issues, I have been impressed by her dedication and efficacy. Few individuals are as deserving of recognition.

Dorena's 40 years of service speak volumes about her personal investment in, and dedication to, the CSUN community. Dorena began her relationship with the university as a student at what was then San Fernando Valley State College. Dorena has been employed at CSUN since 1964. Beginning in 1972, she held a variety of positions in the Office of the President, including 16 years as executive assistant for former President James Cleary. Her career in governmental relations began in 1982 when she dealt primarily with community inquiries. Today, as director of Governmental Affairs, Dorena oversees the seamless operation of CSUN's local, State, and Federal Government relations.

Dorena is equally comfortable whether working with national leaders, students, staff, or community members. She is a leader on campus, serving on and chairing diverse faculty, administrative, staff and student committees. She also deals effectively with the concerns of the local community. This dexterity was evidenced by her work during the aftermath of the 1994 Northridge Earthquake. The Earthquake hit the University hard, causing extensive damage throughout the campus. Dorena coordinated visits from local and national leaders to help them survey the damage and plan the recovery. She arranged a campus visit by President Clinton on the first anniversary of the earthquake. That presidential visit brought national attention to the importance of CSUN as a vital center of higher education in the Los Angeles area and helped promote the recovery.

Active in numerous business groups, including three chambers of commerce and the Valley Industry and Commerce Association, she also is a legislative advocate for two nonprofit charitable associations.

Mr. Speaker, please join Mr. MCKEON and me in honoring Dorena Knepper, a remarkable woman who has dedicated her life and career to CSUN, its students and to promoting higher education and civic service in the San Fernando Valley. We all wish her a fulfilling retirement.

URGING MORE AID TO PAKISTAN FOR EARTHQUAKE VICTIMS

HON. KENDRICK B. MEEK

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 15, 2005

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise to draw the attention of my colleagues to the growing tragedy in Kashmir, a northern region of Pakistan located along the Indian border. In early October of this year, an earthquake devastated that area, killing tens of thousands of people and leaving millions more homeless. Each passing day brings new heartbreak to that remote region as exposure, illness, and famine continue to wreak havoc on the population. These people are desperate, and they need our help.

The earthquake's epicenter hit Muzaffarabad, the regional capital, and registered a magnitude of 7.6 on the Richter scale. For comparison, the 1989 earthquake that hit San Francisco had a magnitude of 7.1 and its epicenter was more than 70 miles away. The Pakistani Government has reported that at least 73,000 people have died, 15,000 they believe to be school children. The World Bank and the Asian Development Bank reported in their assessment after the quake that at least 3.5 million people have been dislocated, and that another 1.6 million are without adequate food supplies.

This mountainous region of Pakistan lies at the foothills of the great Himalayan Mountains. The area receives as much as 10 feet of snow during the winter months, and nighttime temperatures can easily drop to 50 degrees Fahrenheit below zero. As winter quickly approaches, the severe potential for further catastrophe grows for the millions of homeless Pakistanis living in makeshift tent communities.

Mr. Speaker, the earthquake that devastated the capital city and surrounding communities disastrously separated brother from sister, parent from child, and destroyed the lives and livelihoods of countless families. International aid organizations have speculated that the tragedy of the quake's aftermath could surpass that of the tsunami that struck just months earlier given the region's severe climate, remoteness, and the shortfall of international assistance. Without immediate action by the international community, thousands more will surely perish.

The World Bank estimates that $5.2 billion will be needed to adequately rebuild the region and care for the quake's victims. The Bush administration has provided $50 million in emergency assistance and pledged another $150 million; however, more is needed. For this reason I have written to President Bush requesting that he double his request to Congress, and provide $300 million towards Pakistani reconstruction.

The United States and Pakistan have long worked together, and jointly we are fighting the ongoing war on terror. In addition, additional aid from our country would send a signal to other nations that the United States stands ready to help in times of need. Mr. Speaker, I call upon my colleagues in the House to strongly support measures that would send addition aid to help alleviate the suffering the Pakistani people.

STATEMENT ON REMOVING NAME FROM H.J. RES. 73

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 15, 2005

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I want to explain why I sought and obtained unanimous consent to have my name removed as a cosponsor of H.J. Res. 73, a resolution introduced by my friend and colleague Rep. JACK MURTHA calling for the rapid withdrawal of American forces from Iraq.

In short, my name was added in error. But I'd like to take this opportunity to explain why I cannot support Mr. MURTHA's resolution at this time.

Rep. MURTHA's call for the rapid redeployment of U.S. forces carries significant weight in Congress because he is not only a decorated veteran, but also one of the most respected voices in our country on military and national security policy.

