housing Opportunities Residential Rental Project Property Tax Exemption and Equitable Real Property Tax Relief Act of 2010''; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

5898. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting Transmittal of D.C. ACT 18-290, ''Park Place at Petworth, Highland Park, and Highland Park Phase II Economic Development Act of 2010''; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

5899. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting Transmittal of D.C. ACT 18-289, ''51st State Commission Establishment Act of 2010''; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

5900. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting Transmittal of D.C. ACT 18-288, ''State Board of Education License Plate Amendment Act of 2010''; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

5901. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting Transmittal of D.C. ACT 18-287, ''WMATA Compact Amendment Act of 2010''; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

5902. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting Transmittal of D.C. ACT 18-300, ''Executive Grant-Making Authority Limitation Temporary Act of 2010''; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

5903. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting Transmittal of D.C. ACT 18-286, ''Heights on Georgia Avenue Tax Exemption Act of 2010''; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

5904. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting Transmittal of D.C. ACT 18-293, ''District of Columbia Housing Authority Board of Commissioners Amendment Act of 2010''; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

5905. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting Transmittal of D.C. ACT 18-294, ''Arthur Capper/Carrollsburg Public Improvements Revenue Bonds Amendment Act of 2010''; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

5906. A letter from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Operations, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Magnuson-Stevens Act Provisions; Fisheries off West Coast States; Pacific Coast Groundfish Fishery; 2010 Harvest Specifications and Management Measures for Petrale Sole [Docket No.: 0907301200-91412-03] (RIN: 0648-AY07) received January 7, 2010, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

5907. A letter from the Director Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Fisheries of the Northeastern United States; Scup Fishery; Commercial Quota Harvested for 2009 Winter II Period [Docket No.: 0809251266-81485-02] (RIN: 0648-XS93) received January 7, 2010, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

5908. A letter from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Fisheries of the Northeastern United States; Atlantic Bluefish Fishery; Quota Transfer [Docket No.: 090206144 9697 02] (RIN: 0648-XS73) received January 7, 2010, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

5909. A letter from the Acting Assistant Administrator For Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — International Fisheries; Pacific Tuna Fisheries; Fishing Restrictions in the Longline and Purse Seine Fisheries in the Eastern Pacific Ocean in 2009, 2010, and 2011 [Docket No.: 0907231161-91189-01] (RIN: 0648-AY08) received January 7, 2010, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

5910. A letter from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — International Fisheries Regulations; Fisheries in the Western Pacific; Pelagic Fisheries; Hawaii-based Shallow-set Longline Fishery [Docket No.: 080225267-91393-03] (RIN: 0648-AW49) received January 7, 2010, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

5911. A letter from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Fisheries of the Caribbean, Gulf of Mexico, and South Atlantic; Snapper-grouper Fishery of the South Atlantic; Closure of the 2009-2010 Commercial Fishery for Black Sea Bass in the South Atlantic [Docket No.: 040205043-4043-01] (RIN: 0648-SX56) received January 7, 2010, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

5912. A letter from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Atlantic Highly Migratory Species; North and South Atlantic Swordfish Quotas [080724902-91404-02] (RIN: 0648-AX07) received January 7, 2010, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

5913. A letter from the Attorney — Advisor, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Safety Zone; San Clemente Island Northwest Harbor December and January Training; Northwest Harbor, San Clemente Island, CA [Docket No.: USCG-2009-0921] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received January 6, 2010, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5914. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Bombardier, Inc. (Type Certificate Previously Held by de Havilland, Inc.) Model DHC-8-400 Series Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2009-0785; Directorate Identifier 2009-NM-125-AD; Amendment 39-16163; AD 2010-01-06] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received January 12, 2010, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5915. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; McDonnell Douglas Corporation Model DC-10-10, DC-10-10F, DC-10-15, DC-10-30, DC-10-30F (KC-10A and KDC-10), DC-10-40, DC-10-40F, MD-10-10F, and MD-10-30F Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2007-0186; Directorate Identifier 2007-NM-226-AD; Amendment 39-16156; AD 2009-26-17] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received January 12, 2010, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5916. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Amendment of Class E Airspace; Riverton, WY [Docket No.: FAA-2009-0704; Airspace Docket No. 09-ANM-9] received January 12, 2010, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5917. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Establishment and Modification of Class E Airspace; Bishop, CA [Docket No. FAA-2009-0695; Airspace Docket No. 09-AWP-7] received January 12, 2010, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5918. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Amendment 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.

5919. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Amendment of Class D Airspace; St. Louis, MO [Docket No.: FAA-2009-0543; Airspace Docket No. 09-ACE-9] received January 12, 2010, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5920. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Amendment of Class E Airspace; West Branch, MI [Docket No.: FAA-2009-0696; Airspace Docket No. 09-AGL-18] received January 12, 2010, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5921. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Establishment of Class E Airspace; Albany, TX [Docket No.: FAA-2009-0631; Airspace Docket No. 09-ASW-19] received January 12, 2010, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5922. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Amendment of Class E Airspace; Red Oak, IA [Docket No.: FAA-2009-0801; Airspace Docket No. 09-ACE-11] received January 12, 2010, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5923. A letter from the Trial Attorney, Department of Transportation, transmitting

the Department's final rule — Qualification and Certifications of Locomotive Engineers; Miscellaneous Revisions [Docket No.: FRA-2008-0091, Notice No. 4] (RIN: 2130-AB95) received January 5, 2010, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5924. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department ot Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Amendment of Class E Airspace; Altus, OK [Docket No.: FAA-2009-0540; Airspace Docket No. 09-ASW-17] received January 12, 2010, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5925. A letter from the Senior Trial Attorney, Federal Railroad Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Passenger Equipment Safety Standards; Front End Strength of Cab Cars and Multiple-Unit Locomotives [Docket No.: FRA-2006-25268, Notice No. 2] (RIN: 2130-AB80) received January 12, 2010, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5926. A letter from the Lead Aerospace Engineer (Structures), Office of Aviation Safety, National Transportation Safety Board, transmitting the Board's final rule — Notification and Reporting of Aircraft Accidents or Incidents and Overdue Aircraft, and Preservation of Aircraft Wreckage, Mail, Cargo, and Records received December 17, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5927. A letter from the Branch Chief, Border Security Regulations, Bureau of Customs and Border Protection, transmitting the Bureau's final rule — Importer Security Filing and Additional Carrier Requirements; Correction [Docket Number: USCBP-2007-0077] (RIN: 1651-AA70) received December 18, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

5928. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule — Extension of Temporary Rules Allowing Governmental Issuers to Purchase and Hold Their Own Tax-Exempt Bonds [Notice 2010-7] received December 28, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

5929. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule — Arbitrage Treatment of Certain Guarantee Funds [Notice 2010-5] received December 18, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

5930. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule — 2009 Cumulative List of Changes in Plan Qualification Requirements [Notice 2009-98] received December 18, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

5931. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule — Extension of Deadline to Adopt Certain Retirement Plan Amendments [Notice 2009-97] received December 18, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

5932. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule — Application of Section 382 to Corporations Whose Instruments are Acquired and Disposed of by the Treasury Department Under Certain Programs Pursuant to the Emergency Economic Stabilization Act of 2008 [Notice 2010-2] received December 18, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

5933. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule — Guidance on the Application of Sec. 409(a) to Changes to Nonqualified Deferred Compensation Plans to Comply with an Advisory Opinion of the Office of the Special Master for TARP Executive Compensation [Notice 2009-92] received December 18, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

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. ARCURI: Committee on Rules. House Resolution 1051. Resolution providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 4061) to advance cybersecurity research, development, and technical standards, and for other purposes (Rept. 111–410). Referred to the House Calendar.

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. MURPHY of Connecticut (for himself, Ms. SUTTON, Mr. SCHAUER, and Mr. LIPINSKI):

H.R. 4553. A bill to amend the Buy American Act with respect to certain waivers under that Act, to provide greater transparency regarding exceptions to domestic sourcing requirements, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Mr. MARKEY of Massachusetts (for himself, Mr. WELCH, Mr. ELLISON, Mr. MICHAUD, Ms. FUDGE, Mr. HINCHEY, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. MCMAHON, Mr. CAPUANO, Mr. DOYLE, Mr. SERRANO, Mr. CARNAHAN, Mr. HALL of New York, Mr. HODES, Mr. BOUCHER, Ms. SHEA-PORTER, Mr. LANGEVIN, Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts, Ms. SUTTON, Ms. PINGREE of Maine, Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. LEWIS of Georgia, Mr. DELAHUNT, Mr. LYNCH, Mr. ENGEL, and Mr. LOEBSACK):

H.R. 4554. A bill to reauthorize the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program for fiscal years 2011 through 2014, and for other purposes; 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. MILLER of North Carolina (for himself, Mr. STUPAK, Mr. DINGELL, Mr. JONES, Mr. SHULER, Mr. PRICE of North Carolina, Mr. BUTTERFIELD, Mr. MCINTYRE, Mr. KISSELL, Mr. ISRAEL, Mr. MASSA, Mr. ROTHMAN of New Jersey, Mr. KAGEN, Mr. TEAGUE, Mr. AL GREEN of Texas, Mr. HODES, Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas, Mr. BOYD, Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida, and Mr. GRIJALVA):

H.R. 4555. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to furnish hospital care, medical services, and nursing home care to veterans who were stationed at Camp Lejeune, North Carolina, while the water was contaminated at Camp Lejeune, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. WOLF (for himself, Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky, Mr. SHIMKUS, Mr. LEWIS of California, Mr. CALVERT, Mrs. MYRICK, Mr. BURTON of Indiana, Mr. CAO, Mr. POSEY, Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey, Mr. BOREN, Mr. DAVIS of Kentucky, Mr. CULBERSON, Mr. WITTMAN, Mr. PAULSEN, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Mr. BOEHNER, Mr. POE of Texas, Mr. SHUSTER, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. BRIGHT, Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. CONAWAY, Mr. ALEXANDER, Mr. GRIFFITH, Mr. MCHENRY, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. ALTMIRE, Mr. LAMBORN, Mrs. SCHMIDT, Mr. PITTS, Mr. SULLIVAN, Mr. MANZULLO, Mr. MCCLINTOCK, Mr. COFFMAN of Colorado, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. KING of New York, Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, and Mr. LANCE):

H.R. 4556. A bill to prohibit the use of Department of Justice funds for the prosecution in Article III courts of the United States of individuals involved in the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. BACA:

H.R. 4557. A bill to amend the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 to ensure that schools have physical education programs that meet minimum requirements for physical education; to the Committee on Education and Labor.

By Mr. HOEKSTRA (for himself and Mr. CAMP):

H.R. 4558. A bill to designate as wilderness certain lands and inland waters within the Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore in the State of Michigan, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. KISSELL (for himself, Mr. MEEKS of New York, Ms. FUDGE, Mrs. MALONEY, Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas, Ms. GIFFORDS, Mr. MASSA, Ms. KILPATRICK of Michigan, Mr. OWENS, Mr. MCMAHON, and Ms. PINGREE of Maine):

H.R. 4559. A bill to establish a commission to review benefits provided by each State to disabled veterans; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. KRATOVIL:

H.R. 4560. A bill to amend title 31, United States Code, to increase transparency and accountability for earmarks, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Mr. LEWIS of Georgia:

H.R. 4561. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide a limited exclusion from gross income for the discharge of indebtedness of individuals; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. LEWIS of Georgia:

H.R. 4562. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow a temporary deduction for interest on unsecured credit card debt; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mrs. MALONEY:

H.R. 4563. A bill to amend the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974, Public Health Service Act, and the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to require that group and individual health insurance coverage and group health plans provide coverage of screening for breast, prostate, and colorectal cancer; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committees on Education and Labor, Ways and Means, and 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. MCDERMOTT (for himself, Mr. STARK, Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin, Ms.

CHU, Mr. LEWIS of Georgia, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. MEEK of Florida, and Mr. PASCRELL):

H.R. 4564. A bill to extend for 1 year the Emergency Contingency Fund for State Temporary Assistance for Needy Families Programs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. OWENS (for himself, Mr. TEAGUE, Mr. ARCURI, and Mr. MINNICK):

H.R. 4565. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow employers a refundable credit for increasing employment; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. PAULSEN (for himself, Mr. HERGER, Mr. TIAHRT, Mr. LANCE, Mr. JONES, Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey, Ms. JENKINS, Mr. PAUL, Mr. CASTLE, and Mr. LAMBORN):

H.R. 4566. A bill to terminate authority under the Troubled Asset Relief Program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, 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. PRICE of North Carolina (for himself, Mr. BISHOP of New York, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania, Mr. BUTTERFIELD, Mr. COOPER, Ms. DELAURO, Mr. DICKS, Mr. ELLISON, Mr. FARR, Mr. FILNER, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. HALL of New York, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. KAGEN, Ms. KAPTUR, Ms. KILPATRICK of Michigan, Mr. KISSELL, Ms. LEE of California, Mr. MCDERMOTT, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. MCINTYRE, Mr. MILLER of North Carolina, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. SNYDER, Mr. SPRATT, Mr. STARK, Ms. WOOLSEY, and Mr. WU):

H.R. 4567. A bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to provide accountability for the criminal acts of Federal contractors and employees outside the United States, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. SESSIONS (for himself, Mr. PASCRELL, and Mr. PLATTS):

H.R. 4568. A bill to direct the Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to carry out a pilot program under which the Secretaries make payments for certain treatments of traumatic brain injury and post-traumatic stress disorder; to the Committee on Armed Services, and in addition to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, 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. SESTAK:

H.R. 4569. A bill to amend the United States Housing Act of 1937 relating to the amount of rental assistance available under the veterans affairs supported housing program; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. SESTAK:

H.R. 4570. A bill to reauthorize the United States Commission on Civil Rights, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. SESTAK:

H.R. 4571. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide for an increase in the amount available for reimbursements payable by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to State approving agencies, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. SKELTON (for himself, Mr. PETERSON, and Mrs. EMERSON):

H.R. 4572. A bill to amend the Clean Air Act relating to greenhouse gases, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Ms. WATERS (for herself, Mr. PAYNE, Ms. LEE of California, Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts, Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN, Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin, Mrs. CHRISTENSEN, Mr. AL GREEN of Texas, Mr. COHEN, Ms. PINGREE of Maine, Ms. CLARKE, Mr. HONDA, Mr. RANGEL, Mr. CONYERS, Mr. DELAHUNT, Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida, Mrs. MALONEY, Mr. FILNER, Mr. MCDERMOTT, Ms. FUDGE, Mr. BUTTERFIELD, Mr. MEEK of Florida, Mr. TOWNS, Mr. FATTAH, Mr. SERRANO, Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Ms. EDWARDS of Maryland, Mr. KUCINICH, and Mr. FARR):

H.R. 4573. A bill to direct the Secretary of the Treasury to instruct the United States Executive Directors at the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank, the Inter-American Development Bank, and other multilateral development institutions to use the voice, vote, and influence of the United States to cancel immediately and completely Haiti's debts to such institutions, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. WU:

H.R. 4574. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to repeal the limitations on the maximum amount of the deduction of interest on education loans; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. WU:

H.R. 4575. A bill to authorize grants for the creation, update, or adaption of open textbooks, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and Labor, and in addition to the Committee on 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. YOUNG of Alaska:

H.R. 4576. A bill to require a study and report on the feasibility and potential of establishing a deep water sea port in the Arctic to protect and advance strategic United States interests within the evolving and ever more important region; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Ms. EDWARDS of Maryland (for herself and Mr. CONYERS):

H.J. Res. 74. A joint resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States permitting Congress and the States to regulate the expenditure of funds by corporations engaging in political speech; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California (for herself and Mr. BONNER):

H. Res. 1050. A resolution providing amounts for further expenses of the Committee on Standards of Official Conduct in the One Hundred Eleventh Congress; to the Committee on House Administration. considered and agreed to. considered and agreed to.

By Mr. BOREN (for himself, Ms. FALLIN, Mr. COLE, Mr. SULLIVAN, and Mr. LUCAS):

H. Res. 1052. A resolution honoring the members of the Army National Guard and Air National Guard of the State of Oklahoma for their service and sacrifice on behalf of the United States since September 11, 2001; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mrs. DAHLKEMPER:

H. Res. 1053. A resolution recognizing that women are equally affected by colon cancer; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. DAVIS of Alabama:

H. Res. 1054. A resolution commending and congratulating the University of West Alabama on the occasion of its 175th anniversary; to the Committee on Education and Labor.

By Mr. DOYLE (for himself, Mr. TIM MURPHY of Pennsylvania, Mr. MURTHA, Mr. SHUSTER, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. MOLLOHAN, Mr. BARTON of Texas, Mr. ALTMIRE, Mr. MCNERNEY, Mr. SESTAK, Mr. WITTMAN, Ms. BALDWIN, Ms. WATSON, Mrs. DAHLKEMPER, Mr. CAPUANO, Mr. GRIFFITH, and Mr. BISHOP of Georgia):

H. Res. 1055. A resolution supporting the designation of National Robotics Week as an annual event; to the Committee on Science and Technology, 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. DUNCAN (for himself and Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA):

H. Res. 1056. A resolution expressing support for designation of April as National Limb Loss Awareness Month; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas (for herself, Mr. BARTON of Texas, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida, Mr. BURGESS, Mr. CARTER, Mrs. CHRISTENSEN, Mr. CLEAVER, Mr. CONAWAY, Mr. CONYERS, Mr. CUELLAR, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, Ms. FUDGE, Mr. GOHMERT, Mr. GONZALEZ, Ms. GRANGER, Mr. AL GREEN of Texas, Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas, Mr. HALL of Texas, Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, Mr. HENSARLING, Mr. HINOJOSA, Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas, Ms. LEE of California, Mr. LEWIS of Georgia, Mr. MARCHANT, Mr. MCCAUL, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. MEEKS of New York, Mr. MINNICK, Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. NEUGEBAUER, Ms. NORTON, Mr. OLSON, Mr. ORTIZ, Mr. PASTOR of Arizona, Mr. PAUL, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. POE of Texas, Mr. RANGEL, Mr. REYES, Mr. RODRIGUEZ, Mr. RUSH, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. SMITH of Texas, Mr. YOUNG of Alaska, and Ms. WATSON):

H. Res. 1057. A resolution recognizing the National Basketball Association's (NBA) All-Star Game in the Greater Dallas Metroplex; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Mr. LEWIS of Georgia (for himself, Ms. SPEIER, Ms. NORTON, and Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas):

H. Res. 1058. A resolution honoring and praising the Sojourn to the Past organization on the occasion of its 10th anniversary; to the Committee on Education and Labor.

By Mr. MCMAHON (for himself, Mr. BERMAN, Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN, Ms. CLARKE, Mr. ACKERMAN, Mr. SHERMAN, Mr. ENGEL, Mr. MEEKS of New York, Ms. WATSON, Mr. CROWLEY, Mr. KLEIN of Florida, Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia, Mr. WOLF, Mr. ROHRABACHER, Mr. BROUN of Georgia, Ms. RICHARDSON, Mr. HIGGINS, Mr. OWENS, Mr. SIRES, Mr. PASCRELL, Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York, Mr. BISHOP of New York, Mr. BARROW, Mrs. DAHLKEMPER, Mr. COURTNEY, Mr. HEINRICH, Mrs. HALVORSON, Mr. HARE, Mr. LEE of New York, Mr. BOCCIERI, Mr. WALZ, Mr. ADLER of New Jersey, Mr. TONKO, Mr. HIMES, Mr. NADLER of New York, Mr. WU, Mr. TEAGUE, Ms. PINGREE of Maine, Mr. KISSELL, Ms. TSONGAS, Mr. WEINER, Mr. SERRANO, Mr. ISRAEL, Ms. KILROY, Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin, Ms. KOSMAS, Mr. BRALEY

of Iowa, Ms. MARKEY of Colorado, Mrs. LOWEY, Mr. POLIS of Colorado, and Ms. DEGETTE):

H. Res. 1059. A resolution honoring the heroism of the seven United States Agency for International Development and Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance supported urban search and rescue teams deployed to Haiti from New York City, New York, Fairfax County, Virginia, Los Angeles County, California, Miami, Florida, Miami-Dade County, Florida, and Virginia Beach, Virginia, and commending their dedication and assistance in the aftermath of the January 12, 2010 Haitian earthquake; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and in addition to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, 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. POE of Texas (for himself, Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA, and Mr. BARRETT of South Carolina):

H. Res. 1060. A resolution congratulating Frank Buckles, America's last surviving WWI veteran, on his 109th birthday on February 1, 2010; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Ms. TITUS (for herself, Ms. BERKLEY, and Mr. HELLER):

H. Res. 1061. A resolution honoring the heroic actions of Court Security Officer Stanley Cooper, Deputy United States Marshal Richard J. ''Joe'' Gardner, the law enforcement officers of the United States Marshals Service and Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department, and the Court Security Officers in responding to the armed assault at the Lloyd D. George Federal Courthouse on January 4, 2010; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions as follows:

H.R. 39: Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia.
H.R. 208: Mr. AUSTRIA.
H.R. 272: Mr. CASTLE.
H.R. 305: Mr. KISSELL.
H.R. 333: Mr. BOUSTANY and Mr. MCCOTTER.
H.R. 345: Mr. CALVERT.
H.R. 422: Mr. POMEROY.
H.R. 442: Mr. BONNER, Mr. COSTELLO, Mr. INGLIS, Mr. OWENS, Mr. LATOURETTE, and Ms. GIFFORDS.
H.R. 476: Mrs. NAPOLITANO and Ms. CHU.
H.R. 482: Mr. HODES and Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA.
H.R. 503: Mr. SIRES.
H.R. 519: Mr. GRIJALVA.
H.R. 634: Mr. MELANCON.
H.R. 635: Mr. ELLISON.
H.R. 690: Mr. PETRI, Mr. RODRIGUEZ, and Mr. PAYNE.
H.R. 734: Mr. HONDA, Mr. SHIMKUS, Ms. SLAUGHTER, Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts, Mr. SPRATT, Mr. BROWN of South Carolina, and Mr. MOORE of Kansas.
H.R. 745: Mr. ROSS.
H.R. 775: Mr. COBLE.
H.R. 832: Ms. HIRONO.
H.R. 878: Mr. GRIFFITH and Ms. FOXX.
H.R. 1074: Mr. LATOURETTE, Mr. INGLIS, and Mr. BONNER.
H.R. 1083: Mr. FLEMING.
H.R. 1126: Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts.
H.R. 1177: Mr. MASSA.
H.R. 1179: Mr. ROSS and Mr. MCCOTTER.
H.R. 1215: Mr. SESTAK.
H.R. 1240: Mr. SCOTT of Virginia.
H.R. 1310: Mr. LANCE.
H.R. 1326: Mr. KISSELL.
H.R. 1347: Mr. CUMMINGS.
H.R. 1362: Mr. THORNBERRY.
H.R. 1526: Mr. MURPHY of Connecticut, Mr. MELANCON, and Mr. POLIS.
H.R. 1552: Mrs. BONO MACK, Ms. RICHARDSON, Mr. CARNAHAN, and Mr. DUNCAN.
H.R. 1557: Mr. MEEK of Florida, Ms. MARKEY of Colorado, and Mr. TIM MURPHY of Pennsylvania.
H.R. 1693: Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California.
H.R. 1778: Mr. AL GREEN of Texas and Ms. PINGREE of Maine.
H.R. 1806: Mr. ROONEY and Mr. MCINTYRE.
H.R. 1884: Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California, Mr. WALZ, and Mrs. HALVORSON.
H.R. 1895: Mrs. CAPPS.
H.R. 2016: Mr. HONDA, Mr. PAUL, Mr. GUTIERREZ, and Mrs. CAPPS.
H.R. 2054: Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts.
H.R. 2057: Mr. CAO and Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi.
H.R. 2067: Mr. MCMAHON and Mr. CLAY.
H.R. 2084: Mr. MAFFEI.
H.R. 2085: Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas.
H.R. 2089: Mr. SNYDER, Mr. KAGEN, Mr. GRIJALVA, Ms. WATSON, and Ms. BERKLEY.
H.R. 2122: Mr. YOUNG of Alaska.
H.R. 2138: Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas.
H.R. 2142: Mr. MURPHY of New York and Mr. QUIGLEY.
H.R. 2254: Mr. STUPAK, Mrs. CAPPS, Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey, Mr. BARTLETT, Mr. DONNELLY of Indiana, and Mr. SOUDER.
H.R. 2296: Mr. LATOURETTE and Mr. WOLF.
H.R. 2342: Mr. MCCOTTER.
H.R. 2360: Ms. HERSETH SANDLIN and Mr. THOMPSON of California.
H.R. 2408: Mr. HASTINGS of Florida.
H.R. 2415: Mr. PATRICK J. MURPHY of Pennsylvania.
H.R. 2416: Mr. PATRICK J. MURPHY of Pennsylvania.
H.R. 2443: Mr. DEFAZIO.
H.R. 2478: Mr. CONAWAY and Mr. ROGERS of Michigan.
H.R. 2521: Mr. TIERNEY.
H.R. 2528: Mr. STUPAK.
H.R. 2546: Mr. MILLER of Florida, Mr. TANNER, Mr. PASTOR of Arizona, and Mr. WAMP.
H.R. 2556: Mr. FRANKS of Arizona, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. HERGER, and Mr. AKIN.
H.R. 2578: Mr. TOWNS.
H.R. 2600: Mr. WITTMAN.
H.R. 2616: Mr. SESTAK and Mr. AL GREEN of Texas.
H.R. 2626: Mr. STUPAK.
H.R. 2672: Mr. MILLER of Florida and Mr. ISRAEL.
H.R. 2849: Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, Mr. HIMES, Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California, Ms. RICHARDSON, Mrs. CAPPS, Mr. SHERMAN, Mr. HONDA, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. FILNER, Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania, Ms. TITUS, Ms. DELAURO, Mr. FARR, Mr. THOMPSON of California, Ms. LEE of California, Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California, Ms. SPEIER, Mr. BERMAN, Mr. CARDOZA, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Ms. WATSON, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Ms. CHU, and Ms. MATSUI.
H.R. 2941: Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mrs. CAPPS, Mr. TERRY, Ms. SCHWARTZ, Ms. MCCOLLUM, and Mr. HINCHEY.
H.R. 3012: Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi.
H.R. 3025: Mr. MURPHY of New York.
H.R. 3043: Mr. CARNAHAN, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. MOORE of Kansas, Mr. KISSELL, Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, Mr. ROTHMAN of New Jersey, and Mr. GUTIERREZ.
H.R. 3057: Mr. DEFAZIO.
H.R. 3077: Mr. JOHNSON of Illinois, Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin, and Mr. RUSH.
H.R. 3101: Mr. PAYNE.
H.R. 3212: Mr. LEE of New York.
H.R. 3257: Mr. JONES.
H.R. 3308: Mr. JONES.
H.R. 3431: Mr. CASSIDY.
H.R. 3485: Mr. LEE of New York.
H.R. 3519: Mr. MORAN of Virginia, Mr. MCGOVERN, and Ms. JENKINS.
H.R. 3554: Mr. MCINTYRE and Mr. TONKO.
H.R. 3560: Mr. ELLISON.
H.R. 3562: Ms. NORTON.
H.R. 3652: Mr. BUTTERFIELD.
H.R. 3682: Mr. SESTAK.
H.R. 3695: Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN and Mr. ROTHMAN of New Jersey.
H.R. 3712: Mr. LAMBORN, Mr. LYNCH, Mrs. DAHLKEMPER, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. THORNBERRY, Mrs. CAPITO, and Mr. OWENS.
H.R. 3715: Mr. CUMMINGS and Mr. OWENS.
H.R. 3734: Mr. KLEIN of Florida and Mr. ELLISON.
H.R. 3758: Mr. DAVIS of Tennessee and Mr. CHANDLER.
H.R. 3764: Mr. PASTOR of Arizona, Mr. GUTIERREZ, and Mr. MORAN of Virginia.
H.R. 3777: Ms. SLAUGHTER.
H.R. 3790: Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky and Mr. CUMMINGS.
H.R. 3926: Mr. TERRY.
H.R. 3943: Mr. KING of New York, Mr. EHLERS, and Ms. CHU.
H.R. 3974: Mr. SERRANO, Mr. ISRAEL, Ms. BORDALLO, and Mr. HINCHEY.
H.R. 4014: Mr. COSTA, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. MELANCON, and Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California.
H.R. 4036: Mr. TONKO, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Mr. TOWNS, and Mr. WU.
H.R. 4043: Mr. SCHIFF, and Mr. AL GREEN of Texas.
H.R. 4051: Mr. CARNEY, Mr. BOUCHER, Mr. KIRK, Mr. RODRIGUEZ, and Mr. PIERLUISI.
H.R. 4091: Mr. PASTOR of Arizona.
H.R. 4098: Mr. WELCH, Ms. BORDALLO, Mr. MELANCON, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Ms. WATSON, Mr. BARROW, Mr. QUIGLEY, and Mr. FOSTER.
H.R. 4123: Mr. CUMMINGS and Mr. MURPHY of New York.
H.R. 4127: Mr. TIAHRT.
H.R. 4140: Mr. HINCHEY.
H.R. 4149: Mr. AL GREEN of Texas.
H.R. 4163: Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin and Mr. AL GREEN of Texas.
H.R. 4177: Mr. DAVIS of Alabama.
H.R. 4183: Mr. FILNER.
H.R. 4196: Mr. AL GREEN of Texas, Mr. BERMAN, Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California, Ms. RICHARDSON, and Mr. MASSA.
H.R. 4197: Ms. GIFFORDS.
H.R. 4202: Mr. HOLT and Mr. FILNER.
H.R. 4241: Ms. PINGREE of Maine and Mr. ISRAEL.
H.R. 4247: Mr. TONKO, Mr. BISHOP of New York, Ms. WOOLSEY, and Ms. CHU.
H.R. 4255: Mr. LANGEVIN, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. DENT, Mrs. LOWEY, and Mr. BOSWELL.
H.R. 4256: Mr. BLUMENAUER and Mr. HIGGINS.
H.R. 4262: Mr. MCCAUL, and Mr. YOUNG of Alaska.
H.R. 4269: Mr. LEWIS of Georgia, Mr. WEINER, Mr. COHEN, Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California, and Mr. CUMMINGS.
H.R. 4278: Mr. MCGOVERN.
H.R. 4279: Mrs. CAPPS, Ms. BORDALLO, Mr. MICHAUD, and Mr. MURPHY of New York.
H.R. 4295: Mr. CARNAHAN.
H.R. 4296: Mr. MICHAUD, Ms. SHEA-PORTER, Mr. QUIGLEY, and Mr. TOWNS.
H.R. 4298: Mr. FARR, Mr. ELLISON, Mr. GRIJALVA, and Mr. GUTIERREZ.
H.R. 4321: Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania.
H.R. 4324: Mr. WITTMAN, Mr. COSTA, and Mr. OWENS.
H.R. 4343: Mr. GUTIERREZ, Mr. FATTAH, Ms. WATSON, and Ms. RICHARDSON.
H.R. 4359: Mr. MASSA and Mr. COSTA.
H.R. 4373: Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN.
H.R. 4378: Mr. KLEIN of Florida and Mr. GRIJALVA.
H.R. 4386: Mr. COHEN, Mr. BERMAN, Mr. JACKSON of Illinois, Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California, Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts, Mr. MORAN of Virginia, and Ms. HIRONO.
H.R. 4393: Mr. BACA.
H.R. 4394: Mr. WELCH, Mr. MORAN of Virginia, Mr. MCDERMOTT, and Mr. ELLISON.

H.R. 4400: Mr. WELCH, Mr. CALVERT, Mr. MILLER of North Carolina, Mr. MCHENRY, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mr. JONES, Mr. WATT, and Mr. CARNAHAN.

H.R. 4403: Mr. TONKO.

H.R. 4404: Mr. PAYNE.

H.R. 4405: Mr. WU, Ms. WOOLSEY, Mr. STARK, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. HINCHEY, Ms. ESHOO, Mr. MORAN of Virginia, Mr. DEFAZIO, Ms. CLARKE, and Mr. MCGOVERN.

H.R. 4415: Mr. BILBRAY, Mr. DUNCAN, and Mr. YOUNG of Alaska.

H.R. 4426: Mr. HOLT.

H.R. 4427: Mr. GRIFFITH, Mr. HELLER, and Mr. MASSA.

H.R. 4453: Mr. CAMP and Mr. ROE of Tennessee.

H.R. 4459: Mr. ALTMIRE.

H.R. 4463: Mr. TERRY, Mr. UPTON, and Mr. SCALISE.

H.R. 4475: Mr. TEAGUE.

H.R. 4490: Mr. LATTA, Mrs. BACHMANN, Mr. GALLEGLY, and Mr. HELLER.

H.R. 4496: Mr. MANZULLO.

H.R. 4503: Mr. BACHUS.

H.R. 4505: Mr. ISRAEL, Mr. OLSON, Mr. NEUGEBAUER, Mr. HALL of New York, and Mr. SMITH of Texas.

H.R. 4521: Mrs. CAPPS.

H.R. 4522: Mr. MORAN of Virginia, Ms. SHEA-PORTER, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mr. WALZ, and Mr. WU.

H.R. 4527: Ms. SHEA-PORTER and Ms. SUTTON.

H.R. 4530: Mr. HINCHEY, Mr. DELAHUNT, and Mr. QUIGLEY.

H.R. 4534: Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia and Mrs. LOWEY.

H.R. 4537: Mr. WEINER and Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi.

H.R. 4538: Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. KAGEN, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. AL GREEN of Texas, Mr. FARR, and Mr. CUMMINGS.

H.R. 4542: Mr. MCMAHON, Mr. LEE of New York, and Mr. BURTON of Indiana.

H.R. 4544: Ms. SHEA-PORTER.

H. Con. Res. 137: Mr. ELLISON and Ms. SPEIER.

H. Con. Res. 170: Mr. MILLER of Florida and Mr. WILSON of South Carolina.

H. Con. Res. 226: Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. MCGOVERN, Ms. BORDALLO, Mr. MILLER of Florida, and Mr. BUYER.

H. Con. Res. 227: Mr. CARDOZA, Ms. CLARKE, Mr. CLAY, Mr. WATT, and Mr. AL GREEN of Texas.

H. Con. Res. 230: Mr. PERLMUTTER and Mr. WILSON of South Carolina.

H. Res. 101: Mr. ELLSWORTH.

H. Res. 111: Mr. LEE of New York and Mr. SABLAN.

H. Res. 267: Ms. ESHOO.

H. Res. 274: Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin.

H. Res. 330: Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Mr. DONNELLY of Indiana, Mr. MILLER of Florida, Mr. TAYLOR, Mr. DELAHUNT, Mr. WHITFIELD, Mr. ENGEL, Mr. MORAN of Virginia, Mr. TOWNS, Mr. BILBRAY, Mr. ABERCROMBIE, Mr. SHUSTER, and Mr. BUTTERFIELD.

H. Res. 440: Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania and Mr. KISSELL.

H. Res. 633: Mr. AL GREEN of Texas.

H. Res. 704: Mr. HIGGINS, Mr. ROTHMAN of New Jersey, Mr. GRIFFITH, Mr. DEFAZIO, Mr. COLE, Mr. LEE of New York, Mr. POLIS of Colorado, and Mr. TONKO.

H. Res. 716: Mrs. MALONEY.

H. Res. 803: Mrs. EMERSON.

H. Res. 847: Mr. DEAL of Georgia.

H. Res. 872: Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, Mr. OLSON, and Mr. MCCOTTER.

H. Res. 898: Mr. HEINRICH.

H. Res. 925: Mr. WU.

H. Res. 929: Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Ms. EDWARDS of Maryland, Ms. KILPATRICK of Michigan, Mr. AL GREEN of Texas, and Mr. RUSH.

H. Res. 957: Mr. ETHERIDGE.

H. Res. 959: Mr. MORAN of Virginia.

H. Res. 975: Ms. RICHARDSON.

H. Res. 977: Mr. MILLER of Florida, Mr. BILBRAY, and Mr. BISHOP of Utah.

H. Res. 996: Mr. TONKO, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mrs. LOWEY, Mr. RANGEL, Mr. MCCAUL, Mr. ROTHMAN of New Jersey, Mr. OLVER, Mr. POLIS of Colorado, and Mr. HINCHEY.

H. Res. 1014: Mr. DAVIS of Alabama, Mr. ENGEL, Mrs. LOWEY, Mr. ELLISON, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Mr. SMITH of Washington, Mr. SOUDER, Mr. SHERMAN, and Mr. SESSIONS.

H. Res. 1032: Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas, Ms. WATSON, Mr. AL GREEN of Texas, Mr. CARNAHAN, Mr. INGLIS, Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California, and Mr. SHERMAN.

H. Res. 1034: Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas, Mr. POLIS of Colorado, Mr. ELLISON, Mr. COBLE, and Mr. STEARNS.

H. Res. 1040: Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN, Mr. NYE, Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas, Mr. BOSWELL, Mr. PERLMUTTER, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. PALLONE, Ms. HERSETH SANDLIN, Mr. GRAYSON, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Mr. CROWLEY, Mr. FARR, Mr. PRICE of North Carolina, Mr. ROTHMAN of New Jersey, Mr. MCNERNEY, Mr. INSLEE, Mr. LARSEN of Washington, Mr. FILNER, Mr. KIND, Ms. ESHOO, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. FOSTER, Ms. WOOLSEY, Mr. BAIRD, Mr. ANDREWS, Mr. HONDA, Mrs. DAVIS of California, and Ms. BERKLEY.

H. Res. 1044: Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Ms. BERKLEY, Mr. FLAKE, Mr. BERMAN, Mr. SHERMAN, Mr. ENGEL, Mr. ELLISON, and Mr. MCCAUL.

H. Res. 1046: Mr. SNYDER, Ms. EDWARDS of Maryland, Mr. BACA, Mr. RANGEL, Mr. HONDA, Mr. WU, Mr. SCOTT of Georgia, Mr. SESTAK, Mr. GONZALEZ, Mr. GUTIERREZ, Mr. HINOJOSA, Ms. DEGETTE, Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas, Mr. CAO, and Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts.

United States of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 111th CONGRESS, SECOND SESSION

Vol. 156 WASHINGTON, TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 2010 No. 15

Senate

The Senate met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable AL FRANKEN, a Senator from the State of Minnesota.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Gracious Lord, we acknowledge Your ownership of all the Earth and everything and everyone in it. Thank You for the evidences of Your favor in the past and for Your hand that has made and preserved us as a nation. May the knowledge of our rights and privileges keep us conscious of our duties and obligations.

Today, guide our lawmakers with Your spirit. Keep them from stumbling as they seek to do Your will. Empower them in their work with a strength that is not their own, infusing them with serenity to meet the challenges of an agitated world. Light up the candles of their hearts and help them shine with Your peace and good will.

We pray in Your great Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable AL FRANKEN 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, February 2, 2010.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable AL FRANKEN, a Senator from the State of Minnesota, to perform the duties of the Chair.

ROBERT C. BYRD,
President pro tempore.

Mr. FRANKEN thereupon assumed the chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

SCHEDULE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, following remarks of the leaders, the Senate will be in a period of morning business for an hour, with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each. The first half hour will be controlled by the Democrats, the second by the Republicans.

Following morning business, the Senate will proceed to executive session to resume postcloture debate on the nomination of Patricia Smith to be Solicitor for the Department of Labor. I would note this is another one of the endless delays we have had to go through. We are in postcloture; 30 hours of doing nothing. We have had so many 30 hours of doing nothing it is hard to comprehend the wasted time—all the staff, Senators' time that could be better put to use. People could be drafting legislation, on and on, contemplating what could be done but for this endless stalling we have seen.

The Senate will recess from 12:30 to 2:15 for the weekly caucus meetings. Following disposition of the Smith nomination, whenever that might be, the Senate will proceed to vote on the nomination of Martha Johnson to be Administrator of the largest real estate organization in the world, the General Services Administration. It is difficult to comprehend, but that has been without a leader because of what has been going on and the stalls that have taken place, so we had to file cloture.

We will notify Senators when the votes are scheduled. I would like to finish Patricia Smith at a reasonable hour today. That is immediately following a simple majority vote for her. Then there is a 60-vote margin on cloture on the future Administrator of the General Services Administration and then there is 30 hours after that.

We will do tomorrow as we did for the Republicans when they had their retreat last Wednesday; we were not in session. We don't wish to be in session tomorrow. We have the President coming to our retreat and a number of other special guests, but if we have to come in tomorrow, either before or after the retreat, we are going to have to do that to meet the burdens of this endless stalling that is taking place in the Senate.

When a young Nigerian terrorist boarded an airplane bound for America on Christmas Day, there was no permanent boss at the TSA, the agency responsible for the safety of our airports. This agency was created after 9/11 specifically to keep air travel safe. When he tried to blow up that plane, the top positions at both the intelligence agencies within the State Department and the Department of Homeland Security were empty. Why? Because Republican Senators refused to let this body hold a vote on these highly capable people the President has asked to serve in these roles.

We all know Republicans have dedicated themselves to grinding the Government to a halt. They do so openly and proudly and boast about their aversion to compromise. That is why, time and time again, they exploit the rules of the Senate and abuse this body's procedural traditions. That is why they have wasted countless hours and shattered remarkable records for stubbornness. That is why, when we

● 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 faced questions of national security, they have answered with politics.

Republicans have repeatedly asked fearful families to put their concerns on hold while they score political points, they think, by playing partisan games. This is not a game.

An embarrassingly high number of critical national security officials remain unable to go to work. For political reasons, a handful of Republican Senators are standing between these experts and their offices. That means they are also standing between the American people and the American people's security.

Too many of the President's nominees for critical national security jobs await Senate confirmation. Today, I wish to talk about four of those positions Republicans refuse to fill; one, the Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness, which is the No. 3 job at the Pentagon. We have Secretary Gates, we have one other individual, and then we have this Under Secretary of Defense—whose position is not filled.

No. 2, Assistant Secretary of State for Intelligence and Research, the head of the State Department's Intelligence Department. Think about that. When Secretary Clinton is called to go to Pakistan, Afghanistan or anyplace in the world, her arm, the intelligence arm, the security department, must be able to give her information as to what is going on, what has gone on, what is going to go on in the future. Not with this State Department. The Republicans will not let this person be chosen.

Third, Under Secretary of Homeland Security, again, for Intelligence. This person is head of the Department of Homeland Security's intelligence arm. Just like there is no one today at the State Department, there is no one at the Department of Homeland Security dealing with intelligence. It is hard to comprehend, but that is true.

Finally, the U.S. Representative for the Conference on Disarmament, whose job is to work with other nations to keep our own people safe from nuclear, chemical, and biological weapons. The President has chosen exceptionally qualified men and women for these jobs, but without a Senate vote confirming them as our Constitution requires, they cannot do those jobs.

Let's talk about the Pentagon. For the first job I mentioned, the No. 3 job at the Pentagon, the President has nominated GEN Clifford Stanley. For 33 years, Dr. Stanley, General Stanley has served our country in the Marine Corps and in communities where he and his family have lived. After serving bravely as a marine infantry officer, he went on to become quite an academic, served as a White House fellow. He was head of the Nation's largest nonprofit sector scholarship organization. He was asked to come back.

He is not a controversial nominee. The Senate Armed Services Committee approved him unanimously but on the Senate floor, no, not General Stanley. He would not only be a pivotal part of the Pentagon's senior leadership, he would also be in charge of making sure servicemembers are prepared for war at a time we are waging two of them and as we plan to send 30,000 more troops to Afghanistan, a surge I know my Republican colleagues support.

Our military leaders have told me his absence is having a negative impact on the Pentagon's operations. I have received phone calls: Senator REID, what are you going to do to get this person approved?

I tell them I am doing my best. Now we wasted all week—that is what it will wind up being—on two nominees, one to be the Solicitor for the Labor Department and the other to be the head of the General Services Administration. If people are serious about giving our troops the tools they need to succeed in battle and at home—and I am confident the Republicans must think that—we should be and they should be as committed to giving our military the leader who will be going to work every day and making sure that happens.

Let's talk about intelligence, these agencies that try to find out what the enemy is doing. The second and third positions I mentioned earlier are the two intelligence roles at the Department of State and Homeland Security, as I mentioned. For the State Department position, President Obama has nominated Ambassador Phil Goldberg. Similar to General Stanley, Ambassador Goldberg is not a controversial or partisan nominee. In fact, it was President Bush who gave him the title of Ambassador when he made Goldberg our top diplomat in Bolivia.

I traveled to Bolivia, the first Senate congressional delegation I can ever remember going to Bolivia. Ambassador Goldberg was there—so impressive. Ambassador Goldberg has also led law enforcement intelligence and nonproliferation efforts in countries such as Kosovo and North Korea. He is head of the State Department's intelligence branch. He would work with our ambassadors around the world and be the Secretary of State's top intelligence adviser. But, no, he is going to have to wait; this intelligence aspect of the Department of State can wait.

The assistant leader, my friend, Senator DURBIN, was at the State Department today learning from the Secretary of State about some of the issues facing our country, meeting with Secretary Clinton. It is a shame Ambassador Goldberg cannot go to work, but he can't.

For the Homeland Security position, the President has nominated Caryn Wagner. She, too, is highly qualified for this role, having held a number of senior positions in the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence and Officer of the Director of National Intelligence and the National Intelligence Program. As Homeland Security's top intelligence official, Wagner would be responsible for ensuring the Department's partners at State, local and tribal levels—and private sector—have the information they need to keep us safe from the bad folks around the world.

As far as disarmament, the fourth nominee I mentioned is Ambassador Laura Kennedy. President Obama asked her to serve as our Nation's representative to the conference on disarmament. This group is responsible for negotiating multilateral arms control and disarmament agreements such as the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty, the Biological Weapons Convention, and the Chemical Weapons Convention—some big issues. Ambassador Kennedy is a member of the Senior Foreign Service and has worked with the State Department and Bureau of European and Eurasian Affairs, the United Nations, the National War College, and as President Bush's Ambassador to Turkmenistan.

Of all the countries with nuclear weapons, the United States, our great country, is the only one that does not have a representative at the negotiating table of the Conference on Disarmament. Why? Because the Republicans are stalling everything. That is unacceptable. We need to confirm her. We need to have confirmed her a long time ago.

But it is not just those cases, it is many others. It is clear these positions are critical to our national security, as I talked about, and equally evident that these nominees are well-qualified, nonpartisan public servants. What is not clear is why our Republican colleagues refuse to bring them up for a vote. Senate Republicans are simply so opposed to everything, absolutely everything, they even opposed putting people in some of the most important positions of our Government, people who were originally appointed by President Bush to positions of high standing.

These are not isolated cases, they are part of an endless and reckless pattern. As with candidates for the President's Cabinet and other top administration posts and numerous Federal judges, Republicans have decided the President does not deserve to have his nominees reviewed by the Senate, as the Constitution clearly States. Ignore him, is what they say.

This obstruction could not have come at a more dangerous time. I was coming to work and was in an elevator. I looked and there was an extremely impressive woman, she had on a coat, and I could see she had a uniform on. She said, ''I am Dr. Benjamin, the Surgeon General of the United States.'' I heard so much about this Alabama physician who dedicated her life to taking care of poor people. I was so happy to meet her. Then I remembered how long we had to wait to get her confirmed.

The obstruction could not come at a more dangerous time, given what is going on in the country. The Republicans blocked a vote on our Surgeon

General, Dr. Benjamin, as I just mentioned, even when the President declared H1N1 as a national emergency. They blocked a vote on the top Homeland Security official in science and technology, and that was even as the Nation braced for both a flu pandemic and bioterror threats.

The list seems endless. While our sons and daughters are fighting in Iraq and rebuilding that nation, last year Republicans delayed the confirmations of America's Ambassador to Iraq. And while our troops serve bravely in Afghanistan, Republicans delayed the confirmation of LTG Stanley McChrystal, our new commander in that difficult war.

This clearly is not the way the Senate is supposed to work. It is not even the way it typically works. As I have pointed out before, it took only 4 months for President Obama to face as many filibusters of his nominees as President Bush faced in his entire first 4 years. This Republican caucus over here proudly says: We blocked as many of President Obama's nominees in 4 months as you—over here on this side of the aisle—took 4 years to block. Democrats have no interest in playing these games. That is why we did not do what they are doing. No other minority has ever done anything like this before. This is one of a kind.

It would be one thing if Republicans, bound together in unified opposition to everything, as they have made their custom, voted against these vital nominees. It would be one thing if they reviewed their resumes, brought the nominees before the appropriate committees, and decided they were not fit to serve. But that is not what is happening. Instead, simply to waste time, Republicans are refusing to let the Senate vote at all. When these nominees do finally come before this body, you would be surprised—many of them pass unanimously after they have stalled for days and days. You shouldn't be surprised, but it is enough to make you feel uneasy in the stomach that these people who are concerned with the security of our Nation are being stopped from being able to go to work by virtue of the Republican party of no.

These Senators are ignoring their responsibilities to confirm or reject the men and women our Commander in Chief has chosen to help lead this Nation to safety. They are abdicating their responsibility to the American people to keep us safe. They are certainly not putting country first as advertised.

Here is the bottom line: My Republican colleagues are basing their judgment on the political party doing the nominating rather than the person being nominated. This irresponsible partisanship does not merely poison our political system, it endangers our national security.

I have no doubt our friends on the other side realize that when we keep a critical office empty in the Pentagon, the State Department, the Department of Homeland Security, we are not keeping the American people safe. They know what they are doing, and they know what they are doing is dangerous. If they do not, they certainly should. That makes these partisan games all the more disgraceful.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, there will now be a period of morning business for 1 hour, with the time equally divided and controlled between the two leaders or their designees, with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each, with the majority controlling the first half and the Republicans controlling the final half.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Illinois.

NOMINATIONS STALLING

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, last week at the State of the Union Address, President Obama laid out the challenges facing America—they are many—and he called on us to rise above partisanship to try to find good solutions for America. I think most Americans agree with that. Oh, there are some Yellow Dog Democrats and some hard-shell Republicans who say: Never compromise, never, but they do not represent the majority of America. The majority of the American people could care less about Democrats and Republicans. They worry about this Nation and its future. They worry about their families, their neighborhoods, their schools, and they wonder why we squabble so much here and spend so much time tied up in knots over arguments that do not make any sense.

I just heard the majority leader describe four individuals who have stepped up when the President asked them to and said: We will serve. Do you know what it means when you say you will serve? It means the FBI looks through every aspect of your life. You fill out lengthy questionnaires, you prepare yourself to go before a committee and be asked questions about every aspect of your life, personal and public. You submit your name to the press to let them look through everything as well. And then you bring your name, of course, to the floor of the Senate, in this case, for final scrutiny. Is there any wonder that a lot of people say: Thanks, but no thanks. I am not interested in doing that. I love my country, but, you know, I value my privacy, and I do not want to go through that hassle. But some have the courage to step up and say: I will do it if the President asks. I am not going to say no. If my country needs me, I will contribute in any way I can.

Let me give you an example of one of them. His name is Clifford Stanley. He has a 33-year career in the U.S. Marine Corps. He retired in 2002 with the rank of major general. He comes from a family devoted to military service. His father and his brother served in the Army. His daughter is an officer in the Navy. He has a niece in the Air Force. Dr. Clifford Stanley was the first African-American regimental commander in the history of the U.S. Marine Corps.

The President nominated him in October to serve as Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness. The Armed Services Committee held a hearing in November and reported his nomination to the full Senate on December 2. He came out of the committee without controversy. Is it any wonder? Thirty-three years in the Marine Corps, the first African-American regimental commander in its history, a man who has served his country so well and risked his life for this great Nation, reported by the Armed Services Committee to the full Senate floor in December. We are now in February.

This is a critical post he has been appointed to by the President. He would be in charge of basically managing the readiness of the U.S. Armed Forces. Dr. Stanley would have the responsibility to oversee the National Guard and Reserve. There are 143,000 Americans who are serving in that capacity today in support of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. He would be responsible for the health of the men and women in uniform. The budget the President submitted yesterday includes $30.9 billion for health care for the members of the military family who are covered by TRICARE. That would be one of Dr. Stanley's responsibilities.

Finally, he is a senior policy adviser on retirement, career development, pay, and benefits. It is a critically important role for our military and our families who really support these military people. And Dr. Stanley is clearly qualified to do it. He has gone through the process of scrutiny and investigation.

Yesterday on the floor of the Senate, when the majority leader asked for permission so that he could go forward and serve our country again in the Department of Defense, the Senator from Alabama, Mr. SHELBY, objected. I would like to hear why. What is it about this man that he objects to? Is there something we do not know about Dr. Stanley? Is there something he knows about his 33 years of service in the Marine Corps? I bet there is not. I bet there is another reason for it. I do not know if we will ever know that. But the fact is, he was objected to. But he was not the only one.

Laura Kennedy is the nominee of the President to serve as U.S. Representative to the Conference on Disarmament. That is the way we meet together with the other nations around

the world to try to reduce the advance of nuclear arms and the threat of nuclear war. Her nomination is based on the fact that she is an experienced diplomat with talent and skills that are desperately needed in this very involved, difficult, and important negotiation. She has already served with distinction in several high-profile positions with the Foreign Service. She was the Ambassador to Turkmenistan, the Deputy Chief of Mission to the United Nations, and the Deputy Commandant at the National War College.

She was reported out of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee 2 months ago. What is holding her up? Yesterday, the majority leader asked that Laura Kennedy, the nominee to be the Representative to the Conference on Disarmament, be approved by the Senate, and the Senator from Alabama, Mr. SHELBY, said: I object. Well, I think Senator SHELBY owes it to all of us to come and tell us why. What is it he objects to about Laura Kennedy? Does he feel she is not qualified? If he does, let's hear why, and then let's bring it to a vote of the Senate. Is that not fair?

Then there is Caryn Wagner, the nominee for Under Secretary for Intelligence and Analysis of the Department of Homeland Security. Do we need someone to deal with intelligence in this time of the threat of terrorism? Do we need someone like that at the Department of Homeland Security? We need them yesterday; we do not need them tomorrow. The Under Secretary for Intelligence and Analysis is considered the chief intelligence officer of the Department of Homeland Security. The Under Secretary has to bring together all of these different agencies and branches of government to make sure they coordinate their efforts.

We know what happened last Christmas. There was not enough done. It was not done in a timely way to deal with this man who threatened the lives of those who were on that airline destined for Detroit.

Caryn Wagner is highly qualified to meet the demands of this position. She was the senior Defense Intelligence Agency representative to the U.S. European Command and to NATO. She is an instructor at the Intelligence and Security Academy. She retired from the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence in October of 2008, where she served as budget director and cyber-security coordinator. Before that, she served as Assistant Deputy Director of National Intelligence. Her experience also includes serving as a signals intelligence and electronic warfare officer in the U.S. Army. That is a pretty strong resume, isn't it. She is a person you would want in this job immediately. Why in the world would we risk an attack on the United States by withholding critical personnel and critical leadership when it comes to gathering intelligence in the Department of Homeland Security?

Yesterday, the majority leader asked for consent to have the Senate move her nomination forward. The Senator from Alabama, Mr. SHELBY, objected. I would like to ask the Senator, what does he know about Caryn Wagner that would lead him to object to her serving the United States of America and trying to keep us safe? If he knows something, the next half hour on the floor of the Senate is available to the Republican side. I invite him or the leadership to come forward and tell us what is wrong with this nominee. Why are you holding up this nominee?

Then, of course, there is Phillip Goldberg, the nominee for Assistant Secretary of State for Intelligence and Research. This man has served as our Ambassador to Bolivia, Chief of Mission in Kosovo, and Deputy Chief of Mission in Chile, under Republican and Democratic Presidents as well. He is the coordinator of the U.N. Security Council resolution monitoring the implementation of resolutions on North Korea.

He would be head of the Bureau of Intelligence Research at the Department of State. A big part of their responsibility is to make sure our foreign policy is based on good intelligence gathering around the world to keep America safe and secure. For over 60 years, this branch of our government has led the State Department review of sensitive counterintelligence and law enforcement activities. In 2004, the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence revealed that this agency was one of the few dissenting votes 2 years earlier when the CIA and other intelligence shops overstated the threat of Saddam Hussein in Iraq. This agency got it right. Although its primary customer is the State Department, this agency serves many other branches of government. The confirmation of Philip Goldberg would provide essential leadership.

Yesterday, the majority leader came to the floor and asked unanimous consent for Phillip Goldberg to serve in the Department of State to gather intelligence to keep America safe. He asked consent that we move to his nomination, a nomination with no controversy. The Senator from Alabama, Mr. SHELBY, objected. Please, I ask my colleagues on the Republican side of the aisle, come to the floor and explain to us what is wrong with Philip Goldberg. What disqualifies him for this position in this administration? Make your best case, if you have one, against him or any one of these nominees, and then, out of a sense of fairness and at least a sense of giving this country and this President the people he needs on a team he needs to keep us safe, let's come to a vote immediately on these four nominees.

I do not hold out a lot of hope that any Republican will come to the floor with objections against any one of those people because, you see, these objections are sometimes based on some grudge, some project, something else. I do not assign that to the Senator from Alabama. I have no idea why he objected. But if he has a substantive objection to any or all of these four people, he should come forward and tell us. He owes it to the Senate. He owes it to the American people. In fairness, he owes it to these four people who have served our country well and want to continue to do so. They should not be left in this uncertainty.

FAIR ELECTIONS NOW ACT

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, when I leave the Chamber, I will be headed to the Senate Rules Committee on which I serve for a hearing to discuss the Supreme Court case that was decided a few days back that is going to make a dramatic difference in the way political campaigns are waged.

For 100 years, since the days of Teddy Roosevelt, we have agreed to keep major businesses, big corporations out of our American political scene. They get involved, make no mistake. We saw that on health care reform. The major forces for and against it in the private sector bought ads. But when it comes to candidates, actual people running for Federal office, we have said: No corporate contributions to these candidates; individuals, yes, who work for the corporations, but not the corporations themselves that have millions of dollars they can funnel into campaigns. That was the law for 100 years.

Then the Supreme Court took up this case and, as a result, it is all going to change. When I saw the final decision, I noticed that Chief Justice Roberts and Justice Alito had joined with Justice Kennedy and Justice Thomas and Justice Scalia for the five-vote majority on the Court. I couldn't help but remember not that long ago when Chief Justice Roberts appeared before the Judiciary Committee. I was there. He was asked: What is your role on the Supreme Court going to be as Chief Justice? He said: I am just there to call the balls and strikes. That is it. I am not there to make up the rules of the game. That is for somebody else.

For 100 years, it was pretty clear that when major corporations wanted to participate in supporting directly the candidacies of Federal candidates, the ball went right down the middle, and it was clearly a strike. We said: You are out. But not this Supreme Court, not under this Chief Justice. This is clear judicial activism.

I challenge any of Chief Justice Roberts' supporters on the other side of the aisle who preach to us over and over again about their loathing for judicial activism to explain what happened in this case, when this Supreme Court overturned that prohibition against corporations being directly involved in candidates' campaigns.

Most people who haven't been in this world are probably scratching their heads and asking: What difference does it make? You folks spend millions of dollars anyway. What is a couple million more going to do?

What it basically means is that when corporation X comes to the office of a

Senator and says: We have an important tax matter coming up here and for our corporation; we would appreciate if you would vote against this new tax on our business. Now Senators can take a look at it and say: Well, I may vote for it; I may vote against it. I know perhaps the officers at the corporation, maybe its employees, may be upset if I vote for the tax. I have to make up my mind.

Now there is a new element. Because of this Supreme Court decision, corporation X can say: We would appreciate if you would vote against that tax. And you will know in the back of your mind they can literally spend $1 million to defeat you in the next election, thanks to the Supreme Court.

How do we fix this? This morning the Rules Committee will talk about disclosure, making sure that corporations are well known when they buy these ads so at least the American people know who is paying for them, and some other aspects to regulate the Supreme Court decision within the bounds of what the Supreme Court said we can do. But I think it goes to a larger question.

Some of my colleagues in the Senate have said all along that what I am about to describe is too far in the future, not within our grasp. I think it is time for us to seriously consider public financing of campaigns. I think we ought to start drawing a bright line between those who will accept public financing and limited contributions from individuals and those who are ready to go out into this wild west of corporate politics, special-interest politics, big-money politics.

I introduced a bill a few years back, the Fair Elections Now Act. As a matter of fact, the current President, when he was then Senator Obama, was a cosponsor. What we are basically trying to do is to follow the lead of major States that have voted for campaign finance reform. When States such as Arizona took this issue to the voters of their State and asked: Do you want to clean up elections; do you want to have fair elections, public-financed elections, the voters said: Yes. Get the lobbyists and special interests out of this mess. Let's try to make this directly candidates to the voters and take the special interest groups out.

This bill would do that. What it basically says is that to qualify for public financing, you go out and raise small contributions, $100 maximum contributions, and put those together in a sufficient amount to show you are a viable candidate, and then you qualify for public financing—in the primary, then again in the general—based on the population of your State. Will you have as much money as a big corporation? No. But here is my theory. My theory is, if a candidate goes for public financing, they will have enough money to get out their message, introduce themselves to the voters, make the issues, and clarify if some major corporation is going to come in and try to steamroll them. That is the best we can hope for, but it may be all we need.

My State of Illinois is, with one possible exception, notoriously suspect of big-money candidates who come in and spend millions to get elected. They waste a lot of their personal wealth and they don't win, with one possible exception. I think there is a skepticism to big money.

Public financing is a way to clean up our political campaigns, to have candidates in the constituent business rather than the campaign financing business. If you could sit down with Members of the Senate and say a few words to them, they will know instantly what you are talking about: Power hour, dialing for dollars, weekends on the road. We all know what it is about. It is about the incessant money chase that is necessary to raise money to finance campaigns under the current system.

It is time away from our States, away from our families. It is time away from meeting voters who don't happen to be rich, who deserve representation and a voice in the process. That is unfortunate. It should change. What we are trying to do now is to bring in public financing with the Fair Elections Now Act.

How would we pay for it? We would impose a tax on corporations doing business with the Federal Government. It wouldn't be onerous, but it would be enough to fund public financing of all campaigns for the House and the Senate. I don't think that is unreasonable.

We would also provide discounts on time that candidates would buy on television and radio so they wouldn't have to pay as much as the most expensive time that is sold.

What do people think of this idea? It turns out it is one of the few things people agree with on a bipartisan basis: 69 percent of Democrats, 72 percent of Republicans, and 60 percent of Independents support this proposal when we describe to it them. It is supported by a lot of government groups, many former Members of Congress, some business leaders, and even some lobbyists. Recently a letter was sent to the Senate, a general letter from major corporations across America saying: Please, leave us alone. We are sick and tired of being asked to find excuses to give you money. Do it some other way. Clean up this mess in Washington.

The Fair Elections Now bill I have introduced will do that. I encourage my colleagues to take a look at it and to try to imagine a world where we didn't have to go scrambling looking for money. Imagine a world where you walked down the streets of your hometown and when you are in an election cycle, people don't rush to the other side of the street for fear you will ask for another check. Think about what life would be like if we were talking about small contributions creating the base of grassroots support for candidates, both challengers and incumbents. That is a reality of our future, if we have the courage to step up and do it.

This decision by the Supreme Court should be the reason, should be the catalyst for making this reform decision now. I urge my colleagues to consider cosponsorship of Fair Elections Now. We are anxious to get as many Senators on board as possible. We hope it can be moved in this session of the Senate.

How much time remains on this side?

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. There is 9 minutes 45 seconds.

Mr. DURBIN. I reserve the remainder of my time and suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. HARKIN). Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that I be allowed to speak for as much time as I may consume in morning business.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered. The Senator is recognized to speak as in morning business.

CITIZENS UNITED V. FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Mr. President, Chairman SCHUMER started hearings this morning in the Rules Committee on the Supreme Court decision, Citizens United v. FEC. This Supreme Court decision completely changes the campaign finance landscape.

Fifty years ago when my father Stewart Udall and my Uncle Mo were in office, money had minimal impact on the electoral and political system. It was about connecting with people and the marketplace of ideas. Right now it is just as much about the biggest checkbooks, if not more so, than it is about the best ideas.

Unfortunately, we are about to see a lot more big checkbooks in the election process. Last month's Supreme Court decision in Citizens United v. FEC was a victory for the special interests at the expense of the average American. We have seen firsthand the impact special interests such as big oil and big banks and health insurance companies have had on the legislative process. Now, with this decision, already powerful corporations and labor unions will be able to further open their bank accounts, further drowning out the voices of everyday Americans in the political process.

Members of both Chambers and the administration are working on legislation to address the Citizens United decision. I commend their efforts, but I

believe a comprehensive overhaul of the campaign finance system is necessary in order to restore public faith in our elections. What we are seeing here today is large special interests supplanting the voices of everyday Americans in the political process.

The Supreme Court has shown its willingness to rule broadly and ignore longstanding precedent when it is reviewing the constitutionality of campaign finance laws. The best long-term solution is a constitutional amendment that would prevent the Court from overturning sensible campaign finance regulations. I would welcome the opportunity to join my colleagues in introducing such an amendment.

