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House of Representatives

The House met at 2 p.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. BISHOP of Utah).

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
September 6, 2006.

I hereby appoint the Honorable ROB BISHOP to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

J. DENNIS HASTERT,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

PRAYER

The Reverend Dr. J. Alfred Smith, Sr., Senior Pastor, Allen Temple Baptist Church, Oakland, California, offered the following prayer:

O God, Your sacred word teaches us the words of Jesus who said: ''Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called the children of God.''

Teach us the religion of African American slaves who sang about laying down their burdens and studying war no more. Give us the knowledge for understanding how to remove the causes of violence. Open our eyes to see that violence as a solution only multiplies escalating violence.

Grant us the wisdom to make peace in our heads, hearts, homes, school houses and legislative houses. Grant us the courage to become advocates for the weak in our society, for the strong are their own advocates. May the fresh awareness of Your invisible presence guide each of us today as we seek not to be problems, but solutions for the ills of our hurting world.

Help the elected leaders of this U.S. House of Representatives serve as eyes for the blind, voices for the voiceless, and advocates for the last, the least, and the left out.

We pray this prayer in the name of the One who is wonderful, counselor, the Mighty God, the everlasting parent and the Prince of Peace. 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 gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. FOXX) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Ms. FOXX 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.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

A message in writing from the President of the United States was communicated to the House by Mr. Sherman Williams, one of his secretaries.

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Ms. Curtis, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate has passed a bill of the following title in which the concurrence of the House is requested:

S. 466. An act to deauthorize a certain portion of the project for navigation, Rockland Harbor, Maine.

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, August 4, 2006.

Hon. J. DENNIS HASTERT,
The Speaker, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of Rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on August 4, 2006, at 10 a.m.:

That the Senate passed S. 843.

That the Senate passed without amendment H.R. 4.

That the Senate passed with an amendment H.R. 3858.

That the Senate passed S. 1899.

That the Senate passed S. 3836.

That the Senate passed S. 2068.

That the Senate passed S. 2694.

That the Senate passed S. 3534.

That the Senate agreed to H. Con. Res. 467.

With best wishes, I am,

Sincerely,

KAREN L. HAAS,
Clerk of the House.

THE REVEREND DR. J. ALFRED SMITH, SR.

(Ms. LEE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to welcome and to recognize my pastor who offered this powerful prayer as we opened our session today, the Reverend Dr. J. Alfred Smith, Sr., of the Allen Temple Baptist Church in Oakland, California, in my district.

Among his many accomplishments, Pastor Smith serves as a distinguished professor of Christian ministry and preaching at the American Baptist Seminary of the West and the Graduate Theological Seminary in Berkeley, and is the past national president of the Progressive National Baptist Convention and the American Baptist Church of the West.

From his work in helping ex-offenders to turn their lives around and successfully return to our community, to

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his efforts in the fight against HIV and AIDS, I can tell you that you can see the results of his loving and his spirit-filled ministry in my district. Pastor Smith has been described as a drum major for justice, peace and righteousness, and he has been a source of strength and inspiration for me and for thousands in our community and throughout the world.

So as Congress reconvenes, I want to thank Pastor Smith for his powerful words of wisdom and of guidance, and for a lifetime of service to God and to humankind, and to my Allen Temple family, several of whom have joined us this afternoon in the House gallery. Thank you, Pastor Smith.

NATIONAL SECURITY

(Ms. FOXX asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to address the single most important function of the Federal Government: national security and the protection of our citizens. The United States is in an ongoing war on terror. While we have achieved many successes, such as the recent apprehension of Hamid al-Su'aydi, al Qaeda's second-highest ranking member in Iraq, we must not relent in the apprehension and destruction of global terrorist cells.

We are making progress in the global war on terror, but there is still more to be done. The August 31 deadline for Iran to stop producing nuclear fuel has been ignored. And although the United States, along with three European allies, is assembling a list of sanctions to present to the United Nations, it is no surprise that many of the U.N. sanctions and resolutions go ignored.

It is time the United States made clear that Iran's nuclear ambitions must not go unchecked. A well-known philosopher once said that a nation never falls but by suicide. If we ignore the current threat of terrorism, the nuclear ambitions of rogue nations, we are certainly setting our Nation on a path to suicide.

Mr. Speaker, we must continue to relentlessly pursue and eliminate the global terrorist network, as well as ensure that the nuclear ambitions of Iran are eradicated. Not only will this aid in the stabilization of the Middle East, but in the security of all Americans.

SENATE MUST PASS THE SECOND CHANCE ACT

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

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I too want to welcome the Reverend Smith and the Allen Temple Church and especially commend them for their work with ex-offenders and ex-offender reentry.

We were very fortunate to get passed out of Judiciary before the recess the Second Chance Act; and I would hope that before we adjourn this year, that both the House and the Senate will have passed that legislation, sent it to the President's desk, and he will have signed it, because it is one of the most important things we can do.

REAL COMMITMENT—NOT RHETORIC—NEEDED TO WIN WAR ON TERROR

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

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, we have been hearing a great deal lately from the Democrats about their ideas on how to fight and how to win the war on terror. But yesterday I was listening to the White House press secretary, Tony Snow, give his daily briefing. I thought he summed up the Democrats' position on the war on terror very clearly.

He said: ''There have been some in the Democratic Party who have argued against the PATRIOT Act, against the terrorist surveillance program, against Guantanamo. In other words, there are some who say that we should not fight the war, we should not apprehend al Qaeda, we should not detain al Qaeda, we should not question al Qaeda, we should not listen to al Qaeda. In other words, they are all for winning the war on terror, but they are against providing the tools for winning that war.''

Mr. Speaker, now those same people want America to entrust them with power, to set national policy in the war on terror. And this month we will be addressing many issues important to the security of our Nation: defending against terror, prosecuting terrorists, securing our borders. I urge every American to watch how each Representative and each party votes on these very important issues, and they will each know which party truly stands for security from terror.

AMERICA'S STRONG ECONOMY

(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, while traveling by bus through the 10 counties of South Carolina's Second Congressional District last month, I visited with chambers of commerce, schools, and booming local businesses. During these visits, I saw the effects of Republican tax reductions and pro-growth initiatives at work.

Due to the Republicans' fiscal policies, workers are keeping more of their own money. In turn, they are investing more money in their local economies. Last month, the unemployment rate dipped to 4.7 percent, one of the lowest points since 2001. Yet just last week, House Democratic Leader NANCY PELOSI stated: ''Our economy is moving in the wrong direction.''

I am grateful that American workers can celebrate 36 consecutive months of job growth, creating nearly 6 million new jobs. Homeownership is at a record high of nearly 70 percent, and more persons than ever in history are fulfilling the American Dream.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and we will never forget September 11.

HONORING ANDRE AGASSI

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

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate this opportunity to recognize a great Nevadan whose name is Andre Agassi for his 20 years of success as an athlete. His professional career goes from eight Grand Slam titles, 60 singles titles, Olympic gold medal and number one in the world in tennis.

But I am here to share with you that his success is far greater than that on the court. Off the court, Mr. Agassi has raised close to $50 million to help abused and neglected children in the State of Nevada, has created a Boys and Girls Club, a K–12 charter school, cottages for medically fragile children and is certainly a loving father and husband.

History will show that he is one of the greatest athletes in modern times, but I truly believe that his charitable, humanitarian approach to our community will overshadow his athletic success. He told his fans that he was inspired by his fans.

He truly has been an inspiration for our community in Nevada and for our country. I rise today recognizing Andre Agassi as a great American hero.

AMERICAN ENERGY POLICIES

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

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, since this Chamber last met, there has been some good news regarding American energy. Over the past 2 weeks, gas prices have been dropping, providing some relief for Labor Day travelers.

Just this week a group of oil companies announced a discovery of a petroleum reserve that could increase America's proven reserves by as much as 50 percent. This is good news, Mr. Speaker. But more can be done.

This year alone, the House has passed several meaningful bills aimed at boosting our domestic energy supply. In May we authorized environmentally responsible energy exploration in Alaska. In June we passed legislation to streamline the process for building new refineries in our country. We also authorized access to the enormous reserves known to exist off our coast on the Outer Continental Shelf.

Mr. Speaker, the House has a strong record on energy independence. But there are only a limited number of

days left on the calendar. Now it is time for the Senate to take action on these bills and keep the good energy news coming for the American consumer.

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HONORING THE LITTLE LEAGUE WORLD SERIES CHAMPIONS FROM COLUMBUS, GEORGIA

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

Mr. GINGREY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Little Leaguers from Columbus, Georgia, who on August 28 defeated their worthy opponents from Japan to win the Little League World Series.

Mr. Speaker, this is a truly remarkable accomplishment. It is the ultimate achievement in Little League sports. Performing so well under pressure in front of the massive Williamsport crowds, as well as millions watching on national television, it is a testament to the tremendous talent, character and fortitude of these boys from Columbus.

Mr. Speaker, in 1983, another team from Georgia bested the Dominican Republic to win the Little League World Series. By now, these boys are grown men, and some pursued a future in professional baseball. Adam Olmstead, the starting third baseman and son of my nurse, Lynn, when I practiced medicine, is now a prominent radiologist in Florida.

Mr. Speaker, this shows us that many of our best and brightest student athletes pass through Williamsport in this character-building experience on their way to excellence in a variety of professional fields. These boys from Columbus are no exception. They made their community and their country very proud, Mr. Speaker, and are a great example of the future leaders our Nation needs.

Again, I offer my congratulations on a job well done.

THANK GOD FOR GEORGE BUSH AND DON RUMSFELD

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

Mr. GOHMERT. Mr. Speaker, we have heard recently from our friends across the aisle that supposedly George Bush and Don Rumsfeld are responsible for the terrorist attacks that have been going on. If you believe George Bush and Don Rumsfeld are responsible for the terrorist attacks that are occurring, then you have to absolutely believe that Bill Clinton caused 9/11. There is no other choice, because we know unequivocally that the planning for 9/11 occurred during the 1990s when Bill Clinton was President. Though Bill Clinton may have been guilty of many things, he was not guilty of bringing about this kind of horror. Yet, they plotted and planned while he was President.

If you look at the areas and causes for which Bill Clinton committed troops, it was generally to help Muslims. He was the most friendly President to Palestinians in history. He did nothing to deserve 9/11 being plotted during his presidency. Yet it was.

So, the current President understands that we are in a war for our survival and we cannot walk away from it. The terrorists want to take us back to the Dark Ages. This is a fight we cannot walk away from unless we are prepared to go to the Dark Ages.

Thank God for George Bush and Don Rumsfeld. They understand that since our first attack in 1979, we are in a war for survival.

CREATIVE FEDERALISM—HEALTH COVERAGE INNOVATION

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

Mr. PRICE of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, is it not time that we in Congress take real steps forward to increase the number of Americans with health insurance? The latest Census Bureau report shows us that there are over 46 million Americans without health insurance coverage. To resolve this problem and relieve the burden this places on our health care system, we need an innovative and new approach.

The bipartisan Health Partnership Through Creative Federalism Act, H.R. 5864, offers that inventive path. Creative Federalism provides for innovation in health care through State initiatives that expand health care coverage. It empowers States and other regions to tailor health programs to their specific needs, thereby increasing access to health care all across this Nation.

Members from both sides of the aisle realize that to solve a problem of such significance, we need fresh thinking and new ideas. States should be encouraged to consider a variety of reforms, tax credits, pooling programs, health savings accounts or a combination of other options.

Mr. Speaker, the status quo is unacceptable. The Health Partnership Through Creative Federalism Act, H.R. 5864, can lead us to a new period of greater health coverage and more insured Americans, and Mr. Speaker, that is a good thing.

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, August 3, 2006.

Hon. J. DENNIS HASTERT,
The Speaker, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of Rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on August 3, 2006, at 9:45 a.m.:

That the Senate passed S. 2555.

That the Senate passed S. 3613.

That the Senate passed without amendment H. Con. Res. 399.

That the Senate passed without amendment H.R. 4646.

That the Senate passed without amendment H.R. 4811.

That the Senate passed without amendment H.R. 4962.

That the Senate passed without amendment H.R. 5104.

That the Senate passed without amendment H.R. 5107.

That the Senate passed without amendment H.R. 5169.

That the Senate passed without amendment H.R. 5540.

With best wishes, I am,

Sincerely,

KAREN L. HAAS,
Clerk of the House.

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, August 4, 2006.

Hon. J. DENNIS HASTERT,
The Speaker, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of Rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on August 4, 2006, at 11:45 a.m.:

That the Senate passed with an amendment H.R. 3508.

With best wishes, I am,

Sincerely,

KAREN L. HAAS,
Clerk of the House.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 4 of rule I, Speaker pro tempore Tom Davis signed the following enrolled bills on Wednesday, August 9, 2006:

H.R. 4, to provide economic security for all Americans, and for other purposes;

H.R. 4646, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 7320 Reseda Boulevard in Reseda, California, as the ''Coach John Wooden Post Office Building'';

H.R. 4811, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 215 West Industrial Park Road in Harrison, Arkansas, as the ''John Paul Hammerschmidt Post Office Building'';

H.R. 4962, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 100 Pitcher Street in Utica, New York, as the ''Captain George A. Wood Post Office Building'';

H.R. 5104, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1750 16th Street South in St. Petersburg, Florida, as the ''Morris W. Milton Post Office'';

H.R. 5107, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1400 West Jordan Street in Pensacola, Florida, as the ''Earl D. Hutto Post Office Building'';

H.R. 5169, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1310 Highway 64 NW. in Ramsey, Indiana, as the ''Wilfred Edward 'Cousin Willie' Sieg, Sr., Post Office'';

H.R. 5540, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 217 Southeast 2nd Street in Dimmitt, Texas, as the ''Sergeant Jacob Dan Dones Post Office''.

APPOINTMENT AS MEMBER TO BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF AMERICAN FOLKLIFE CENTER

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to 20 U.S.C. 2103(b) and the order of the House of December 18, 2005, the Chair announces the Speaker on August 15, 2006, appointed the following individual from private life to the Board of Trustees of the American Folklife Center in the Library of Congress on the part of the House for a term of 6 years:

Mr. C. Kurt Dewhurst, Michigan.

COMMUNICATION FROM HON. NANCY PELOSI, DEMOCRATIC LEADER

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from NANCY PELOSI, Democratic Leader:

U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
AUGUST 17, 2006

Hon. J. DENNIS HASTERT,
Speaker of the House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: As the House Democratic Leader and pursuant to Section 214(a) of the Help America Vote Act of 2002 (42 U.S.C. 15344), I hereby appoint Ms. Barbara Arnwine of Washington, D.C. to the U.S. Election Assistance Commission Board of Advisors. The appointment is a two-year term.

If you have any questions regarding this appointment, please contact me or Jonathan Stivers in my office at 5-0100. Thank you.

Sincerely,

NANCY PELOSI,
House Democratic Leader.

COMMUNICATION FROM DISTRICT REPRESENTATIVE OF HON. JERRY LEWIS, MEMBER OF CONGRESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from Tara Clarke, District Representative of the Honorable JERRY LEWIS, Member of Congress:

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Washington, DC, July 24, 2006.

Hon. J. DENNIS HASTERT,
Speaker, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. 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 a criminal subpoena, issued by the San Bernardino Court of the State of California, for testimony.

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,

TARA CLARKE,
District Representative.

COMMUNICATION FROM DISTRICT REPRESENTATIVE OF HON. JERRY LEWIS, MEMBER OF CONGRESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from Janet Scott, District Representative of the Honorable JERRY LEWIS, Member of Congress:

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, July 24, 2006.

Hon. J. DENNIS HASTERT,
Speaker, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. 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 a criminal subpoena, issued by the San Bernardino Court of the State of California for testimony.

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,

JANET SCOTT,
District Representative.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE HONORABLE STEVEN C. LATOURETTE, MEMBER OF CONGRESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Honorable STEVEN C. LATOURETTE, Member of Congress:

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,
August 16, 2006.

Hon. J. DENNIS HASTERT,
Speaker, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: This is to formally notify you, pursuant to Rule VIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, that I have been served with a civil subpoena for documents issued by the Cuyahoga County, Ohio Court of Common Pleas.

After consulting with the Office of General Counsel, I will make the determinations required by Rule VIII of the Rules of the House.

Sincerely,

STEVEN C. LATOURETTE

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 is objected to under clause 6 of rule XX.

Record votes on postponed questions will be taken after 6:30 p.m. today.

ABRAHAM LINCOLN COMMEMORATIVE COIN ACT

Mrs. BIGGERT. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2808) to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in commemoration of the bicentennial of the birth of Abraham Lincoln, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 2808

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 ''Abraham Lincoln Commemorative Coin Act''.

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

The Congress finds as follows:

(1) Abraham Lincoln, the 16th President, was one of the Nation's greatest leaders, demonstrating true courage during the Civil War, one of the greatest crises in the Nation's history.

(2) Born of humble roots in present-day LaRue County, Kentucky, on February 12, 1809, Abraham Lincoln rose to the Presidency through a combination of honesty, integrity, intelligence, and commitment to the United States.

