were leaders in the anti-slavery efforts there, he was the first African American to graduate from Oberlin College. He studied law under the Honorable Judge Walter Forward in Pennsylvania and applied for admission to the Pennsylvania bar in 1847 and again in 1868. Both times, he was denied admission because of his ''negro descent.'' Not to be held back, Mr. Vashon went to New York to take the bar and became the first black lawyer in that state. He later went on to be the first African American in New York to run for public office when he was a candidate under the Progressive Party for Attorney General. A close friend and associate of Frederick Douglass, Mr. Vashon penned many columns for Douglass' paper, The North Star.

George Vashon was one of the first black college professors in this country, a founder and the first black professor at Howard University and was president of Avery College in Pennsylvania. As an abolitionist, he also led many anti-slavery conventions and was central in the lobbying efforts to pass the 13th, 14th, and 15th amendments to the Constitution. For years he was active in helping escaped slaves find freedom on the Underground Railroad when they made their way through Pennsylvania and New York.

Despite his many contributions and achievements, Mr. Vashon encountered discrimination and barriers to achievement. Being denied entrance into legal practice in his native Pennsylvania was a deep disappointment for him and a terrible injustice. I was thrilled, however, to hear recently that after two of his descendants petitioned the Pennsylvania Supreme Court, Mr. Vashon was posthumously admitted to the bar 163 years after his first attempt. While it was long overdue, I join with the Vashon family and my fellow Vashon High School graduates in marking this important event and celebrating the life of this outstanding figure in American history.

IN RECOGNITION OF RANDY COLLINS

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 25, 2010

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Madam Speaker I rise today to recognize Randy Collins who is retiring after 30 years in fire services in California, the last seven of which have been as Chief of the Healdsburg Fire Department.

Chief Collins began his career in 1980 as a volunteer with the Arcata Fire Protection District while attending Humboldt State University. Upon graduation, he moved to San Jose and began work in the electronics industry and joined the Campbell Fire Department as a reserve fire fighter. He became a full-time fire fighter in 1987 when he joined the Healdsburg Fire Department. He moved up through the ranks from Fire Captain and Fire Engineer to Fire Marshall until he was named Chief in 2003.

While at Healdsburg, Chief Collins established the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) program, began a local fire academy to improve the skills and training for reserve staff, increased full-time staff and worked with neighborhood groups to develop fire safety counsels.

Chief Collins actively participated in the community as a member of the Healdsburg Kiwanis Club, St. Paul's Church and North County Community Services.

In addition to his BA degree in Industrial Arts from Humboldt State University, Chief Collins holds an AA degree in Fire Science from Mission College in Santa Clara, California. He is a graduate of the National Fire Academy and holds several advanced fire science degrees.

After retirement, Chief Collins plans to spend more time with his wife and two children and pursue his hobbies of kayaking, woodworking and hiking the great mountain peaks of the west.

Madam Speaker, Chief Collins has a distinguished 30-year public safety career and it is therefore appropriate that we acknowledge and honor him today and thank him for his service.

MONIQUE ULM

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 25, 2010

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Monique Ulm who has received the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Monique Ulm is an 8th grader at Wheat Ridge Middle School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Monique Ulm is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations once again to Monique Ulm for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character to all her future accomplishments.

SHAW LEAVES THE GEORGIA HOUSE TO JOIN THE GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

HON. JACK KINGSTON

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 25, 2010

Mr. KINGSTON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Jay Shaw's appointment to the board of Georgia Department of Transportation after a successful 30 year career in state and municipal government.

Since the late 1970's, Jay Shaw has dedicated himself to a life of public service. At the age of 32, Mr. Shaw was elected mayor of Lakeland, Georgia. Although being a small town mayor is not an easy job with everyone in town expecting something of you, he took the job in stride, always vowing that he was there for his constituents.

In 1994, he was elected to the Georgia House of Representatives. He has fought for the interests of small business owners and successfully ended long-distance phone calls within counties. His many bipartisan friendships demonstrate his congenial attitude. However, let this not be confused with his strong force and tireless effort to stand up for beliefs.