While I believe a constitutional amendment is the ideal solution, I also think comprehensive reform legislation is a step in the right direction. As a Member of the House for 10 years, I joined Representative DAVE OBEY as an original cosponsor of the Let the People Decide Clean Campaign Act, a bill that would fundamentally change how House elections are conducted. Mr. OBEY reintroduced this bill in this Congress, and I intend to introduce a companion bill in the Senate in the coming weeks. The act does not attempt to fine-tune the existing congressional campaign finance system or tweak around the edges; rather, it makes fundamental, wholesale changes to fundraising by candidates, regulations of outside groups, and the role of political parties. It contains a finding that America's faith in the election system has been fundamentally corrupted by big money from outside interest groups. It establishes a system of voluntary contributions to provide public financing in campaigns for House candidates in general elections. It provides more funds than the current system for the vast majority of challengers to mount their campaigns. And it empowers voters with the knowledge that their vote affects the outcome of the current election and also affects the amount of funds distributed to nominees in future elections. It bans all independent expenditures so that only the candidate is responsible for his or her message. It provides for expedited consideration of a constitutional amendment allowing these changes if the Supreme Court rejects the plan, and it provides a process by which third-party candidates can also participate in the system.

Money can have a corrosive effect on the political process. We have seen evidence of that in campaigns at all levels of government. We have long needed substantive campaign finance reform, and it is my hope that the High Court's disappointing decision will provide the push we need to put elections back in the hands of average Americans and not the special interests who can use their unlimited bank accounts to railroad the process to their preferred conclusion.

I yield the floor. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. UDALL of New Mexico). Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, I ask the Parliamentarian, what is the business before the Senate at this time?

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Morning business is closed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

NOMINATION OF M. PATRICIA SMITH TO BE SOLICITOR FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will proceed to executive session to resume consideration of the following nomination, which the clerk will report.

The assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of M. Patricia Smith, of New York, to be Solicitor for the Department of Labor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Iowa is recognized.

Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, for the benefit of those who are tuned in on C–SPAN in their offices, what we are now in is what is called postcloture on the nomination of Patricia Smith to serve as Solicitor of Labor. This is a nominee who came before our committee almost a year ago, in April. It has been held up and held up.

Yesterday, the Senate voted cloture because it was being filibustered—yet another filibuster by our Republican friends. So we had a vote last night, and cloture was invoked by 60 votes. Now we are in the period of what they call postcloture, 30 hours of postcloture. We will have a final vote up or down for Patricia Smith to be Solicitor of Labor. If she got 60 votes last night on cloture, it is obvious she certainly has more than 51 votes to take the position as Solicitor of Labor.

That is where we are. We are in this 30 hours. Again, it raises the question in my mind, why are we chewing up 30 hours? We know the votes are there. We voted on cloture last night. Yet our colleagues on the Republican side are insisting that we just chew up time. For what purpose? We have the lights going, the heat is on, all our staffs are here, and no one else is on the floor. So why do we run this 30 hours and waste taxpayers' money and waste all this time when we know what the vote is going to be?

We have been through all this. Patricia Smith has had her hearings. I thought we had a pretty good debate yesterday. Republicans laid out their side, we laid out our side, we had the vote, and now it is time to move ahead, have the final vote, and get this person to work down at the Department of Labor.

Again, I say for the benefit of those watching, here we are in another one of these filibusters. We stopped the filibuster, and now we are in this 30 hours afterward which we do not really need. Everything to say about Patricia Smith has basically been said. The record has been made. She appeared before the committee. She answered questions. The record is there. There is nothing you can do. It is going to come out. Everything is there, and all of our Senators know that.

But the rules are the rules, and the Republicans have the right to invoke the rules. Evidently, they have invoked the rule to chew up 30 hours. It is a shame we have to waste our time like this. As long as we are chewing up the time and Republicans are insisting that we keep the lights on and the heat on and keep everybody around for 30 hours, I would like to make some more remarks on behalf of Patricia Smith and where we find ourselves.

As I said, I am very grateful to our colleagues for the vote last night to end debate and invoke cloture. We have devoted very ample time to our deliberations on Patricia Smith. It is now time to act.

There is no question, when you look at the record and the facts, that Patricia Smith is abundantly qualified to serve as Solicitor of Labor. She has an impressive background in labor law and a demonstrated record of achievement in the State of New York. More important, she clearly has a deep and passionate commitment to help American workers. I can think of no better qualification for this critical position.

There is also no question that Commissioner Smith—and I use the words ''Commissioner Smith'' because she is presently the commissioner of labor for the State of New York—there is no question that Commissioner Smith has undergone a very thorough vetting process. As I said, the nomination has been before us since last April. She has testified in open hearing. She has answered more than 50 written questions. She has met with any Senator who wanted to meet her. Her nomination was debated extensively in our committee, frankly. It has now been debated on the Senate floor—a step that in previous Congresses was often reserved for judges who get lifetime appointments or for Cabinet-level nominees, not for someone who is going to be Solicitor in the Department of Labor. It is time to bring the discussion to an end and let Commissioner Smith get to the Department of Labor and start doing her job.

I listened very carefully to the arguments raised by my Republican colleagues yesterday against Commissioner Smith's nomination. While I think we could spend quite a while debating about which e-mails she was

copied, which staffers should have kept her in the loop and all that, I can't help but conclude that this debate fundamentally comes down to a disagreement about whether this Wage Watch program that was instituted by the New York Department of Labor as a pilot program was a good idea. It kind of comes down to that. I will have more to say about what I think it comes down to in a minute.

My colleagues on the other side of the aisle—and I read the record—have used some pretty scary words to describe this pilot program. They called it entrapment, vigilantism. They say it ''deputizes private activist groups to intrude on small business.'' They have said the Wage Watch volunteers are like the private citizens, the Minute Men, who try to patrol our borders with guns.

If there was even one scintilla of evidence that is what this program is about, I would be alarmed, too. But it is not.

Again, let's look at the documents and get the facts. The agreement that participating groups signed to join this Wage Watch is a good description of what Wage Watch volunteers did. Here is the agreement that groups who agreed to get involved in that agreed to:

> Conduct outreach to the public about labor laws (handing out brochures, etc.) in formal and informal settings (e.g., at organized festivals, neighborhood or group meetings, other organized events . . . bus and subway stops, libraries, supermarkets, or similar locations);
>
> Provide seminars or informational sessions to the public;
>
> Set up and staff tables at events for the purpose of providing information to the public and answering questions regarding the labor law;
>
> Obtain information regarding potential labor law violations from parties familiar with the violations;
>
> Fill out basic complaint forms regarding potential labor law violations and pass them on to the Department.

Nothing illegal. Nothing unethical. Informational. Certainly, don't we want people—especially those at the lowest end of the economic ladder—this is what we are talking about. These are people working at minimum wage jobs, barely maybe above minimum wage. They are the workforce you go by when you go into the door of a restaurant or they are back in the kitchen or they are perhaps in the retail industry doing other things. They are the janitors you don't see at night cleaning up business places—a number of people like that. Again, they are at minimum wage and probably don't belong to any organized labor union. Many of them have limited language skills, and they are trying to get by and raise their families. So we are trying to get information to them about what their rights are.

Do my Republican colleagues believe it is wrong to inform people about what their rights are under the law? Surely they don't want to say if you find violations of law regarding safety or health or wages of people who are being skimmed on minimum wage and aren't being paid minimum wage and are working overtime and are not being paid overtime—are they saying nobody should report that and that we should keep hands off? Surely, that is not what my Republican colleagues are saying, is it?

Well, again, these are not radical actions we are talking about. They are educational and outreach activities designed to empower workers and protect their rights and give them information. Everything on this chart can be done by any private citizen any day of the week.

While staff on the Department of Labor, in their e-mails that we saw, may have called this an ''enforcers'' program in the early days, in January and February when they were brainstorming about the project that is really not what it was. Wage Watch participants were not conducting investigations. They had no enforcement authority. They couldn't demand to see a business's books or access private property. Commissioner Smith made this very clear in her own descriptions of the program.

There has been a lot of talk about e-mails and such. I saw some of the charts put up by my friend from Wyoming yesterday. They were all from people other than Commissioner Smith. You can see what Commissioner Smith said on January 15, 2009—not what somebody else said:

> The Wage Watch groups will conduct activities which promote labor law compliance . . . including handing out leaflets about labor laws to workers at community events or supermarkets; giving know-your-rights training to workers; talking to workers at restaurants and other businesses open to the public; and talking with employers about labor law compliance.

This is important:

> Please note that the groups and individuals who participate as Wage Watchers will not be agents, employees, or official representatives of the Labor Department. They are not replacing staff and they are not going to be conducting investigations of any kind. Their role is limited to doing outreach and community education, and to reporting any violations they encounter to the Division.

That is from Commissioner Smith. I didn't see anybody on the other side put up that chart yesterday. They had charts from other people but not from Commissioner Smith.

Again, when it comes down to it, all these Wage Watch people could do was talk to workers who were willing to chat with them and hand out fliers. Is this vigilantism running amok? Hardly. It is simply volunteers who are willing to take time out of their day because they care about low-wage workers and they want to help them. I can't imagine how this harmless, generous form of outreach could possibly be objectionable.

Unfortunately, my colleagues on the Republican side have used this program to try to tarnish Commissioner Smith's impressive and impeccable reputation. They claim she's antibusiness. They claim she is trying to close companies and put workers out of a job.

These charges are totally unfounded. There is no basis for those charges at all—not a scintilla of evidence about those charges. In fact, they are exactly the opposite of what her record at the New York Department of Labor shows. Patricia Smith has dedicated the last several years of her life to helping workers find jobs and keep jobs. Since taking over as commissioner, Ms. Smith has spearheaded a $4.25 million initiative to prepare New Yorkers for jobs in emerging and green industries; revamped the State's unemployment insurance training programs to allow more workers to get approved for training dollars at the same time they are collecting unemployment benefits; promoted the State's Shared Work Program, which gives businesses an alternative to layoffs as they face a temporary decline in business, increased the number of businesses participating in the program from 293 in 2007 to 1,620 in 2009.

These are just a few of her many impressive accomplishments in the area of job training and workforce development.

Where Commissioner Smith really gained her reputation as one of the finest labor lawyers in the country is in the area of enforcement. She is committed to protecting workers' rights.

In 2008, the New York Department of Labor collected $24.6 million in back wages for 17,000 workers across the State. This was a 37-percent increase in collections from previous years, and it significantly increased the compliance rate among employers.

Now, would someone on the other side say we should have allowed these people to be cheated out of $24.6 million in back wages and sort of washed our hands of it and moved on? That is not only unfair to the workers, it is unfair to the thousands of businesses in the State of New York that comply with the law, that pay fair wages, that pay overtime pay. There is more of them than the others. The vast majority of businesses comply with the law. There are always a few trying to skim it, cutting corners, figuring out how they will never be caught. It usually affects the lowest wage workers.

It is unfair to the legitimate businesses in New York. That is why so many business groups support Patricia Smith. We have letters of recommendation from business groups in New York talking about how she listens and works with them, how fair she is in enforcing the laws. So if someone over there says she should not be doing that, should not be that aggressive in going after bad wages, I don't think legitimate businesses would say that is unfair. They would say: Yes, go after the people giving us a bad name and, frankly, unfairly competing against us.

Those are impressive achievements. Maybe that is the reason some of our colleagues are afraid of her being Solicitor. There is no question she will be a

Solicitor who will enforce the law. She will do it fairly and reasonably but also make sure there are real penalties for taking money out of workers' pockets or putting workers' lives at risk. I guess that is what it comes down to: Do we want a Solicitor who is willing to go the extra mile and try new approaches and new ideas if it will help protect workers' rights? I believe we do. That is what we need in these tough economic times.

I have looked at this Wage Watch pilot program. Quite frankly, I don't know what the results are yet. There is a pilot program now being assessed. Quite frankly, I would be an energetic supporter of that kind of an approach, where people in the community who speak the same language, who live in the same neighborhood, who go to the same churches, whose families interconnect but who are on the lowest rung of the economic ladder—I would be in favor of giving them information about what their rights are when they go to work every day and about what it means to work overtime and how much they should be paid for overtime, what the minimum wage is and how they should be paid the minimum wage, and, yes, also what safety is.

Are they working around hazardous materials and not being adequately protected? Is their health being endangered? They ought to know those things. So many people don't.

Again, as I said yesterday, we are not talking about people working on Wall Street on hedge funds or CPAs, accountants, lawyers, and investment bankers. We are not talking about Senators and our staffs and people who have all this knowledge. We are talking about people who don't understand what their rights are. They are happy to be here. They are happy to have a minimum wage job. They are happy to be able to keep their families together and hope and dream that their kids will have a better life than they have had.

So, again, this Wage Watch, to me—I hope that it is proved out that it was successful. Quite frankly, I think this is something we should emulate. My colleagues on the Republican side seem to want to denigrate it and say this is vigilantism and like Minutemen. Someone said in the Neighborhood Watch program, people cannot go into people's homes. None of these people who were on the Wage Watch could go into a private business unless they were allowed to. They couldn't ask for the books or see the ledgers or anything like that. They could go into a store that was open to the public—a Walmart or supermarket or places where the general public can go. They could not go into a private business where people were working, if the general public wasn't allowed to go in there.

Again, all the comparisons to vigilantism and what I have heard from the other side—these are words that are intended to put fear into people. Let's be frank about it. Fear. It is to make them afraid. Well, if they can just show an example of that, maybe we can look at it. There are no examples of this anywhere.

My friends on the other side also raised questions about certain misrepresentations that Commissioner Smith gave to the committee. I would never minimize that. When people testify before committees, they should do so honestly and openly. I also know human beings make mistakes. I can't tell you how many times I have been at a committee hearing when I heard a question and the person being requested heard it differently than I heard it. We don't always hear things the same. So what you do is you are able to correct the record and, guess what. We do that every day here, don't we?

I am standing here speaking, and the reporter is taking it down—doing a great job, I am sure of that. But guess what. Sometimes mistakes are made. I may say a word, and the reporter might say: That guy HARKIN speaks with that Iowa lingo, and I didn't understand that Midwest lingo. And they may put it down wrong. That is why we have a record. Our staffs go back to the record, or I go to the record, and we correct the record. We all do that every day around here. It is simply because people are human and they make mistakes.

When we have a hearing in front of a committee and somebody asks a question and the witness answers it and we find out the answer wasn't correct, we can go back to the witness and say: What is this all about? Here was a question and here was your answer, but we have different information.

The witness will be able to look at that and correct the record, and that is what Patricia Smith did. Obviously, she heard the question one way, the questioner thought he had questioned her in a different way. But she corrected the record.

Again, keep in mind, no one on this side of the aisle is alleging she did this to cover up an illegal activity or to cover up something nefarious, to cover up something that was unethical. No. There is no allegation about that on that side because it is simply not true. She made a simple mistake. She corrected it.

There were two times when that happened. One was simply because, at that point in time, she did not have all the information she should have had. When she went back to her staff in New York, she found a different thing and corrected the record at that point.

As I said, we do that all the time around here and we do not think anything about it. Republicans do it. Democrats do it. We correct the record all the time simply because human beings are human beings and people make mistakes.

There has been a lot made of whether this idea came from within her staff or came from the outside. Well, that was one of the debates about this. She had testified in the hearing that this was something that came up from within her department. Well, unbeknownst to her, some of her staff lower down had talked to outside groups and discussed this Wage Watch program and then presented it to Commissioner Smith.

Well, my response on that is, what is the big deal? So what? So what if some outside groups were involved in this? Again, was it illegal? Was it unethical? Was it underhanded? No. Perfectly legal. I daresay, all of us Senators meet with outside groups all the time. They come to see us, talk about programs, talk about how we should be doing things. That is one of our functions, to listen to outside people to get better ideas.

This would be a sorry place if all we did was talk to one another. It is a good thing we are talking to people on the outside. So whether the program was suggested by one of her staff or by an outside group, I say: So what? She happened to think it came from within her department and later found out her department people had been talking to someone on the outside. OK. She corrected the record. So what is the big deal?

Then there was a question about expanding the program. Well, I would say honestly, did Commissioner Smith want to expand the program? Sure, as long as it proved to be successful. That is what a pilot program is for. Obviously, she thought it was a good idea to put the pilot program in. The whole point of a pilot project is to expand it, if it is successful. Again, it had to do with conversations about a question about had she had conversations about expanding the program.

There was another little problem. What she thought they were talking about was, did she have conversations about expanding, authorizing and expanding the program and she had not authorized any expansions of the program whatsoever. But, of course, she talked about: Well, if it is successful, sure, I would like to expand it.

In fact, I would point out, to this day, she has never authorized an expansion of the program. Why? Because they do not have all the data, and they have not thoroughly ever evaluated the success of the pilot program. I think that is what a responsible leader does.

Lastly, there is some allegation that the Wage Watch program was used by unions as an organizing tool. Well, again, is anyone on this side alleging that is illegal, unethical, nefarious in some way or underhanded? I do not hear those allegations because they are not so.

Quite frankly, I do not think there would be anything wrong with that. But Commissioner Smith took all appropriate steps to make sure unions separated their organizing activities from their volunteer work with Wage Watch.

As far as I know, and I have seen no evidence to the contrary, her instructions were followed. They were separated. I have seen no evidence to the contrary. So I hope our debate and what I have been able to say and put in the record will put to rest any concerns colleagues may have about Mrs. Smith's honesty and her integrity.

Her honesty and her integrity are unassailable. Is she infallible? Never makes a mistake? Well, I do not know of any living human being who can say that. But does she recognize and correct it? Absolutely—as we all do. Well, again, honesty and integrity, unassailable in her performance as commissioner of labor in the State of New York.

Again, I will point out, this pilot project was a $6,000 pilot project. She was in charge of running an agency with an $11 billion, that is spelled with a B, $11 billion budget; 4,000 employees across the State of New York. This was a $6,000 pilot project. We have to kind of keep that in perspective as to how high it was on her viewing screen.

Well, quite frankly, I think this whole delay from last April would have been avoided if more of my colleagues on the other side had taken the time to sit down with Patricia Smith, talk with her, and hear her side of the story.

I also think it would have been avoided if you read all the letters of support from business groups in New York, from the attorneys, the district attorneys in New York representing all different political parties and ideologies. All these attorneys are saying she does a great job—if they had just looked at her record.

Well, I did. I looked at her record. I have spoken with her. I have read the transcripts. I have looked at the background of all this. I can say, with confidence, never did she have any intention of misleading the committee. Why? This was a perfectly legal, above-the-board project. Why would you want to mislead anybody about it? She had every intention of dedicating her life to be the best and most effective Solicitor of Labor she can possibly be.

Our Nation is very fortunate to have public servants of this caliber. I mean, you look at this. I have no doubt Patricia Smith, with her legal skills, managerial skills in the private sector, can be making a lot of money. I have no doubt. But she has chosen a different career path—to be a public servant, a public servant, dedicating her life to helping people for whom there is not a lot of government help. No one is sticking up for them, people at the bottom end of the ladder.

To me, this is one of the highest callings I think anyone can do in our society, is to be that kind of a public servant. So I think our Nation is very fortunate to have this kind of a person in Patricia Smith for this critical position. I look forward to her swift confirmation.

I would hope we would not have to drag out 30 hours, but it seems the Republicans are intent on wasting time. There is nothing happening here. Anyone can see that. Anybody watching on C–SPAN can see nothing is happening here and we just waste time. We can have the vote now. We could have the vote in 20 minutes. Nothing would change. But we have the 30 hours. I guess we have to waste it. But I wanted to take this time, again, to set the record straight one more time on Patricia Smith, her integrity, her honesty, her exemplary background, and the fact that she is going to be an outstanding Solicitor for the Department of Labor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

RECESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate stands in recess until 2:15 p.m.

Thereupon, at 12:30 p.m., the Senate recessed until 2:15 p.m. and reassembled when called to order by the Presiding Officer (Mr. BEGICH).

NOMINATION OF M. PATRICIA SMITH TO BE SOLICITOR FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR—Continued

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Oklahoma.

Mr. INHOFE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that I be recognized as in morning business for 15 minutes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

NORTHERN UGANDA

Mr. INHOFE. Mr. President, last week I came to the floor to talk about an issue that has kind of been drowned out by a lot of other things that are going on, other conflicts and disasters around the world. This is having to do with northern Uganda. It is something I have been on the floor talking about for several years now, and I have had occasion to be there several times.

For over two decades, a guy named Joseph Kony has led what they call the LRA, the Lord's Resistance Army, in violence all throughout northern Uganda, in that whole Great Lakes Region of east and central Africa. They have killed tens of thousands—little kids—displacing over 1 million, and terrorizing and kidnapping over 30,000 little kids, forcing them to fight. It is this child soldier thing a lot of people are aware of, but not nearly enough people are aware of it.

With all the problems there are in Africa—people are more concerned about Zimbabwe. They hear about that. They have heard about Somalia, Sudan. Everyone knows about that. But nobody says anything about the Lord's Resistance Army and what they have been doing in that area of Africa for 25 years.

I have been there. I have been all the way up there to Gulu in northern Uganda. Let me share the problem that exists up there.

This madman, kind of a spiritual leader, by the name of Joseph Kony has taken advantage of all the unrest and the disasters by going into villages and kidnapping, taking young people and training them to be soldiers. We are talking about little kids, little boys. They are from 11 to 14 years old. Once they train them to be soldiers, they actually give them AK–47s. I do not have my chart now, but I have pictures of that. They train them to be soldiers, and then they have to go back to their villages and murder their parents and their siblings. If they do not do that, then they will dismember them. They will cut their noses off, cut their ears off, cut their lips off.

This has been going on for a long period of time. Quite frankly, I have gotten to know President Museveni in Uganda quite well, President Kagame in Rwanda, and President Kabila in Congo, and all of them agree that we need do something about this monster Joseph Kony. It happens that two of the three Presidents I mentioned—President Museveni from Uganda and President Kagame from Rwanda—are Presidents who have really come to power in the bush. They are warriors. These are people who really are reluctant to admit they cannot go after one guy and get him. Well, they have finally all gotten together.

What we are trying to do—well, we have already introduced it; the author of the bill is Senator FEINGOLD of Wisconsin—is to go after these people, and this bill provides about $35 million to help these kids who have been brutalized, as well as to give whatever assistance we have to give to these different countries in order to bring this guy to justice.

During one of the trips I made up to northern Uganda, to Gulu, I ran into three young men. They are college-age types—Bobby Bailey, Lauren Poole, and Jason Russell. They have started a documentary on Joseph Kony. They have gone around to universities, and we now have thousands—tens of thousands—of young people who are rallying around this thing, trying to get us to do something as a nation. These young people have become very effective.

This week, this Senate has an opportunity to act in unison to shine the light on this forgotten place and to begin to bring relief to these children.

The Great Lakes Region in Africa has suffered from years of devastating fighting between tribes, and as a result the area is home to massive numbers of displaced people who are vulnerable to this type of treatment. So those are

the conditions that allow Joseph Kony and his LRA rebels to thrive. Kony preys on the weak. He gets little kids who cannot defend themselves. He gets young girls. He sells them to be sex slaves and these kids to become murderers.

In December of 2008, the Government of Uganda, Southern Sudan, and the DRC—that is the Democratic Republic of the Congo—launched a coordinated offensive against the LRA. It was called Operation Lightning Thunder. During the operation, over 300 rebels were killed, over 40 were captured, and more than 500 kids who were abducted were rescued. So we are making some headway in doing this.

According to estimates by the U.N., between September of 2008 and June of 2009, the LRA killed over 1,300 civilians, abducted 1,400 more boys and girls, and displaced nearly 300,000 others.

I know something about this because I took the time to go to—you hear a lot about western Congo—Kinshasa and the problems there. This is eastern Congo that butts up against Rwanda and then, further north, Uganda.

In going to Goma, we thought that was where Joseph Kony was at the time. We thought we had an effort that could get him, but we barely missed him. He went north on a tirade, after that, going up toward Sudan and murdered thousands of people during that short period of time. It averages out, he murders or mutilates about three kids a day. That is why this is important. We can get this guy. We cannot do it if we just try the way we have tried it before because it has not worked and it is not going to work.

Well, anyway, we have watched this take place. It is spreading now to other areas. I would anticipate before too long, if left unchecked, it would go not just to the Central African Republic but also maybe back into Sudan and maybe even Ethiopia. So it is very serious.

In 2009, a total of 186 people were killed by the LRA just in Southern Sudan. One survivor describes his experience and the murders of his family at the hands of the LRA. This is a quote. This is actually what this person said:

We were eating dinner outside of our hut when several LRA—

That is the Lord's Resistance Army—

rebels appeared and told us in broken Lingala—

This is their local language—

to get inside of our hut. They looted our food, locked us inside our hut and burned it. There were 10 of us; my whole family was inside. When I realized they were burning us alive, I started to push against the door, forcing it open. One rebel standing outside of the door tried to hit me with a heavy club but I dodged it and ran in the bush. They shot after me but missed. Apparently they shot or hit everyone else in my family who tried to come out. Except for one other person, everyone else was burned alive.

This is the type of thing we have documented that has been happening for a long period of time.

What we are trying to do with this—as I mentioned before, the cost is not great. This, by the way, is not any appropriation. This is an authorization bill, to authorize probably what the CBO says is about $28 million to get this done. It is not offset. When the bill first came out, it was offset by a reduction in certain types of military expenditures. I disagreed with that, so it is not offset at this time. But of all the efforts out there right now, this is something that absolutely has to happen.

Just by contrast, we had a bill, the other African bill, just a couple years ago, called the PEPFAR bill. That was one that actually had about $35 billion—much larger than this—and it sailed right through. So I would say, if we were willing to do that, we ought to be willing to do this.

By the way, we have a lot of cosponsors now. I do believe we are going to be successful in getting this bill passed, and I will be bringing this up, I am guessing, probably either Wednesday or Thursday.

So with that, I will yield the floor and hope that any of the other Members of this body who are not already a cosponsor to this bill—it is S. 1067—we would like to get a few more cosponsors on here if at all possible.

With that, Mr. President, I yield the floor and suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mrs. GILLIBRAND. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mrs. GILLIBRAND. Mr. President, I rise in support of the nomination of Patricia Smith for Solicitor of the Department of Labor. Commissioner Smith is a dynamic and effective leader with over 30 years of experience in labor law, and I am very proud to support her nomination.

She has exhibited exceptional leadership during her 10 years as New York's Labor Commissioner. In this capacity, she managed 3,700 employees in 80 offices and oversaw an annual budget of $11 billion.

In response to the current economic climate, Ms. Smith executed critical programs to reduce the impact of layoffs. She also implemented career training to assist individuals in entering high demand fields. Additionally, she has enhanced labor law enforcement in order to safeguard workers and reward responsible employers.

Commissioner Smith fully embodies the integrity and the diligence this position demands and has a wealth of experience, making her well qualified to enforce critical issues such as workplace safety and health, fair wages, equal employment opportunity, veterans protection, and retirement and health benefits.

Prior to her term as labor commissioner, she served as Chief of the Labor Bureau in the New York Attorney General's Office for 8 years. In that capacity, she established a method of labor law enforcement that other attorneys general and enforcement agencies have used as a model. She was an innovative leader here, increasing efficiency and effectiveness of the bureau by developing ethics standards, targeting enforcement efforts on an industrywide basis, and strategically focusing on workers.

Commissioner Smith's nomination, which has been pending since April, was reported with the unanimous support of all committee Democrats. Additionally, she has the enthusiastic support of labor groups, women's groups, and worker advocates. A number of prominent business organizations have also endorsed Commissioner Smith, including the Business Council of New York State, the Manufacturing Association of Central New York, the Partnership for New York, the Long Island Forum for Technology, and the Plattsburgh North Country Chamber of Commerce.

Commissioner Smith has endured a rigorous vetting process and has made herself available to answer over 50 questions from our friends from the other side of the aisle and met with all interested Senators.

I urge my colleagues to move quickly to confirm Patricia Smith for Solicitor for the Department of Labor.

Thank you, Mr. President.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from North Dakota.

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, I make a point of order that a quorum is not present.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. DORGAN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mrs. GILLIBRAND). Without objection, it is so ordered.

CONTINENTAL CONNECTION FLIGHT 3407

Mr. DORGAN. Madam President, we are approaching the 1-year anniversary of the fatal crash of Continental Connection flight 3407 in Buffalo, NY, and today the National Transportation Safety Board is actually holding a public meeting to consider the final report they are making on that crash.

I think almost everyone has heard the tragic story of that crash last February 12. Two pilots, two flight attendants, 45 passengers on that airplane, and 1 person on the ground lost their lives. This flight was operated by Colgan Air. The plane was a Bombardier Dash 8–Q400 operated by a captain and a copilot, both of whom had commuted long distances to get to work to make that flight, both of whom had been found to have very little rest before that flight.

The copilot revealed her inexperience in the cockpit recording that I listened

to—inexperience in flying in icy conditions—in the transcript of the voice recordings. The captain failed a number of tests in his career as a pilot. The NTSB is now considering 45 findings and conclusions at a public meeting as I speak.

This morning the NTSB members said the plane and the flight crew were properly certified, and the plane was in good condition before takeoff. They also said the ice buildup that night flying into Buffalo was typical and did not affect the ability of the flight crew to fly the airplane. So while we are waiting for the final conclusions of the National Transportation Safety Board, the members of that board spoke about crew training, pilot fatigue, and pilot error as reasons for the crash.

These are the issues I have been holding some hearings on this past year. The NTSB is going to make recommendations to the FAA. We already know that when they make recommendations, the appropriate agencies don't always pay attention to those recommendations. For example, pilot fatigue has continually been on the National Transportation Safety Board's most wanted list for 19 years; that is, most wanted list of safety recommendations. Let me say that again. For 19 straight years, the National Transportation Safety Board has said ''pilot fatigue'' is on the most wanted safety recommendations list. Yet no one has been listening. Nobody seemed to ring the bell on those issues.

I have held seven hearings on safety in the aviation subcommittee that I chair in this Congress. We have heard from the FAA, the NTSB, pilots, regional airlines, major carriers, and safety experts. We have heard especially from the families who lost their loved ones in that fatal crash, that tragic crash in Buffalo, NY.

Let me be quick to say, we have had, fortunately, reasonably few airline crashes in this country in recent years. It is, generally, a very safe way to travel. But there isn't room for error with respect to these commercially airplane flights. I am going to be holding followup hearings with Senator ROCKEFELLER and others in the Commerce Committee with respect to the NTSB recommendations. We are supposed to have what is called ''one level of safety.'' The NTSB said, in the middle of the 1990s, there is one level of safety for commercial airplane flights in this country. The big, major trunk carriers that are national and international and the regional carriers shall have one level of safety. But it is the case that regional airlines often employ pilots with much less experience, much lower pay, which forces difficult conditions.

In many cases, when you get on a small airplane for a regional flight, you see a crew with obviously much less experience. There are questions, from time to time, raised about the training—questions raised in this investigation, as a matter of fact. We know there are a lot of factors that play into this one level of safety. But I think most people believe that one level of safety standard, at this point, doesn't quite measure up. That is the reason we will examine the recommendations from the NTSB as a result of this crash.

At the time of the crash outside Buffalo, NY, Colgan Air didn't have a remedial training program for pilots. The captain of the flight had failed numerous performance checks over the course of his career and would have made an excellent candidate for remedial training. I know the FAA has been working on the industry to try to get them to do this for a long while. If the traveling public ever begins to have very significant concerns about safety on a commercial airline flight, it will be devastating to that industry. So safety must not just be a perception. Safety on commercial airlines, whether they be the major trunk carriers or regional airlines, has to be something everybody takes seriously and that the American people believe is taken seriously.

I wish to show you a chart that shows something that common sense would tell you doesn't work. This chart shows where Colgan Air pilots were commuting to. You will see they were commuting to Newark, their base of operations. On that fateful flight going into Buffalo, NY, the copilot flew all night long from her home in Seattle, WA, I believe deadheaded on a FedEx plane, stopped in Memphis, TN, changed planes, and got to Newark Airport. After flying all night long, she is now ready to take an airplane on its flight. There is no record of evidence of that copilot having a crash pad or someplace to find a bed and sleep. That is the copilot.

The pilot, on the other hand, came from Florida to Newark Airport. There is no evidence, outside of being in the crew lounge at the airport, that the pilot had a bed in which to sleep or that he had rest. So you have a pilot and a copilot who get on that airplane to take, in this case, those 45 passengers on that airplane on its flight to Buffalo, NY. On that flight, ice built up on the wings, and there is what is called a stick shaker on that airplane. There was rapid shaking of the control stick, which would have said to the pilot you must put the nose down in order to gain additional speed. The pilot didn't put the nose down but pulled the nose up, as I understand it, which is apparently a training issue as well. So you have a pilot and copilot traveling across the country all night long just to get to their duty station, and things happened in the cockpit. In the transcript, the copilot said she had very little experience flying in icing. Both the pilot and copilot lost their lives.

I take no joy in reciting what happened in that cockpit. Their loss of life was a tragedy for their families as well. My point is simply this: What happened here—by the way, I believe five out of the most recent seven airline crashes in our country have been on commuter carriers. This, it seems to me, raises a series of questions that must be addressed—and now I believe will be addressed in recommendations from the NTSB by the FAA, dealing with the issue of fatigue. Who is flying the planes? Are they getting proper rest? It deals with the issue of compensation. Is it the case that you get on a small jet and know that the copilot is making $18,000 a year or $20,000 a year, doing two jobs and flying across the country at night in order to get into an airplane cockpit? Does that give you confidence? The fact is, all these issues are now coming to the forefront—not just of this crash but other circumstances as well—and that requires the FAA to take a hard look at what happened.

At one of my hearings, I showed a Wall Street Journal article, in which Mr. Wychor, an 18-year veteran pilot described the routine commuter flights with short layovers in the middle of the night. He said:

> Take a shower, brush your teeth, and pretend you slept.

That is not what you want in the cockpit of an airplane.

A 737 pilot flying to Denver said this, and this is an NBC News quote:

> I have been doing everything in my power to stay awake—coffee, gum, candy. But as we entered one of the most critical phases of the flight, I had been up for 20 straight hours.

That is an issue with me. It is one we have to address. I think all thoughtful people in that industry—and I have great admiration for people in the airplane industry. They do a great job. They understand we have to address these issues of fatigue, training, and compensation. That is just the fact.

All I wished to do today was to say the National Transportation Safety Board, I think, does a great job investigating accidents. The family members of the victims of that flight that crashed in Buffalo, NY, have been extraordinary. They have come to every single hearing held on Capitol Hill. They are witnessing, on behalf of their brothers and sisters and wives and children, saying: I don't want Congress or the FAA to let up. We want you to address these issues. That crash didn't have to happen. Our loved ones did not have to die. That is their message.

I say to them: You are doing exactly the right thing. What you are doing—showing up here at all these hearings and keeping the pressure on the Congress and, yes, on the FAA—will save lives. You will not know their names, but you are saving lives. Good for you.

CLOTURE MOTIONS

Madam President, the issue of cloture motions sounds like a foreign language to a lot of people. If you are back home someplace and are getting up in the morning and struggling to get to work and putting in a full day and trying to make enough money to raise your family and get along in life, you

don't know about cloture motions or the 2-day ripening or 30 hours postcloture. That sounds foreign to almost everybody.

This is a graph of cloture motions in Congress. In the 1950s, there were two cloture motions filed in the entire decade. What does cloture mean? If you decide in this body—and you are the most junior Member of this body, you are the last one elected, you are the 100th in seniority and you sit back by the candy door because that is the last desk—I guess we should not talk about a candy drawer, perhaps, but you sit way back in the corner and you are No. 100 in the Senate. Once you are on your feet and recognized by the Presiding Officer, nobody else can take the floor from you—not the majority leader, not the most senior Member of the Senate. The floor is yours and you can speak until you are physically and mentally exhausted. That is the way the rules are; it is the way the Senate works. Washington described the Senate as a saucer that cools the coffee. You pour the coffee into the saucer and it cools. The Senate isn't supposed to work quickly or efficiently. It is supposed to slow things down, take a better look at it, and have more evaluation and ask: Does this make sense for the country?

That is the way the Senate was created. It is hard to get things done. But it is near impossible to get things done these days because of something called a filibuster and cloture motions.

I wish to provide some interesting statistics. This could not happen and wouldn't happen in any city council in America. There is no city council in America where this sort of thing could happen, no matter what the rules were, because they would be laughed out of town. We have people blocking bills they support. Can you imagine that? If you were on the city council and your business was to block things you support and your neighbor said: What are you doing, are you nuts? No, I am blocking things I support because it has a strategy attached to it. What is the strategy, they would say.

Here is the situation: In 2009 and 2010, it is projected we will have 146 cloture motions to shut off debate in this Congress. Let me describe what we are involved with next. We are on one now, by the way. We are now in what is called 30 hours postcloture. We had a nomination that should have been approved in 5 minutes. Those who want to vote against the nomination should vote no. But we could not do that. Instead, those who oppose the nomination for the Solicitor for the Department of Labor, a nomination—instead of having an up-or-down vote, during which those who don't like this nominee should vote no, they said you cannot even have a vote. You have to file a cloture motion and then wait for 2 days and then have a vote and see if you get 60. If you get 60, after you get the 60, we are going to insist you bleed off 30 more hours because the rules allow us to do that. Only then can you have a vote. That is where we are now. We had a cloture vote. It prevailed. Now we are waiting for 30 hours to elapse so nothing can be done during the 30 hours. It is just stalling. So then the 30 hours is done, and we will vote on this. Then we will go to the next nomination. So this week we will do two nominations, both of which should have taken 5 minutes, if people of goodwill worked together and decided: Here is the agenda; let's bring up these candidates for a vote. And if you like the candidate vote yes; if you don't, vote no.

So the next one is going to be Martha Johnson, GSA Administrator. By the way, this one has been objected to, and it has waited for 7 months. So 7 months ago this President nominated Martha Johnson to be GSA Administrator. April 3, 2009, was her nomination. June 8, the nomination passed through the Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee unanimously. So this nomination was voted on unanimously and approved by the committee, and that was June 8. Here it is February of the year following, and we now are going to get to vote on this nomination that passed the committee unanimously, but not until we are able to shut off a filibuster and then have 30 hours postcloture. It is the most unbelievable thing in the world.

Is this person qualified? Yes, absolutely. She served as the head of GSA during the Clinton administration and is hailed by former and current GSA employees as the ''golden heir of GSA.'' She was the chief of staff back during the Clinton administration. She would be a vast improvement, by the way, over the previous head of the GSA, the previous head of the GSA—and I spoke about her on the floor of the Senate—Lurita Doan.

On April 29, 2008, the Office of Special Counsel for the United States asked that she be disciplined to the full extent for the most pernicious of political activity prohibited by the Hatch Act. She then submitted her resignation, in accordance with that request by the White House. She had been accused of providing no-bid contracts to friends with whom she had extensive personal and business relationships. She and a deputy in Karl Rove's office at the White House had joined in a video conference with 40 regional GSA Administrators after a PowerPoint on polling about the 2006 election, and she said: ''How can we help our candidates?'' This is a nonpolitical office—heading the GSA—in our country.

This person got drummed out of office—and should have gotten drummed out of office—and resigned under pressure. So here is someone who is fully qualified and it is 7, 8 months later and we are finally going to get to have a vote, but only if we go through the motion of filing a cloture petition to end a filibuster. That is unbelievable to me.

Let me give some other examples of what is happening. Here is a bill that was filibustered—the credit card holders bill of rights. There is a filibuster against that by the other side, the Republicans. They filibuster everything—everything. So the credit card holders bill of rights, they went through a filibuster, delayed, and after the delay it passed 90 to 5. Obviously, we had a bunch of folks who said: I am going to lay down on the track until it is inconvenient for everybody, and then I will get up and vote for it.

We have people blocking things they support. You would get laughed out of town in any town in this country if you tried that on the city council.

The Department of Defense appropriations—filibuster. Had to go through the motion of filing—2 days, 30 hours—and then it passed 88 to 10. So, obviously, we had a bunch of folks on the other side who decided they were going to block something they supported, kind of a curious strategy.

The Energy and Water appropriations bill—that was my bill that I chaired—went through filibuster, cloture, and in the end 80 people voted yes. The Fraud Enforcement and Recovery Act was filibustered by the Republicans. Then when it was finally voted upon, after they had delayed it, 92 of them voted yes. Again, we see people blocking things they support. Only in the United States Congress, I guess.

Unemployment compensation extension was the subject of a filibuster, and then 98 people voted yes. People blocking things they support. What a curious thing.

I mean, what do you tell your children if they ask: What was your role, Dad or Mom?

My role was to slow things down. I just wanted to sort of spread glue around the Senate. Not that we don't think it is slow enough the way it is, we want to slow it down even further.

The fact is, people send men and women of goodwill to this Chamber. One of the things I have learned in many years in this Chamber is that almost every desk is occupied by someone who has pretty unique and interesting and special skills to get here. In almost every case, there are people here with very substantial skills. But they are not sent here with an agenda that says: You know what I would like you to do? I would like you to block everything and then vote for it in the end. That is not a message that comes from any State that I am aware of. They are sent here to try to do good things for this country. All of us are. We might have a disagreement about what that means and how to do it, but there shouldn't be any disagreement about these kinds of things.

In the middle of the deepest recession since the Great Depression, seven of this President's high-level nominees for the Treasury Department are not yet confirmed—seven of them. How do you justify that? How do you justify deciding, in the middle of the deepest recession since the 1930s, that you are

going to prevent the U.S. Treasury Department from having a full complement of people who can think through and work through trying to put this country back on track; who can restart the economic engine and put people back to work again? How do you justify deciding we shouldn't have a full complement of people to do that?

We had a fully qualified Surgeon General who was nominated, and that Surgeon General nominee was blocked. And this was after the H1N1 flu had been declared a major health threat. Think of that. That nominee was blocked even after we had a major health threat. We had the Ambassador of Iraq—obviously an important position—blocked during a time of war just when we most needed to resolve some political issues there.

One single Senator on the other side held up the nomination of the Deputy U.S. Trade Representative for 9 months—9 months that was held up—to try to force that U.S. Trade Representative's Office to file a complaint against Canada on some issue. I don't have the foggiest idea what that issue was, but I will tell you this: I would never, and have never, held up a nomination for 9 months in order to try to force something that I insist should happen. That is not the way the Senate is supposed to work.

One Senator on the other side blocked a highly qualified nominee to be Assistant Under Secretary for the Western Hemisphere at the State Department, and it had to do with our relationship with Hugo Chavez, which left us without the person who was supposed to be responsible for coordinating our response to the difficulty in Honduras last year. One Senator held up that nomination on and on and on.

Again, the fact is, as I said, this is called the great debating body, the most exclusive club in the world, and all of those descriptions. But this is not the way it is supposed to work. We have some models of how it is supposed to work. In the old days—and when I say the old days, I mean some decades ago—people would get together and decide what is the major challenge facing our country and how do we work together to find a way to resolve it; not who gets the credit or who gets the blame, but what is needed to be done to fix what is wrong in America. That is the way the Senate used to work. Regrettably, these days, it does not.

Our country rests on the precipice of a very significant cliff. We are still not out of this financial and economic crisis, although I think there has been some stability and we have, hopefully, found some foundation. But at a time when we most need cooperation, we see almost none—almost none. It doesn't. Just read the record: An estimated 146 cloture petitions are filed to shut off filibusters, and on issue after issue after issue we have the minority in this Chamber blocking things they ultimately vote for. How do you explain that—I was against it before I was for it?

Madam President, this country deserves and expects a whole lot better. This country is going through tough times. While I speak here, and while my colleagues are objecting to proceeding on anything—while we are in a 30-hour period where nothing is happening on the floor of the Senate—nothing—a whole lot of people are out looking for work. They are stopping by business after business with their resume, and thinking: Can I find a way? Can I please find a way to get on a payroll and get a job to help my family?

There are a whole lot of folks who need a job, need some hope, need to keep their house, who are struggling. They deserve a lot better from this Congress. The last thing they deserve is a Congress that decides its mission in life is to stop things from happening. The mission for every Senator ought to be to get up in the morning and reach out and see how we can work together to get the best ideas of what both parties have to offer this country. That is happening far too seldom in this Chamber.

It is not my habit to come to the Senate floor to be critical of the Republican side of the Senate. I don't do that often, but I see what is happening. We are sitting here today—and this is a good example of it—for 30 hours doing nothing. Why? Is it because there is nothing to do? No. It is because the other side insists on cloture, insists on the 2 days, then insists on the 30 hours. So what they will have done this week is insist that we will only be able to confirm two Presidential nominees—one is a Solicitor General in the Labor Department and the second is to head the GSA. That is what we will get done this week. That should have been done in 5 minutes, having a vote on those nominations. If you don't like the nominee, vote no; if you like the nominee, vote yes. Dispose of the nominations.

In my judgment, this system is broken, and it can't be 1 person or 10 people who fix it. It has to be 100 people with reasonably goodwill who want to make good things happen for the future of this country.

Madam President, I yield the floor, and I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. DORGAN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

THE TAX CODE

Mr. DORGAN. Madam President, on Wednesday of last week the President gave his State of the Union Address and talked about a lot of issues. One of the issues he mentioned that is especially important to me is one I have worked on for some long while here in the Senate, and that is changing the Tax Code to begin cutting out and getting rid of the tax break that is offered to companies that shut their American factories and move their jobs overseas. It is strange to most people to hear, but we actually have in the American Tax Code a reward for companies that would say: You know what I should do? What I want to do is shut down my American factory, I want to fire my American workers, I want to move those jobs to China and hire somebody for 50 cents an hour. By the way, if they do that, they actually get a tax break in this country. They get rewarded by the American tax system for moving American jobs to other countries.

That is an unbelievably ignorant and pernicious part of our Tax Code and needs to be changed. I have offered amendment after amendment here on the floor of the Senate on it, and the President in his State of the Union Address last week indicated he believed we needed to do this and do it soon. I could not agree more.

We are talking about jobs a lot in this Congress. We have had some discussions today about jobs again. Senator DURBIN and I have worked to put together a jobs package that would try to stimulate and incentivize more jobs, especially small and medium-size businesses to be able to hire people and have the incentive to put people on payrolls. We are working on all of that.

Senator BAUCUS and certainly Senator REID and others have been working together with us to put together a jobs initiative. Even as we try to find a way to create more jobs in our country, we still have this backdoor approach in the Tax Code that rewards people for moving jobs outside of our country. Most of us believe what we want to do is see more of those signs that say ''Made in the USA.'' Made in the USA means there is a job someplace here, particularly in a factory that is producing something, that is putting somebody to work to be able to make a living, to provide for their family. No special program is as important as a good job that pays well.

I have both written a book about this issue of moving jobs overseas and I have spoken on the floor so many times people have either nearly or completely gotten tired of it. But the stories are legend of what has happened in recent years. All of the little things we know and have expected to be American made—almost all of those things are gone. Radio Flyer Little Red Wagon—we have all ridden in it. It was a 110-year-old company in this country. They made those wagons for kids in America, made in Illinois. Not anymore. All those Radio Flyer Little Red Wagons are made in China.

Huffy Bicycles—all those people in Ohio lost their jobs. They were all fired and all those bicycles are now made in China. In the book I wrote I told the story about the last day at work at Huffy Bicycles in Ohio and those workers. As they left their parking lot, they left an empty pair of shoes in the space where their car was parked. It was a

way for them to say to that company, the Huffy Bicycle Company: You can move our jobs if you want, but you are not going to be able to effectively replace us. Those shoes, in an empty parking space in a big parking lot in Ohio when all those people lost their jobs, were a symbol of what is wrong.

A little company made something called Etch A Sketch. Every kid used an Etch A Sketch. It was also made in Ohio. Not anymore. It is now made in China. The list goes on and on, those American products that are gone in search of 50-cent labor and higher profits.

The people who make these products—Radio Flyer Little Red Wagons or Huffy Bicycles or Etch A Sketch or, yes, even airplanes—the people who make these products ask the question, What is wrong with my work? The answer is nothing is wrong with your work. You just can't compete with somebody who makes 50 cents an hour.

The second question is, Should I have to compete with somebody who makes 50 cents an hour? The answer to that is no, you should not. This country needs a vibrant manufacturing base and it needs to fix this unbelievable tax provision that says if you move your jobs overseas, we will give you a tax break.

In order to remain with a manufacturing base in this country, we need to reward the production of things in this country. ''Made in the USA'' should not be a distant memory. ''Made in the USA'' ought to be something applied to things made here that we are proud of.

The Senator from Washington State is here. She is going to speak in a moment. I will not be long.

But in every circumstance in this area of trade and the movement of jobs, other countries take advantage of us because we allow them to. For example, airplanes—Washington State makes some great airplanes in the Boeing Company manufacturing plants. A country such as China that has an unbelievable trade deficit with us, over $200 billion a year, says to us: If you want China to buy your planes you have to build most of it in China. It doesn't make any sense to me. If we are buying all those products from China in this country when we have something they need, they ought to buy American products to be shipped to China, not say to us you must move your product to be produced in China.

It is going on all the time and this country doesn't have the backbone or nerve or will to deal with it. What we ought to say to other countries is we are going to hold up a mirror and you treat us as we treat you.

If I might make one additional comment on automobile trade. Our automobile industry has been in a very serious problem. We came close to losing our automobile industry in this country, which is so important for our manufacturing capability. This country has a trade agreement with China, with whom we have a $200-plus billion a year deficit in trade. We have a trade agreement with China that says to the Chinese—who are, by the way, ramping up a very large automobile export industry and you will see Chinese cars on the streets of America very soon—we say to China: If you ship Chinese cars to the United States of America you will have a 2.5-percent tariff attached to those cars. But the agreement also says if we ship American cars to be sold in China, they may impose a 25-percent tariff. We have an agreement with the Chinese that says we will give you a 10-to-1 advantage on tariffs in bilateral automobile trade. That is a recipe for undermining America's manufacturing and economic strength and it goes on all the time. Frankly, I am sick and tired of it. One piece of it is something the President talked about last week and that is let's at least cut out this unbelievably ignorant and pernicious provision that says: You move your jobs overseas and we will give you a big tax reward. We will cut your taxes if you move your jobs overseas.

I say to the President: Good for you. Help us shut that provision down. Let's have ''Made in America'' be something we see more and more frequently these days.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Washington.

Mrs. MURRAY. Madam President, I thank the Senator from North Dakota for his passion on this issue. I would add one other issue within this, which is that we have to be training our workforce for the coming years with those skills to make those things in America—whether it is airplanes in my State or cars in the Midwest or South, or whether it is the widgets he talked about. We are losing people today in this country who have those basic skills—welding, electricians, those kinds of skills that are basic to these industries. As we move into this coming year and look into our budget and look at our education policy—and we will be talking about the President's education policy on the committee on which I sit—we have to make sure we are going down into our middle schools and high schools and making sure our kids have career pathways that help fill these skilled manufacturing jobs we want to have here in this country. I thank the Senator for his words.

I am here this afternoon to rise again in support of President Obama's nominee to serve as Solicitor of Labor, Patricia Smith. I have to tell everyone I am very confident she is the right person for this critical job. The work she is going to do to protect our workers is more important than ever before.

American workers are facing an incredible challenge today. We all know that. They are struggling with record unemployment, a devastating economic crisis. Today more than ever they need and they deserve strong leaders in the Department of Labor who are passionate about public service and committed to being there to fight for them. The Department of Labor is this agency with a name that sounds bureaucratic, but it is important because that agency is charged with a very critical mission in our Nation's government. Its role is to foster and promote the welfare of America's workers by improving their working conditions, by advancing their opportunities for profitable employment, by protecting workers' retirement and health care benefits and helping employers find workers who are skilled in the jobs provided and strengthen free collective bargaining.

I believe during these challenging economic times it is absolutely critical that the Department has leadership within that Department to make those goals a reality. I was very pleased when I heard President Obama nominate such a strong candidate for the position of Solicitor of Labor.

Ms. Patricia Smith, as the Presiding Officer knows, is Commissioner of the New York State Department of Labor. She has been there since 2007. She is cochair of the New York State Economic Security sub-cabinet and she oversees today 3,700 employees in 80 offices with an annual budget of $4 billion.

For the previous 20 years, Tricia worked in the Labor Bureau of the New York Attorney General's Office and she served on the Obama administration's transition review team for the Department of Labor.

I have received many letters of support for Patricia Smith from people who admire her work, from people she has worked with, and from workers she has helped. I want to take a couple of minutes this afternoon to read some excerpts from those letters because I believe they demonstrate Patricia's broad support and why she should be confirmed by the Senate.

One letter I received was a letter of support from the CEO of the Plattsburgh, NY, Chamber of Commerce, who knows Tricia well. He said:

> Patricia Smith has been an outstanding partner as Commissioner of the New York State Labor Department and will be an outstanding Solicitor for the U.S. Labor Department. We strongly encourage her earliest possible confirmation by the Senate.

I heard from the United States Women's Chamber of Commerce. They wrote to me and said:

> After learning of Ms. Smith's qualifications, her expertise and the laws she has worked to uphold, I can clearly see that she is someone who would work with conviction to enforce the laws of the United States of America. Additionally, I am impressed with her out-of-the-box thinking in creating programs that will keep jobs. We especially need these attributes in these times of economic challenge.

That is from the United States Women's Chamber of Commerce.

I also received a letter from a group of professors and scholars of labor and employment law and labor relations, from over 50 scholars of highly respected institutions, institutions such as Georgetown University Law Center, Columbia Law, Thomas Jefferson

School of Law, Yale Law, and Cornell University School of Industrial and Labor Relations. They wrote to me and urged speedy confirmation saying that Tricia has:

> consistently demonstrated the highest integrity and commitment to ethical standards. She is experienced, intelligent, thoughtful and energetic. We believe this is exactly what the U.S. Department of Labor needs in a Solicitor. Once confirmed, she will be among the best Solicitors of Labor the Department has known.

I would tell my colleagues that her support transcends party lines. Former New York Attorney General Dennis Vacco, who is a Republican, had this to say about his former employee:

> Patricia Smith has proven herself as one of the foremost experts in the nation in the realm of labor law, which is why President Obama saw fit to nominate her. . . . She was an asset to the New York Attorney General's office and I am confident . . . she will be an asset to the Department of Labor.

Tricia Smith has bipartisan support. As Chair of the Subcommittee on Employment and Workplace Safety, I know the challenges American workers are facing today. I know they deserve a Solicitor of Labor such as Tricia who is going to fight every single day to protect them. When she is confirmed as the Department's top legal counsel, she is going to have the profound responsibility of enforcing more than 180 Federal laws and managing more than 450 attorneys nationwide. She is going to be responsible for defending the Department in litigation, as well as providing legal advice and guidance on nearly every policy, legislative, regulatory, and enforcement initiative of the Department. But, most importantly, she is going to be responsible for defending the rights of workers when they are not able to speak for themselves. Tricia has a big job ahead of her, but we need to act now to allow her to get started. We owe it to our country's workers to have a confirmed Solicitor of Labor in place.

I have had a number of conversations with Tricia myself, and I am confident she is highly qualified, and she is eager to get to work. So I will be voting, hopefully later this afternoon or soon thereafter, to confirm Tricia Smith. I come to the floor this afternoon to urge my colleagues to do so as well.

I yield the floor and I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. KAUFMAN. I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. KAUFMAN. I ask unanimous consent to speak in morning business for up to 7 minutes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

IN PRAISE OF JEREMY TEELA, SHAUNA ROHBOCK, AND HEATH CALHOUN

Mr. KAUFMAN. Madam President, I rise today to speak once more about America's great Federal employees.

Next week, in Vancouver, the 21st Olympic winter games will begin amid great fanfare and high hopes. Every four years, the world's top athletes in skiing, skating, hockey, and several other winter sports compete to win medals and to win hearts.

Olympic athletes push themselves to their limits not only to win personal or team glory but also to represent their nations on the world stage. A ticket to the Olympics is purchased with years of arduous training and a commitment to personal integrity and athletic fairness.

The values of Olympians are those of perseverance, integrity, teamwork, and national service.

If this list of values sounds so familiar to many Americans, this is because they are the same values that motivate those Federal employees who serve our Nation in civilian roles and in the military branches.

This week, in honor of the upcoming winter games, I have chosen to highlight three incredible American Olympians. They share these values, and all three of them chose to serve our Nation in the U.S. Army.

Jeremy Teela is an infantry sergeant. Originally from Anchorage, AK, Jeremy joined the Army in 1997. In addition to serving in the infantry, he participates in the Army's World Class Athlete Program. Jeremy is one of America's best in the sport of biathlon.

Biathlon is a grueling race that begins with cross-country skiing and ends with precision rifle shooting. Jeremy is a seven-time national champion, and he was a member of the U.S. Olympic team in the 2002 Salt Lake games and the 2006 games in Torino. Jeremy will once again be competing in the biathlon at this year's games in Vancouver. Last year, at the 2009 Whistler World Cup, which took place at the same venue, he won a bronze medal—the first American to medal in biathlon in 17 years.

Joining Jeremy in Vancouver will be SGT Shauna Rohbock of the Army National Guard. She is one of America's champion bobsled drivers. A native of Orem, UT, Shauna enlisted in 2000. Around that time, she began training in bobsled in the hopes of making it to the Olympics in Salt Lake City, just 40 miles from her hometown. While she didn't make it to those games, Shauna made it to Torino 4 years later. There, she won the silver medal in Women's bobsled.

Comparing the teamwork required to succeed in the Army to the kind necessary in Olympic bobsledding, Shauna said recently: ''Just like any team or platoon, you're only as good as your weakest person. It takes two people to push the sled in a race. Bobsled drivers can't do this alone.'' This month Shauna will return to compete with Team USA in Vancouver.

The Olympics are not the only games taking place in Vancouver this season. Following the Olympics will be the 2010 Paralympic winter games. There, the world's best athletes with physical disabilities will compete in several winter sports.

Among those vying for a medal is retired Army SSG Heath Calhoun. Heath grew up in Bristol, TN, and joined the Army in 1999. In doing so, he followed a family tradition—his grandfather fought in World War II, and his father served in Vietnam. Heath trained at Fort Benning, GA, and was deployed to Iraq with the 101st Airborne Division.

While on patrol in Iraq, his convoy was fired upon with a rocket-propelled grenade, and Heath lost both legs above the knee. After months of recovery at Walter Reed, he was losing hope that he would ever walk again. But with the help of the Wounded Warrior Project, Heath became an advocate for other soldier-amputees.

Determined to regain his mobility, Heath began training with special prosthetic legs and computerized knees. Soon he was able not only to walk but also to run, golf, and drive an unmodified car.

In 2008, Heath began training for the Vancouver Paralympic Games in the sport of adaptive skiing. He has been training in Aspen, CO, and won gold in last year's Super-G National Champions in Men's sit-ski. He will be headed to Vancouver in a few weeks to compete for medals there as well.

All three of these inspirational soldiers are not only Army strong they are Olympic strong. The values that called them to the Army teamwork, perseverance, integrity, and service are the same ones that drive them toward Olympic glory. It is the same set of values that calls other Americans to serve in the Navy, Marines, Air Force, Coast Guard, and civilian careers in Federal Government.

We have such talented citizens who are Federal employees, and whether they are Nobel laureates or Army sergeants, whether they work behind a desk or a spacesuit, they all share the common bond of having chosen—let me repeat that—chosen to give back to the country we all love.

This is the case with all of the great Federal employees I have honored from this desk so far and for those whose stories I have not yet shared or will not be able to during my brief term.

Shauna Rohbock put it best when she said: ''I feel it's a great honor to be able to represent my country as a soldier and an athlete.''

All Federal employees, military and civilian, athletes and non-athletes alike, represent us well.

I hope my colleagues will join me in saluting Jeremy Teela, Shauna Rohbock, and Heath Calhoun and offering them and their fellow American Olympians our support in the pursuit of victory in Vancouver.

I yield the floor and suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. LAUTENBERG. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. KAUFMAN). Without objection, it is so ordered.

NOMINATION OF JUDGE JOSEPH GREENAWAY

Mr. LAUTENBERG. Mr. President, I think it is important we respond to the public discourse and concern about what it is we do here to accomplish what is in the public interest. We know that for some time now there has been obstructionism to moving ahead with the people's business, that the price obtained for obstructionism is political gain. But, like any other transaction, when you do that—when we take the time and the energy devoted toward trying to move ahead and do not move ahead—the price that is paid for this by the American public. It is apparent that our friends on the other side have decided they would rather sacrifice the people's need for action on critical issues for their party's political gain.

We have seen delay, diversion, parliamentary gimmicks, wasted time, and a throwaway of huge resources to distort and distract us from accomplishing better lives for American families. Republicans have used stalling tactics such as the filibuster over 100 times since the start of this Congress just over 1 year ago. The problem is, the victims of these delay-and-destroy tactics are people who need to get back to work, have affordable health care, better education, and other essentials for decent living.

The victims are also well-qualified nominees for high government positions who seek to serve in order to carry America forward—nominees to fill an appeals court position, such as Judge Joseph Greenaway from my State of New Jersey.

Joseph Greenaway is a well-qualified judge who has served on the Federal bench in New Jersey for over a decade. He has been nominated by President Obama for a seat on the Third Circuit Court of Appeals. He brings exceptional credentials and experience that are second to none. But his nomination has been blocked without any criticism of his education, experience, or merit.

This wonderful example of America at its best came from a modest-income family. He has great academic credentials, excelling at Columbia University and Harvard Law School. He brings a rare blend of experience, clerking for a Federal judge, serving as an assistant U.S. attorney in Newark in 1985, and then working in private practice. He distinguished himself prosecuting bank fraud and white-collar criminals before rising through the ranks to become chief of the Narcotics Division. He moved on to serve as a U.S. district court judge in New Jersey. In that position, he has built up a wealth of experience, presiding over more than 4,000 cases in his courtroom.

He has received numerous honors and awards recognizing his work, among them, the Earl Warren Legal Scholar, Thurgood Marshall College Fund Award of Excellence, Garden State Bar Association Distinguished Jurist Award—the list goes on—Columbia University Medal of Excellence, chair emeritus of the Columbia College Black Alumni Council.

Judge Greenaway has spent his career protecting the people of the State of New Jersey. Despite his critical bench responsibilities, he has always found time to give back to the community. He teaches criminal trial practice classes at Cardozo Law School and courses about the Supreme Court there and at Columbia University.

Judge Greenaway will be an outstanding addition to the bench. The American Bar Association rated him ''unanimously well qualified'' for this position. That is why he was passed unanimously out of the Judiciary Committee. Not one Republican on that committee dissented. There was not one vote against him. Yet Judge Greenaway has been sidelined for over 4 months, waiting for a vote on the Senate floor, despite the need to fill that position. Every time we try to schedule a vote, Republicans have objected.

I am pleased to note there has been consent to go to a vote on Monday evening. The wait has been long. It has been tortuous. There can't be any understanding of why. With all the wonderful accolades Judge Greenaway has had for his work, his experiences, his climb to the position he has had, what could be objected to? I say, if he is not acceptable in our colleagues' eyes, speak up. Vote against him. Show the American people why this educated, brilliant legal scholar is not fit to serve.

Obstructionism last year led to the lowest number of judicial confirmations in more than 50 years. It is time for this to end, and it doesn't end with a vote on Judge Greenaway. There are lots of positions that have yet to be filled. I wish to say to those who hear this or understand otherwise what is going on, this man, people like him, and our country deserve better.

When a confirmation is blocked, it is not just one judge who suffers. The whole system suffers under the weight of vacancies in the judiciary. The American people suffer with longer waits for justice in overburdened courts.

The Third Circuit Court has a vacancy that needs to be filled. It is time for our friends—Republican Senators who I know love their country—to stop obstructing things, when we have well-qualified nominees, and allow the Senate to confirm them without further delay.

When we have objections that are purposeful, come to the floor, explain why, and explain it honestly and frankly in front of the American people. But to hide behind objections reminds me of what we used to call people who refused to serve: conscientious objectors. That says something in that phrase. I heard it often in America when I was in uniform as a soldier. Conscientious objectors, people who objected because they have a conscience. If that is the case, and if we relate that to the current condition here, then let people who want to object come up and explain why exactly it is they don't want to vote. But, again, I am pleased our Republican colleagues have seen there was no longer any purpose in delay.

With that, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New Jersey.

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. President, I wish to join my colleague from New Jersey and speak for just a few minutes about Judge Greenaway. I had come to the floor in hope and expectation that we could actually go to his nomination this afternoon. I am pleased we will get a vote on Monday but, even still, this process has taken much too long.

This is a nominee for the Third Circuit Court of Appeals who has about as good as it gets in terms of bipartisan support. At the age of 40, he became a U.S. district court judge. Then, he passed by unanimous consent of this Chamber—Republicans and Democrats alike, unanimous consent. Now he passes out of the Judiciary Committee by, again, a unanimous agreement. Yet he has been held up for months on the Senate floor. Why? Simply because you can?

That is not acceptable. It is not acceptable, when I have heard my colleagues on the other side of the aisle for years talk about an up-or-down vote: Give us an up-or-down vote on a nominee, particularly a nominee who is eminently qualified, who is noncontroversial by virtue of the fact that he has achieved the ability to be agreed to in terms of his nominations, both past and present, as it relates to the Judiciary Committee without qualification, without objection.