(3) With the belief that all men were created equal, Abraham Lincoln led the effort to free all slaves in the United States.

(4) Abraham Lincoln had a generous heart, with malice toward none and with charity for all.

(5) Abraham Lincoln gave the ultimate sacrifice for his country, dying from an assassin's bullet on April 15, 1865.

(6) The year 2009 will be the bicentennial anniversary of the birth of Abraham Lincoln.

(7) The Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Commission has been charged by Congress with planning the celebration of Lincoln's bicentennial.

(8) The proceeds from a commemorative coin will help fund the celebration and the continued study of the life of Lincoln.

SEC. 3. COIN SPECIFICATIONS.

(a) $1 SILVER COINS.—The Secretary of the Treasury (hereafter in this Act referred to as the ''Secretary'') shall mint and issue not more than 500,000 $1 coins, which shall—

(1) weigh 26.73 grams;

(2) have a diameter of 1.500 inches; and

(3) contain 90 percent silver and 10 percent copper.

(b) LEGAL TENDER.—The coins minted under this Act shall be legal tender, as provided in section 5103 of title 31, United States Code.

(c) NUMISMATIC ITEMS.—All coins minted under this Act shall be considered to be numismatic items.

SEC. 4. DESIGN OF COINS.

(a) DESIGN REQUIREMENTS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The design of the coins minted under this Act shall be emblematic of the life and legacy of President Abraham Lincoln.

(2) DESIGNATION AND INSCRIPTIONS.—On each coin minted under this Act there shall be—

(A) a designation of the value of the coin;

(B) an inscription of the year ''2009''; and

(C) inscriptions of the words ''Liberty'', ''In God We Trust'', ''United States of America'', and ''E Pluribus Unum''.

(b) SELECTION.—The design for the coins minted under this Act shall be—

(1) selected by the Secretary after consultation with the Commission of Fine Arts and the Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Commission; and

(2) reviewed by the Citizens Coinage Advisory Committee.

SEC. 5. ISSUANCE OF COINS.

(a) QUALITY OF COINS.—Coins minted under this Act shall be issued in uncirculated and proof qualities.

(b) MINT FACILITY.—Only 1 facility of the United States Mint may be used to strike any particular quality of the coins minted under this Act.

(c) PERIOD FOR ISSUANCE.—The Secretary may issue coins minted under this Act only during the 1-year period beginning on January 1, 2009.

SEC. 6. SALE OF COINS.

(a) SALE PRICE.—The coins issued under this Act shall be sold by the Secretary at a price equal to the sum of—

(1) the face value of the coins;

(2) the surcharge provided in section 7(a) with respect to such coins; and

(3) the cost of designing and issuing the coins (including labor, materials, dies, use of machinery, overhead expenses, marketing, and shipping).

(b) BULK SALES.—The Secretary shall make bulk sales of the coins issued under this Act at a reasonable discount.

(c) PREPAID ORDERS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall accept prepaid orders for the coins minted under this Act before the issuance of such coins.

(2) DISCOUNT.—Sale prices with respect to prepaid orders under paragraph (1) shall be at a reasonable discount.

SEC. 7. SURCHARGES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—All sales of coins issued under this Act shall include a surcharge of $10 per coin.

(b) DISTRIBUTION.—Subject to section 5134(f)(1), title 31, United States Code, all surcharges received by the Secretary from the sale of coins issued under this Act shall be promptly paid by the Secretary to the Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Commission to further the work of the Commission.

(c) AUDITS.—The Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Commission shall be subject to the audit requirements of section 5134(f)(2) of title 31, United States Code.

(d) LIMITATION.—Notwithstanding subsection (a), no surcharge may be included with respect to the issuance under this Act of any coin during a calendar year if, as of the time of such issuance, the issuance of such coin would result in the number of commemorative coin programs issued during such year to exceed the annual 2 commemorative coin program issuance limitation under section 5112(m)(1) of title 31, United States Code (as in effect on the date of the enactment of this Act). The Secretary of the Treasury may issue guidance to carry out this subsection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Illinois (Mrs. BIGGERT) and the gentlewoman from Illinois (Ms. BEAN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Illinois.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mrs. BIGGERT. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on this legislation and to insert extraneous materials thereon.

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

There was no objection.

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

I rise today to urge passage of H.R. 2808, the Abraham Lincoln Commemorative Coin Act. I commend my friend, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. LAHOOD), for its introduction.

Mr. Speaker, in 2009, our great Nation will celebrate the bicentennial of President Abraham Lincoln's birth. To commemorate this event, the bill we are considering today authorizes the Secretary of the Treasury to mint as many as half a million silver $1 coins for sale in 2009. Surcharges on the sales will be used to fund the work of Abraham Lincoln's Bicentennial Commission, which is planning various special events to commemorate the occasion of Lincoln's birth.

I fully support this program, Mr. Speaker, because there is so much to learn about this great man. Certainly, he was a tremendous President, perhaps the only man who could have held this country together during the difficult period of his presidency. Certainly, he freed the slaves, and certainly he left us some of our clearest statements of what the United States stands for both as a Nation and as a symbol.

But so much more has been said and written about him, so much that can shed light on different aspects of this man, from his persona to his presidency. As a matter of fact, thanks to the hard work and efforts of my colleague Mr. LAHOOD and others, an Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum just opened in Springfield, Illinois, in April of 2005 to help Americans rediscover one of their greatest Presidents.

There is no disputing that Lincoln was a great man. One of my favorite stories of his presidency could not happen today. It involves an event on which some claim the entire Civil War turned.

Early on in the war, an inventor presented himself at the White House with a new weapon and was led in to see the President. Lincoln, who had been quite a hunter in his youth, is said to have taken this new weapon out to the south lawn to try it out on a pile of firewood. The President immediately saw the great potential in its accuracy and speed, and his decision to arm the Union troops with a new repeater rifle many claim is one of the reasons the Union side won the war.

Mr. Speaker, the point of this story is not to talk about firearms but to talk about a remarkable man who literally took charge of a deeply divided Nation when he became President. His leadership through such a tumultuous time in our Nation's history certainly qualifies him as one of the greatest individuals to represent the State of Illinois.

It is that great President who will be honored by the minting of these coins and whose memory will be brought to life to a whole new generation in just 3 short years. For that reason, Mr. Speaker, I urge immediate adoption of this legislation.

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

Ms. BEAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself as much time as I may consume. I thank the gentlewoman from Illinois, Congresswoman BIGGERT.

As a member of the Illinois delegation, I am proud to join my distinguished colleague today in support of H.R. 2808, the Abraham Lincoln Commemorative Coin Act. This bill celebrates the many contributions of our 16th President and one of Illinois' favorite sons, Abraham Lincoln, by directing the Treasury to mint a coin in commemoration of the bicentennial of his birth.

Born to humble roots in 1809, Abraham Lincoln and his family moved to Illinois in 1830. Lincoln would go on to serve in the Illinois House of Representatives, represent Illinois in the 30th Congress and run unsuccessfully for the U.S. Senate. In addition, he practiced law and later served as a judge.

In 1860, Abraham Lincoln was elected President in the midst of a Nation dissolving from within. By the time of his first inaugural address in March, seven States had already seceded from the Union. Yet, committed to doing everything in his power to prevent civil war, President Lincoln used his inaugural address to make a stirring appeal for the preservation of the Union, ending his address by saying:

''I am loathe to close. We are not enemies, but friends. We must not be enemies. Though passion may have strained it must not break our bonds of affection. The mystic chords of memory, stretching from every battlefield and patriot grave to every living heart and hearthstone over this broad land, will yet swell the chorus of the Union, when again touched, as surely they will be, by the better angels of our nature.''

Nevertheless, in April, Fort Sumter was attacked, and the war began.

For 4 years, Lincoln was consumed with winning the war and salvaging the Union, and as the war finally neared its end in March 1865, Lincoln focused on healing and reuniting a ravaged Nation. Instead of rebuking or punishing the Confederacy, Lincoln chose instead to offer a united vision of a healed country. During his last inaugural address, he said:

''With malice toward none, with charity for all, with firmness in the right as God gives us to see the right, let us strive on to finish the work we are in, to bind up the Nation's wounds, to care for him who shall have borne the battle and for his widow and his orphan, to do all which may achieve and

cherish a just and lasting peace among ourselves and with all nations.''

□ 1430

Unfortunately, he would not live to see the end of the Civil War. In April of 1865, just blocks from where we stand today, Lincoln was assassinated at Ford's Theatre.

Abraham Lincoln's service to Illinois alone warrants our remembrance and recognition, but his stewardship and vision led our Nation through the darkest and most dangerous time in our history; and for that, all Americans today and all those to come, are forever indebted to him.

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

Mrs. BIGGERT. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to my friend and colleague, the author of this legislation, Mr. LAHOOD, from the great State of Illinois.

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

Mr. LAHOOD. Mr. Speaker, I thank Congresswoman BIGGERT and Congresswoman BEAN for this opportunity to consider the bill on the floor today that I have been working on for about a year and a half.

In a little more than 2 years, the United States will celebrate the 200th birthday of its greatest President, Abraham Lincoln. We are all familiar with this legendary man's story. He was born in poverty in Kentucky, educated himself while growing up in the wilds of southern Indiana, and after failing in business eventually established a thriving legal practice in Illinois. He overcame repeated obstacles in his personal, professional, and political life and rose to lead our country through the greatest crisis it has ever faced.

The American political system was still a fragile experiment, just 85 years old, when Abraham Lincoln became President in 1861. Many Europeans at the time viewed America's democracy with distaste and skepticism, and Lincoln knew that government of the people, by the people, and for the people would be discredited forever if a disaffected minority could simply withdraw from the government. His faith in representative government allowed him not only to save the Union but to forge a Nation.

As the Congressman who represents much of the same district he represented in the 30th Congress from 1847 to 1849, I am privileged to be involved in the work of the Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Commission, on which I serve as one of the cochairs along with Senator RICHARD DURBIN and Harold Halzer. For the last several years, we have been striving to plan a fitting and proper celebration of the bicentennial of Lincoln's birthday in 2009. Among our efforts is this legislation that comes before the House today, H.R. 2808, the Abraham Lincoln Commemorative Coin Act.

This bill directs the Secretary of the Treasury to mint 500,000 one-dollar commemorative coins which would highlight the life and legacy of President Abraham Lincoln during the bicentennial year of 2009. Proceeds from the sale of the coin will help fund the celebration and the continued study of the life of President Lincoln.

This legislation could not have come to the floor today without the extraordinary help and assistance of Congressman JESSE JACKSON, Jr. In order to bring a bill like this to the floor, it requires 290 signatures of Members of the House in order to signal that the bill is prepared and ready to be considered by the House. Mr. JACKSON was a great help in lining up and getting the signatures so that we could bring the bill to the House.

I urge all to support the bill.

Ms. BEAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS).

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to rise in support of this legislation, and I commend my colleagues, Representative LAHOOD and Representative JACKSON from Illinois, for the work that they did on this legislation. I am pleased to join with Representatives BIGGERT and BEAN in expressing strong support for the measure.

Abraham Lincoln was obviously one of the great historical figures of our Nation, and I remember as a child that my mother used to tell us stories about Abraham Lincoln. I recall how we would sit around her in awe of his exploits. I ultimately became, I guess what I would call a Lincoln scholar after having decided to major in history in undergraduate school. And Abraham Lincoln is one of the reasons that I am proud to call myself an Illinoisan.

I am proud of the heritage of our State, proud of the tremendous work that he did and what he has meant to the development of what is the greatest Nation on the face of the Earth, the United States of America; and so I urge passage of this legislation.

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

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

Mrs. BIGGERT. Mr. Speaker, in closing, I would just like to thank again my friend and colleague, Mr. LAHOOD, for his introduction of this bill; and I would also like to thank the Members of the Illinois delegation who have spoken so eloquently, and thank Ms. BEAN for her managing this bill and Mr. DAVIS for being here and Mr. JACKSON for also working on this bill.

Mr. OXLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 2808, the Abraham Lincoln Commemorative Coin Act, sponsored by the gentleman from Illinois, Mr. LAHOOD.

The legislation calls for the Secretary of the Treasury to mint and issue not more than 500,000 one-dollar silver coins in 2009, to mark the bicentennial of the birth of one of our greatest Presidents, Abraham Lincoln. The Nation's 16th President, he was born February 12, 1809, in present-day LaRue County, Kentucky.

Mr. Speaker, we all know the story of the tall, craggy man who went on to become a lawyer in Springfield, Illinois. Later, by dint of honesty, integrity, intelligence and compassion, became President, and served through some of the most trying times of our Nation. We all know the tragic story of his death after being shot at Ford's Theater on April 15, 1865. And we all know the Gettysburg Address and the Emancipation Proclamation.

Few of us know, I think, the history of that famous proclamation. Although it ended up as a proclamation by the President using his war powers, it started life as a normal piece of legislation. In fact, its existence first was reported 144 years ago in the famous Harper's Weekly magazine of July 26, 1862, which said: "The following message was delivered to Congress on Monday: FELLOW-CITIZENS OF THE SENATE AND HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES—Herewith is the draft of the bill to compensate any State which may abolish slavery within its limits, the passage of which, substantially as presented, I respectfully recommend. ABRAHAM LINCOLN."

Congress and President Lincoln already had started down the road to emancipation, freeing slaves in the District of Columbia on April 16 of that year and in U.S. territories two months later. Lincoln issued a preliminary emancipation proclamation on September 22 of 1862, shortly after the Union victory at Antietam, and the final proclamation January 1, 1863. The Thirteenth Amendment made the proclamation permanent late in 1865.

Mr. Speaker, those were astonishing actions, even for a time of war, and serve to remind us how truly remarkable Abraham Lincoln was. These coins called for in this legislation, and the surcharges on the sales of the coins that will be paid to the Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Commission, will further illuminate Abraham Lincoln's life.

Mr. Speaker, this legislation has more than the 290 cosponsors required for consideration, and will proceed at no cost to the taxpayers. Companion legislation already has passed the other body. I recommend its immediate passage.

I enclose the following exchange of correspondence:

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON FINANCIAL SERVICES,
Washington, DC, September 5, 2006.

Hon. WILLIAM M. THOMAS, Chairman,
Committee on Ways and Means, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN THOMAS: I am writing concerning H.R. 2808, the ''Abraham Lincoln Commemorative Coin Act,'' which was introduced in the House and referred to the Committee on Financial Services on June 8, 2006. It is my expectation that this bill will be scheduled for floor consideration in the near future.

As you know, section 7 of the bill establishes a surcharge for the sale of commemorative coins that are minted under the bill. I acknowledge your committee's jurisdictional interest in such surcharges as revenue matters. However, I request that your committee forego action on H.R. 2808 in order to allow the bill to come to the floor expeditiously. I appreciate your cooperation in so doing, and agree that your decision to forego further action on this bill will not prejudice the Committee on Ways and Means with respect to its jurisdictional prerogatives on

this or similar legislation. I would support your request for conferees on those provisions within your jurisdiction should this bill be the subject of a House-Senate conference.

I will include a copy of this letter and your response in the Congressional Record when this bill is considered by the House. Thank you again for your assistance.

Yours truly,

MICHAEL G. OXLEY,
Chairman.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS,
Washington, DC, September 5, 2006.

Hon. MICHAEL G. OXLEY,
Chairman, Committee on Financial Services, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN OXLEY: I am writing concerning H.R. 2808, the ''Abraham Lincoln Commemorative Coin Act,'' which is scheduled to be on the House floor on September 6, 2006.

As you know, the Committee on Ways and Means maintains jurisdiction over matters that concern raising revenue. H.R. 2808 contains a provision that establishes a surcharge for the sale of commemorative coins that are minted under the bill, and thus falls within the jurisdiction of the Committee on Ways and Means. However, in order to expedite this bill for floor consideration, the Committee will forgo action. This is being done with the understanding that it does not in any way prejudice the Committee with respect to the appointment of conferees or its jurisdictional prerogatives on this bill or similar legislation.

I appreciate and agree to your offer to include this exchange of letters on this matter in the Congressional Record during floor consideration.

Best regards,

BILL THOMAS,
Chairman.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 2808, the Abraham Lincoln Commemorative Coin Act.

This Act recognizes the fact that the year 2009 will be the bicentennial anniversary of the birth of Abraham Lincoln and directs the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins commemorating his birth.

President Abraham Lincoln is one of the most important, most instrumental, and most revered individuals in our Nation's history. Few others have had such an important role in guiding the future of our Nation. He was committed to a government of the people, believed the Constitution was inviolate, and fought for the rights of every individual.

President Lincoln's achievements include no less than the abolishment of slavery, the survival of the Union and the civil rights of all individuals, regardless of race or creed. President Lincoln truly believed in and fought for one indivisible Nation with liberty and justice for all. The legacy he left after his tragic death has continued to inspire generations.

I hope that we, as elected Members of Congress of this great Nation, continue to find inspiration in President Lincoln's words from his Second Inaugural Address:

''With malice toward none; with charity for all; with firmness in the right, as God gives us to see the right, let us strive on to finish the work we are in; to bind up the nation's wounds.''