Like Rep. MURTHA, I believe the Bush administration has largely failed in Iraq because the civilian direction of the war has not matched the skill and sacrifice of our soldiers. Going to war the way we did was a strategic mistake, and the aftermath has been a failure because of the president's refusal to plan and refusal to listen.

Unlike Mr. MURTHA, I voted against the resolution authorizing the president to rush to war in the first place. I did so because I had concerns about the president's refusal to consider more aggressive inspections of WMD before going to war, his inability to secure greater international support, his obvious failure to develop a plan for securing peace after ousting Saddam, and his reckless disregard of experienced military advice.

Although I was an outspoken opponent of going to war in Iraq, I have supported our brave soldiers because it has seemed to me that our national security is now linked, like it or not, to a credible plan for stabilizing Iraq and preventing a catastrophic civil war in the region.

I remain concerned about setting an arbitrary date for withdrawal because how we leave is as important as when we leave. Nevertheless, Mr. MURTHA's call, coupled with the evaporation of public confidence in the president's management of the war, should be a wake-up call to the president to develop a strategy that can garner bipartisan support and set an unmistakable path toward exiting Iraq expeditiously and with our interests and security intact.

This country cannot have 535 commanders-in-chief. There can only be one commander-in-chief, and we need him to better explain his strategy and to be honest with the American people about the costs and timetable for executing that strategy.

We were led into war as a divided nation and today we are even more divided. A successful outcome in Iraq can only be helped if Congress and the Bush Administration work to bring unity at home. In a hopeful sign, that kind of unity was on display when the Senate recently passed with overwhelming bipartisan support a resolution requiring accountability by the president in Iraq. The House should, at a minimum, do the same.

IN MEMORY OF HANK GROVER

HON. RALPH M. HALL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 15, 2005

Mr. HALL. Mr. Speaker, I am saddened to announce the passing of a great Texan, Henry Cushing ''Hank'' Grover, a man of singular vision and integrity. Born of humble roots in Corpus Christi, Texas, and raised in San Antonio during the Great Depression, Hank understood what it was to be humble and poor.

The middle child of eight, Hank was raised with solid grounding in those values Americans hold dear. His mother was a German immigrant, and his father was a descendent of Irish roots. Hank was a sixth generation Texan, whose family predated even the Republic of Texas. His great-great grandfather was the first European doctor on Texas soil, and his studies of Kickapoo medicine are archived in The University of Texas library. His

ancestor was a Minuteman in the Revolutionary War. His great uncle fought at San Jacinto. Another great uncle was a founder of Lawrence, Kansas, and ran an underground railroad out of his barn. Hank's father was a childhood friend of Jesse James and Harry S. Truman, in Independence, Kansas.

With this family background, it is no surprise that Hank studied history as an undergraduate at the University of Saint Thomas and received his master's degree from the University of Houston. He taught history at Lamar High School in the 1950s, where he had such a profound effect on his students that many entered public service, becoming attorneys, judges and legislators. His students encouraged him to run for office, and he first stood for the Texas House in 1959 and was first elected in 1961. He served three terms as a Democrat in the Texas House, then switched to the Republican Party in 1965, a radical move in Texas at that time, and won three more terms as Senator from District 15.

In 1972 Hank ran for governor of Texas and came within 200,000 votes of victory—an amazing accomplishment in a state that had not elected a Republican Governor since Reconstruction. Hank's race helped strengthen the Republican Party in Texas and set the stage for Republican Mark White to be elected Governor. He also was the largest private contributor in the effort to elect Ronald Regan as President in 1980.

Hank believed deeply in limited government and fiscal responsibility. He sought to limit federal power and to rein in deficit spending both at the state and federal level. His was a moral and ethical view, grounded in the history and culture of America. Hank also was devoted to his family—his wonderful wife of 56 years, Kathleen Downey Grover, and his children, Bernard Downey, Bridget Cushing, Joseph Courtney, Hilary Helen, Laetitia Jane, and Patrick Fleming (who served on my staff).

Mr. Speaker, as we complete the Nation's business today, let us do so in honor and in memory of this great American who dedicated his life to upholding the values on which America was founded and whose legacy will live on through his family, his friends and the many students whose lives he influenced. Let us pay our last respects to Henry Cushing "Hank" Grover.

COMMENDING U.S. COAST GUARD OPERATIONS POST-HURRICANE KATRINA

SPEECH OF

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 14, 2005

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I want to add my voice to those applauding the outstanding disaster response work of the U.S. Coast Guard.

My district is fortunate to host one of the Nation's three Coast Guard highly trained oil spill and hazmat response teams, the Pacific Strike Team located at Hamilton Field in Novato. We are also proud of Coast Guard training center Petaluma, located in the rural Two Rock area. Men and Women from both bases had important roles in the aftermath of Katrina.