So it is clear that up to this point the obstruction of this nominee is not about what is right for the Nation; it is not about acting in the best interests of an overburdened judicial system; it is not about ideology; it is not even about Judge Greenaway. It is about the politics of obstruction. That is consequential to the judicial system and to our citizens who depend on that system for the administration and delivery of justice. This is more than a nominee; it is everyone who is waiting for their cases on appeal.

I will point out to my friends on the other side that, hopefully, when we go to Monday's vote, we will understand that on countless occasions, they argued for an up-or-down vote, demanding that a simple majority vote on the President's nominees is all that is necessary, a position diametrically opposed to their position today. I recall they went so far as to proclaim that filibusters of the President's nominations, particularly for the court, were

unconstitutional, and they threatened what we call the nuclear option. I ask, again, which is it? Do my friends on the other side believe it is right that filibustering the President's nominees is unconstitutional or is the question what do they believe will work for them at any given moment?

So we are looking for this up-or-down vote. I don't hear arguments of the unconstitutionality of filibusters now, and I submit to my friends you can't have it both ways. I urge my colleagues to—I know there will be a unanimous consent request offered. I suspect it will be approved. If not, I will return to the floor and have more extensive remarks on this issue.

It is time for this nominee to the Third Circuit Court of Appeals to get a vote, up or down. This is an eminently qualified nominee. My colleague from New Jersey, Senator LAUTENBERG, talked a lot about his history. There is even more. This is a superb nominee. If this nominee can be held up for months, I can only imagine what we are in for as we move forward. At least when it comes to nominees of New Jersey or the district in which New Jersey is involved, I intend to come to the floor each and every time. But I look forward to some success here, at least today, and being able to make our system of justice actually work for our citizens and for that we need judges and justices in place.

With that, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Georgia.

Mr. CHAMBLISS. Mr. President, are we in a period of morning business?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. No, we are not.

Mr. CHAMBLISS. I ask unanimous consent to speak as in morning business.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

(The remarks of Mr. CHAMBLISS pertaining to the introduction of S. 2977 are located in today's RECORD under ''Statements on Introduced Bills and Joint Resolutions.'')

Mr. ENZI. Mr. President, since we are technically under 30 hours of debate on the nomination of Patricia Smith to be Solicitor of Labor, I will rise in opposition to that nomination, as I did yesterday. I will elaborate a little on my concerns about the personal privacy violations in a program she created in 2009 called the Wage and Hour Watch.

The Wage and Hour Watch program recruits and trains union organizers and public interest groups to go into businesses with compliance literature and interview employees to discover violations of wage-and-hour law. The State of New York gives participants materials to disseminate and official cards identifying them and their group as being part of the program for when they enter businesses and speak with employers and employees.

As part of this process, union and community organizers were directed to gather personal telephone numbers, vehicle license plates, and home addresses of business owners, as well as details about the employees working there. These are people with 1 day's training and a special card from the government. Labor organizers and community activists were allowed to use this information for their own organizing activities.

State identification cards were provided to individuals from various unions and community organizing groups to investigate businesses—but the State conducted no background checks on those they trained and provided identification cards to. Is this the kind of program we could expect Ms. Smith to federalize if she is confirmed as Solicitor?

Another deep concern to me is how Ms. Smith described the decision not to conduct any vetting or background checks for Wage and Hour participants who could collect this personal information. When Ms. Smith was questioned about this by the HELP Committee last year, she explained that ''there is no formal vetting process for the New York State Department of Labor to partner with any entity. . . . The Department did consider the possibility of background checks on the groups but ultimately rejected that idea after inquiring as to whether Neighborhood Watch groups are subjected to background checks. The Department was informed that the groups participating in this more sensitive crime prevention partnership were not subject to a check.''

Ms. Smith explains the lack of a background check because the program is modeled after the National Sheriff Association's Neighborhood Watch program. However, unlike Wage and Hour Watch, Neighborhood Watch is purely an observe-and-report program. Calling the police about suspicious activity in a public area is different than investigating the wages and hours of individual employees and recording their personal contact information and investigating OSHA violations.

For all of these reasons, I have grave concerns about Ms. Smith's decision to allow those who may have criminal records or may not be legal residents of the United States to be trained and gather information under the auspices of New York State authority.

These instances reinforce the serious reservations I hold regarding Ms. Smith's judgment, competency, and ability to lead the Solicitor's Office. I urge my colleagues to oppose this nomination for those reasons.

I want to also elaborate on my concerns about her agency's treatment of small businesses.

Ms. Smith's Wage and Hour Watch program specifically targets small- and medium-size businesses, including, for example, supermarkets, laundromats, nail salons, for State-authorized investigations by unions and community groups. Five trade associations representing small- and medium-size businesses wrote to Ms. Smith to question her agency's decision to target them and launch her program without any input from them. To quote them:

> The image painted by the Department of Labor in its January 26 release is of a posse of activists, duly deputized by the weighty imprimatur of the Department, demanding access to any employer in the state whom they have chosen either at random, or by prejudice.

Notably, the program had been launched and in existence for 2 months before she met with the trade associations. The New York Post characterized the program as ''vigilante labor justice'' targeting small business.

In documents produced to the committee, we also find that there is a culture in the New York State Department of Labor where bureaucrats often feel little responsibility for treating business fairly. For example, when a reporter misquoted Ms. Smith's Deputy and protégé, Terri Gerstein, she responded in an e-mail:

> I never have said that any part of our job is to protect employers against employees who abuse their rights. I have been in this field for 15 years, and I have never said anything like that. Employers have attorneys who can play that role. All the workers have is us.

Small business doesn't just run out and hire attorneys, and they are not used to having people come in at random and flash cards and take a look at their business.

In announcing the Wage and Hour Watch program, Ms. Smith stated her opinion of the business community as follows:

> And as the economy continues to reel, businesses find any way they can to cut corners. Unfortunately, this is often at the expense of the workers who keep them going. . . . The future is now, it's here, and today the Labor Department expands its field of battle.

I have found that whether it is employees or employers, there is probably about 1 to 1.5 percent that will do the wrong thing no matter what the law is. We have to set up mechanisms to make sure that doesn't happen and that people are properly treated. But to assume they are all going to cut corners and harm employees is the wrong approach. Moreover, according to internal e-mail, the program was designed for ''community enforcement'' and created by organized labor, allied public interest groups, and her Deputy without any consideration of small business.

There are also questions whether the State honors its commitments to business. Ms. Smith met with the trade associations concerned about Wage and Hour Watch in March 2009—2 months after it started—and personally committed to banning the pilot participants from promoting their individual organizations simultaneously with Wage and Hour Watch activities. The official documents received from New York, however, do not show this agreement was implemented and, in fact, appear to show the Department allowing the groups to continue these activities.

These instances reinforce the serious reservations I hold regarding Ms.

Smith's judgment, competency, and ability to lead the Solicitor's Office—more reasons I oppose her nomination.

Leaving aside the clear inaccuracies of her testimony to the Senate, you will recall that I spoke extensively on that yesterday, where she gave us testimony and then we gave her a chance in written questions to correct her testimony. She did not. So there are also concerns with Commissioner Smith's ability to be a fair arbitrator and enforcer of our Nation's labor laws. In every instance I am aware of, Ms. Smith has shown herself to be a trusted ally of organized labor and even allows them to participate heavily in the formulation of her agency's initiatives.

Indeed, the State of New York's official records show that two of the pilot groups for Wage and Hour Watch, a senior union organizer and a public interest entity financed in part by unions, were heavily involved in developing all aspects of the Wage and Hour Watch program, including participant eligibility, program documents, training, and press strategies.

One of the union's written work plans stated they were going to use Wage and Hour Watch in ''all of our organizing campaigns,'' including those outside their designated area.

Also, a food and commercial worker union's newsletter states plans to specifically investigate ''nonunion'' groceries as part of the Wage and Hour Watch.

The cochairman of the State's Wage and Hour Watch program is the president of a union.

Several program expansion applicants have as their sole purpose union organizing.

State officials also planned to ensure upstate trade unions would be eligible.

Documents also show the New York Labor Department allows unions to participate in the wage-and-hour law investigations, including interviews of workers with potential claims.

Ms. Smith's interaction with some of the organized labor allied groups goes back to when she headed the labor bureau for then-New York State Attorney General Elliott Spitzer. Records show these same groups teaming up to coerce neutrality agreements and organize business.

With the Wage and Hour Watch program, union organizers now had official State identification cards they could use to enter any business in New York—possibly allowing them to avoid nonsolicitation laws or policies—to gather information on employers and employees. The unions were allowed to contact employees or employers at their homes or at the business as part of ''community organizing.''

Ms. Smith twice also attempted to alter a longstanding legal position to restrict charter schools for the benefit of organized labor—once while in the Attorney General's Office in 2007 and again when she became Commissioner of Labor. In both instances she was reversed by a court.

Commissioner Smith also maintains a senior executive for outreach solely to organized labor—currently staffed by someone who worked for 23 years for the AFL–CIO in organizing and with the SEIU. Notably, there is no such equivalent role for outreach to small business or nonunion employees.

While I appreciate that organized labor is an important stakeholder in New York, this record of favoritism, including allowing union organizers to participate in State labor law enforcement, strikes me as clearly inappropriate. Indeed, I cannot imagine how my colleagues would react if a Republican nominee in a future administration deputized trade associations to investigate or enforce laws with regard to unions.

As you can tell, I have grave concerns about this nominee because of these actions. But having also learned that she misled the Senate, and then didn't correct her answers when she got the chance, I cannot support her. I urge my colleagues to oppose Ms. Smith.

I yield the floor and suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to speak as in morning business for up to 20 minutes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

BUILD AMERICA BONDS

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, after holding 20 townhall meetings in my home State of Oregon over the past month, I can certainly report that people are hungry for good economic news, particularly news about job creation growing our economy. Our people want fresh ideas that work, and clearly they are saying, and saying passionately, that it is time to set aside government that doesn't work for them.

That is why I am proud to come to the floor this afternoon and talk about a positive economic development—a development that has far exceeded the projections and the hopes of those who advocated for it—and that is the Build America Bonds program. Build America Bonds works, and it works because it puts our people to work at good-paying, family-wage jobs.

Mr. President, when I started working on Build America Bonds about 6 years ago with a number of colleagues on the other side of the aisle, it was because I believed there was bipartisan support for shoring up our Nation's crumbling infrastructure and, at the same time, getting our economy back to work. It is a fact that investing in infrastructure, dollar for dollar, is one of the best economic multipliers we have in our country, and it is a way to jump-start economic growth.

As communities deal with the recession, I and my colleagues on the other side of the aisle want to give our communities new tools to finance essential construction projects. What Build America Bonds has always been about is not taking any of the tools out of the toolbox we have today, but putting in some additional ones for our communities. Build America Bonds is certainly not a replacement for direct Federal spending on infrastructure, but I think all people who have looked at this subject understand the need is so great for roads and bridges and water systems and schools that we ought to be looking for all cost-effective, efficient ways to fund this essential infrastructure that does have bipartisan support in the Senate.

To report, we thought that maybe getting the Build America Bonds Program off the ground would result in somewhere in the vicinity of $5 to $10 billion worth of additional investment in infrastructure. The program was authorized as part of the stimulus legislation. It did not get off the ground until the middle of the next year, and my colleagues and I thought perhaps the $5 to $10 billion of Build America Bonds that were authorized would allow us to make the case that when the program expires at the end of this year we could call for its renewal.

When the year wrapped up, the figures showed that almost $64 billion worth of Build America Bonds had been issued. In fact, a number of independent experts say that Build America Bonds are now the hottest, most attractive vehicle in the municipal bond market.

In my home State of Oregon, it has been proven time and time again that private money follows public investment. People get back to work building a bridge, for example, and all the businesses near the construction site get more activity from the people who need their services. Once the project is finished, private investment follows the public investment. That bridge makes it easier for folks to get to work or take their kids to school, and communities grow.

As I mentioned, this bill has a long bipartisan lineage. Then-Senator Talent joined with me about 6 years ago for this program. The program would have created a Federal tax credit bonding program to fund investment in transportation infrastructure. Since then, our colleague Senator THUNE and four others on both sides of the aisle have joined us to make sure the Senate was on record as saying we can find sensible, commonsense, nonpartisan solutions that address the basic needs this country has to a great extent overlooked.

I have mentioned to date more than $60 billion worth of these innovative bonds have funded hundreds of projects in 39 States—fixing our roads and bridges, rebuilding our schools, upgrading our utilities. These are projects that have been funded, I advise my

good friend from Delaware, because we had a lot of discussion about exactly what works in infrastructure and what does not.

On top of this $60 billion of Build America Bonds infrastructure investment, we have seen $80 billion of direct Federal infrastructure spending that was included in the Recovery Act. So you have a one-two punch now for the first time to mobilize all possible resources to fund infrastructure. You have a significant investment in what is called direct spending. I particularly appreciate what a number of my colleagues on the Appropriations Committee have done in this area, particularly Senator MURRAY, who has championed our cause in the Pacific Northwest with respect to infrastructure. Senator HARKIN, the chairman of the Pensions and Labor Committee, also has done a great job in school construction.

I want it understood that those of us who support Build America Bonds see the bonds as a complement to the outstanding work a number of my colleagues whom I have mentioned are doing. This is not to supplant that kind of direct spending effort but to shore it up, to offer additional assistance, particularly additional assistance when the need is so great.

As our proposal was developed, we had an opportunity to work with Chairman BAUCUS and Senator GRASSLEY, the chair and ranking minority member on the Finance Committee, because we wanted to make sure this effort continued to be bipartisan at every step of the way. I am very grateful that Chairman BAUCUS and Senator GRASSLEY in effect gave us a chance to jump-start this idea, to get it off the ground.

The reality is, I suggest to my colleague from Delaware, the Federal Government has never bonded in the transportation area. A lot of States and communities wonder if they would even exist without bonds, but the Federal Government had never bonded in the transportation area. We, our bipartisan coalition, believed a tax credit bond could be especially effective. But because Chairman BAUCUS and Senator GRASSLEY were willing to bet on our bipartisan coalition, our coalition that said Build America Bonds are going to be an efficient tool, we saw all the predictions for the success of this program exceeded. The reality of Build America Bonds blew past the predictions like a bullet train. Build America Bonds sold like hotcakes, getting desperately needed funding going into local communities, creating jobs, and helping to strengthen our infrastructure.

As I have suggested, anyone concerned that in some way this bond program would displace current assistance on infrastructure ought to look at the numbers I have cited. Under the Recovery Act, there was $80 billion for direct Federal infrastructure spending. It has been spent on infrastructure or will be spent within the next year. And Build America Bonds were sold on top of that assistance.

Here are some examples of Build America Bonds quickly putting folks to work. In Oregon's Dayton school district, they used Build America Bonds to employ up to 150 people building and remodeling classrooms. By using Build America Bonds, the school district saved an estimated $1.2 million in interest costs. It is a small school district. Those kinds of savings make a difference.

Communities in Wisconsin have also used Build America Bonds. One small community used them to lower their financing costs by 2.3 percent, allowing them to turn plans to upgrade roads, sewers, and buildings into reality. One of their leaders told Business Week magazine that without Build America Bonds, ''some projects might not be done'' and ''there would be less employment.''

Recently a CBO/Joint Tax Committee report highlighted a number of other benefits from Build America Bonds. CBO and the Joint Tax Committee found that tax credit bonds, like our Build America Bonds, are more cost effective than tax-exempt bonds. The report also concludes that because the bonds are more attractive to investors, they are more efficient at raising capital. This saves municipalities time and money and effort that can be spent on other priorities. Aside from the fact that the funds are raised efficiently, what I have heard again and again—and I think this is what colleagues are going to be looking at when it comes to infrastructure investment—Build America Bonds get the job done quickly. Because they have to adhere to Federal spending guidelines, all of the bond funds have to be spent within 2 years of the date the bond is issued. This means that money is not just flowing into projects, it is being spent in the short term, paying to build roads and bridges and other infrastructure and putting folks back to work quickly. That is the kind of bang for our buck that Americans are hungry for right now. That is what Build America Bonds deliver.

Back in the days before Build America Bonds were issued, the market for normal municipal bonds was almost frozen. It was very hard to sell municipal bonds. It certainly didn't mean the need for financing infrastructure was not there, it was just very hard to get them through the traditional bond market. Build America Bonds have changed that. The private sector, folks who represent the country's largest businesses—the Chamber of Commerce and National Association of Manufacturers—have been strong supporters of it. Many of the labor groups, the trades in particular, have been supportive of it because clearly business and working families need a working infrastructure to give businesses the security they need to think long term about their future.

But it is not just businesses that buy Build America Bonds. Nonprofits, like pension funds, have also found Build America Bonds an attractive investment. Although nonprofits cannot benefit from the tax credits, bond issuers can pass on the value of the tax credits in the form of a higher interest rate for Build America Bonds than other types of bonds. By contrast, traditional tax-exempt municipal bonds are not a good investment for pension funds and other institutional investors that do not pay taxes. So Build America Bonds are especially attractive as a way for nonprofits to invest in American infrastructure that traditional tax-exempt bonds do not provide.

I am not surprised, and I think the judgment I have made would be shared by colleagues on the other side of the aisle because a lot of them have been involved over these last 6 years—we are not surprised that Build America Bonds are reinventing the municipal bond market. They have been a good deal for our communities and for all types of investors. They have freed up financing for badly needed infrastructure construction and ensured long-term economic growth. In some cases these bonds, according to people in communities across this country, make the difference between whether infrastructure projects are actually going to get done. In other cases they lower the cost of the projects and allow communities to reinvestment those savings in other projects.

By any scenario you look at with respect to this program, this is one that helps local governments, local businesses, and the people who rely on infrastructure for jobs and economic security. My view is that is exactly the kind of solution folks are asking for from the Congress at this time. It is fine to speculate about programs you wish to have considered and you will look at down the road to see if they actually produce. The Obama administration now wants to make Build America Bonds permanent because they have seen the extraordinary response our country is demonstrating. Build America Bonds have produced, and they have produced exactly what was intended: a prompt infrastructure investment in an efficient fashion.

I express my appreciation to Chairman BAUCUS. Under his leadership the Finance Committee, on which I am honored to serve, is currently looking at expanding and improving Build America Bonds in the upcoming jobs bill. I told Secretary Geithner this morning that I had appreciated his leadership and the administration's leadership on this issue.

We have some questions about how to proceed—for example, whether, as I would like, Build America Bonds should be devoted to new job creation as opposed to assistance for operating expenses and other areas. But the bottom line is those are the kinds of issues that Democrats and Republicans here in the Senate can take on in a bipartisan way. What we know is we have something that is working, that is making a difference in this critical infrastructure area, and that literally

has 6 years worth of bipartisan history where Democrats and Republicans have come together on an issue that is extraordinarily important to our Nation.

If we keep working together on good ideas such as Build America Bonds, by the time the current economic storm passes our country's infrastructure will be finally ready to support a strong, healthy economy that lies ahead for our Nation.

I yield the floor and suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. BENNET). The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

NOMINATIONS

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, I come to the floor as the chairman of the Select Committee on Intelligence to speak on two nominations that have been before our committee. Both of these nominees have been unanimously passed out by our committee.

The first is the top person for intelligence and analysis at the Department of Homeland Security. Her name is Ms. Caryn Wagner. Second, Ambassador Phil Goldberg, who is nominated to be Assistant Secretary for Intelligence and Research at the Department of State.

These nominations are critically important to the safety and security of this Nation. These are the top intelligence officials in two different departments. There has been an objection to a unanimous request from the other side on the question to confirm these nominees. The majority leader of the Senate has come to the floor twice to implore, to request, to ask that these two nominees be approved because these are top intelligence people for the respective departments.

We just had a national threat hearing, a world threat hearing in the Intelligence Committee, open to the public and press, this afternoon. I asked the question: What is the possibility of an attack against the homeland in the next 3 to 6 months? Is it high? Is it low? Director Blair; Director Panetta; Director Mueller of the FBI; the head of the Defense Intelligence Agency, General Burgess; the acting head of the INR, the intelligence agency of the State Department, Ambassador Dinger—every one of them said that there will be an attempt at an attack. The threat is high. Yet we cannot get confirmed two top people whose job it is to see that the analysis of this intelligence is correct.

Let me speak for a moment about Caryn Wagner. She has had a distinguished career in public and private service that has prepared her to be the Under Secretary of Homeland Security for Intelligence and Analysis.

We just had an attempted Christmas attack on the homeland. Ms. Wagner is the top person of that Department to deal with the intelligence related to exactly this—protection of the homeland.

You might think, well, is there a problem with the nominee? And the answer to that is no. She is currently an instructor in intelligence resource management for the Intelligence and Security Academy. She was hired from the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence. Prior to that, she served as the Assistant Deputy Director of National Intelligence for Management and as the first Chief Financial Officer for the National Intelligence Program. She assumed this position after serving as Executive Director for Intelligence Community Affairs.

She also previously served as the senior Defense Intelligence Agency representative to the U.S. European Command and the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, as well as Deputy Director for Analysis and Production at the Defense Intelligence Agency. She was also formerly staff director of the Subcommittee on Tactical and Technical Intelligence on the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence and a signals intelligence and electronic warfare officer in the U.S. Army.

She has been an intelligence official all of her professional life. She is serious. She is capable. She is a good candidate for the position of Under Secretary of Homeland Security.

We held a confirmation hearing on Ms. Wagner's nomination on December 1. Given the overlapping interest of the Homeland Security Committee, the Homeland Security and Government Affairs Committee held a hearing on her confirmation on December 3. There were no issues with her nomination in that committee.

The position to which she is nominated is the top intelligence position in the Department of Homeland Security. The main responsibilities of this office are to ensure that information related to homeland security threats are collected, analyzed, and disseminated to homeland security customers in the department at the State, local, and tribal levels.

So this is an important job. There is no one in it. We have just had an attack, and the chances of another attempted attack in the next 6 months are high. Yet somebody on the other side—I suspect for political reasons—is holding her up. It makes no sense, if you want to protect this Nation, to hold up this position. I hope whoever it is will come to the floor and explain why they are holding up this nominee, a woman who has had a lifetime dedicated to intelligence, who would be the top intelligence person in the Department of Homeland Security. One person holding her up, vetted by two committees, Intelligence and Homeland Security, without a negative vote at Intelligence. Why would someone hold her up? For their own agenda? Is it appropriate to hold her up for someone's own personal agenda, when you have the top person in that department responsible for intelligence, at a time when we have just had an attempted attack? I think not.

The Under Secretary of the office leads efforts to collect and analyze intelligence, to see that it is shared appropriately and provided to other intelligence community agencies. The Under Secretary provides homeland security intelligence and advice to the Secretary, as well as to other senior officials in the Department, and serves as the Department's senior interagency intelligence representative. They have no one right now. It makes no sense to me.

In short, this individual, the Under Secretary for Intelligence of the Department of Homeland Security, is responsible for ensuring that intelligence relating to a threat to the United States is acted upon. That spot is vacant. From an intelligence point of view, this is quite terrible. It is deleterious. It is not right for this body to hold up this nominee.

Unfortunately, the Office of Intelligence and Analysis has experienced numerous problems in its short tenure. Let me note some: The office's ill-defined planning, programming, and budgeting processes; a gross overreliance on contractors, to the point that 63 percent of the workforce was contracted out as of this summer; and a lack of a strategic plan. These are three major problems for which the Under Secretary needs to get on board. The Under Secretary needs to solve these problems.

On a number of occasions, the office has produced and disseminated finished intelligence that has been based on noncredible, open-source materials or focused intelligence resources on the first amendment-protected activities of American citizens.

So what is my bottom line? The office is in need of strong leadership from an Under Secretary with an extensive background in management of intelligence. The Intelligence Committee is confident Ms. Wagner is such a person. She is up to the challenge. She testified that, if confirmed, among her first tasks will be to review a draft plan to restructure and refine the office's mission, which will be a good first indication of how Ms. Wagner will manage the organization. We should get cracking. We should get it done. We should get this spot filled.

I, respectfully, ask that if there is something we do not know, that the Homeland Security Committee does not know, that the Intelligence Committee does not know, that the person holding her up come to the floor and tell us what it is. It is a significant deficit not to have this position filled.

Let me turn to the nomination of Ambassador Philip Goldberg to be Assistant Secretary for Intelligence and Research at the State Department. Again, the Intelligence Committee had a hearing. We unanimously approved

Ambassador Goldberg's nomination on December 10, the same day we reported out Ms. Wagner's nomination.

Ambassador Goldberg has a distinguished 20-year career in the Foreign Service, where he has served as the charge d'affairs and deputy chief of mission in Santiago, Chile; the chief of mission in Pristina, Kosovo; and in the U.S. Embassies in Bogota, Colombia, and Pretoria, South Africa. Ambassador Goldberg is a graduate of Boston University and, before joining the Foreign Service, he worked for the city of New York.

From 2006 to 2008, he served as Ambassador to Bolivia, during a period of heightened tensions between our two countries.

In mid-September 2008, President Evo Morales accused Ambassador Goldberg of supporting opposition forces, declaring him persona non grata, and expelled him from the country.

The Intelligence Committee carefully reviewed Ambassador Goldberg's conduct in Bolivia. We have found he acted appropriately during his tenure and carried out the policies of the U.S. Government. In fact, an inspector general report on the Embassy, published in September of 2008, gave Ambassador Goldberg and his deputy high marks, stating:

> The Ambassador and the deputy chief of mission (DCM) provide clear policy guidance and leadership . . . [They gather] input and the advice from their staff, forging an excellent working relationship among all agencies and sections at post.

After Ambassador Goldberg's expulsion from Bolivia, the State Department strongly defended the Ambassador, both in the public press as well as in internal memoranda. In short, the Intelligence Committee believes Ambassador Goldberg acted professionally and bears no blame for the Bolivian decision to expel him.

Since June of 2009, Ambassador Goldberg has served as the coordinator for the implementation of United Nations resolution 1874, which imposed economic and commercial sanctions on North Korea. In this position, he has relied on sensitive intelligence reporting to build a diplomatic consensus to search North Korean cargo.

Ambassador Goldberg appeared before the Intelligence Committee for a confirmation hearing on December 1, 2009. Given its jurisdiction over the State Department, the Senate Foreign Relations Committee also held a hearing on Ambassador Goldberg's nomination on November 19, 2009. No problems with the nomination were identified.

The unanimous view is, Ambassador Goldberg is an experienced professional who is very capable and ready to assume his new duties.

The position of Assistant Secretary for Intelligence and Research is a unique one in the intelligence community. The bureau, which we refer to simply as INR, produces all source intelligence analysis to advise the Secretary of State and other senior policy officials and presents an important viewpoint in the internal deliberations of the intelligence analytic community. INR analysts are highly expert in their fields and often improve the quality of coordinated intelligence assessments by challenging the views of other agencies and, if necessary, dissenting from consensus judgments, if they believe them to be incorrect or unsubstantiated.

I first came to appreciate INR's independent-minded approach in 2002, when its analysts dissented from the official judgment of the intelligence community regarding Iraq's weapons of mass destruction. INR analysts expressed less certainty regarding the claim that Iraq was reconstituting nuclear weapons, believing that Saddam Hussein's pursuit of aluminum tubing was not for nuclear purposes.

History, of course, proved the INR analysts to be correct, as Iraq was not reconstituting a nuclear weapons program.

Bottom line: Ambassador Goldberg is well qualified, and the position for which he has been nominated to fill is an important one within the intelligence community. There has been no reason put forward why he should not be confirmed. Two committees have held hearings. The Intelligence Committee recommended his confirmation unanimously. We did for both these nominees. Yet there is a hold on the other side of the aisle.

As chairman of the Intelligence Committee, I believe it places our Nation at a security disadvantage. I urge that change. I urge that whoever has the hold, if they have something that is consequential against either one of these nominees, do the honorable thing. Come to the floor of the Senate, express your objections. Have the debate and dialog on the ability, the experience, the doings of these two people. They are superbly qualified. Neither one of these was plucked out of some political community and thrust into these positions. They have both been dedicated professionals. That is one of the reasons why this hold is so difficult to understand.

I wish the Senate to know that the Intelligence Committee, which I am proud to chair, takes its responsibility to review the President's nominees to positions requiring Senate confirmation very seriously. Our process is thorough and bipartisan. The staff does an investigation. The documents are reviewed. The hearing is held. Written questions are sent. Written questions are answered. The questions and their answers are read. The committee discusses it and votes. In this case, three committees have reviewed these two nominees. The Intelligence Committee has found them qualified for their positions. Yet they are held up.

Consider that on Christmas Day we had someone who tried to explode a device, a device which will be perfected, which will be used again, which is basically impossible to find by a magnetometer in an airport, which will be used again, and that intelligence professionals assess with confidence that we face another attack. We ought to get these positions filled.

Unless there is some reason why these two nominees are faulty, if they are not qualified, if they have done something wrong, then I say come to the floor and oppose them openly. But ''time's awastin'.'' These positions have to be staffed. This country has to be protected. Our intelligence professionals need to be in place. In two departments, we have two high-level positions relating to intelligence that are not filled and should be filled and these nominees are waiting.

So I hope someone is listening. I hope, somehow, someway, this will make a difference. And I very much hope we will be able to confirm both of these nominees—reviewed by the Foreign Relations Committee, one; by the Homeland Security Committee, the other; and reviewed and approved by the Intelligence Committee, both.

Thank you very much, Mr. President.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. BEGICH). The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. UDALL of Colorado). Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. HARKIN. Well, Mr. President, here we are. It is about 5 minutes to 6 p.m. We have been here all day today postcloture on Patricia Smith. Again, to recap why we are here—I am not certain why we are here but to recap the fact that we are here—Patricia Smith was reported out of our committee last year, was held up to be the Solicitor for the Department of Labor, and finally we had to file cloture because she was being filibustered. That cloture motion ripened last night and we had a cloture vote last night. Sixty people voted to end debate and bring her up for a vote. Well, under the rules of the Senate, there is then 30 hours of debate. So we have been here. It has been nearly 30 hours.

We have been here all day today, and, as I understand, only one person showed up today to talk against her nomination. That was my colleague and good friend, Senator ENZI from Wyoming, the ranking member of our committee. I looked at the transcript of what he said, and basically it was just about what was said yesterday. Nothing new came out today. I know Mr. ENZI opposes her nomination. That is no secret. It is his right to do that. But here we are using 30 hours and only one person today has come over to speak against her.

So, again, I just say this to inform the public that here we are, the lights are on, the electricity is running, the bills are going up, and we are here for

no good reason whatsoever. We could have voted on the nominee last night. We could have voted this morning and moved on to other business. There is other business before the Senate that needs to be attended to. But the Republicans have decided under their leadership to slow everything down.

I have heard it said by the leadership on the Republican side that the public wants them to stop bad legislation. That is why they use the filibuster. Well, this is not legislation. This is a person to be the Solicitor for the Department of Labor, and obviously she has more than enough votes to get confirmed. She is eminently well qualified. She has a broad swath of support. Again, they can filibuster, but we had the vote on that last night to end the filibuster. But, again, it is their right under the rules—I am not denying that—it is their right to drag it out for 30 more hours. But to what end? To what purpose? Has more information come out about Ms. Smith that might change somebody's mind on how they are going to vote, whether she should take this position? No, nothing more has come out, no new information. So here we are wasting time, slowing everything down. The public has to know this. People out there are frustrated because we are not getting anything done. This is a perfect example of how the Senate has become dysfunctional—dysfunctional. Here we are for 30 hours doing absolutely nothing, to no end whatsoever.

Usually, as to the 30 hours after a cloture vote has been had, people will say: Well, there is new information. We have to bring out something new. We can maybe change some votes.

Nothing new has come out and nothing new will come out. She has been thoroughly vetted since last April, almost a year. She has responded to every written question. She has responded to any personal request to meet with her. So everything is out there in the open. Yet the Republicans insist on dragging it out for 30 hours. Again, the public has a right to ask why. Again, to what end? To what end are we dragging out the 30 hours? Well, I guess the end is to try to keep us from doing anything else.

As President Obama said in his State of the Union Address, just saying no is not leadership. Just saying no is not leadership. That is all we are hearing from the Republican side—no to everything. Well, it is all right if they want to say no, but at least let's vote. Let's vote.

It is very frustrating—very frustrating. I know they can use the rules, but you can also abuse the rules. The filibuster is being abused. It used to be used only for weighty measures in which there was a true disagreement and for which, perhaps, some could be swayed one way or the other through the debate and arguments that came forward on the floor—not for nominations. So everything is slowed down.

I also wish to say a few more words on behalf of Patricia Smith. Again, we have not heard anything new during these 30 hours. There was one thing my colleague and friend Senator ENZI said today that I do want to respond to. Again, it was nothing new, but it was just said again today about this Wage Watch that was instituted in New York as a pilot program, about how they were going to investigate and go into businesses and all that kind of stuff. Again, I do not want to repeat what somebody lower down has said. I want to know what Ms. Smith herself said about it.

Here, as shown on this chart, is an e-mail from Commissioner Smith—right now from her—dated January 15, 2009, when they were starting up this program. Here is her e-mail—not some underling's, not some staff person's, but Ms. Smith's, who is the subject of the nomination—

> Wage Watch groups will be conducting activities which promote labor law compliance . . . including handing out leaflets about labor laws to workers at community events or supermarkets; giving know-your-rights training to workers; talking to workers at restaurants and other businesses open to the public; and talking with employers about labor law compliance.
>
> Please note that the groups and individuals who participate as Wage Watchers will not be agency employees or official representatives of the Labor Department. They are not replacing staff and they are not going to be conducting investigations of any kind. Their role is limited to doing outreach and community education, and to reporting any violations they encounter to the division.

So that is what the Wage Watch was set up to be. But, again, we keep hearing all of these accusations about vigilantes and all that kind of stuff. They are not empowered to enter any place of business unless the employer lets them or unless it is a place of business where the general public can go such as a restaurant, a Wal-Mart, whatever—stores. Wherever the public can go, they can go, but they cannot enter a business that is not generally accessible to the public. I wanted to set the record straight one more time.

Again, if Ms. Smith were so bad, I would daresay you couldn't find a business group that would support her. I have here a whole bunch of letters from business groups in the State of New York where she is presently the labor commissioner extolling her virtues and her ability to work with the business community. Here is the Business Council of New York State. I won't read it all, but it says:

> As the president and CEO of a statewide business trade organization, I believe Ms. Smith is superbly qualified to assume the responsibilities of Solicitor General and urge the Committee's favorable disposition of her nomination.

He goes on to say:

> Ms. Smith's long tenure as an Assistant Attorney General of New York leading its Labor Bureau showed her to be thorough, fair, and judicious in the use of the tools at her disposal to ensure compliance with New York's labor law.

Then he goes on further:

> What is important to note is that under Ms. Smith's leadership, she made an extra effort to communicate directly with the business community, to elicit feedback, to provide us with a heads-up, and to balance our comments as she framed policy and practice within her Department. Her outreach to us and communication with us was open, honest, candid, and frequent.

I ask unanimous consent that the letter from Kenneth Adams, president and CEO of the Business Council of New York, be printed in the RECORD at this point.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

THE BUSINESS COUNCIL
OF NEW YORK STATE, INC.,
Albany, NY, August 14, 2009.

Re Nomination of M. Patricia Smith, U.S. Department of Labor Solicitor General.

Hon. MICHAEL B. ENZI,
U.S. Senate, Senate Russell Office Building, Washington, DC 20510.

DEAR SENATOR ENZI: On behalf of the 3,000 members of The Business Council of New York State, I write in support of President Obama's nomination of Ms. Patricia Smith for the position of Solicitor General at the United States Department of Labor. As the president and CEO of a statewide business trade organization, I believe Ms. Smith is superbly qualified to assume the responsibilities of Solicitor General and urge the Committee's favorable disposition of her nomination.

As the Committee has the broadest access to Ms. Smith's resume and credentials, I write to add a perspective which often does not translate well from written documents or background checks. Ms. Smith's long tenure as an Assistant Attorney General of New York leading its Labor Bureau showed her to be thorough, fair and judicious in the use of the tools at her disposal to ensure compliance with New York's Labor Law. She carefully balanced the disparate issues before her and sought resolution as opposed to prosecution, when that result would serve the best interests of New York's citizens. And where blatant fraud, abuse and disregard for New York's Labor Law was evident, she did not rush for headlines and photo opportunities, but rather worked closely with appropriate officials to build a legal case which would withstand scrutiny and higher level appeals.

In her tenure as New York's Commissioner of Labor, Ms. Smith continued her vigilance and diligence on behalf of New York's citizens, again balancing the many different roles the Department of Labor serves in New York State. To those not familiar with the responsibilities of that Department, they may not understand the challenge it can be to manage an agency which issues unemployment benefits; must be vigilant about fraud in that $2.5 billion unemployment system; engages with businesses and individuals to help put people back to work; manages a workforce development system designed to improve skills of our workforce; and, enforces rigorous minimum wage, safety and health, and various labor standards' statutes. At times, a Commissioner is asked to decide between what may seem to be conflicting goals and objectives; Ms. Smith always demonstrated to the business community a willingness to listen, to reflect and to respond.

To be sure, our organization did not always agree with the policy direction taken under Ms. Smith's tenure. But there are well-established processes through which we can pursue changes to policies with which we disagree. What is important to note is that

under Ms. Smith's leadership, she made an extra effort to communicate directly with the business community, to elicit feedback, to provide us with a heads-up, and to balance our comments as she framed policy and practice within her Department. Her outreach to us and communication with us was open, honest, candid and frequent. While some may view her tenure as one of strict enforcement, with little regard to practical day-to-day business realities, our membership would disagree, as we believe she offered an opportunity to the business community to be a part of the solution, rather than just reacting to the problems.

New York's Labor Laws date back a century and reflect the seriousness with which policymakers then and now feel the law should protect workers and be responsive to their needs. That is the statutory and regulatory environment within which New York employers must operate. Where employers engage in fraud and abuse of employees, enforcement of the law is a duty, not an option. Ms. Smith has shown a clear ability to balance her duty as a public official to enforce the law and her obligation as a public official to ensure that the law provides for reasonable application and reasonable solutions.

It is those critical skills—listening, interpreting, and balancing—that make Ms. Smith an ideal candidate to serve as the United States Department of Labor's Solicitor General and I would ask that the Committee move on her nomination upon its return in September.

Should any Committee members benefit from further discussion on her nomination to which I can contribute, please feel free to contact me at your convenience.

Sincerely,

KENNETH ADAMS,
President and CEO.

Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, here is a letter from the Partnership for New York City. Again, I won't read it all, but it says:

As an advocate for businesses and economic development in New York for more than twenty-five years, I have had the opportunity to interact with many public officials. Ms. Smith stands out as one of the most dedicated and effective of our state commissioners and I consider her to be an excellent choice for the post that the President has selected her for.

That is from the president and CEO of the Partnership for New York City.

I ask unanimous consent that it be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

SEPTEMBER 1, 2009.

Hon. MICHAEL B. ENZI,
U.S. Senate, Senate Russell Office Building, Washington, DC.

DEAR SENATOR ENZI: I am writing in support of President Obama's nomination of M. Patricia Smith for Solicitor General of the United States Department of Labor.

The Partnership for New York City is an organization whose members include many of the nation's most prominent business leaders. Our mission is to work with government, organized labor and the not-for-profit sector to build a stronger city and state, with a focus on education, infrastructure and the economy.

During the past year, we have been particularly concerned about the threat that the global financial crisis and recession have had on the financial services industry, which is a key source of jobs and tax revenues for New York. Thousands of city businesses and workers, either directly or indirectly, have been casualties of this crisis. As New York State Labor Commissioner, Patricia Smith has been a strong voice and essential partner in addressing the issues arising from this crisis and helping to insure that New York remains the financial capital of the country and the world.

Ms. Smith acted decisively to mobilize New York, Connecticut and New Jersey to collaborate as a region with a shared interest in the recovery of the financial services industry and keeping top talent here. She led efforts to secure a $20 million National Emergency Grant that is currently helping thousands who have been laid off to train for new careers. She established a New York Early Alert/Retention Team to respond to small businesses in danger of closure, relocation, or financial crisis that would result in mass layoffs.

She has aggressively promoted programs that help employers retain productive workers during downturns and fund employer-sponsored worker training initiatives. She increased employer participation in the federal Work Opportunity Tax Credit (WOTC), which provides incentives to employers to hire people who are hard to employ. The Partnership strongly supports these programs, and every one of them has seen unprecedented success in New York City under Commissioner Smith's leadership.

As an advocate for businesses and economic development in New York for more than 25 years, I have had the opportunity to interact with many public officials. Ms. Smith stands out as one of the most dedicated and effective of our state commissioners and I consider her to be an excellent choice for the post that the President has selected her for.

We hope you will support her nomination and would be happy to answer any questions you might have about her work with the New York business community.

Sincerely,

KATHRYN S. WYLDE,
President & CEO.

Mr. HARKIN. Here is a letter from the Manufacturers Association of Central New York:

The Department of Labor under the leadership of Commissioner Smith has been fully supportive in our mission to enhance and improve our sector's workforce. Commissioner Smith and her team have been informative, helpful, and involved every step of the way, ensuring our membership has the tools, education and skills they need in order to succeed.

It is signed by Randy Wolken, president of the Manufacturers Association of New York.

I ask unanimous consent that this letter be included in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

MANUFACTURERS ASSOCIATION
OF CENTRAL NEW YORK,
Syracuse, NY, September 11, 2009.

Re Nomination of M. Patricia Smith as Solicitor General, United States Department of Labor.

Hon. JEFF MERKLEY,
U.S. Senate, Russell Senate Office Building, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. MERKLEY: On behalf of MACNY, the Manufacturers Association and its members, I fully give my support to the nomination of Patricia Smith as Solicitor General of the United States Department of Labor.

MACNY is a trade association representing over 330 member companies with over 55,000 employees within a 19-county region, and we serve and advocate for the growth and development of the manufacturing sector of New York State. Founded in 1913, we pride ourselves on not only being the largest association of manufacturers in New York, but also one of the oldest and most widely recognized associations in the nation.

For Central and Upstate New York to retain its manufacturing base, manufacturers must be able to compete in the global economy. Manufacturing strength is contingent upon the quality of the region's workforce. Manufacturers often cite the quality of the workforce as a key reason for business expansion and the lack of it as a reason for closing and/or relocating. Expanding the trained and educated manufacturing workforce is therefore crucial to the Upstate New York economy. As such, one of MACNY's core mission areas remains workforce development. Training programs help manufacturers educate workers and remain in Central and Upstate New York.

The Department of Labor under the leadership of Commissioner Smith has been fully supportive in our mission to enhance and improve our sector's workforce. Commissioner Smith and her team have been informative, helpful, and involved every step of the way, ensuring our membership has the tools, education and skills they need in order to succeed.

One such example is the partnership between MACNY and DOL on the successful Shared Work Program. Since its inception, MACNY has lent its support and continued to promote this beneficial DOL program. Through this unique and successful partnership, over 34 member companies have utilized and benefited from the Shared Work program, including Revere Copper Products, Endicott Interconnect and Manth Brownell, Inc.

In another similar partnership, in May of 2009, MACNY hosted a Workforce Development partnership meeting for the planning of reemployment services on behalf of Magna Power train, a longtime MACNY member and major market manufacturing employer located in Dewitt, New York. The meeting, in partnership with the Department of Labor, focused on the company's employees and the anticipated downsizings and possible future plant closure. Since economic and labor pool questions are regular inquiries from our membership, MACNY holds a vested interest in the related progress. As a result of this meeting, and with thanks to the expertise and hard work of the Department of Labor, MACNY remains readily available to promote an applicant pool and highly qualified resumes to their membership.

Commissioner Smith has also spent her tenure advocating on the federal level for funding in workforce development initiatives and continued Federal workforce training dollars, a cause that has greatly benefited MACNY's membership. Meeting with editorial boards and local officials, New York's Congressional delegation, as well as key Congressional committee members and staff, Commissioner Smith was able to draw attention to and oppose the 50% cut in New York's Workforce Investment Act (WIA) dollars since 2000. In recent years, MACNY has been grateful in securing federal funding for workforce and training initiatives, allowing members to receive discounted advanced skills training as a way to keep their costs down and advance their workforce. Without Commissioner Smith's tireless efforts in this capacity, this critical program would not be possible.

As earlier stated, for over 95 years MACNY has been tirelessly working to ensure we have the most up-to-date services and information needed to allow our manufacturing

community to grow and prosper. In examples as cited above, plus many more, our collaborative partnership with the Department of Labor allows us to learn and educate our membership on how the state's workforce development programs can best help them. The continued leadership of Commissioner Pat Smith in such instances has been exemplary, and our collective membership is grateful for both her and the Department of Labor's years of dedication to the state's manufacturing community.

It is Commissioner Smith's dedication, leadership, and innovative thinking that make her an exceptional candidate for Solicitor for the United States Department of Labor, and on behalf of MACNY, I fully support her nomination for this position.

If you have any other questions in this capacity, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

RANDY WOLKEN,
President.

Mr. HARKIN. Here is a letter from the Plattsburgh North Country Chamber of Commerce. They said:

Since she assumed leadership of the New York State Labor Department in 2007, we have enjoyed not only attention and engagement from Patricia Smith but a genuine working partnership.

It goes on to say:

I could cite additional examples, but the bottom line is this. Patricia Smith has been an outstanding partner as Commissioner of the New York State Labor Dept., and will be an outstanding solicitor for the U.S. Labor Department. We strongly encourage her earliest possible confirmation by the Senate.

This letter is signed by Garry F. Douglas, president and CEO of the Plattsburgh North Country Chamber of Commerce. I ask unanimous consent that it be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

PLATTSBURGH NORTH COUNTRY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE,
Plattsburgh, NY, August 10, 2009.

Re Nomination of Patricia Smith to be DOL Solicitor.

Hon. MICHAEL B. ENZI,
U.S. Senate, Russell Senate Office Building, Washington, DC.

DEAR SENATOR ENZI: Our Chamber is the largest business and economic development alliance in northern New York and one of the five largest in our state, representing more than 3,250 companies. I have had the pleasure of serving as President and CEO since 1993, having previously served as Executive Assistant to former Congressman Gerald Solomon (R-NY 23) for fourteen years.

During my sixteen years of engagement in business and workforce development in this region, I have had many occasions to work with our New York State Labor Department in various efforts to assist employers and to design and implement meaningful workforce training programs. I am writing to tell you firsthand that until Patricia Smith was named Commissioner, we enjoyed an excellent working relationship with our local State Labor Dept. officials but enjoyed little leadership, engagement or even interest from the Commissioner's office.

Since she assumed leadership of the New York State Labor Dept. in 2007, we have enjoyed not only attention and engagement from Patricia Smith but a genuine working partnership.

This includes the design, funding and implementation of a three-year Aerospace, Transportation Equipment & Green Tech Workforce Strategy for our region, our first multifaceted approach to the creation of a capacity in our region to attract and support employers in these targeted sectors. The creative approach features everything from support for the start-up of Plattsburgh Aeronautical Institute, an FAA-certified A&P mechanics' school, to further development of a new Global Supply Chain Management school at our local university, to the launch of new electronics and alternative energy technology programs at our community college, and more.

And although we are just beginning the second year of implementation under the three-year plan, the results are already tangible. Plattsburgh Aeronautical Institute is set to fully open its doors next month, and is already putting us in play in terms of marketing the former Plattsburgh Air Force Base for future aerospace activities. And Volvo/Nova Bus has just opened a new plant in our community with 300 employees for the production of transit buses in the U.S., a venture that would not have been feasible without the programs she helped us get up and running.

In these and other ways, Patricia Smith has worked with us to give true life to the notion of wedding economic and workforce development. But at the same time, she has also been a partner in serving the current needs of our employers.

A prime example is a major workplace safety training program administered through our Chamber under contract with the State Labor Dept., bringing meaningful safety training to hundreds of small employers who could never access it otherwise.

Even in current tough situations, in which some of our manufacturers have needed to reduce production, she and her team have been there with creative solutions. This includes a Shared Work program now being used by a major railcar assembly plant. Rather than fully lay off a percentage of their workers, they are using this program to reduce their hours, with NYSDOL allowing them to access unemployment insurance benefits for the percentage of hours they are not working while being paid by the company for the remainder. The obvious result is a better economic interim for the employees, and the ability for the company to hold onto skilled employees they want to bring back to fulltime when orders pick up.

I could cite additional examples, but the bottom line is this. Patricia Smith has been an outstanding partner as Commissioner of the New York State Labor Dept., and will be an outstanding Solicitor for the U.S. Labor Department. We strongly encourage her earliest possible confirmation by the Senate.

Please let me know if there are any questions we might be able to answer, and thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

GERRY F. DOUGLAS,
President and CEO.

Mr. HARKIN. Here is a letter from the Long Island Forum for Technology. It says:

With a strong record of achievement and leadership, Patricia Smith has been an outstanding Commissioner of the NYS Department of Labor. With her vision and her energy, we believe she will make an outstanding addition to the U.S. Department of Labor's leadership team and we urge her earliest confirmation.

It is signed by the president of the Long Island Forum for Technology.

I ask unanimous consent that it be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

LONG ISLAND FORUM FOR TECHNOLOGY,
Bay Shore, NY, August 21, 2009.

Re Nomination of M. Patricia Smith, U.S. Department of Labor Solicitor.

Hon. MICHAEL B. ENZI,
U.S. Senate, Senate Russell Office Building, Washington, DC.

DEAR SENATOR ENZI: As the President of the Long Island Forum for Technology I am writing in support of the nomination of Ms, Patricia Smith for the position of Solicitor General at the United States Department of Labor.

Founded in the 1970's, LIFT is a not-for-profit organization whose focus is on technology-driven economic development throughout the Long Island region. Our success is evidenced by the recognition and responsibilities conferred on us by our partners in the State and Federal Government including:

LIFT serves as the U.S. Department of Commerce Manufacturing Extension Partner (MEP), one of nearly 350 MEP locations across the country;

LIFT serves as the NYS Foundation for Science, Technology and Innovation (NYSTAR) designated Regional Technology Development Center (RIDC) for the region;

LIFT serves as the NYS DOL Sector Intermediary in the Advanced Manufacturing Sector and on the National Governors Association (NGA) Sector Policy Academy.

It was in the last role that we have come into contact and worked with NYS Department of Labor Commissioner Smith and the programs she sponsored on work force transformation in the Manufacturing and Healthcare sectors.

Under Commissioner Smith's able and visionary leadership, the New York State Department of Labor conceived, launched and funded a program known as Regional Workforce Transformation (13N). This program broke new ground in the connectivity between industry and education. With its industry-driven initiative structure it created an environment for innovation, and increasing skill growth, focused on creating Long Island's future workforce.

This program is now entering its 2nd year, with over 600 individuals having gained a wide variety of new and upgraded skills training. This has led to the transformation of many individual lives with the results borne out in job placements and position upgrades.

With a strong record of achievement and leadership, Patricia Smith has been and outstanding Commissioner of the NYS Department of Labor. With her vision and her energy, we believe she will make an outstanding addition to the U.S. Department of Labor's Leadership team and we urge her earliest confirmation by the United States Senate.

Yours truly,

C. KENNETH MORRELL,
President.

Mr. HARKIN. Lastly, here is one from the U.S. Women's Chamber of Commerce:

After learning of Ms. Smith's qualifications, expertise and the law she has worked to uphold, I can clearly see that she is someone who would work with conviction to enforce the laws of the United States of America. Additionally, I am impressed with her out-of-the-box thinking in creating programs that will keep jobs. We especially need these attributes in this time of economic challenge.

Please accept Ms. Patricia Smith's nomination, and confirm Ms. Smith as Solicitor General of the United States Department of Labor.

It is signed by Margot Dorfman, CEO of the U.S. Women's Chamber of Commerce.

I ask unanimous consent that it be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

U.S. WOMEN'S CHAMBER OF COMMERCE,
Washington, DC, August 25, 2009.

Re Nomination of M. Patricia Smith, U.S. Department of Labor Solicitor General.

Hon. EDWARD M. KENNEDY,
U.S. Senate, Russell Senate Office Building, Washington, DC.

DEAR SENATOR KENNEDY: On behalf of the U.S. Women's Chamber of Commerce, our 500,000 members and the millions of women nationwide, I am writing to send our strong support for President Obama's nomination of Ms. Patricia Smith, and I urge the Committee to confirm Ms. Smith as Solicitor General at the United States Department of Labor. Ms. Smith has demonstrated that she is well prepared and qualified for the position, and will act on behalf of those who are facing unfair labor practices.

The U.S. Women's Chamber of Commerce represents both working women and women businesses owners. While one would think that these two constituents would be contradictory in viewpoint, they are not.

From 1997–2006, the number of women-owned firms grew by 42.3% largely due to women leaving Corporate America in droves in search of equal pay, opportunities for promotions and a family friendly work environment. What they found instead was more barriers to opportunity. In fact, during this same time period, the revenues for all women-owned small businesses grew only 4.4%—representing a 38% overall decrease in revenues.

Clearly, women found that business ownership came with a whole new set of challenges including the inability to fairly access federal contracts, capital and affordable health care. And, most profoundly, they are faced by the growing challenge of competing with businesses that undercut their competitiveness by engaging in unfair labor practices.

Those that pay fairly and play fairly do not fear Ms. Smith's no-nonsense approach to labor law enforcement. They, in fact, see that they are being protected.

After learning of Ms. Smith's qualifications, expertise and the laws she has worked to uphold, I can clearly see that she is someone who would work with conviction to enforce the laws of the United States of America. Additionally, I am impressed with her out-of-the-box thinking in creating programs that will keep jobs. We especially need these attributes in this time of economic challenge.

Please accept Ms. Patricia Smith nomination, and confirm Ms. Smith as Solicitor General at the United States Department of Labor.

Sincerely,

MARGOT DORFMAN, CEO.

Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, it is clear that Patricia Smith is eminently well qualified. She has been thoroughly vetted. We need a Solicitor at the Department of Labor. This nomination has been hanging here since last April. It is time to move on. But, again, the Republicans are exercising their right—although I think it is an abuse of that right—to drag it out for 30 more hours, to keep the Senate in session, for no purpose whatsoever other than to slow things down in this Chamber. To me, that is not a good enough excuse, when only one person came here today to speak against her, and that person spoke against her yesterday. I read the transcript. Nothing new; same stuff.

I would hope we could collapse this timeframe and vote on it, but evidently the Republicans are intent on stretching this out to the maximum 30 hours. As I said, it may be their right, but I think it is an abuse of that right.

Mr. President, I yield the floor and note the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. SPECTER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SANCTIONS AGAINST IRAN

Mr. SPECTER. Mr. President, I have sought recognition to express my views on the issue of sanctions against Iran. The Senate, on the unanimous consent calendar last Thursday, passed legislation calling for sanctions against Iran. This was the first opportunity I have had to address the subject. I wish to do so now.

The threat posed by Iran armed with nuclear weapons is obvious and very serious. It is a threat which applies for the region, for the world. It is a vital national security interest of the United States that Iran not be armed with nuclear weapons. It is obviously of great importance to Israel that Iran not have nuclear weapons in light of the history—the fact that the Iranian President has called for wiping Israel off the face of the Earth.

I have prepared a comprehensive statement of my views on this subject in anticipation of the matter coming to the Senate floor. I will ask unanimous consent to have it printed in the RECORD.

I have been reluctant to call for sanctions because I am a firm believer in diplomacy and have undertaken a number of steps to try to encourage a parliamentary exchange between Iranian Parliamentarians and Members of Congress. I have been working on that for the better part of a decade. The extensive written statement summarizes in some detail those efforts.

I have met with the last three Iranian Ambassadors to the United Nations. I found them all to be highly intelligent, to be articulate, to be cordial, and to be interested in a dialog and in conversations. I believe if their views were reflected by the Iranian Government, it would be a very different picture than it is at the present time.

One year I got permission from the State Department to have the Iranian Ambassador to the U.N. come to Washington at my so-called hideaway office a few feet away from the floor and have dinner with Members of Congress and the Iranian Ambassador to talk about these issues. At one time, there was a meeting set between Iranian Parliamentarians and Members of Congress in Geneva that was canceled by the Iranian Government. My detailed statement specifies the efforts I have made over that period of time. But I think we have come to a point now where we have to get candidly tough, and we have to impose sanctions.

President Obama said he would give Iran until the end of the year—referring to the year 2009—to come to the table. There were some indications that Iran would do so. British Prime Minister Gordon Brown has made a similar statement and, in a sense, they have drawn a line in the sand.

My own personal assessment is that we are approaching the point of clear and present danger that Iran poses as a threat to the region, especially to Israel, to the national security interests of the United States, and to the world. So I think it is time that firm action be taken.

We have seen it evolve that gradually Russia has moved to join the United States, Great Britain, France, Germany, and other nations in moving toward sanctions. China, regrettably, has not done so.

Comments by Secretary of State Hillary Clinton just last week are important on this subject. The Secretary of State said:

> China will be under a lot of pressure to recognize the destabilizing effect that a nuclear-armed Iran would have in the Persian Gulf from which they receive a significant percentage of their oil.

Secretary of State Clinton further remarked that a nuclear-armed Iran would risk setting off an arms race in the Persian Gulf and that it could provoke a military strike from Israel which she said she would regard a nuclear Iran as an existential threat.

It has long been articulated that the military option is on the table. Israel has demonstrated its resoluteness—a small nation surrounded by, vastly outnumbered by the Arab population, still technically at war with many of the Arab countries, peace treaties only with Egypt and Jordan. Israel demonstrated its capability and willingness to take out the Iraq reactor in June of 1981 and more recently the Syrian installation which is believed to have been working on nuclear weapons.

Secretary of State Clinton is blunt in the grave threat posed by the situation that Israel is concerned about with Iran becoming a nuclear force.

I think the time has come to act. In the course of my statement, I have gone into some detail as to the sanctions and how effective they could be. But I think there is no doubt that if China joined the United States, Russia, Great Britain, France, Germany, India, and other nations in imposing tight sanctions, financial sanctions on the financial institutions, on trade, on supplying gasoline, on supplying Iranian needs that the world could make its

point. I think Iran would have to capitulate. How much better it is to use economic sanctions than to take the military option off the table.

I do believe if the United Nations, with China's concurrence, showed its determination to impose sanctions that it would have the potential to bring compliance by Iran. Russia has made a proposal that it would enrich Iran's uranium. If Iran is sincere that it does not want enriched uranium for military purposes, for a bomb, but only wants it for civilian purposes, well, take up Russia's offer to have the uranium enriched by Russia. At one point, Iran appeared to be willing to do that. Then they revoked the indication of willingness. That is still a possibility.

I had occasion to visit Vienna on two occasions—met with the International Atomic Energy Agency head, Mohamed ElBaradei—to discuss the activities he has undertaken. He is a very able, skilled international diplomat who recently left that position, which he held for years. But Mr. ElBaradei was very pessimistic as to what Iran was prepared to do and resisted efforts to have the kind of inspections which would give assurance.

I was very reluctant to see sanctions imposed on Syria, in the hope that diplomacy might work there, but did join in those efforts a few years back when the matter came up for a vote.

I had been trying to visit Iran personally since 1989, at the end of the Iran-Iraq war, and in 1989 made my first trip to Iraq. In 1990, Senator SHELBY and I had a talk with Saddam Hussein, and it was a very professional conversation. Iraq, at that time, had just launched a three-power rocket system, and I led the conversation by asking President Saddam Hussein if he would be willing to negotiate with Israel because they would take out his new weapons, just as they had taken out his reactor in June of 1981. He dismissed it, saying: No, he wouldn't negotiate with Israel; they weren't a border state. Then he asked me a question. He wanted to know why all the Russian Jews were going to Israel. I saw him shuffling some papers, and I knew he knew I was Jewish. I wanted him to know I knew that he knew that I knew, and so I said: My father was a Russian Jew who immigrated to the United States, and I believe the Russian Jews ought to go wherever they want to go. There was a 50,000 limit at the time on Russian Jews who could come into the United States.

In the course of an hour-and-a-quarter discussion, it was a substantive talk, and I came back and told a number of my colleagues that I thought we ought to have more discussions with Saddam Hussein. I don't know if anything could have deterred him from his aggression against Kuwait or his later activities, but I have long been a believer in the maxim that you make peace with your enemies and not with your friends.

In my work as chairman of the Intelligence Committee in the 104th Congress and work on the Foreign Operations Subcommittee, I have had the privilege of traveling extensively in foreign countries and sought out the people who might be categorized as our enemies. I had a useful talk a few years back with Chavez in Venezuela; several visits to Fidel Castro in Cuba; conversations with Arafat, both in Ramallah, Gaza, and when he came to Washington, to my office downstairs, looking for money from the Foreign Operations Subcommittee. I have made many trips to Syria, gotten to know Hafez al-Assad and Bashar al-Assad; had cordial conversations, as one of six Senators who visited Syria about a month ago to talk to Bashar al-Assad about the possibility of a peace treaty.

I believe Syria could hold the key to a peace in the Mideast. Only Israel could decide if Israel wants to give up the Golan, and they ought to make that decision without any pressure from the United States or anyone. But if Israel should make that decision, there could be a great deal gained in terms of having Syria stopping the destabilization of Lebanon, stopping the support of Hamas, stopping the support of Hezbollah. It is a different world today than it was in 1967, when Israel took the Golan. It is an era of rockets. It is not the same strategic importance.

But the point I make is, I think diplomacy is the way out. But sometimes there has to be a carrot and a stick, and I think we have come to the point where sanctions do need to be imposed, and that is why I have joined the effort. I think the President has given fair notice to Iran that they come to the table by the end of the year, and we are a little past that.

We, obviously, have problems with China on a number of fronts. We have problems on the Taiwan issue and our sale of arms to Taiwan. We have problems with them with respect to Tibet and our issue of human rights. We have very serious problems on trade, and we have broader issues on human rights. China is emerging as a tremendous world power, and we are challenged at every line, but I do believe the logic of the situation is, it is in China's interest not to have a nuclear Iran.

Our CODEL, after visiting in Syria, went on to India and talked to Prime Minister Singh, who was emphatic in agreement that it is not in India's interest or the world's interest to have an Iran which is armed with nuclear weapons. So it is my hope the action by the Senate, in voting for sanctions, will increase the momentum for sanctions from the United Nations. It can only be done in an effective way if China is persuaded to go along.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD my full written statement and ask that the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD recite the language I am using now.

Usually, when summary is concluded and the formal statement is put in the RECORD, it is changed. If anybody reads the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD—and I think there is a chance somebody does—they wonder why Senator SPECTER is making this repetitious statement; that he has made this statement, and here is all this repetition. If you put this explanation in, as I have said, the reader will know I have summarized and amplified, to some extent, and that what follows now is not a repetition as such but the formal statement which was prepared in advance.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

STATEMENT OF SENATOR ARLEN SPECTER: ENHANCEMENT OF SANCTIONS AGAINST IRAN

Mr. President: There is no question that a nuclear armed Iran poses a direct threat to the security of the U.S. and its allies, particularly Israel. It is for this reason that preventing such a situation remains a principal focus of mine. Although Iran claims that its nuclear program is directed solely toward peaceful energy production, the fact that this program has been conducted in secret and that Iran is a known supporter of certain terrorist organizations betrays that assertion.

I have long been an advocate of the proposal, currently offered to Iran, to have Russia enrich Iran's uranium. If Iran's interests with enrichment are benign, as it claims, then it should have no problem with Russia enriching the uranium to the low levels required for civilian nuclear power and medical uses. Iran's refusal suggests otherwise. At an Appropriations Committee hearing on April 9, 2008, I questioned Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice on this proposal:

Sen. Specter: ''Let me move to . . . President Putin's proposal to have the Russians enrich [Iran's] uranium. That apparently would provide an answer. . . . To what extent has the Putin proposal been pressed? In a sense, if we join Putin and they refuse what is really a good offer to have somebody else enrich their uranium so that they have it for peaceful purposes, but there is a check on using it for military purposes—why hasn't that worked?''

Sec. Rice: ''Well, we are fully supportive of it, and the president just told President Putin that again at Shchuchye, that he is fully supportive of the Russian proposal. And in fact, not only did President Putin himself put that proposal to the Iranians when he was in Tehran, his foreign minister went back within a few days and put the same proposition to the Iranians, which makes people suspicious, Senator, that this is not about civil nuclear power but rather about the development of the capabilities for a nuclear weapon. . . . So I think this really speaks to the intentions of the Iranians.''

Sen. Specter: ''Well, we agree on that. My suggestion would be to try to elevate it. It's been in the media and the press a little, but not very much. So if we could elevate that, I think you'd really put Iran on the spot that they deserve to be on.''

Then, in a May 20, 2009 Appropriations Committee hearing, I questioned Secretary of State Hillary Clinton on the proposal:

Sen. Specter: ''Let me come to a question with respect to Iran. Prime Minister Netanyahu was very pleased with the meeting with President Obama, and the timetable which the president has set, looking to the Iranian elections as the potential for dialogue and holding out the possibility of bilateral dialogue, and I hope you will pursue that, and putting a timetable for the first time on not waiting indefinitely with all the options on the table. And I speak in generalities not to beat a tom-tom unnecessarily.