In order to honor the 200th anniversary of his birth, the Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Commission has been charged by Congress with planning the celebration of President Lincoln's bicentennial.

The proceeds from a commemorative coin will help fund the celebration and the continued study of the life of President Lincoln. 500,000 one dollar silver coins will be issued, dated in the year 2009.

I urge my colleagues to support this resolution.

Mr. EVANS. Mr. Speaker, it is with great admiration and respect that I rise today in support of H.R. 2808, the Abraham Lincoln Commemorative Coin Act. In celebration of Abraham Lincoln's 200th birthday, I join the Illinois delegation and other colleagues in honoring this great Illinoisan with a commemorative coin.

Abraham Lincoln was born on February 12, 1809 in Kentucky. As a young man, he moved to Illinois where he earned the nickname, ''Honest Abe.'' He began his political career at the young age of 23, when he was elected to the Illinois General Assembly. After serving 12 years, Lincoln was elected to the House of Representatives. He went on to run for U.S. Senate, during which he debated Stephen Douglas in the cities of Quincy and Galesburg located in my district. Although he was defeated, Lincoln's call to public service was strong and unwavering; he reemerged two years later as a presidential candidate.

On November 6, 1860, Abraham Lincoln was elected the 16th President of the United States. From the beginning of his presidency, Lincoln was tasked with the challenge of reuniting a Nation divided over slavery and Civil War. President Lincoln was steadfast in his efforts to preserve our Union and never let the world forget that the Civil War involved an even larger issue. This he profoundly stated in dedicating the military cemetery at Gettysburg by proclaiming, ''We here highly resolve that these dead shall not have died in vain—that this nation, under God, shall have a new birth of freedom—and that government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth.''

As Representative of the 17th District of Illinois, I look to the legacy of Abraham Lincoln for guidance and inspiration. Not only did Mr. Lincoln show great leadership during a tumultuous time in our history, but he exhibited determination and conviction as he successfully fought to defend the liberty of every American.

I urge my fellow colleagues to join me and vote in support of H.R. 2808, the Abraham Lincoln Commemorative Coin Act.

Mrs. BIGGERT. Mr. Speaker, 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 gentlewoman from Illinois (Mrs. BIGGERT) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2808, as amended.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds of those present have voted in the affirmative.

Mrs. BIGGERT. 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 question will be postponed.

SUPPORTING THE GOALS AND IDEALS OF NATIONAL LIFE INSURANCE AWARENESS MONTH

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 912) supporting the goals and ideals of National Life Insurance Awareness Month.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. RES. 912

Whereas life insurance is an essential part of a sound financial plan;

Whereas life insurance provides financial security for families by helping surviving members meet immediate and long-term financial obligations and objectives in the event of a premature death in their family;

Whereas approximately 68,000,000 United States citizens lack the adequate level of life insurance coverage needed to ensure a secure financial future for their loved ones;

Whereas life insurance products protect against the uncertainties of life by enabling individuals and families to manage the financial risks of premature death, disability, and long-term care;

Whereas individuals, families, and businesses can benefit from professional insurance and financial planning advice, including an assessment of their life insurance needs; and

Whereas numerous groups supporting life insurance have designated September of 2006 as National Life Insurance Awareness Month as a means to encourage consumers to (1) become more aware of their life insurance needs; (2) seek professional advice regarding life insurance; and (3) take the actions necessary to achieve financial security for their loved ones: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) supports the goals and ideals of National Life Insurance Awareness Month; and

(2) requests that the President issue a proclamation calling on the Federal Government, States, localities, schools, nonprofit organizations, businesses, and the citizens of the United States to observe the month with appropriate programs and activities.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. FOXX) and the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from North Carolina.

GENERAL LEAVE

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

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, House Resolution 912, offered by the distinguished gentlewoman from Illinois (Mrs. BIGGERT), would support the goals and ideals of Life Insurance Awareness Month.

There is a growing crisis facing America today due to individuals not having enough life insurance coverage to provide for their loved ones in the event of their premature death. Statistics show more than 60 million Americans are estimated to lack sufficient

coverage. When the worst happens, and financial preparations are deficient, the consequences can be dire. Those left behind are often forced to work additional jobs or longer hours, borrow money from friends and family, spend retirement or college savings, and move to less expensive housing. These situations can be prevented.

A life insurance policy guarantees that a designated amount of money will be available, generally income-tax free, at the very time it is needed most. This resolution would encourage consumers to take stock of their life insurance needs. The industry-wide effort is supported by many of the Nation's leading life insurance companies.

Together, industry organizations will stage several community activities in September in the hopes that more people will begin to consider their life insurance needs. I urge all Members to come together to support the critical need for the advancement of life insurance education by adopting H. Res. 912.

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

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H. Res. 912, which expresses the sense of Congress regarding the importance of life insurance. Life insurance provides financial security for families in the event of a premature death by helping surviving family members meet immediate needs and long-term financial obligations.

Almost 70 million Americans say they lack the life insurance coverage needed to ensure a secure financial future for their loved ones, yet the need for life insurance is well documented. Recent studies have found that when a premature death occurs, insufficient life insurance coverage on the part of the deceased often results in the surviving family members being placed under an insurmountable burden, forcing family members to take on extra jobs, work longer hours, borrow money, and spend less time with their families. This takes place at a time when spending time with loved ones is important to heal and to recover from the tragedy of losing a family member.

By designating a month each year as Life Insurance Awareness Month, we are establishing just how important it is for families to learn and educate themselves about life insurance. As a society, we must take steps to make sure our children are safe and provided for. By supporting a Life Insurance Awareness Month, we are signaling to the American people that this is an important issue that they should consider in their financial planning.

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

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as she may consume to my distinguished colleague from the State of Illinois (Mrs. BIGGERT).

Mrs. BIGGERT. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for yielding me the time.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to urge my colleagues to support House Resolution 912, which supports the goals and ideals of designating September as National Life Insurance Awareness Month. I want to thank my friend and colleague, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. KANJORSKI), for introducing this resolution with me for the third year in a row and for his support on this important issue. Mr. KANJORSKI serves with me on both the Financial Services Committee and the Financial and Economic Literacy Caucus and has been an outstanding leader on the important issue of financial security.

I also want to thank the gentleman from Virginia, Chairman TOM DAVIS, for expeditiously moving this resolution through the Committee on Government Reform.

And last, I acknowledge and thank Senator BEN NELSON of Nebraska and Senator SAXBY CHAMBLISS for their contributions to this effort. They worked with us on this side of the Capitol to craft identical resolutions that garner both bipartisan and bicameral support. It is my hope that the Senate soon will pass its version of the resolution.

Mr. Speaker, life insurance too often is thought of only when it is too late. How many times have any of us heard friends or loved ones sadly reflect that the deceased had no life insurance or had too little life insurance. Today, only four in 10 Americans own an individual life insurance policy; and among those who do have life insurance, the amount is often too small to safeguard the financial future of their loved ones.

Because of insufficient coverage, family members often have had to work extra jobs or longer hours, borrow money, or move to less desirable housing. In short, these outcomes are only symptoms of the crisis of underinsurance that exists in our Nation today.

Mr. Speaker, House Resolution 912 calls on the Nation to observe the month of September as Life Insurance Awareness Month. The Life and Health Insurance Foundation for Education, the National Association of Insurance and Financial Advisers, the American Council of Life Insurers, and a coalition representing hundreds of leading life insurance providers and advocates have designated September 2006 as Life Insurance Awareness Month. Our collective goal for the month is to make consumers more aware of their life insurance needs, seek professional advice, and take the actions necessary to achieve financial security for their families.

Many of my colleagues on both the Financial Services and the Education and Workforce Committees have been working very hard to increase the level of financial literacy and economic education in this Nation. Understanding how financial products work and how they can work to build financial security are two important ingredients in a complete financial education.

This September I will join my colleagues and many others in helping to further educate Americans about the importance of life insurance to a sound financial plan. Losing a family member is painful enough without it being compounded by financial difficulties. It is my hope that recognizing Life Insurance Awareness Month will motivate Americans to seek out information about the benefits of life insurance so that if the premature death of a loved one does occur, they will be spared the economic hardships that often accompany tragedy.

□ 1445

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me and support the goals and ideals of designating September as National Life Insurance Awareness Month.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. KANJORSKI).

Mr. KANJORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of the resolution I helped to introduce with my distinguished colleague from Illinois, Mrs. BIGGERT, House Resolution 912. This resolution would designate September as National Life Insurance Awareness Month.

Life insurance is a financial planning tool that all families should explore, but particularly at this time when we in this country are so interested in providing personal and family security. Life insurance is an element of that security which all families should consider and which is helpful in helping those families plan for their future needs.

To provide security in the event of an untimely death for a family is one of the most important aspects of financial life. Too often, we wait too long or ignore the advantage that this financial tool has and the use it should be put to, to provide the support for those left behind in an untimely death.

By designating September as National Life Insurance Awareness Month, we will hopefully highlight the importance of this financial instrument for the nearly 50 million Americans who presently lack the life insurance coverage needed to meet long-term financial needs of their families.

In closing, I urge my colleagues to support this important resolution to promote financial literacy.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I guess given the fact that today is my birthday, I recognize how important life insurance is because I have just gotten a bit older. So I am pleased to support this resolution.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to support this resolution, which recognizes the goals and ideals of National Life Insurance Awareness Month.

Life insurance is an essential' part of a sound financial plan. Life insurance provides financial security for families by helping surviving members meet immediate and long-term financial obligations and objectives in the event of a premature death in the family.

Around 68 million United Sates citizens lack the adequate level of life insurance coverage needed to ensure a secure financial future for their loved ones, most aware of neither the options nor the consequences.

Life insurance packages can help families protect themselves from additional burdens after the death of a family member by enabling individuals and families to manage the financial risks of premature death, disability, and long-term care.

It is not, however, sufficient to simply encourage consumers to buy life insurance. There is an implicit responsibility in the business of insurance to conduct benefits with honesty, integrity, and decency. I have been shocked and appalled over the last year to see that those who so desperately needed assistance in the gulf region were denied coverage on specious reasoning.

Many of my constituents, both newly arrived and long-term residents, continue to try to rebuild their lives after last year's hurricanes. Many insurance policies distinguish between rain, wind, and flood damage. Government-issued policies do insure against flood damage, but most homeowners don't have them. In the Katrina-hit region, only about one-third of homes and one-fourth of businesses carried this Federal policy.

Just 2 weeks ago, a judge issued the verdict on the first of many pending lawsuits by homeowners trying to recover the costs of their lost homes. In Leonard v National Mutual Insurance Co., the homeowners, Paul and Julie Leonard, stated that their agent implied that they did not need flood insurance if they purchased wind and rain coverage. They thought storm surges and other water damage were covered if caused by a hurricane's wind.

Aside from the fact that it is unkind to exclude flood insurance in an area prone to flooding, yet it is immoral, and should be illegal to dissuade homeowners away from flood insurance by erroneously describing policy. Flooding exclusion language may make a few rich business people happy, but it irreversibly harms our neighbors and constituents.

Katrina cost insurers about $41 billion in claims, the largest event in the history of the industry, with homes accounting for nearly half of the total. More than 100,000 homes were damaged or destroyed by Katrina in what has been called the worst natural disaster in U.S. history.

The predicament of the Leonard family is not unusual, and a major public policy problem. Life insurance, and other insurance policies, must dutifully act as the crutch they are needed to be in times of crisis. Insurance companies should be ashamed of any activity that results in misleading, tricking, or deceiving its customers out of needed benefits.

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

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I urge all Members to support the adoption of H. Res. 912, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. FOXX) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 912.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds of those present have voted in the affirmative.

Ms. FOXX. 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 question will be postponed.

RECOGNIZING THE LIFE AND CONTRIBUTIONS OF PRESTON ROBERT TISCH

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 605) recognizing the life of Preston Robert Tisch and his outstanding contributions to New York City, the New York Giants Football Club, the National Football League, and the United States.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. RES. 605

Whereas Preston Robert ''Bob'' Tisch was born on April 29th, 1926, in the Bensonhurst neighborhood of Brooklyn to a middle class family;

Whereas Bob Tisch attended Erasmus Hall High School in Brooklyn for 3 years and DeWitt Clinton High School in the Bronx for one year;

Whereas Bob Tisch earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in economics from the University of Michigan in 1948;

Whereas in 1948 Bob Tisch joined a family hotel business venture, the Laurel-in-the-Pines in Lakewood, New Jersey, establishing the foundation for his success;

Whereas from 1946 through 1959 Bob and Larry Tisch built a thriving hotel chain spanning New York, New Jersey, and Florida;

Whereas in 1959 Bob and Larry Tisch acquired a controlling interest in Loew's Theatres, consisting of 102 movie theatres and a New York radio station, WMGM;

Whereas the investment in Loew's Theatres formed the basis for the modern-day Loews Corporation, which was created in 1969;

Whereas Bob and Larry Tisch built Loews Corporation into one of the largest diversified financial corporations in the United States;

Whereas in 1986 Bob Tisch was appointed by the Board of Governors of the United States Postal Service as Postmaster General under the administration of President Ronald Reagan;

Whereas in 1991 Bob Tisch purchased a 50 percent share in the New York Giants Football Club;

Whereas Bob Tisch helped create the Meals-on-Wheels program and served as its president for over 10 years, frequently delivering meals himself;

Whereas Bob Tisch founded the Take the Field program, a program which during the 1990s raised over $100,000,000 in public and private funds to rebuild 43 athletic fields in New York City for the use of hundreds of thousands of public school students;

Whereas Bob Tisch gave countless millions of dollars to hospitals, charities, and universities in the spirit of improving the lives of Americans;

Whereas on November 15, 2005, Bob Tisch died of a brain tumor at the age of 79; and

Whereas the life of Bob Tisch serves as a model for self-made success and positive American philanthropy: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives, on the occasion of the death of Preston Robert Tisch—

(1) expresses its deepest condolences to his wife of 57 years Joan and their 3 children; and

(2) recognizes the outstanding contributions Preston Robert Tisch made throughout his life to New York City, the New York Giants Football Club, the National Football League, and the United States.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. FOXX) and the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from North Carolina.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the resolution under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, Preston Robert Tisch realized a long-term dream in 1991 when he completed negotiations with Timothy Wellington Mara for a 50-percent interest in the New York Giants Football Club. Tisch played an active role in the organization as a member of the National Football League's Finance and Super Bowl Policy Committees, attaining a prominence in the sports arena equal to his position in the world of business.

Owning the Giants was one of many careers Tisch pursued simultaneously. He was the chairman and a director of the Loews Corporation, one of the country's most successful financial companies. From 1990–1993, Tisch served as chairman of the New York City Partnership, Inc., and the New York Chamber of Commerce and Industry, where he was instrumental in developing the campaign to enhance New York's position as an international business center.

After completing his term as chairman, Tisch remained on the Board of Directors of both organizations, now merged, and continued serving as a trustee of New York University. However, co-owning the New York Giants was his true love. As a life-long sports fan, he attended every Giants game, home and away, and spent as much time working in his stadium office as possible.

I urge all Members to honor a man that promoted excellence in business and took every opportunity to give back to the community by adopting H. Res. 605.

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

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H. Res. 605, which recognizes

the life and achievements of Preston Robert Tisch.

The New York Giants begin the 2006 football season next week absent the front office presence of Bob Tisch for the first time in 15 years. The Giants have been one of the National Football League's most successful franchises, and this is due in no small part to Tisch's leadership. The New York Giants grieve the passing of their former owner, but they do not grieve alone.

In addition to the New York Giants, Bob Tisch and his family own the Loews hotels and movie theaters and many other successful businesses.

However, Tisch will be remembered by many for his philanthropic ventures. Many organizations and educational institutions, such as the University of Michigan, his alma mater, and New York University, benefited from Tisch's generosity.

Tisch established the overwhelmingly successful Take the Field program. During the 1990s, the Take the Field program raised over $140 million to help rebuild dozens of athletic fields used by public school children in New York City.

Tisch also created the Meals on Wheels program and served as president of the program for a decade. It was not uncommon to find Bob Tisch delivering meals to those in need.

Bob Tisch was also a devoted and successful public servant. From 1986–1988, Tisch served as Postmaster General of the United States. He served honorably in his role at the United States Postal Service and created the Department of Philatelic Affairs. This department revolutionized the sale of stamps in postal facilities.

On November 15, 2005, Preston Robert Tisch lost his battle against brain cancer at the age of 79. In one last demonstration of his eminent generosity, Tisch donated $10 million to the Duke University Cancer Center that had treated and cared for him in his final days.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in strong support of H. Res. 605 in recognition of the life and work of Preston Robert Tisch.

Mr. Speaker, it is not unusual for individuals to become wealthy and to become successful. It is not even unusual for some of them to share some of what they have been able to accumulate with others. But in looking at the history of Preston Robert Tisch, it is difficult to find a more magnanimous individual who made greater use of his time, his energy, his efforts, and, of course, his wealth.

When you think of the Meals on Wheels program and the large numbers of senior citizens who have benefited so greatly from such a great program, you realize how great Mr. Tisch was and how long his legacy will continue to live.

Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to yield such time as she may consume to the Democratic Leader, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. PELOSI).

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, I thank the distinguished gentleman from Illinois for yielding and thank all who were responsible for bringing this important tribute to the floor of the House.

Mr. Speaker, I rise with very mixed emotions about this. I am absolutely delighted that Bob Tisch is receiving the recognition that he deserves, and he deserves even more, but sad that it has come at a time when he has passed on.

I rise proudly to pay tribute to Preston Robert Tisch, known to all of us fortunate enough to call him ''friend'' as Bob. My friendship with him goes back to 1976; that would be 30 years, Mr. Speaker, a long, long time. It was at the time when he was the chair of the host committee for the Democratic National Convention in New York.

I later became the chair of its host committee for the convention in San Francisco and, as such, went to visit him to get some advice on how to make our city shine when all of that attention was focused on us. His advice was always excellent, professional and, in fact, nonpartisan. It was very important, he said, for this to be about your community. It isn't about the Democrats. It is about your city, your State and your welcome to a convention that is part of the democratic process. But your role is not a political one.

He was bipartisan in so much of what he did. He was a mentor to many, and I was very honored to receive advice from him now for the past 30 years.

Bob Tisch and his family, his brother Larry, are well-known to many of us on both sides of the aisle, and there wasn't anything that was wonderful in our community and our society and our economy that they weren't part of, whether it was the arts, the media, education, sports, again, very important factors in the economy.

But I guess the last note I received from Bob Tisch, he was on his way home from a football game, and I guess dictated it or something, but football was such a love for him. He found a way to combine his love for football with his philanthropic spirit by founding the Take the Field program. This is a wonderful, wonderful venture, a nonprofit organization dedicated to renovating and rebuilding the athletic fields at New York City's public high schools.

Bob believed in giving back to New York City public high schools, the public high schools that educated him, giving student athletes fields of play and single-handedly raising more than $147 million to do so.

Across the country, there is other evidence of Bob Tisch's generosity. His name graces both a medical center and an arts school at New York University, a gallery at the Metropolitan Museum of Art, and the Children's Zoo at Central Park.

Bob helped found Meals on Wheels and served as its president for 20 years. He delivered many meals personally to elderly patrons.

I wanted to just mention football, because he loved it so much. Many know Bob Tisch realized his lifelong dream in 1991 when he became chairman and co-CEO of the New York Giants. The Giants brought him great joy. He attended every game, both home and away, and spent as much time working in his stadium office as possible.

Bob was a tremendously talented businessman, as we discussed, a dedicated public servant who served as our Nation's Postmaster General, again, under a Republican President, a Democratic Postmaster General, and one of the most generous philanthropists our country has known.

As we pay tribute to Bob, we must remember the many people who loved him and grieve his death, especially his wife of 57 years, Joan Tisch; his children, Steven, Laurie and Jonathan; and his nine grandchildren.

The last time I saw Bob Tisch, he was having brunch, Sunday brunch, at the Regency Hotel with his family and some of his grandchildren. He held court there. Many of us would see him when we were in New York. He held court there, and it was just always a wonderful, wonderful, wonderful experience to see him. He was always so full of optimism and hope, even though, at some point, we didn't know how long he would be with us.

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I think the former mayor of New York City, David Dinkins said it best of Bob: When you think of Bob Tisch, you smile. Though we grieve the loss of Bob today, we smile as we remember his brilliant life.

Again, I hope it is a comfort to Joan, to Jonathan, to Steven and to Laurie, my friend, that so many people mourn their loss and are praying for them. He has been gone for a number of months, but we continue to pray for them and to sing the praises of this great man, Bob Tisch.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to yield such time as she might consume to the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. MALONEY).

Mrs. MALONEY. I thank my colleague for yielding, and I join my voice with the Democratic leader and Mr. FOSSELLA and many others in honoring Robert Tisch.

When Preston Robert Tisch passed away on November 15, 2005, America lost one of its preeminent and most successful business people. Anyone who followed his career or worked with him knew of his brilliant business sense, and anyone who has seen a movie in a Loews theater or stayed in a Loews hotel can attest to it.

But as much as Bob Tisch will be remembered for his many business successes, he will be remembered and honored for being one of our most caring and giving philanthropists and humanitarians. Anyone who has benefitted from the vital city Meals on Wheels program is a testament to his many efforts. In his business career, Bob was

an enormous success, and he used his wealth and intelligence to assist those who need help the most. For that, we greatly admire him, and we honor him with this resolution today.

I am particularly proud, as is my colleague, VITO FOSSELLA, who introduced this resolution, that Bob Tisch was born and resided in our hometown, New York City. We were able to see the success and many good deeds up close, and our city has been the beneficiary of many of his best and most heartfelt ideas and programs. The City of New York thanks him and misses him.

Bob Tisch, the son of Russian immigrants and a native of Bensonhurst, Brooklyn, served our country in the Army during World War II. He graduated from the University of Michigan with a degree in economics and would go on to become the chairman and director of the highly successful Loews Corporation.

During the financial crisis of the 1970s, he organized business leaders from New York and around the country to earn the support of the Federal Government for New York City, and he helped rebuild our city. He helped our city go from bust to boom.

Bob Tisch served as the Postmaster General under President Reagan from 1986 to 1988 and, likewise, served as the chair of the National Democratic Convention. He was a man who was admired by both parties, admired by all people. He was chairman of the New York City Convention and Visitors Bureau for 19 years, and he was appointed by former Mayor David Dinkins to be the city's ambassador to Washington in 1990. You would often see him here in Washington visiting, talking, promoting New York City.

Perhaps his greatest feats, though, were his philanthropic efforts. Aside from the countless of millions of dollars he gave to charities, hospitals, universities and the Metropolitan Museum, Bob Tisch helped create city Meals on Wheels and was president for more than 20 years. The program provides food to the elderly and to the homebound, New Yorkers in need, allowing them to get nutrition and stay healthy in their homes.

More recently, Bob Tisch's Take the Field campaign raised more than $140 million to refurbish unkempt athletic fields of New York City's public schools.

Since 1991, Bob Tisch, a lifelong sports fan, owned 50 percent of the New York Giants Football Club, sharing it with another great New Yorker whom we recently lost, Wellington Mara.

Few Americans have done more in their lives or have helped more people than Bob Tisch. He is missed tremendously, especially in New York. As the companies he ran endure and as the philanthropic programs he created continue to help those in need, Bob Tisch will not be forgotten.

The good work he began continues even today, and our hearts and our thoughts are with his wife, Joan; his children, Steven, Laurie and Jonathan, all of whom have continued with his philanthropic work. And they have greatly, in their own way, benefitted our city, State and our country.

Overall, Bob Tisch was just a good man. He was a terrific person. He is deeply missed, and I am so pleased for his family and for his city that Congress has thought to honor him today.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to yield such time as he might consume to the Dean of the House of Representatives, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. DINGELL).

Mr. DINGELL. I thank my dear friend for yielding to me.

Mr. Speaker, like many others in this chamber, I had the opportunity of knowing Bob Tisch, wonderful gentleman, great patriot, public servant, a man concerned about the well-being of his community and a man who greatly loved his family and the Nation of which he was a part. He was also a man who was extraordinary in his charity to America, to its people and to those of almost all parts of the country. He was a great human being, a wonderful friend. He will be missed.

I am delighted that we are honoring him. I thank the committee for what they are doing. I extend with them my condolences to the wonderful family of our dear friend Preston Robert Tisch, but I also rejoice that we are honoring a great American well deserving of that today, and I thank my colleagues.

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a great American and a great New Yorker, Preston Robert Tisch. I am a friend of the Tisch family, and I am proud to stand here today and speak about Bob Tisch's many accomplishments.

Bob Tisch was a businessman, a philanthropist, and an entrepreneur. He made a positive impact on every organization he was affiliated with. Bob built the Loews Corporation into one of the largest diversified financial companies in the Nation, headed the New York Giants football franchise, and was one of the most generous philanthropists in New York. In every venture of his life he made he made a positive and indelible mark.

Bob and his brother Larry started a small hotel in New Jersey called Laurel-in-the Pines. The two brothers eventually built this business into the Loews chain of hotels. Their company acquired numerous other businesses to become the Loews Corporation that exists today.

After leaving Loews, Bob followed his dream and became the owner of the New York Giants football team. He was a true fan, attending every home and away game. He also brought his considerable talent and experience from the business field to the Giants organization.

However, Bob's most impressive accomplishments were his philanthropic ventures. In 2000, he helped create Take the Field, which raised money to rebuild the athletic fields of the public high schools in New York City. In only 4 years, he raised over $147 million for that cause. Additionally, he donated millions of dollars to universities around the country. New York University's Tisch School of the Arts, NYU Medical Center's Tisch Hospital, and even Tisch Hall at the University of Michigan are all testaments to the generosity of Bob Tisch.

Bob's gifts continued even after his passing. The Tisch Foundation, created by Bob and his wife Joan, has made substantial contributions to Play It Smart, an organization dedicated to training academic coaches to work with high school football teams in underserved neighborhoods. This program has achieved amazing success, with 98 percent of their students graduating high school and 80 percent enrolling in college. Both of these statistics are well above the national average.

Bob Tisch dedicated his life to improving the lives of others. He was a true American in the best sense of the word. For all these reasons, I strongly support H. Res. 605 and I urge my colleagues to do the same.

Mr. FOSSELLA. Mr. Speaker, on November 15th, 2005, America lost one of its greatest entrepreneurs, the great Preston Robert "Bob" Tisch, the former Postmaster General and owner of the New York Giants Football Club.

Bob Tisch grew up in Bensonhurst, Brooklyn, to middle-class parents who had emigrated from Russia. He had a vision that anyone could succeed in life if they worked hard enough to achieve it. He once mentioned that "perseverance is at the heart of meeting any challenge." This is a motto he would live by for the rest of his life. In 1943 Bob Tisch joined the U.S. Army and fought in World War II. Shortly after he left the military, he earned his bachelor's degree in economics from the University of Michigan in 1948. That same year he began what he would later become famous for: he joined his family hotel business at the Laurel-in-the-Pines in Lakewood, New Jersey.

Later in life he would move on to gain total control of the Loews Theater Corporation and in 1962, would build the Summit Hotel in Bal Harbour, Florida. At over 50 stories, it was the world's tallest hotel at the time. Throughout his life he would find success in all that he did. This would continue into the later years of his life. At the age of 60, President Ronald Reagan appointed him the United States Postmaster General, a post he would hold for two years. And finally in 1991, he purchased a 50 percent share of the New York Giants Football Club, an ownership he would happily share with the late Wellington Mara.

Recognizing the financial crisis that New York City was experiencing in the 1970s, Bob Tisch organized regular breakfasts at his Regency Hotel with some of the cities most influential movers and shakers. These breakfasts helped attract influential businessmen and women from all over the country and turned New York City's financial crisis into a burgeoning economy.

Bob Tisch had an incredible record of charity work. He helped create the Meals-on-Wheels program and would serve as its president for over 20 years. His final campaign was called the "Take the Field" imitative which was established to revitalize the ragged athletic fields of the city's public high schools which raised over $140 million. He also gave countless millions of dollars through his philanthropic works to hospitals, charities, and universities in the spirit of improving the lives of Americans.

While we mourn his loss, we as a Nation should smile proudly at his life and his deeds, for there is no greater credit to his accomplishments than having left this Nation and our world better than he had found it.

Mr. MARKEY. Mr. Speaker, Bob Tisch was my friend. He did many things in life for which he will be remembered, but for me it was that he created a family of unsurpassed excellence. It was an honor for me to know him, and his family should know how many people like me came to admire him.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of our time.

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I urge all Members to support the adoption of H. Res. 605, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. FOXX) that the House suspend the rules and pass the resolution, H. Res. 605.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds of those present have voted in the affirmative.

Ms. FOXX. 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 question will be postponed.

INTERNATIONAL SOLID WASTE IMPORTATION AND MANAGEMENT ACT OF 2006

Mr. GILLMOR. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2491) to amend the Solid Waste Disposal Act to authorize States to restrict receipt of foreign municipal solid waste and implement the Agreement Concerning the Transboundary Movement of Hazardous Waste between the United States and Canada, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 2491

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 ''International Solid Waste Importation and Management Act of 2006''.

SEC. 2. INTERNATIONAL TRANSPORTATION AND DISPOSAL OF MUNICIPAL SOLID WASTE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subtitle D of the Solid Waste Disposal Act (42 U.S.C. 6941 et seq.) is amended by adding after section 4010 the following new section:

''SEC. 4011. INTERNATIONAL TRANSPORTATION AND DISPOSAL OF MUNICIPAL SOLID WASTE.

''(a) STATE AUTHORITY TO ADDRESS IMPORTATION AND MANAGEMENT OF MUNICIPAL SOLID WASTE.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—Until the date on which all final regulations issued by the Administrator to implement and enforce the Agreement (including notice and consent provisions of the Agreement) become effective, a State may enact a law or laws or issue regulations or orders imposing limitations on the receipt and disposal of foreign municipal solid waste within the State. Laws, regulations, and orders enacted or issued before that date may continue in effect according to their terms after that date.

''(2) EFFECT ON INTERSTATE AND FOREIGN COMMERCE.—No State action taken as authorized by this section shall be considered to impose an undue burden on interstate and foreign commerce or to otherwise impair, restrain, or discriminate against interstate and foreign commerce.

''(3) TRADE AND TREATY OBLIGATIONS.—Nothing in this section affects, replaces, or amends prior law relating to the need for consistency with international trade obligations.

''(b) AUTHORITY OF ADMINISTRATOR.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—Beginning immediately after the date of enactment of this section, the Administrator shall—

''(A) perform the functions of the Designated Authority of the United States described in the Agreement with respect to the importation and exportation of municipal solid waste under the Agreement; and

''(B) implement and enforce the notice and consent and other provisions of the Agreement.

''(2) REGULATIONS.—Not later than 24 months after the date of enactment of this section, the Administrator shall issue final regulations with respect to the Administrator's responsibilities under paragraph (1).

''(3) CONSENT TO IMPORTATION.—In considering whether to consent to the importation under article 3(c) of the Agreement, the Administrator shall—

''(A) give substantial weight to the views of the State or States into which the municipal solid waste is to be imported, and consider the views of the local government with jurisdiction over the location where the waste is to be disposed;

''(B) consider the impact of the importation on—

''(i) continued public support for and adherence to State and local recycling programs;

''(ii) landfill capacity as provided in comprehensive waste management plans;

''(iii) air emissions from increased vehicular traffic; and

''(iv) road deterioration from increased vehicular traffic; and

''(C) consider the impact of the importation on homeland security, public health, and the environment.

''(4) ACTIONS IN VIOLATION OF THE AGREEMENT.—No person shall import, transport, or export municipal solid waste for final disposal or for incineration in violation of the Agreement.

''(c) COMPLIANCE ORDERS.—(1) Whenever on the basis of any information the Administrator determines that any person has violated or is in violation of this section, the Administrator may issue an order assessing a civil penalty for any past or current violation, requiring compliance immediately or within a specified time period, or both, or the Administrator may commence a civil action in the United States district court in the district in which the violation occurred for appropriate relief, including a temporary or permanent injunction.

''(2) Any order issued pursuant to this subsection shall state with reasonable specificity the nature of the violation. Any penalty assessed in the order shall not exceed $25,000 per day of noncompliance for each violation. In assessing such a penalty, the Administrator shall take into account the seriousness of the violation and any good faith efforts to comply with applicable requirements.

''(d) PUBLIC HEARING.—Any order issued under this section shall become final unless, not later than 30 days after the order is served, the person or persons named therein request a public hearing. Upon such request the Administrator shall promptly conduct a public hearing. In connection with any proceeding under this section the Administrator may issue subpoenas for the attendance and testimony of witnesses and the production of relevant papers, books, and documents, and may promulgate rules for discovery procedures.

''(e) VIOLATION OF COMPLIANCE ORDERS.—If a violator fails to take corrective action within the time specified in a compliance order, the Administrator may assess a civil penalty of not more than $25,000 for each day of continued noncompliance with the order.

''(f) DEFINITIONS.—For purposes of this section:

''(1) AGREEMENT.—The term 'Agreement' means—

''(A) the Agreement Concerning the Transboundary Movement of Hazardous Waste between the United States and Canada, signed at Ottawa on October 28, 1986 (TIAS 11099) and amended on November 25, 1992; and

''(B) any regulations promulgated and orders issued to implement and enforce that Agreement.

''(2) FOREIGN MUNICIPAL SOLID WASTE.—The term 'foreign municipal solid waste' means municipal solid waste generated outside of the United States.

''(3) MUNICIPAL SOLID WASTE.—

''(A) WASTE INCLUDED.—Except as provided in subparagraph (B), the term 'municipal solid waste' means—

''(i) all waste materials discarded for disposal by households, including single and multifamily residences, and hotels and motels; and

''(ii) all waste materials discarded for disposal that were generated by commercial, institutional, municipal, and industrial sources, to the extent such materials—

''(I) are essentially the same as materials described in clause (i); and

''(II) were collected and disposed of with other municipal solid waste described in clause (i) or subclause (I) of this clause as part of normal municipal solid waste collection services, except that this subclause does not apply to hazardous materials other than hazardous materials that, pursuant to regulations issued under section 3001(d), are not subject to regulation under subtitle C.