For the Pacific Strike Team, quick response to emergencies is normal operating procedure. On the night of August 29, Commander Anthony Lloyd and a dozen or so members of the team flew out of California to join the two other units of the National Strike Force at the forward operating base in Alexandra. In the following weeks they participated in the largest oil cleanup spill since the Exxon Valdez, containing oil spills from 8 or 9 refineries on the Mississippi and the Gulf. With oil spill cleanup almost completed, the Pacific Strike Team has joined the Louisiana environmental officials and the U.S. EPA in an effort to remove hazmat materials scattered along Lousiana's broad coastal zone. To date this unified command, combing the wetlands and bayous, have collected about 1 million commercial 55 gallon drums.

In an emergency, the Coast Guard also relies on its personnel stationed at bases and at sea . . . everyone lends a hand.

Coast Guard Training Center Petaluma, commanded by Captain Brian Marvin, is no exception. Nine Two Rock coasties have recently returned from a 30 day rotation in the Gulf where they performed a variety of duties which exemplify the diverse mission of the Coast Guard. Two chaplains helped with spiritual support and stress management both for hurricane victims and responders; a doctor helped to mend bodies at a relief center in New Orleans; an officer was sent to be in charge of a relief boat command and control center; another officer was sent as a planner; two petty officers served in law enforcement, repairing aids to navigation and participating in search and rescue operations; and another petty officer conducted incident debriefings and helped develop support systems for personnel out in the field.

All these activities were conducted with the highest professionalism, dedication, and compassion—Coast Guard hallmarks. They deserve the highest praise and ongoing support for their mission.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 3199, USA PATRIOT IMPROVEMENT AND REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2005

SPEECH OF

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 14, 2005

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Madam Speaker, four years ago I voted against the bill that became the "USA PATRIOT Act," more commonly called simply the "PATRIOT Act."

I agreed that our law-enforcement agencies needed increased power and more tools to fight terrorists. But I also thought then—and still think today—it was imperative for Congress to proceed carefully in order to protect Americans' civil liberties. However, I took some comfort from the fact that a number of the most troublesome provisions of the new law were temporary and would expire at the end of this year unless Congress acts to renew them.

The imminent expiration of those provisions is why the House considered this legislation in July, and provides the impetus for the conference report before us today.

I think the value of such "sunset" provisions is shown by the debate on that bill and today's debate on the conference report. It is evidence that requiring Congressional action to renew agencies' authorities can and does result in ongoing Congressional oversight and periodic reconsideration.

In July, I voted against the bill because it would have made permanent no fewer than 14 of the 16 provisions of the original "Patriot Act" that were covered by the law's "sunset" clause—as well as other new authorities provided by last year's bill to reform the intelligence community—and under the bill the other two would not have faced a "sunset" for a full 10 years.

However, at the same time I noted that there was considerable support in the other body—by Senators on both sides of the aisle—for provisions that would improve on this legislation. And I hoped and expected that once the Senate had acted and the conference was completed, the result would be a measure that deserves the support of all Members of Congress.

Unfortunately, after careful review I have concluded that this conference report, while an improvement over the bill the House passed in July, is still so seriously flawed that I cannot support it.

The conference report does not do enough to reduce the potential that the authority it gives to the FBI and other agencies could be abused or misused in ways that intrude on Americans' privacy and civil liberties—a potential that has led more than 300 communities and seven States, including Colorado—governments representing over 62 million people—to pass resolutions opposing parts of the Patriot Act.

The Senate, to its credit, did a better job than the House in responding to the concerns that prompted such resolutions, while still providing ample tools that the government can use to work against the threat of more terrorist attacks, at home and abroad.

I could have supported enactment of the bill as passed by the Senate. That is why I voted for the motion to recommit. But I cannot support this conference report as it stands.

COMMENDING WWII VETERAN HARRY THOMPSON

HON. RALPH M. HALL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 15, 2005

Mr. HALL. Mr. Speaker, it is a privilege to recognize Harry A. Thompson , a veteran of World War II and a WWII Prisoner of War. Harry is a longtime resident Wolfe City, Texas, and for the past fifty years has been working on his memoirs of his experience as a POW in Germany. His book, entitled Patton's Ill-Fated Raid, relates how he fell into enemy hands on the second day of the Battle of the Bulge and the events that transpired thereafter.

Chief Warrant Officer Harry Thompson was a Battalion Personnel Officer assigned to the 924th Field Artillery Battalion of the 99th Infantry Division in Bullingen, Belgium, when the German Army broke through the American lines during the Battle of the Bulge, and he was captured. He was taken to Hammelburg,