''The offer that the Russians made some time ago to enrich the uranium, I think, has never been pursued or publicized. Perhaps it has been pursued, but not known and not publicized. But that seems to me to be a perfect line. When Iran insists that they're developing—enriching uranium for peaceful purposes and the Russians can provide for them, what conceivable excuse? When they resist something so obvious as that, it seems that that would be a good wedge to get more cooperation from China, Russia and other countries. What can be done to pursue Russian enrichment of their uranium?''

Sec. Clinton: ''Well, Senator Specter, that is an option that is being considered within the P–5 plus one as well as within our own deliberations. We have a broad range of issues to discuss with the Iranians if they respond affirmatively to the president's invitation to do so. And obviously they are in the midst of election season. We know what that means. So it's unlikely that we'll get a response or a dialogue going until there is some settling of the political scene. But your reference to the enrichment potential is one that we are exploring.''

Finally, on June 9, 2009, I raised the issue with Secretary of Defense Robert Gates at an Appropriations Committee hearing:

Sen. Specter: ''Mr. Secretary, I was intrigued with one of the points you made in testifying before the Appropriations Committee on the war supplemental, where you said that it would be useful in our dealings with Iran to have a missile defense that is aimed only at Iran.

''And that played into the relationship that we have with Russia, and it is generally recognized that if we're to be successful in dealing with Iran, we're going to have to have cooperation with other countries, perhaps mostly Russia. We've talked before about the issue of having Russia enrich Iran's uranium, which Russia has offered to do and Iran has declined, as a way of being sure that Iran is not moving toward the use of enriched uranium for military purposes.

''A two-part question. Number one, is any progress being made on publicizing Russia's offer, which I think has gotten scant—little attention? And the Iranian refusal really shows—raises the inference of potential bad faith.

''And secondly, where do we stand on efforts to pick up your suggestion that missile defense be aimed only at Iran and not at Russia, which has given so many political problems?''

Sec. Gates: ''First, I think that although it's certainly not been a secret, it has not been, I think, widely enough publicized—Russia's offer and Iran's turn-down of it. And I think equally not publicized was the fact that the United States indicated that we thought that was a pretty good idea and would be supportive.

''With respect to the missile defense, I think that the Russian—I still have hope that we can get the Russians to partner with us on missile defense directed against Iran.''

But, in remarks reported by the New York Times on November 18, 2009, Iran's foreign minister, Manouchehr Mottaki, said ''We will definitely not send our 3.5–percent-enriched uranium out of the country.'' Then, on December 2, 2009, the New York Times reported that Iran's president, Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, said on December 1, ''Friendly relations with the [International Atomic Energy Agency] are over,'' and that Iran has no duty to report to the United Nations about its recently announced plan to build 10 new nuclear sites.

To this point I have resisted calling for increased sanctions because I did not think it constructive given the diplomatic climate; however, considering Iran's growing avowals that it will not cooperate with the International Atomic Energy Agency or allow foreign countries to process its uranium, I think it is time to enhance sanctions. The international community has offered Iran a deal which is more than fair; Iran refuses to consent. We cannot make ourselves a toothless tiger.

I did not come to my decision to support the Comprehensive Iran Sanctions, Accountability, and Divestment Act of 2009 (S. 2799) lightly. During my tenure in the Senate, I have been among Congress' most ardent advocates for aggressive diplomacy, believing it holds the key to resolving international disputes. As I noted in my December 2006 article in The Washington Quarterly titled ''Dialogue with Adversaries'':

''My Senate assignments on the Intelligence Committee and Appropriations Subcommittee on Foreign Operations have provided me the opportunity to meet with Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad, Palestinian Chairman Yasser Arafat, Iraqi President Saddam Hussein, Cuban President Fidel Castro, Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez, and others.

''Those meetings have shown me that people are people, even at the highest levels of government. They are interested in a candid dialogue. They accept differences and disagreements as long as the tone is courteous. . . .

''Sun-tzu's advice to 'keep your friends close and your enemies closer' is a good admonition to keep in mind as we approach our relationships in the world. . . . It may not work, but it is certainly worth a try when the stakes are so high and our other strenuous efforts are not bearing fruit'' (p. 9).

Diplomacy has produced some results many thought impossible. Negotiations with North Korea have reduced that nation's nuclear threat although that situation remains volatile and uncertain. Negotiations have moved Libya's Muammar Qaddafi, with whom I met in August 2006, from horrendous acts of terrorism, including the bombing of Pan Am 103 and a Berlin discotheque, resulting in the murder of US military personnel, to a willingness to negotiate and reform. Libya made reparations in excess of $1,000,000,000 and abandoned plans to design nuclear weapons in order to be admitted to the family of nations.

This is not the first time I have supported sanctions in the region. On November 11, 2003, I voted for a the Syria Accountability and Lebanese Sovereignty Restoration Act, a bill to impose sanctions on Syria to hold Damascus accountable for its support for terrorism, its occupation of Lebanon, its illegal shipment of arms to Iraq, and its efforts to develop weapons of mass destruction. The bill became law in December 2003. Regarding my vote, I said on the Senate floor on November 11, 2003:

''Sanctions are imposed by Congress with some frequency. At first blush, this appears to be a straightforward affirmative vote, but I believe the matter is more complicated than that, and I have come to the view after having traveled to Syria almost every year since 1984, and after having had considerable contact with the Syrian Government. After considering the matter at some length, I have decided that I will vote in favor of the Syrian Accountability Act because the problems of terrorism are so serious and because I believe that Syria needs to do more'' (p. S14403).

Prior to my vote on the Syrian Accountability Act, I wrote to Syrian President Bashar al-Assad on September 17, 2003:

WASHINGTON, DC,
SEPTEMBER 17, 2003.

His Excellency BASHAR AL-ASSAD,
President, Syrian Arab Republic,
Damascus, Syria.

DEAR PRESIDENT ASSAD: I write to inform you of growing concern in the United States Senate about Syria and the fact that the Syrian Accountability Act now has 76 cosponsors. I had discussed this proposed legislation some time ago with your Ambassador to the United States. I had refrained from co-sponsoring the Syrian Accountability Act on the premise that we should try to work out the problems without resorting to legislation calling for sanctions.

Yesterday, Undersecretary of State John R. Bolton submitted testimony to the House of Representatives' International Relations Committee that Syria is permitting ''volunteers'' to pass over your border into Iraq where those so-called volunteers are intent on killing U.S. troops. This follows Administrator L. Paul Bremer's statement on August 20th that Syria is allowing ''foreign terrorists'' to cross Syria's borders into Iraq.

When you met with Secretary of State Powell last May, there was an understanding that Syria would shut Damascus offices of Hamas, Islamic Jihad and other terrorist groups. In June, Secretary Powell stated that Syria's efforts to shut these offices were ''totally inadequate''. The Bush Administration which had opposed the Syrian Accountability Act now is neutral, taking no position.

After extensive dealings with your father, President Hafez al-Assad, since the 1980s and with you on our meetings in the past several years, I have tried to assist in finding answers to these difficult problems. With the Syrian Accountability Act gaining so much support, it is my hope that your Government will respond to the concerns outlined in this letter before the U.S. Government resorts to sanctions.

I call these matters to your personal attention with the hope that prompt action can be taken by Syria to resolve these problems. The United States greatly appreciated the help that Syria provided to our intelligence services after September 11, 2001 in our fight against al-Qaeda.

Sincerely,

ARLEN SPECTER.

It is my hope that Congress' passage of the Comprehensive Iran Sanctions, Accountability, and Divestment Act would effect change in Tehran before the implementation of additional sanctions would be necessary, as sanctions invariably impact more people than just the leaders responsible for shaping a country's policy.

During my time in the Senate, I have pushed hard to engage Iran diplomatically. I have tried to visit Iran since the Iran-Iraq War ended in 1988, with my first attempts coming during my visits to Iraq in January 1989 and January 1990, but I have not yet succeeded. Going back to 2000, I have met repeatedly with Iranian officials in an effort to foster an exchange of visits by members of Congress to Iran and Iranian parliamentarians to the United States to try to open dialogue between our two countries. On May 11, 2000, I joined nine other senators in writing to Iranian Ambassador Hadi Nejad Hosseinian proposing such an exchange (attached). I followed this with a meeting with Ambassador Hosseinian on May 31, 2000. On October 17, 2001, I hosted Ambassador Hosseinian in my Senate hideaway with Senator Mike DeWine, former Representative Lee Hamilton, Ambassador William Miller, and Representative Bob Ney. On November 18, 2002, I had lunch with Ambassador Zarif at the Wilson Center at an event hosted by former Representative Lee Hamilton.

As I wrote in the Washington Quarterly in December 2006, ''I thought my efforts finally came to fruition in January 2004 when plans were made for U.S. members of Congress to meet with Iranian parliamentarians in Geneva. Unfortunately, Tehran later rescinded the invitation, declaring it was 'not on their agenda' '' (p. 10). I met in New York City with Ambassador Hosseinian's successor, Ambassador Javad Zarif, in October 2006 and February 2007. On May 3, 2007, I joined eight colleagues in Congress writing to Gholam Ali Haddad Adel, then the speaker of Iran's parliament, to propose again ''a diplomatic exchange between members of the United States Congress and Parliamentarians from the Islamic Republic of Iran'' (attached). I followed this with a personal letter to Ayatollah Khamenei on October 16, 2007 (attached). Again, the offer was rebuffed (attached). My efforts to facilitate engagement continued with meetings with the current Iranian ambassador to the UN, Mohammed Khazaee, in February and December 2008.

On January 2, 2008, I traveled to the headquarters of the International Atomic Energy Agency in Vienna with IAEA Director General Mohamad ElBaradei to discuss the Iranian issue. On January 22, 2008 I discussed my meeting with Mr. ElBaradei on the Senate floor:

''When solicited about his views on President Putin's idea to have Russia handle Iran's nuclear material, he stated that Iran did not reject it but that they wanted their own capability. He suggested that an acceptable security structure must be negotiated with Iran to deter them. The [Director General] agreed that it is not acceptable for Iran to have nuclear weapons and that his job was to verify that the program is clean and under IAEA inspections.

''I pressed him on Iran's devious behavior in the past to conceal nuclear efforts and asked if we can ever be 100 percent sure. He stated that you can never be 100 positive but that he thinks Iran has things to tell him and that he has told them they should come clean.

''The Director General suggested that direct U.S.-Iranian negotiations should begin immediately to resolve the impasse. The U.S. and international community need to understand what the nuclear issue means to Iran with respect to its position in the region and the world, that there needs to be an understanding of the repercussions and that it must be done in a manner that allows all sides to save face.

''We discussed Secretary Rice's precondition that the U.S. would only meet with Iran if they halt enrichment. He said there must be middle ground to bring the parties together on this issue. He emphasized that sanctions alone won't resolve the situation and only makes people more hawkish. Iran's concealment of its [research and development] program, according to the Director, led to a confidence deficit in the international community.

''I asked about the capabilities of an inspection regime given Iran's substantial size. He confirmed the need to have a robust verification system on the ground. [El]Baradei stated that the Additional Protocol to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) was helpful but that Iran stopped implementing it. The Additional Protocol was the result of an IAEA initiative to better constrain NPT member-states' ability to illicitly pursue nuclear weapons after secret nuclear weapons programs in Iraq and North Korea exposed weaknesses in existing agency safeguards. That effort eventually produced a voluntary Additional Protocol, designed to strengthen and expand existing IAEA safeguards for verifying that non-nuclear-weapon states-parties to the nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty (NPT) only use nuclear materials and facilities only for peaceful purposes. He stated that the Protocol gives him a good handle on Iran's nuclear program in that it provides access to additional facilities and information'' (p. S74).

Following up on this conversation, I spoke with Mr. ElBaradei over the phone when I was in Vienna in January 2009, again following travels in the Middle East. On January 12, 2009, I said on the Senate floor:

''A year ago, I had an opportunity to meet with IAEA Director Mohamed ElBaradei. He was out of town when we were there [in 2009]. I had a conversation with him by telephone on the issue of the efforts by the IAEA to conduct the inspections and that at the moment Iran is not cooperating and, further, international action needs to be taken to be sure Iran does meet its obligations under international agreements and that there are adequate safeguards to prevent Iran from developing a nuclear weapon.''

On November 26, 2009, shortly before stepping down from his position at the IAEA, Mr. ElBaradei said, ''I am disappointed that Iran so far has not agreed'' to proposals to ship nuclear material out of Iran, ''[W]hich I believe are balanced and fair and would greatly alleviate the concerns relating to Iran's nuclear program'' (Reuters, 11/26/09).

Our offers of diplomatic engagement, and the limited United Nations sanctions enacted to date, have not ended Iran's nuclear ambitions. I voted on September 26, 2007 in favor of an amendment to the Fiscal Year 2008 Department of Defense Authorization Bill to encourage the U.S. State Department to place the Islamic Revolutionary Guards Corps on its list of foreign terrorist organizations, as well as to expedite the enforcement of U.N. Sanctions mandated by December 2006 and March 2007 United Sanctions Security Council Resolutions, in the hope that this could bring about positive change. Unfortunately these efforts have not done enough, and for that reason, with the desire to avoid greater military conflict in the Middle East, I think more comprehensive sanctions are necessary.

If any sanctions are to be effective, they will need to be supported by the other permanent members of the UN Security Council, particularly Russia and China. While ''Neither [Russia nor China] thinks Iran's missiles are aimed at them,'' as the Economist noted in a December 5, 2009 editorial, both would suffer from the instability that a nuclear armed Iran would bring about. The Economist editorial concluded, ''Do nothing to give Iran pause and one way or another its illicit ambitions will eventually destabilize the entire Middle East.''

It is important that the next round of sanctions be measured. As RAND scholar Alireza Nader noted in a September 30, 2009 paper, ''Additional sanctions may create popular resentment against the government, and may even increase protests and opposition stemming from Iran's disputed presidential election.'' The New York Times highlighted this dissent on December 8, 2009 when it ran a headline stating, ''Thousands Defy Iranian Authorities in Protests and Clashes at Campuses.'' Edward Alden, a trade expert at the Council on Foreign Relations, told Politico on September 29, 2009:

''A coordinated sanctions effort by the U.S. and Europe could put tremendous pressure on Iran. After 9/11, the Treasury developed new tools that forced banks and other financial companies around the world to cut ties to charities that were deemed to be supporting terrorist groups. Those same tools were turned against North Korea in 2005, effectively cutting off what little capability the regime had to engage in foreign commercial transactions. For a country like Iran that depends so heavily on oil exports, similar actions against the companies that insure outgoing shipments from Iran could have a devastating economic impact.''

On July 22, 2009, Patrick Clawson of the Washington Institute for Near East Policy told the House Committee on Foreign Affairs:

''For several years, Iran's economy was cushioned from foreign pressure by the high price of oil. That has changed as oil prices have declined and Tehran's poor policies have exacerbated serious structural weaknesses. The most likely prospect is that during the next few years, Iran's economy will face serious problems. Foreign economic pressure could add to those problems. Furthermore, Iranian public opinion is likely to exaggerate the impact of the foreign pressure and to blame the Ahmadinejad government's hardline stance for the country's economic difficulties'' (1).

''[T]here is every reason to expect public opinion to lay the blame for the economic problems on the Ahmadinejad government. Already, reform politicians blame that government for isolating Iran from the world. If Iran is forced to reduce imports substantially, the most likely popular reaction will be to blame hardliners for the problems.'' (6).

''Foreign pressure cannot cause Iran's economy to collapse, nor should that be our goal. But such pressure may well be able to contribute to what is becoming an intense debate inside Iran about the wisdom of a confrontational and isolationist policy towards the international community. That debate offers the best prospect for a fruitful resolution of the nuclear impasse, because those who want Iran to join the world are not willing to pay a high price for a nuclear program which they increasingly see as part of the Ahmadinejad agenda, not part of a national project'' (6).

We must be careful with sanctions so as to not play into the hands of the Iranian leadership, who would very much like to blame Iran's current economic struggles on the West. As the Economist noted on December 5, 2009, ''. . . Mr. Ahmadinejad is just now having to contemplate ending ruinous petrol subsidies to balance his books and would be delighted to blame the pain on foreigners . . . [A] UN-backed embargo on investment in Iran's oil and gas industries would hurt badly, and signal resolve. So would a ban on weapons imports. And Iran's repeated breach of nuclear safeguards is surely justification for ending nuclear trade with its regime.''

Time to find a diplomatic solution is running out. On September 25, 2009, United Kingdom Prime Minister Gordon Brown said, ''Confronted by the serial deception of many years, the international community has no choice today but to draw a line in the sand.'' On the same day, President Barack Obama said, ''We weren't going to duplicate what has happened in North Korea, in which talks just continue forever without any actual resolution to the issue.'' ''[T]he Iranian government,'' President Obama said, ''must now demonstrate through deeds its peaceful intentions or be held accountable to international standards and international law.''

On November 30, 2009, United States Ambassador to the United Nations, Susan Rice, told reporters:

''There has been an engagement track which we have been very actively engaged in, but there is also a pressure track. And as Iran makes choices that seem to indicate that it is not at this stage ready and willing to take up the offers on the engagement track then we will put greater emphasis on the pressure track. Time is short, and we are

serious about implementing to the fullest extent that dual track policy.''

''We will continue . . . to consult with our P5 + 1 colleagues both in capitals and elsewhere. I think the President and other leaders have been quite clear that we would take stock at the end of the year and see where we are. And I think as the indications mount that Iran is not yet in a position to take up the very concrete and constructive offers that have been put to it by the P5+1 and by the IAEA, it seems more likely that we will be on the pressure track, even as the door remains open to Iran to accept those offers.''

On December 7, 2009, Israeli Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu told members of the Knesset, ''In the last year, two things have happened: Iran has advanced its military nuclear program, and Iran has lost its legitimacy in the eyes of the international community,'' adding that preventing Iran from securing a nuclear arsenal was Israel's ''central problem,'' according to a December 8, 2009 article in the Jerusalem Post.

Israel did not agree with the 2007 US National Intelligence Estimate on Iran's nuclear program which concluded that Iran halted its nuclear weapons program in 2003. The New York Times noted on December 5, 2007 that then Israeli Defense Minister Ehud Barak rejected the American assessment of ''moderate confidence'' that Tehran had not restarted its nuclear weapons program by mid–2007 and that the end of the program ''represents a halt to Iran's entire nuclear weapons program.'' Defense Minister Barak said, ''It is our responsibility to ensure that the right steps are taken against the Iranian regime.'' ''As is well known, words don't stop missiles,'' he continued. Assessments may differ, Mr. Barak said, ''but we cannot allow ourselves to rest just because of an intelligence report from the other side of the Earth, even if it is from our greatest friend.'' According to a December 11, 2007 New York Times article, ''Israeli intelligence estimates say Iran stopped all its nuclear weapons activities for a time in 2003, nervous after the American invasion of Iraq, but then resumed those activities in 2005, accelerating enrichment and ballistic missile development and constructing a 40–megawatt heavy-water reactor in Arak that could produce plutonium.''

According to a December 5, 2009 article in the Economist, ''Last year Israel carried out a long-distance military air exercise over Greece that looked like a rehearsal for action in Iran. In June [2009] a missile-carrying Israeli submarine ostentatiously sailed through the Suez Canal.'' These military exercises, coupled with Israel's public disagreement with the US over intelligence estimates on Iran's nuclear program and Prime Minister Netanyahu's recent public comments, show that Israel's security calculus differs from our own. Time to find a diplomatic solution is running short; Israel—like every other nation—will act in defense of what it sees to be its own best interests.

Iran's continued nuclear program is a ticking time bomb. All parties—Iran included—will benefit from its end. On this state of the record, enhanced sanctions, with the goal of ending Iran's nuclear program and preventing wider conflict in the Middle East, are our best option.

Mr. SPECTER. Mr. President, I yield the floor, and in the absence of any other Senator seeking recognition, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. CASEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

JOB LOSS

Mr. CASEY. Mr. President, I rise to speak about job loss in the United States but in particular some of the individuals—the real people and real families—across our State whom I have met in the last couple weeks and who have told some of their stories about how they are struggling in this recession.

Unfortunately, just in terms of numbers, they have not gotten better in our State. We went a long period of time, when at least as a percentage of those who were out of work, we were fortunately in the bottom tier or in the middle. At least we didn't have double-digit unemployment. That is changing, to a large extent. We are not in the 10 percent number that most of the country is, but we are at about 8.9 percent right now. We got some regional numbers today. Our State is divided into 14 labor markets and, unfortunately, in almost every one of them, that number keeps going up.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD a two-page summary of the unemployment data from Pennsylvania.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

REGIONAL LABOR MARKET DATA

[Seasonally Adjusted—December 2009]

	Labor force	Employment	Unemployment	Rate (percent)
United States (Civilian—Dec 2009)	154,235,000	139,339,000	14,895,000	10.01
Pennsylvania (Dec 2009)	6,310,100	5,750,600	559,500	8.9
Allentown-Bethlehem-Easton-NJ (Carbon, Lehigh, Northampton plus Warren County, NJ)	416,100	375,300	40,700	9.8 (+.5)
Altoona (Blair)	63,400	58,400	5,000	7.9 (+.3)
Erie (Erie)	138,000	124,200	13,800	10 (+.6)
Harrisburg-Carlisle (Cumberland, Dauphin, Perry)	280,500	258,200	22,300	7.9 (+.4)
Johnstown (Cambria)	67,700	61,300	6,400	9.4 (+.3)
Lancaster (Lancaster)	262,400	242,200	20,200	7.7 (+.2)
Lebanon (Lebanon)	70,200	65,200	5,000	7.1 (+.1)
Philadelphia Metro (Not full MSA; excludes non-PA; Bucks, Chester, Delaware, Montgomery, Philadelphia)	1,945,200	1,781,100	164,100	8.5 (+.1)
Pittsburgh (Allegheny, Armstrong, Beaver, Butler, Fayette, Washington, Westmoreland)	1,199,600	1,104,100	95,300	7.9
Reading (Berks)	199,900	181,100	18,800	9.4 (+.3)
Scranton/W-B (Lackawanna, Luzerne, Wyoming)	278,800	251,700	27,100	9.7 (+.3)
State College (Centre)	74,200	69,700	4,500	6.0 (+.1)
Williamsport (Lycoming)	53,900	53,100	5,800	9.8 (+.6)
York-Hanover (York)	224,000	204,200	19,800	8.9 (+.3)
Philadelphia	624,800	556,800	67,900	10.9
Pittsburgh (not seasonally-adjusted)	151,100	139,000	11,100	7.4 (−.1)
Allegheny County	628,600	581,500	47,100	7.5 (+.1)
Lackawanna County	105,900	96,100	9,800	9.2 (+.2)
Luzerne County	158,700	142,700	16,000	10.1 (+.4)
Lehigh County	174,700	157,800	16,800	9.6 (+.2)
Dauphin County	134,300	123,300	10,700	8.0 (+.2)

Mr. CASEY. Mr. President, I will highlight one or two regions to give a sense of the gravity of the problem.

In southeastern Pennsylvania, we have two major regions that have had very strong economies over time. The Philadelphia metropolitan region—the city of Philadelphia—and the suburban counties have done well economically, but that number is going up. The total number of unemployed is over 164,000 Pennsylvanians in that corner of the State. That is about 5 counties—164,000 people.

Just above that and north of that in the Lehigh Valley—the Allentown, Bethlehem region—they are at 9.8 percent, with some 40,700 people out of work. In my home area of northeastern Pennsylvania—north of the Lehigh Valley—we received reports today of the job market going up to 9.7 percent unemployment, the highest in 17 years. You could go across the State and hear the same story.

So the numbers are going higher. Of course, that means the challenges, the misery, and the heartache for those who have lost their jobs are only rising.

We have to meet that challenge. Part of meeting that challenge is not just addressing it in terms of policy—I will talk about that tonight for a couple of minutes—but also to try to understand as best we can from the distance of Washington, but even when you are, as I was, sitting in the same room more than a week ago with eight of our unemployed Pennsylvanians. I will just give two examples.

One individual sitting right across from me, his name was Ron. He was laid off last April. He is 61 years old. His was one of the most compelling stories in terms of where he was with a job and where he is today. Before he was laid off, he managed a staff of 12 people. Over the course of his long and successful career, he worked in various

management positions, at international trade groups, manufacturing facilities, and rental companies.

During my conversation with Ron, he talked about his fear that his wide experience seemed to be working against him in this labor market. Ron was earning more than $100,000 before he was laid off. Today he and his wife are currently getting by with her earnings in a clerical job and his unemployment compensation, which amounts to just $40,000. In his life it is a $100,000 income versus now a $40,000 income.

I also met Annetta. She was just on my right as we were talking to these eight individuals. She had a lot of energy and vigor. You could tell she was a very good employee. She worked for a retirement home until she was laid off. Annetta has been using her time to study to be a CNA, certified nurses aide, through the Yorktown School of Technology. In order to obtain her certification, Annetta had to pay for a final exam and a physical. She didn't have the money to up-front the costs of those tests and thus could not obtain her certified nurses assistant certification.

According to Annetta, the most frustrating part of her situation is that she has the experience of a certified nurse from a previous employer who did not require formal certification. But I was particularly touched by her comments that, as a single person, Annetta fears having no one to fall back on in these tough times. Also, her embarrassment. We would always say to her or anyone in this situation: You shouldn't be embarrassed. You are in a very difficult situation. You have lost a job through no fault of your own.

But, of course, that is not the way she sees it in terms of what she feels in her heart. She does feel a sense of embarrassment over having to turn to churches for food. That is why we have an increase in food stamps. We legislate to do that because it is not only good for that individual, taxpayers have an added economic benefit from an increase in food stamps and an increase in unemployment insurance, just to name two examples.

What strikes me most about the stories that each of these individuals told, but in particular as I cite them tonight, Ron and Annetta, they are looking for work in the worst job market in modern times, but they speak very candidly about their fears. But mostly they talk about the incredible efforts they have made to get back to work.

I know the Presiding Officer would remember the presentation that President Obama made to us in December, on a Sunday. We were meeting in a caucus about health care and he came over to talk to us. He talked about meeting individuals who were out of work in another part of Pennsylvania, in Allentown, at a job site. What he said in early December was very similar to what I heard in late January, and that is these are individuals who are out of work through no fault of their own. They are working and struggling, leading lives of tremendous struggle and sacrifice and heartache, but they are not complaining. They are determined to get a job. They are filling out scores and scores of applications—sometimes being rejected formally and sometimes hearing nothing at all. That is the life they are leading.

I think the President's visit and other visits by some of us in the Senate are confirming that sense of determination, that sense of gratitude they have that there are programs to help them while they are unemployed, but also a tremendous resilience and ability to live and work through this struggle.

What do we do? We could cite their cases and say how much we hope their prospects will improve. We could continue to enlarge and expand, as we must and we should, a safety net. We could pass other legislation. But I think one of the best ways to jump-start job creation is to provide significant tax incentives to employers, lots of employers out there who want to hire, who want to invest in their business, who want to maybe move people up who have done a good job and increase their payroll in that way—but especially to hire more people, to hire folks who are out of work.

I believe the best way to do that, not the only way but the best way, is to pass legislation like the bill I introduced yesterday, the Small Business Job Creation Tax Credit Act. It is rather simple, but I think the impact of it could be substantial—a very substantial number of jobs created. What this act does is provide a nonrefundable quarterly payroll tax credit based upon an increase in the employer's wages that are paid. It would be a 1-year bill. It would be in effect for 1 year so it is very targeted in terms of the time. The credit would apply to an employee's wages up to the Social Security base of $106,800—that would be the limit of what you could count for the tax credit. If you had fewer than 100 employees, you would get a 20-percent credit; more than 100 employees, 15 percent.

We know as we have heard today and on so many other occasions that the driver of our economy tends to be almost overwhelmingly small business. In Pennsylvania, if you look at a 3-year period from 2003 to 2006, small businesses accounted for more than 91 percent of the job creation. So we know that by giving small businesses a 20-percent tax credit for those with under 100 employees, that can have a substantial benefit for those employers, obviously, for those who can obtain work, and I think in a larger way our economy. We put a limit on the credit. One company could not have more than $½ million by way of a credit. You would basically compare one quarter in 2010, for example, versus that corresponding quarter in 2009.

We know one of the referees around here is the Congressional Budget Office, maybe the main referee, in terms of how legislation is given a price or a score or a number, so to speak. The Congressional Budget Office has said that a tax credit based upon an increase in payroll would have the greatest positive impact on America's gross domestic product and employment, when compared to other job creation strategies.

I believe Congress should pass a job creation tax credit to reduce up-front labor costs. This credit could provide for one small business, just one business alone, a 20-percent job creation tax credit.

Other economists across the board, the Economic Policy Institute as well as others, have estimated that a job creation tax credit would create approximately 40 percent more jobs than other proposals.

Finally, I would make a point about how it works. Sometimes we pass legislation around here and we do not often think about how it works in the real world—the real world of being an employer, the real world of hiring people and making ends meet, meeting your bottom line, getting your product out the door, all of the real-world challenges our employers face.

The way this would work is, every employer is familiar with what the IRS calls form 941. It is just one of many forms we hear about. But all we would need to do, if we pass this tax credit, is to have a line or two added to that form. The employer would fill it out quarterly and see it right in front of him. He wouldn't have to hire a team of lawyers or tax accountants or other experts, he would just fill that in and be eligible and receive the credit.

It is vitally important that we take these steps for people such as Ron, whom I spoke of before, and others as well, such as Annetta and those individuals I have met. I know the Presiding Officer has met individuals in the State of Colorado and across our country who are facing similar challenges.

Especially when we see more and more the rise in these job loss indicators, to have headline after headline say: Highest job loss in 17 Years, highest job loss in 20, in 23, in 25 years—these are just headlines I have seen over the last couple of weeks in Pennsylvania. To see that, it is not enough to say we will weather the storm and we will try to provide a safety net. We have to have a safety net, but I believe we have to have very targeted and focused strategies that are not theoretical.

We know this will work. We have prior evidence and experience with it. We need to pass the Job Creation Tax Credit to jump-start the creation of jobs this year, in 2010, in the next couple of months and throughout the year.

Mr. President, I yield the floor and suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. CASEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ORDER OF PROCEDURE

Mr. CASEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that on Thursday, February 4, after the opening of the Senate and the Senate proceeds to executive session and resumes consideration of Calendar No. 474, the nomination of Patricia Smith to be Solicitor of the Department of Labor, all postcloture time be considered expired except for 20 minutes, with that time equally divided and controlled between Senators HARKIN and ENZI or their designees; that upon the use or yielding back of time, the Senate then proceed to a vote on confirmation of the nomination; that upon confirmation, the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table, no further motions be in order, and the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action; that there be 2 hours of debate prior to a cloture vote with respect to Calendar No. 188, the nomination of Martha Johnson to be Administrator of the GSA, with the time equally divided and controlled between the leaders or their designees; that upon the use of time, the Senate then proceed to a vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the nomination; that if cloture is invoked, all postcloture time be yielded back and the Senate then immediately vote on confirmation of the nomination; that upon confirmation, the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table, no further motions be in order, the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action, and the Senate then resume legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. CASEY. I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed en bloc to Executive Calendar Nos. 654, 661, 667, to and including 685, and all nominations on the Secretary's desk in the Air Force, Army, Marine Corps, and Navy; that the nominations be confirmed en bloc, the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table en bloc; that no further motions be in order; that any statements relating to the nominations be printed in the RECORD; that the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action and the Senate resume legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The nominations considered and confirmed en bloc are as follows:

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Robert William Heun, of Alaska, to be United States Marshal for the District of Alaska for the term of four years.

Willie Lee Richardson, Jr., of Georgia, to be United States Marshal for the Middle District of Georgia for the term of four years.

IN THE AIR FORCE

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Air Force to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 624:

To be brigadier general

Col. Kory G. Cornum

The following named officer for appointment in the Reserve of the Air Force to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 12203:

To be major general

Brig. Gen. Carol A. Lee

The following named officers for appointment in the Reserve of the Air Force to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 12203:

To be major general

Brigadier General Eric W. Crabtree
Brigadier General Wallace W. Farris, Jr.
Brigadier General Craig N. Gourley
Brigadier General David S. Post
Brigadier General Donald C. Ralph
Brigadier General Jon R. Shasteen
Brigadier General Richard A. Shook, Jr.
Brigadier General James N. Stewart
Brigadier General Lance D. Undhjem

The following named officer for appointment in the Reserve of the Air Force to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 12203:

To be brigadier general

Col. Dixie A. Morrow

The following named officer for appointment in the Reserve of the Air Force to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 12203:

To be brigadier general

Col. Paul S. Dwan

The following named officers for appointment in the United States Air Force to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 624:

To be brigadier general

Col. Daniel B. Fincher
Col. David C. Wesley

The following named officers for appointment in the Reserve of the Air Force to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 12203:

To be brigadier general

Colonel Gary C. Blaszkiewicz
Colonel Arthur C. Haubold
Colonel Michael D. Kim
Colonel Linda S. Marchione
Colonel Richard O. Middleton, II
Colonel Robert N. Polumbo
Colonel Jane C. Rohr
Colonel Patricia A. Rose
Colonel Peter Sefcik, Jr.
Colonel James F. Smith
Colonel Edmund D. Walker
Colonel William O. Welch

The following named officer for appointment as Deputy Judge Advocate General of the Air Force and appointment in the United States Air Force to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 8037:

To be major general

Brig. Gen. Steven J. Lepper

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Air Force to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 8081:

To be major general

Col. Gerard A. Caron

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Air Force to the grade indicated and for appointment as the Judge Advocate General of the Air Force under title 10, U.S.C., section 8037:

To be lieutenant general

Brig. Gen. Richard C. Harding

The following Air National Guard of the United States officers for appointment in the Reserve of the Air Force to the grades indicated under title 10, U.S.C., sections 12203 and 12212:

To be major general

Brigadier General Samuel C. Heady
Brigadier General William E. Hudson
Brigadier General Gary T. Magonigle
Brigadier General James M. McCormack
Brigadier General Alex D. Roberts
Brigadier General Gregory J. Schwab

To be brigadier general

Colonel Carl F. Bess, Jr.
Colonel Gregory J. Biernacki
Colonel James C. Blaydon
Colonel Francis X. Carillo
Colonel Deborah L. Carter
Colonel Robert F. Cayton
Colonel William J. Crisler, Jr.
Colonel Gregory L. Ferguson
Colonel James E. Fredregill
Colonel Anthony P. German
Colonel Ann M. Greenlee
Colonel Mark D. Hammond
Colonel Richard N. Harris, Jr.
Colonel Mark E. Jannitto
Colonel Larry R. Kauffman
Colonel Jon K. Kelk
Colonel David T. Kelly
Colonel John E. Kent
Colonel Donald M. Lagor
Colonel Michael E. Loh
Colonel Constance C. McNabb
Colonel Clayton W. Moushon
Colonel Phillip E. Murdock
Colonel John E. Murphy
Colonel Gerald E. Otterbein
Colonel Martin J. Park
Colonel Nicholas S. Rantis
Colonel Robert L. Shannon, Jr.
Colonel Cassie A. Strom
Colonel Gregory N. Stroud
Colonel Thomas A. Thomas, Jr.
Colonel Carol A. Timmons
Colonel Steven J. Verhelst
Colonel Tony L. West
Colonel Robert S. Williams
Colonel Michael A. Webbema

IN THE ARMY

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Army to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 624:

To be major general

Brig. Gen. Mary A. Legere

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Army to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

To be lieutenant general

Maj. Gen. Thomas P. Bostick

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Army to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

To be lieutenant general

Maj. Gen. Robert L. Caslen, Jr.

The following named officer for appointment in the Reserve of the Army to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 12203:

To be major general

Brig. Gen. Steven W. Smith

The following named officer for appointment in the Reserve of the Army to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 12203:

To be major general

Brig. Gen. William D. Frink, Jr.

The following named officers for appointment to the grade indicated in the United States Army under title 10, U.S.C., section 624:

To be brigadier general

Colonel Jeffrey N. Colt
Colonel Peter A. Deluca
Colonel Robert M. Dyess, Jr.
Colonel Donald M. MacWillie

IN THE NAVY

The following named officers for appointment in the United States Navy Reserve to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 12203:

To be rear admiral (lower half)

Captain Douglas J. Asbjornsen
Captain Charles K. Carodine
Captain Anatolio B. Cruz, III
Captain John E. Jolliffe
Captain Robert J. Kamensky

the following named officer for appointment in the United States Navy to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

To be vice admiral

Vice Adm. David Architzel

NOMINATIONS PLACED ON THE SECRETARY'S DESK

IN THE AIR FORCE

PN1233 AIR FORCE nomination of Joseph E. Sanders, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of December 2, 2009.

PN1234 AIR FORCE nomination of Chinmoy Mishra, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of December 2, 2009.

PN1235 AIR FORCE nomination of Charles F. Kimball, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of December 2, 2009.

PN1236 AIR FORCE nominations (2) beginning MINH THU NGOC LE, and ending ROBERT C. POPE, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of December 2, 2009.

PN1272 AIR FORCE nominations (32) beginning NOEMI ALGARINLOZANO, and ending PATRICK J. WILLIAMS, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of December 11, 2009.

PN1273 AIR FORCE nominations (18) beginning DAVID W. BOBB, and ending ROBERT W. WISHTISCHIN, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of December 11, 2009.

PN1275 AIR FORCE nominations (13) beginning SEAN W. DIGMAN, and ending DAVID L. ROBINSON, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of December 11, 2009.

PN1276 AIR FORCE nominations (54) beginning ALBERT H. BONNEMA, and ending GIANNA R. ZEH, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of December 11, 2009.

PN1277 AIR FORCE nominations (33) beginning ERIC R. BAUGH JR., and ending KARYN E. YOUNG, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of December 11, 2009.

PN1278 AIR FORCE nominations (135) beginning ADAM M. ANDERSON, and ending SHAHID A. ZAIDI, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of December 11, 2009.

PN1279 AIR FORCE nominations (46) beginning BRIAN J. ALENT, and ending RACHEL A. WEBER, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of December 11, 2009.

PN1280 AIR FORCE nominations (277) beginning ERIC E. ABBOTT, and ending ETHAN EVERETT ZIMMERMAN, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of December 11, 2009.

PN1290 AIR FORCE nomination of Lawrence W. Steinkraus Jr., which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of December 15, 2009.

PN1291 AIR FORCE nominations (4) beginning KRISTI L. JONES, and ending BRUNO A. SCHMITZ, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of December 15, 2009.

PN1292 AIR FORCE nominations (3) beginning RAYMOND KING, and ending BERNHARD K. STEPKE, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of December 15, 2009.

PN1317 AIR FORCE nominations (92) beginning FRANK R. AFLAGUE, and ending WILLIAM T. YATES, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of December 21, 2009.

PN1392 AIR FORCE nominations (5) beginning ANTHONY N. DILLS, and ending MICHAEL D. MILLER, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 21, 2010.

PN1393 AIR FORCE nominations (5) beginning MATTHEW A. BAACK, and ending ROCKY ZACCHEUS, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 21, 2010.

PN1407 AIR FORCE nomination of David A. Nordstrand, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 26, 2010.

PN1408 AIR FORCE nominations (2) beginning HELEN K. CROUCH, and ending MICKRA H. KING, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 26, 2010.

PN1409 AIR FORCE nominations (2) beginning RANDALL B. DELL, and ending EDDIE P. SANCHEZ, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 26, 2010.

PN1410 AIR FORCE nominations (4) beginning CHARLES T. HUGUELET, and ending MICHAEL E. SAVAGE, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 26, 2010.

PN1411 AIR FORCE nominations (5) beginning GLENDA K. M. GRONES, and ending NANCY A. WESTBROOK, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 26, 2010.

PN1412 AIR FORCE nominations (15) beginning FRANK J. ARCHER, and ending EDUARDO SAN MIGUEL, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 26, 2010.

PN1413 AIR FORCE nominations (3) beginning THOMAS J. PIZZOLO, and ending CLIFFORD ZDANOWICZ JR., which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 26, 2010.

PN1414 AIR FORCE nominations (97) beginning TARN M. ABELL, and ending JOHN B. WILLIAMS, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 26, 2010.

IN THE ARMY

PN1266 ARMY nominations (19) beginning JAMES R. AGAR II, and ending KERRY M. WHEELEHAN, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of December 9, 2009.

PN1281 ARMY nominations (36) beginning OLGA M. ANDERSON, and ending D004179, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of December 11, 2009.

PN1293 ARMY nomination of Dawn Y. Taylor, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of December 15, 2009.

PN1294 ARMY nominations (2) beginning WALTER COFFEY, and ending RUSSELL P. REITER, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of December 15, 2009.

PN1295 ARMY nominations (4) beginning DEAN A. AMBROSE, and ending JOHN W. TROGDON, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of December 15, 2009.

PN1296 ARMY nominations (6) beginning PATRICK R. BOSSETTA, and ending JOHN R. WHITFORD, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of December 15, 2009.

PN1394 ARMY nomination of Bess J. Pierce, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 21, 2010.

PN1395 ARMY nominations (2) beginning JANINE G. ALLBRITTON, and ending SCOTT J. PIECEK, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 21, 2010.

PN1396 ARMY nomination of Juan G. Lopez, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 21, 2010.

PN1397 ARMY nomination of Jeri R. Regan, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 21, 2010.

PN1398 ARMY nomination of Robin T. Worch, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 21, 2010.

PN1399 ARMY nominations (4) beginning TYLER E. HARRIS, and ending KELLY A. SUPPLE, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 21, 2010.

PN1400 ARMY nominations (19) beginning SCOTT D. DEBOLT, and ending AUDREY D. WILSON, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 21, 2010.

PN1415 ARMY nomination of Louis Gevirtzman, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 26, 2010.

PN1416 ARMY nominations (5) beginning BRENDA M. ARZU, and ending JOHN R. MILLS, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 26, 2010.

IN THE MARINE CORPS

PN1282 MARINE CORPS nomination of Brian J. Dix, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of December 11, 2009.

PN1297 MARINE CORPS nomination of William J. Mitchell, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of December 15, 2009.

PN1298 MARINE CORPS nominations (5) beginning SAM B. CLONTS JR., and ending RALPH L. PRICE III, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of December 15, 2009.

IN THE NAVY

PN1041 NAVY nomination of Donald J. Sheehan Jr., which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 30, 2009.

PN1237 NAVY nomination of Matthew S. Flemming, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of December 2, 2009.

PN1385 NAVY nomination of Richard K. Dougherty, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 20, 2010.

PN1401 NAVY nomination of Roldan C. Mina, which was received by the Senate and

appeared in the Congressional Record of January 21, 2010.

PN1402 NAVY nominations (4) beginning JACOB R. HILL, and ending WILLIAM R. WOODFIN, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 21, 2010.

PN1417 NAVY nominations (11) beginning DAVID W. TERHUNE, and ending DET R. SMITH, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 26, 2010.

PN1418 NAVY nominations (30) beginning ERIC R. AKINS, and ending SCOTT T. WILBUR, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 26, 2010.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume legislative session.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. CASEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

CERVICAL CANCER AWARENESS

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, I rise today to call attention to a disease that is devastating to women nationwide. In 2009, the National Cancer Institute at NIH reported that cervical cancer was diagnosed in 11,250 women, and more than 4,000 women died from the disease. The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, CDC, estimates that $2 billion per year is spent on treatment of cervical cancer. Access to regular screening would not only prevent the disease in most cases, but would be a mere fraction of the cost of treatment.

Cervical cancer is mainly caused by HPV, a virus that currently infects about 20 million Americans. Another 6 million people become newly infected each year. By educating women and making regular Pap tests, HPV tests and the HPV vaccine affordable and accessible, we can significantly decrease the number of cases of cervical cancer in this Nation.

This message was brought to me last week by one of my constituents, Ms. Tamika Felder, and her ''friends,'' a remarkable group of women who visited Capitol Hill to promote awareness of cervical cancer. Tamika was a successful young television producer in Washington, DC. At the age of 25, Tamika went to the doctor for a routine Pap test. She hadn't been to the doctor for a few years, partly due to a lack of health insurance. Her results came back, and the diagnosis was what she calls ''the shock of her life''—advanced cervical cancer. As Tamika struggled to come to terms with her diagnosis, she became depressed and retreated from most of her friends. She could only think about the end of her life, and the dreams that would go unfulfilled.

Doctors recommended a radical hysterectomy, which left Tamika heartbroken, knowing that she would never be able to give birth to children. Rounds of chemotherapy and radiation followed, and Tamika struggled to stay positive. She credits amazing family, friends, and coworkers with helping her through this difficult time. She emerged cancer-free, and is a 5-year survivor.

As Tamika was undergoing treatment, she spent a lot of time educating herself about HPV and cervical cancer, and her friends did the same. They learned that the disease was preventable, and they needed to get that message out to women around the country. Thus, the nonprofit organization Tamika and Friends was born. Tamika and Friends is based in Upper Marlboro, MD, and is dedicated to raising awareness about cervical cancer and its links to HPV.

Using the network of survivors and friends that they have established, they spread the essential message that through education, prevention, and treatment, cervical cancer can be entirely eliminated. They share their message in creative ways, including house parties that create a comfortable environment for women to have open discussions about HPV and cervical cancer and its causes. Their Web site has many survivors' stories to encourage other women that share their diagnosis.

When I learned that one of the reasons that Tamika did not have a regular Pap test was that she lacked health insurance, my conviction that we must achieve universal health coverage was strengthened. Her story is one of many that we have heard over the past year that emphasizes the critical need to cover the uninsured. If Tamika had had access to proper preventive testing, then her cancer might have been caught at an earlier stage. She may not have needed a radical hysterectomy, and her ability to have children, which she held so dear, might have been preserved.

The health care reform legislation passed by the Senate would ensure that women can afford a yearly Pap test. In the bill, preventive services for women, including a yearly exam and cervical cancer screenings are covered at no cost to patients. In addition, as part of the managers' amendment, the provision that I introduced as part of a Patients' Bill of Rights will allow women to designate an OB–GYN as their primary care physician. This will enable women to receive care from a physician that specializes in women's health and can reinforce efforts to educate women about the causes of cervical cancer and the importance of getting regular Pap and HPV tests.

To successfully eradicate cervical cancer, we must acknowledge and address that racial and ethnic minorities are disproportionately affected. Cervical cancer is diagnosed at an early stage more often in Whites than in Blacks, and Black women have higher rates of mortality from cervical cancer than White women. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Hispanic women were twice as likely as White women to be diagnosed with cervical cancer, and the rates of cervical cancer among Vietnamese American women are higher than those for any other ethnicity—more than five times higher than White women. These statistics highlight why it is so important to codify the Offices of Minority Health within HHS and its agencies. I advocated for this to be part of the managers' amendment to the Senate health care bill, and I will continue to push for it to be included in the health care reform legislation that is signed by President Obama.

I come to the floor today to raise awareness about cervical cancer and the need to cover preventive services for women, and to commend and thank Tamika and her friends for their efforts to educate all women about what they can do to remain healthy. Tamika's story could have been one of tragedy, but instead, she has turned it into a story of inspiration, strength, and hope.

In one of the informational brochures that Tamika and Friends hands out to women is a message from Tamika herself. It says ''No matter how busy or broke you think you are—whether you have insurance or not—you must never, ever skip your Pap test and HPV test.'' As Members of the U.S. Senate, it is within our power to help women like Tamika and make sure that a lack of health insurance is not a barrier for women's health. We can all do our part to prevent cervical cancer and other diseases that can be caught early with proper preventive care.

SMALL BUSINESS CONTRACTING REVITALIZATION ACT

Ms. SNOWE. Mr. President, as ranking member of the Senate Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship, I rise today to discuss the Small Business Contracting Revitalization Act of 2010. This critical piece of legislation is the direct result of consensus-building and compromise, and continues the bipartisan tradition of the Small Business Committee. I also wish to thank Chair LANDRIEU for her partnership with me in forging this truly crucial measure as we work toward contracting parity for small business, and for her tireless leadership on all concerns confronting small businesses today.

The Small Business Revitalization Act of 2010 retains critical procurement provisions that originate in the comprehensive contracting bills I introduced or cosponsored in the 109th and 110th Congresses which were unanimously voted out of the Small Business Committee. This particular legislation

will serve to minimize the use of contract bundling and consolidation of contracts by the Federal Government, and increase the ability of small businesses to fairly compete for such contracts through a host of key improvements, including allowing small businesses to join together in teams to bid on certain procurement opportunities. Additional requirements will help to ensure prompt payment from prime contractors to subcontractors, and make it easier for the Federal government to prosecute businesses who fraudulently identify themselves as small companies.

Since the mid-1990s, with the enactment of acquisition streamlining reforms and the downsizing of the Federal procurement workforce, small businesses have faced a litany of hurdles that have deprived them of Federal contracting dollars. One such impediment is contract bundling which takes contracting opportunities out of the hands of deserving small businesses by grouping numerous small contracts and bundling them into one large award. Ill-equipped to manage the demands of these consolidated awards due to a lack of resources, small business owners again find themselves crowded out of the Federal contracting process. Consequently, the bipartisan measure we are introducing reflects the recommendations made by the Government Accountability Office, GAO, to impose stricter reviews and more comprehensive reporting of bundled contracts, encourages small business teaming to bid on larger contracts, and promotes Federal agency publishing and use of best practices. Additional obstacles to successful small business contracting include ''bait and switch'' tactics used by prime contractors who use small firms in developing bids but do not subcontract with them once a contract has been awarded. Our bill will address this concern as well as other ongoing problems such as large businesses posing as small businesses, flawed reporting data, and agencies who fail to meet their small business contracting goals.

As ranking member of the Senate Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship, I am further dismayed by the myriad ways that government agencies have time and again egregiously failed to meet the vast majority of their small business statutory ''goaling'' requirements. It is unconscionable that the statutory goal for only one category of small business—small disadvantaged businesses—has been met, and that goals for the three other programs HUBZones, women-owned small businesses, and service-disabled veterans-owned businesses—have never been achieved.

Consider that, in 2007, small businesses were eligible for $378 billion in Federal contracting awards, yet received only $83 billion. This blatant failure to utilize small businesses, thus preventing them to secure their fair share of Federal contracting dollars, has resulted in firms losing billions of dollars in contracting opportunities. But 23 percent is only a base goal. We must strive to exceed it, not just meet it.

In the last 2 years alone, the Small Business Committee has held numerous hearings and roundtables to identify and explain small business' contracting concerns. In addition, the GAO and the Small Business Administration's, SBA, inspector general have issued multiple reports addressing small business Federal contracting deficiencies. Our legislation builds on the contracting provisions of previous Small Business Committee contracting bills by endowing the SBA with additional tools to meet the demands of an ever-changing 21st century contracting environment.

That said, I am greatly encouraged by the latest statistics relating to Federal contracting dollars awarded to small businesses from the funds appropriated under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, ARRA. Preliminary reports show that as of February 1, 2010, small businesses have received over 29 percent of the ARRA Federal contracting dollars, well exceeding the imposed 23 percent statutory goal. This begs the question, if the Federal Government can not only meet but exceed these requirements for the Recovery Act, why can't these goals be met year in and year out? The simple answer is they can. I am hopeful this administration will make a conscious effort to reverse the government-wide failure to meet small business goals on a consistent basis.

I am confident that this legislation will result in the changes necessary to reduce fraud and waste while paving the way for the Federal Government to maximize the use of America's innovative small businesses in the contracting arena. Again, I want to recognize Senator LANDRIEU for her leadership in this matter and for her continuing commitment to the small business community.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

RECOGNIZING THE ALBANY AREA YMCA

• Mr. CHAMBLISS. Mr. President, today I wish to congratulate the Albany Area YMCA on the occasion of its 100th anniversary.

On October 25, 1909, 100 businessmen met at the New Albany Hotel for the purpose of establishing and building a YMCA in Albany. Five days later, the campaign, led by Judge F.F. Putney, was successful in raising $30,000.

Just 1 year later, the vision became a reality, and the first YMCA building in Albany opened its doors at the corner of Pine and Jefferson.

Since its inception in 1910, the Albany Area YMCA has been an important part of life for residents of southwest Georgia.

Just last year, more than 30,000 people were involved in the YMCA, whether it was coaching baseball, participating in the 5K runs or volunteering at the food drives.

I have been to the Albany Area YMCA several times and I am always impressed by the new community initiatives and programs taking place there.

The YMCA has always been committed to challenging boys and girls to think beyond themselves and to set goals—and it is this focus on character development that has helped strengthen the community.

As a former volunteer and past president of the Moultrie YMCA, I have a special appreciation for the great work the volunteers are doing. And they ought to be commended for their tremendous efforts.

For 100 years, YMCA volunteers have helped children develop themselves as honest, respectful, caring and responsible individuals.

Additionally, I would be remiss if I did not mention Dave Wallace, who has made a tremendous impact on the Albany Area YMCA while serving as the executive director.

I have had the good fortune of knowing Dave for several years. The YMCA has flourished under his leadership—and I have no doubt he has touched many lives throughout his tenure there.

Over the years, the Albany Area YMCA has relocated, expanded and changed in many aspects, but it has never steered away from its mission ''to put Christian principles into practice through programs that build a healthy spirit, mind and body for all.''

Once again, I would like to offer my congratulations and appreciation to the Albany Area YMCA on this very special occasion.•

RECOGNIZING THE NORRIS STEVENS FAMILY

• Mrs. LINCOLN. Mr. President, today I congratulate the Norris Stevens family for being named the Drew County Farm Family of the Year for 2009.

I have felt a long kinship with Drew County, and I am grateful for the friendships I have made there. I have many fond memories visiting the Drew County Courthouse, where my southern Arkansas field office was located when I was first elected to the U.S. Senate.

As a seventh-generation Arkansan and farmer's daughter, and as chairman of the Senate Agriculture Committee, I understand firsthand and appreciate the hard work and contributions of our farm families. Agriculture is the backbone of Arkansas's economy, creating more than 270,000 jobs in the State and providing $9.1 billion in wages and salaries. In total, agriculture contributes roughly $15.9 billion to the Arkansas economy each year.

Mr. President, our farm families are critical to our Nation's economic stability. We must work to continue the farm family tradition, so families such

as the Stevens family are able to maintain their livelihoods and continue to help provide the safe, abundant, and affordable food supply that feeds our own country and the world and that is essential to our own economic stability.

I salute the Stevens and all Arkansas farm families for their hard work and dedication.●

RECOGNIZING SHAY AND SHERRIE GILLESPIE

● Mrs. LINCOLN. Mr. President, today I congratulate Shay and Sherrie Gillespie of Monticello as the 2009 Man and Woman of the Year, as named by the Monticello-Drew County Chamber of Commerce and Monticello Economic Development Commission.

I have felt a long kinship to Monticello, and I am grateful for the friendships I have made there. I have many fond memories visiting the Drew County Courthouse, where my southern Arkansas field office was located when I was first elected to the U.S. Senate.

Monticello is a community with a great spirit of volunteerism and caring, as evidenced by the Gillespies. Owners of Head of the Class Childcare and Learning Center, the Gillespies are known throughout the community for their work with youth, their church and community activities, and their service on the Monticello City Council. Sherrie is a current city alderman and Shay is a former alderman.

According to those who know her best, Sherrie is quick to open up her home to the youth in her church and community, using her personal finances to help feed senior citizens and provide clothing for the needy. She was instrumental in forming a community action organization that provides tutoring to African-American students to help them make the most of their future.

Mr. President, we should all embrace the spirit of service and volunteerism on display by these deserving individuals. I send my heartfelt congratulations to both Shay and Sherrie.●

RECOGNIZING SEAARK MARINE AND RAY'S RESTAURANT

● Mrs. LINCOLN. Mr. President, today I proudly join all Monticello residents to congratulate SeaArk Marine and Ray's Restaurant as the Monticello-Drew County Industry and Business of the Year, respectively, as named by the Chamber of Commerce and Monticello Economic Development Commission.

I have felt a long kinship to Monticello, and I am grateful for the friendships I have made there. I have many fond memories visiting the Drew County Courthouse, where my southern Arkansas field office was located when I was first elected to the U.S. Senate.

Industry of the Year SeaArk Marine is one of the Nation's leading commercial and military boat builders. Known for its commitment to customers and quality, SeaArk has been under the same ownership for over 51 years, with many of their key craftspeople employed for more than 30 years.

Business of the Year Ray's has been a local icon since 1951, when the restaurant first began serving burgers at what was then known as C.L. and Ruth Ray's Anchor Drive In on Hyatt Street. Ray's now serves a diverse menu of Arkansas favorites, including burgers, catfish and hickory-smoked barbeque.

Mr. President, I salute these Arkansas businesses for their hard work and dedication in serving our State.●

RECOGNIZING THE TONGUE POINT JOB CORPS CENTER

● Mr. MERKLEY. Mr. President, today I recognize Tongue Point's 45 years of tireless dedication to helping Oregonians improve the quality of their lives. In 1965, the Tongue Point Job Corps Center began teaching young people the skills to become employable and independent. Since then, the center has remained devoted to its mission of helping its graduates find work or pursue additional education. Last year, an amazing 90 percent of Job Corps graduates found work, enrolled in higher education programs, or enlisted in the military.

During these tough economic times, Tongue Point's contribution to our communities helps strengthen the quality of our workforce and ensures that those who want to succeed can. The center provides 16- to 24-year-olds with technical and academic training at no cost to the student, guaranteeing a safe and encouraging space for professional advancement.

In recognition of Tongue Point's 45th birthday, I wish to express my sincere appreciation for the work they have done helping young Oregonians find a career path. This center, like all Job Corps Centers nationwide, provides a tremendous service to our Nation, and I wish it all the best in the years to come.●

REMEMBERING COLONEL JACK PITCHFORD

● Mr. WICKER. Mr. President, on December 2, 2009, retired Air Force COL Jack Pitchford died at the age of 82 after a long battle with a brain tumor. The Natchez, MS, native was a decorated fighter pilot, a survivor of the Hanoi Hilton, and a true hero. Our country will miss him.

John Joseph Pitchford was born in 1926 in Natchez. The second of 12 children and the eldest boy, Pitchford enlisted in the Army Air Corps after graduating from high school in 1944. He served as an aircraft and engine mechanic through the end of World War II.

He then attended Louisiana State University from 1949 to 1952, graduating with a bachelor of science degree in forestry and receiving a Reserve Officer Training Corps commission in the Air Force. After entering pilot training in August 1952 at Bartow Air Force Base, Pitchford went on to receive his wings in September 1953.

As the war in Vietnam escalated, Pitchford volunteered for the Wild Weasel program, tasked with flying low-altitude missions to hunt and destroy surface-to-air missiles. On December 20, 1965, during his third combat mission of the war, Colonel Pitchford's F–100F Super Sabre aircraft was hit by a North Vietnamese missile. He suffered a dislocated right shoulder during his ejection from the aircraft and three gunshot wounds to his right arm when his captors opened fire. Colonel Pitchford was the first Wild Weasel to be taken prisoner in Vietnam. He spent the next 7 years in various North Vietnamese prisoner-of-war camps, including the infamous Hanoi Hilton. After 373 weeks of hellish captivity and torture, Colonel Pitchford was finally released on February 12, 1973.

In recognition of his tremendous service and sacrifice, Colonel Pitchford was awarded the Purple Heart, the Silver Star, and Legion of Merit. Upon retirement from the Air Force, he returned to Natchez where he became an active member of the community. In discussing his time as a POW, Colonel Pitchford once said:

> The one thing I would like to convey to the American people is that no matter what happens in one's lifetime, one must never lose faith in the United States of America. Ours is a great country indeed. We must continue to rededicate ourselves to the principles that have made it great. I, as a POW, was maintained by my faith in God, country and by the hardships much worse than my own that were endured by many of my fellow POWs.

I recently returned from Afghanistan. Many of the qualities Jack Pitchford exhibited in his life can be seen in our men and women who are serving our country there today. Their service and sacrifice ensures that Jack Pitchford's legacy will live on.●

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

A message from the President of the United States was communicated to the Senate by Mrs. Neiman, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGE REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate a message from the President of the United States submitting a nomination which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.

(The nomination received today is printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

REPORT ON THE CONTINUATION OF THE NATIONAL EMERGENCY THAT WAS DECLARED IN EXECUTIVE ORDER 13396 ON FEBRUARY 7, 2006, WITH RESPECT TO THE SITUATION IN OR IN RELATION TO CÔTE D'IVOIRE—PM 44

The PRESIDING OFFICER laid before the Senate the following message

from the President of the United States which was referred to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs:

To the Congress of the United States

Section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1622(d)) provides for the automatic termination of a national emergency, unless, prior to the anniversary date of its declaration, the President publishes in the *Federal Register* and transmits to the Congress a notice stating that the emergency is to continue in effect beyond the anniversary date. In accordance with this provision, I have sent to the *Federal Register* for publication the enclosed notice stating that the national emergency declared in Executive Order 13396 of February 7, 2006, with respect to the situation in or in relation to Côte d'Ivoire is to continue in effect beyond February 7, 2010.

The situation in or in relation to Côte d'Ivoire, which has been addressed by the United Nations Security Council in Resolution 1572 of November 15, 2004, and subsequent resolutions, has resulted in the massacre of large numbers of civilians, widespread human rights abuses, significant political violence and unrest, and fatal attacks against international peacekeeping forces. In March 2007, the Ouagadougou Political Agreement was signed by the two primary protagonists in Côte d'Ivoire's conflict. Although considerable progress has been made in implementing this agreement, the situation in or in relation to Côte d'Ivoire poses a continuing unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security and foreign policy of the United States.

For these reasons, I have determined that it is necessary to continue the national emergency and related measures blocking the property of certain persons contributing to the conflict in Côte d'Ivoire.

BARACK OBAMA.

THE WHITE HOUSE, *February 2, 2010*.

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–4613. A communication from the Secretary of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, a six-month periodic report on the national emergency that was declared in Executive Order 13441 with respect to Lebanon; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–4614. A communication from the Associate Director, Office of Foreign Assets Control, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Belarus Sanctions Regulations'' (31 CFR Part 548) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 1, 2010; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–4615. A communication from the Chief Counsel, Federal Emergency Management Agency, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Suspension of Community Eligibility'' ((44 CFR Part 64)(Docket No. FEMA–2008–0020)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 27, 2010; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–4616. A communication from the Chief Counsel, Federal Emergency Management Agency, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Final Flood Elevation Determinations'' ((44 CFR Part 67)(Docket No. FEMA–2008–0020)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 28, 2010; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–4617. A communication from the Chief Counsel, Federal Emergency Management Agency, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Special Community Disaster Loan'' ((44 CFR Part 206)(Docket No. FEMA–2005–0051)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 28, 2010; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–4618. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Haiti Earthquake Occurring in January 2010 Designated as a Qualified Disaster Under Section 139 of the Internal Revenue Code'' (Notice No 2010–16) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 28, 2010; to the Committee on Finance.

EC–4619. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Applicable Federal Rates—February 2010'' (Rev. Rul. 2010–6) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 28, 2010; to the Committee on Finance.

EC–4620. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Tier I Issue—Industry Director Directive on the Planning and Examination of Repairs vs. Capitalization Change in Accounting Method (CAM) No. 1'' (LMSB–4–0110–001) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 28, 2010; to the Committee on Finance.

EC–4621. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Miscellaneous HEART Act Changes'' (Notice No. 2010–15) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 28, 2010; to the Committee on Finance.