Examples of municipal solid waste include food and yard waste, paper, clothing, appliances, consumer product packaging, disposable diapers, office supplies, cosmetics, glass and metal food containers, and household hazardous waste. Such term shall include debris resulting from construction, remodeling, repair, or demolition of structures.

''(B) WASTE NOT INCLUDED.—The term 'municipal solid waste' does not include any of the following:

''(i) Any solid waste identified or listed as a hazardous waste under section 3001, except for household hazardous waste.

''(ii) Any solid waste, including contaminated soil and debris, resulting from—

''(I) a response action taken under section 104 or 106 of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (42 U.S.C. 9604 or 9606);

''(II) a response action taken under a State law with authorities comparable to the authorities of such section 104 or 106; or

''(III) a corrective action taken under this Act.

''(iii) Recyclable materials that have been separated, at the source of the waste, from waste otherwise destined for disposal or that have been managed separately from waste destined for disposal.

''(iv) Scrap rubber to be used as a fuel source.

''(v) Materials and products returned from a dispenser or distributor to the manufacturer or an agent of the manufacturer for credit, evaluation, and possible reuse.

''(vi) Any solid waste that is—

''(I) generated by an industrial facility; and

''(II) transported for the purpose of treatment, storage, or disposal to a facility or unit thereof that is owned or operated by the generator of the waste, located on property owned by the generator or a company with which the generator is affiliated, or the capacity of which is contractually dedicated exclusively to a specific generator, so long as the disposal area complies with local and State land use and zoning regulations applicable to the disposal site.

''(vii) Any medical waste that is segregated from or not mixed with solid waste.

''(viii) Sewage sludge and residuals from any sewage treatment plant.

''(ix) Combustion ash generated by resource recovery facilities or municipal incinerators, or waste from manufacturing or processing (including pollution control) operations not essentially the same as waste normally generated by households.

''(x) Solid waste generated incident to the provision of service in interstate, intrastate, foreign, or overseas air transportation.''.

(b) TABLE OF CONTENTS AMENDMENT.—The table of contents of the Solid Waste Disposal Act (42 U.S.C. prec. 6901) is amended by adding after the item relating to section 4010 the following new item:

''Sec. 4011. International transportation and disposal of municipal solid waste.''.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. GILLMOR) and the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. DINGELL) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Ohio.

GENERAL LEAVE

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

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

There was no objection.

Mr. GILLMOR. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I might consume.

Mr. Speaker, I want to begin by thanking several cosponsors of this bill from Michigan, Mr. ROGERS, Mr. DINGELL, Mrs. MILLER, Mr. STUPAK, Mr. UPTON, Mr. CAMP and many others. The legislation the House is considering today is the version of H.R. 2491 unanimously reported by the Committee on Energy and Commerce with two minor technical amendments; one to correct the year expressed in the bill's title from 2005 to 2006, and the second one to clarify the committee's position as stated in its filed report that this legislation does not cover solid waste generated incident to the provision of service in interstate, intrastate, foreign or overseas air transportation.

Today's consideration of H.R. 2491 has been a long time in coming. This legislation gives States and localities some control over the amount of waste that is generated outside of the United States that they must accept.

To give you an idea of the scope of the problem, we now have almost 4 million tons of municipal solid waste coming into landfills in the United States from outside the country. My staff has calculated that is more than 425 truckloads per day.

Current law basically punishes the environmentally responsible and rewards the environmentally irresponsible. Those States which go to the expense and the effort to create landfill space are finding their landfills clogged with waste from those who do not make and will not make this financial and legal commitment.

While there are many issues in the area of waste from and between jurisdictions, this bill deals only with the international waste, and great care has been taken to be sure to only limit itself to international waste.

Quite simply, this bill gives States the authority, only if they want to use it, to place limits on municipal solid waste generated in another country and exported for disposal in the United States.

In addition, the bill provides the necessary legal authority for the United States to fully implement the U.S.-Canada Waste Agreement. EPA has testified before the House Energy and Commerce Committee that such legal authority was necessary for our country to fully meet its commitments under this pact.

The steps in this bill are ones that must be taken to give meaningful and needed powers to both Federal and State governments. They are consistent with the powers granted in the United States Constitution and the U.S.-Canada Waste Trade Agreement.

We have worked hard to assure that they do not violate any of our international trade obligations like those in the North America Free Trade Agreement.

I urge all Members to support this bill, to send a message to other countries that the United States is not going to be their wastebasket. I would urge Members to support H.R. 2491.

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

Mr. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself 4 minutes.

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

Mr. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 2491, the International Solid Waste and Management Act of 2005. I want to express my particular gratitude and commendations to the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. GILLMOR) and for his leadership and the fine way in which he has handled this legislation. We in Michigan are grateful to the gentleman from Ohio and want him to know that he has our appreciation.

This is long overdue. It has been sponsored with great energy by the Members of this delegation in a bipartisan fashion, Mr. ROGERS, Mr. STUPAK, Mr. UPTON, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. SCHWARZ of Michigan, Mr. HOEKSTRA, Mr. KILDEE, Mrs. MILLER, Ms. KILPATRICK, Mr. EHLERS and Mr. CAMP have all worked very hard to bring this legislation to the floor in the shape in which it is.

The legislation came out of the Energy and Commerce Committee a year ago. It requires the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency to enforce the notice and consent provisions of the bilateral U.S.-Canadian Agreement, an Agreement that the United States signed in 1986, to govern the transboundary movement of hazardous waste, and amended in 1992 to include municipal solid waste.

Unfortunately, the Administration has made no effort to implement the bilateral agreement. Legislation was promised ''soon'' by this Administration more than 3 years ago. It has yet to arrive. The bill provides criteria to ensure that the views of State and local governments are properly taken into account in implementing the bilateral agreement and adds the necessary statutory enforcement authority.

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The situation in Michigan with regard to Canadian waste continues to get worse. Since 1996, when Michigan started collecting data, the amount of Canadian waste being disposed of in Michigan has risen by 335 percent. Essentially, our State is being used as a dumping ground by the Canadians.

Now, I note that the Administration should be complying with the notice and consent provisions of the bilateral agreement which requires that both countries use ''best efforts'' absent regulations. The bilateral agreement is especially important because Canada is a party to the Basel Convention and the United States is not. The Basel Convention specifically prohibits Basel parties from exporting waste to a nonparty. Thus, the United States-Canadian bilateral agreement is the only way waste can travel between the two countries at all.

Unfortunately, despite several letters that I, along with our two capable and hardworking Michigan Senators, Senators LEVIN and STABENOW, have sent to the Administration, the White House has decided to turn a blind eye to the needs of Michigan.

More than 400 trucks carry waste into Michigan every day from Canada. These are more than just a nuisance. The trucks and the cargo pose an environmental risk, a security risk, a potential hazard to health, as well as being detrimental to our roads. And they have even been used to smuggle narcotics into Michigan.

The citizens of Michigan need action by this Congress, and I am pleased that we are moving forward in the House. This legislation must be made a priority in the Senate. It will do much to help a situation that is intolerable.

While I am pleased with the bill coming to the House floor, and while Canadian waste makes up the majority of waste imports into Michigan, we have a significant amount of waste coming in from other States; and as such, I

look forward to working with my colleagues on a comprehensive bill giving the States the right to regulate unwanted trash imports into their borders.

I urge my colleagues to support the passage of H.R. 2491.

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

Mr. GILLMOR. Mr. Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. ROGERS).

Mr. ROGERS of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I thank our chairman and Mr. DINGELL for working so hard and so long to help us put this bill together, as did Mrs. MILLER and Mr. STUPAK.

When many people across the country think of Canada, they think of great trading partners and great allies. They think of hockey great Wayne Gretzky, Michael J. Fox, Shania Twain, all great contributions to our society here and good neighbors.

But when the people from Michigan think about Canada, we don't have that luxury. We think about trash and Canadian trash. We think about PCBs, soiled coffin waste and medical waste. We think of the loss of half of our landfill capacity in Michigan to Canadian imports of household municipal waste.

That is what it looks like and that is where it comes, to the great State of Michigan. There is no value added to it. It comes and is thrown into a hole. Because of the fact that they are consuming our landfill capacity, and coming to a neighborhood near you, my great State of Michigan is a landfill.

This bill, with the work of so many people, will stop the flow of Canadian waste. It will give Michigan citizens, and every citizen across the country in their own States, the ability to make the determination if they want to take this trash in their landfills.

Just a week ago they talked about, as they have since this bill was first introduced in 2001, the Canadians said we will reduce the trash and try to get to our 100 percent recycling rate and we will get back to you. The problem was since that last verbal promise to do that, 5,500 equivalent garbage trucks have come over the bridge in the last week. That is 288,000 garbage truck equivalents coming across our bridge every year for the foreseeable future. It is 11 million cubic yards a year ending up in Michigan landfills.

Why are we concerned about that? You can see on the far chart there is human blood dripping out of the back of that truck. You can imagine what chaos that caused when that truck was coming across the bridge. We had testimony by a Michigan State police officer that they believed that there may have even been a human body in that truck. They stopped it and searched it, and what they found was not a human body, but human medical waste. That is one mosquito away from an epidemic. It is dangerous and illegal. We have no way of knowing what other medical waste is in those trucks. It is impossible to inspect them.

This is really a good-neighbor policy. This says we love our Canadian friends to the north. We want to continue with the most robust trading partner we have in the world, but good neighbors don't throw their trash in another person's yard; and they have been doing it for a long time.

This bill is important for a couple of reasons. It is balanced. It is balanced because it directs the EPA to implement the existing U.S.-Canadian Transboundary agreement; but it also, more importantly, gives the State of Michigan and every State the ability to make their own determination if those trucks should continue at that rate coming into our landfills in the great State of Michigan. It allows Michigan citizens to be good stewards of their environment. There is no better place to place that trust and legal authority and that binding agreement than in the hands of these Michigan citizens.

Mr. Speaker, those PCBs, that blood, we even found illegal drugs coming across in those trucks, as well as soiled coffin waste. It is all living proof of what we have endured over these last years.

Today is the day we will stand up and tell our good friends the Canadians we are tired of getting their trash in the State of Michigan. Let us be good stewards of our environment.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the chairman for his hard work and all he has done to bring us to this point and put all of the right people in the room to make this happen. I thank Mr. DINGELL for working with us and CANDICE MILLER for pushing this vote. This is a vote that will send a very clear signal to our Canadian friends that we won't put up with political promises, that we want real action and we want it now.

Mr. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. STUPAK).

Mr. STUPAK. Mr. Speaker, I thank Mr. DINGELL and Mr. GILLMOR and others from the Michigan delegation for bringing forth this bill. It has been a long time.

I rise in support of H.R. 2491, the International Solid Waste Importation and Management Act, or what is commonly referred to as the Canadian trash bill. I encourage my colleagues to support this legislation which is needed to help control over 400 trucks a day that cross the border from Canada, bringing tons of trash mostly into Michigan, but also to other States.

The unregulated flow of trash into Michigan and other States creates significant environment and public health concerns. Even more alarming, a January 2006 audit conducted by the Department of Homeland Security has shown that these trucks are often found containing human blood, medical waste, illegal drugs, and illegal currency. The report raises significant border security and national safety concerns that must be addressed.

Currently, States and local governments are not allowed to control the trash coming in from out of their State. This Canadian trash bill will give residents of Michigan and other States the power to limit the trash from outside of the United States that they are forced to accept.

I have repeatedly requested that President Bush and the Republican leadership support this legislation. I am pleased that the Republican leadership is finally allowing its consideration more than a year after our Energy and Commerce Committee unanimously approved this bill in our committee.

I will continue to work to encourage the administration to finally support us in addressing Michigan's ongoing problem with imported waste from Canada.

Last week Senators STABENOW and LEVIN announced a landmark agreement that will go a long ways toward eliminating Canadian trash imports. By 2010, Ontario has agreed to stop the shipment of all municipal garbage to Michigan. This is a significant step forward in eliminating trash imports to the United States, and I commend Senators STABENOW and LEVIN for their fine work.

Along with this agreement, the Canadian trash bill we are currently considering will help limit the flow of trash from Canada. Given the environment, public health, border security and national safety concerns, it is especially important that we act immediately to limit the flow of municipal waste from Canada.

I urge my colleagues to vote ''yes'' on H.R. 2491. I thank the gentleman for yielding me this time.

Mr. GILLMOR. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to Mrs. MILLER from Michigan.

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, the nation of Canada is really a great friend to America in so many ways, but it is not very neighborly to unapologetically dump your garbage on your neighbor, and that is what has been happening in Michigan for decades.

Every day in Michigan, hundreds of huge trucks loaded with Canadian garbage come across the Blue Water Bridge in my district, and they dump their garbage in Michigan landfills. For decades, the Michigan legislature, both Republicans and Democrats, have tried to pass laws that would stop this ridiculous situation, but we have always been told that only Congress has the authority to stop it by passing legislation in both the House and the Senate.

Mr. Speaker, I, along with my colleagues in the House, both Republicans and Democrats, have pushed and prodded and persuaded the House leadership to allow us to vote on this legislation.

This legislation will allow the State legislatures the right to block foreign trash while the EPA promulgates a rule over a 2-year period to make the ban permanent. If the House passes this bill today, and I sincerely hope

that we do, the House will have done its duty.

But according to Michigan's two United States Senators, companion legislation which has been languishing in the Senate has little, if any, chance of going forward because you see, Mr. Speaker, Michigan's two Senators secretly negotiated a personal agreement with the Province of Ontario that effectively stops our ability to stop Canadian trash. Michigan's two Senators agreed not to push any legislation in the Senate and not to push any inspection fees of those trucks and agreed not to do anything apparently on this issue for the next 4 years.

And in return, the Canadians have agreed to phase out over the next 4 years about one-third of the garbage that they dump in Michigan today. What about the other two thirds? Apparently there is no problem. We are going to just stand back and let those trucks keep coming.

No wonder the Canadians have been celebrating in the last week. They cannot believe their good luck. Just when the United States Congress finally is set to pass legislation that will stop Canadian trash, the two Senators from Michigan save them.

I am not going to question the motives of my two Senators. Obviously, they want to stop Canadian trash, but the motivation of the Canadians is very clear. In fact, when asked by the Canadian media why they would have agreed to this deal, the environmental ministry spokesperson said, ''Our garbage trucks could have been turned back from the border as early as January of 2007. We needed to find a solution to avert that.''

The Canadians knew very well we were going to have this vote today. They needed a solution. I hope they haven't found it.

In fact, I had one reporter tell me in fairness to the Senators, they thought their agreement was for all of the trash. They didn't realize it was only for one-third. Well, we should have had some other people included in the secret negotiation with the Canadians, and somebody could have pointed that fact out.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues, both Democrats and Republicans, to vote ''yes'' on this bill and to work together to encourage action in the Senate.

Mr. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I yield 6 minutes to Mr. LEVIN from Michigan.

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

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, as one of the cosponsors of H.R. 2491, I rise in strong support of this measure.

This issue of waste coming into Michigan from Ontario is one of great concern to the people I represent and to others; and I appreciate, Mr. DINGELL, your efforts and that of others to move this legislation.

Let me just try to put this in perspective.

Recently, a breakthrough occurred after years of inaction, years of inaction. It is the agreement announced by our two Senators from Michigan with the Government of Ontario. Under this agreement, there is a phasing out of municipal waste shipments from Canada over the next 4 years. Under the agreement, some 2.78 million metric tons of waste will stay in Canada and not come to Michigan over the first 4 years alone.

We for a long time have been asking for action on the bill before us today.

□ 1530

A bipartisan group of ten representatives wrote to Speaker HASTERT last November to urge expeditious consideration. That bill had been approved by the full Energy and Commerce Committee 14 months ago. We wrote twice to Speaker HASTERT to urge him to schedule this legislation. As mentioned, there was a letter November 3, and all but one member of the Michigan delegation signed a second letter to the Speaker on May 16.

I will insert these two letters into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

WASHINGTON, DC,
November 3, 2005.

Hon. J. DENNIS HASTERT,
Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER. We write today to request that H.R. 2491, the International Solid Waste Importation and Management Act of 2005, be brought to the floor for consideration as expeditiously as possible before our target adjournment date of November 18.

As you know, in June H.R. 2491 passed both the Energy and Commerce Subcommittee on Environment and Hazardous Materials and the full Committee by voice vote.

The issue of waste coming into Michigan from Ontario, Canada for disposal is one of great concern to the people we represent. Currently, more than 400 trash trucks come across the bridge into the Michigan each day. The goal of H.R. 2491 simply is to implement and enforce an existing bilateral agreement that has been too long ignored and to give states some tools to manage foreign municipal solid waste being disposed of within its borders.