Jay Shaw grew up in a family of public servants. His mother, Dorothy Pafford Shaw, served as a state representative for 12 years before serving on the Georgia Public Service Commission for two decades; his father, Slaton Shaw, served on the Lanier County school board; and his son, Jason Shaw, is now running for his District 176 seat.

Mr. Shaw's hard work and unwavering loyalty are just two of the many attributes that have helped him to serve his constituency well. He is personable, outgoing and always has a good attitude. Aside from his outstanding work, the people of Lakeland and I find a good friend in Jay Shaw. That is why I warmly congratulate him on his appointment to the board of Georgia Department of Transportation and wish him the best of luck.

RECOGNIZING FRANK LAY UPON HIS RETIREMENT

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 25, 2010

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the retirement of a great man and a good friend. Mr. Frank Lay is the true measure of a man—through his humility, through his leadership, through his commitment to others; he is a shining example to us all. For that reason, Madam Speaker, I am privileged and grateful to honor Mr. Lay on this day.

Mr. Lay has spent the last 21 years as the principal of Pace High School. During his years as principal, Mr. Lay has been a driving force for growth and improvement throughout the halls of Pace High School. To the students, he is a compassionate friend. To the faculty, he is an innovative visionary. To the community, he is a principled leader.

Mr. Lay is a committed and caring educator. He earned a Bachelor of Science in Education from Troy University in 1970. He later then earned a Masters in Physical Education from Georgia State University and a Masters in Administration from the University of West Florida. During his career, he was selected as the Georgia Teacher of the Year, Track and Field Coach of the Year, and Principal of the Year. Most recently, he was honored with the God in Government Lifetime Achievement Award. These accolades are a true testament as to the character and commitment of Mr. Lay.

Madam Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, I am honored to recognize Frank Lay for his service to Northwest Florida. He is a dedicated educator and leader who will be sorely missed after his retirement. My wife Vicki and I wish all the best for continued success to Frank and his wife Nancy, his children, grandchildren, and entire extended family.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 25, 2010

Mr. SCHIFF. Madam Speaker, I was unable to be present for votes on May 24, 2010. Had I been present, I would have voted ''aye'' on each of rollcall Nos. 291, 292, and 293.

MONIQUE GALLEGOS

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 25, 2010

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Monique Gallegos who has received the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Monique Gallegos is a 12th grader at Jefferson High School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Monique Gallegos is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations once again to Monique Gallegos for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character to all her future accomplishments.

VISA SECURITY IS NATIONAL SECURITY

HON. LAMAR SMITH

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 25, 2010

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Madam Speaker, this week, the Senate Intelligence Committee released a bipartisan report that identified the State Department's failure to revoke Abdulmutallab's visa as one of 14 security failures leading to the attempted Christmas Day terror attack.

This attack is not the first time terrorists have obtained U.S. visas. Several of the 9/11 hijackers did so as well.

After 9/11, Congress created the Visa Security Program to increase the security of the visa process at U.S. embassies and consulates.

My bill, the Secure Visas Act, mandates that the administration expand the Visa Security Program to the highest risk consular posts. And it requires that in the event a visa is revoked after it has been issued, consular, law enforcement, and terrorist screening databases are updated immediately.

REDUCTION IN USE OF COAL AT CAPITOL POWER PLANT

HON. ED WHITFIELD

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 25, 2010

Mr. WHITFIELD. Madam Speaker, on February 26, 2009, the Office of Architect of the Capitol (AOC) received a letter signed by the Speaker of the House and the Senate Majority Leader directing a reduction in the use of coal at the Capitol Power Plant, in favor of natural gas. In response, I wrote a letter to the AOC inquiring about the impacts of this proposal and the costs associated with it. The text of that letter and the Architect's response follow.

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, March 4, 2009.

Mr. STEPHEN AYERS,
Acting Architect of the Capitol,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. AYERS: There have been several articles written about the Capitol Power Plant in recent weeks and I have had several groups in my office lobbying to stop using coal at the plant. I would appreciate your providing me some basic facts about the plant.