EC–4622. A communication from the Deputy Executive Secretary, U.S. Agency for International Development, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of the confirmation of a nomination in the position of Administrator, received on January 29, 2010; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC–4623. A communication from the Office Manager, Office of the National Coordinator for HIT, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Health Information Technology: Initial Set of Standards, Implementation Specifications, and Certification, Criteria for Electronic Health Record Technology'' (RIN0991–AB58) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 15, 2010; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC–4624. A communication from the Program Manager, Health Resources and Services Administration, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''National Practitioner Data Bank for Adverse Information on Physicians and Other Health Care Practitioners: Reporting on Adverse and Negative Actions'' (RIN0906–AA57) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 28, 2010; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC–4625. 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; Interest Assumptions for Valuing and Paying Benefits'' (29 CFR Part 4022) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 28, 2010; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC–4626. A communication from the Director, Office of Labor-Management Standards, Department of Labor, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Trust Annual Reports, Final Rule Extending Filing Due Date'' (RIN1215–AB75) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 1, 2010; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC–4627. A communication from the Regulations Officer, Federal Highway Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Worker Visibility'' (RIN2125–AF28) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 1, 2010; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–4628. A communication from the Program Analyst, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standard No. 121; Air Brake Systems'' (RIN2127–AK44) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 1, 2010; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–4629. A communication from the Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Standard Instrument Approach Procedures (113); Amdt. No. 3356'' (RIN2120–AA65) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 1, 2010; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–4630. A communication from the Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Standard Instrument Approach Procedures (10); Amdt. No. 3357'' (RIN2120–AA65) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 1, 2010; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–4631. A communication from the Legal Advisor, International Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Report and Order, In the Matter of International Fixed Public Radiocommunication Services'' (IB Docket No. 05–216) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 1, 2010; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–4632. A communication from the Attorney, Office of the Secretary of Transportation, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Employee Protection Program; Removal'' (RIN2105–AD94) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 1, 2010; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–4633. A communication from the Attorney, Office of the Secretary of Transportation, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Procedures for Reimbursement of General Aviation Operators and Service Providers in the Washington, DC Area; Removal'' (RIN2105–AD93) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 1, 2010; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–4634. A communication from the Attorney, Office of the Secretary of Transportation, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''OST Technical Corrections'' (RIN2105–AD82) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 1, 2010; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–4635. A communication from the Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Establishment of Class D and E Airspace and Modification of Class E Airspace; State College, PA'' ((RIN2120–AA66)(Docket No. FAA–2009–0750)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 1, 2010; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–4636. A communication from the Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Establishment of Class D and Class E Airspace, Modification of Class E Airspace; Ocala, FL'' ((RIN2120–AA66)(Docket No. FAA–2009–0326)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 1, 2010; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–4637. A communication from the Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Modification of Class E Airspace; Anniston, AL'' ((RIN2120–AA66)(Docket No. FAA–2009–0653)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 1, 2010; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–4638. A communication from the Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Establishment of Class E Airspace; Saluda, SC'' ((RIN2120–AA66)(Docket No. FAA–2009–0603)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 1, 2010; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–4639. A communication from the Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Establishment of Class E Airspace; Tompkinsville, KY'' ((RIN2120–AA66)(Docket No. FAA–2009–0604)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 1, 2010; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–4640. A communication from the Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Establishment of Class E Airspace; Hertford, NC'' ((RIN2120–AA66)(Docket No. FAA–2009–0705)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 1, 2010; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–4641. A communication from the Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Establishment of Class E Airspace; Clayton, GA'' ((RIN2120–AA66)(Docket No. FAA–2009–0605)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 1, 2010; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–4642. A communication from the Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Establishment of Class E Airspace; Lewisport, KY'' ((RIN2120–AA66)(Docket No. FAA–2009–0706)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 1, 2010; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–4643. A communication from the Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; The Boeing Company Model 747–100B SUD, –200B, –300, –400, and –400D Series Airplanes'' ((RIN2120–AA64)(Docket No. FAA–2009–0636)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 1, 2010; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–4644. A communication from the Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; The Boeing Company Model 747–100, 747–100B, 747–100B SUD, 747–200B, 747–200C, 747–200F, 747–300, 747SR, and 747SP Series Airplanes'' ((RIN2120–AA64)(Docket No. FAA–2009–0865)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 1, 2010; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–4645. A communication from the Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; Thrush Aircraft, Inc. Model 600 S2D and S2R Series Airplanes'' ((RIN2120-AA64)(Docket No. FAA-2007-27862)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 1, 2010; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–4646. A communication from the Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; Agusta S .p.A. (Agusta) Model AB139 and AW139 Helicopters'' ((RIN2120-AA64)(Docket No. FAA-2009-1125)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 1, 2010; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–4647. A communication from the Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; Turbomeca Turmo IV A and IV C Turboshaft Engines'' ((RIN2120-AA64)(Docket No. FAA-2010-0009)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 1, 2010; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–4648. A communication from the Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Model A318 Series Airplanes'' ((RIN2120-AA64)(Docket No. FAA-2009-0713)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 1, 2010; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–4649. A communication from the Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; Sicma Aero Seat 90xx Series Passenger Seats, Installed on, but not Limited to ATR—GIE Avions de Transport Regional Model ATR42 Airplanes and Model ATR72 Airplanes'' ((RIN2120-AA64)(Docket No. FAA-2007-27346)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 1, 2010; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–4650. A communication from the Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; AVOX Systems and B/E Aerospace Oxygen Cylinder Assemblies, as Installed on Various Transport Airplanes'' ((RIN2120-AA64)(Docket No. FAA-2010-0029)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 1, 2010; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–4651. A communication from the Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; Engine Components, Inc. (ECi) Reciprocating Engine Cylinder Assemblies'' ((RIN2120-AA64)(Docket No. FAA-2008-0052)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 1, 2010; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–4652. A communication from the Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; The Boeing Company Model 737-600, -700, -700C, -800, -900, and -900ER Series Airplanes'' ((RIN2120-AA64)(Docket No. FAA-2009-0657)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 1, 2010; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–4653. A communication from the Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; Empresa Brasileira de Aeronautica S.A. (EMBRAER) Model ERJ 170 Airplanes'' ((RIN2120-AA64)(Docket No. FAA-2009-0610)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 1, 2010; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–4654. A communication from the Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Model A340-200 and A340-300 Series Airplanes'' ((RIN2120-AA64)(Docket No . FAA-2009-1251)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 1, 2010; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–4655. A communication from the Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; Fokker Services B.V. Model F.28 Mark 0070 and 0100 Airplanes'' ((RIN2120-AA64)(Docket No. FAA-2009-0763)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 1, 2010; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–4656. A communication from the Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; CFM International, S.A. CFM56-7B Series Turbofan Engines'' ((RIN2120-AA64)(Docket No. FAA-2009-0236)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 1, 2010; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–4657. A communication from the Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule

entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; Turbomeca S.A. Model Arriel 1B, 1D, and 1D1 Turboshaft Engines'' ((RIN2120-AA64)(Docket No. FAA-2009-0503)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 1, 2010; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–4658. A communication from the Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Model A330-200, A330-300, A340-200, A340-300 Series Airplanes'' ((RIN2120-AA64)(Docket No. FAA-2009-0309)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 1, 2010; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–4659. A communication from the Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Drug and Alcohol Testing Program; Correction'' ((RIN2120-AJ37)(Docket No. FAA-2008-0937)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 1, 2010; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–4660. A communication from the Attorney Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Safety Zones: Fireworks Displays in the Captain of the Port, Portland Zone'' ((RIN1625-AA00)(Docket No. USG-2008-1096)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 28, 2010; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–4661. A communication from the Attorney Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Safety Zone and Regulated Navigation Area, Chicago Sanitary and Ship Canal, Romeoville, IL'' ((RIN1625-AA00)(Docket No. USG-2009-1080)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 28, 2010; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–4662. A communication from the Attorney, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Safety and Security Zone, Chicago Sanitary and Ship Canal, Romeoville, IL'' ((RIN1625-AA00; RIN1625-AA87)(Docket No. USG-2009-1052)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 27, 2010; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–4663. A communication from the Attorney Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Amendment to the list of MARPOL Annex V Special Areas That Are Currently in Effect to Add the Gulfs and Mediterranean Sea Special Areas'' ((RIN1625-AB41)(Docket No. USG-2009-0273)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 28, 2010; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–4664. A communication from the Attorney Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Consumer Price Index Adjustments of Oil Pollution Act of 1990 Limits of Liability—Vessels and Deepwater Ports'' ((RIN1625-AB25)(Docket No. USG-2008-0007)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 28, 2010; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–4665. A communication from the Attorney Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Special Local Regulation for Marine Events; Recurring Marine Events in the Fifth Coast Guard District'' ((RIN1625-AA08)(Docket No. USG-2009-0430)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 28, 2010; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–4666. A communication from the Attorney, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Safety Zone; Atlantic Intracoastal Waterway, Oak Island, NC'' ((RIN1625-AA00)(Docket No. USG-2009-1067)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 28, 2010; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–4667. A communication from the Attorney Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Drawbridge Operation Regulations: Harlem River, New York, NY'' ((RIN1625-AA09)(Docket No. USG-2008-0456)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 28, 2010; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–4668. A communication from the Attorney, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Safety Zone; San Diego Parade of Lights Fireworks, San Diego Bay, CA'' ((RIN1625-AA00)(Docket No. USG-2009-0484)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 28, 2010; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–4669. A communication from the Attorney Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Drawbridge Operation Regulation; Bonfouca Bayou, Slidell, LA'' ((RIN1625-AA09)(Docket No. USG-2009-0863)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 27, 2010; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mrs. BOXER, from the Committee on Environment and Public Works, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute:

S. 1733. A bill to create clean energy jobs, promote energy independence, reduce global warming pollution, and transition to a clean energy economy (Rept. No. 111–121).

By Mr. KERRY, from the Committee on Foreign Relations, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute:

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 (Rept. No. 111–122).

By Mr. LEAHY, from the Committee on the Judiciary:

Report to accompany S. 369, a bill to prohibit brand name drug companies from compensating generic drug companies to delay the entry of a generic drug into the market (Rept. No. 111–123).

By Mr. LEAHY, from the Committee on the Judiciary, with amendments:

S. 1749. A bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to prohibit the possession or use of cell phones and similar wireless devices by Federal prisoners.

EXECUTIVE REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following executive reports of nominations were submitted:

By Mr. LEVIN for the Committee on Armed Services.

*Mary Sally Matiella, of Arizona, to be an Assistant Secretary of the Army.

*Paul Luis Oostburg Sanz, of Maryland, to be General Counsel of the Department of the Navy.

*Malcolm Ross O'Neill, of Virginia, to be an Assistant Secretary of the Army.

*Jackalyne Pfannenstiel, of California, to be an Assistant Secretary of the Navy.

*Douglas B. Wilson, of Arizona, to be an Assistant Secretary of Defense.

Air Force nomination of Col. Kory G. Cornum, to be Brigadier General.

Air Force nomination of Brig. Gen. Carol A. Lee, to be Major General.

Air Force nominations beginning with Brigadier General Eric W. Crabtree and ending with Brigadier General Lance D. Undhjem, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on December 9, 2009.

Air Force nomination of Col. Dixie A. Morrow, to be Brigadier General.

Air Force nomination of Col. Paul S. Dwan, to be Brigadier General.

Air Force nominations beginning with Col. Daniel B. Fincher and ending with Col. David C. Wesley, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on December 11, 2009.

Air Force nominations beginning with Colonel Gary C. Blaszkiewicz and ending with Colonel William O. Welch, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on December 11, 2009.

Air Force nomination of Brig. Gen. Steven J. Lepper, to be Major General.

Air Force nomination of Col. Gerard A. Caron, to be Major General.

Air Force nomination of Brig. Gen. Richard C. Harding, to be Lieutenant General.

Air Force nominations beginning with Brigadier General Samuel C. Heady and ending with Colonel Michael A. Wobbema, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on January 21, 2010.

Army nomination of Brig. Gen. Mary A. Legere, to be Major General.

Army nomination of Maj. Gen. Thomas P. Bostick, to be Lieutenant General.

Army nomination of Maj. Gen. Robert L. Caslen, Jr., to be Lieutenant General.

Army nomination of Brig. Gen. Steven W. Smith, to be Major General.

Army nomination of Brig. Gen. William D. Frink, Jr., to be Major General.

Army nominations beginning with Colonel Jeffrey N. Colt and ending with Colonel Donald M. MacWillie, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on January 26, 2010.

Navy nominations beginning with Captain Douglas J. Asbjornsen and ending with Captain Robert J. Kamensky, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on April 2, 2009.

Navy nomination of Vice Adm. David Architzel, to be Vice Admiral.

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, for the Committee on Armed Services I report favorably the following nomination lists which were printed in the RECORDS on the dates indicated, and ask unanimous consent, to save the expense of reprinting on the Executive Calendar that these nominations lie at the Secretary's desk for the information of Senators.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Air Force nomination of Joseph E. Sanders, to be Colonel.

Air Force nomination of Chinmoy Mishra, to be Lieutenant Colonel.

Air Force nomination of Charles F. Kimball, to be Major.

Air Force nominations beginning with Minh Thu Ngoc Le and ending with Robert C. Pope, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on December 2, 2009.

Air Force nominations beginning with Noemi Algarinlozano and ending with Patrick J. Williams, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on December 11, 2009.

Air Force nominations beginning with David W. Bobb and ending with Robert W. Wishtischin, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on December 11, 2009.

Air Force nominations beginning with Sean W. Digman and ending with David L. Robinson, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on December 11, 2009.

Air Force nominations beginning with Albert H. Bonnema and ending with Gianna R. Zeh, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on December 11, 2009.

Air Force nominations beginning with Eric R. Baugh, Jr. and ending with Karyn E. Young, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on December 11, 2009.

Air Force nominations beginning with Adam M. Anderson and ending with Shahid A. Zaidi, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on December 11, 2009.

Air Force nominations beginning with Brian J. Alent and ending with Rachel A. Weber, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on December 11, 2009.

Air Force nominations beginning with Eric E. Abbott and ending with Ethan Everett Zimmerman, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on December 11, 2009.

Air Force nomination of Lawrence W. Steinkraus, Jr., to be Colonel.

Air Force nominations beginning with Kristi L. Jones and ending with Bruno A. Schmitz, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on December 15, 2009.

Air Force nominations beginning with Raymond King and ending with Bernhard K. Stepke, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on December 15, 2009.

Air Force nominations beginning with Frank R. Aflague and ending with William T. Yates, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on December 21, 2009.

Air Force nominations beginning with Anthony N. Dills and ending with Michael D. Miller, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on January 21, 2010.

Air Force nominations beginning with Matthew A. Baack and ending with Rocky Zaccheus, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on January 21, 2010.

Air Force nomination of David A. Nordstrand, to be Colonel.

Air Force nominations beginning with Helen K. Crouch and ending with Mickra H. King, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on January 26, 2010.

Air Force nominations beginning with Randall B. Dell and ending with Eddie P. Sanchez, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on January 26, 2010.

Air Force nominations beginning with Charles T. Huguelet and ending with Michael E. Savage, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on January 26, 2010.

Air Force nominations beginning with Glenda K. M. Grones and ending with Nancy A. Westbrook, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on January 26, 2010.

Air Force nominations beginning with Frank J. Archer and ending with Eduardo San Miguel, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on January 26, 2010.

Air Force nominations beginning with Thomas J. Pizzolo and ending with Clifford Zdanowicz, Jr., which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on January 26, 2010.

Air Force nominations beginning with Tarn M. Abell and ending with John B. Williams, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on January 26, 2010.

Army nominations beginning with James R. Agar II and ending with Kerry M. Wheelehan, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on December 9, 2009.

Army nominations beginning with Olga M. Anderson and ending with D004179, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on December 11, 2009.

Army nomination of Dawn Y. Taylor, to be Major.

Army nominations beginning with Walter Coffey and ending with Russell P. Reiter, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on December 15, 2009.

Army nominations beginning with Dean A. Ambrose and ending with John W. Trogdon, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on December 15, 2009.

Army nominations beginning with Patrick R. Bossetta and ending with John R. Whitford, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on December 15, 2009.

Army nomination of Bess J. Pierce, to be Lieutenant Colonel.

Army nominations beginning with Janine G. Allbritton and ending with Scott J. Piecek, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on January 21, 2010.

Army nomination of Juan G. Lopez, to be Major.

Army nomination of Jeri R. Regan, to be Major.

Army nomination of Robin T. Worch, to be Major.

Army nominations beginning with Tyler E. Harris and ending with Kelly A. Supple, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on January 21, 2010.

Army nominations beginning with Scott D. Debolt and ending with Audrey D. Wilson, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on January 21, 2010.

Army nomination of Louis Gevirtzman, to be Colonel.

Army nominations beginning with Brenda M. Arzu and ending with John R. Mills, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on January 26, 2010.

Marine Corps nomination of Brian J. Dix, to be Major.

Marine Corps nomination of William J. Mitchell, to be Major.

Marine Corps nominations beginning with Sam B. Clonts, Jr. and ending with Ralph L. Price III, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on December 15, 2009.

Navy nomination of Donald J. Sheehan, Jr., to be Captain.

Navy nomination of Matthew S. Flemming, to be Commander.

Navy nomination of Richard K. Dougherty, to be Commander.

Navy nomination of Roldan C. Mina, to be Lieutenant Commander.

Navy nominations beginning with Jacob R. Hill and ending with William R. Woodfin, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on January 21, 2010.

Navy nominations beginning with David W. Terhune and ending with Det R. Smith, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on January 26, 2010.

Navy nominations beginning with Eric R. Akins and ending with Scott T. Wilbur, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on January 26, 2010.

*Nomination was reported with recommendation that it be confirmed subject to the nominee's commitment to respond to requests to appear and testify before any duly constituted committee of the Senate.

(Nominations without an asterisk were reported with the recommendation that they be confirmed.)

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. LUGAR (for himself and Mr. LEAHY):

S. 2974. A bill to establish the Return of Talent Program to allow aliens who are legally present in the United States to return temporarily to the country of citizenship of the alien if that country is engaged in post-conflict or natural disaster reconstruction, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. SCHUMER (for himself, Mr. NELSON of Florida, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. DURBIN, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. BROWN, and Mr. FRANKEN):

S. 2975. A bill to prohibit the manufacture, sale, or distribution in commerce of children's jewelry containing cadmium, barium, or antimony, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. LEVIN: (for himself and Ms. STABENOW):

S. 2976. A bill to designate as wilderness certain land and inland water within the Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore in the State of Michigan, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. GRAHAM (for himself, Mr. LIEBERMAN, Mr. WEBB, Mr. MCCAIN, Mrs. LINCOLN, Mr. BENNETT, Mr. CHAMBLISS, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. MCCONNELL, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. CORKER, Mr. KYL, Mr. COBURN, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. VITTER, Mr. HATCH, Mr. JOHANNS, Mr. ROBERTS, Mr. ALEXANDER, Mr. PRYOR, and Mr. THUNE):

S. 2977. A bill to prohibit the use of Department of Justice funds for the prosecution in Article III courts of the United States of individuals involved in the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. WYDEN (for himself and Mr. NELSON of Florida):

S. 2978. A bill to extend the Caribbean Basin Economic Recovery Act, to extend the trade preferences made available to Haiti under that Act, to encourage foreign investment in Haiti, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. LEAHY (for himself and Mr. KAUFMAN):

S. 2979. A bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to provide accountability for the criminal acts of Federal contractors and employees outside the United States, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. BENNETT (for himself, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. WICKER, Mr. VITTER, Mr. ENZI, Mr. BROWNBACK, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. ROBERTS, and Mr. HATCH):

S. 2980. A bill to protect the democratic process and the right of the people of the District of Columbia to define marriage; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Ms. SNOWE (for herself and Mr. THUNE):

S. 2981. A bill to reevaluate and redirect the stimulus; to the Committee on Appropriations.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mr. KAUFMAN (for himself, Mr. BROWNBACK, Mr. CASEY, Mr. KYL, Mr. FEINGOLD, Mr. WEBB, Mr. LIEBERMAN, Mr. SPECTER, Mr. MCCAIN, and Mr. CORNYN):

S. Res. 405. A resolution reaffirming the centrality of freedom of expression and press freedom as cornerstones of United States foreign policy and United States efforts to promote individual rights, and for other purposes; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. VITTER (for himself, Ms. LANDRIEU, Mr. BUNNING, Mr. CASEY, and Mr. JOHANNS):

S. Res. 406. A resolution recognizing the goals of Catholic Schools Week and honoring the valuable contributions of Catholic schools in the United States; considered and agreed to.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 570

At the request of Mr. VITTER, the names of the Senator from Idaho (Mr. CRAPO) and the Senator from Kansas (Mr. BROWNBACK) were added as cosponsors of S. 570, a bill to stimulate the economy and create jobs at no cost to the taxpayers, and without borrowing money from foreign governments for which our children and grandchildren will be responsible, and for other purposes.

S. 753

At the request of Mr. SCHUMER, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. KERRY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 753, a bill to prohibit the manufacture, sale, or distribution in commerce of children's food and beverage containers composed of bisphenol A, and for other purposes.

S. 827

At the request of Mr. ROCKEFELLER, the name of the Senator from Arkansas (Mrs. LINCOLN) 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. 841

At the request of Mr. KERRY, the name of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. UDALL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 841, a bill to direct the Secretary of Transportation to study and establish a motor vehicle safety standard that provides for a means of alerting blind and other pedestrians of motor vehicle operation.

S. 891

At the request of Mr. BROWNBACK, the name of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. LEAHY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 891, a bill to require annual disclosure to the Securities and Exchange Commission of activities involving columbite—tantalite, cassiterite, and wolframite from the Democratic Republic of Congo, and for other purposes.

S. 938

At the request of Ms. LANDRIEU, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. KERRY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 938, a bill to require the President to call a White House Conference on Children and Youth in 2010.

S. 1067

At the request of Mr. FEINGOLD, the names of the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. PRYOR), the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. BARRASSO), the Senator from Georgia (Mr. ISAKSON) and the Senator from Alabama (Mr. SESSIONS) were added as cosponsors of S. 1067, a bill to support stabilization and lasting peace in northern Uganda and areas affected by the Lord's Resistance Army through development of a regional strategy to support multilateral efforts to successfully protect civilians and eliminate the threat posed by the Lord's Resistance Army and to authorize funds for humanitarian relief and reconstruction, reconciliation, and transitional justice, and for other purposes.

S. 1147

At the request of Mr. KOHL, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1147, a bill to prevent tobacco smuggling, to ensure the collection of all tobacco taxes, and for other purposes.

S. 1153

At the request of Mr. SCHUMER, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. WYDEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1153, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend the exclusion from gross income for employer-provided health coverage for employees' spouses and dependent children to coverage provided to other eligible designated beneficiaries of employees.

S. 1518

At the request of Mr. BURR, the names of the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. WICKER) and the Senator from Georgia (Mr. ISAKSON) were added as cosponsors of S. 1518, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to furnish hospital care, medical services, and nursing home care to veterans who were stationed at Camp Lejeune, North Carolina, while the water was contaminated at Camp Lejeune.

S. 1606

At the request of Mr. WHITEHOUSE, the name of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. BENNET) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1606, a bill to require foreign manufacturers of products imported into the United States to establish registered agents in the United States who are authorized to accept service of process against such manufacturers, and for other purposes.

S. 1628

At the request of Mr. UDALL of Colorado, the names of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. BAYH) and the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. JOHNSON) were added as cosponsors of S. 1628, a bill to amend title VII of the Public Health Service Act to increase the number of physicians who practice in underserved rural communities.

S. 1682

At the request of Ms. CANTWELL, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1682, a bill to provide the Commodity Futures Trading Commission with clear antimarket manipulation authority, and for other purposes.

S. 1859

At the request of Mr. ROCKEFELLER, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Mr. CARDIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1859, a bill to reinstate Federal matching of State spending of child support incentive payments.

S. 2801

At the request of Mr. FRANKEN, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2801, a bill to provide children in foster care with school stability and equal access to educational opportunities.

S. 2913

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the name of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2913, a bill to establish a national mercury monitoring program, and for other purposes.

S. 2924

At the request of Mr. LEAHY, the name of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. LUGAR) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2924, a bill to reauthorize the Boys & Girls Clubs of America, in the wake of its Centennial, and its programs and activities.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. LEVIN:

S. 2976. A bill to designate as wilderness certain land and inland water within the Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore in the State of Michigan, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, today I am introducing with Senator STABENOW the Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore Conservation and Recreation Act, which would permanently protect 32,557 acres within the extraordinarily beautiful Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore located in the Michigan counties of Leelanau and Benzie. This legislation reflects the 2008 National Park Service wilderness proposal, which was the result of a lengthy public process beginning in 2006, and culminating in broad public support for the proposal. The wilderness designation improves upon a 1981 recommendation by ensuring that access to recreational areas is provided while protecting lands in their natural condition.

While there currently are no areas in the Lakeshore formally designated as wilderness, the National Park Service has been managing 30,903 acres as wilderness since 1982, when an amendment to the park's enabling legislation required the Park Service to manage land recommended as wilderness in 1981 in this manner ''until Congress determines otherwise.'' The legislation I am introducing today would modify somewhat which areas would be managed as wilderness to ensure visitors continue to have access to these lands. The bill specifically excludes developed county roads and State highways from the wilderness area such that access is not impeded for recreation and other purposes. Several areas for boat launching and historic structures have also been excluded from the wilderness designation. Even with these exclusions, the overall acreage that would be designated as wilderness is slightly more than the area currently managed as wilderness because Sleeping Bear Plateau would be protected. Importantly, the wilderness designation would still allow hunting and fishing, trail-use, and camping at Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore. Also, motor boats would still be allowed in Lake Michigan, and boaters would be allowed to beach their craft on beaches adjacent to the wilderness area.

The bill was carefully crafted to ensure that the wilderness designation would apply only to areas currently undeveloped and possessing natural characteristics and values. There are five areas that would be designated as wilderness by this legislation. Most of North and South Manitou Islands would be designated as wilderness, with some exclusions for boat launching, roads, and historic structures. Wilderness would also be designated in the north, central, and southern parts of the Lakeshore on the mainland. In the mainland areas there are also exclusions for roads and recreational and historic features.

The dramatic dunes, sandy beaches, steep bluffs, forests, inland lakes, agricultural lands, and historic structures of Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore embody the rich natural and cultural history of Michigan. This wilderness designation would ensure that current and future generations will be able to enjoy solitude and recreation in these treasured areas. Even as the Sleeping Bear dunes are ever-changing as they are sculpted by the wind, it is critical that we protect these and other natural assets from being altered by development. I hope we can have prompt consideration of this bill by the Senate.

By Mr. GRAHAM (for himself, Mr. LIEBERMAN, Mr. WEBB, Mr. MCCAIN, Mrs. LINCOLN, Mr. BENNETT, Mr. CHAMBLISS, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. MCCONNELL, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. CORKER, Mr. KYL, Mr. COBURN, MR. GRASSLEY, Mr. VITTER, Mr. HATCH, Mr. JOHANNS, Mr. ROBERTS, Mr. ALEXANDER, Mr. PRYOR, and Mr. THUNE):

S. 2977. A bill to prohibit the use of Department of Justice for the prosecution in Article III courts of the United States of individuals involved in the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

Mr. CHAMBLISS. Mr. President, I rise to speak about this administration's decision to try the 9/11 conspirators and the Christmas bomber in our civilian criminal justice system.

Prosecuting the five 9/11 conspirators currently detained at the Guantanamo Bay detention facility, as well as the Christmas bomber, Umar Farouk Abdulmutallab, in article III criminal court indicates a disturbing tendency by this administration to make terrorism a law enforcement priority rather than an intelligence priority. It a mistake to treat terrorism as a law enforcement problem alone, a mistake that is only compounded by the fact that the intelligence community was not even consulted before they were prevented from gathering any intelligence from Abdulmutallab, a member of a terrorist organization sworn to be at war with America. As the 9/11 Commission found:

> An unfortunate consequence of this superb investigative and prosecutorial effort was that it created an impression that the law enforcement system was well equipped to cope with terrorism.

As we know from an examination of events before 9/11, law enforcement means alone cannot eliminate the threat from al-Qaida.

After Abdulmutallab failed to detonate an explosive device on Northwest flight 253, he was taken into custody by law enforcement. Other than the Federal Bureau of Investigation, no member of the intelligence community—in particular, the Central Intelligence Agency—had the opportunity to question Abdulmutallab and gather intelligence. The Department of Justice should have foreseen that a dedicated terrorist, intent on committing suicide and harming Americans, would not be willing to cooperate with U.S. law enforcement, especially after being informed of his rights under our criminal code, including the right to remain silent. Without consulting the intelligence community, the Department of Justice limited the tools used to gather intelligence and potentially prevent future terrorist attacks.

The administration is returning to the idea that terrorism can be investigated by the FBI and prosecuted rather than relying on our intelligence community and military to disrupt attacks. The United States should not revert to the days where we waited for an attack to occur, then investigated it and prosecuted it. We must work actively to disrupt terrorist attacks before they take the lives of Americans. We must work actively to deny terrorist safe havens and financing. The most successful way to disrupt and deny terrorist activity is through the intelligence we gather on individuals prior to a criminal or terrorist act occurring or from those individuals after they have made such an attempt.

Treating these terrorists as common criminals will put our communities in danger, toll the taxpayers, and cause the government to miss valuable intelligence collection opportunities. For example, bringing the five 9/11 conspirators to New York City is estimated to cost over $200 million per year just in enhanced security. This does not include the cost to millions of New Yorkers and businesses who will have to adjust their way of life to accommodate these trials. Meanwhile, this will allow terrorists to mock our justice system and use it as a stage to espouse their jihadist beliefs and expose our intelligence sources and methods. We have already seen Zacarias Moussaoui use his trial in Virginia to spout al-Qaida propaganda and to try to portray himself as a martyr. Meanwhile, terrorism trials during the 1990s in our criminal courts exposed sensitive and classified information to, among others, Osama bin Laden, including the fact that the U.S. intelligence community was targeting his communications.

Let me be clear. These are not common criminals, and they should not be treated as such. The five terrorists responsible for planning and organizing the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks—including self-proclaimed 9/11 mastermind Khalid Shaikh Mohammed—should not be entitled to receive the same legal treatment as our Constitution gives to common criminals in this country. These terrorists committed an act of war, an act that led us to an armed conflict in Afghanistan, where, today, more than 8 years later, our troops are still battling al-Qaida. These terrorists should face justice through the military commission process for the atrocities they committed—the same process that had already charged these five terrorists and began over a year ago; the same process that KSM already pleaded guilty under but that the President abolished as soon as he took office.

For these reasons, I joined a bipartisan group of Senators, today, in introducing legislation that would prohibit funding for the prosecuting of the 9/11 conspirators in our U.S. criminal article III courts.

Under his Constitutional authority as Commander in Chief, along with the Congressional Authorization for the Use of Military Force, the President has the authority—and the responsibility—to detain the 9/11 conspirators and Abdulmutallab because of their actions on behalf of al-Qaida, and to pursue trial by military commission—an option the President determined appropriate for other terrorits, such as Abd al-Rahim al-Nashiri, who was responsible for the USS *Cole* bombing. Instead, by prosecuting Abdulmutallab and the 9/11 conspirators in criminal court, and Nashiri and others by military commission, it creates the impression that terrorists are rewarded with the full complement of rights and privileges of an American if they attack defenseless civilians at home, but not if they attack our government or military interests abroad. This will only further incentivize terrorists to attack our homeland.

As the attempted terrorists attack on Christmas Day illustrates, al-Qaida does not need further incentive to attack America. They are focused on and engaged in harming Americans here and abroad. As such, it is critical that our intelligence community have every opportunity to gain information so we can stay one step ahead of any related terrorists threats. Obtaining intelligence first rather than affording constitutional rights to a foreign terrorist is an obvious solution. Treating members of al-Qaida the same as we treat others captured on the battlefield is another.

By Mr. WYDEN (for himself and Mr. NELSON of Florida):

S. 2978. A bill to extend the Caribbean Basin Economic Recovery Act, to extend the trade preferences made available to Haiti under that Act, to encourage foreign investment in Haiti, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, today I am pleased to introduce legislation to help encourage Haitian economic development, by promoting U.S.-Haitian trade and investment. The legislation, the Renewing Hope for Haitian Trade and Investment Act of 2010, would in part renew provisions of U.S. trade law that are currently scheduled to expire and which have been critical to the growth of the Haitian apparel sector, which sustains tens of thousands of jobs in Haiti.

Apparel is a core industry sector in Haiti, accounting for an estimated 25,000 jobs and 75–80 percent of Haiti's export earnings.

The devastating January 12 earthquake in Haiti caused widespread damage to the industry. The damage has caused transportation and assembly production bottlenecks, and compounded existing challenges such as lack of industrial space, poor road and port conditions, unreliable electricity, and the high cost of capital.

As of January 2010, Haiti's apparel industry is reportedly running at 50 percent of capacity as a result of the earthquake. Producers hope to increase production to 70 percent of capacity in the next 4–6 weeks, depending on improvements to electricity and water supplies.

Most apparel imports from Haiti come into the U.S. free of duties, because of provisions in the Caribbean Basin Trade Partnership Act, CBTPA. Unfortunately, these provisions expire in September of this year. This expiration is dampening interest in placing additional apparel orders, so it is critical that Congress extend this important program, and do so expeditiously. The Renewing Hope for Haitian Trade and Investment Act of 2010 would extend CBTPA for an additional 3 years.

Increasingly, producers are using a new program called the Hemispheric Opportunity through Partnership Encouragement, HOPE, program to send Haitian apparel to the U.S. free of duty. While utilization of this program, which began in 2006, is growing, it faced early challenges and has since been amended. The amendments have been helpful, but extending this program would help send a signal to potential investors to go into Haiti and build the factories that will employ hundreds or thousands more Haitian workers. The Renewing Hope for Haitian Trade and Investment Act would ''restart the clock'' on the HOPE program and extend it through 2022.

Furthermore, a challenging investment climate and cumbersome Customs procedures for moving goods in and out of Haiti are imposing significant challenges to private-sector Haitian producers. The Renewing Hope for Haitian Trade and Investment Act would help in these areas, too.

Over the past few weeks, I have reached out to a broad group of stakeholders in order to identify the near-term challenges that face Haiti's apparel production industry. We focused on identifying short-term constraints that exist because of the January earthquake. I look forward to continuing to work with these stakeholders going forward in order to ensure quick passage of a bill that has a maximum amount of consensus between U.S. and Haitian producers, nongovernmental organizations, and others.

I would particularly like to acknowledge the leadership of Senator BILL NELSON on this proposal. His keen understanding of Haiti and how U.S. trade laws work to help Haitian economic development was critical to constructing this legislation. I look forward to working with Senators NELSON, BAUCUS, GRASSLEY, and Chairmen RANGEL and LEVIN on this proposal and other ideas to spur Haiti's economy. Each of these members is a vociferous champion of Haitian economic development, promoted in part by thoughtful trade and investment policies.

I encourage all my colleagues to join in supporting this critical legislation to help Haitians who were flattened both economically and literally by last month's earthquake get back on their feet.

By Mr. LEAHY (for himself and Mr. KAUFMAN):

S. 2979. A bill to amend title 18, United States Cose, to provide accountability for the criminal acts of Federal contractors and employees outside the United States, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, over the past year, President Obama has been working hard to restore America's credibility in the world and our reputation for justice and our commitment to the rule of law. A key component of that important mission is ensuring accountability for American contractors and employees overseas. Accountability is crucial, not just for our image abroad and our diplomatic relations, but for ensuring our national security.

To restore accountability, Congress must make sure that our criminal laws reach serious misconduct by American government employees and contractors wherever they act. Today, I join with Senator KAUFMAN to introduce the Civilian Extraterritorial Jurisdiction Act, CEJA, to accomplish this important and common sense goal.

Tragic events in Iraq in 2007 made clear the need to strengthen the laws providing for jurisdiction over American government employees and contractors working abroad. In September 2007, Blackwater security contractors working for the State Department shot more than 20 unarmed civilians on the streets of Baghdad, killing at least 14 of them, and causing an international incident with the Iraqi government.

The Federal Bureau of Investigation, FBI, conducted a full-scale criminal investigation of the Blackwater shootings, and prosecutors brought indictments against five contractors. Last month, a Federal district judge dismissed all the charges because of an order from the past administration immunizing Blackwater contractors under Iraqi law and immunity commitments by the prior administration to obtain the testimony of some. Although the Justice Department is expected to appeal the dismissals, this could mean that those who perpetrated this act will not be held accountable. I believe that, had jurisdiction for these offenses been clear, FBI agents would have been on the scene immediately, which could well have prevented the problems that have plagued the case.

Other incidents have made all too clear that the Blackwater case was not an isolated incident of contractor misconduct, and accountability for U.S. Government contractors and employees is essential. Private security contractors have been involved in violent

incidents in Iraq, including other shooting incidents in which civilians have been seriously injured or killed. In these cases too, there have not been prosecutions.

Last fall, the Senate Judiciary Committee heard testimony from Jamie Leigh Jones, a young woman from Texas who took a job with Halliburton in 2005 when she was 20 years old. In her first week on the job, she was drugged and gang-raped by co-workers. When she reported this assault, her employers moved her to a locked trailer, where she was kept by armed guards and denied even access to a phone.

Only after pleading with her captors was she eventually given use of a phone. She called her father, who contacted her Congressman, who in turn contacted the State Department. State Department officials were able to free her. Ms. Jones testified about the arbitration clause in her contract that prevented her from suing Halliburton for this outrageous conduct, and Congress has moved to change the civil law to prevent that kind of injustice. Today we seek to fix the outdated criminal laws that have also contributed to the failure to bring those who perpetrated this heinous crime to justice.

Unfortunately, many other women have encountered similar abuse and have similarly seen their attackers escape any accountability. Also last year, we learned that contractors hired to secure the American Embassy in Afghanistan engaged in various forms of outrageous conduct but there, too, there have been no prosecutions. It is time to correct this injustice.

I worked with Senator SESSIONS and others in 2000 to pass the Military Extraterritorial Jurisdiction Act, MEJA, and then again to amend it in 2004, so that U.S. criminal laws would extend to all members of the U.S. military, to those who accompany the military, and to all contractors who support the Defense Department mission overseas. We wanted to make sure that all contractors working alongside the U.S. military or protecting U.S. interests overseas were held to the same standard that they would be at home. We pay these contractors with taxpayers' money, they represent the U.S. overseas, and they should be held to the same standards as our military.

In 2007, I worked with then-Senator Obama and with Senators SESSIONS and SPECTER on further legislation which would have amended MEJA to make sure that all security contractors, not just those supporting the Defense Department, are accountable under U.S. law.

Today, we introduce a bill that would finally address this issue in a comprehensive way, establishing clearly that all U.S. Government employees and contractors who commit crimes while working abroad can be charged and tried in the United States under U.S. law. The State Department, the U.S. Agency for International Development, and numerous other Government agencies have employees, and in recent years, more and more private contractors, working abroad. There must be accountability for all of these people who represent our Government overseas. In those instances where the local justice system may be less fair, this explicit jurisdiction will also protect Americans by providing the option of prosecuting them in the U.S., rather than leaving them subject to hostile and unpredictable local courts.

Not only will this bill help to provide justice in cases where there has been none, it will improve our national security by allowing prosecution of those who undermine our efforts to create stability and improve foreign relations. By ensuring accountability in cases of wrongdoing against citizens of the host country, as in the Blackwater case, we will increase international trust and cooperation, including from those countries most essential to our counter-terrorism and national security efforts. The current lack of accountability reduces international confidence in our military and our Government, which undermines our national defense. Moreover, the talented men and women we need to advance our national security efforts will be more likely to step forward and serve if we stamp out the lawless atmosphere in places like Iraq and Afghanistan.

The legislation we introduce today would further increase accountability by providing additional resources and creating new units to investigate wrongdoing by contractors and employees abroad and by calling on the Attorney General and the Justice Department's Inspector General to report to Congress on investigations under this bill.

In the past, legislation in this area has been bipartisan. I hope it will be again. Senator KAUFMAN and I are willing to work to address any concerns with this legislation and to ensure that it promises justice in a way that strengthens, rather than weakens, our national security. Congressman PRICE is introducing a companion bill in the House. I hope that we will be able to rapidly pass this important reform into law.

As we seek to restore our Nation's historic role as one of responsible leadership in the world, we must ensure that the values that brought us to that leadership are firmly in place. One of those great American values is the rule of law. No one should be above the law, certainly not American employees and contractors representing this great nation throughout the world. This common sense bill would promote the rule of law throughout the world and make us stronger in the process. I hope Senators on both sides of the aisle will join us.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the text of the bill was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 2979

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 ''Civilian Extraterritorial Jurisdiction Act (CEJA) of 2010''.

SEC. 2. ACCOUNTABILITY FOR CRIMINAL ACTS OF FEDERAL CONTRACTORS AND EMPLOYEES OUTSIDE THE UNITED STATES.

(a) EXTRATERRITORIAL JURISDICTION OVER FEDERAL CONTRACTORS AND EMPLOYEES.—Chapter 212A of title 18, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by transferring the text of section 3272 to the end of section 3271, redesignating such text as subsection (c) of section 3271, and, in such text, as so redesignated, by striking ''this chapter'' and inserting ''this section'';

(2) by striking the heading of section 3272; and

(3) by adding after section 3271, as amended by this subsection, the following new sections:

''§ 3272. Offenses committed by Federal contractors and employees outside the United States

''(a) Whoever, while employed by or accompanying any department or agency of the United States other than the Armed Forces, knowingly engages in conduct (or conspires or attempts to engage in conduct) outside the United States that would constitute an offense enumerated in subsection (c) had the conduct been engaged in within the United States or within the special maritime and territorial jurisdiction of the United States shall be punished as provided for that offense.

''(b) No prosecution for an offense may be commenced against a person under this section if a foreign government, in accordance with jurisdiction recognized by the United States, has prosecuted or is prosecuting such person for the conduct constituting the offense, except upon the approval of the Attorney General or the Deputy Attorney General (or a person acting in either such capacity), which function of approval may not be delegated.

''(c) The offenses covered by subsection (a) are the following:

''(1) Any offense under chapter 5 (arson) of this title.

''(2) Any offense under section 111 (assaulting, resisting, or impeding certain officers or employees), 113 (assault within maritime and territorial jurisdiction), or 114 (maiming within maritime and territorial jurisdiction) of this title, but only if the offense is subject to a maximum sentence of imprisonment of one year or more.

''(3) Any offense under section 201 (bribery of public officials and witnesses) of this title.

''(4) Any offense under section 499 (military, naval, or official passes) of this title.

''(5) Any offense under section 701 (official badges, identifications cards, and other insignia), 702 (uniform of armed forces and Public Health Service), 703 (uniform of friendly nation), or 704 (military medals or decorations) of this title.

''(6) Any offense under chapter 41 (extortion and threats) of this title, but only if the offense is subject to a maximum sentence of imprisonment of three years or more.

''(7) Any offense under chapter 42 (extortionate credit transactions) of this title.

''(8) Any offense under section 924(c) (use of firearm in violent or drug trafficking crime) or 924(o) (conspiracy to violate section 924(c)) of this title.

''(9) Any offense under chapter 50A (genocide) of this title.

''(10) Any offense under section 1111 (murder), 1112 (manslaughter), 1113 (attempt to

commit murder or manslaughter), 1114 (protection of officers and employees of the United States), 1116 (murder or manslaughter of foreign officials, official guests, or internationally protected persons), 1117 (conspiracy to commit murder), or 1119 (foreign murder of United States nationals) of this title.

''(11) Any offense under chapter 55 (kidnapping) of this title.

''(12) Any offense under section 1503 (influencing or injuring officer or juror generally), 1505 (obstruction of proceedings before departments, agencies, and committees), 1510 (obstruction of criminal investigations), 1512 (tampering with a witness, victim, or informant), or 1513 (retaliating against a witness, victim, or an informant) of this title.

''(13) Any offense under section 1951 (interference with commerce by threats or violence), 1952 (interstate and foreign travel or transportation in aid of racketeering enterprises), 1956 (laundering of monetary instruments), 1957 (engaging in monetary transactions in property derived from specified unlawful activity), 1958 (use of interstate commerce facilities in the commission of murder for hire), or 1959 (violent crimes in aid of racketeering activity) of this title.

''(14) Any offense under section 2111 (robbery or burglary within special maritime and territorial jurisdiction) of this title.

''(15) Any offense under chapter 109A (sexual abuse) of this title.

''(16) Any offense under chapter 113B (terrorism) of this title.

''(17) Any offense under chapter 113C (torture) of this title.

''(18) Any offense under chapter 115 (treason, sedition, and subversive activities) of this title.

''(19) Any offense under chapter 118 (war crimes) of this title.

''(20) Any offense under section 401 (manufacture, distribution, or possession with intent to distribute a controlled substance) or 408 (continuing criminal enterprise) of the Controlled Substances Act (21 U.S.C. 841, 848), or under section 1002 (importation of controlled substances), 1003 (exportation of controlled substances), or 1010 (import or export of a controlled substance) of the Controlled Substances Import and Export Act (21 U.S.C. 952, 953, 960), but only if the offense is subject to a maximum sentence of imprisonment of 20 years or more.

''(d) In this section:

''(1) The term 'employed by any department or agency of the United States other than the Armed Forces' means—

''(A) employed as a civilian employee, a contractor (including a subcontractor at any tier), an employee of a contractor (or a subcontractor at any tier), a grantee (including a contractor of a grantee or a subgrantee or subcontractor at any tier), or an employee of a grantee (or a contractor of a grantee or a subgrantee or subcontractor at any tier) of any department or agency of the United States other than the Armed Forces;

''(B) present or residing outside the United States in connection with such employment;

''(C) in the case of such a contractor, contractor employee, grantee, or grantee employee, such employment supports a program, project, or activity for a department or agency of the United States other than the Armed Forces; and

''(D) not a national of or ordinarily resident in the host nation.

''(2) The term 'accompanying any department or agency of the United States other than the Armed Forces' means—

''(A) a dependant of—

''(i) a civilian employee of any department or agency of the United States other than the Armed Forces; or

''(ii) a contractor (including a subcontractor at any tier), an employee of a contractor (or a subcontractor at any tier), a grantee (including a contractor of a grantee or a subgrantee or subcontractor at any tier), or an employee of a grantee (or a contractor of a grantee or a subgrantee or subcontractor at any tier) of any department or agency of the United States other than the Armed Forces, which contractor, contractor employee, grantee, or grantee employee is supporting a program, project, or activity for a department or agency of the United States other than the Armed Forces;

''(B) residing with such civilian employee, contractor, contractor employee, grantee, or grantee employee outside the United States; and

''(C) not a national of or ordinarily resident in the host nation.

''(3) The term 'grant agreement' means a legal instrument described in section 6304 or 6305 of title 31, other than an agreement between the United States and a State, local, or foreign government or an international organization.

''(4) The term 'grantee' means a party, other than the United States, to a grant agreement.

''(5) The term 'Armed Forces' has the meaning given the term 'armed forces' in section 101(a)(4) of title 10.

''§ 3273. Regulations

''The Attorney General, after consultation with the Secretary of Defense, the Secretary of State, and the Director of National Intelligence, shall prescribe regulations governing the investigation, apprehension, detention, delivery, and removal of persons described in sections 3271 and 3272 of this title.''.

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—The heading of chapter 212A of such title is amended to read as follows:

''CHAPTER 212A—EXTRATERRITORIAL JURISDICTION OVER OFFENSES OF CONTRACTORS AND CIVILIAN EMPLOYEES OF THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT''.

(c) CLERICAL AMENDMENTS.—

(1) TABLE OF SECTIONS.—The table of sections at the beginning of chapter 212A of title 18, United States Code, is amended by striking the item relating to section 3272 and inserting the following new items:

''3272. Offenses committed by Federal contractors and employees outside the United States.
''3273. Regulations.''.

(2) TABLE OF CHAPTERS.—The item relating to chapter 212A in the table of chapters at the beginning of part II of such title is amended to read as follows:

''212A. Extraterritorial Jurisdiction Over Offenses of Contractors and Civilian Employees of the Federal Government ..... 3271''.

SEC. 3. INVESTIGATIVE UNITS FOR CONTRACTOR AND EMPLOYEE OVERSIGHT.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT OF INVESTIGATIVE UNITS FOR CONTRACTOR AND EMPLOYEE OVERSIGHT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Attorney General, in consultation with the Secretary of Defense, the Secretary of State, the Secretary of Homeland Security, and the heads of any other departments or agencies of the Federal Government responsible for employing contractors or persons overseas—

(A) shall assign adequate personnel and resources through the creation of units (to be known as ''Investigative Units for Contractor and Employee Oversight'') to investigate allegations of criminal offenses under chapter 212A of title 18, United States Code (as amended by section 2(a) of this Act), and may authorize the overseas deployment of law enforcement agents and other government personnel for that purpose; and

(B) shall include in the regulations prescribed under section 3273 of title 18, United States Code (as added by section 2(a) of this Act), provisions setting forth responsibility for the investigation of any incident in which—

(i) a weapon is allegedly discharged unlawfully by a person, while employed by or accompanying any department or agency of the United States other than the Armed Forces; or

(ii) a person or persons are killed or seriously injured, or property valued greater than $10,000 is destroyed, as a result of conduct by a person, while employed by or accompanying any department or agency of the United States other than the Armed Forces.

(2) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this subsection shall be construed to limit any authority of the Attorney General or any Federal law enforcement agency to investigate violations of Federal law or deploy personnel overseas.

(b) RESPONSIBILITIES OF ATTORNEY GENERAL.—

(1) INVESTIGATION.—The Attorney General shall have principal authority for the enforcement of chapter 212A of title 18, United States Code (as so amended), and shall have the authority to initiate, conduct, and supervise investigations of any alleged offenses under such chapter.

(2) ARREST.—The Attorney General may designate and authorize any person serving in a law enforcement position in the Department of Justice or any person serving in a law enforcement position in any other department or agency of the Federal Government, including a member of the Diplomatic Security Service of the Department of State or a military police officer of the Armed Forces, to arrest outside the United States, in accordance with applicable international treaties, any person described in section 3271 or 3272 of title 18, United States Code (as so amended), if there is probable cause to believe such person committed an offense or offenses in such section 3271 or 3272.

(3) PROSECUTION.—The Attorney General may establish such procedures the Attorney General considers appropriate to ensure that Federal law enforcement agencies refer offenses under section 3271 or 3272 of title 18, United States Code (as so amended), to the Attorney General for prosecution in a uniform and timely manner.

(4) ASSISTANCE ON REQUEST OF ATTORNEY GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any statute, rule, or regulation to the contrary, the Attorney General may request assistance from the Secretary of Defense, the Secretary of State, or the head of any other Executive agency to enforce section 3271 or 3272 of title 18, United States Code (as so amended). The assistance requested may include the following:

(A) The assignment of additional personnel and resources to an Investigative Unit for Contractor and Employee Oversight established by the Attorney General under subsection (a).

(B) An investigation into alleged misconduct or arrest of an individual suspected of alleged misconduct by agents of the Diplomatic Security Service of the Department of State present in the nation in which the alleged misconduct occurs.

(5) ANNUAL REPORT.—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter for five years, the Attorney General shall, in consultation with the Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of State, submit to Congress a report containing the following:

(A) The number of offenses under chapter 212A of title 18, United States Code (as so amended), received, investigated, and referred for prosecution by Federal law enforcement authorities during the previous year.

(B) The number of prosecutions under chapter 212A of title 18, United States Code (as so amended), including the nature of the offenses and any dispositions reached, during the previous year.

(C) The number, location, and any deployments of Investigative Units for Contractor and Employee Oversight to investigate offenses under chapter 212A of title 18, United States Code (as so amended), during the previous year.

(D) Such recommendations for legislative or administrative action as the Attorney General considers appropriate to enforce chapter 212A of title 18, United States Code (as so amended), and the provisions of this section.

(c) EXECUTIVE AGENCY.—In this section, the term ''Executive agency'' has the meaning given that term in section 105 of title 5, United States Code.

SEC. 4. EFFECTIVE DATE.

(a) IMMEDIATE EFFECTIVENESS.—This Act and the amendments made by this Act shall take effect on the date of the enactment of this Act.

(b) IMPLEMENTATION.—The Attorney General and the head of any other department or agency of the Federal Government to which this Act applies shall have 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act to ensure compliance with the provisions of this Act.

SEC. 5. RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.

Nothing in this Act or any amendment made by this Act shall be construed to limit or affect the application of extraterritorial jurisdiction related to any other Federal law.

SEC. 6. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

For each of the fiscal years 2010 through 2015, there are authorized to be appropriated to the Attorney General such sums as are necessary to carry out this Act.

By Ms. SNOWE (for herself and Mr. THUNE):

S. 2981. A bill to reevaluate and redirect the stimulus; to the Committee on Appropriations.

Ms. SNOWE. Mr. President, I rise today with my friend and colleague Senator THUNE to introduce the Reevaluate and Redirect the Stimulus Act of 2010 that would require the Obama Administration's Office of Management and Budget, OMB, to make proposals to redirect stimulus funds approved in last year's $787 billion American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. Although I supported the stimulus and favor the continuation of pro-growth policies, given that the federal deficit for Fiscal Year 2009 was a staggering $1.4 trillion and that the Congressional Budget Office announced on January 26 that it is projecting a baseline deficit of $6.047 trillion over the next 10 years, Congress must do more to pair the resources targeted for job creation with reductions in other areas.

Before I describe the provisions of the legislation I am introducing today, I must say that it is regrettable that I feel compelled to offer a bill at all. The fact is, I wrote a letter last December 11 to OMB Director Peter Orszag urging him to analyze unobligated funds in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act to determine whether they should be reprogrammed to offset the cost of future stimulus legislation. Although my letter requested a response by January 1, the administration, who is solely responsible for distributing stimulus spending, has declined to do so. The Administration also opted against including any related proposals in its just-released Fiscal Year 2011 Budget. I find it inconceivable that there are no funds that should be redirected, and thus the Administration has concluded that every dollar we approved last February is working precisely as intended. Additionally, I am particularly concerned by proposals to pay for additional stimulus by reducing the authorization level for the Troubled Asset Relief Program, TARP, as the House did last December. The fact is that further stimulus spending claimed to be offset by reducing TARP's authorization level would still increase the deficit relative to simply not using additional TARP funds at all.

Despite OMB's inattention to my request, the administration and Congress both remain accountable to ensure that each dollar we spend on stimulus either creates jobs at a greater rate or protects displaced individuals at a lower cost than competing policies on the table. To the degree that either the tax or spending proposals President Obama has or that members of Congress want to pursue are more beneficial than proceeding to obligate funds still available in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, the administration and Congress should assess the possibility of redirecting those resources. We simply cannot afford to be poor fiscal stewards and engage in wasteful spending that will rob future generations of prosperity.

To fulfill this fundamental obligation, the legislation I am offering today would make it a statutory requirement for OMB, within the next 15 days, to provide Congress with a list of provisions from the stimulus for which there remain funds that have not yet been obligated. Second, OMB would be required to provide Congress with a list of programs included in the stimulus with remaining unobligated funds that it recommends be redirected toward more effective programs to either assist the displaced, or spur job creation. Once Congress receives the administration's proposals, all Members, as well as the appropriate Congressional committees, can evaluate their suitability with an eye toward using them as offsets for forthcoming legislation.

I hope that my colleagues will join me in supporting this legislation and help to swiftly make it law. The administration and Congress must work together to address our tremendous budget deficit and insist that every dollar we spend promotes its objective. Given that it oversees stimulus spending and has the capacity to evaluate whether programs are working as intended, it is only appropriate that the administration complete the first step of this process and provide Congress with a list of spending that could be redirected. Once it does so, I will certainly insist that Congress discharge its responsibility of carefully evaluating the administration's proposals. Individuals seeking relief from the recession that has so ravaged our economy expect nothing less as it is unfair to waste dollars that could be more beneficial elsewhere, and future generations who will have to repay today's deficits will thank us as well.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the text of the bill was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 2981

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 ''Reevaluate and Redirect the Stimulus Act of 2010''.

SEC. 2. OMB CERTIFICATION.

Not later 15 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Director of the Office of Management and Budget (referred to in this Act as the ''Director'') shall provide to Congress—

(1) a list of programs that have unobligated stimulus funds provided under the American Reinvestment and Recovery Act of 2009 and the amounts that are unobligated; and

(2) a list of stimulus funds that remain unobligated that the Director recommends be redirected toward more effective programs to either assist displaced workers or spur job creation in 2010 with a breakdown of the amounts of unobligated funds that could be reprogrammed by program.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 405—REAFFIRMING THE CENTRALITY OF FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND PRESS FREEDOM AS CORNERSTONES OF UNITED STATES FOREIGN POLICY AND UNITED STATES EFFORTS TO PROMOTE INDIVIDUAL RIGHTS, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Mr. KAUFMAN (for himself, Mr. BROWNBACK, Mr. CASEY, Mr. KYL, Mr. FEINGOLD, Mr. WEBB, Mr. LIEBERMAN, Mr. SPECTER, Mr. MCCAIN, and Mr. CORNYN) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 405

Whereas Google announced on January 12, 2010, the mid-December 2009 discovery that it had been victimized by a highly sophisticated and targeted cyber attack on its corporate infrastructure originating from China that resulted in the theft of its intellectual property;

Whereas Google also announced it had evidence to suggest that a primary goal of the attackers was accessing the Gmail accounts of Chinese human rights activists, and that the evidence revealed separate attempts to penetrate Gmail accounts of Chinese human

rights activists, journalists, and dissidents in the United States, Europe, and China;

Whereas the targeting of Google is believed to be part of a larger effort to access the computer networks of at least 34 companies, including major financial, defense, media, and technology firms and research institutions in the United States;

Whereas this attack was one in a series of attempts to exploit security flaws and illegally access computer networks of individuals and institutions through the clandestine installation of phishing and malware technology;

Whereas the 2009 ''Report to Congress of the US-China Economic and Security Review Commission'' stated that ''a significant and increasing body of circumstantial and forensic evidence strongly indicates the involvement of Chinese state and state-supported entities'' in malicious computer activities against the United States;

Whereas approximately 338,000,000 Internet users in China represent the largest population of Internet users worldwide, and the Government of China employs a sophisticated, multi-layered, and wide-ranging apparatus to curtail Internet freedom, as detailed in the 2009 ''Freedom on the Net'' report by the Freedom House organization;

Whereas Article 35 of the constitution of the People's Republic of China guarantees freedom of speech, assembly, association, and publication;

Whereas authorities in China employ legal and economic means to coerce Internet service providers, web hosting firms, and mobile phone companies to delete and censor online content and discussions created by Chinese users;

Whereas the Government of China requires domestic Chinese and foreign companies with subsidiaries in China, including Google, to adjust their business practices to allow increased filtering and supervision by the Government of China, restricting content allowed by technology-based products, and censoring data available on search engines;

Whereas, in 2003, the Government of China implemented the Golden Shield Project to control access and information on the Internet on grounds of public safety, including through protocol address blocking, domain name system filtering and redirection, uniform resource locator filtering, packet filtering, connection resets, and other online methods that could amount to censorship of high-value speech;

Whereas the Government of China frequently blocks United States international broadcasting by Radio Free Asia (RFA) and Voice of America (VOA), despite the unimpeded broadcast in the United States of state-run media outlets in China, China Central Television, and China Radio International;

Whereas, as of December 1, 2009, China had imprisoned 24 traditional and online journalists, accounting for nearly 20 percent of all imprisoned journalists worldwide at that time, according to the annual prison census of the Committee to Protect Journalists;

Whereas, following riots in the Xinjiang region of China in July 2009, more than 50 Uighur-language Internet forums were closed and communications were cut in Urumqi, China, and foreign journalists visiting the area were closely monitored by the authorities;

Whereas, during the Summer 2008 Olympics in Beijing, limits were placed on freedom of expression and media coverage, contrary to previous commitments made by the Government of China to the International Olympic Committee;

Whereas ill-defined charges such as ''subversion of the government'' and ''disseminating rumors'' serve as the legal basis to sentence journalists, bloggers, and others who express or disseminate views critical of the Government of China; and

Whereas, on January 21, 2010, Secretary of State Hillary Clinton pledged enhanced United States support for Internet freedom, saying, ''We stand for a single internet where all of humanity has equal access to knowledge and ideas . . . countries that restrict free access to information or violate the basic rights of internet users risk walling themselves off from the progress of the next century.'': Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) reaffirms the centrality of freedom of expression and press freedom as cornerstones of United States foreign policy and United States efforts to promote individual rights;

(2) expresses serious concern over ongoing official efforts in many countries to restrict speech and expression, including attempts to censor, restrict, and monitor access to the Internet;

(3) welcomes the diplomatic initiative announced by Secretary of State Hillary Clinton on January 21, 2010, to encourage Internet freedom globally by ''supporting the development of new tools that enable citizens to exercise their rights of free expression by circumventing politically motivated censorship . . . with a focus on implementing these programs as efficiently and effectively as possible'';

(4) condemns the far-reaching cyber attacks allegedly launched from China against Google, at least 34 other companies, and numerous individuals discovered in December 2009;

(5) calls on the Government of China to conduct a thorough review of these cyber intrusions, and to make the investigation and its results transparent;

(6) pays tribute to the professional and citizen journalists who persevere in their dedication to report in China;

(7) urges companies to engage in responsible business practices in the face of efforts by foreign governments to restrict the free flow of information by refusing to aid in the curtailment of free expression; and

(8) calls on the President and the Secretary of State to develop means by which the United States Government can more rapidly identify, publicize, and respond to threats against freedom of press and freedom of expression around the world, including through support of new and existing censorship circumvention technology.

SENATE RESOLUTION 406—RECOGNIZING THE GOALS OF CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK AND HONORING THE VALUABLE CONTRIBUTIONS OF CATHOLIC SCHOOLS IN THE UNITED STATES

Mr. VITTER (for himself, Ms. LANDRIEU, Mr. BUNNING, Mr. CASEY, and Mr. JOHANNS) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 406

Whereas Catholic schools in the United States have received international acclaim for academic excellence while providing students with lessons that extend far beyond the classroom;

Whereas Catholic schools present a broad curriculum that emphasizes the lifelong development of moral, intellectual, physical, and social values in the young people of the United States;

Whereas Catholic schools in the United States today educate 2,192,531 students and maintain a student-to-teacher ratio of 14 to 1;

Whereas the faculty members of Catholic schools teach a highly diverse body of students;

Whereas the graduation rate for all Catholic school students is 99 percent;

Whereas 97 percent of Catholic high school graduates go on to college;

Whereas Catholic schools produce students strongly dedicated to their faith, values, families, and communities by providing an intellectually stimulating environment rich in spiritual character and moral development; and

Whereas in the 1972 pastoral message concerning Catholic education, the National Conference of Catholic Bishops stated, ''Education is one of the most important ways by which the Church fulfills its commitment to the dignity of the person and building of community. Community is central to education ministry, both as a necessary condition and an ardently desired goal. The educational efforts of the Church, therefore, must be directed to forming persons-in-community; for the education of the individual Christian is important not only to his solitary destiny, but also the destinies of the many communities in which he lives.'': Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes the goals of Catholic Schools Week, an event cosponsored by the National Catholic Educational Association and the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops that recognizes the vital contributions of thousands of Catholic elementary and secondary schools in the United States; and

(2) commends Catholic schools, students, parents, and teachers across the United States for their ongoing contributions to education, and for the vital role they play in promoting and ensuring a brighter, stronger future for the United States.

NOTICE OF HEARING

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Mr. BINGAMAN. Mr. President, I would like to announce for the information of the Senate and the public that a hearing has been scheduled before the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

The hearing will be held on Tuesday, February 15, 2010 at 2:30 p.m., at the Corbett Center (Ballroom-Eastside) on the campus of New Mexico State University, in Las Cruces, New Mexico.

The purpose of the hearing is to receive testimony on S. 1689, the Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks Wilderness Act.

Because of the limited time available for the hearing, witnesses may testify by invitation only. However, those wishing to submit written testimony for the hearing record should send it to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, United States Senate, Washington, DC 20510–6150.

For further information, please contact David Brooks at (202) 224–9863 or Allison Seyferth at (202) 224–4905.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Armed Services be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on February 2, 2010, at 9 a.m.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON BANKING, HOUSING, AND URBAN AFFAIRS

Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on February 2, 2010, at 2:30 p.m., to conduct a hearing entitled ''Prohibiting Certain High-Risk Investment Activities by Banks and Bank Holding Companies.''

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on February 2, at 2:30 p.m., in room SD–366 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS

Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Environment and Public Works be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on February 2, 2010.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Finance be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on February 2, 2010, at 10 a.m., in room 215 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building, to conduct a hearing entitled ''The President's Fiscal Year 2011 Budget.''

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Foreign Relations be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on February 2, 2010, at 10:30 a.m.

Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Foreign Relations be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on February 2, 2010, at 2:30 p.m.

Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Foreign Relations be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on February 2, 2010, at 3:30 p.m.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR, AND PENSIONS

Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions be authorized to meet, during the session of the Senate, to conduct a hearing entitled ''Hearing on the Nomination of Harold Craig Becker to be a Member of the National Labor Relations Board'' on February 2, 2010. The hearing will commence at 4 p.m. in room 430 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON RULES AND ADMINISTRATION

Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Rules and Administration be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on February 2, 2010, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing entitled ''Corporate America vs. The Voter: Examining the Supreme Court's Decision to Allow Unlimited Corporate Spending in Elections.''