As you know, H.R. 2491 is the bipartisan product of hard work and tough negotiations. We made every attempt to provide the people of Michigan, as well as other states, with some relief while not affecting or amending any prior law relating to the need for consistency with international trade agreements. H.R. 2491 is a good bill that meets the needs of all concerned.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

John D. Dingell, Sander Levin, Peter Hoekstra, Dave Camp, Bart Stupak, Carolyn C. Kilpatrick, Mike Rogers, Dale Kildee, Fred Upton, Joe Schwarz.

WASHINGTON, DC,
May 16, 2006.

Hon. DENNIS HASTERT,
Speaker, U.S. House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER. We write again today to request that HR 2491, the International Solid Waste Importation and Management Act of 2005, be brought to the floor for consideration as expeditiously as possible. You will remember that we wrote you in November 2005 with the same request. Unfortunately, the bill did not make it to the floor by the end of last year as we had urged in our last letter.

In June, HR 2491 passed both the House Energy and Commerce Subcommittee on Environment and Hazardous Materials and the full Committee by voice vote. As you know, voice votes are traditionally saved for only the most non-controversial bills.

The issue of waste coming into Michigan from Ontario, Canada for disposal is one of great concern to the people we represent. Currently, hundreds of trash trucks come across the bridge into Michigan each day. Just recently, human waste was spilled onto a Michigan road from a Canadian trash truck. This is the second such incident since March 2005.

This is also a national security issue. In January, the Department of Homeland Security Office of Inspector General issued a report—originally labeled ''For Official Use Only''—which found that U.S. Customs ''does not have an effective method to screen and inspect the 350 truckloads of municipal solid waste that enter the U.S. daily through the Detroit and Port Huron ports of entry.'' The report was released to the public by Senate Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations Chairman Norm Coleman and Ranking Member Carl Levin.

The goal of HR 2491 simply is to implement and enforce an existing bilateral agreement that has been too long ignored and to give states tools to manage foreign municipal solid waste being disposed of within its borders.

As you know, HR 2491 is the bipartisan product of hard work and tough negotiations. We made every attempt to provide the people of Michigan, as well as other states, with some relief while not affecting or amending any prior law relating to the need for consistency with international trade agreements. HR 2491 is a good bill that meets the needs of all concerned.

Thank you for your attention to this matter and we look forward to expeditious floor consideration.

Sincerely,

John D. Dingell, Sander Levin, Dale Kildee, John Conyers, Joe Schwarz, Carolyn C. Kilpatrick, Thaddeus McCotter, Dave Camp, Vern Ehlers, Fred Upton, Pete Hoekstra, Bart Stupak, Mike Rogers, Joe Knollenberg.

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I do not understand, in view of the importance of this legislation and, indeed, the light workload of the House this year, why this bill was not brought up months and months ago. Now it is being brought up at the 11th hour, with only 14 or 15 legislative days left before Congress adjourns for the elections. Fourteen months were wasted before this bill was brought up.

And it is not clear at all that the legislation can move in the Senate. Indeed, in an article just this morning in the Congress Daily, a spokesman for the chairman, the Republican chairman, of the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee indicated that the committee has no plans to hold a hearing on this legislation before Congress adjourns or recesses for the election.

Here is a consideration in addition regarding H.R. 2491, and I have read it. If it were to be made a law through passage in this Congress, I think it is likely that there would be lengthy litigation and therefore a further delay in meaningful reduction of trash exports

to Michigan for years. So this bill says the EPA has 2 years, up to 2 years, and in the meanwhile, States could take action, but I think there is a real probability that there would be litigation in the meanwhile. And so because of what the Senate spokesman has said, with no likely action in the Senate, and other problems, we have before us a bill that I strongly support, but it should not be the basis for an attack on what was done by the two Senators from our State of Michigan. No basis whatsoever.

There has also been a mischaracterization of what our two Senators said. They did not say they do not support 2941. They said they support it. They had presented some amendments to the Homeland Security bill, and that helped to instigate action by Ontario to do something. To do something. And now there is an agreement that will lead to a substantial reduction of the trash that is coming in from Ontario.

So, look, I would hope that there would be some limitation, some limitation, on partisanship within this House. Apparently there continues to be little, if none. That agreement was a step forward. It was not everything, but after years of inaction in this House, after at least months after action by the committee, something has happened that will bring about a reduction under this agreement.

So what we should be doing today, instead of engaging in partisanship, is saying, look, there is an agreement. It is a step forward. Congratulations. We have this bill. It would go beyond it. We hope the Senate will act. We are sorry that the Senate Republican spokesman said they would not take it up. Let us unite to see if we can get action by the Senate.

So under those conditions, I very much rise in support of this bill and hope the full picture will be understood, not misrepresented.

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

Just a couple of points. I have been advised that when the Canadians entered into this so-called agreement, they referenced the passage of this bill, H.R. 2491, as a reason for doing that. I am also a little confused by the position of the gentleman from Michigan, who first said he supported the bill and then said if we passed the bill, it could result in litigation that would delay the stopping of the garbage. So I am not sure what his position is.

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. GILLMOR. I yield to the gentleman from Michigan.

Mr. LEVIN. Look, I said the EPA would have up until 2 years, and in the meanwhile, States could act, and I said it is thought by many observers that there would be litigation. I don't favor litigation. But there might well be litigation in terms of the power of the States as delegated from this House.

All I am saying, sir, is, look, there was reference to this legislation. There was also reference to the reality that there were amendments in the Senate that were going to put a squeeze on Ontario.

I acknowledge the importance of this bill. I am sorry it did not occur earlier, and it comes up at the 11th hour after a number of us wrote to the Speaker saying, bring it up, and most of us, not all of us, signed those letters. And here it is, the 11th hour, and now it is being brought up. Good. It is better late than never. It would also be nice if we could have an agreement from the Senate to act. And the two Senators from Michigan have said, when they announced this agreement with Ontario, they supported this bill. So no one should get up on the floor and say otherwise.

Mr. GILLMOR. Mr. Speaker, reclaiming my time, let me just point out that in the Detroit News, it was reported on September 1 that the environmental ministry spokesman from Ontario, Kate Jordan, said the deal was prompted by fear of this bill's becoming law and that Michigan might stop all trash shipments within 30 days.

Now, I am not critical of the Senators, and I haven't been, for trying to negotiate a deal. But I do want to point a couple things out. First of all, anybody could sue for anything; so you may have litigation. But the fact of the matter is we went to great lengths to be sure that this complied with both NAFTA and the U.S.-Canadian transboundary agreement.

The other point is that the so-called deal with the Canadians is not in any way legally enforceable. All you have is a promise that they will do that. They can turn around tomorrow or next week or next month and take that back.

So there is one legally enforceable way to protect Michigan and the other States, and that is passage of H.R. 2491.

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

Mr. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself 2 minutes.

Mr. Speaker, this has been, I think, a very useful and very respectful debate. It has been one which does credit for all concerned, and I repeat my commendations to my colleagues who have done such a fine job of bringing this legislation to the floor, and I particularly commend my friend from Ohio, Mr. GILLMOR, for his labors.

We have before us in Michigan a situation which we clearly find intolerable. It is one which has to have something done. Happily, over here, we have been able to get this legislation to the floor. I hope that this bill will be taken up by the Senate in proper fashion and time so that it can go to the President and can be signed and become law. That would be wonderful.

I also hope that the deal which has been cut by our two Senators will be able to bear fruit because it will result in termination of a massive amount of waste coming in from Canada if it is implemented according to its terms.

I want to commend also our Senators, and I think our people back home are very appreciative of what the Senators did because what they have accomplished is to give us something which will have immediate effect if the agreement is honored by the Canadians. I have received assurances from our senior Senator that our Senators will do everything possible to get this legislation which we are now considering, H.R. 2491, enacted into law in the Senate.

We have two arrows rather than one for our bow. We are able to move forward towards the implementation of the agreement achieved in the Senate; and we are able, with the help of everybody concerned, including the leadership in the Senate, to move forward on a piece of legislation which will offer significant relief to our State. Much more will remain to be done after we have concluded, but at least we are beginning to make strides forward, and we are doing so in two ways, in two places, with prospects of success for each.

I urge us not to fall into any partisan arguments here.

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

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

I had some other speakers but they are not here. So let me just say that I hope we can pass this bill. And I want to echo what my colleague from Michigan (Mr. DINGELL) said. This is not a partisan issue. And I very much appreciate the way that Members, particularly of our Committee on Energy and Commerce, have been able to come together and move this bill unanimously, and hopefully we can see it move further in the other body.

Mr. DINGELL. If the gentleman will yield, to that I say a very pious amen.

Mr. KNOLLENBERG. Mr. Speaker, I rise to express my strong support for H.R. 2491, the International Solid Waste Importation and Management Act of 2005.

For many years, Canada has shipped significant amounts of solid waste into the United States each year, with a large percentage of it going to the State of Michigan. In 2004, Canadian trash imports represented 18 percent of all the trash disposed of in Michigan. The State of Michigan receives approximately 350 truck loads of trash every day—or over 12,000 truck loads a year—from Ontario.

Despite heightened border security that has been imposed following the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks, which include stricter inspections of all truck shipments passing through international borders, the importation of substantial amounts of solid waste into the United States each year from Canada poses a serious security threat to the State of Michigan and other border States which accept imported trash. Moreover, it poses environmental and health risks to these States.

States must have the ability to address these matters as they deem fit. H.R. 2491 is necessary in order to provide States with the power to address these issues, as the U.S. Supreme Court and other Federal courts have consistently ruled that, pursuant to the Interstate Commerce Clause of the U.S. Constitution, States cannot restrict out-of-State trash from their landfills.

Previous agreements regarding the import of trash from Canada have had no legal standing and were not enforceable. This legislation will finally allow the U.S. and the State of Michigan to set for themselves legal, enforceable boundaries for the importation of municipal solid waste.

I urge all of my colleagues to support the passage of H.R. 2491.

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 2491, the International Solid Waste Importation and Management Act of 2005. Riverview and other downriver communities in my district have had to cope with hundreds of trucks full of Canadian trash rumbling down their streets on a daily basis for years. These trucks pass through our communities en route from the Ambassador Bridge to traffic dumps to the west. You can imagine the traffic congestion, environmental, and quality-of-life problems these truckloads of trash have created.

Local activists like Mr. George Read of Trenton and State Representative Kathleen Law have been working tirelessly alongside our congressional delegation to put an end to this never-ending flow of trash, and I am very pleased that the House today is taking a step toward that goal. If adopted, H.R. 2491 would give States the power to restrict the importation of foreign waste. Under current law, only the Federal Government is able to make such restrictions.

Mr. Speaker, let us not overlook the fact that H.R. 2491 has been awaiting floor consideration since it passed the Energy and Commerce committee 14 months ago. Our delegation has had to send two letters to get Speaker HASTERT to finally bring this important legislation to the floor. We now have only about 15 days left in session before we break for the elections, and it will be a tall order for this bill to make it through committee and the full Senate during that time. Indeed, the Republican chairman of the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works has already announced that he does not foresee consideration of this legislation any time soon.

I want to commend Senators LEVIN and STABENOW and Congressman DINGELL for the deal they have worked out with Ontario's Minister of the Environment to halt the importation of Canadian municipal waste over the next 4 years. The Bush administration and the Republican Congress have wasted many years and numerous opportunities to address this issue both through legislation and by implementing a bilateral agreement between the U.S. and Canada already on the books since 1992. Our constituents were fed up with this inaction, so our Michigan Democratic legislators took the initiative to negotiate an agreement that will reduce the importation of Canadian municipal trash immediately, and end it completely in 4 years. Republicans can complain about our legislators taking matters into their own hands, but the fact is that the Republicans have failed to do a thing to address this serious problem. The negotiated agreement is a step in the right direction, as is passage of this bill.

Mr. CAMP of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, as a strong supporter and cosponsor of the International Solid Waste Importation and Management Act, I am pleased that the House of Representatives will soon vote on this important bill.

My home State of Michigan continues to be on the receiving end of millions of tons of imports of Canadian trash. According to data from the Congressional Research Service, in 2004 nearly two-thirds of Michigan's total waste imports, about 2.8 million tons, came from the Canadian province of Ontario. In response to this growing problem, H.R. 2491 provides States the authority to enact laws or regulations to limit the transportation and disposal of foreign municipal solid waste. Residents in Michigan have long sought a legally binding and enforceable solution that stops the flow of Canadian trash into the State.

For too many years Michigan has been a dumping ground for waste coming in from Canada. When the city of Toronto closed its landfill in 2002, the city sent its trash to Michigan instead of building a new landfill or transporting it to another Canadian location. Toronto's actions compounded the trash flow problem in Michigan and further incensed the State's residents who consider this issue an environmental concern, a transportation problem, and a public health worry. The State of Michigan and other States should have the authority to protect its citizens. Governments at all levels, Federal, State, and local should have the tools to safeguard residents from potential public health and safety risks. Foreign municipal trash is flooding Michigan's borders with virtually no inspection. Hospital waste and other hazardous waste can, and does, make its way to Michigan. I am a fervent supporter of policies that ensure a free-flow of commerce at the U.S. and Canada border. But, States should have the ability to protect residents from shipments that may pose risks to public health and the environment.

The International Solid Waste Importation and Management Act is the right answer to stopping foreign shipments of municipal waste. While negotiating contracts with landfill operators may sound like a good solution, it does not go far enough. Congressional approval of H.R. 2491 will ensure that States have the authority to prevent foreign waste from crossing our borders. Governors should have control over what enters their state. Such decisions should not be left to private business interests. Importantly too, passage of H.R. 2491 will carry the force of U.S. law.

Instead of clogging Michigan bridges and roads with dump trucks destined for Michigan landfills, it is high time Canada keep its own trash. I urge my colleagues to vote for H.R. 2491 and allow States to reject foreign shipments of municipal waste.

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to offer my support for H.R. 2491, the International Solid Waste Importation and Management Act. I am a cosponsor of this important bill.

Mr. Speaker, the importation of all foreign trash is an issue that is of great concern to the people of Michigan. Time and again the people of my state have made it clear they do not want foreign trash coming into Michigan. Congress has had numerous opportunities to address this problem, either through legislation or the implementation of a bilateral agreement between the U.S. and Canada from 1992, which would allow Michigan to manage foreign waste being disposed of within its borders.

The growing amount of foreign trash coming into Michigan is clogging our roadways, increasing the health and safety risks in our state. In the last 3 years, the number of trucks coming from Canada has roughly doubled, from 180 per day to over 350 per day. Since that time, multiple incidents have occurred where Canadian trash trucks have spilled waste onto Michigan roadways. Owners of two major Michigan landfills are near capacity and state officials claim that in 20 years, there won't be any more landfill space available. It is no overstatement to say the Great Lakes heritage we take so much pride in is at risk if something is not done. We need to protect our environment.

The escalating importation of Canadian trash also constitutes a security threat. In January, the Department of Homeland Security Office of Inspector General issued a report, later released to the Senate Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations, which found that U.S. Customs does not have an effective method to screen and inspect the hundreds of truckloads of municipal solid waste that enter the U.S. daily through the Detroit and Port Huron ports of entry. In this day and age, Mr. Speaker, such lack of inspection is unacceptable.

H.R. 2491 has broad, bipartisan support, reinforced by its clear passage through the House Energy and Commerce Committee in 2005 by a voice vote without objection.

Once again, Mr. Speaker, I add my support for H.R. 2491 and call for its passage.

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

Mr. GILLMOR. 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 Ohio (Mr. GILLMOR) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2491, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

YOUTHBUILD TRANSFER ACT

Mr. CASTLE. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the Senate bill (S. 3534) to amend the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 to provide for a YouthBuild program.

The Clerk read as follows:

S. 3534

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 ''YouthBuild Transfer Act''.

SEC. 2. YOUTHBUILD PROGRAM.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT OF YOUTHBUILD PROGRAM IN THE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR.—Subtitle D of title I of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 is amended by inserting before section 174 (29 U.S.C. 2919) the following new section:

''SEC. 173A. YOUTHBUILD PROGRAM.

''(a) STATEMENT OF PURPOSE.—The purposes of this section are—

''(1) to enable disadvantaged youth to obtain the education and employment skills necessary to achieve economic self-sufficiency in occupations in demand and post-secondary education and training opportunities;

''(2) to provide disadvantaged youth with opportunities for meaningful work and service to their communities;

''(3) to foster the development of employment and leadership skills and commitment to community development among youth in low-income communities; and

''(4) to expand the supply of permanent affordable housing for homeless individuals and low-income families by utilizing the energies and talents of disadvantaged youth.

''(b) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

''(1) ADJUSTED INCOME.—The term 'adjusted income' has the meaning given the term in section 3(b) of the United States Housing Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437a(b)).

''(2) APPLICANT.—The term 'applicant' means an eligible entity that has submitted an application under subsection (c).

''(3) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—The term 'eligible entity' means a public or private nonprofit agency or organization (including a consortium of such agencies or organizations), including—

''(A) a community-based organization;

''(B) a faith-based organization;

''(C) an entity carrying out activities under this title, such as a local board;

''(D) a community action agency;

''(E) a State or local housing development agency;

''(F) an Indian tribe or other agency primarily serving Indians;

''(G) a community development corporation;

''(H) a State or local youth service or conservation corps; and

''(I) any other entity eligible to provide education or employment training under a Federal program (other than the program carried out under this section).

