

must be predicated on the availability of a Federal defense. Nor will it result in removal of cases that belong in State court since only the part of the case involving the Federal officer is removed under 1442(a)(1).

In short, this legislation will enable Federal officials to remove cases to Federal court in accordance with the spirit and intent of the removal statute.

I hope that my colleagues will join me in supporting this bipartisan legislation.

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WE THE PEOPLE

**HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 12, 2010*

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Madam Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to pay tribute to the outstanding achievements of an exceptional group of students from Munster High School, located in Indiana's First Congressional district. Competing against a class from every state in the country, one team from Munster High School accomplished the extraordinary feat of finishing in eighth place in the national competition of the We the People: The Citizen and the Constitution program held in Washington, DC, from April 24–26, 2010. For their remarkable knowledge and understanding of American government, these exceptional young people are to be commended.

The We the People program, administered by the Center for Civic Education, is a program that reaches over 30 million elementary, middle, and high school students. The goal of the program is to provide students with an understanding of the fundamentals of the Constitution and the Bill of Rights. The national finals competition imitates a Congressional hearing in which high school students testify as constitutional experts before a panel of judges.

The people of Munster, as well as the community of Northwest Indiana, can be proud of this truly noteworthy class of students. The team consists of: Stacey Avtgis, Chandani Bhatt, John Bochnowski, Cristina Bonini, Thomas Burgwald, Sumanth Chintamani, Georgenna Chioros, Nicholas Estes, Michael Jerge, Kamryn Klawitter, Neil Kondamuri, Christina Lee, Melissa Lee, Aesha Maniar, Brianna Meyer, Tara Mojtahed, Santhosh Narayan, Spencer Newell, Katherine Palmer, Alexander Parobek, Aaditya Shah, Niral Shah, Matthew Skiba, Adam Stepanovic, Shawn Tuttle, Ines Tzolov, and Elizabeth Wadas.

Madam Speaker, I would like to once again extend my most heartfelt congratulations to the members of Munster High School's We the People program, as well as their coach, Mr. Michael Gordon, and all of the community and faculty members who have instilled in these students the desire to succeed. The values exhibited by these young people and their interest in the history and fundamentals of our great nation serve to inspire us all. I am proud to represent these fine individuals in Congress, and I am proud to have been given this opportunity to recognize these future leaders. I look forward to watching their achievements as they continue to rise to the top.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. DEAN HELLER**

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 12, 2010*

Mr. HELLER. Madam Speaker, on rollcall No. 258, I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes."

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HOME STAR ENERGY RETROFIT ACT OF 2010

SPEECH OF

**HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 6, 2010*

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 5019) to provide for the establishment of the Home Star Retrofit Rebate Program, and for other purposes:

Mrs. MALONEY. Madam Chair, I rise today to voice my support for H.R. 5019, the Home Star Energy Retrofit Act.

This legislation will help to create jobs while saving consumers money and reducing our nation's energy consumption.

It will also provide an important boost for the construction sector which has been mercilessly pounded by both the recession and the collapse in new housing construction.

In my role as chair of the Joint Economic Committee, we have been examining the sector-by-sector impact of the Great Recession.

The construction sector has seen employment drop by almost 28 percent since the recession began. More than two million jobs—in this sector alone—were lost.

We're not going to get those jobs back overnight, but policies like the Home Star Energy Retrofit Act can play an important role in encouraging growth in construction while speeding our transition to a more energy-efficient economy.

The legislation provides rebates to consumers for purchasing energy-efficient products or materials and for doing renovations to make their homes more energy efficient.

Consumers can get the rebates for buying caulk or insulation, at their local hardware store for example, or working with a contractor on larger projects, such as installing new heating or cooling systems, or replacing windows.

The larger the project, the larger the rebate.

The legislation also creates a new state-federal program to provide loans to consumers for renovations that improve energy efficiency.

The Home Star legislation builds on the energy efficiency provisions in the Recovery Act, including weatherization programs targeted at low-income families and retrofits of public housing.

The legislation helps us accomplish two key goals—increasing jobs and reducing our energy costs and consumption.

A number of studies have already shown the job creation power of retrofitting homes and buildings.

The Center for American Progress estimated that \$40 billion invested in retrofits would create approximately 800,000 jobs. And these are good, high-paying jobs—construc-

tion workers, carpenters, electricians and roofers.

Finally, residential and commercial buildings use 40 percent of the energy in our country and account for 40 percent of carbon emissions.

The Home Star Energy Retrofit Act will speed the pace of home retrofits, speed up the creation of badly needed jobs, decrease our demand for carbon based fuels, and help us move more quickly to a cleaner, brighter more energy efficient future.

I encourage you to support H.R. 5019.

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HONORING SPRING WOODS METHODIST CHURCH ON ITS 50TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

**HON. GENE GREEN**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 12, 2010*

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend Spring Woods Methodist Church on celebrating its 50th anniversary. The current Pastor is Dr. J.D. Phillips and the church is composed of people from all walks of life. I am a member of the church and am proud of this accomplishment.

Spring Woods has the distinction of being the first Methodist church in Northwest Houston. The first service was held on October 18, 1959, and was attended by 18 people at Spring Elementary School.

On May 15, 1960, Dr. Homer T. Fort, the Houston West District superintendent officially recognized Spring Woods Methodist Church. Through assistance from the Room to Grow Program, the church purchased five and a half acres on FM 1960 for the future church site. The original charter membership was composed of 44 people and by the end of the year, the number increased to 106. Today the congregation numbers over 1,000 members and continues to serve the Lord by serving the people of Northwest Houston.

Since the church was built, they have added several buildings on the property. This includes an 18,000 square foot education/administrative office building.

And so it is with great pleasure that I recognize and congratulate Spring Woods Methodist Church on celebrating its 50th anniversary.

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TRIBUTE TO ACKNOWLEDGE DEPAUL UNIVERSITY AS IT LAUNCHES ITS CAPITAL CAMPAIGN TO HONOR THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF ST. VINCENT DEPAUL AND ST. LOUISE DEMARILLAC ON THE OCCASION OF THE 350TH ANNIVERSARY OF THEIR DEATHS

**HON. DANNY K. DAVIS**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 12, 2010*

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, DePaul University is the largest Catholic university in the United States and the largest private non-profit university in the Midwest. It remains dedicated to serving and educating the