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Select Committee on Intelligence be authorized to meet, during the session of the Senate on February 2, 2010 at 2:30 p.m.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

REAFFIRMING THE CENTRALITY OF FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND PRESS FREEDOM

Mr. CASEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. Res. 405 submitted earlier today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 405) reaffirming the centrality of freedom of expression and press freedom as cornerstones of United States foreign policy and United States efforts to promote individual rights, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. CASEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate, and any statements be printed in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 405) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 405

Whereas Google announced on January 12, 2010, the mid-December 2009 discovery that it had been victimized by a highly sophisticated and targeted cyber attack on its corporate infrastructure originating from China that resulted in the theft of its intellectual property;

Whereas Google also announced it had evidence to suggest that a primary goal of the attackers was accessing the Gmail accounts of Chinese human rights activists, and that the evidence revealed separate attempts to penetrate Gmail accounts of Chinese human rights activists, journalists, and dissidents in the United States, Europe, and China;

Whereas the targeting of Google is believed to be part of a larger effort to access the computer networks of at least 34 companies, including major financial, defense, media, and technology firms and research institutions in the United States;

Whereas this attack was one in a series of attempts to exploit security flaws and illegally access computer networks of individuals and institutions through the clandestine installation of phishing and malware technology;

Whereas the 2009 ''Report to Congress of the US-China Economic and Security Review Commission'' stated that ''a significant and increasing body of circumstantial and forensic evidence strongly indicates the involvement of Chinese state and state-supported entities'' in malicious computer activities against the United States;

Whereas approximately 338,000,000 Internet users in China represent the largest population of Internet users worldwide, and the Government of China employs a sophisticated, multi-layered, and wide-ranging apparatus to curtail Internet freedom, as detailed in the 2009 ''Freedom on the Net'' report by the Freedom House organization;

Whereas Article 35 of the constitution of the People's Republic of China guarantees freedom of speech, assembly, association, and publication;

Whereas authorities in China employ legal and economic means to coerce Internet service providers, web hosting firms, and mobile phone companies to delete and censor online content and discussions created by Chinese users;

Whereas the Government of China requires domestic Chinese and foreign companies with subsidiaries in China, including Google, to adjust their business practices to allow increased filtering and supervision by the Government of China, restricting content allowed by technology-based products, and censoring data available on search engines;

Whereas, in 2003, the Government of China implemented the Golden Shield Project to control access and information on the Internet on grounds of public safety, including through protocol address blocking, domain name system filtering and redirection, uniform resource locator filtering, packet filtering, connection resets, and other online methods that could amount to censorship of high-value speech;

Whereas the Government of China frequently blocks United States international broadcasting by Radio Free Asia (RFA) and Voice of America (VOA), despite the unimpeded broadcast in the United States of state-run media outlets in China, China Central Television, and China Radio International;

Whereas, as of December 1, 2009, China had imprisoned 24 traditional and online journalists, accounting for nearly 20 percent of all imprisoned journalists worldwide at that time, according to the annual prison census of the Committee to Protect Journalists;

Whereas, following riots in the Xinjiang region of China in July 2009, more than 50 Uighur-language Internet forums were closed and communications were cut in Urumqi, China, and foreign journalists visiting the area were closely monitored by the authorities;

Whereas, during the Summer 2008 Olympics in Beijing, limits were placed on freedom of expression and media coverage, contrary to

previous commitments made by the Government of China to the International Olympic Committee;

Whereas ill-defined charges such as ''subversion of the government'' and ''disseminating rumors'' serve as the legal basis to sentence journalists, bloggers, and others who express or disseminate views critical of the Government of China; and

Whereas, on January 21, 2010, Secretary of State Hillary Clinton pledged enhanced United States support for Internet freedom, saying, ''We stand for a single internet where all of humanity has equal access to knowledge and ideas . . . countries that restrict free access to information or violate the basic rights of internet users risk walling themselves off from the progress of the next century.'': Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) reaffirms the centrality of freedom of expression and press freedom as cornerstones of United States foreign policy and United States efforts to promote individual rights;

(2) expresses serious concern over ongoing official efforts in many countries to restrict speech and expression, including attempts to censor, restrict, and monitor access to the Internet;

(3) welcomes the diplomatic initiative announced by Secretary of State Hillary Clinton on January 21, 2010, to encourage Internet freedom globally by ''supporting the development of new tools that enable citizens to exercise their rights of free expression by circumventing politically motivated censorship . . . with a focus on implementing these programs as efficiently and effectively as possible'';

(4) condemns the far-reaching cyber attacks allegedly launched from China against Google, at least 34 other companies, and numerous individuals discovered in December 2009;

(5) calls on the Government of China to conduct a thorough review of these cyber intrusions, and to make the investigation and its results transparent;

(6) pays tribute to the professional and citizen journalists who persevere in their dedication to report in China;

(7) urges companies to engage in responsible business practices in the face of efforts by foreign governments to restrict the free flow of information by refusing to aid in the curtailment of free expression; and

(8) calls on the President and the Secretary of State to develop means by which the United States Government can more rapidly identify, publicize, and respond to threats against freedom of press and freedom of expression around the world, including through support of new and existing censorship circumvention technology.

RECOGNIZING AND HONORING THE GOALS AND CONTRIBUTIONS OF CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

Mr. CASEY. I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 406, which was submitted earlier today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 406) recognizing the goals of Catholic Schools Week and honoring the valuable contribution of Catholic schools in the United States.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. CASEY. I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 406) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 406

Whereas Catholic schools in the United States have received international acclaim for academic excellence while providing students with lessons that extend far beyond the classroom;

Whereas Catholic schools present a broad curriculum that emphasizes the lifelong development of moral, intellectual, physical, and social values in the young people of the United States;

Whereas Catholic schools in the United States today educate 2,192,531 students and maintain a student-to-teacher ratio of 14 to 1;

Whereas the faculty members of Catholic schools teach a highly diverse body of students;

Whereas the graduation rate for all Catholic school students is 99 percent;

Whereas 97 percent of Catholic high school graduates go on to college;

Whereas Catholic schools produce students strongly dedicated to their faith, values, families, and communities by providing an intellectually stimulating environment rich in spiritual character and moral development; and

Whereas in the 1972 pastoral message concerning Catholic education, the National Conference of Catholic Bishops stated, ''Education is one of the most important ways by which the Church fulfills its commitment to the dignity of the person and building of community. Community is central to education ministry, both as a necessary condition and an ardently desired goal. The educational efforts of the Church, therefore, must be directed to forming persons-in-community; for the education of the individual Christian is important not only to his solitary destiny, but also the destinies of the many communities in which he lives.'': Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes the goals of Catholic Schools Week, an event cosponsored by the National Catholic Educational Association and the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops that recognizes the vital contributions of thousands of Catholic elementary and secondary schools in the United States; and

(2) commends Catholic schools, students, parents, and teachers across the United States for their ongoing contributions to education, and for the vital role they play in promoting and ensuring a brighter, stronger future for the United States.

ORDERS FOR THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 2010

Mr. CASEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until 12 noon on Thursday, February 4; that following the prayer and pledge, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the morning hour be deemed expired, the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day, and the Senate proceed to executive session to resume consideration of the Smith nomination, as provided for under the previous order.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

PROGRAM

Mr. CASEY. Mr. President, the Senate will not be in session tomorrow in order to accommodate the Democratic issues conference. We were, however, able to reach an agreement to vote at approximately 12:30 p.m. Thursday on confirmation of the nomination of Patricia Smith to be Solicitor for the Department of Labor. Following disposition of the Smith nomination, there will be 2 hours for debate prior to a vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the nomination of Martha Johnson to be Administrator for General Services. Also under the agreement, if cloture is invoked on the Johnson nomination, the Senate would immediately proceed to vote on confirmation. Therefore, there would be up to two additional votes in the 3 p.m. range. So that would mean one vote around 12:30 p.m. and up to two votes around 3 p.m. Thursday.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 2010

Mr. CASEY. If there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent it adjourn under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 7:20 p.m., adjourned until Thursday, February 4, 2010, at 12 noon.

NOMINATIONS

Executive nomination received by the Senate:

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

MICHELE MARIE LEONHART, OF CALIFORNIA, TO BE ADMINISTRATOR OF DRUG ENFORCEMENT, VICE KAREN P. TANDY, RESIGNED.

CONFIRMATIONS

Executive nominations confirmed by the Senate, Tuesday, February 2, 2010:

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

ROBERT WILLIAM HEUN, OF ALASKA, TO BE UNITED STATES MARSHAL FOR THE DISTRICT OF ALASKA FOR THE TERM OF FOUR YEARS.

WILLIE LEE RICHARDSON, JR., OF GEORGIA, TO BE UNITED STATES MARSHAL FOR THE MIDDLE DISTRICT OF GEORGIA FOR THE TERM OF FOUR YEARS.

IN THE AIR FORCE

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be brigadier general

COL. KORY G. CORNUM

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE RESERVE OF THE AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be major general

BRIG. GEN. CAROL A. LEE

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE RESERVE OF THE AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be major general

BRIGADIER GENERAL ERIC W. CRABTREE
BRIGADIER GENERAL WALLACE W. FARRIS, JR.
BRIGADIER GENERAL CRAIG N. GOURLEY
BRIGADIER GENERAL DAVID S. POST
BRIGADIER GENERAL DONALD C. RALPH
BRIGADIER GENERAL JON R. SHASTEEN
BRIGADIER GENERAL RICHARD A. SHOOK, JR.

BRIGADIER GENERAL JAMES N. STEWART
BRIGADIER GENERAL LANCE D. UNDHJEM

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE RESERVE OF THE AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be brigadier general

COL. DIXIE A. MORROW

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE RESERVE OF THE AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be brigadier general

COL. PAUL S. DWAN

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be brigadier general

COL. DANIEL B. FINCHER
COL. DAVID C. WESLEY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE RESERVE OF THE AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be brigadier general

COLONEL GARY C. BLASZKIEWICZ
COLONEL ARTHUR C. HAUBOLD
COLONEL MICHAEL D. KIM
COLONEL LINDA S. MARCHIONE
COLONEL RICHARD O. MIDDLETON II
COLONEL ROBERT N. POLUMBO
COLONEL JANE C. ROHR
COLONEL PATRICIA A. ROSE
COLONEL PETER SEFCIK, JR.
COLONEL JAMES F. SMITH
COLONEL EDMUND D. WALKER
COLONEL WILLIAM O. WELCH

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT AS DEPUTY JUDGE ADVOCATE GENERAL OF THE AIR FORCE AND APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 8037:

To be major general

BRIG. GEN. STEVEN J. LEPPER

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 8081:

To be major general

COL. GERARD A. CARON

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED AND FOR APPOINTMENT AS THE JUDGE ADVOCATE GENERAL OF THE AIR FORCE UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 8037:

To be lieutenant general

BRIG. GEN. RICHARD C. HARDING

THE FOLLOWING AIR NATIONAL GUARD OF THE UNITED STATES OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE RESERVE OF THE AIR FORCE TO THE GRADES INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 12203 AND 12212:

To be major general

BRIGADIER GENERAL SAMUEL C. HEADY
BRIGADIER GENERAL WILLIAM E. HUDSON
BRIGADIER GENERAL GARY T. MAGONIGLE
BRIGADIER GENERAL JAMES M. MCCORMACK
BRIGADIER GENERAL ALEX D. ROBERTS
BRIGADIER GENERAL GREGORY J. SCHWAB

To be brigadier general

COLONEL CARL F. BESS, JR.
COLONEL GREGORY J. BIERNACKI
COLONEL JAMES C. BLAYDON
COLONEL FRANCIS X. CARILLO
COLONEL DEBORAH L. CARTER
COLONEL ROBERT F. CAYTON
COLONEL WILLIAM J. CRISLER, JR.
COLONEL GREGORY L. FERGUSON
COLONEL JAMES E. FREDREGILL
COLONEL ANTHONY P. GERMAN
COLONEL ANN M. GREENLEE
COLONEL MARK D. HAMMOND
COLONEL RICHARD N. HARRIS, JR.
COLONEL MARK E. JANNITTO
COLONEL LARRY R. KAUFFMAN
COLONEL JON K. KELK
COLONEL DAVID T. KELLY
COLONEL JOHN E. KENT
COLONEL DONALD M. LAGOR
COLONEL MICHAEL E. LOH
COLONEL CONSTANCE C. MCNABB
COLONEL CLAYTON W. MOUSHON
COLONEL PHILLIP E. MURDOCK
COLONEL JOHN E. MURPHY
COLONEL GERALD E. OTTERBEIN
COLONEL MARTIN J. PARK
COLONEL NICHOLAS S. RANTIS
COLONEL ROBERT L. SHANNON, JR.
COLONEL CASSIE A. STROM
COLONEL GREGORY N. STROUD
COLONEL THOMAS A. THOMAS, JR.
COLONEL CAROL A. TIMMONS
COLONEL STEVEN J. VERHELST
COLONEL TONY L. WEST
COLONEL ROBERT S. WILLIAMS
COLONEL MICHAEL A. WOBBEMA

IN THE ARMY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be major general

BRIG. GEN. MARY A. LEGERE

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

To be lieutenant general

MAJ. GEN. THOMAS P. BOSTICK

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

To be lieutenant general

MAJ. GEN. ROBERT L. CASLEN, JR.

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be major general

BRIG. GEN. STEVEN W. SMITH

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be major general

BRIG. GEN. WILLIAM D. FRINK, JR.

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be brigadier general

COLONEL JEFFREY N. COLT
COLONEL PETER A. DELUCA
COLONEL ROBERT M. DYESS, JR.
COLONEL DONALD M. MACWILLIE

IN THE NAVY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY RESERVE TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be rear admiral (lower half)

CAPTAIN DOUGLAS J. ASBJORNSEN
CAPTAIN CHARLES K. CARODINE
CAPTAIN ANATOLIO B. CRUZ III
CAPTAIN JOHN E. JOLLIFFE
CAPTAIN ROBERT J. KAMENSKY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

To be vice admiral

VICE ADM. DAVID ARCHITZEL

IN THE AIR FORCE

AIR FORCE NOMINATION OF JOSEPH E. SANDERS, TO BE COLONEL.

AIR FORCE NOMINATION OF CHINMOY MISHRA, TO BE LIEUTENANT COLONEL.

AIR FORCE NOMINATION OF CHARLES F. KIMBALL, TO BE MAJOR.

AIR FORCE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH MINH THU NGOC LE AND ENDING WITH ROBERT C. POPE, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON DECEMBER 2, 2009.

AIR FORCE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH NOEMI ALGARINLOZANO AND ENDING WITH PATRICK J. WILLIAMS, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON DECEMBER 11, 2009.

AIR FORCE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH DAVID W. BOBB AND ENDING WITH ROBERT W. WISHTISCHIN, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON DECEMBER 11, 2009.

AIR FORCE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH SEAN W. DIGMAN AND ENDING WITH DAVID L. ROBINSON, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON DECEMBER 11, 2009.

AIR FORCE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH ALBERT H. BONNEMA AND ENDING WITH GIANNA R. ZEH, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON DECEMBER 11, 2009.

AIR FORCE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH ERIC R. BAUGH, JR. AND ENDING WITH KARYN E. YOUNG, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON DECEMBER 11, 2009.

AIR FORCE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH ADAM M. ANDERSON AND ENDING WITH SHAHID A. ZAIDI, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON DECEMBER 11, 2009.

AIR FORCE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH BRIAN J. ALENT AND ENDING WITH RACHEL A. WEBER, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON DECEMBER 11, 2009.

AIR FORCE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH ERIC E. ABBOTT AND ENDING WITH ETHAN EVERETT ZIMMERMAN, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON DECEMBER 11, 2009.

AIR FORCE NOMINATION OF LAWRENCE W. STEINKRAUS, JR., TO BE COLONEL.

AIR FORCE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH KRISTI L. JONES AND ENDING WITH BRUNO A. SCHMITZ, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON DECEMBER 15, 2009.

AIR FORCE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH RAYMOND KING AND ENDING WITH BERNHARD K. STEPKE, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON DECEMBER 15, 2009.

AIR FORCE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH FRANK R. AFLAGUE AND ENDING WITH WILLIAM T. YATES, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON DECEMBER 21, 2009.

AIR FORCE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH ANTHONY N. DILLS AND ENDING WITH MICHAEL D. MILLER, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON JANUARY 21, 2010.

AIR FORCE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH MATTHEW A. BAACK AND ENDING WITH ROCKY ZACCHEUS, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON JANUARY 21, 2010.

AIR FORCE NOMINATION OF DAVID A. NORDSTRAND, TO BE COLONEL.

AIR FORCE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH HELEN K. CROUCH AND ENDING WITH MICKRA H. KING, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON JANUARY 26, 2010.

AIR FORCE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH RANDALL B. DELL AND ENDING WITH EDDIE P. SANCHEZ, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON JANUARY 26, 2010.

AIR FORCE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH CHARLES T. HUGUELET AND ENDING WITH MICHAEL E. SAVAGE, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON JANUARY 26, 2010.

AIR FORCE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH GLENDA K. M. GRONES AND ENDING WITH NANCY A. WESTBROOK, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON JANUARY 26, 2010.

AIR FORCE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH FRANK J. ARCHER AND ENDING WITH EDUARDO SAN MIGUEL, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON JANUARY 26, 2010.

AIR FORCE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH THOMAS J. PIZZOLO AND ENDING WITH CLIFFORD ZDANOWICZ, JR., WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON JANUARY 26, 2010.

AIR FORCE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH TARN M. ABELL AND ENDING WITH JOHN B. WILLIAMS, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON JANUARY 26, 2010.

IN THE ARMY

ARMY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH JAMES R. AGAR II AND ENDING WITH KERRY M. WHEELEHAN, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON DECEMBER 9, 2009.

ARMY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH OLGA M. ANDERSON AND ENDING WITH D004179, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON DECEMBER 11, 2009.

ARMY NOMINATION OF DAWN Y. TAYLOR, TO BE MAJOR.

ARMY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH WALTER COFFEY AND ENDING WITH RUSSELL P. REITER, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON DECEMBER 15, 2009.

ARMY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH DEAN A. AMBROSE AND ENDING WITH JOHN W. TROGDON, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON DECEMBER 15, 2009.

ARMY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH PATRICK R. BOSSETTA AND ENDING WITH JOHN R. WHITFORD, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON DECEMBER 15, 2009.

ARMY NOMINATION OF BESS J. PIERCE, TO BE LIEUTENANT COLONEL.

ARMY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH JANINE G. ALLBRITTON AND ENDING WITH SCOTT J. PIECEK, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON JANUARY 21, 2010.

ARMY NOMINATION OF JUAN G. LOPEZ, TO BE MAJOR.

ARMY NOMINATION OF JERI R. REGAN, TO BE MAJOR.

ARMY NOMINATION OF ROBIN T. WORCH, TO BE MAJOR.

ARMY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH TYLER E. HARRIS AND ENDING WITH KELLY A. SUPPLE, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON JANUARY 21, 2010.

ARMY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH SCOTT D. DEBOLT AND ENDING WITH AUDREY D. WILSON, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON JANUARY 21, 2010.

ARMY NOMINATION OF LOUIS GEVIRTZMAN, TO BE COLONEL.

ARMY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH BRENDA M. ARZU AND ENDING WITH JOHN R. MILLS, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON JANUARY 26, 2010.

IN THE MARINE CORPS

MARINE CORPS NOMINATION OF BRIAN J. DIX, TO BE MAJOR.

MARINE CORPS NOMINATION OF WILLIAM J. MITCHELL, TO BE MAJOR.

MARINE CORPS NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH SAM B. CLONTS, JR. AND ENDING WITH RALPH L. PRICE III, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON DECEMBER 15, 2009.

IN THE NAVY

NAVY NOMINATION OF DONALD J. SHEEHAN, JR., TO BE CAPTAIN.

NAVY NOMINATION OF MATTHEW S. FLEMMING, TO BE COMMANDER.

NAVY NOMINATION OF RICHARD K. DOUGHERTY, TO BE COMMANDER.

NAVY NOMINATION OF ROLDAN C. MINA, TO BE LIEUTENANT COMMANDER.

NAVY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH JACOB R. HILL AND ENDING WITH WILLIAM R. WOODFIN, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON JANUARY 21, 2010.

NAVY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH DAVID W. TERHUNE AND ENDING WITH DET R. SMITH, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON JANUARY 26, 2010.

NAVY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH ERIC R. AKINS AND ENDING WITH SCOTT T. WILBUR, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON JANUARY 26, 2010.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. STEVE SCALISE

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 2, 2010

Mr. SCALISE. Madam Speaker, pursuant to the Republican Leadership standards on Congressionally directed project funding, I am submitting the following information regarding project funding I requested for Southeast Louisiana as part of the Fiscal Year 2010 Defense Appropriations bill.

Requesting Member: Congressman STEVE SCALISE

Bill Number: Fiscal Year 2010 Defense Appropriations Bill

Account: Warfighter Sustainment Applied Research

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Tulane University

Address of Requesting Entity: 6823 St. Charles Avenue, New Orleans, Louisiana 70118

Description of Request: I have secured $800,000 for Tulane University. It is my understanding that the funding is for Tulane University to work with Xavier University, ONR, and other Department of Defense partners on a biosensors and risk assessment technologies program. Biosensors developed through this program will provide real-time information about the threats from bioterrorism and environmental polluters, allowing DoD to respond more effectively and at less expense than other analytical methods. I certify that neither I nor my spouse has any financial interest in this project.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. CHRISTOPHER JOHN LEE

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 2, 2010

Mr. LEE of New York. Madam Speaker, pursuant to the Republican Leadership standards on earmarks, I am submitting the following information regarding earmarks I received as part of the FY10 Defense Appropriations bill.

Requesting Member: Congressman CHRISTOPHER JOHN LEE (NY–26)

Bill Number: H.R. 3326

Account: RDT&E, Army

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Hauptman Woodward Medical Research Institute (HWI)

Address of Requesting Entity: 700 Ellicott St., Buffalo, NY 14203

Description of Request: Provide an earmark of $2,000,000 for identification of new drug targets in multi-drug resistant bacteria causing opportunistic infections.

This project will address the recent rapid increase of severe opportunistic post-wound infections in the warfighter caused by the drug and multi-drug resistant bacteria Acinetobacter baumannii. HWI will identify new antibacterial drug targets and develop novel lead drug compounds with the goal of acquiring effective treatments against difficult and dangerous infections.

Warfighters wounded during battle are highly susceptible to opportunistic infections, greatly complicating their treatment and recovery. Their susceptibility to post-wound infections is due to the difficulty in cleaning traumatic deep tissue wounds and the near impossibility of maintaining sterile conditions during front line medical care. Opportunistic infections of wounded warfighters greatly extend hospital stays and increase costs. Wounded warfighters are routinely treated immediately with antibiotics in an effort to prevent opportunistic infections. Unfortunately, the occurrence of drug and multi-drug resistant strains of A. baumannii is rapidly increasing. Currently, 50 percent of these infections are resistant to treatment by at least one antibiotic, and 1 in 10 infections can't be treated by any antibiotic in routine use. Infections by drug resistant strains of A. baumannii often result in limb amputation or even death.

This project will address this militarily important problem by identifying new drug targets within A. baumannii, determining the molecular structure of the proteins, and then identifying chemicals that will serve as the starting points for developing desperately needed new antibiotic drugs effective against multi-drug resistant A. baumannii. HWI has already identified and begun characterization of several proteins that are potential drug targets.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JIM GERLACH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 2, 2010

Mr. GERLACH. Madam Speaker, unfortunately, on Tuesday, January 26, 2010, I missed three recorded votes on the House floor. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on Rollcall 17, "yea" on Rollcall 18 and "yea" on Rollcall 19.

IN HONOR OF THE NATIVE DAUGHTERS OF THE GOLDEN WEST, SAN JUAN BAUTISTA PARLOR NO. 179

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 2, 2010

Mr. FARR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Centennial year of the Native Daughters of the Golden West, San Juan Bautista Parlor No. 179. Over the past hundred years, the San Juan Bautista Parlor has furthered the aims of the Native Daughters of the Golden West by preserving California's history, improving its present, and ensuring a brighter future for all its citizens.

On February 23, 1910, NDGW Grand President Emma Lillie Humphrey presided over a ceremony to institute the San Juan Bautista Parlor. In 1934, the Parlor purchased an Adobe built in 1830 on Fourth St. It soon became known as the Native Daughters Adobe. The Parlor restored the building to a useful condition and continues to maintain this historic building. It remains the monthly meeting place of the Parlor and a focus for many activities for local organizations. Chief among these are its work with children's organizations, veterans and active military. Their weekly Yoga class at the Adobe promotes a healthy lifestyle for the community.

The Native Daughters of the Golden West Children's Foundation holds fundraising events to assist California's children with special medical needs that are beyond the family's means. Additionally, San Juan Bautista Parlor No. 179 gives a scholarship annually to students from the local high schools and sponsors students who participate in the state-wide NDGW California History essay contest.

The Parlor's activities reach beyond the borders of San Juan Bautista and San Benito County, CA. With their focus on California history, the Parlor has placed plaques designating historical landmarks, helped restore and preserve the beautiful monuments in the state's twenty-one missions, and is very active in fund raising activities for the missions. The Parlor also provides California Flags to local schools, libraries, VFW Posts, city and county government offices.

The internationally played card game "Pedro" was said to have been invented in San Juan Bautista and has been continuously played throughout California since the mid-1800's. Each month, the Parlor hosts a Pedro card party for the community which keeps the Pedro history alive.

Parlor No. 179 organizes several annual events that celebrate California's history. Fremont Peak Day, co-sponsored with local Posts of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, commemorates the Bear Flag Revolt of 1846, the engagement between the forces of John C. Freemont and General Jose Castro. An Admission Day community barbeque celebrates the date California became the 31st State: September 9, 1850.

Members of San Juan Bautista Parlor No. 179 are also involved in activities which promote recycling, energy awareness and water conservation, protecting and preserving California's natural resources and its environment.

Madam Speaker, I know my fellow members of the House will join me in congratulating the Native Daughters of the Golden West, San Juan Bautista Parlor No. 179 on their 100th anniversary. Their civic pride shines brightly and illuminates the many activities that improve the community and conserve and promote our heritage.

HONORING MR. BRIAN ABRAM

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 2, 2010

Mr. HIGGINS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the years of service given to the people of Chautauqua County by Mr. Brian Abram. Mr. Abram served his constituency faithfully and justly during his tenure as a member of the Chautauqua County Legislature, serving district 6.

Public service is a difficult and fulfilling career. Any person with a dream may enter but only a few are able to reach the end. Mr. Abram served his term with his head held high and a smile on his face the entire way. I have no doubt that his kind demeanor left a lasting impression on the people of Chautauqua County.

We are truly blessed to have such strong individuals with a desire to make this county the wonderful place that we all know it can be. Mr. Abram is one of those people and that is why, Madam Speaker, I rise in honor of him today.

HONORING NIC FIORE

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 2, 2010

Mr. RADANOVICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Nic Fiore. Mr. Fiore passed away on Tuesday, June 23, 2009 at the age of 88. A celebration and tribute to the life of Mr. Fiore and his wife, Midge, will be held on Saturday, December 5, 2009, at the Curry Village Pavilion in Yosemite Valley.

Mr. Nic Fiore was born on December 1, 1920, in Montreal, Canada. He was one of 12 children. After serving in the Canadian Army during World War II, he abandoned his dream of becoming a championship European bike racer and taught skiing in the Laurentian Mountains north of Montreal. In 1947, Mr. Fiore was recruited by Luggi Foeger, then ski school director at Badger Pass. He drove into Yosemite Valley for the first time on December 8, 1947.

Mr. Fiore originally planned on staying only 4 months at the Badger Pass ski area. One ski season became the next and he became more involved in various operations of the park. While teaching skiing in the winter, he worked in the hotels in the park over the summers, including serving as maitre d' of the Ahwahnee Hotel and managing the Glacier Point Lodge and the Wawona Hotel. In 1956, Mr. Fiore was named director of the Badger Pass Ski School, and in 1963 he also began managing Yosemite's five High Sierra camps in the wilderness back country. Mr. Fiore served as the director of the Yosemite's Ski and Snowboard School at Badger Pass ski area for 45 years before assuming the role of "ski ambassador" in 2001.

Early in Mr. Fiore's career, he became concerned with the integrity of ski instructors. In the late 1940s, he joined the newly formed California Ski Instructors Association. Through the organization, he advocated for the creation of a national ski instructors association to promote the quality and consistency of instructors. In 1961, the Professional Ski Instructors of America was founded. Mr. Fiore remained vigilant in pushing the national organization to maintain high standards for the certification process of ski instructors. He served as executive director of the western division of the Professional Ski Instructors of America for nearly 30 years. For his tremendous service to Badger Pass Mr. Fiore has received various honors; including the prestigious Charlie Proctor Award in 1986 from the Sierra Chapter of the North American Ski Journalist Association.

While well into his 80s, Mr. Fiore skied nearly every day and taught occasional lessons during the 2003–2004 season. It is estimated that in his 50 years with Badger Pass, Mr. Fiore taught 100,000 guests how to ski. In 2004 Mr. Fiore underwent heart surgery and in May 2009 suffered from a stroke. Mr. Fiore was preceded in death by his wife, Midge. He is survived by his two daughters, Cindy and Nicole, as well as eight grandchildren.

Madam Speaker, I rise today to posthumously honor Nic Fiore. I invite my colleagues to join me in honoring his life and wishing the best for his family.

KAZAKHSTAN'S VISION OF A MORE EFFECTIVE OSCE

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 2, 2010

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Kazakhstan's new role as chairmanship of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe, OSCE. The decision by the OSCE participating states to appoint Kazakhstan as its chair for 2010 marks the first time that a former Soviet state will take on this leadership role. The decision was not without controversy, and I would like to acknowledge the efforts made over the past two decades to establish democracy and a market economy. I look forward to full implementation of the promises of reform made by Kazakhstan at the 2007 OSCE Madrid Ministerial. In a January 2010 video address, President Nazarbayev told the OSCE Permanent Council that, "Kazakhstan as the holder of the OSCE Chairmanship is firmly committed to the fundamental principles and values of the OSCE." I welcome and applaud this statement as well as Chairman-in-Office Saudabayev's Permanent Council statement that, "further steps in the area of democratization in Kazakhstan will be fully in line with the goals and tasks that we have set ourselves during our Chairmanship."

This month, Kazakhstan Secretary of State–Foreign Minister Kanat Saudabayev has officially assumed his role as chairman-in-office of the OSCE and I believe he will dedicate his efforts toward realizing Kazakhstan's vision and goals for the OSCE this year. I know Chairman-in-Office Saudabayev's objective is to make the organization even more valid, useful, and effective. I commend Kazakhstan's effective preparation for the chairmanship, and welcome the deepening cooperation between Kazakhstan and the U.S. to make the chairmanship a success.

On January 14, Chairman-in-Office Saudabayev outlined his country's plan for executing Kazakhstan's strategic vision. In light of increased threats to international security, including illicit drug trafficking and terrorism, Kazakhstan will focus on preventing conflicts that result in tragedy and disaster. It is important that the United States support these efforts. I also support Chairman-in-Office Saudabayev's intention to continue to focus on the OSCE's human dimension.

One area of focus for Kazakhstan as chairmanship of the OSCE will be to address issues pertinent to the developing situation in Afghanistan. In fact, Chairman-in-Office Saudabayev has stated that a principal goal is to help the Afghan people leave behind their militaristic world and develop a lasting peaceful and productive society. To achieve this Kazakhstan has donated $50 million to a new program which will provide vocational training to 1,000 Afghanis at Kazakh universities. Chairman-in-Office Saudabayev also intends to develop cooperative projects that strengthen the border and improve law enforcement practices, and I support increasing OSCE involvement in this regard.

Beyond the global peril of Afghanistan is the issue of nuclear disarmament. As a former Soviet state, Kazakhstan should be applauded for its decision to eradicate its inherited nuclear arsenal and for its example and leadership in nuclear nonproliferation. With the mantle of OSCE leadership, Chairman-in-Office Saudabayev will work with the OSCE to achieve increased global security.

I commend Kazakhstan for prioritizing the fight against the deplorable and growing concern of human trafficking, particularly that of children. Trafficking has become a major international concern that warrants the attention and cooperation of the OSCE states to develop effective solutions to eliminate such practices.

Chairman-in-Office Saudabayev has also expressed the need for increased tolerance and equality, especially with regard to religion, race, and gender. Various conferences and meetings are already in place to discuss the implementation of previous decisions concerning these areas. I plan to attend at least one of the conferences. And I will encourage colleagues to attend as well.

Finally, as many of my colleagues would agree, energy security remains a critical global concern. Kazakhstan, with its significant oil, gas and mining potential, plays a key role as a reliable energy supplier. The past two years has seen significant challenges to energy supply and distribution in the OSCE region and there is much that the OSCE could be doing to help mediate differences and encourage greater transparency in this area. I am confident that Chairman-in-Office Saudabayev will bring to bear his country's experience and expertise in energy issues to create greater capacity for energy security both politically and institutionally in the OSCE.

I look forward to helping and following the progress of the OSCE under the leadership of Kazakhstan.

The priorities outlined by Chairman-in-Office Saudabayev demonstrate the challenges ahead for the OSCE. I wish Chairman-in-Office Saudabayev and the entire Republic of Kazakhstan well as the OSCE chairmanship. It is my hope that by the close of 2010, we will see Kazakhstan's OSCE leadership manifested through positive outcomes.

U.S. OFFICIAL ON COMMENCEMENT OF KAZAKHSTAN'S OSCE CHAIRMANSHIP

(By Robert O. Blake, Jr., Jan. 20, 2010)

As Kazakhstan begins to serve as the Chairman-In-Office of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe this year, it is charting a course for a bright and promising future.

It is a future in which the United States and Kazakhstan together seek peace, security, economic development and prosperity. We seek democratic values and human rights that unite free nations in trust and in respect. We seek a region in which relations are good between neighbors, between Russia and China and Afghanistan and all others in the region and of course with the United States.

Kazakhstan has been a leader in international security since its earliest days of independence. After the end of the Cold War, the world applauded as Kazakhstan renounced its nuclear weapons, closed the nuclear test site at Semipalatinsk, and freely transferred over half a ton of weapons-grade uranium to secure sites outside the country under Project Sapphire.

This past December, we marked the sixteenth anniversary of the landmark Cooperative Threat Reduction Program in Kazakhstan and we continue to work in partnership with Kazakhstan to advance our common non-proliferation goals. In April President Obama will welcome President Nazarbayev and other world leaders to the Global Nuclear Security Summit he will host.

Since its independence, Kazakhstan has also set an example in the region with economic reforms that have attracted investment and created jobs. The Government of Kazakhstan is also making wise choices to develop multiple energy export routes and to diversify its economy to ensure that its vast oil wealth can become a source for social mobility, not social stagnation.

As Kazakhstan's economy continues to recover from the global economic downturn, it should again be an engine for growth within Central Asia. Afghanistan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan would benefit immensely from Kazakhstan) investment and energy supplies to stimulate growth and create jobs.

And Afghanistan needs the full partnership of Kazakhstan to overcome the destitution that extremists, warlords, and civil war have compounded over several decades. Kazakhstan is providing vital logistical support to the International Security Assistance Force through the Northern Distribution Network. We welcome Astana's decision to invest in Afghanistan's next generation of leaders by generously allocating $50 million to fund scholarships for a thousand Afghan students to study In Kazakhstan.

Kazakhstan's OSCE Chairmanship is highly symbolic. The OSCE had long prided itself for stretching from Vancouver to Vladisvostok. Now, for the very first time, a major international organization is headed by a new country east of Vienna. It is a recognition that the OSCE draws its strength not only from Europe and the United States, but also from Central Asia, the Caucasus, and the Balkans.

The challenges facing the OSCE and the international community are real but our strength comes from facing those challenges collectively and with a common purpose. The United States looks forward to working with Kazakhstan this year to meet these challenges and achieve the goal of modernizing and strengthening the OSCE, for the benefit of all participating States.

Kazakhstan has successfully navigated the early stages of statehood. It has achieved a position of leadership on international security and economic development. And now, Kazakhstan, as the OSCE Chairman-in-Office has an unprecedented opportunity to lead Central Asia towards a future of democracy and to advance its own reform agenda to unleash the creative energy of its people.

With continued reform, Kazakhstan can become the nexus of Eurasia in the 21st century, the point where all roads cross. For thousands of years, along the ancient Silk Road, the communities of Central Asia facilitated the global exchange of ideas, and trade, and culture. In the process, they made historic contributions to our collective human heritage.

Today, as Kazakhstan assumes the OSCE mantle, it is poised and ready to break a fresh path for a new Silk Road, a great crossroads of reform linking the provinces of northern Russia to the ports of South Asia, the republics of Western Europe to the democracies of East Asia.

A strong and prosperous and democratic Kazakhstan can energize the global transmission of learning, trade and freedom across the steppes of Central Asia. Kazakhstan has a glorious past and can seize a hopeful future. The United States will continue to be Kazakhstan's steadfast partner.

HONORING MR. CHRISTOPHER PENFOLD

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 2, 2010

Mr. HIGGINS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the years of service given to the people of Chautauqua County by Mr. Christopher Penfold. Mr. Penfold served his constituency faithfully and justly during his tenure as the Town of Dunkirk Town Justice.

Public service is a difficult and fulfilling career. Any person with a dream may enter but only a few are able to reach the end. Mr. Penfold served his term with his head held high and a smile on his face the entire way. I have no doubt that his kind demeanor left a lasting impression on the people of Chautauqua County.

We are truly blessed to have such strong individuals with a desire to make this county the wonderful place that we all know it can be. Mr. Penfold is one of those people and that is why, Madam Speaker, I rise in honor of him today.

INTRODUCTION OF LEGISLATION TO PROHIBIT ARTICLE III TRIAL FOR 9/11 MASTERMIND KHALID SHEIK MOHAMMED AND CO-CONSPIRATORS

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 2, 2010

Mr. WOLF. Madam Speaker, today I am introducing bipartisan legislation with Sen. LINDSEY GRAHAM to prohibit the use of Department of Justice funds for a civilian trial for Khalid Sheik Mohammed—9/11 mastermind and murderer of journalist Daniel Pearl—and four other co-conspirators in any community in the U.S. I feel this legislation is critically needed in light of the attorney general's dangerous mismanagement of this trial. This legislation is similar to an amendment I offered to fiscal year 2010 appropriations legislation, but was defeated on a party-line vote late last year.

Last November, Attorney General Eric Holder unilaterally announced that Khalid Sheik Mohammed and his four co-conspirators currently held at Guantanamo Bay would be tried in the heart of New York City in a civilian trial. Alarmingly, the attorney general did not consult with any local leaders, including New York City Police Commissioner Raymond Kelly or Mayor Michael Bloomberg. If he had, he would have better understood the dangers and cost of this approach. The trial, as planned, is estimated to cost taxpayers at least $250 million per year—for a total expected cost of more than $1 billion.

Upon reviewing the costs and security concerns from the New York City Police Department last week, Mayor Bloomberg stated, "It would be great if the federal government could find a site that didn't cost a billion dollars, which using downtown [New York City] will. [The trial] is going to cost an awful lot of money and disturb an awful lot of people." Shortly thereafter, scores of local, state, and congressional leaders from the New York region withdrew their support and encouraged the attorney general to reverse this reckless decision.

However, in light of this collapsing support from local leaders for the trial, I am concerned that the Obama Administration is now "venue shopping" for a new city to hold this trial in order to save face. This approach is no less dangerous, costly and disruptive to other communities under consideration than it was for New York City.

The legislation Sen. GRAHAM and I are introducing today would explicitly block this dangerous and wasteful trial from any domestic civilian court and, hopefully, compel the attorney general to work with Congress on a safer and more appropriate option. However, our legislation would still allow for a military commission at Guantanamo Bay or on a secure military base inside the U.S. This is a reasonable approach that allows the administration to try these murderous terrorists in an appropriate military commission. These detainees do not deserve more rights than an American service man or woman that is tried by military court.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to cosponsor this important legislation. The attorney general does not have a blank check to try dangerous terrorists in the venue of his choice. This must be a decision made in consultation with local leaders, Congress and the American people.

HONORING INTELLIGENCE SPECIALIST FIRST CLASS PETTY OFFICER JAMES K. BROWN

HON. BLAINE LUETKEMEYER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 2, 2010

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Intelligence Specialist First Class Petty Officer James K. Brown, who is retiring following twenty years of service in the United States Navy.

IS1 James K. Brown's storied military career began in August 1989 when he enlisted in the

United States Navy. Soon after, Brown participated in Operation Desert Storm and Desert Shield, for which he earned the Combat Action Ribbon. In 1994, he reported to the USS *George Washington*, taking part in her maiden voyage to the Mediterranean. During this deployment and subsequent deployments, the command was engaged in Operation Southern Watch and operations in Kosovo.

In December 1999, he reported to the USS *Carl Vinson* as the Leading Petty Officer of Multi-Sensor Interpretation Branch. In October 2001, the USS *Carl Vinson* launched the first attack of the Global War on Terrorism into Afghanistan in response to the September 11 2001 attacks. During the second deployment, on station off the Korean peninsula, he participated in exercises FOAL EAGLE and TANDUM THRUST.

In December 2008, IS1 Brown reported to U.S. Naval Station Guantanamo as his last duty station in the United States Navy and is currently serving as the Leading Petty Officer and the Special Security Officer for the Naval Station and Tenant Commands.

Over the course of his twenty years of service, IS1 Brown has 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. Brown has also received the following awards and decorations: the Joint Service Achievement Medal, Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal, Combat Action ribbon, Good Conduct Medal, NATO Medal for Yugoslavia, and Joint Staff Identification Badge, along with several unit and campaign awards.

IS1 James K. Brown's military efforts were supported by his wife, Nichole, and their four children, Ashley, Alesha, Amber, and Zechariah.

In closing, Madam Speaker, I ask all my colleagues to join me in congratulating Intelligence Specialist First Class Petty Officer James K. Brown on reaching this important milestone.

HONORING MR. CHUCK CORNELL

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 2, 2010

Mr. HIGGINS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the years of service given to the people of Chautauqua County by Mr. Chuck Cornell. Mr. Cornell served his constituency faithfully and justly during his tenure as a member of the Chautauqua County Legislature, serving district 12.

Public service is a difficult and fulfilling career. Any person with a dream may enter but only a few are able to reach the end. Mr. Cornell served his term with his head held high and a smile on his face the entire way. I have no doubt that his kind demeanor left a lasting impression on the people of Chautauqua County.

We are truly blessed to have such strong individuals with a desire to make this county the wonderful place that we all know it can be. Mr. Cornell is one of those people and that is why, Madam Speaker, I rise in honor of him today.

HONORING SPRINGFIELD COLLEGE ON THE OCCASION OF ITS 125TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. RICHARD E. NEAL

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 2, 2010

Mr. NEAL. Madam Speaker, it is my great pleasure to rise today to honor Springfield College, celebrating its 125th anniversary this year, and known worldwide as the Birthplace of Basketball.

Springfield College was founded in 1885 in Springfield, Massachusetts, as the School for Christian Workers, an independent institution that quickly emerged as a leading educator of YMCA professionals. Today, it offers a comprehensive array of undergraduate and graduate offerings and has an international reputation for educating leaders in the health sciences, human and social services, sport management and movement studies, education, business, and the arts and sciences.

Since its beginning, Springfield College has been guided by a philosophy called Humanics—education of the whole person, in spirit, mind, and body, for leadership in service to humanity.

Springfield College faculty members and alumni have changed the course of history in sports, physical education, and fitness. They invented not only basketball, but also volleyball, and were instrumental in founding physical education movements in countries around the globe. They have been legendary coaches, and have been in the vanguard of advancing intercollegiate sports for women. They have made indelible marks on the modern Olympics—more than 120 Springfield Collegians have participated as coaches, athletes, trainers, sport psychologists, administrators, and more.

In Greater Springfield, Massachusetts, Springfield College is deeply committed to its community, and has received national recognition for exemplary community engagement. It has been named to the President's Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll and the Saviors of Our Cities list of the top 25 ''best neighbor'' urban colleges in the United States. It has received multiple awards from the National Association of Division III Athletic Administrators and Jostens, and has earned the Carnegie Foundation's Community Engagement Classification.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Springfield College on 125 years of excellence and leadership through service, and for being an institutional model of its Humanics philosophy.

H. RES. 1021, EXPRESSING CONDOLENCES FOR THE PEOPLE OF HAITI

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 2, 2010

Ms. McCOLLUM. Madam Speaker, I rise today to join my colleagues in support of H. Res. 1021, expressing condolences for the people of Haiti in the aftermath of last month's tragic earthquake. This catastrophe devastated an already impoverished nation. My thoughts and prayers are with the people of Haiti, their relatives, and the entire Haitian-American community.

Today, Congress conveys its solidarity with the people of Haiti in their hour of need, and we honor the men and women from around the world who have come to their aid. I applaud President Obama's swift and resolute response to this humanitarian crisis. The United States Government, in cooperation with the Government of Haiti, the United Nations, and the international community, has mobilized every available resource to save lives.

The American people have once again shown their generosity to those in need around the world. In the midst an economic downturn, families in Minnesota and across the United States have donated over $200 million to help our neighbors in Haiti. Yesterday, I joined my colleagues to unanimously pass H.R. 4462, a bill that would make such charitable donations to Haiti tax deductible. This legislation will encourage even more Americans to join the relief effort.

Despite the rapid and robust global response, the months and years ahead will be extremely difficult for the people of Haiti. In the short term, the United States must continue to provide food, water, shelter, and medicine to victims of this catastrophe. It is also clear that Haiti needs a long-term strategy for recovery, and America and the international community must help. As a member of the State and Foreign Operations Appropriations Subcommittee, I will continue to support a comprehensive recovery and development strategy to help Haiti rebuild its infrastructure and increase economic opportunity for its citizens. As Haiti's neighbor, and as the wealthiest nation in the world, the United States must lead the international effort to help Haiti back onto its feet.

INTRODUCTION OF THE CANCER SCREENING COVERAGE ACT

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 2, 2010

Mrs. MALONEY. Madam Speaker, today I am reintroducing the Cancer Screening Coverage Act (CASCA). This legislation will increase the number of Americans who are covered for breast, cervical, prostate, and colorectal cancer screening.

According to the American Cancer Society, this year, more than 560,000 Americans are expected to die of cancer—this is more than 1,500 people a day. The number alone is unsettling, but even worse, is the fact that we have screening tools that can help identify cancers in its early stages and begin treatment sooner. Cancer screening allows for the detection of cancer in its earliest form, when the cost of treatment is the least. The survival rate among cancer patients is heavily dependent on improvements in treatment and the early diagnosis of cancer. Many advances have been made, but the key to survival is early detection. It is estimated that the rate of survival would increase from 80 percent to 95 percent if all Americans participated in regular cancer screenings. This bill will go a long way toward getting Americans screened.

Cancer is the second leading cause of death among Americans and accounts for 1

out of every 4 deaths in the United States. The American Cancer Society anticipates about 1,479,350 new cancer cases were diagnosed in 2009. In an effort to ensure that people are screened and that these screenings are covered by health insurance, I am reintroducing the Cancer Screening Coverage Act (CASCA). My bill will increase the access to cancer screening exams for patients of private insurance and the Federal Employees Health Benefits plan. The National Institutes of Health estimates overall costs of cancer in 2008 at $228.1 billion and lack of health insurance prevents many Americans from receiving optimal care. My bill requires coverage of mammograms, clinical breast examinations, Pap tests and pelvic examinations, colorectal cancer screening procedures and prostate cancer screening. By increasing access to cancer screening and early detection, we can make certain that Americans are able to receive the proper medical treatment and reduce the number of deaths caused by cancer.

IN MEMORY OF AMPARO OLGUIN

HON. JOE BACA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 2, 2010

Mr. BACA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the achievements of Mrs. Amparo Olguin, wife, mother, grandmother and devoted citizen of San Bernardino, California, who recently passed, on January 23, 2010, at 72.

Amparo possessed an unwavering dedication to the community, always looking for opportunities to help others. Throughout her life she constantly pursued academic degrees that would allow the community to prosper from her knowledge. Throughout her career she held numerous education, social and youth oriented positions: San Bernardino School District; Welfare Department, social service aide; City of San Bernardino, human relations assistant; Los Padrinos, youth intervention counselor; Casa Ramona Drop-In Center; Inland Congregations United for Change, project director, and other social service/education-related positions. She possessed a spirit and purpose which profoundly impacted the lives of those around her.

Amparo had a passion for alleviating the needs of families, youth, and children. That passion earned her the honor of receiving numerous accolades recognizing her services to the community. In 2002, the Inland Empire Chamber of Commerce honored her with the 46th Annual Latina of the Year award. In 2004, she received the Congressman JOE BACA Community Leadership Award, recognizing her outstanding services and leadership. In 2008, she received the Carol A. Mills award, for her heroism and involvement in the San Bernardino Valley College Drug and Prevention Program. She was always working to make a positive impact in her community

She is survived by Felix, her husband of 56 years; her daughters Anna Flores and Marsha; her sons Felix Jr., Anthony and Michael; 10 grandchildren and 16 great-grandchildren.

The thoughts and prayers of my wife Barbara and children, Councilman Joe Baca, Jr., Jeremy, Natalie and Jennifer, and I are with the family at this time. I ask my colleagues to join me in remembering a dedicated leader. She will be greatly missed, and I extend my sincere condolences to her extended family upon the very sad loss of Mrs. Amparo Olguin.

HONORING MR. JAMES COOPER

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 2, 2010

Mr. HIGGINS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the years of service given to the people of Chautauqua County by Mr. James Cooper. Mr. Cooper served his constituency faithfully and justly during his tenure as a member of the Poland Town Council.

Public service is a difficult and fulfilling career. Any person with a dream may enter but only a few are able to reach the end. Mr. Cooper served his term with his head held high and a smile on his face the entire way. I have no doubt that his kind demeanor left a lasting impression on the people of Chautauqua County.

We are truly blessed to have such strong individuals with a desire to make this county the wonderful place that we all know it can be. Mr. Cooper is one of those people and that is why, Madam Speaker, I rise in honor of him today.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOHN A. BOCCIERI

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 2, 2010

Mr. BOCCIERI. Madam Speaker, unfortunately, I missed the following recorded votes on the House floor on Tuesday, January 26, 2010.

Rollcall No. 17 was a vote on H. Res. 990—Expressing support for designation of January 2010 as "National Mentoring Month," Representative McCollum—Education and Labor. Had I been present I would have voted "yes."

Rollcall No. 18 was a 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, Representative Halvorson—Energy and Commerce. Had I been present I would have voted "yes."

Rollcall No. 19 was a vote on H. Res. 1003—Expressing support for the designation of January 10, 2010, through January 16, 2010, as National Influenza Vaccination Week, Representative Chu—Energy and Commerce. Had I been present I would have voted "yes."

ACKNOWLEDGING CAROL NICHOLS ON HER RETIREMENT AND FOR HER SERVICE TO THE HOUSE

HON. ROBERT A. BRADY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 2, 2010

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, on the occasion of her retirement on February 1, 2010, I rise today to thank Carol Nichols of the Office of the Chief Administrative Officer, CAO, for her years of dedicated and outstanding service to the United States House of Representatives.

Since joining the House in 1992, Carol has served this great institution in a variety of capacities—some of which have been groundbreaking, and all of which have contributed to the enhancement of the functioning of a Member's Congressional office. When initially hired by the Clerk of the House, Carol became the first woman to work in the "shops" on the House side of the Congress, taking a position in the House Upholstery Shop. As Carol learned and perfected her craft as an upholsterer serving the needs of Congressional offices, she also gained a finer appreciation for the day-to-day operational dynamics and the equipment and furniture resource needs of a Member's office. In particular, she came to have a keen appreciation for the particular logistical challenges presented to a Member's office and the House during the Congressional Transition every two years, when many offices and staffs relocate to new space and are challenged with maintaining optimum functionality while furniture and equipment moves are underway.

With the establishment of the Office of the Chief Administrative Officer in 1995 and the partnership with the Architect of the Capitol's Superintendent's Office, the CAO and AOC established joint Coordination teams to focus specifically on managing the office moves in a more collaborative and efficient manner during the 106th Congressional Transition, with the ultimate goal to reduce the office's down time experienced by the Member and the staff. Carol was assigned to the initial team of Move Coordinators—an assignment in which her attention to detail and exceptional organization skills proved invaluable. She brought a number of innovations and improvements to the process, and in preparation for the subsequent transition, Carol was appointed team lead of the Move Coordinators, for which she received recognition by being honored with the CAO's Distinguished Service Award. In every transition that followed through the 111th Congress, Carol served the House as the CAO's lead for the transition.

Carol's ability to manage large scale moves, to successfully coordinate the efforts of her team, to effectively troubleshoot problems, to anticipate the customer's needs and exceed their expectations, and to get the desired results and deliver solutions along the way became particularly helpful during the anthrax incident in the fall of 2001 as the House faced the challenge of relocating every Member's office from the House buildings in a matter of a few days. Carol played a critical role on the CAO team in setting up separate offices for every Member at an alternate location, and in managing their subsequent transition back to the House complex following the incident. Several years later, Carol served as the single point-of-contact for the CAO office in working with the Architect of the Capitol in coordinating and facilitating the relocation of offices and staff from the O'Neill House Office Building prior to its demolition.

With the CAO's creation of Office Coordinators and the House Office Service Center to work with Congressional offices day-in and day-out to manage more effectively their office logistical needs, Carol was promoted to serve

as the initial Manager of the Office Coordinators. Carol completed her service to the House as the Director of the CAO Customer Service Center, where she has been responsible for the oversight of not only the Office Coordinators, but First Call, CAO Graphics, and Modular Furniture as well.

As Carol embarks on her retirement with her husband, Phil, who retired from the House in 2007 following 31 years of service, I am happy to extend to Carol the best wishes of the Members and employees of the House of Representatives for an enjoyable and fulfilling retirement. In recognizing her years of service to the House, I congratulate her on her unwavering commitment and exceptional performance over the years, and I personally thank her for making our lives in Congressional offices a bit easier through her contributions to the efficient management of the physical environment and logistics of our offices.

HONORING MS. DEBORA CARPENTER

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 2, 2010

Mr. HIGGINS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the years of service given to the people of Chautauqua County by Ms. Debora Carpenter. Ms. Carpenter served her constituency faithfully and justly during her tenure as Ellington Tax Collector.

Public service is a difficult and fulfilling career. Any person with a dream may enter but only a few are able to reach the end. Ms. Carpenter served her term with her head held high and a smile on her face the entire way. I have no doubt that her kind demeanor left a lasting impression on the people of Chautauqua County.

We are truly blessed to have such strong individuals with a desire to make this county the wonderful place that we all know it can be. Ms. Carpenter is one of those people and that is why, Madam Speaker, I rise in honor of her today.

EXPRESSING CONDOLENCES AND CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF MS. DOROTHY BLAIR

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 2, 2010

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Mrs. Dorothy "Dottie" Jones Blair, who passed away on January 19, 2010 at the age of 74.

Mrs. Blair was a pioneer in Dallas and diligently served her community through her hard work and determination. In the 1960's, Mrs. Blair became one of the first African American Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetists in the country and helped pave the way for many African Americans and women who would have this profession after her. In 1975, she helped to establish Concord Baptist Church where she was a charter member and co-teacher of the Smith-Blair Sunday school class for 33 years. Later she would found Holmes Street Inc., a nonprofit residential and outpatient treatment center for adolescent boys suffering from chemical dependency. Through the years, this center has served over 1,000 patients.

This remarkable dedication to the community garnered Mrs. Blair numerous awards, and in 2007 she was honored by the Minnie H. Goodlow Page Chapter of the National Council of Negro Women Inc. with the Mary McLeod Bethune Award for outstanding service. Additionally, she was a member of the South Dallas Negro Business and Professional Women's Club.

Madam Speaker, Mrs. Blair was a remarkable woman who never faltered in her willingness to help people. I ask my fellow colleagues to join me today in honoring this woman who gave so much to Dallas. She will be truly missed.

TONGUE POINT JOB CORPS CENTER

HON. DAVID WU

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 2, 2010

Mr. WU. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Tongue Point Jobs Corps Center on its 45th birthday. The Tongue Point Jobs Corps Centers is located at the mouth of the Columbia River in Astoria, Oregon, which is in my district.

The Economic Opportunity Act of 1964 created the Job Corps Program. As the second Job Corps Center to open, Tongue Point Jobs Corps Center received its first students on February 2, 1965, exactly 45 years ago. In 1972, Tongue Point Jobs Corps Center was the pilot program for co-ed Jobs Corps centers, which is now the standard throughout the Corps.

To date, more than 25,000 students have come through Tongue Point's doors. Tongue Point is the largest Job Corps Center in the Northwest. On average, Tongue Point contributes $11.2 million annually to the local community. Beyond obtaining job skills, Tongue Point students are also great citizens. During 2009, students performed 6,230 hours of community service in a variety of service areas.

I am proud to have Tongue Point Jobs Corps Center in my district and I am constantly amazed by the tangible benefits they provide for the students and the local community. They are a wonderful example of how the Job Corps Program provides meaningful education and job training to youth in need. As our country strives to create jobs, train a new skilled workforce and recover our economy, the Job Corps Program will help us succeed in our efforts and accomplish our goals.

HONORING MR. GEORGE BECLEROMI

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 2, 2010

Mr. HIGGINS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the years of service given to the people of Chautauqua County by Mr. George Becleromi. Mr. Becleromi served his constituency faithfully and justly during his tenure as a member of the Ellicott Town Council.

Public service is a difficult and fulfilling career. Any person with a dream may enter but only a few are able to reach the end. Mr. Becleromi served his term with his head held high and a smile on his face the entire way. I have no doubt that his kind demeanor left a lasting impression on the people of Chautauqua County.

We are truly blessed to have such strong individuals with a desire to make this county the wonderful place that we all know it can be. Mr. Becleromi is one of those people and that is why, Madam Speaker, I rise in honor of him today.

HONORING GREG VAN WASSENHOVE, SANTA CLARA COUNTY AGRICULTURAL COMMISSIONER AND SEALER

HON. MICHAEL M. HONDA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 2, 2010

Mr. HONDA. Madam Speaker, today I rise to honor Greg Van Wassenhove, recently retired Agricultural Commissioner and Sealer of the County of Santa Clara. Throughout his many years of service, Greg has brought knowledge, strength and vitality not only to the agricultural community but to the many County departments that he has managed.

Greg Van Wassenhove graduated from the University of California at Santa Barbara with a degree in Biological Sciences in 1973, and in 1974 started work with the San Mateo County Agricultural Commissioner's Office. In 1983, Greg was appointed the Agricultural Commissioner/Sealer of Weights and Measures for Santa Clara County; and for the past 25 years, Greg has demonstrated a continuing commitment to pest prevention at the state and national levels. Greg has participated in numerous advisory committees relating to pest prevention, including the Governor's Blue Ribbon Panel on Eradication of Exotic Pests. Greg has collaborated with other County Agricultural Commissioners to develop common efforts on pest prevention, and has also worked with the Statewide County Agricultural Commissioners' Association to establish ongoing funding to prevent the introduction of invasive species and to control and eradicate pest populations once they were established. Greg has successfully contributed to the eradication of the Mediterranean fruit fly from San Mateo County and, on three occasions, in Santa Clara County.

For the past 35 years, Greg has dedicated himself to providing exceptional public services that promote and protect the agricultural industry of the State as well as consumers. He has worked in two urban counties where the control and prevention of invasive species introduction is critical to the local agricultural economy and the rest of the state. His cooperative efforts with industry as well as with all levels of federal, state and local government, including the development of an excellent working relationship with USDA, CDFA, and Congressional and State representatives, promoted programs that involved the prevention

and control of invasive species. As an expert in the field of pest prevention, Greg's efforts helped lead to the development of the California High Risk Pest Exclusion Program and the Pest and Disease Management Section of the 2007 Farm Bill.

Greg has also led Santa Clara County's efforts to advocate for and protect its residents through his position as the County's Sealer of Weights and Measures, where Greg has enforced the laws which ensure that consumers are treated honestly and businesses are held accountable.

Finally, Greg has accepted any challenge presented to him. In addition to his other duties, Greg oversaw such diverse divisions of County government as Animal Control, Vector Control, Integrated Waste Management, Environmental Health, Fire Marshall and Weed Abatement.

It is with great respect for, and in admiration of, Greg Van Wassenhove that I stand in honor today. His many years of service to the residents of Santa Clara County, the agricultural community, and the State of California are greatly appreciated and his legacy will benefit us for many years to come.

HONORING JIM TAYLOR

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 2, 2010

Mr. RADANOVICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to posthumously honor the life of Jim ''Trooper'' Taylor. Mr. Taylor passed away on Tuesday, November 17, 2009 at the age of seventy-seven surrounded by family at his home in Fresno, California.

Mr. Jim Taylor was born in 1932 in the Ozark Mountains near Mt. Vernon, Missouri to Tom and Anne Taylor. As a young man, his family moved to Sanger, California where he attended Sanger High School. Upon graduating from high school, he attended Reedley College and later joined the United States Navy. Mr. Taylor served four years in the Navy and was Honorably Discharged. After his service to the Navy, he settled in the San Francisco Bay Area. While in San Francisco, Mr. Taylor met and married his life-long companion, Mary Jane.

In 1958, Mr. Taylor began a career in law enforcement. His first assignment was to the Stanislaus County Sheriffs Department as a Deputy Sheriff. After two and a half years, he joined the California Highway Patrol and was assigned as a resident officer to the High Desert Country at Ridgecrest. In 1962, he was transferred to Fresno, California. He was assigned to the twelve officer motorcycle squad for approximately four years. After serving many years on the road, Mr. Taylor became the Public Affairs Officer for the Fresno area. As the Public Affairs Officer, he initiated the ''Trooper Taylor Report,'' a daily news report of the areas activities along with road and inclement weather conditions, which was picked up by many local radio channels.

Mr. Taylor was an avid World War II history buff, and read countless books on the subject. He loved the California State University, Fresno Bulldogs and attended football, basketball and softball games each season. He enjoyed traveling around the state following the Bulldogs along side his family and friends. He spent the majority of his time with his family and always looked forward to cooking for family events and Bulldog tailgates.

Mr. Taylor is preceded in death by his mother, father, brother, Leroy Tracy; sisters Ione Gass and Joyce Alfors; and grandson Scott Page. He is survived by his loving wife, Mary Jane; sons and daughter-in-laws, Tracy, Greg and Jeannie, Kevin and Renee, and Patrick; grandchildren, Teri, Darren, Daniel and his wife Alisa, Christopher, Jacob, Kelsi, Debbie and her husband Paul Gress and Dustin Johnson; great-grandchildren, Hayden, Danielle, Austin, Kristen and Seth; brother, Bryan; sisters, Christine and Jennifer and numerous nieces and nephews.

Madam Speaker, I invite my colleagues to join me in honoring the life of Jim ''Trooper'' Taylor and wishing the best for his family.

HONORING MR. EDWARD WRIGHT

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 2, 2010

Mr. HIGGINS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the years of service given to the people of Chautauqua County by Mr. Edward Wright. Mr. Wright served his constituency faithfully and justly during his tenure as the Mina Town Attorney.

Public service is a difficult and fulfilling career. Any person with a dream may enter but only a few are able to reach the end. Mr. Wright served his term with his head held high and a smile on his face the entire way. I have no doubt that his kind demeanor left a lasting impression on the people of Chautauqua County.

We are truly blessed to have such strong individuals with a desire to make this county the wonderful place that we all know it can be. Mr. Wright was dedicated to this goal and that is why, Madam Speaker, I rise in honor of him today.

HONORING GEORGE HAEUBER, MAPLE SHADE TOWNSHIP MANAGER, UPON HIS RETIREMENT

HON. ROBERT E. ANDREWS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 2, 2010

Mr. ANDREWS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the retirement of Mr. George Haeuber with recognition of his outstanding contributions in government service.

Mr. Haeuber's devotion to public service began in March 1974 as Administrative Assistant to the Township Manager in the Township of Teaneck, New Jersey. From there he continued his public service as Borough Administrator of the Borough of Leonia, New Jersey. Mr. Haeuber became Township Manager of the Township of Maple Shade, Maple Shade, New Jersey in July 1984. As Township Manager, Mr. Haeuber served as chief administrative and executive officer of the Township, responsible for the day-to-day operations of the Township, and the preparation, presentation and administration of the Township budget. Mr. Haeuber supervised all aspects of municipal operations and provided for the effective and efficient fulfillment of Township Council policy.

Mr. Haeuber also pioneered the formulation of local self-insurance pools. He served from 1987 to 1992 as chairman of the Executive Committee of the Professional Municipal Management Joint Insurance Fund. He served as a member of the Executive Committee of the Statewide Municipal Excess Liability Joint Insurance Fund (MELJIF) from 1988 to 1992 and from 1996. He chaired the committee from 1997 to 1999. In addition, Mr. Haeuber was Fund Commissioner, Municipal Excess Liability Residual Claims Fund, and Chairman of MELJIF Audit Committee.

Mr. Haeuber's commitment to Maple Shade is also evidenced through his civic/community service affiliations. Mr. Haeuber is an active member of the Maple Shade Rotary Club, serving as its chairman in 1990–91, and Youth Chairman since 1986. Furthermore, Mr. Haeuber has been deeply involved in Boy Scouts of America Burlington County Council—Young Adults Division, as a member of the Council Exploring Committee from 1993 to 1998 and as chairman of the Service Team from 1993 to 1998.

Madam Speaker, the work of Mr. Haeuber is truly praiseworthy. I wish Mr. Haeuber the best of luck upon retirement and I thank him for his commitment to his community.

HONORING REVEREND DR. RONALD L. OWENS

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 2, 2010

Mr. PALLONE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Reverend Dr. Ronald L. Owens and to congratulate him on his 20th Pastoral Anniversary with the New Hope Baptist Church in Metuchen, New Jersey. His presence in the church has uplifted his assembly and caused membership to grow tremendously. Its growth has been so large that the church now has a full time staff of five to six associate ministers, and more than thirty active ministries devoted to serving the community.

In his twenty years with the New Hope Baptist church, Dr. Owens has dedicated his life to service and leadership. As the first ever Chaplain of the Metuchen Police and Fire Departments, Pastor Owens counsels those who have experienced crisis and loss. He is also the President and CEO of the House Of Hope Community Development Corporation of New Jersey, a non-profit organization that provides permanent housing to families in need. Dr. Owens has held numerous positions with Baptist groups, including a period as the General Secretary for the General Baptist State Convention of New Jersey, an association of over 400 member churches.