''(4) HOMELESS INDIVIDUAL.—The term 'homeless individual' has the meaning given the term in section 103 of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 11302).

''(5) HOUSING DEVELOPMENT AGENCY.—The term 'housing development agency' means any agency of a State or local government, or any private nonprofit organization, that is engaged in providing housing for homeless individuals or low-income families.

''(6) INCOME.—The term 'income' has the meaning given the term in section 3(b) of the United States Housing Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437a(b)).

''(7) INDIAN; INDIAN TRIBE.—The terms 'Indian' and 'Indian tribe' have the meanings given such terms in section 4 of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 450b).

''(8) INDIVIDUAL OF LIMITED ENGLISH PROFICIENCY.—The term 'individual of limited English proficiency' means an eligible participant under this section who meets the criteria set forth in section 203(10) of the Adult Education and Family Literacy Act (20 U.S.C. 9202(10)).

''(9) LOW-INCOME FAMILY.—The term 'low-income family' means a family described in section 3(b)(2) of the United States Housing Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437a(b)(2)).

''(10) QUALIFIED NATIONAL NONPROFIT AGENCY.—The term 'qualified national nonprofit agency' means a nonprofit agency that—

''(A) has significant national experience providing services consisting of training, information, technical assistance, and data management to YouthBuild programs or similar projects; and

''(B) has the capacity to provide those services.

''(11) REGISTERED APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAM.—The term 'registered apprenticeship program' means an apprenticeship program—

''(A) registered under the Act of August 16, 1937 (commonly known as the 'National Apprenticeship Act'; 50 Stat. 664, chapter 663; 20 U.S.C. 50 et seq.); and

''(B) that meets such other criteria as may be established by the Secretary under this section.

''(12) TRANSITIONAL HOUSING.—The term 'transitional housing' means housing provided for the purpose of facilitating the movement of homeless individuals to independent living within a reasonable amount of time. The term includes housing primarily designed to serve deinstitutionalized homeless individuals and other homeless individuals who are individuals with disabilities or members of families with children.

''(13) YOUTHBUILD PROGRAM.—The term 'YouthBuild program' means any program that receives assistance under this section and provides disadvantaged youth with opportunities for employment, education, leadership development, and training through the rehabilitation or construction of housing for homeless individuals and low-income families, and of public facilities.

''(c) YOUTHBUILD GRANTS.—

''(1) AMOUNTS OF GRANTS.—The Secretary is authorized to make grants to applicants for the purpose of carrying out YouthBuild programs approved under this section.

''(2) ELIGIBLE ACTIVITIES.—An entity that receives a grant under this subsection shall use the funds made available through the grant to carry out a YouthBuild program, which may include the following activities:

''(A) Education and workforce investment activities including—

''(i) work experience and skills training (coordinated, to the maximum extent feasible, with preapprenticeship and registered apprenticeship programs) in the rehabilitation and construction activities described in subparagraphs (B) and (C);

''(ii) occupational skills training;

''(iii) other paid and unpaid work experiences, including internships and job shadowing;

''(iv) services and activities designed to meet the educational needs of participants, including—

''(I) basic skills instruction and remedial education;

''(II) language instruction educational programs for individuals with limited English proficiency;

''(III) secondary education services and activities, including tutoring, study skills training, and dropout prevention activities, designed to lead to the attainment of a secondary school diploma, General Education Development (GED) credential, or other State-recognized equivalent (including recognized alternative standards for individuals with disabilities);

''(IV) counseling and assistance in obtaining postsecondary education and required financial aid; and

''(V) alternative secondary school services;

''(v) counseling services and related activities, such as comprehensive guidance and counseling on drug and alcohol abuse and referral;

''(vi) activities designed to develop employment and leadership skills, which may include community service and peer-centered activities encouraging responsibility and other positive social behaviors, and activities related to youth policy committees that participate in decision-making related to the program;

''(vii) supportive services and provision of need-based stipends necessary to enable individuals to participate in the program and supportive services to assist individuals, for a period not to exceed 12 months after the completion of training, in obtaining or retaining employment, or applying for and transitioning to postsecondary education; and

''(viii) job search and assistance.

''(B) Supervision and training for participants in the rehabilitation or construction of housing, including residential housing for homeless individuals or low-income families, or transitional housing for homeless individuals.

''(C) Supervision and training for participants in the rehabilitation or construction of community and other public facilities, except that not more than 10 percent of funds appropriated to carry out this section may be used for such supervision and training.

''(D) Payment of administrative costs of the applicant, except that not more than 15 percent of the amount of assistance provided under this subsection to the grant recipient may be used for such costs.

''(E) Adult mentoring.

''(F) Provision of wages, stipends, or benefits to participants in the program.

''(G) Ongoing training and technical assistance that are related to developing and carrying out the program.

''(H) Follow-up services.

''(3) APPLICATION.—

''(A) FORM AND PROCEDURE.—To be qualified to receive a grant under this subsection, an eligible entity shall submit an application at such time, in such manner, and containing such information as the Secretary may require.

''(B) MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS.—The Secretary shall require that the application contain, at a minimum—

''(i) labor market information for the labor market area where the proposed program will be implemented, including both current data (as of the date of submission of the application) and projections on career opportunities in growing industries;

''(ii) a request for the grant, specifying the amount of the grant requested and its proposed uses;

''(iii) a description of the applicant and a statement of its qualifications, including a description of the applicant's relationship with local boards, one-stop operators, local unions, entities carrying out registered apprenticeship programs, other community groups, and employers, and the applicant's past experience, if any, with rehabilitation or construction of housing or public facilities, and with youth education and employment training programs;

''(iv) a description of the proposed site for the proposed program;

''(v) a description of the educational and job training activities, work opportunities, postsecondary education and training opportunities, and other services that will be provided to participants, and how those activities, opportunities, and services will prepare youth for employment in occupations in demand in the labor market area described in clause (i);

''(vi) a description of the proposed rehabilitation or construction activities to be undertaken under the grant and the anticipated schedule for carrying out such activities;

''(vii) a description of the manner in which eligible youth will be recruited and selected as participants, including a description of arrangements that will be made with local boards, one-stop operators, community- and faith-based organizations, State educational agencies or local educational agencies (including agencies of Indian tribes), public assistance agencies, the courts of jurisdiction, agencies operating shelters for homeless individuals and other agencies that serve youth who are homeless individuals, foster care agencies, and other appropriate public and private agencies;

''(viii) a description of the special outreach efforts that will be undertaken to recruit eligible young women (including young women with dependent children) as participants;

''(ix) a description of the specific role of employers in the proposed program, such as their role in developing the proposed program and assisting in service provision and in placement activities;

''(x) a description of how the proposed program will be coordinated with other Federal, State, and local activities and activities conducted by Indian tribes, such as local workforce investment activities, vocational education programs, adult and language instruction educational programs, activities conducted by public schools, activities, conducted by community colleges, national service programs, and other job training provided with funds available under this title;

''(xi) assurances that there will be a sufficient number of adequately trained supervisory personnel in the proposed program;

''(xii) a description of results to be achieved with respect to common indicators of performance for youth and lifelong learning, as identified by the Secretary;

''(xiii) a description of the applicant's relationship with local building trade unions regarding their involvement in training to be provided through the proposed program, the relationship of the proposed program to established registered apprenticeship programs and employers, and the ability of the applicant to grant industry-recognized skill certification through the program;

''(xiv) a description of activities that will be undertaken to develop the leadership skills of participants;

''(xv) a detailed budget and a description of the system of fiscal controls, and auditing and accountability procedures, that will be used to ensure fiscal soundness for the proposed program;

''(xvi) a description of the commitments for any additional resources (in addition to the funds made available through the grant) to be made available to the proposed program from—

''(I) the applicant;

''(II) recipients of other Federal, State or local housing and community development assistance who will sponsor any part of the rehabilitation, construction, operation and maintenance, or other housing and community development activities undertaken as part of the proposed program; or

''(III) entities carrying out other Federal, State, or local activities or activities conducted by Indian tribes, including vocational education programs, adult and language instruction educational programs, and job training provided with funds available under this title;

''(xvii) information identifying, and a description of, the financing proposed for any—

''(I) rehabilitation of the property involved;

''(II) acquisition of the property; or

''(III) construction of the property;

''(xviii) information identifying, and a description of, the entity that will operate and manage the property;

''(xix) information identifying, and a description of, the data collection systems to be used;

''(xx) a certification, by a public official responsible for the housing strategy for the State or unit of general local government within which the proposed program is located, that the proposed program is consistent with the housing strategy; and

''(xxi) a certification that the applicant will comply with the requirements of the Fair Housing Act (42 U.S.C. 3601 et seq.) and will affirmatively further fair housing.

''(4) SELECTION CRITERIA.—For an applicant to be eligible to receive a grant under this subsection, the applicant and the applicant's proposed program shall meet such selection criteria as the Secretary shall establish under this section, which shall include criteria relating to—

''(A) the qualifications or potential capabilities of an applicant;

''(B) an applicant's potential for developing a successful YouthBuild program;

''(C) the need for an applicant's proposed program, as determined by the degree of economic distress of the community from which participants would be recruited (measured by indicators such as poverty, youth unemployment, and the number of individuals who have dropped out of secondary school) and of the community in which the housing and public facilities proposed to be rehabilitated or constructed is located (measured by indicators such as incidence of homelessness, shortage of affordable housing, and poverty);

''(D) the commitment of an applicant to providing skills training, leadership development, and education to participants;

''(E) the focus of a proposed program on preparing youth for occupations in demand or postsecondary education and training opportunities;

''(F) the extent of an applicant's coordination of activities to be carried out through the proposed program with local boards, one-stop operators, and one-stop partners participating in the operation of the one-stop delivery system involved, or the extent of the applicant's good faith efforts in achieving such coordination;

''(G) the extent of the applicant's coordination of activities with public education, criminal justice, housing and community development, national service, or postsecondary education or other systems that relate to the goals of the proposed program;

''(H) the extent of an applicant's coordination of activities with employers in the local area involved;

''(I) the extent to which a proposed program provides for inclusion of tenants who were previously homeless individuals in the rental housing provided through the program;

''(J) the commitment of additional resources (in addition to the funds made available through the grant) to a proposed program by—

''(i) an applicant;

''(ii) recipients of other Federal, State, or local housing and community development assistance who will sponsor any part of the rehabilitation, construction, operation and maintenance, or other housing and community development activities undertaken as part of the proposed program; or

''(iii) entities carrying out other Federal, State, or local activities or activities conducted by Indian tribes, including vocational education programs, adult and language instruction educational programs, and job training provided with funds available under this title;

''(K) the applicant's potential to serve different regions, including rural areas and States that have not previously received grants for YouthBuild programs; and

''(L) such other factors as the Secretary determines to be appropriate for purposes of carrying out the proposed program in an effective and efficient manner.

''(5) APPROVAL.—To the extent practicable, the Secretary shall notify each applicant, not later than 5 months after the date of receipt of the application by the Secretary, whether the application is approved or not approved.

''(d) USE OF HOUSING UNITS.—Residential housing units rehabilitated or constructed using funds made available under subsection (c) shall be available solely—

''(1) for rental by, or sale to, homeless individuals or low-income families; or

''(2) for use as transitional or permanent housing, for the purpose of assisting in the movement of homeless individuals to independent living.

''(e) ADDITIONAL PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS.—

''(1) ELIGIBLE PARTICIPANTS.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in subparagraph (B), an individual may participate in a YouthBuild program only if such individual is—

''(i) not less than age 16 and not more than age 24, on the date of enrollment;

''(ii) a member of a low-income family, a youth in foster care (including youth aging out of foster care), a youth offender, a youth who is an individual with a disability, a child of incarcerated parents, or a migrant youth; and

''(iii) a school dropout.

''(B) EXCEPTION FOR INDIVIDUALS NOT MEETING INCOME OR EDUCATIONAL NEED REQUIREMENTS.—Not more than 25 percent of the participants in such program may be individuals who do not meet the requirements of clause (ii) or (iii) of subparagraph (A), but who—

''(i) are basic skills deficient, despite attainment of a secondary school diploma, General Education Development (GED) credential, or other State-recognized equivalent (including recognized alternative standards for individuals with disabilities); or

''(ii) have been referred by a local secondary school for participation in a YouthBuild program leading to the attainment of a secondary school diploma.

''(2) PARTICIPATION LIMITATION.—An eligible individual selected for participation in a YouthBuild program shall be offered full-time participation in the program for a period of not less than 6 months and not more than 24 months.

''(3) MINIMUM TIME DEVOTED TO EDUCATIONAL SERVICES AND ACTIVITIES.—A YouthBuild program receiving assistance under subsection (c) shall be structured so that participants in the program are offered—

''(A) education and related services and activities designed to meet educational needs, such as those specified in clauses (iv) through (vii) of subsection (c)(2)(A), during at least 50 percent of the time during which the participants participate in the program; and

''(B) work and skill development activities such as those specified in clauses (i), (ii), (iii), and (viii) of subsection (c)(2)(A), during at least 40 percent of the time during which the participants participate in the program.

''(4) AUTHORITY RESTRICTION.—No provision of this section may be construed to authorize any agency, officer, or employee of the United States to exercise any direction, supervision, or control over the curriculum, program of instruction, administration, or personnel of any educational institution (including a school) or school system, or over the selection of library resources, textbooks, or other printed or published instructional materials by any educational institution or school system.

''(5) STATE AND LOCAL STANDARDS.—All educational programs and activities supported with funds provided under subsection (c) shall be consistent with applicable State and local educational standards. Standards and procedures for the programs and activities that relate to awarding academic credit for and certifying educational attainment in such programs and activities shall be consistent with applicable State and local educational standards.

''(f) MANAGEMENT AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—

''(1) SECRETARY ASSISTANCE.—The Secretary may enter into contracts with 1 or more entities to provide assistance to the Secretary in the management, supervision,

and coordination of the program carried out under this section.

''(2) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—

''(A) CONTRACTS AND GRANTS.—The Secretary shall enter into contracts with or make grants to 1 or more qualified national nonprofit agencies, in order to provide training, information, technical assistance, and data management to recipients of grants under subsection (c).

''(B) RESERVATION OF FUNDS.—Of the amounts available under subsection (h) to carry out this section for a fiscal year, the Secretary shall reserve 5 percent to carry out subparagraph (A).

''(3) CAPACITY BUILDING GRANTS.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—In each fiscal year, the Secretary may use not more than 3 percent of the amounts available under subsection (h) to award grants to 1 or more qualified national nonprofit agencies to pay for the Federal share of the cost of capacity building activities.

''(B) FEDERAL SHARE.—The Federal share of the cost described in subparagraph (A) shall be 25 percent. The non-Federal share shall be provided from private sources.

''(g) SUBGRANTS AND CONTRACTS.—Each recipient of a grant under subsection (c) to carry out a YouthBuild program shall provide the services and activities described in this section directly or through subgrants, contracts, or other arrangements with local educational agencies, postsecondary educational institutions, State or local housing development agencies, other public agencies, including agencies of Indian tribes, or private organizations.

''(h) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—There are authorized to be appropriated for each of fiscal years 2007 through 2012 such sums as may be necessary to carry out this section.

''(2) FISCAL YEAR.—Notwithstanding section 189(g), appropriations for any fiscal year for programs and activities carried out under this section shall be available for obligation only on the basis of a fiscal year.''.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—Section 1(b) of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 (relating to the table of contents) is amended by inserting before the item relating to section 174 the following:

''Sec. 173A. YouthBuild program''.

(c) EXCEPTION TO PROGRAM YEAR APPROPRIATION CYCLE REQUIREMENT.—Section 189(g)(1)(A) of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 (29 U.S.C. 2939(g)(1)(A)) is amended by inserting ''and section 173A'' after ''Except as provided in subparagraph (B)''.

(d) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

(1) Section 3 of the Housing and Urban Development Act of 1968 (12 U.S.C. 1701u) is amended in paragraphs (1)(B)(iii) and (2)(B) of subsection (c), and paragraphs (1)(B)(iii) and (2)(B) of subsection (d), by striking ''Youthbuild'' and all that follows and inserting ''YouthBuild programs receiving assistance under section 173A of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998.''.

(2) Section 507(b) of the Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act of 1996 (25 U.S.C. 4183(b)) is amended by striking ''subtitle D of title IV of the Cranston-Gonzalez National Affordable Housing Act,''.

(3) Section 402 of the Cranston-Gonzalez National Affordable Housing Act (42 U.S.C. 12870) is amended by striking the second sentence of subsections (a) and (b).

(e) REPEAL OF PROVISIONS.—Subtitle D of title IV of the Cranston-Gonzalez National Affordable Housing Act (42 U.S.C. 12899 et seq.) is repealed.

(f) EFFECTIVE DATE.—This section and the amendments made by this section take effect on the earlier of—

(1) the date of enactment of this Act; and

(2) September 30, 2006.