1. When was it constructed, what was its initial cost, and when did it begin operations?
2. What was/is the rated electrical capacity of the plant?
3. How much coal was burned at the plant during its peak years of operation?
4. When was natural gas first used as a fuel in the plant, and what was the cost to convert the plant so that natural gas could be used?
5. What is the mix of fuel used today at the plant, in percentages?
6. What has been the additional cost or cost-saving associated with the use of a mix of natural gas and coal, instead of coal only?
7. What is the timeline for converting the plant to natural gas only, and what will be the cost of the conversion?
8. What is the projected additional cost or cost-saving over the next five years, by converting the plant to operate only on natural gas?
9. What type of coal is presently burned at the plant, and where is it produced?
10. Does the plant produce electricity, or only steam and cooled water for the Capitol complex?
11. If electricity is produced, what amount of income does the sale of the electricity produce annually?
12. If electricity is not produced, why not?
13. If electricity is not produced, what would it cost to convert the plant so that electricity could be produced and sold, and what would be the projected annual income from those sales?
14. What emissions controls are in place at the plant, when were they added, and at what cost?
15. Is the plant presently in compliance with federal Clean Air Act regulations?
16. If the plant is not in compliance with emissions limitations, what additional controls might be needed to continue to use coal or a mix of coal and natural gas, and what are the estimated capital costs of those additional controls?

Thank you very much for your attention to this request. I will look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

ED WHITFIELD,
Member of Congress.

THE ARCHITECT OF THE CAPITOL,
Washington, DC, March 20, 2009.

Hon. ED WHITFIELD
House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR CONGRESSMAN WHITFIELD: Thank you for your interest in the U.S. Capitol Power Plant. As a matter of background, Congress authorized $1,545,975.65 for the design and construction of the Capitol Power Plant on April 28, 1904, and it was completed and began operations in 1910. Originally, the plant was constructed to produce electricity. However, since 1951 it has not produced electricity and only generates steam and chilled water for the Capitol Complex.

The Capitol Power Plant is currently capable of using three fuels; coal, natural gas, and fuel oil. In a series of projects starting in 1989, individual boilers within the plant have been modified to be capable of burning natural gas. In Fiscal Year 2008, the fuel consumed by the plant was 65% natural gas and 35% coal. The largest amount of coal burned during the last 20 years was in 1993, when the plant used 47,393 short tons. The plant currently burns low sulfur bituminous coal which is purchased through the General Services Administration and the Defense Energy Support Center. The following table provides details on the fuel usage and costs for Fiscal Year 2008:

Utility type	Energy (MMBTU)	Cost ($)
Natural Gas	975,046	$12,653,649
Oil	120	$2,291
Coal	528,489	$2,444,511
Heating Energy Total	1,503,655	$15,100,451

The Capitol Power Plant operates in full compliance with current Federal Clean Air Act regulations. The plant utilizes two reverse air bag houses, installed in the early 1980's, to control particulate emissions. Emissions are further controlled via fuel specifications and combustion controls.

On February 26, 2009, the Office of Architect of the Capitol (AOC) received a letter signed by the Speaker of the House and the Senate Majority Leader directing a reduction in the use of coal at the plant, in favor of natural gas. Our preliminary estimates indicate that operating the plant using 100% natural gas will cost an additional $5–$7 million annually in fuel costs and will require a one-time capital investment needed to equip the plant. We are currently preparing preliminary designs with cost estimates for the capital investment requirement.

The AOC has undertaken a comprehensive strategic planning process for the Capitol Power Plant. Leveraging the skills of expert consultants and in-house staff, the AOC is analyzing a number of options for the plant, including several scenarios which utilize cogeneration systems to generate electricity. Those options are also being reviewed by the National Academy of Sciences and later will be reviewed by the Department of Energy. We expect to publish a final report in Sumner 2009.

Should you have further questions about the Capitol Power Plant or any of AOC's activities, please do not hesitate to contact me at 228–1793.

Sincerely,

STEPHEN T. AYERS, AIA,
Acting Architect of the Capitol.

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, March 25, 2009.

Mr. STEPHEN AYERS,
Acting Architect of the Capitol,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. AYERS: Thank you for your prompt and very helpful response to my letter to you of March 4, 2009, regarding the