Pastor Owens has been commended by several organizations for his efforts in the community. He was given the NAACP Merv Alexander Political Award for his leadership in Middlesex County. The YMCA of New Jersey also decorated Dr. Owens with the Minority Achievers Award. Alpha Phi Alpha, of which Dr. Owens is a life time member, presented

him with the Martin Luther King award for outstanding academic achievement and community service. In addition to all of these tremendous achievements, Pastor Owens has retained a loving relationship with his wife Cheryl and raised two daughters, Tracy and Kimberly.

Madam Speaker, it is my hope that my colleagues will join me in thanking the Reverend Dr. Ronald L. Owens for his leadership and service to New Jersey, as well as congratulate him on his 20th anniversary with the New Hope Baptist Church.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 2, 2010

Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California. Madam Speaker, on Thursday, January 21, 2010 I mistakenly voted "nay" on the vote on the Senate Amendments to H.R. 730, the Nuclear Forensics and Attribution Act. I intended to vote "yea." Please accept this letter as clarification.

INTRODUCTION OF THE ENERGY ASSISTANCE FOR AMERICAN FAMILIES ACT

HON. EDWARD J. MARKEY

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 2, 2010

Mr. MARKEY of Massachusetts. Madam Speaker, the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program, or LIHEAP, is a vital safety net for millions of Americans. This winter, a perfect storm of economic hardship, rising heating oil prices, and increased demand for home energy assistance is leading to a serious home energy crisis for millions of Americans. The Energy Assistance for American Families Act that I am introducing today would increase the level of funding for LIHEAP and expand its availability in order to protect millions of American families who are facing difficult choices this winter between paying for food or paying for fuel.

The Energy Assistance for American Families Act would increase the authorized funding level for LIHEAP to $7.6 billion per year for fiscal years 2011 to 2014, an increase of $2.5 billion over the last authorized level, enacted in 2005. The Energy Assistance for American Families Act would also extend the expanded eligibility levels that were included in the omnibus appropriations bills for fiscal years 2009 and 2010—giving states the option of helping families with incomes up to 75 percent of the State Median Income level.

According to the National Energy Assistance Directors Association (NEADA), states assisted 8.3 million households last year—more than a 33 percent increase in the number of households served from the previous year. In my home state of Massachusetts, LIHEAP funding helped 186,160 Massachusetts families in 2009, according to the Campaign for Home Energy Assistance.

However, overall demand for LIHEAP aid is rising this year, in large part due to the economic downturn. NEADA estimates that 10 million households may apply for assistance this year. Increasing the LIHEAP funding level will allow states to meet this increased demand and to continue to provide meaningful aid.

Energy prices are also on the rise—average household expenditures on heating oil this winter are expected to increase to $1,911 from $1,864 last winter, according to the Department of Energy. The Energy Assistance for American Families Act will allow grants to continue to cover a significant portion of home heating bills.

Our economy may finally be heating up, but the effects of a recession, periods of cold weather, and rising energy prices are still having a chilling effect on millions of American families. Expanding LIHEAP's funding and availability is absolutely essential to help families who are struggling this winter.

HONORING THE RECIPIENTS OF THE CAMDEN COUNTY FREEDOM MEDAL

HON. ROBERT E. ANDREWS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 2, 2010

Mr. ANDREWS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend the twelve recipient winners on receiving the 2010 Camden County Freedom Medal. I commend them on being honored for their commitment to their profession and their work on behalf of the community.

The Freedom Medal is awarded to extraordinary citizens of Camden County who have unselfishly contributed their time and effort to better their community and continue Martin Luther King, Jr.'s dream of bringing people together. Brief descriptions of these twelve recipient winners are below.

Dr. Mumtaz H. Bodla played a vital role in organizing fundraisers for several natural disaster relief projects. Dr. Bodla has also contributed to the food and clothing drive for the homeless in Camden County. His tireless dedication and time working for all of these causes has not only benefited them but certainly his own community is enriched by his presence and all of his hard work.

Mr. Kevin Jackson is a member of the M.E.N. (Men Empowering Nations) Board and serves as its Treasurer and invaluable mentor. He shares his extensive education, rich employment and entrepreneurial experience with the young men in positive ways. Mr. Jackson epitomizes Dr. King's beliefs and passes that onto the young men in the community.

Ms. Madeline Shilling was one of the earliest members of the Hi-Nella Fire Company's Ladies Auxiliary, for which she served as President. She has always been active with the skits the members of the Fire Company and Auxiliary put on for their Socials. As a dedicated volunteer over the years, Ms. Schilling has impacted and benefited her community.

Ms. Marilyn Torres is a community activist who has served in a myriad of capacities throughout the city of Camden. She served as Acting President/Chairperson of the Camden County Human Relations Commission, and was later elected to the position of Chairperson due to her esteemed leadership. Ms. Torres is dedicated to improving the quality of life in her community.

Mr. Timothy Chatten serves as the Section Chief of the Juvenile Unit of the Camden County Prosecutor's Office. He has volunteered his services countless times in Biloxi, Mississippi after Hurricane Katrina. His remodeling, reconstruction, and handy work skills has helped dozens of families recovering from the disaster. His faithful commitment and personal sacrifice to these people has not gone unnoticed.

Ms. Marian Stoy has served as Hi-Nella Fire Hall Girl Scout leader, a member on the PTA local school board, and as an officer of the Hi-Nella Fire Company Ladies Auxiliary. The auxiliary, during her term, donated over ninety-six thousand dollars to the local Fire Company. Over this period of time, she was instrumental in instilling positive morals and values to hundreds of young girls.

Rev. Charles E. Giddins Sr. is the Senior Pastor of Victory Temple Community Church of God In Christ in Camden New Jersey. He has taught courses from Moody's Bible Institute and the American Bible College and also has held school bible study for city youth. Rev. Giddins established a Day Care program so that young mothers could go to work knowing that their children were safe. Rev. Giddins continues to serve and better his community as he answers the call of God.

Mr. Qasim Hussain has provided leadership as a member of The Pakistan-American Society of South Jersey. He has spent countless hours volunteering for several international natural disaster relief missions, while helping his own community with the yearly Christmas collection of food, clothing and toys for the homeless of Camden City. Mr. Hussain is not only a shining example for this community, but he has truly touched many lives by his dedication and generosity.

Ms. Christine Parry is the Chairperson for the Human Concerns Ministries at St. Andrew the Apostle Church in Gibbsboro. Ms. Parry volunteers the majority of her time to the Christian Cupboard, Prison Ministry, Nursing Home Companion Ministry and Local Outreach Ministry. Many lives and families have been assisted and touched by these various ministries and by Ms. Parry's unselfish service to the community.

Ms. Jennifer Storer is a lifelong resident of Camden County who unselfishly contributes to her community as a member of the Black Horse Pike Board of Education. She is a major force on the Policy and Planning Committee and the Facilities, Security and Transportation Committee as well. She also won the Renaissance Achievement Award for her leadership and service. Her dedication and service to the community, especially the youth, will continue to impact the community.

Mr. William and Mrs. Patricia McCargo have distinguished themselves as advocates for the rights of the underserved and the promotion of the equity and fairness as President and Corresponding Secretary of the Cherry Hill African American Civic Association. They are exemplary models of the vision and dreams of Dr. King. As Cherry Hill natives and graduates of Cherry Hill High School West, they know the meaning of qualitative education.

Madam Speaker, the work of these twelve individuals is truly praiseworthy. I congratulate the 2010 Camden County Freedom Medal

winners on their accomplishment and I thank them for their commitment to their community.

HONORING AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORY MONTH

HON. JOHN B. LARSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 2, 2010

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Madam Speaker, it is with great respect and admiration that I rise to honor African American History Month. African American History Month was created to celebrate and remember the great achievements, advancements, sacrifices and contributions that the African American community has done for the United States of America.

This month has been, and continues to be, a beautiful and powerful reminder as to why the United States of America continues to be a beacon of freedom and success in the world. If you work hard, and stand true to what is right, to what you believe in, and heed the messages of our forefathers, you can overcome all obstacles in the face of hardship. To this, African American History Month is a testament.

The message of this month should not be unappreciated and it should not be forgotten. This month remains relevant in today's changing political and social landscape. The fruit of the African American Civil Rights Movement can still be seen today. Just forty years after the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., African Americans are now forces to be reckoned with in almost every field, whether business or academia, politics or the non-profit community. Once considered an impossible dream, an African American is now our own Commander and Chief in the White House.

It should be said, Madam Speaker, that learning about African American history is learning about the true history of America as a nation.

As such, I would like to ask my distinguished colleagues to join me in honoring and celebrating African American History Month this year.

HONORING BETTE BELLE SMITH

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 2, 2010

Mr. RADANOVICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to posthumously honor the life of Bette Belle Smith. Mrs. Smith passed away on Sunday, November 29, 2009, at the age of 88.

Bette Belle Anderson was born at her family's home in Modesto, California on January 17, 1921, to Jim and Maysel Anderson. She was born severely pigeon-toed and the doctors recommended that she take ballet lessons to force her feet to turn outward. At the time, the closest dance teachers were in San Francisco. Her parents enrolled her in dance lessons, and drove her to San Francisco two weekends per month. Her father installed a barre at their home so she could practice.

In junior high school, Bette Belle invited a girl with a broken leg to come over to her home and practice ballet. This was the beginning of the Smith's dancing school. With nearly one hundred students, the school outgrew her home; rehearsals were moved to the Elks Hall and Odd Fellows Hall. Recitals were held at Modesto High School, with an occasional small orchestra, thanks to the help of her brother. Her love for the performing arts endured throughout her life.

Mrs. Smith attended Modesto High School, Modesto Junior College and the University of California, Los Angeles. She left UCLA and returned to Modesto to help her parents after they were in a car accident. At this time, World War II was in full force and Mrs. Smith was the first in line to assist. She rolled bandages for the Red Cross, gathered a group of her former dance students to perform for convalescing soldiers at Awahnee Naval Hospital and what was then Hammond General Hospital in Modesto. After the war ended, she married Jean Smith, her longtime boyfriend. He had served in Hawaii and in the Gilbert Islands during the war, and they corresponded with many letters while he was away.

In 1954, Mr. and Mrs. Smith had their first child, Talbot, and thirteen months later she gave birth to twins, Mary and Tim. Being a mom was Mrs. Smith's number one priority, and volunteering was the second. She served on the Enslen Elementary School Parent Teacher Association, the Rainbow Girls Mothers Club and the Girl Scout Advisory Committee. She helped establish a Modesto chapter of American Field Service, an organization devoted to international student education. Mrs. Smith served on the Modesto Junior College foundation board, and volunteered with Omega Nu, The Salvation Army, International Festival and Inter-Faith Ministries. She visited with women from the Redwood Family Center who were recovering from drug and alcohol addictions. For many years she delighted hundreds of children as Mrs. Claus at the McHenry Museum, the Modesto Symphony and Enslen School. Of course, her love of the arts led her to work with the McHenry Museum Guild, serve on the Modesto Symphony board of directors and serve on the Gallo Center's original board of trustees as well as a fund development committee member. For 70 years she was an active member with the Modesto Symphony and was a driving force behind bringing the Gallo Center to Modesto.

At the age of 59, Mrs. Smith went to work. In 1978, a group of investors asked for her assistance in chartering the Modesto Banking Company. She agreed and coordinated sales events to raise capital for the company. Mrs. Smith was named Vice President of Business Development and Community Relations for the Modesto Banking Company, now U.S. Bank. Although she was working full time, Mrs. Smith continued to volunteer and encouraged others to do the same.

Due to the incredible amount of time that she donated to the city of Modesto and her community, Mrs. Smith has received many accolades. In 2000, California Governor Gray Davis named Mrs. Smith "Outstanding Older Worker of the Year." She has also been named the Soroptimist Woman of the Year, United Cerebral Palsy "Volunteer of the Year", American Legion "Man of the Year" (now called "Citizen of the Year"), United Way "Volunteer of the Decade," and received the Modesto Junior College Distinguished Alumni Award. United Way has named an award in her memory, the "Bette Belle Smith Campaigner of the Year" award and the United Way building has also been named in her honor. In Modesto, Mrs. Smith is simply known as "Mrs. Modesto."

Madam Speaker, I invite my colleagues to join me in honoring the life of Bette Belle Smith and wishing the best for her family.

HONORING GREGORY B. ROBERTS FOR FOUR DECADES OF SERVICE TO THE U.S. MILITARY AND INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY THROUGH HIS LEADERSHIP IN THE DOD CONTRACTOR BASE

HON. ROBERT E. ANDREWS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 2, 2010

Mr. ANDREWS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the extraordinary contributions of Gregory B. Roberts. On February 1, 2010, Mr. Roberts retired as President of L-3 Communication Systems-East after an amazing forty three-year career in the Aerospace and Defense industry. L-3 Communication Systems-East is located in my district and I have had the privilege to have known and worked with Mr. Roberts during the past 14 years.

Mr. Roberts is a graduate of the University of Virginia where he received a bachelor's degree in electrical engineering. He also received a master's degree in electrical engineering from the Polytechnic Institute of Brooklyn.

Mr. Roberts has held leadership roles in some of our most distinguished defense companies, including L-3 Communications, General Electric Aerospace—Reentry Systems, Martin Marietta, and later Lockheed Martin.

Mr. Roberts' provided the leadership that led to the development of numerous innovative and high technology solutions for U.S. government customers including secure communications technologies, maritime communications solutions, space-based communications, channel processing equipment, and re-entry and fusing systems for Minuteman and Peacekeeper missiles.

Those who know Mr. Roberts, know that throughout his career he has mentored our top scientists and engineers, and in doing so, has provided the country with our next generation of leadership talent.

Madam Speaker, Mr. Roberts has a proud record of service to our country and I am proud to call him my friend. I congratulate Greg Roberts for all his accomplishments and wish him the best in his retirement.

IN HONOR OF JOHN ALFRED "FRED" BENNETT

HON. JOHN P. MURTHA

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 2, 2010

Mr. MURTHA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to mourn the passing of John Alfred "Fred" Bennett and to pay tribute to his life of leadership and service. Mr. Bennett was a beloved husband, father, friend, and community leader in my district. He was born in Franklin Borough, Cambria County to James A. and Shirley R. Bennett. He grew up with a love of

sports and was especially fond of the Pittsburgh Steelers. Mr. Bennett graduated from Greater Johnstown High School and later attended St. Francis University.

After serving his country honorably in the U.S. Army during the Korean War, Mr. Bennett came home to Johnstown, Pennsylvania. He was employed for more than 40 years by the Bethlehem Steel Corporation, where he worked in many positions. He was a delegate to the Johnstown Regional Central Labor Council, became one of the area's most preeminent Masons, and was a dedicated Elk.

A devout Christian, Mr. Bennett filled many leadership roles as a member of Mount Sinai Institutional Baptist Church. He served on the church's board of trustees and also participated as a member of the Male Chorus, Adult Gospel Choir, Lily of the Valley, and the John Bennett Singers.

Madam Speaker, Mr. Bennett was the former president and a lifetime member of the Johnstown Branch National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), and also served as Chairman of the Civil Rights Committee of United Steelworkers of America 2634 Rod and Wire Mill.

At 78 years old, John Bennett lived a full and prosperous life. My thoughts and prayers are with his wife Rosemarie and his loving family.

HONORING LORI YING, INTEL SCIENCE TALENT SEARCH FINALIST

HON. CAROLYN McCARTHY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 2, 2010

Mrs. McCARTHY of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize my constituent Lori Ying and congratulate her as she is named a finalist in the Intel Science Talent Search 2010. The Intel Science Talent Search is America's most prestigious science competition for high school seniors. Lori is one of only 40 finalists nationwide.

Lori's project, ''Female Mating Patterns and Mate Quality in the Dengue Vector Mosquito, Aedes aegypti,'' studied whether or not mosquitoes that are genetically altered not to carry diseases like malaria and dengue fever can be viable mates for normal female mosquitoes.

As a student at South Side High School, Lori has participated in numerous science research programs including Columbia University's Summer High School Program, Cornell University Science Research Program and the Intel Science Talent Search. In addition, Lori is a member of the engineering club, the forensics club, the environmental and social awareness club and the Science Olympiads. She has been recognized by the National Honor Society, National Art Honor Society, National Foreign Language Society, and the National Science Honor Society.

As a senior member of the Education and Labor Committee, I am truly impressed by Lori's accomplishments. I am pleased to see that Lori values not only her education, but also service and volunteerism within her community. In her spare time, Lori is a volunteer for the Rockville Centre Public Library, where she writes book reviews for the library's Web site and reads books to children; the Big Chief School and Camp, where she works with 2nd graders over the summer and South Side High School Summer School, where she helps to teach third graders mathematics.

Madam Speaker, it is with pride and admiration I offer my congratulations to Lori Ying and commend her dedication to education and science.

HONORING THE GLOUCESTER COUNTY CHAPTER OF THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF COLORED PEOPLE

HON. ROBERT E. ANDREWS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 2, 2010

Mr. ANDREWS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the extraordinary contributions that the Gloucester County NAACP has made in our community. Today, I stand to celebrate the NAACP's centennial along with the Gloucester County chapter's 18th year in creating change and being an influential voice in America's conscience.

The honorees at December's Annual Freedom Fund Awards Banquet, Chazz Witherspoon, Benjamin T. Griffith, Dr. Sandra M. Butts, Angela Nolan-Cooper, Seth Williams, Dr. Angela M. Jones, Frank Brown, Councilwoman Crystal Evans, Gwendolyn DeVera, Dr. Willie and Mrs. Emily Carter, Loretta Winters, Tiffany Grandison, and LaTonya Nelson, are a testament to the strength of the South Jersey community and the Gloucester County NAACP. These men and women come from all walks of life. They are boxers and bankers, police officers and politicians, anesthesiologists and attorneys. Despite their varied backgrounds, they have much in common. All should be commended for dedicating their time and energy to service of their community.

The Gloucester County chapter of the NAACP was established in 1991. In its first 18 years, the Gloucester County NAACP has been influential in providing scholarships for minority students, coordinating voter registration drives, and encouraging students to reach their full potential.

In celebrating the centennial of the NAACP, we must recognize the important role that the NAACP has played both on a national and local level to ensure the political, educational, social and economic equality of all Americans.

Madam Speaker, the Gloucester County NAACP has made invaluable contributions to the South Jersey region. I congratulate the Gloucester County NAACP on achieving its 18th anniversary, and look forward to its continued successes in the future.

RECOGNIZING DEBORAH LYNN AS THE WALTON COUNTY EDUCATIONAL SUPPORT PERSON OF THE YEAR

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 2, 2010

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mrs. Deborah Lynn as the Walton County, Florida Educational Support Person of the Year for the 2009–2010 school year. I am honored to recognize her achievements and her dedication to the students and teachers of Northwest Florida.

Mrs. Lynn, affectionately known as Ms. Debby by her students, is the school nurse for Freeport Elementary School. She supervises the school's clinic, provides first aid for injuries, maintains health records, and administers medicine. But what sets Mrs. Lynn apart from her peers is her initiative. She created Freeport's annual Summer Safety program for students which brings community organizations into the school to teach students about summer safety. Mrs. Lynn also coordinates with the Walton County Health Department all student health screenings, records, and H1N1 vaccines. Finally, she goes above and beyond to also serve the school staff by organizing a mobile mammogram bus to visit the school annually and arranging flu shots for teachers and school employees.

Madam Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, I am privileged to recognize Deborah Lynn as the Walton County Educational Support Person of the Year. Her passion for her students is commendable and her dedication to her profession makes her deserving of this award. My wife Vicki and I wish Deborah and her family all the best for the future.

A TRIBUTE TO FIRST NORTHERN BANK ON ITS 100TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. DANIEL E. LUNGREN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 2, 2010

Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor First Northern Bank as it marked its 100th year in business yesterday, February 1, 2010.

First Northern Bank was established in 1910, and has remained faithful to its roots as an institution formed to address specific personalized needs. First Northern continues to serve such needs with a strong commitment to superior personal service, and commitment to support and reinvest in each of the communities the Bank serves. The Bank continues to maintain its commitment as a full service community bank serving the business, professional, personal, and real estate requirements of the people in Solano, Sacramento, Yolo, and Placer Counties—with a reach into neighboring El Dorado County.

Back in 1910, a group of local Dixon businesspeople believed they weren't getting the kind of banking services they needed, so in the do-it-yourself tradition of an independent farming community, they voted on January 20th to open their own bank—an ''enterprise with all local capital and no outside investment or affiliations.''

Following a trip to San Francisco to purchase a safe and other supplies, their new bank opened for business a few days later on February 1, 1910, in a former ice cream parlor. After one month in business, the Bank had 93 accounts with deposits totaling more than $75,000. Today, deposits have grown to more than $650 million. Even though 100 years have passed, descendants of the Bank's founders are still shareholders and customers.

Over the years, First Northern Bank has contributed millions of dollars to the communities it serves, in the form of direct financial support and in-kind services.

I am pleased to recognize and congratulate First Northern Bank at this milestone, and anticipate many more successful years to come.

TRIBUTE TO PIKEVILLE MEDICAL CENTER

HON. HAROLD ROGERS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 2, 2010

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a world class hospital and the American Alliance of Healthcare Providers' 2009 ''Hospital of the Year,'' Pikeville Medical Center.

Each year, the American Alliance of Healthcare Providers selects a recipient of its hospital of the year award. This year over 400 applicants across the country participated in this competition. These applicants underwent rigorous on-site surveys and interviews to measure each hospital's standards of conduct, improvement, management and training. I am proud to report that this top notch institution in the heart of Eastern Kentucky was judged to be the nation's most patient friendly hospital.

This distinguished recognition truly reflects an unwavering commitment to world class patient care by every one of Pikeville Medical Center's 1,700 employees. The honor of being named Hospital of the Year is simply the latest example of the Pikeville Medical Center's stellar reputation among its peers and fellow medical professionals; in fact, the hospital was also named a Hospital of Choice by the American Alliance of Healthcare Providers earlier this year. In addition, the hospital has been named one of Kentucky's Top 10 Places to Work for two consecutive years, and one of the nation's Best Places to Work by Modern Healthcare Magazine. The hospital has also been recognized by the Kentucky Center for Performance Excellence and the Commission on Cancer. Simply put, the Pikeville Medical Center is living proof that the best hospitals rely not only on technology, but on a labor force that is committed to their noble mission of ''quality, regional health care in a Christian environment.''

For 85 years, Pikeville Medical Center has served as a beacon of healing for the people of Pike County, Kentucky and the surrounding regions. Since its humble beginnings in 1924, the hospital has expanded many times over to meet regional needs. Today, the Medical Center complex boasts many specialties and services such as its award winning cancer center, a cardiac rehabilitation center, a sleep studies laboratory, and a neonatal intensive care unit. The Pikeville Medical Center has also fashioned a teaching program that is second to none and will ensure that our talented young medical professionals will not have to leave Eastern Kentucky to learn and develop their skills.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring a fine example of patient care and community wellness, the Pikeville Medical Center. I congratulate the Center on this latest achievement and wish the employees and hospital leadership many more years of success.

RECOGNIZING PATRICIA TOY AS THE WALTON COUNTY TEACHER OF THE YEAR

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 2, 2010

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Patricia Toy upon receiving the Walton County, Florida Teacher of the Year Award. Patricia is a dedicated teacher and public servant, and I am honored to recognize her achievements.

Patricia Toy has an extensive career in education. She earned her bachelor's degree from Eastern Kentucky University and her Master's in Education from Georgetown College in Kentucky. Past teaching awards include the Who's Who Among American Teachers Award in 1998, 2000, and 2002, as well as the Outstanding Educator Award from the Kentucky Governor's Scholar Program in 2001. She has been a teacher for over 28 years.

In her third year at Paxton School in Walton County, Patricia now teaches seventh grade language arts and high school Spanish. Her tremendous dedication to the students of Paxton has earned her the Walton County Teacher of the Year Award for 2010.

Madam Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, I am privileged to recognize Patricia Toy as the Walton Teacher of the Year. She is a true community leader and a great educator. My wife Vicki and I wish Patricia and her family all the best for the future.

HONORING MRS. ELEANOR DOUGHTY

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 2, 2010

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a very special woman who resides in Missouri's 6th congressional district, Mrs. Eleanor Doughty, and congratulate the event of her 100th birthday.

Eleanor was born in St. Joseph, Missouri on January 29, 1910. The daughter of Frank and Maude Culp, Eleanor attended school in St. Joseph and went on to earn a degree in Business Administration from Tarkio College.

In 1933, Eleanor married Gavin Doughty at Wyatt Park Baptist Church in St. Joseph, MO. Together, Eleanor and Gavin moved up north to Tarkio, MO where they remained married for 71 years and raised their four children, Mervyn Fisher, Gavin Jr., Wayne, and Carol. The family grew by leaps and bounds over the years to include 14 grandchildren, 28 great grandchildren, and 8 great great grandchildren.

Eleanor's life has been a testament to the kind of woman she is. Family and friends closest to Eleanor say, more than anything, she is a dedicated wife and loving mother. One of her proudest accomplishments was being able to raise such a wonderful family. These days a person is likely to find Eleanor visiting family, playing Bridge or Tile Rummy, reading a good book, or getting her daily exercise.

Madam Speaker, it is my honor to join with family and friends to congratulate Eleanor as she celebrates her 100th birthday. I congratulate Eleanor for her many contributions to her family, friends, and community and wish her many more joyful years.

DOLLY MILLENDER

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 2, 2010

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Madam Speaker, it is with great pleasure and honor that I congratulate Ms. Dharathula H. ''Dolly'' Millender on a momentous milestone, her 90th birthday, which will be on February 4, 2010. Dolly will be celebrating this milestone with family and friends on Thursday, February 4, 2010, at The Stadium Restaurant in Gary, Indiana. For 50 years, Dolly's complete dedication and endless enthusiasm put forth toward her community has allowed her the opportunity to enrich the lives of countless people.

Dolly Millender was born on February 4, 1920, in Terre Haute, Indiana, to Dolly and Orestes Hood, and became a third generation Hoosier. Dolly's grandfather, Nicholas Hood, settled in Indiana after becoming free. From her family, Dolly learned the importance of community. They taught her to work unselfishly for the people of the community because it is ''right'' and it should not be done for any other ambition. It was during these early years that Dolly was taught to strive to make a difference in the lives of others. In 1941, Dolly went on to graduate with a Bachelor's degree in Education with a minor in Music from Indiana State Teacher's College, which is now Indiana State University. It was during her college years that she met her late husband, Justyn Millender. In 1944, Dolly and Justyn were married and later had two children, Naomi and Justine.

The family moved to Gary in 1950, and it was here that Dolly became a librarian at Pulaski Junior High, where she was fondly known as the ''library lady.'' It was during this time that she became enthralled with the history of Gary and its roots. Dolly's passion for history and selfless devotion to her community began to take shape, and her lifelong career as a historian and advocate for the community of Gary continued to grow. In 1967, Dolly wrote and published the first of her five books, Yesterday in Gary, which has become a collector's item today. Continuing her education, in 1969, Dolly went on to graduate from Purdue University with a Master's degree in Educational Media. Dolly then began her active political career as a precinct committeeperson and later became the first elected Gary City Councilwoman-at-large. She has held many impressive political positions throughout her career which include: library trustee, school board trustee, and Chief Executive Officer of the Gary Historical and Cultural Society, an unpaid position she continues to hold today. Dolly's many friends and family members share a common respect for her commendable qualities. For her many years of service dedicated to making the community of Gary a better place, Dolly is to be commended. She is a role model for us all.

Madam Speaker, Dolly Millender has always given her time and efforts selflessly to the community of Gary throughout her illustrious

life. She has dedicated her time and effort to serving and inspiring her community and its people, and for this she is worthy of our deepest admiration. I respectfully ask you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in wishing Dolly a very happy 90th birthday.

HONORING THE SERVICE AND SACRIFICE OF UNITED STATES ARMY SERGEANT JONATHAN SHIVER

HON. GABRIELLE GIFFORDS

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 2, 2010

Ms. GIFFORDS. I rise today to honor United States Army Sergeant Jonathan Shiver, who passed away on January 15, 2010.

Born March 4, 1985 to Paul Edward and Jennifer Ann Shiver in Tucson, Jonathan graduated from Buena High School in 2003 and attended Wyoming Technical College, earning his Associates Degree in 2004.

Jonathan joined the Army in June 2007—a day he said was the day that changed his life. He was an exemplary Soldier, promoted to Sergeant in 2009 ahead of his peers.

His family described him as a caring soul who enjoyed spending time outdoors on fishing trips, listening to country music, playing cards, and spending time with his friends and family.

Assigned to the Army's Third Expeditionary Sustainment Command, he deployed to Iraq where he worked as a mechanic, orderly room clerk, and was later selected to be a General's aide. Jonathan earned numerous commendations and accolades during his career.

We remember Sergeant Jonathan Shiver and offer our deepest condolences and sincerest prayers to his family. My words cannot effectively convey the feeling of great loss nor can they offer adequate consolation. However, it is my hope that in future days, his family may take some comfort in knowing that Justin made a difference in the lives of many others and serves as an example of a competent and caring leader and friend that will live on in the hearts and minds of all those he touched.

This body and this country owe Jonathan and his family a debt of gratitude and it is vital that we remember him and his service to his country.

Sergeant Jonathan Shiver leaves behind his beloved wife Jasmine, his parents Paul and Jennifer of Sierra Vista, his sister Danielle of Phoenix, his grandmothers Brenda Jacobson of Sierra Vista and Marian Shiver of Texas and many aunts, uncles, cousins and friends.

HOBART CHAMBER OF COMMERCE 2009 AWARD WINNERS

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 2, 2010

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Madam Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I stand before you today to recognize the Hobart Chamber of Commerce award winners for 2009. These distinguished recipients will be honored during the Chamber's annual awards and installation banquet, which will take place on Thursday, February 4, 2010, at River Pointe Country Club in Hobart, Indiana.

The Hobart Chamber of Commerce utilizes members of the community in order to improve and develop business, industry, and the professions. Each year, the Chamber members and friends gather together to honor outstanding businesses and volunteers, and to commemorate specific accomplishments within the community. This year, the Chamber will honor the memory of Nancy Norris and Shirley Campbell, two remarkable individuals whose impact on the Hobart community will leave a lasting impression.

Continuing a tradition that dates back more than fifty years, the Chamber will honor its 2009 Outstanding Businesses. The first of the 2009 Outstanding Business award recipients is Alligator Construction. Alligator Construction first opened its doors nine years ago. Owners Dave and Maryann Ferner credit the support of their community for allowing them to grow from a window and siding company to a total remodeling company. Throughout Hobart and beyond, Alligator Construction's quality craftsmanship and commitment to meeting the customers' demands can be seen in the many successful projects they have undertaken. Regional Federal Credit Union, founded in 1961, is also being recognized as an Outstanding Business for 2009. Regional Federal Credit Union continues to flourish as a company committed to community involvement and volunteerism, as well as the promotion of financial education in the school system. The company has seen success and growth throughout Northwest Indiana by providing the community with excellent service in meeting the needs of their customers. The final Outstanding Business for 2009 is Strack and Van Til. What began in 1959 as a partnership between Nick Van Til and Ernie Strack, two local grocery store owners, has emerged as an organization now boasting an astonishing thirty supermarket locations throughout Indiana and Illinois. Priding itself on quality products and quality service, Strack and Van Til has been a leader not only in the grocery business but in the Northwest Indiana community as well. Each of these fine businesses is truly worthy of this tremendous honor.

During this year's banquet, the Hobart Chamber of Commerce will honor Ms. Virginia Curtis with the Lifetime Achievement Award. Ms. Curtis, a longtime resident of Hobart, has been a member of the Chamber for more than thirty years and currently serves on its board of directors. Ms. Curtis is credited as the driving force behind the city's Independence Day festivities and was even selected in 2009 as the Grand Marshal for the parade. Well known for her work as a staff writer for several local newspapers, Ms. Curtis also owned a local restaurant and now serves as the president of the Hobart Community Improvement Committee. For her selfless commitment to her community, I congratulate Ms. Virginia Curtis on this prestigious award.

The Hobart Chamber of Commerce will also congratulate Saint Mary Medical Center for an astonishing 103 years of service to the Northwest Indiana community. The hospital continues to be a leader in the healthcare field and has maintained excellence in providing quality care to those in need. For its outstanding service, Saint Mary Medical Center has received countless awards, including the Distinguished Hospital for Patient Safety Award and the 2008 Hobart Chamber of Commerce Large Business of the Year award. For their many years of service and for the many lives its dedicated staff has improved, I commend the Saint Mary Medical Center.

Madam Speaker, at this time, I ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in honoring the Hobart Chamber of Commerce 2009 award winners. For their dedication and commitment to the community of Hobart as well as Northwest Indiana, they are all worthy of the honors bestowed upon them.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 2, 2010

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

Bill Number: H.R. 3326—Department of Defense Appropriations Act, 2010

Project Name: Aircraft Evaluation Readiness Initiative (AERI)

Provided: $2,400,000

Account: Research, Development, Test and Evaluation—Air Force

Recipient: Iowa State University

Recipient's Street Address: 1750 Beardshear Hall, Ames, IA 50011–2035

Description: This project would continue a program to address a range of aircraft inspection needs to help extend the life of the aging Air Force fleet, as part of a partnership between the Center for Nondestructive Evaluation at Iowa State University and the Air Force Materials Laboratory at Wright Patterson Air Force Base.

Bill Number: H.R. 3326—Department of Defense Appropriations Act, 2010

Project Name: Galfenol Energy Harvesting

Amount Provided: $2,800,000

Account: Research, Development, Test and Evaluation—Army

Recipient: ETREMA Products, Inc.

Recipient's Street Address: 2500 North Loop Drive, Ames, Iowa 50010

Description: The US Navy has a goal of reducing crew sizes, moving toward all-electric designs and increasing survivability of its vessels. A key strategy is the use of remote sensors to monitor areas and functions of a ship normally covered directly by personnel. The objective of the project is to develop this technology. Magnetostrictive materials like Galfenol offer a unique capability to harvest stray energy from routine ship vibrations and other sources which can power these sensors and the wireless radios used to transmit the data. Remote sensors would communicate information to a central processing station using a wireless network and thereby avoid adding the weight and complexity of additional wiring. An important benefit is the increased survivability of such a vessel in the event of an emergency or attack. By decentralizing command and control functions of a vessel through virtual control centers, damage to any one section of a vessel can be circumvented.

CONGRESS AND PROGRESS

HON. CHAKA FATTAH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 2, 2010

Mr. FATTAH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to call to the attention of my colleagues an important and insightful commentary in the Sunday Washington Post—''A Very Productive Congress'' by Norman Ornstein, resident scholar at the American Enterprise Institute.

Norman Ornstein is no raving liberal, nor is AEI considered among the ranks of progressive think tanks. Even more to the point, Ornstein is no fan of this august body. As the editor's note describes, he is co-author of ''The Broken Branch: How Congress Is Failing America and How to Get It Back on Track.'' His study, co-written with Thomas Mann, was published in 2006 when, I might suggest, a great many in the House today would have readily agreed.

So it is significant and, frankly, a hopeful sign for progress in our democracy that Ornstein cites the high legislative achievement of the 111th Congress and the dramatic if overlooked success of President Obama since January 2009:

''. . . This Democratic Congress is on a path to become one of the most productive since the Great Society 89th Congress in 1965–66, and Obama already has the most legislative success of any modern president—and that includes Ronald Reagan and Lyndon Johnson,'' Ornstein writes. ''The deep dysfunction of our politics may have produced public disdain, but it has also delivered record accomplishment.''

Ornstein in particular praises the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act as a monumental achievement that would draw even greater recognition if it had been passed as a series of separate programs to reshape and fund education reform, health information technology, an energy smart grid, far-reaching job recovery and much more—''Instead, the Congress did it in one bill.''

I am a dedicated viewer of the Sunday talk shows. This past Sunday my channel surfing failed to locate a single commentator, legislator, scholar or talking head referencing the Ornstein essay. So I am sharing Norman Ornstein's article here in hopes that it will stimulate further discussion, appreciation of the Congressional leadership, and proper perspective of our accomplishments at both ends of Pennsylvania Avenue.

[From the Washington Post, Jan. 31, 2010]

A VERY PRODUCTIVE CONGRESS, DESPITE WHAT THE APPROVAL RATINGS SAY

(By Norman Ornstein)

When President Obama urged lawmakers during his State of the Union speech to work with him on ''restoring the public trust,'' he was hardly going out on a limb. The Congress he was addressing is one of the least popular in decades. Barely a quarter of Americans approve of the job it's doing, according to the latest Gallup/USA Today poll, while 58 percent said it was below average or one of the worst ever, according to an NBC/Wall Street Journal survey last month.

It's not hard to find reasons why Americans are down on Capitol Hill, and why President Obama's approval rating has dropped below 50 percent in many polls. A year into the 111th Congress, unemployment remains at 10 percent, and many Americans are struggling to get by—even as they've watched Congress bail out banks and coddle the same bankers now salivating over massive new bonuses. At the same time, the public has had a front-row seat to the always messy legislative process on health care and other issues, and this past year that process has been messier, more rancorous and more partisan than at any point in modern memory.

There seems to be little to endear citizens to their legislature or to the president trying to influence it. It's too bad, because even with the wrench thrown in by Republican Scott Brown's election in Massachusetts, this Democratic Congress is on a path to become one of the most productive since the Great Society 89th Congress in 1965–66, and Obama already has the most legislative success of any modern president—and that includes Ronald Reagan and Lyndon Johnson. The deep dysfunction of our politics may have produced public disdain, but it has also delivered record accomplishment.

The productivity began with the stimulus package, which was far more than an injection of $787 billion in government spending to jump-start the ailing economy. More than one-third of it—$288 billion—came in the form of tax cuts, making it one of the largest tax cuts in history, with sizable credits for energy conservation and renewable-energy production as well as home-buying and college tuition. The stimulus also promised $19 billion for the critical policy arena of health-information technology, and more than $1 billion to advance research on the effectiveness of health-care treatments.

Education Secretary Arne Duncan has leveraged some of the stimulus money to encourage wide-ranging reform in school districts across the country. There were also massive investments in green technologies, clean water and a smart grid for electricity, while the $70 billion or more in energy and environmental programs was perhaps the most ambitious advancement in these areas in modern times. As a bonus, more than $7 billion was allotted to expand broadband and wireless Internet access, a step toward the goal of universal access.

Any Congress that passed all these items separately would be considered enormously productive. Instead, this Congress did it in one bill. Lawmakers then added to their record by expanding children's health insurance and providing stiff oversight of the TARP funds allocated by the previous Congress. Other accomplishments included a law to allow the FDA to regulate tobacco, the largest land conservation law in nearly two decades, a credit card holders' bill of rights and defense procurement reform.

The House, of course, did much more, including approving a historic cap-and-trade bill and sweeping financial regulatory changes. And both chambers passed their versions of a health-care overhaul. Financial regulation is working its way through the Senate, and even in this political environment it is on track for enactment in the first half of this year. It is likely that the package of job-creation programs the president showcased on Wednesday, most of which got through the House last year, will be signed into law early on as well.

Most of this has been accomplished without any support from Republicans in either the House or the Senate—an especially striking fact, since many of the initiatives of the New Deal and the Great Society, including Social Security and Medicare, attracted significant backing from the minority Republicans.

How did it happen? Democrats, perhaps recalling the disasters of 1994, when they failed to unite behind Bill Clinton's agenda in the face of uniform GOP opposition, came together. Obama's smoother beginning and stronger bonds with congressional leaders also helped.

But even with robust majorities, Democratic leaders deserve great credit for these achievements. Democratic ideologies stretch from the left-wing views of Bernie Sanders in the Senate and Maxine Waters in the House to the conservative approach of Ben Nelson in the Senate and Bobby Bright in the House, with every variation in between. Finding 219 votes for climate-change legislation in the House was nothing short of astonishing; getting all 60 Senate Democrats to support any version of major health-care reform, an equal feat. The White House strategy—applying pressure quietly while letting congressional leaders find ways to build coalitions—was critical.

Certainly, the quality of this legislative output is a matter of debate. In fact, some voters, including many independents, are down on Congress precisely because they don't like the accomplishments, which to them smack of too much government intervention and excessive deficits. But I suspect the broader public regards this Congress as committing sins of omission more than commission. Before the State of the Union, the stimulus was never really sold in terms of its substantive measures; it just looked like money thrown at a problem in the usual pork-barrel way. And many Americans, hunkering down in bad times, may not accept the notion of ''countercyclical'' economic policies, in which the government spends more just when citizens are cutting back.

Most of the specific new policies—such as energy conservation and protection for public lands—enjoy solid and broad public support. But many voters discount them simply because they were passed or proposed by unpopular lawmakers. In Massachusetts, people who enthusiastically support their state's health-care system were hostile to the very similar plan passed by Congress. Why? Because it was a product of Congress.

Well before Sen.-elect Brown's Bay State upset, it was clear that a sterling legislative record in the first half of the 111th Congress did not guarantee continuing action in 2010 or beyond. And now, Democrats' success at keeping 59 senators in line means little if they cannot find someone on the other side willing to become vote No. 60. With Republicans ebullient over the Massachusetts election, the likelihood is that they will feel vindicated in their ''just say no'' strategy, Obama's leadership lectures notwithstanding.

If the midterm elections in November turn out to be more like 1994, when Democrats got hammered, than 1982, when Republicans suffered a less costly blow, the GOP will probably be emboldened to double down on its opposition to everything, trying to bring the Obama presidency to its knees on the way to 2012. That would mean real gridlock in the face of a serious crisis. Given the precarious coalitions in our otherwise dysfunctional politics, we could go quickly from one of the most productive Congresses in our lifetimes to the most obstructionist.

And voters would probably like that even less.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. ROB BISHOP

OF UTAH

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 2, 2010

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Madam Speaker, consistent with the Republican Leadership's policy

on earmarks, I am submitting the following earmark disclosure information regarding project funding I had requested and which was included within the Joint Explanatory Statement of Managers to accompany the Amendment to the Senate Amendment to H.R. 3326, the Defense Appropriations Act of Fiscal Year 2010, which is commonly referred to as the Defense Appropriations Conference Report for Fiscal Year 2010 (even though no formal conference was held). To the best of my knowledge, these requests: (1) are not directed to an entity or program that will be named after a sitting Member of Congress; (2) are not intended to be used by an entity to secure funds for other entities unless the use of funding is consistent with the specified purpose of the earmark; and (3) meet or exceed all statutory requirements for matching funds where applicable. I further certify that neither my spouse, nor I, have any personal financial interests in these requests.

Project Title: Senior Scout, Electro-Optical Infrared Capability Amount: $4.8 million

Requesting Member: ROB BISHOP of Utah

Bill Number: H.R. 3326

Account: Army Aircraft Procurement

Address of Requesting Entity: Utah Air National Guard, 169th Intelligence Squadron, and Lockheed-Martin, 7563 South 4470 West, West Jordan, Utah 84084.

Matching Funds: None

Detailed Spending Plan: Not applicable.

Description and Justification of Funding: Funding would provide for infra-red imaging capabilities for better all-condition imagery of high-value intelligence target identification and location functions.

Project Title: Senior Scout, Line of Sight Datalink

Amount: $2.4 million

Requesting Member: ROB BISHOP of Utah

Bill Number: H.R. 3326

Account: Army Aircraft Procurement

Address of Requesting Entity: Utah Air National Guard, 169th Intelligence Squadron, and Lockheed-Martin, 7563 South 4470 West, West Jordan, Utah 84084.

Matching Funds: None

Detailed Spending Plan: Not applicable.

Description and Justification of Funding: Funding would upgrade the Senior Scout platform by incorporating line-of-sight equipment, antenna systems, and infrastructure components for increased data processing and dissemination capacity to meet greatly increasing military mission demands.

Project Title: Senior Scout, Remote Operations Capability

Amount: $2.4 million

Requesting Member: ROB BISHOP of Utah

Bill Number: H.R. 3326

Account: Army Aircraft Procurement

Address of Requesting Entity: Utah Air National Guard, 169th Intelligence Squadron, and Lockheed-Martin, 7563 South 4470 West, West Jordan, Utah 84084.

Matching Funds: None

Detailed Spending Plan: Not applicable.

Description and Justification of Funding: Funding would upgrade the Senior Scout intelligence platform by upgrading the remote data processing functionality, improving processing times and dissemination of crucial time-sensitive intelligence to end-users.

Project Title: Automated Composite Technologies and Manufacturing Center

Amount: $9.6 million

Requesting Member: ROB BISHOP of Utah

Bill Number: H.R. 3326

Account: Defense Production Act Purchases

Address of Requesting Entity: ATK, Inc., Freeport Center Building H-8, Clearfield, Utah 84016.

Matching Funds: None

Detailed Spending Plan: Not applicable.

Description and Justification of Funding: Funding would be used in partnership with the Ogden Air Logistics Center at Hill AFB, to continue multi-year effort to develop high tech cutting-edge carbon fiber placement and equipment in support of Air Force aviation platforms and weapons systems, leading to better technical competence within the government depot system in support of these systems.

Project Title: Dugway Field Test Improvements

Amount: $3.6 million

Requesting Member: ROB BISHOP of Utah

Bill Number: H.R. 3326

Account: Army RDT&E

Address of Requesting Entity: ITT, Inc., 8262 South 5260 West, South Jordan, Utah 84088.

Matching Funds: None

Detailed Spending Plan: Not applicable.

Description and Justification of Funding: Funding will incorporate cutting-edge radar and sensor technology into the capabilities of U.S. Army Dugway Proving Ground, Utah, for use in its vital chemical and biological defense test mission, to allow for more accurate test characterization of biological and chemical threats. Project is in conjunction with the Space Dynamics Laboratory at Utah State University.

Project Title: Multiple Source Data Fusion for Dugway Proving Ground

Amount: $2 million

Requesting Member: ROB BISHOP of Utah

Bill Number: H.R. 3326

Account: Army RDT&E

Address of Requesting Entity: ITT, Inc., 8262 South 5260 West, South Jordan, Utah 84088.

Matching Funds: None

Detailed Spending Plan: Not applicable.

Description and Justification of Funding: Funding is needed to support the U.S. Army Dugway Proving Ground in its unique mission of chemical and biological defense testing, by supporting technology improvements to monitor and analyze chemical and biological stimulants, including development of stand-off referee instrumentation and data fusion methods.

Project Title: Precision Strike Munitions Advancement with Integrated Millimeter Wave Power Sources to Satisfy Army Strategic Goals

Amount: $3.28 million

Requesting Member: ROB BISHOP of Utah

Bill Number: H.R. 3326

Account: Army RDT&E

Address of Requesting Entity: Innosys, Inc., 2900 South Main Street, Salt Lake City, Utah 84115.

Matching Funds: None

Detailed Spending Plan: Not applicable.

Description and Justification of Funding: Funding will be used to develop an integrated millimeter wave amplification portable power system to support autonomous operations of precision strike weaponry, such as micro UAVs and helicopters, providing warfighters with greater and more flexible weapons and tactical surveillance capabilities.

Project Title: Transitioning Stretch Broker Carbon Fiber to Production Programs

Amount: $3.2 million

Requesting Member: ROB BISHOP of Utah

Bill Number: H.R. 3326

Account: Army RDT&E

Address of Requesting Entity: Hexcell, Inc., 6700 West 5400 South, West Valley City, Utah 84118.

Matching Funds: None

Detailed Spending Plan: Not applicable.

Description and Justification of Funding: Funding needed to continue industry efforts to develop advanced carbon fiber technology to allow for the forming of more geometrically complex weapons system and aviation components at the time of manufacture, and also to allow for the development of a Mil-HdBk-17 approved data base, which is necessary for the new technology to be certified for use on current and future defense program production.

Project Title: Unserviceable Ammunition Demilitarization via Chemical Dissolution at Tooele Army Depot

Amount: $1.6 million

Requesting Member: ROB BISHOP of Utah

Bill Number: H.R. 3326

Account: Army RDT&E

Address of Requesting Entity: Battelle Memorial Institute, 4225 Lake Park Blvd., Suite 200, West Valley City, Utah 84120.

Matching Funds: None

Detailed Spending Plan: Not applicable.

Description and Justification of Funding: Project would continue efforts begun in FY09 to design and construct a prototype acid hydrolysis conventional munitions demilitarization process for the disposal of high-risk/high-cost unserviceable and obsolete ammunition stored at Tooele Army Depot, Utah, in a more environmentally responsible manner.

Project Title: CAD/CAM Aircraft Structural Overhaul Work Center

Amount: $2.5 million

Requesting Member: ROB BISHOP of Utah

Bill Number: H.R. 3326

Account: Air Force RDT&E

Address of Requesting Entity: Mission Support, Inc., P.O. Box 160135, Freeport Center Building Z-15, Clearfield, Utah 84016.

Matching Funds: None

Detailed Spending Plan: Not applicable.

Description and Justification of Funding: Funding will be used to provide computer-aided design/computer aided manufacturing (CAD/CAM) technology in workstations for the Ogden Air Logistics Center at Hill AFB, Utah, for use primarily on legacy aircraft repairs of aviation component parts, such as the A-10 weapon system, increasing parts manufacturing accuracy and reducing repair and overhead costs to the government.

Project Title: UAV Sensor and Maintenance Development Center

Amount: $3.92 million

Requesting Member: ROB BISHOP of Utah

Bill Number: H.R. 3326

Account: Air Force RDT&E

Address of Requesting Entity: Space Dynamics Laboratory at Utah State University, 1695 North Research Park Way, North Logan, Utah 84341.

Matching Funds: None

Detailed Spending Plan: Not applicable.

Description and Justification of Funding: Funding would provide technical assistance to the Ogden Air Logistics Center at Hill AFB,

Utah, in the areas of developing, calibrating, and integrating various sensors and other payloads onto UAV platforms, which will facilitate future R&D development of UAV capability within the military.

Project Title: Compliance Tools Development for Metals in Antifouling Paints

Amount: $800,000

Requesting Member: ROB BISHOP of Utah

Bill Number: H.R. 3326

Account: Navy RDT&E

Address of Requesting Entity: Kennecott Copper (Rio Tinto) and International Copper Association, 260 Madison Ave., New York, NY 10016.

Matching Funds: None

Detailed Spending Plan: Not applicable.

Description and Justification of Funding: Funding would be used to develop environmental modeling software tools to survey site-specific naval installations for buildup of harmful heavy metals in harbor sediments caused by paints and coatings on naval vessels at port. This tool will allow the navy to measure and monitor which coatings are best and most cost-effective for anti-fouling paints (some of which contain copper), and allow the Navy to remain in compliance with environmental standards.

Project Title: Tomahawk Cost Reduction Initiative

Amount: $3.28 million

Requesting Member: ROB BISHOP of Utah

Bill Number: H.R. 3326

Account: Navy RDT&E

Address of Requesting Entity: Williams International, Inc., 3450 Sam Williams Drive, Ogden, Utah 84401.

Matching Funds: None

Detailed Spending Plan: Not applicable.

Description and Justification of Funding: Funding is needed to incorporate new manufacturing technologies into the Tomahawk production line that will reduce the per-unit costs for future missiles. This funding has a quick pay-back period on this proven ''weapon of choice'' in many conflicts.

ON THE RECENT ARSON ATTACKS ON THE ETZ-HAYYIM SYNAGOGUE ON THE ISLAND OF CRETE

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 2, 2010

Mrs. MALONEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to strongly condemn the recent arson attacks on Jan. 5 and 16 targeting the historic Jewish synagogue in the port-city of Hania on the island of Crete.

The Etz-Hayyim Synagogue holds a library of religious books and functions as a museum and memorial in the ancient harbor city of Chania. Etz-Hayyim dates back to the Middle Ages and serves as one of the last Jewish monuments on the island of Crete, in addition to serving as a house of worship.

I applaud the Greek authorities' quick action and recent arrests of the suspected perpetrators of the attacks and urge the individuals responsible be swiftly brought to justice. The State Department has praised the Greek government for condemning the attacks and taking a strong stand against anti-Semitism and racism. I join them in their praise and congratulate the Greek government for its swift and decisive reaction.

These are only the most recent in a series of anti-Semitic incidents to surface in Greece from Veria to Ioannina and to Volos in the recent past. In fact, this type of virulent anti-Semitism continues to rise worldwide and must be met with equal defiance and determination to defeat those who would perform these despicable acts.

We must not let this type of anti-Semitism percolate as the world has seen the evil that stems from this type of hatred and bigotry. I stand firmly with Greece and the Jewish community of Hania, and Jewish communities around the world, and implore the international community to voice their outrage against this intolerance.

I urge my colleagues to do the same.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DON YOUNG

OF ALASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 2, 2010

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Madam Speaker, due to the death of my brother I was unable to participate in the legislative proceedings of the House during the week of January 18, 2010. If I had been present I would have voted the following:

Rollcall 6 was on a motion to suspend the rules and agree to congratulate the Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine for its 150 years of commitment to advancing science and improving health. Had I been present, I would have voted ''aye.''

Rollcall 7 was on a motion to suspend the rules and agree to congratulate the Penn State women's volleyball team on winning the 2009 NCAA Division I national championship. Had I been present, I would have voted ''aye.''

Rollcall 8 was on a motion to suspend the rules and agree to commend the University of Virginia men's soccer team for winning the 2009 Division I NCAA National Championship. Had I been present, I would have voted ''aye.''

Rollcall 9 was on a rule providing for consideration of H.R. 3254, H.R. 3342, and H.R. 1065. Had I been present, I would have voted ''no.''

Rollcall 10 was on a motion to suspend the rules and pass the Castle Nugent National Historic Site Establishment Act of 2010. Had I been present, I would have voted ''aye.''

Rollcall 11 was on a motion to suspend the rules and pass the Idaho Wilderness Water Resources Protection Act. Had I been present, I would have voted ''aye.''

Rollcall 12 was on passage of the Taos Pueblo Indian Water Rights Settlement Act. Had I been present, I would have voted ''no.''

Rollcall 13 was on passage of the Aamodt Litigation Settlement Act. Had I been present, I would have voted ''no.''

Rollcall 14 was on passage of the White Mountain Apache Tribe Water Rights Quantification Act of 2009. Had I been present, I would have voted ''no.''

Rollcall 15 was on a motion to suspend the rules and agree to express condolences to and solidarity with the people of Haiti in the aftermath of the devastating earthquake of January 12, 2010. Had I been present, I would have voted ''aye.''

Rollcall 16 was on a motion to suspend the rules and concur in the Senate amendment—Nuclear Forensics and Attribution Act. Had I been present, I would have voted ''aye.''

RECOGNIZING THE PRINCE WILLIAM REGIONAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE 2009 BUSINESSES OF THE YEAR

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 2, 2010

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Prince William Regional Chamber of Commerce 2009 Businesses of the Year.

The Businesses of the Year Awards are divided into eight categories. Each year, the Prince William Regional Chamber identifies a business for each category that best exemplifies the entrepreneurial and community spirit of the County. The winners represent some of Prince William's most heartening stories of success and charity.

I would like to extend my personal congratulations to the recipients of the 2009 Businesses of the Year Awards:

New Business of the Year: Dogtopia of Woodbridge.

Small Business of the Year: The Dog Eaze Inn.

Medium Business of the Year: Whitlock & Associates Wealth Management.

Large Business of the Year: R.W. Murray Co.

Home Based Business of the Year: ImageWerks.

Community Service Organization of the Year: Greater Prince William Community Health Center.

Cultural Arts Organization of the Year: Youth Orchestras of Prince William.

Community Outreach Award: Larry Hair Designers, Inc.

Madam Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in congratulating the 2009 Businesses of the Year and wishing them continued success. Strong businesses are the backbone of a healthy and robust economy, and we do our community a service to encourage their creation and growth.

THE RELEASE OF DANGEROUS DETAINEES FROM GUANTANAMO BAY

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 2, 2010

Mr. WOLF. Madam Speaker, I submit for the RECORD a letter that I received earlier today from Deputy National Security Adviser John Brennan in response to my many letters to him and the President on the release of dangerous detainees from Guantanamo Bay to unstable countries. In Mr. Brennan's letter, he confirms that detainee recidivism has dramatically grown from 13 to 20 percent over the last year. The administration has been suppressing this information for many months and I have urged the White House on several occasions to release it to the public.

He also challenges my concerns about the release of a detainee named Ayman Batarfi, who is connected to Osama bin Laden and al Qaeda's anthrax program. I also submit for the record a response to Mr. Brennan's letter by Mr. Thomas Joscelyn that was published on The Weekly Standard's Web site.

THE WHITE HOUSE,
Washington, DC, February 1, 2010.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE WOLF: I am writing in response to questions you have raised in letters to the President on November 2, 2009, November 5, 2009, November 12, 2009, December 18, 2009, December 29, 2009, and January 12, 2010, as well as during a briefing I provided to Members of the House of Representatives on January 13, 2010. In particular, you have posed questions relating to the closure of the detention facilities at Guantánamo Bay and the Administration's counterterrorism efforts in Yemen. Let me take this opportunity to address these issues in greater detail.

The professional assessment of our military commanders and civilian leaders at the Department of Defense is that closing the detention facilities at Guantánamo is a national security imperative in the war against al-Qa'ida. Secretary Gates, Admiral Mullen, and General Petraeus have all stated that closing Guantánamo will help our troops by eliminating a potent recruiting tool. All three officials prosecuted this war under the previous Administration and continue to do so today.

With respect to detainees transferred abroad, this Administration has instituted the most robust review process ever applied to detainees at Guantánamo, including halting the ''stove-piping'' of classified information and requiring unanimous interagency decisions prior to every transfer. On January 22, 2009, the President signed Executive Order 13492, directing the consolidation of information from all agencies relating to Guantánamo detainees. As a result, Federal agencies for the first time have unprecedented access to a wide range of classified information collected from across the government.

The Executive Order also directed a comprehensive interagency review of all individuals at Guantánamo. To implement this directive, a task force was established with more than 60 career prosecutors, agents, analysts, and attorneys from across the government, including civilian, military, and intelligence officials. Every decision to transfer a detainee to a foreign country during this Administration has been made unanimously by all agencies involved with the review process after a full assessment of intelligence and threat information. This includes the Department of Defense, the Joint Chiefs of Staff, and the Office of the Director of National Intelligence, as well as the Departments of State, Justice, and Homeland Security.

A critical factor in considering the transfer of detainees abroad relates to security conditions in the receiving country. The situation in Yemen presents significant challenges in this respect, and as a result, we have been deliberate about transferring detainees there. The previous Administration transferred 13 detainees to Yemen, and this Administration has repatriated 7 to date. Although more than 90 Yemeni detainees remain at Guantánamo, the Administration temporarily suspended repatriations to Yemen earlier this month because of the specific security conditions and threat environment in that country.

During the briefing on January 13, you made allegations that one detainee repatriated to Yemen had been involved in weapons of mass destruction. As it has done in every case, the task force thoroughly reviewed all information available to the government about this individual and concluded that there is no basis for the assertions you made during this session. I am attaching a classified addendum to this letter that addresses your concerns directly.

We believe that significant improvements to the detainee review process have contributed to significant improvements in the results. According to the most recent report to Congress pursuant to section 319 of the Supplemental Appropriations Act of 2009, the Intelligence Community assesses that 20 percent of detainees transferred from Guantánamo are confirmed or suspected of recidivist activity. This figure includes 9.6 percent of former detainees who are confirmed recidivists and 10.4 percent of former detainees who the Intelligence Community suspects, but is not certain, may have engaged in recidivist activities. I want to underscore the fact that all of these cases relate to detainees released during the previous Administration and under the prior detainee review process. The report indicates no confirmed or suspected recidivists among detainees transferred during this Administration, although we recognize the ongoing risk that detainees could engage in such activity.

The Administration has worked aggressively since President Obama's inauguration to fully support Yemeni stability. Although previous punitive policies left Yemen with little U.S. financial and military support, this Administration is attempting to correct this problem by significantly increasing our financial and military support to the Government of Yemen. In addition to assisting Yemen in countering al-Qa'ida in the Arabian Peninsula, we are examining political and fiscal reforms to improve the security conditions in Yemen and ensure that gains are lasting.

These issues are among the most challenging we face as a nation, and the Administration is committed to executing a careful and comprehensive approach that promotes the national security of the United States. I look forward to working with you in the future on these and other issues.

Sincerely,

JOHN O. BRENNAN,
Assistant to the President for Homeland Security and Counterterrorism.

[From the Weekly Standard, Feb. 2, 2010]

BRENNAN IS WRONG ON BATARFI

(By Thomas Joscelyn)

Jake Tapper of ABC News has obtained a copy of a letter John Brennan, the assistant to President Obama for homeland security and counterterrorism, sent to congressional leaders Monday night. Brennan defends the administration's efforts to close Guantanamo in the letter. While conceding that the number of former detainees who are ''confirmed'' or ''suspected'' of returning to terrorism has risen to 20 percent, Brennan says that all of the recidivists were released during the Bush years. Brennan goes on to argue that the Obama administration has made ''significant improvements to the detainee review process,'' implying that it is being more careful in determining which detainees can be transferred or released than its predecessor.

In the middle of his letter, Brennan inserts this curious paragraph: During the briefing on January 13, Representative Wolf made allegations that one detainee repatriated to Yemen had been involved in weapons of mass destruction. As it has done in every case, the task force thoroughly reviewed all information available to the government about this individual and concluded that there is no basis for the assertions Representative Wolf made during this session. I am attaching a classified addendum to this letter that addresses these concerns directly.

Brennan is referring to a Yemeni named Ayman Batarfi, who the administration repatriated to Yemen in December of last year. (I've written about Batarfi previously. See, for example, here and here.)

Brennan's characterization of Batarfi is surely wrong. Congressman Wolf got it right. And you don't need classified information to see that Wolf has the better of the argument.

The key is Batarfi's involvement in al Qaeda's efforts to develop anthrax. Intelligence authorities at Guantanamo consistently and repeatedly found that Batarfi played a role in al Qaeda's anthrax program while working for al Wafa—a ''charity'' that is really a front for al Qaeda. (Al Wafa has been designated an al Qaeda entity by both the U.S. and the UN.) During a hearing at Gitmo, Batarfi conceded he worked for al Wafa.

An October 31, 2005 memo prepared for Batarfi's first administrative review board (ARB) hearing at Gitmo says Batarfi ''met a Malaysian microbiologist in Kandahar at the Haji Habbash guesthouse'' in mid-August 2001. ''The microbiologist wanted to equip a lab and train the Afghans to test blood.'' The authors of the memo added: ''The same microbiologist was involved in developing anthrax for al Qaeda.''

A November 28, 2006 memo contains the same allegations.

So does a December 28, 2007 memo, which adds (see the bottom of the page here and the top of the page here) that Batarfi ''told another al Wafa employee to purchase four to five thousand United States Dollars worth of medical equipment for that individual''—that is, ''the microbiologist who was involved in developing anthrax for al Qaeda.''

The same December 28, 2007 memo also includes this sentence, in reference to Batarfi: ''The detainee was identified as being a past participant in Al Qaeda's anthrax program and as having ties to al Qaeda.''

Thus, on one hand, we have John Brennan's claim that ''there is no basis for the assertions'' that Congressman Wolf made about Batarfi's involvement in al Qaeda's WMD efforts and, on the other hand, we have the three memos written by authorities at Guantanamo over the span of more than two years.

Each of those three memos references Batarfi's involvement in al Qaeda's anthrax program.

There is more.

The U.S. government's unclassified files on Batarfi discuss his ties to a ''Malaysian microbiologist'' who was involved in trying to produce anthrax for al Qaeda. This individual is not named in the files, but is most likely al Qaeda's anthrax scientist, Yazid Sufaat.

Sufaat's background makes it clear why Gitmo officials were so troubled by Batarfi's ties to him.

Sufaat hosted two 9/11 hijackers at an apartment in Malaysia during the week they attended a key terrorist meeting. Sufaat also played host to Zacarias Moussaoui, who was scheduled to take part in the 9/11 attacks or a similar follow-on plot prior to his arrest in August 2001.

Sufaat was recruited to run al Qaeda's anthrax program by a top al Qaeda operative named Hambali, who is currently a high-value detainee being held at Guantanamo. Hambali introduced Sufaat to al Qaeda's number two, Ayman al Zawahiri. Zawahiri wanted to jumpstart al Qaeda's program for developing anthrax and asked Hambali for assistance in finding a suitable scientist.

Sufaat fit the bill. In 1987, he graduated from California State University at Sacramento with a bachelors degree in biological sciences and a minor in chemistry. In 2001, Sufaat put his degree to work for al Qaeda. The 9/11 Commission found that he spent ''several months attempting to cultivate anthrax for al Qaeda in a laboratory he helped set up near the Kandahar airport,'' which was then a key facility controlled by Osama bin Laden.

Batarfi met Sufaat during this time period.

During one of Batarfi's ARB hearings, the following allegation was read aloud: ''In mid-August 2001, [Batarfi] met a Malaysian microbiologist in Kandahar at the Hap Habbash guesthouse. This microbiologist wanted to equip a lab and train the Afghans to test blood.''

Batarfi did not deny the allegation, instead he offered this answer: ''He was a student, he was not a microbiologist. He wanted to complete his studies and he asked me [for help]. He was only here for four months and had wanted to learn from the people in the hospital how to used (sic) blood-testing equipment. He asked me if he could purchase this medical equipment from Pakistan because in Afghanistan there were not any facilities to purchase it. I told him we could purchase it through [the] al Wafa Office and donate it to the hospital instead of you getting the money from yourself.''

One of the board members then asked, ''What kind of medical equipment?'' Batarfi responded: ''It was [a] centrifuge, anti placenta for blood groupings; it was [an] autoclave for blood spacement. It was very simple equipment. He said it was approximately $5000.''

Later, during that same ARB session, the following allegation was read: ''The Detainee told another al Wafa volunteer to purchase four to five thousand United States Dollars worth of medical equipment for the Malaysian microbiologist.''

Again, Batarfi responded: ''. . . I told the Malaysian microbiologist, if you want to purchase the $5000 worth of items for the lab it is better to purchase it through al Wafa and you give the money to Afghanistan to me and then send it to Pakistan because it is unsafe.''

Note that Batarfi did not deny meeting with the ''Malaysian microbiologist,'' who is most likely Sufaat, or that he authorized al Wafa's purchase of lab equipment for him. Instead, he claimed that the microbiologist was only a ''student'' who ''wanted to complete his studies.'' Moreover, Batarfi said the equipment was for supposedly innocuous blood-testing.

But Sufaat was no student at the time. Sufaat had graduated from California State years earlier. And al Qaeda tasked Sufaat with finding a way to manufacture anthrax, which is not an assignment that would be given to a mere student. Batarfi's ties to Sufaat are particularly troubling because, after the September 11 attacks, U.S. authorities found that al Qaeda's biological and chemical weapons programs were far more advanced than previously suspected. It is certainly plausible, if not likely given the allegations made against Batarfi while he was at Gitmo, that the equipment Batarfi agreed to purchase for Sufaat was part of this program—possibly to test blood for anthrax infections.

Batarfi was aware of how serious the allegations concerning Sufaat were. During the same hearing, Batarfi protested:

''They put my case with the Malaysian guy because he was a microbiologist. But now I found they claim he was [in the] anthrax field. So I did not know anything about this charge. He was a student who did not complete his studies and he was in Afghanistan for only four months to work with the technicians about the lab test.''

Thus, Batarfi's own testimony indicates he met with and approved the purchase of equipment for al Qaeda's anthrax scientist. Batarfi's denials were only tailored to convey his own supposed ignorance of what was really going on. But there is no reason we should take Batarfi's excuses at face value. Batarfi's denials are tissue-thin.

Indeed, Batarfi made a number of similar admissions in the context of hollow denials during his hearings at Gitmo. Batarfi admitted he purchased cyanide, but claimed it was for dental fillings. He admitted he worked for al Wafa, but claimed the al Qaeda-designated charity wasn't really an al Qaeda front. Batarfi admitted that he met with bin Laden in the Tora Bora Mountains in November 2001. But, Batarfi claimed, he sent a letter to someone (he does not say to whom) asking to meet with the ''head of the mountain'' and, somewhat magically, just happened to get a face-to-face sit down with the world's most wanted terrorist—at Tora Bora, in November of 2001—you know, when the whole world was looking for him. This was the second time Batarfi claims to have accidentally met bin Laden. The first time came at a funeral in Kabul when, again, bin Laden just happened upon the scene. Batarfi also admitted he stayed at various al Qaeda and Taliban guesthouses, but says he didn't realize they were facilities associated with Osama bin Laden at the time. Finally, Batarfi met the Taliban's health minister in 2001 because, well, that's just the sort of thing an al Wafa employee would do.

The bottom line is this: Congressman Wolf has good reasons to think Batarfi was involved in al Qaeda's anthrax program. Brennan says he has a classified assessment showing otherwise. The Obama administration should release it, so we can see how the detainee task force reached this conclusion. Did the task force take Batarfi's empty denials at face value?

In the meantime, there is plenty of evidence in the unclassified files, which are freely available online, showing that Brennan is wrong.

IN HONOR OF THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF CHILDHELP

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 2, 2010

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Childhelp and to congratulate them on their 50th Anniversary.

Childhelp is one of the premier national organizations dedicated to leading the fight against child abuse and neglect. Founded in 1959 by Sara O'Meara and Yvonne Fedderson, Childhelp's approach focuses on prevention, intervention and treatment. The Childhelp National Child Abuse Hotline operates 24 hours a day, seven days a week, and receives calls from throughout the United States, Canada, the U.S. Virgin Islands, Puerto Rico and Guam. Childhelp's programs and services also include residential treatment services; children's advocacy centers; therapeutic foster care; group homes; child abuse prevention, education and training; and the National Day of Hope, part of National Child Abuse Prevention Month every April. Several of Childhelp's programs were firsts and continue to be studied by professionals worldwide as "models that work."

Sara O'Meara and Yvonne Fedderson continue to actively lead the organization and provide its vision, serving as Chairman/CEO and President, respectively. Their humanitarian commitment has been recognized throughout the world; Sara and Yvonne were nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize for three consecutive years, 2005, 2006 and 2007.

It is impossible to know how many lives have been touched by Childhelp, how many children protected, how many families strengthened. Although exact numbers may be difficult to identify, it is clear that Childhelp has filled a critical role in child abuse prevention and education. It would not have been possible for Childhelp to achieve its many successes without the dedication and commitment of their volunteers. They are the heart and soul of the organization; they are the links that keep the chain strong.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking Childhelp, especially the volunteers of this incredible organization, for their commitment to the most vulnerable members of our society, our children. I also ask that my colleagues join me in congratulating Childhelp on the occasion of its Golden Anniversary.

IN HONOR OF BISHOP DR. AUDREY F. BRONSON

HON. JOE SESTAK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 2, 2010

Mr. SESTAK. Madam Speaker, the great Marian Anderson once said, "Leadership should be born out of the understanding of the needs of those who would be affected by it." In recognition of her investiture as the first woman President of the Black Clergy of Philadelphia and Vicinity, I would like to honor an extraordinary individual who personifies the "understanding leader" Ms. Anderson described, Bishop Dr. Audrey F. Bronson.

At the age of 14, this remarkable woman was called to begin her vocation as a preacher. In 1975, she was inspired to establish the Sanctuary Church of the Open Door serving the community of West Philadelphia. In September 1978, the successful Sanctuary Christian Academy was founded to produce students skilled in reading, writing, mathematics, language arts and computer science. Other ministries at the church include Sanctuary Bible Institute; Sanctuary Family Resource Center and Referral Service; Sanctuary Christian Day Camp; Dunlap Apartment Complex; and Sanctuary Outreach Ministries.

Bishop Bronson's spirituality, extraordinary intellect and selfless nature reflect the nurturing of her loving and learned parents and brother. Her father, Dr. Uriah Perry Bronson, was a minister and pastor of churches and principal of several schools in Florida. Her mother and step-mother were both teachers and church workers. Her brother, Dr. Oswald P. Bronson, a United Methodist minister, was pastor of several churches and President of the Interdenominational Theological Center in Atlanta, Georgia. He recently retired as President, Bethune-Cookman College, Daytona Beach, Florida and currently serves as President, Edward Waters College, Jacksonville, Florida.

Dr. Bronson received her bachelor of science degree in elementary education from

Cheyney University; she also holds a master's degree in psychology from Howard University where she also became a candidate for a Ph.D. in psychology. She earned a doctor of ministry degree from New York Theological Seminary. She holds two honorary degrees from Bethune-Cookman College and a doctor of humane letters from the National Theological Seminary and College. Upon completion of her studies, Dr. Bronson returned to Cheyney in 1967 where she taught for 17 years as an associate professor of psychology. Since retiring from that position to devote her full energies to her growing church, she continues to be a valued member of the Cheyney family.

Her many other appointments include: Dean of the Philadelphia Urban Education Institute, a subsidiary of the African American Interdenominational Ministries, Inc. (AAIM, Inc.) of Philadelphia in association with the major seminaries of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Member of the Board of One Church, One Child, Inc., of Pennsylvania, a statewide organization that encourages members of African-American Churches to adopt African-American children. She was a member of the Mayor of Philadelphia's Transition Team and currently serves on the board of the Philadelphia Industrial Development Corporation and the Executive Committee of the Association of Theological Schools.

Dr. Bronson's faith has led her to minister in prisons; serve as a block captain; work to rid the community of drugs and violence; feed the hungry; and keep her church doors open seven days a week. She is a tireless agent of change ideally qualified to lead the Black Clergy of Philadelphia and Vicinity to new heights as it strives to "help the downtrodden" and those "pushed aside." In many ways, Dr. Bronson has been fulfilling this calling all her life. Early in the HIV/AIDS crisis, when some churches were turning away those afflicted with the disease, Dr. Bronson called on her fellow clergy members to accept those stricken by this terrible disease and to offer education and testing in their communities, a mission she plans on continuing in her new post.

Madam Speaker, I ask that this House acknowledge Bishop Dr. Audrey F. Bronson, as a testament to Marian Wright Edelman's observation that: "education is for improving the lives of others and for leaving your community and world better than you found it." Bishop Bronson's life of preaching, learning and teaching has made her a pillar of strength, wisdom, and civic spirit. She has empowered countless African-American families to live fuller, more purposeful lives through their faith in God and one another. With her new responsibilities at the helm of one of the premier spiritual collectives in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, her ability to guide, counsel and inspire across an entire metropolitan region is very welcome news.

Particularly during these very difficult times, she is the perfect "watchman on the wall."

HONORING MARCELLA OBERTI

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 2, 2010

Mr. RADANOVICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Marcella Oberti upon her 100th birthday. A celebration will be held for Mrs. Oberti on her birthday, December 6th.

Mrs. Marcella Oberti was born on December 6, 1909, in San Francisco, California. Her mother was a native San Franciscan and her father was an immigrant from Genoa, Italy. At the age of 5, Mrs. Oberti participated in the 1913 Pan-Pacific Exposition. As a young girl, she attended Montessori Grammar Schools in San Francisco. Upon graduating from high school, she attended the University of California, Berkley, where she majored in English Literature and Language. She graduated from UC Berkley in 1932 and began working for Bank of America in the legal division.

In 1938, Mrs. Oberti married Frank Oberti and they moved to Madera, California. It was a large transition for her; adjusting from a large city life to rural country life. She became active in the community, joining various clubs and organizations. Mr. Oberti and his brothers were busy developing the Oberti Olive Company, which became Madera's largest industry at that time. The small company grew to include 220 acres, processing over 120 tons of olives per day.

Mr. and Mrs. Oberti have two children: Carla and Philip. Mr. Oberti passed away in 1984. Mrs. Oberti leads a busy life visiting San Francisco, playing bridge with friends, spending time with her family, friends and cat. She spends much of her time with Carla and her husband, Bill, Philip and his wife, Klina, her five grandchildren and her six great-grandchildren.

Madam Speaker, I invite my colleagues to join me in honoring Marcella Oberti upon her 100th birthday.

HONORING VIRGINIA S. BAUER

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 2, 2010

Mr. PALLONE. Madam Speaker, today I rise to recognize Virginia S. Bauer of Red Bank, New Jersey. Ms. Bauer will be honored as a "Woman of Distinction" by the Girl Scouts of the Jersey Shore for her dedication and commitment to the families and victims of the September 11 terrorist attacks.

Ms. Bauer, a widow of the September 11 attack on the World Trade Center, worked closely with congressional leaders and the White House to pass legislation for September 11 victims in 2002, and initiated efforts to enact federal tax relief for surviving family members. Currently, Ms. Bauer is assisting in the creation of a new development plan for the World Trade Center site in lower Manhattan. Ms. Bauer also serves as senior vice president of Covenant House and is a commissioner of the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey.

The Girl Scouts is an organization dedicated to providing a nurturing environment for young girls to build character and skills for success in the future. It was founded by Juliette Gordon in 1912 in Savannah, Georgia, and has since grown by over three million members worldwide through its many regional chapters. The organization also honors women who represent diversity and leadership in their communities. The Girl Scouts of the Jersey Shore will present Ms. Bauer with a "Woman of Distinction" award on April 13, 2010.

Madam Speaker, I sincerely hope my colleagues will join me in thanking Ms. Bauer for the work she does in supporting my constituency, as well as congratulate her upon receiving the "Woman of Distinction" award from the Girl Scouts of the Jersey Shore.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF CITY OF FAIRFAX, VA., FIRE CHIEF THOMAS W. OWENS

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 2, 2010

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor City of Fairfax Fire Chief Thomas W. Owens and to recognize his decades of public service.

Chief Owens has had a long and distinguished career in public safety. His journey began in 1969 when, at the age of 16, he joined the Sterling, Va., Volunteer Fire Department. During his 21-year tenure with that organization, he served in all operational capacities and eventually rose to the rank of Chief of the department.

Shortly after he began volunteering with the Sterling Fire Department, Chief Owens began his career as a professional firefighter in 1972 as a Firefighter/Station Office with Prince William County, Va., Fire and Rescue. Between 1972 and 1990, Chief Owens' held a number of positions with several municipal fire departments in the National Capital Region, including those in Prince William, Washington, D.C., Loudoun County, and Fairfax County.

In 1990, Chief Owens stepped down from his duties with the Sterling Volunteer Fire Department. That same year, he became the first Director of Fire and Rescue for the Frederick County, Va., Fire and Rescue Department. In 1998 Chief Owens returned to Northern Virginia as Assistant Fire Chief of the City of Fairfax Fire Department, and, in 2003, he was appointed Chief.

This impressive history of regional service tells only a small part of the Chief Owens story and barely captures his many contributions to our community. Under his leadership, emergency preparedness and public and professional education were top priorities. Chief Owens established a formal Life Safety Education Program which emphasized fire safety education for our most vulnerable residents, children and seniors. In addition, he created a citizen-based Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) with grant funding. His dedication to the continued education of emergency responders helped lead to an expansion of the Public Safety Training Center, the strengthening of flammable liquids firefighting capabilities and the implementation of a swift water rescue program. Under the leadership of Chief Owens, the City established an Office of Emergency Management.

Chief Owens has had a permanent, indelible impact in another unique area. He led the efforts to strengthen and enhance the working relationship between the City of Fairfax Fire Department, the leaders of the Fairfax Volunteer Fire Department, Inc. and the City of Fairfax Professional Firefighters and Paramedics Association which fostered mutual respect, support and cooperation and resulted in second-to-none service to the residents of the

City of Fairfax and the entire region. One highlight of this new partnership is a joint revenue-sharing program with the Fairfax Volunteer Fire Department to provide a sustained revenue source for fire truck and equipment replacement.

Chief Owens has served as a member of the policy steering committee for the Northern Virginia Emergency Response System, which guides the all-hazards emergency planning for the region. He also served as Chairman of the Northern Virginia Fire Chiefs Committee for six years, and he coordinated the city task forces that provided support services in the Gulf Coast region after Hurricane Katrina.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking Chief Owens for his years of dedication to public safety and his community and for his unwavering support of emergency responders under his command. We wish him the very best as he begins yet another chapter of his life as the Director of the Division of Fire Rescue Services for Frederick County, Md.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. JOHN ABNEY CULBERSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 2, 2010

Mr. CULBERSON. Madam Speaker, pursuant to the Republican leadership standards on earmarks, I am submitting the following information regarding earmarks I received as part of H.R. 3326, the FY2010 Department of Defense Appropriations Act:

Requesting Member: Congressman JOHN CULBERSON

Bill Number: H.R. 3326

Account: Department of Defense, Air Force Research and Development, Test and Evaluation account.

Legal Name and Address of Requesting Entity: Rice University; 6100 Main Street, MS 603; Houston, TX 77005

Description of Request: Provide an earmark of $3,200,000 to the Consortium for Nanomaterials for Aerospace Commerce and Technology, CONTACT, project to support nanotechnology research focused on four areas critical to the next generation of military power systems—Adaptive and Responsive Materials, Nano Energetics, Sensors, and Power Generation and Storage.

IN HONOR OF THE TOLLAND HIGH SCHOOL BOYS SOCCER AND BOYS CROSS COUNTRY STATE CHAMPIONSHIP SEASONS

HON. JOE COURTNEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 2, 2010

Mr. COURTNEY. Madam Speaker, I rise to congratulate the Tolland High School boys soccer team and the boys cross country team for winning the Connecticut Class M Championships, respectively. Their success is a fitting capstone to the determination of a group of young adults who started the season with the shared goal of a state championship.

Winning a championship was significant for the Tolland Soccer team on its own, but even more so after spending the entire season targeted by all opponents as a top ranked team. Playing in the competitive CCC East Conference while matching up against primarily class L and LL schools, Tolland posted a record 13 shutouts. And when it mattered most on November 21st, the team defeated Granby Memorial High School 2–1 to complete the only undefeated season of a Connecticut high school boys soccer team in 2009.

Tolland soccer was not alone in helping the town mark a noteworthy year. For a program boasting numerous historical achievements, the Tolland cross country team have solidified their mark in school history. Led by captains Kyle Sprague, Marcos Rodriguez, and Bryan Fowler the team won their second consecutive Class-M state championship on October 31, 2001. The team finished with an undefeated record of 17 wins and zero losses, with six runners earning all-conference status.

These back to back championship wins are a testament to the teamwork, dedication, and skill of these scholar athletes. I would like to congratulate their coaches, Jim Leahy and Brandon Elliot along with the entire Town of Tolland, the Recreation Department, and the Board of Education for fostering a healthy program of youth and scholastic athletics. To the parents, who for the past ten years have driven to hundreds of games and held pasta parties for young and hungry athletes, their role was also critical to this team's success.

This group of young adults have set the bar high for future Tolland teams, and met their goals through grit and determination. I wish all the players good luck with their future endeavors, and may they always appreciate the lesson that true rewards are achieved through surmounting significant challenges.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 2, 2010

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I regret that I was unavoidably absent Tuesday, January 26, and Wednesday, January 27, due to a death in my family. Had I been present for the nine votes which occurred, I would have voted "aye" on H. Res. 990, rollcall vote No. 17; I would have voted "aye" on H. Res. 1011, rollcall vote No. 18; I would have voted "aye" on H. Res. 1003, rollcall vote No. 19; I would have voted "aye" on H. Res. 1038, rollcall vote No. 20; I would have voted "aye" on H. Res. 1024, rollcall vote No. 21; I would have voted "aye" on H.R. 4474, rollcall vote No. 22; I would have voted "aye" on H.R. 3726, rollcall vote No. 23; I would have voted "aye" on H.R. 4508, rollcall vote No. 24; and I would have voted "aye" on H. Res. 1020, rollcall vote No. 25.

IN RECOGNITION OF DAKOTA MISSILDINE BEING CROWNED THE 45TH MISS RODEO

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 2, 2010

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Madam Speaker, I would like to request the House's attention today to pay recognition to Miss Dakota Missildine who became the 45th Miss Rodeo on January 17, 2010.

Dakota is the 22-year-old daughter of Pam and Todd Missildine and has two younger brothers, Dallas and Austin. Dakota was raised on a horse farm in Grady, Alabama, and is no newcomer to the western way of life. She started competing at a young age and over the years moved up through the ranks, all while specializing in her favorite event, breakaway roping.

Dakota's platform is the Golden Heart, encouraging all to open their hearts and live by the Golden Rule. Dakota is accepting of everyone, and is looking forward to spreading that message to everyone while also creating more support for the rodeo.

On January 17th in Oklahoma City Dakota said, "I am honored to have this opportunity to represent cowboys and cowgirls across the United States and Canada and be their voice to the public."

All of us across Talladega County and East Alabama are deeply proud of Dakota Missildine and her outstanding accomplishments at such a young age. We are looking forward to see what good things will come from Miss Rodeo in 2010.

INDIAN ARTS AND CRAFTS AMENDMENTS ACT OF 2010, H.R. 725

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 2, 2010

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 725, the Indian Arts and Crafts Amendments Act of 2010.

Our history has been richly shaped by native cultures, and it is only appropriate we protect these important contributions of Native Americans and other indigenous people. American Indian and Alaska Native arts and crafts are devalued when unscrupulous merchants promote and market products as "Indian made" when they are not. To address this problem, Congress passed the Indian Arts and Crafts Act of 1990 (PL 101–644), which is a truth-in-advertising law that makes it illegal to sell or produce any imitation Indian art or craft.

Despite these efforts, the sale of counterfeit Indian arts and crafts continues all too often and very few cases are investigated. Those who produce imitation Indian products should be investigated and punished, and the punishment needs to be sufficient to deter this fraudulent practice. These amendments strengthen penalties and allow Federal, State, and local law enforcement to investigate and enforce cases of imitation Indian goods.

As a member of the House Arts Caucus and of the Congressional Native American Caucus,

I value the importance of Indian arts and crafts to the preservation and strength of Native American culture and tradition. For these reasons, I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 725.

TRIBUTE TO LT. JOSEPH M. McCAFFERTY

HON. STEVE AUSTRIA

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 2, 2010

Mr. AUSTRIA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and remember Lt. Joseph M. McCafferty, for his outstanding service to the community of Lancaster and the state of Ohio. A 37-year veteran of the Lancaster Fire Department, he spent his life serving and ensuring the safety of others.

Joseph graduated from Lancaster City Schools and then joined the Lancaster Fire Department on June 1, 1973. During his career, he worked not only as a firefighter, but also as a paramedic and an engineer. He was promoted to the position of lieutenant on November 7, 1983.

An outstanding firefighter and 37-year veteran, Joseph was always willing to help and pass along his knowledge to new recruits. He also actively served the community, participating in ''Fill the Boot'' and the department's ''Toys for Kids'' program. He served as a Union officer and was a devoted family man who loved spending time with his grandchildren.

For his many years of exemplary service to the community and dedication to the Lancaster Fire Department, I join the people of Ohio's Seventh Congressional District in extending our deepest regrets to his wife; Vicki, children; Amy, Farah and Aaron and the many friends of Joseph M. McCafferty.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. ROBERT B. ADERHOLT

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 2, 2010

Mr. ADERHOLT. Madam Speaker, pursuant to the Republican Leadership standards on earmarks, I am submitting the following information regarding earmarks I received as part of H.R. 3326—the Department of Defense Appropriations Act, 2010.

Request as named in the report: Electrically Charged Mesh Defense Net Troop Protection System

Requesting Member: ADERHOLT

Bill Number: H.R. 3326—the Department of Defense Appropriations Act, 2010

Account or Provision: RDT&E—Army

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Victory Solutions, Inc.

Address of Requesting Entity: 4900 Corporate Drive, Suite A, Huntsville, AL 35805.

Description of Request: $7,500,000. The funding would be used for ''D-NET'' a Defense Net Troop Protection System designed to intercept and negate the serious insurgent and terrorist threat tactics employing Rocket Propelled Grenades (RPG), mortars, and small rocket munitions encountered by U.S. Combat Forces. This product could help save warfighters' lives in hostile territories such as Afghanistan and Iraq through an innovative and low-cost system of defending vehicles against enemy attacks by further testing and prototype development of a system which has passed all tests so far and gotten favorable government program manager review, and which was developed with input from troops in the field. The spending plan for this Phase II of the program, to total $7,500,000, is: Prototype Production and Field Test & Evaluation Program for integration and operational development. Further develop the D-Net technology based on Phase I R&D Tests to a Technology Readiness Level (TRL) worthy of deploying a limited quantity of ''Field Prototypes'' to Theater for field and operations test and evaluation.

FY2010 Task A: D-Net ''Field Prototypes'' ($3.5M). Deliver to Army Logistics: 100 ''Field Prototypes'' of the D-Net Static Troop Protection System for Theater Deployment on military asset vehicle for field testing (Procurement of Prototypes delivered to Military. Develop, Build, Assemble, Kit Packaging within military requirements like HAZMAT etc, Deliver and Ship to War Zone to fill purchase for Field Test Program) ($3.5M, or $35K/unit).

Task B: Field Test Program, data collection and refinement ($1.075M). Send science and engineering teams to Theater for collection of field data from Field Prototypes deployed (Data collection material $125K, OCONUS Labor $425K), interact with operating community for feedback, return to lab and refine the technology for better performance and utility (Re-engineer labor $225K). Requires OCONUS travel ($300K).

Task C: Threat Characterization ($350K). Analyze and Perform trade Studies on Threat variants commonly engaged in Theatre scenarios. Engineering and analysis labor ($350K).

Task D: Net Optimization & Continued R&D ($1.3M); Range Test Net Materials ($250K); Government Provided Range Test Facilities & Government Provided Threats for Tests ($500K); Parametric Studies/Validation Labor/Salaries Engineering ($250K) and Manufacturing labor ($250K), Travel ($50K).

Task E: Continue Launcher Development ($870K). Ground and Aerial Launcher Design and Development R&D and Fabrication Material ($320K); Testing ($150K); Labor for Engineering, Integration and Manufacturing for Platform Depot Requirements ($400K).

Task F: Integration to Systems & Platforms ($405K). Design and Integration Trade Studies, COTS Sensor Integration Analysis and Labor ($250K); Material ($75K), Travel to Platform Project Offices ($80K).

Request as named in the report: Marine Corps MK 1077 Flatracks

Requesting Member: ADERHOLT

Bill Number: H.R. 3326—the Department of Defense Appropriations Act, 2010

Account or Provision: RDT&E—Army

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: SUMMA Technology, Inc.

Address of Requesting Entity: Headquartered at 140 Sparkman Drive, Huntsville, AL 35805. The manufacturing facility is in Cullman, Alabama.

Description of Request: $3,000,000. The funding would be used for the MK1077 Flatrack. This is a revolutionary material handling system that provides the Marines with expedited logistical support while achieving significant manpower and equipment reductions. These racks and the containers they work with can be used to transport ammunition or other supplies in and out of areas quickly, thus greatly reducing the warfighter's exposure to danger. This is a continuation of a multi-year procurement program, and the recipient company has a proven record of meeting the strict, structural requirements for this item. The USMC has a requirement for 3,500 MK1077 Flatrack units of which 1,000 units have been acquired to date. $3,000,000 will provide approximately 347 additional units, bringing the inventory up to 1,347.

Request as named in the report: Waterside Wide Area Tactical Coverage and Homing

Requesting Member: ADERHOLT

Bill Number: H.R. 3326—the Department of Defense Appropriations Act, 2010

Account or Provision: RDT&E—Army

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Miltec Corporation

Address of Requesting Entity: Miltec Corporation, located at 21232 Hwy 431, Guntersville, AL 35976

Description of Request: $4,000,000. The funding would be used for development and integration of systems for the final test and demonstration of the WaterWATCH affordable underwater monitoring capability. Most waterfront facilities are unprotected due to cost considerations. Finalization of this product would make available a security system which installations at military bases and other critical infrastructure locations (such as nuclear power plants near waterways) could afford. WaterWATCH integrates many currently available components through the development of new software and the testing of these systems. Approximately $60,000 would be needed for travel, approximately $150,000 for hardware, and the rest for labor (software development and testing).

Request as named in the report: Protective Self-Decontaminating Surfaces

Requesting Member: ADERHOLT

Bill Number: H.R. 3326—the Department of Defense Appropriations Act, 2010

Account or Provision: RDT&E—Defense-Wide

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Ventana Research Corp. (VRC) & Kappler, Inc., and Kappler, Inc.

Address of Requesting Entity: VRC at 2702 South 4th Avenue, South Tucson, AZ 85713–4816; and Kappler at 115 Grimes Drive, Guntersville, AL 35976–9364

Description of Request: $2,000,000. The funding would be used for Prototype field validation tests of VRC-Kappler Chemical Biohazard Protective systems, lab tests of bacterial infections, diseases and contaminated human remains pouches (CHRPs); to field and live test nerve gas and radiological agents (in order to design the suit to withstand such an attack by a hostile nation). Present decontamination processes are labor intensive and require lengthy downtimes. Field-tested prototypes of this fabric demonstrate cost-effective Chemical Biohazard protection for military personnel and civilian populations. Applications could be military, for homeland security, or for dangerous medical and rescue operations. The spending plan is Personnel: $ 620,000; Materials: $80,000; Equipment: $120,000; travel: $25,000; Govt Agency partnerships: Oversight and testing work: DTRA/CBT:

$90,000; AFRL/Tyndall AFB: $250,000; USA NSRDEC: $90,000; Preproduction, Live Agents Tests, $ 825,000

Request as named in the report: Scenario Generation for IAMD Evaluation (SGIE)

Requesting Member: ADERHOLT

Bill Number: H.R. 3326—the Department of Defense Appropriations Act, 2010

Account or Provision: RDT&E—Defense—Army

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: QinetiQ North America Systems Engineering Group

Address of Requesting Entity: AMSRD–AMR–BA Bldg. 6263 Redstone Arsenal, AL 35898

Description of Request: $4,200,000 for Scenario Generation for IAMD Evaluation (SGIE) in fiscal year 2010. The entity to receive funding for this project is QinetiQ North America Systems Engineering Group, located at 890 Explorer Boulevard, Huntsville, AL 35806. The funding would be used for 54 ground test cases identified in the IAMD TEMP and 7 flight test cases derived from ground test matrix. A scenario for each test case is required to capture the design specification as it is intended to perform in a battlefield situation. Taxpayer Justification: This program will contribute to the work of establishing an Integrated Air & Missile Defense System to protect against air breathing missile and cruise missile threats. This work will provide a network centric system to integrate a mix of sensors and shooters through a common IAMD battle command system.

Request as named in the report: Enhanced—Rapid Tactical Integration for Fielding of Systems Initiative (E–RTIFS)

Requesting Member: ADERHOLT

Bill Number: H.R. 3326—the Department of Defense Appropriations Act, 2010

Account or Provision: RDT&E—Defense—Army

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: PeopleTec, Inc.

Address of Requesting Entity: 4901–D Corporate Drive, Huntsville, AL 35805

Description of Request: $3,900,000 for Enhanced Rapid Tactical Integration for Fielding of Systems (ERTIFS) in fiscal year 2010. The entity to receive funding for this project is PeopleTec, Doug Scalf, Linda Maynor, located at PeopleTec, Inc., 4901–D Corporate Drive, Huntsville, AL 35805. The funding would be used to support early SoS testing to ensure that interoperability issues are corrected before software is released for formal AIC testing. The ABCS–BA will leverage and evolve ERTIFS to support four types of required Interoperability Tests: 1) Individual System, 2) System of Systems (e.g. Software Blocking), 3) Backwards Compatibility—Interoperability and 4) Regression Testing. Taxpayer Justification: The early identification of these issues will limit cost and schedule overruns on Aviation/Missile Systems prior to expensive hardware tests.

Request as named in the report: Swarms Defense Systems

Requesting Member: ADERHOLT

Bill Number: H.R. 3326—the Department of Defense Appropriations Act, 2010

Account or Provision: RDT&E—Defense—Army

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Southeast Systems Technology

Address of Requesting Entity: 4090 South Memorial Parkway, M/S 3427B, Huntsville, AL 35802

Description of Request: $3,000,000 funding for SWARMS DEFENSE SYSTEMS in fiscal year 2010. The entity to receive funding for this project is Computer Science Corporation, located at 4090 S. Memorial Parkway, M/S 3427B, Huntsville, Alabama 35801. The funding would be used to close the gap between current and future Air Defense Systems dealing with enemy mortars, rockets, UAVs, and cruise missiles. Future threats exceed all requirements of current system and future AD plans. Taxpayer Justification: Swarms Defense is designed to protect soldiers and critical assets against enemy fire, especially high volume small munitions such as mortars, rockets, UAVs, cruise missiles, developing the critical technologies required to close the gap in current asset protection plans.

Request as named in the report: Tactical UAV, Heavy Fuel Engine

Requesting Member: ADERHOLT

Bill Number: H.R. 3326—the Department of Defense Appropriations Act, 2010

Account or Provision: RDT&E—Defense—Army

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Science and Engineering Services

Address of Requesting Entity: 4015 Pulaski Pike NW, Huntsville, AL 35810

Description of Request: $2,000,000 for the Tactical UAV, Heavy Fuel Engine in fiscal year 2010. The entity to receive funding for this project is Science and Engineering Services, Inc., located at 4015 Pulaski Pike, Huntsville, AL 35810. The funding would be used for development of lightweight military fuel engines for UAVs. Scope includes building engines to perform platform integration and flight test for use in a military environment. Funding supports design and implementation of the process to military standards. Taxpayer Justification: Shadow UAS is ideal for providing direct information to commanders increasing awareness. Heavy fuel technology allows an engine to burn any fuel, diesel, JP5, JP8, gasoline, producing low emission, can be economically manufactured, and maintained

Request as named in the report: Army Responsive Tactical Space System Exerciser (ARTSSE)

Requesting Member: ADERHOLT

Bill Number: H.R. 3326—the Department of Defense Appropriations Act, 2010

Account or Provision: RDT&E—Defense—Army

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: J2 Technologies Inc.

Address of Requesting Entity: 4801 University Square, Suite 31, Huntsville, AL 35816

Description of Request: $3,000,000 for Army Responsive Tactical Space System Exerciser (ARTSSE) in fiscal year 2010. The entity to receive funding for this project is J2 Technologies Inc., located at 4801 University Square, Suite 31, Huntsville, AL 35816–1815. The funding would be used to provide the hardware-in-the-loop test capability designed to address the need to define performance requirements, evaluate and execute Operationally Responsive Space programs thus ensuring the warfighter's continued access to space. Taxpayer Justification: Army Responsive Tactical Space System Exerciser (ARTSSE) provides technologies critical to maintaining access to space. ARTSSE supports an unfunded Army need to provide a responsive surge for space-based communication, surveillance, and reconnaissance, especially when a change in circumstances brought about by foreign-owned assets requires a response from the U.S. systems within hours or a few days in order to maintain protection of U.S. personnel and assets.

Request as named in the report: Autonomous Cargo Acquisition for Rotorcraft Unmanned Aerial Vehicles

Requesting Member: ADERHOLT

Bill Number: H.R. 3326—the Department of Defense Appropriations Act, 2010

Account or Provision: RDT&E—Defense—Army

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Advanced Optical Systems, Inc.

Address of Requesting Entity: 6767 Old Madison Pike, Suite 410, Huntsville, AL 35806

Description of Request: $1,600,000 for Autonomous Cargo Acquisition for Rotorcraft Unmanned Aerial Vehicles in fiscal year 2010. The entity to receive funding for this project is Advanced Optical Systems, Inc., located at 6767 Old Madison Pike, Suite 410, Huntsville, Alabama 35805. The funding would be used to demonstrate fully unmanned cargo pickup and delivery under operational conditions. The work will leverage current developments for manned systems, and will cooperate with TRADOC and logistics personnel at Ft. Rucker and Ft. Lee. Taxpayer Justification: The Army needs to leverage rotorcraft unmanned aerial systems to provide unmanned pickup and delivery for logistics supply and weapons placement. Unmanned cargo operations would reduce both aircrew losses and costs.

Request as named in the report: On-Board Vehicle Power (OBVP)

Requesting Member: ADERHOLT

Bill Number: H.R. 3326—the Department of Defense Appropriations Act, 2010

Account or Provision: RDT&E—Defense—Army

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: DRS Training and Energy Management

Address of Requesting Entity: 110 Wynn Drive, Huntsville, AL 35805

Description of Request: $3,100,000 for On-Board Vehicle Power (OBVP) in fiscal year 2010. The entity to receive funding for this project is DRS Training and Energy Management, located at 110 Wynn Drive Huntsville, AL 35805. The funding would be used for OBVP provides electric power for vehicles and mission electronics. OBVP fits the space inside the bell housing of vehicle transmissions. The system is capable of producing 30–70 kW. Increased power is needed for LED detection and weapon systems. Taxpayer Justification: Growth in energy requirements on the battlefield has created a critical need to accelerate this program to production readiness. The system can deliver mobile/exportable electric power from the vehicle engine for electric power gap requirements.

Request as named in the report: Extremely Large, Domestic Expendable and Reusable Structures (ELDERS)

Requesting Member: ADERHOLT

Bill Number: H.R. 3326—the Department of Defense Appropriations Act, 2010

Account or Provision: Dpa Defense Production Act Purchases

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: ATK Aerospace Structures

Address of Requesting Entity: 751 County Road 989, Building 1000, Iuka, MS 38852

Description of Request: $9,800,000 For Current domestic large-scale, composites production capacity is constrained by processing limitations associated with the large diameter of

the items being manufactured. At the same time, the Air Force is making future plans to utilize structures with diameters in excess of nine meters. The current domestic industrial production capacity does not support this scale of extremely large composite launch structures. The ELDERS Title III program was initiated in FY2009 with $8.0 million to scale up domestic composites manufacturing and processing capacity and support facilities to meet this critical emerging need in military space access. The three-phase program includes evaluation, modification and qualification of current automated production equipment and facilities, and the acquisition of necessary industrial capacity and processing capabilities.

In general, Title III activities serve to lower defense acquisition and life-cycle costs and to increase defense system readiness and performance through the use of higher quality, lower cost, and technologically superior materials and technologies. The ELDERS Program will increase the capacity for increasingly larger composite structures, including development and acquisition of higher performing composite processing equipment.

Request as named in the report: Adaptive Robotics Technology for Space, Air and Missiles [ART-SAM]

Requesting Member: ADERHOLT

Bill Number: H.R. 3326—the Department of Defense Appropriations Act, 2010

Account or Provision: RDT&E—Defense—Army

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Calhoun Community College

Address of Requesting Entity: 6250 Hwy. 31 North, Decatur Campus, Tanner, AL 35671

Description of Request: $4,200,000 for Adaptive Robotics Technology for Space, Air and Missiles [ART-SAM] in fiscal year 2010. The entity to receive funding for this project is Calhoun Community College, located at 6250 US Highway 31 North, Tanner, AL 35671. The funding would be used for a joint venture with leadership from the U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command (SMDC) and Alabama Industrial Development Training (AIDT), and will establish national robotics research and development capability at Calhoun Community College to leverage government, industry, and academia partnerships and their respective investments. Additionally, funds will be used to procure instrumentation, components and test fixtures to provide a hands-on laboratory for experiments and process testing in an unmanned environment. Taxpayer Justification: The ART-SAM project, once operational, will develop robotics technologies, systems and products for a variety of SMDC projects, programs, and core mission needs. It will serve as an economic development catalyst for robotic research and development, training, operations and manufacturing. It will also support workforce development initiatives throughout the state.

Request as named in the report: Protective Self-Decontaminating Surfaces

Requesting Member: ADERHOLT

Bill Number: H.R. 3326—the Department of Defense Appropriations Act, 2010

Account or Provision: RDT&E—DW

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Ventana Research Corp. (VRC)

Address of Requesting Entity: 139 Barnes Drive, Suite 2, Tyndall AFB, FL

Description of Request: $1,600,000 for ACD&P project of self-decontaminating surfaces for long-lasting personnel (e.g. clothing) & shelter (e.g. hospitals) protection from Chem/Bio (& nerve gas) attacks. Light-activated decontaminating material produces singlet oxygen, a mild oxidant, to destroy CB agents. Demonstrated the material traps & stores excess singlet oxygen during periods of sun & artificial light. Stored singlet oxygen is released to provide indoor & outdoor protection of 8+ hours during no light & dark periods. Further, no protection loss demonstrated in intense Arizona sunlight 39+ hours during 100+ degrees days. Completed FY07 Individual Protection (IP) ATD milestones. Started FY08 IP ACD&P phase & initiated nerve gas protection ATD for ACD&P in FY10 and will continue ACD&P effort in FY09. Technology: Sun or artificial light activates the decontaminating material to produce singlet oxygen, a mild, short-lived oxidant that effectively destroys chemical/nerve & biological agents.

This long-lasting & durable capability for around-the-clock protection using sun or artificial light is the heart of the invention. Our FY10 request is prompted by the need for including nerve gas and nuclear decontamination capability. This will involve added-on tasks to the program in terms additional test and evaluation efforts. Nerve gas protection effort will address chemistry efforts and tests, nuclear protection disposable, absorbent materials.

Progress: 1) Mustard gas stimulant treated fabric tests demonstrated self-decontamination capability after exposure of 39 days to the intense AZ summer sun; 2) Kappler Provent fabric treated with VRC Decon Dye Coating demonstrated standard industrial practice can be used for first-article production of garments for breathability, field laundering, & durability testing; 3) VRC Decon Dye Coating showed no adverse effect upon Provent fabric's breathability, an essential Joint Service Lightweight Integrated Suit Technology (JSLIST) Ensemble requirement; 4) Airtight seam-bonding process demonstrated with Provent Fabric dyed with VRC Dye Coating enables standard protective suit manufacturing procedures eliminating protective coating application after suit completion, a more costly approach; 5) NMR & UV-Visible Spectroscopy showed Ventana Decon Dye Coating efficiently traps visible light-generated singlet oxygen in repeated release & oxidation a mustard gas & VX stimulant to decontaminated product in darkness; 6) UV-Visible Spectroscopy demonstrated to be a more cost-effective QA tool than conventional NMR inspection; 7) Live tests will be performed at the Defense Science & Technology Laboratory (distl), Proton Down, UK, during the week of April 27, 2009, additional tests are planned for 2Q09 & 3Q09. Samples have been provided to Dr. Stephen Lee, Chief Scientist, Ofc. Director U.S. Army Research Office, for coordination & ITAR, export/import matters & permits.

The requested FY10 program under JPM–CBD's leadership addresses: 1) Perform ATDs on VRC Decon Dye coatings to add nerve gas & radiological agent (disposable garments & coatings) protection; 2) Conduct operational validity tests (ACD&P) of preselected Light-Activated CBNR Protective systems; 3) Continue pre-production of protection systems at Kappler & Ventana for several ACD&Ps of representative JUST materials, components & suits & upgrade facilities to full production status.

Request as named in the report: Remote Monitoring and Troubleshooting (RMAT) Project

Requesting Member: ADERHOLT

Bill Number: H.R. 3326—the Department of Defense Appropriations Act, 2010

Account or Provision: OP.N

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Intergraph

Address of Requesting Entity: 170 Graphics Drive, Madison, AL 35758

Description of Request: $2,320,000 for RMAT will integrate with shipboard local control and monitoring systems by networking them together and providing secure shore-based remote monitoring of those systems in real time. Through the use of sensors, networks, and software-based controllers, RMAT will provide the means for monitoring and troubleshooting various shipboard systems that are vital to ship operations, and allow engineers from various shore-based locations to collaborate in a real-time secure environment. RMAT will enable faster response times and mitigation of damage caused by engineering casualties, blast, fire, flooding, and equipment malfunction. Implementation of RMAT will increase the level of sensor data fusion, situational awareness, and survivability of the ship, as well as its ability to successfully complete its mission. The change from analog systems and manual data collection will save thousands of man-hours every year. Without funding for this effort, a need will exist to continue maintenance of obsolete hardware-based control panels and large redundant watch-standing and damage control repair parties that rely on slow, outdated, and error producing control systems and information management techniques.

Request as named in the report: Transitioning Stretch Broken Carbon Fiber to Production Programs

Requesting Member: ADERHOLT

Bill Number: H.R. 3326—the Department of Defense Appropriations Act, 2010

Account or Provision: RDT&E—Defense—Army

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Hexcel Corporation

Address of Requesting Entity: 3300 Mallard Fox Drive, Decatur, AL 35609

Description of Request: $3,200,000 for composite structure on existing military aircraft has saved weight and reduced O&M costs. However, a solution to the high cost and unrealized weight benefits of these structures is badly needed. Studies done in conjunction with the major aircraft manufacturers show that while composite material properties predict a weight savings of about 50% is achievable, only about 10–20% is being realized in today's designs. The problem is that the composite materials that are currently available in the marketplace cannot be formed into the complex geometries necessary to realize the true weight savings available. This results in pressure at the design stage to reduce the complexity of parts so they are more fabrication friendly. If the designer holds firm on the part complexity, automated fabrication techniques are often ruled out due to the challenges of forming complex geometries with these processes. The end result is added weight and cost to the structure. Stretch Broken Carbon Fiber (SBCF) technology affords more weight reduction opportunities than any other solution under evaluation by the DoD. SBCF product forms offer a pseudo plasticity

akin to metals that makes the forming of complex geometries much easier. These products can be used in all of the automated composite processes currently being used by fabricators including fiber and tape placement and engineered textile approaches for fabricating net shape preforms used in resin infusion processes. The focus of this program will be twofold. First, funding will be allocated to various composite part fabricators to develop robust processes to mold full size prototype parts with SBCF product forms. Second, funding will allocated to generate a Mil-HdBk–17 approved database. Both tasks are necessary to take this technology into production.

Request as named in the report: Cooperative International Neuromuscular Research Group

Requesting Member: ADERHOLT

Bill Number: H.R. 3326—the Department of Defense Appropriations Act, 2010

Account or Provision: RDT&E—Defense—Army

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Children's National Medical Center

Address of Requesting Entity: 111 Michigan Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20010

Description of Request: $3,280,000 for funds will be used for ongoing research and testing using molecular patches, to see if the same improvements experienced by dogs in clinical trials can be extended to humans with muscle damage. The funds will be used for ongoing research and testing using molecular patches, to see if the same improvements experienced by dogs in clinical trials can be extended to humans with muscle damage. This research benefits both warfighers (in terms of combating the effects of biological warfare attacks), and also potentially the civilian population who suffer from similar muscle tissue deterioration.

Daily Digest

Senate

Chamber Action

Routine Proceedings, pages S401–S450

Measures Introduced: Eight bills and two resolutions were introduced, as follows: S. 2974–2981, and S. Res. 405–406. **Pages S439–40**

Measures Reported:

S. 1733, to create clean energy jobs, promote energy independence, reduce global warming pollution, and transition to a clean energy economy, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute. (S. Rept. No. 111–121)

S. 1524, to strengthen the capacity, transparency, and accountability of United States foreign assistance programs to effectively adapt and respond to new challenges of the 21st century, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute. (S. Rept. No. 111–122)

Report to accompany S. 369, to prohibit brand name drug companies from compensating generic drug companies to delay the entry of a generic drug into the market. (S. Rept. No. 111–123)

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, with amendments. **Page S438**

Measures Passed:

Freedom of Expression and Press Freedom: Senate agreed to S. Res. 405, reaffirming the centrality of freedom of expression and press freedom as cornerstones of Unites States foreign policy and United States efforts to promote individual rights. **Pages S447–48**

Honoring Catholic Schools: Senate agreed to S. Res. 406, recognizing the goals of Catholic Schools Week and honoring the valuable contributions of Catholic schools in the United States. **Page S448**

Message from the President: Senate received the following message from the President of the United States:

Transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on the continuation of the national emergency that was declared in Executive Order 13396 on February 7, 2006, with respect to the situation in or in relation to Côte d'Ivoire; which was referred to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs. (PM–44) **Pages S435–36**

Smith Nomination—Agreement: Senate continued consideration of the nomination of M. Patricia Smith, of New York, to be Solicitor for the Department of Labor. **Pages S406–09, S409–31**

A unanimous-consent-time agreement was reached providing that Senate resume consideration of the nomination at approximately 12 p.m., on Thursday, February 4, 2010, and that all post-cloture time be considered expired except for 20 minutes; with that time equally divided and controlled between Senators Harkin and Enzi, or their designees; that upon the use or yielding back of time, Senate vote on confirmation of the nomination. **Page S431**

Johnson Nomination—Agreement: A unanimous-consent-time agreement was reached providing that on Thursday, February 4, 2010, upon disposition of the nomination of M. Patricia Smith, of New York, to be Solicitor for the Department of Labor, Senate resume consideration of the nomination of Martha N. Johnson, of Maryland, to be Administrator of General Services, and that there be two hours of debate prior to a vote on the motion to invoke cloture thereon; with the time equally divided and controlled between the two Leaders, or their designees; that upon the use of time, Senate vote on the motion to invoke cloture thereon; that if cloture is invoked, all post-cloture time be yielded back, and Senate then vote on confirmation of the nomination. **Page S431**

Nominations Confirmed: Senate confirmed the following nominations:

Robert William Heun, of Alaska, to be United States Marshal for the District of Alaska for the term of four years.

Willie Lee Richardson, Jr., of Georgia, to be United States Marshal for the Middle District of Georgia for the term of four years.

72 Air Force nominations in the rank of general.

9 Army nominations in the rank of general.

6 Navy nominations in the rank of admiral.

Routine lists in the Air Force, Army, Marine Corps, and Navy. **Pages S431–33, S448–50**

Nomination Received: Senate received the following nomination:

Michele Marie Leonhart, of California, to be Administrator of Drug Enforcement. **Page S448**

Executive Communications: **Pages S436–38**

Executive Reports of Committees: **Pages S438–39**

Additional Cosponsors: **Page S440**

Statements on Introduced Bills/Resolutions: **Pages S440–46**

Additional Statements: **Pages S434–35**

Notices of Hearings/Meetings: **Page S446**

Authorities for Committees to Meet: **Page S447**

Adjournment: Senate convened at 10 a.m. and adjourned at 7:20 p.m., until 12 p.m. on Thursday, February 4, 2010. (For Senate's program, see the remarks of the Acting Majority Leader in today's Record on page S448.)

Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION REQUEST

Committee on Armed Services: Committee concluded a hearing 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, after receiving testimony from Robert M. Gates, Secretary, Admiral Michael G. Mullen, USN, Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff, and Robert F. Hale, Under Secretary (Comptroller), Chief Financial Officer, all of the Department of Defense.

DON'T ASK, DON'T TELL POLICY

Committee on Armed Services: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the ''Don't Ask, Don't Tell'' policy, after receiving testimony from Robert M. Gates, Secretary, and Admiral Michael G. Mullen, USN, Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff, both of the Department of Defense.

BUSINESS MEETING

Committee on Armed Services: Committee ordered favorably reported the nominations of Douglas B. Wilson, of Arizona, to be Assistant Secretary for Public Affairs, Malcolm Ross O'Neill, of Virginia, to be Assistant Secretary of the Army for Acquisition, Logistics and Technology, Mary Sally Matiella, of Arizona, to be Assistant Secretary of the Army for Financial Management and Comptroller, Paul Luis Oostburg Sanz, of Maryland, to be General Counsel of the Department of the Navy, and Jackalyne Pfannenstiel, of California, to be Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Installations and Environment, all of the Department of Defense, and 1,802 nominations in the Army, Navy, Air Force, and Marine Corps.

HIGH-RISK INVESTMENT ACTIVITIES

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs: Committee concluded a hearing to examine prohibiting certain high-risk investment activities by banks and bank holding companies, after receiving testimony from Paul A. Volcker, Chairman, President's Economic Recovery Advisory Board; and Neal S. Wolin, Deputy Secretary of the Treasury.

BUDGET

Committee on the Budget: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the President's proposed budget request for fiscal year 2011, after receiving testimony from Peter R. Orszag, Director of the Office of Management and Budget.

NOMINATIONS

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the nominations of Larry Persily, of Alaska, to be Federal Coordinator for Alaska Natural Gas Transportation Projects, who was introduced by Senator Begich, and Patricia A. Hoffman, of Virginia, to be Assistant Secretary of Energy for Electricity Delivery and Energy Reliability, after the nominees testified and answered questions in their own behalf.

BUDGET

Committee on Finance: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the President's proposed budget request for fiscal year 2011, after receiving testimony from Timothy F. Geithner, Secretary of the Treasury.

NOMINATIONS

Committee on Foreign Relations: Committee concluded a hearing 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, who was introduced by Senator Warner and Representative Towns, all of the Department of State, after the nominees testified and answered questions in their own behalf.

NOMINATIONS

Committee on Foreign Relations: Committee concluded a hearing 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, who was introduced by Senators Nelson (FL) and LeMieux, Ian C. Kelly, of Maryland, to be U.S. Representative to the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, with the rank of Ambassador, who was introduced by Senator Cardin, and Judith Ann Stewart Stock, of Virginia, to be Assistant Secretary of State for Educational and Cultural Affairs, who was introduced by Senator Bayh, all of the Department of State, after the nominees testified and answered questions in their own behalf.

NOMINATIONS

Committee on Foreign Relations: Committee concluded a hearing 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, who was introduced by Senator Isakson, all of the Department of State, after the nominees testified and answered questions in their own behalf.

NOMINATION

Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the nomination of Craig Becker, of Illinois, to be a Member of the National Labor Relations Board, after the nominee testified and answered questions in his own behalf.

CORPORATE SPENDING IN ELECTIONS

Committee on Rules and Administration: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the Supreme Court's decision to allow unlimited corporate spending in elections, after receiving testimony from Senators Feingold and Kerry; Steve Bullock, Montana Attorney General, Helena; Allison R. Hayward, George Mason University School of Law, Arlington, Virginia; Edward B. Foley, The Ohio State University Moritz College of Law, Columbus; Stephen M. Hoersting, Center for Competitive Politics, Alexandria, Virginia; Fred Wertheimer, Democracy 21, Washington, D.C.; and Heather K. Gerken, Yale Law School, New Haven, Connecticut.

CURRENT AND PROJECTED THREATS

Select Committee on Intelligence: Committee concluded a hearing to examine current and projected threats to the United States, after receiving testimony from Dennis C. Blair, Director of National Intelligence; Leon Panetta, Director, Central Intelligence Agency; Robert S. Mueller III, Director, Federal Bureau of Investigation, Department of Justice; Lieutenant General Ronald L. Burgess, Jr., Director, Defense Intelligence Agency, Department of Defense; and John Dinger, Acting Assistant Secretary of State for the Bureau of Intelligence Research.

House of Representatives

Chamber Action

Public Bills and Resolutions Introduced: 24 public bills, H.R. 4553–4576; and 13 resolutions, H.J. Res. 74 and H. Res. 1050–1061, were introduced. **Pages H470–72**

Additional Cosponsors: **Pages H472–73**

Report Filed: A report was filed today as follows:

H. Res. 1051, providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 4061) to advance cybersecurity research, development, and technical standards (H. Rept. 111–410). **Page H470**

Speaker: Read a letter from the Speaker wherein she appointed Representative Moore (WI) to act as Speaker pro tempore for today. **Page H429**

Recess: The House recessed at 12:38 p.m. and reconvened at 2 p.m. **Page H430**

Suspensions: The House agreed to suspend the rules and pass the following measures:

Jim Kolbe Post Office Designation Act: 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", by a ⅔ yea-and-nay vote of 390 yeas with none voting "nay", Roll No. 26; **Pages H431–32, H448**

Honoring Jimmie Johnson, 2009 NASCAR Sprint Cup Champion: H. Res. 957, to honor Jimmie Johnson, 2009 NASCAR Sprint Cup Champion, by a ⅔ yea-and-nay vote of 391 yeas to 1 nay, Roll No. 27; and **Pages H432–33, H448–49**

Recognizing and supporting the goals and ideals of North American Inclusion Month: H. Res. 1014, to recognize and support the goals and ideals of North American Inclusion Month, by a ⅔ yea-and-nay vote of 389 yeas with none voting "nay", Roll No. 28. **Pages H433–34, H449–50**

Recess: The House recessed at 4:15 p.m. and reconvened at 6:31 p.m. **Pages H447–48**

Suspensions—Proceedings Postponed: The House debated the following measures under suspension of the rules. Further proceedings were postponed:

Recognizing Brescia University for 60 years of leadership in higher education: H. Res. 1043, amended, to recognize Brescia University for 60 years of leadership in higher education; **Pages H434–35**

Recognizing November 14, 2009, as the 49th anniversary of the first day of integrated schools in New Orleans, Louisiana: H. Res. 901, amended, to recognize November 14, 2009, as the 49th anniversary of the first day of integrated schools in New Orleans, Louisiana; **Pages H435–37**

Honoring the life and sacrifice of Medgar Evers and congratulating the United States Navy for naming a supply ship after Medgar Evers: H. Res. 1022, to honor the life and sacrifice of Medgar Evers and to congratulate the United States Navy for naming a supply ship after Medgar Evers; **Pages H437–40**

Expressing support for designation of January 2010 as "National Stalking Awareness Month" to raise awareness and encourage prevention of stalking: H. Res. 960, to express support for designation of January 2010 as "National Stalking Awareness Month" to raise awareness and encourage prevention of stalking; **Pages H440–42**

Criminal History Background Checks Pilot Extension Act: S. 2950, to extend the pilot program for volunteer groups to obtain criminal history background checks; and **Pages H442–43**

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: H. Res. 1044, to commemorate the 65th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz, a Nazi concentration and extermination camp, honor the victims of the Holocaust, and express commitment to strengthen the fight against bigotry and intolerance. **Pages H443–45**

Providing amounts for further expenses of the Committee on Standards of Official Conduct in the One Hundred Eleventh Congress: The House agreed to discharge and agree to H. Res. 1050, to provide amounts for further expenses of the Committee on Standards of Official Conduct in the One Hundred Eleventh Congress. **Page H450**

Presidential Message: Read a message from the President wherein he transmitted to Congress his Budget of the United States Government for Fiscal Year 2011—referred to the Committee on Appropriations and ordered printed (H. Doc. 111–82). **Pages H445–47**

Read a message from the President wherein he notified Congress that the national emergency declared with respect to the situation in or in relation to Côte d'Ivoire is to continue in effect beyond February 7, 2010—referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs and ordered printed (H. Doc. 111–90). **Pages H450–51**

Quorum Calls—Votes: Three yea-and-nay votes developed during the proceedings of today and appear on pages H448, H448–49, and H449–50. There were no quorum calls.

Adjournment: The House met at 12:30 p.m. and adjourned at 9:45 p.m.

Committee Meetings

PRESIDENT'S FY 2011 BUDGET

Committee on the Budget: Held a hearing on the President's Fiscal Year 2011 Budget. Testimony was heard from Peter Orszag, Director, OMB.

CYBERSECURITY ENHANCEMENT ACT OF 2009

Committee on Rules: Granted, by a non-record vote, a structured rule. The rule provides for one hour of general debate on H.R. 4061, Cybersecurity Enhancement Act of 2009, equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Science and Technology Committee. The rule waives all points of order against consideration of the bill except those arising under clause 9 or 10 of rule XXI. The rule provides that the amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Science and Technology Committee now printed in the bill shall be considered as an original bill for the purpose of amendment and shall be considered as read. The

rule waives all points of order against the amendment in the nature of a substitute except those arising under clause 10 of rule XXI. The rule further makes in order only those amendments printed in the Rules Committee report. The amendments made in order may be offered only in the order printed in the report, may be offered only by a Member designated in the report, shall be considered as read, shall be debatable for the time specified in the report equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent, shall not be subject to amendment, and shall not be subject to a demand for division of the question. All points of order against the amendments except those arising under clause 9 or 10 of rule XXI are waived. The rule provides one motion to recommit with or without instructions. The rule provides that the Chair may entertain a motion that the Committee rise only if offered by the chair of the Science and Technology Committee or a designee. Finally, the rule provides that the Chair may not entertain a motion to strike out the enacting words of the bill. Testimony was heard by Chairman Gordon and Representatives Hastings (FL), Edwards (MD), and Sessions.

Joint Meetings

KAZAKHSTAN

Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe. Commission concluded a hearing to examine Kazakhstan's leadership of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), after receiving testimony from Kanat Saudabayev, Kazakhstan Foreign Minister and Chairman-in-Office, Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, Astana, Kazakhstan.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 2010

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Senate

Committee on Finance: to hold hearings to examine the President's proposed budget request for fiscal year 2011 for health care proposals, 3:30 p.m., SD–215.

House

Committee on Appropriations, Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies, on Science, Technology, Engineering and Math Education 1, 10 a.m., and on Economic Development Administration, 2 p.m., H–309 Capitol.

Subcommittee on Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies, on Investments in Transportation Improvements: the FY 2011 Budget Request for the Department of Transportation, 10 a.m., 2359 Rayburn.

Committee on Armed Services, hearing on the Fiscal Year 2011 National Defense Authorization Budget Request from the Department of Defense, 10 a.m., 2118 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Military Personnel, hearing on the report of the Defense Task Force on Sexual Assault in the Military Services, 3 p.m., 210 HVC.

Committee on Education and Labor, hearing on Strengthening the Economy and Improving the Lives of American Workers, 10 a.m., 2175 Rayburn.

Committee on Foreign Affairs, hearing on Yemen on the Brink: Implications for U.S. Policy, 9:30 a.m., 2172 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on the Middle East and South Asia, hearing on America and the Iranian Political Reform Movement: First, Do No Harm, 2 p.m., 2172 Rayburn.

Committee on House Administration, to continue hearings on Review of the Use of Committee Funds in the First Session of the 111th Congress, 11:30 a.m., and a hearing on Defining the Future of Campaign Finance in an Age of Supreme Court Activism, 1 p.m., 1310 Longworth.

Committee on the Judiciary, Subcommittee on the Constitution, Civil Rights, and Civil Liberties, hearing on the First Amendment and Campaign Finance After Citizens United, 10 a.m., 2141 Rayburn.

Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, Subcommittee on Federal Workforce, Postal Service and the District of Columbia, hearing entitled "Half Way Home to the District: The Role of Halfway Houses in Reducing Crime and Recidivism in the Nation's Capitol," 10 a.m., 2154 Rayburn.

Committee on Rules, to consider H.J. Res. 45, Increasing the statutory limit on the public debt, 3 p.m., H–313 Capitol.

Committee on Science and Technology, Subcommittee on Space and Aeronautics, hearing on Key Issues and Challenges Facing NASA: Views of the Agency's Watchdogs, 10 a.m., 2318 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Technology and Innovation, hearing on Passenger Screening R&D: Responding to President Obama's Call to Develop and Deploy the Next Generation of Screening Technologies, 2 p.m., 2318 Rayburn.

Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, Subcommittee on Economic Development, Public Buildings, and Emergency Management, hearing on FEMA's Urban Search and Rescue Program in Haiti: How to Apply Lessons Learned at Home, 2 p.m., 2167 Rayburn.

Committee on Veterans' Affairs, Subcommittee on Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs, hearing on Implementation and Status Update on the Veterans' Benefits Improvement Act, P.L. 110–389, 2 p.m., 334 Cannon.

Subcommittee on Health, hearing to review VA Contract Health Care: Project HERO, 10 a.m., 334 Cannon.

Committee on Ways and Means, hearing on the President's Budget for Fiscal Year 2011 Budget, 10 a.m., and 2 p.m., 1100 Longworth.

Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, hearing on the Annual Threat Assessment, Part 1, 9 a.m., and executive, Part II, 11 a.m., 210 HVC.

Next Meeting of the SENATE

12 p.m., Thursday, February 4

Senate Chamber

Program for Thursday: Senate will resume consideration of the nomination of M. Patricia Smith, of New York, to be Solicitor for the Department of Labor, and after a period of debate, vote on confirmation of the nomination; following which, Senate will resume consideration of the nomination of Martha N. Johnson, of Maryland, to be Administrator of General Services, and after a period of debate, vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the nomination, and if cloture is invoked, vote on confirmation of the nomination.

Next Meeting of the HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

10 a.m., Wednesday, February 3

House Chamber

Program for Wednesday: Consideration of the following suspensions: (1) H.R. 2843—Architect of the Capitol Appointment Act and (2) H.R. 4532—Social Security Disability Applicants' Access to Professional Representation Act of 2010. Consideration of H.R. 4061—Cybersecurity Enhancement Act of 2009 (Subject to a Rule).

Extensions of Remarks, as inserted in this issue

HOUSE

Aderholt, Robert B., Ala., E134
Andrews, Robert E., N.J., E121, E122, E123, E124
Austria, Steve, Ohio, E134
Baca, Joe, Calif., E119
Bishop, Rob, Utah, E127
Bishop, Sanford D., Jr., Ga., E133
Boccieri, John A., Ohio, E119
Brady, Robert A., Pa., E119
Connolly, Gerald E., Va., E129, E131, E132
Courtney, Joe, Conn., E133
Culberson, John Abney, Tex., E133
Farr, Sam, Calif., E115
Fattah, Chaka, Pa., E127
Gerlach, Jim, Pa., E115
Giffords, Gabrielle, Ariz., E126
Graves, Sam, Mo., E125
Hastings, Alcee L., Fla., E116
Higgins, Brian, N.Y., E116, E117, E118, E119, E120, E120, E121
Honda, Michael M., Calif., E120
Johnson, Eddie Bernice, Tex., E120
Larson, John B., Conn., E123
Latham, Tom, Iowa, E126
Lee, Christopher John, N.Y., E115
Luetkemeyer, Blaine, Mo., E117
Lungren, Daniel E., Calif., E124
McCarthy, Carolyn, N.Y., E124
McCollum, Betty, Minn., E118, E133
Maloney, Carolyn B., N.Y., E118, E129
Markey, Edward J., Mass., E122
Miller, Jeff, Fla., E124, E125
Murtha, John P., Pa., E123
Neal, Richard E., Mass., E118
Pallone, Frank, Jr., N.J., E121, E132
Radanovich, George, Calif., E116, E121, E123, E132
Rogers, Harold, Ky., E125
Rogers, Mike, Ala., E133
Sánchez, Linda T., Calif., E122
Scalise, Steve, La., E115
Sestak, Joe, Pa., E131
Visclosky, Peter J., Ind., E125, E126
Wolf, Frank R., Va., E117, E129
Wu, David, Ore., E120
Young, Don, Alaska, E129

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.