SEC. 3. TRANSFER OF FUNCTIONS AND SAVINGS PROVISIONS.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—For purposes of this section, unless otherwise provided or indicated by the context—

(1) the term ''Federal agency'' has the meaning given to the term ''agency'' by section 551(1) of title 5, United States Code;

(2) the term ''function'' means any duty, obligation, power, authority, responsibility, right, privilege, activity, or program; and

(3) the term ''office'' includes any office, administration, agency, institute, unit, organizational entity, or component thereof.

(b) TRANSFER OF FUNCTIONS.—There are transferred to the Department of Labor all functions which the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development exercised before the effective date of this section (including all related functions of any officer or employee of the Department of Housing and Urban Development) relating to subtitle D of title IV of the Cranston-Gonzalez National Affordable Housing Act (42 U.S.C. 12899 et seq.).

(c) DETERMINATIONS OF CERTAIN FUNCTIONS BY THE OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET.—If necessary, the Office of Management and Budget shall make any determination of the functions that are transferred under subsection (b).

(d) PERSONNEL PROVISIONS.—

(1) APPOINTMENTS.—The Secretary of Labor may appoint and fix the compensation of such officers and employees, including investigators, attorneys, and administrative law judges, as may be necessary to carry out the respective functions transferred under this section. Except as otherwise provided by law, such officers and employees shall be appointed in accordance with the civil service laws and their compensation fixed in accordance with title 5, United States Code.

(2) EXPERTS AND CONSULTANTS.—The Secretary of Labor may obtain the services of experts and consultants in accordance with section 3109 of title 5, United States Code, and compensate such experts and consultants for each day (including traveltime) at rates not in excess of the rate of pay for level IV of the Executive Schedule under section 5315 of such title. The Secretary of Labor may pay experts and consultants who are serving away from their homes or regular place of business travel expenses and per diem in lieu of subsistence at rates authorized by sections 5702 and 5703 of such title for persons in Government service employed intermittently.

(e) DELEGATION AND ASSIGNMENT.—Except where otherwise expressly prohibited by law or otherwise provided by this section, the Secretary of Labor may delegate any of the functions transferred to the Secretary of Labor by this section and any function transferred or granted to the Secretary of Labor after the effective date of this section to such officers and employees of the Department of Labor as the Secretary of Labor may designate, and may authorize successive redelegations of such functions as may be necessary or appropriate. No delegation of functions by the Secretary of Labor under this subsection or under any other provision of this section shall relieve the Secretary of Labor of responsibility for the administration of such functions.

(f) REORGANIZATION.—The Secretary of Labor is authorized to allocate or reallocate any function transferred under subsection (b) among the officers of the Department of Labor, and to establish, consolidate, alter, or discontinue such organizational entities in the Department of Labor as may be necessary or appropriate.

(g) RULES.—The Secretary of Labor is authorized to prescribe, in accordance with the provisions of chapters 5 and 6 of title 5, United States Code, such rules and regulations as the Secretary of Labor determines necessary or appropriate to administer and manage the functions of the Department of Labor.

(h) TRANSFER AND ALLOCATIONS OF APPROPRIATIONS.—Except as otherwise provided in this section, the assets, liabilities, grants, contracts, property, records, and unexpended balances of appropriations, authorizations, allocations, and other funds used, held, arising from, available to, or to be made available in connection with the functions transferred by this section, subject to section 1531 of title 31, United States Code, shall be transferred to the Department of Labor. Unexpended funds transferred pursuant to this subsection shall be used only for the purposes for which the funds were originally authorized and appropriated.

(i) TRANSFERS.—The Director of the Office of Management and Budget, at such time or times as the Director shall provide, is authorized to make such determinations as may be necessary with regard to the functions transferred by this section, and to make such dispositions of assets, liabilities, grants, contracts, property, records, and unexpended balances of appropriations, authorizations, allocations, and other funds used, held, arising from, available to, or to be made available in connection with such functions, subject to section 1531 of title 31, United States Code, as may be necessary to carry out the provisions of this section. The Director of the Office of Management and Budget shall provide for the termination of the affairs of all entities terminated by this section and for such further measures and dispositions as may be necessary to effectuate the purposes of this section.

(j) SAVINGS PROVISIONS.—

(1) CONTINUING EFFECT OF LEGAL DOCUMENTS.—All orders, determinations, rules, regulations, permits, agreements, grants, contracts, certificates, licenses, registrations, privileges, and other administrative actions—

(A) which have been issued, made, granted, or allowed to become effective by the President, any Federal agency or official thereof, or by a court of competent jurisdiction, in the performance of functions which are transferred under this section; and

(B) which are in effect at the time this section takes effect, or were final before the effective date of this section and are to become effective on or after the effective date of this section,

shall continue in effect according to their terms until modified, terminated, superseded, set aside, or revoked in accordance with law by the President, the Secretary of Labor or other authorized official, a court of competent jurisdiction, or by operation of law.

(2) PROCEEDINGS NOT AFFECTED.—The provisions of this section shall not affect any proceedings, including notices of proposed rulemaking, or any application for any license, permit, certificate, or financial assistance pending before the Department of Housing and Urban Development at the time this section takes effect, with respect to functions transferred by this section but such proceedings and applications shall be continued. Orders shall be issued in such proceedings, appeals shall be taken therefrom, and payments shall be made pursuant to such orders, as if this section had not been enacted, and orders issued in any such proceedings shall continue in effect until modified, terminated, superseded, or revoked by a duly authorized official, by a court of competent jurisdiction, or by operation of law. Nothing in this paragraph shall be deemed to prohibit the discontinuance or modification of any

such proceeding under the same terms and conditions and to the same extent that such proceeding could have been discontinued or modified if this section had not been enacted.

(3) SUITS NOT AFFECTED.—The provisions of this section shall not affect suits commenced before the effective date of this section, and in all such suits, proceedings shall be had, appeals taken, and judgments rendered in the same manner and with the same effect as if this section had not been enacted.

(4) NONABATEMENT OF ACTIONS.—No suit, action, or other proceeding commenced by or against the Department of Housing and Urban Development, or by or against any individual in the official capacity of such individual as an officer of the Department of Housing and Urban Development, shall abate by reason of the enactment of this section.

(5) ADMINISTRATIVE ACTIONS RELATING TO PROMULGATION OF REGULATIONS.—Any administrative action relating to the preparation or promulgation of a regulation by the Department of Housing and Urban Development relating to a function transferred under this section may be continued by the Department of Labor with the same effect as if this section had not been enacted.

(k) SEPARABILITY.—If a provision of this section or its application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, neither the remainder of this section nor the application of the provision to other persons or circumstances shall be affected.

(l) TRANSITION.—The Secretary of Labor is authorized to utilize—

(1) the services of such officers, employees, and other personnel of the Department of Housing and Urban Development with respect to functions transferred to the Department of Labor by this section; and

(2) funds appropriated to such functions for such period of time,

as may reasonably be needed to facilitate the orderly implementation of this section.

(m) ACCOMPLISHING ORDERLY TRANSFER.—Consistent with the requirements of this section, the Secretary of Labor and the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development shall take such actions as the Secretaries determine are appropriate to accomplish the orderly transfer of functions as described in subsection (b).

(n) ADMINISTRATION OF PRIOR GRANTS.—Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, grants awarded under subtitle D of title IV of the Cranston-Gonzalez National Affordable Housing Act (42 U.S.C. 12899 et seq.) with funds appropriated for fiscal year 2006 or a preceding fiscal year shall be subject to the continuing authority of the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development under the provisions of such subtitle, as in effect on the day before the date of enactment of this Act, until the authority to expend applicable funds for the grants, as specified by the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, has expired and the Secretary has completed the administrative responsibilities associated with the grants.

(o) REFERENCES.—A reference in any other Federal law, Executive order, rule, regulation, or delegation of authority, or any document of or relating to—

(1) the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development with regard to functions transferred under subsection (b), shall be deemed to refer to the Secretary of Labor; and

(2) the Department of Housing and Urban Development with regard to functions transferred under subsection (b), shall be deemed to refer to the Department of Labor.

(p) EFFECTIVE DATE.—This section takes effect on the earlier of—

(1) the date of enactment of this Act; and

(2) September 30, 2006.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Delaware (Mr. CASTLE) and the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Delaware.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. CASTLE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks on S. 3534.

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

There was no objection.

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

It gives me great pleasure to rise today in support of S. 3534, the YouthBuild Transfer Act. I have been working with my Senate colleagues, the administration, the YouthBuild community, and the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. FRANK) for over a year, and I am pleased that we are here today to finish our work and send the transfer to the President.

YouthBuild began as a community-based organization in 1978, was later replicated in other cities, and ultimately authorized by Congress in 1992. The program provides grants for job training and educational opportunities for at-risk youth who help construct or rehabilitate housing for low-income or homeless families and individuals in their respective communities. Each year, youth who participate in YouthBuild receive a combination of classroom and job skills development and on-site training in a construction trade.

Today there is a national network of more than 225 local YouthBuild programs which have served more than 54,000 young people and built more than 14,000 units of affordable housing in 44 States since 1994. In my work on the Committee on Education and the Workforce, it is clear that our high schools still have room for reform and that graduation rates are a significant problem. This program fulfills a small niche and is making a difference not only in degree attainment but also skills.

Since 1992, the program has been operated out of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. Given the fact that the program is at its core an employment and training program for disadvantaged youth, today's bill will delete the program from HUD's jurisdiction and transfer administrative responsibilities to the U.S. Department of Labor.

The ultimate goal of the transfer is to improve services to youth. This is accomplished through the transfer but also in a number of ways, including establishing a stronger linkage to the Workforce Investment Act, WIA, One-Stop System's specialized resources, expertise and market knowledge, particularly in connecting the individuals to supportive services and placing individuals in education, training, or occupations in demand. In addition, the bill authorizes additional education and workforce investment activities including occupational skills training, internships and job shadowing, alternative secondary school services, community service and peer-centered activities, and comprehensive guidance and counseling.

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While enhancing these services, the YouthBuild program will maintain its mission to provide affordable housing for low-income and homeless individuals and families. Eligibility is targeted to a more specific youth population by including, in addition to meeting the current-law requirements of being between the ages of 16 and 24, and not having finished school, being in one or more of the following categories: a member of a low-income family, foster care youth, youth offenders, disabled youth, children of incarcerated parents, and migrant youth.

To ensure that other at-risk youth have access to the program, an exemption to the eligibility requirements will be expanded to allow secondary schools to refer students to a YouthBuild program that leads to the attainment of a secondary school diploma.

This is an easy program to support. Not only does it address housing needs in our communities, but also addresses important educational workforce needs by providing meaningful opportunities for at-risk youth to acquire the basic education and job skills needed to advance to productive employment and higher education.

It is not often the case that a program meets two important needs. Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to continue their support of the program by passing this.

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

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I might consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the YouthBuild Transfer Act, which would move this valuable community development program from the Department of Housing and Urban Development to the Department of Labor.

The YouthBuild is a program designed to offer construction job opportunities and leadership training to low-income youth while building affordable housing for low-income communities.

While the program has been located in the Department of Housing and Urban Development since its inception in 1993, this bill reflects a new understanding about how we should approach youth issues. Ultimately, the YouthBuild is a youth development program where the participants, largely at-risk young men, nearly half of whom are African Americans, have the opportunity to complete their education and prepare for future careers while developing leadership skills and

learning the value of civic engagement and community service.

YouthBuild participants benefit from the strong counseling and support component of the program. Counseling through the YouthBuild helps participants navigate work and education barriers such as substance abuse, child care, and transportation.

After graduating, YouthBuild participants continue to have access to the resources that will help them explore post-secondary options, have successful careers, and become role models for other at-risk youth.

Since 1993, nearly 60,000 young people have built over 15,000 units of affordable housing. Yet this program has value that far surpasses only the development of affordable housing. This bill provides for the transition of this program from the Department of Housing and Urban Development to the Department of Labor and specifically as a national program under the Workforce Investment Act.

By integrating the YouthBuild into WIA programs, the program will have access to a wider range of youth employment resources. As a national program it will have the attention of the Secretary of Labor.

We welcome the program to the jurisdiction of the Committee on Education and the Workforce. With continued appropriations, I am confident that this program will continue to thrive in the Department of Labor.

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

Mr. CASTLE. Mr. Speaker, I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. FRANK), the ranking member of Financial Services.

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate very much the yielding by the ranking member from the Education and Workforce Committee. I hope we are going to set some good examples for the body today.

First, my friend from Illinois correctly noted that I am the ranking member of the Committee on Financial Services, which under this bill will lose jurisdiction over the program. And I cheerfully get up here to thank my colleagues for doing this.

We are too consumed by turf in this body. I must say, having served on a number of committees, there is not a committee in the Congress that does not have more to do than any rational human being can handle. I wish people would be less concerned about turf.

I agree here: this is a program that makes more sense in the Workforce Committee. It will also resolve a problem we have had in which the appropriation for this program was bounced back and forth between the appropriations subcommittee that deals with HUD and the appropriations committee that deals with the Department of Labor.

I do note parenthetically, I guess, I am surprised that my Republican colleagues have not yet changed the name of the Secretary of Labor to the Secretary of Workforce. They let that nasty word ''labor'' survive longer than I think they meant to.

The point is that there was a tension that was there. I want to express my appreciation to all of my colleagues, including those on the appropriations committee, for dealing with it. And my understanding is that once this bill, which goes from here to the President's desk for what I know is a sure signature, it will free up a contingent appropriation that we have, that is, an appropriation was in, I think, the Labor-H bill contingent on this being done.

So this is a good example, I hope, of cooperation between committees about how to do things. It is also a very good example of bipartisanship. I want to particularly express my appreciation and admiration to the gentleman from Delaware. This was a subject that should not have been hard, but for a variety of reasons it became hard. It involved two appropriations subcommittees, two standing committees, and then it involved that wondrous place, the United States Senate, where very little is simple.

And I want to express my admiration for the extent to which the gentleman from Delaware navigated between shoals in the Senate. I do notice that the Washingtonian magazine listed him as a ''bridge builder.'' And I have to say that in getting all of the various pieces together, and he was able to take the lead in this, he built a bridge that rivals the Delaware Water Gap Bridge in terms of what he was able to do. I am very appreciative.

Because what we have here, as both of my colleagues have said, is a wonderful program. It does what a lot of people talk about doing, but we are rarely able to do. It goes to young people, including many young people who have had troubled pasts who have been not only troubled, but let's be honest, troubling to others. And it takes some of those who are willing to make an effort to straighten out their lives and gives them a framework in which to do it. I have experienced this program in the city of New Bedford, Massachusetts, which has had some problems.

I see my colleague from Georgia here, who did us the great honor of coming to New Bedford and was very well received. We have a situation there with young people who were in those circumstances, and this program has been a wonderful program.

It is actually kind of a two-in-one program, because it provides great help to the young people, and we also get some affordable housing out of it. It is not primarily a housing program, that is why it belongs in this Committee on Workforce, but it does have a housing benefit. And so what we have is a very good program tangled up in jurisdictional issues.

Thanks to the leadership of the gentleman from Delaware, and it was a fortuitous circumstance that he serves on both of the committees, Financial Services and Education and Workforce, and the great enthusiasm of the gentleman from Illinois who has been a strong advocate of this and has helped when we tried to save it a couple of times.

Because of this ambiguity, it was in nobody's appropriation bill. Given the limited allocations that appropriators have, they have the reverse turf issue, because the more you have to cover a program, the less you have got for your other programs. So for a couple of years now, we have had this problem where this program became orphaned in the appropriations process. It was the subject of an unusual custody: both parents were insisting that the other one take responsibility.

We finally resolved that. And so what has happened is that the legislative situation has caught up with an excellent substance. And I now am very pleased that we are going to pass this bill. It is going to be signed by the President. The appropriation will go forward. I have to say the appropriation is not what I would like it to be. Like a lot of other good programs, it has suffered from being squeezed by the, I think, the distorted priorities of this Congress. I do not want to be wholly bipartisan about all of this.

But at least we have saved the program to fight again for a better day. For that I thank the gentleman from Delaware for his leadership, the gentleman from Illinois who has been a strong supporter, and let me say, as a member of the Financial Services Committee, and we had jurisdiction over this program, I say good-bye to it cheerfully, because I understand that in its new home it will be very well taken care of.

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

Mr. Speaker, let me thank the gentleman from Massachusetts for his kind words. I hadn't thought about the jurisdictional aspects of this bill until he raised it for it. I cannot really take much credit for it since I am both the receiving and the giving end of this.

But I do agree with his kind words about the legislation. He has been a behind-the-scenes pusher for this legislation for all of this time. In fact, frankly, without his support we would not be where we are today. He is absolutely right: nobody is ever willing to yield jurisdiction on anything around here. So it is a sign of the times, perhaps, that we can move something forward.

I have no further speakers and I am prepared to yield.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time. I would like to thank the gentleman from Delaware. I want to thank the gentleman from Massachusetts for recognizing that enough is enough and that there is enough work to go around, and for being willing to give up jurisdiction of this work.

I am sure that Education and the Workforce would gladly take it.

Mr. MCKEON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of S. 3534, the YouthBuild Transfer Act. I commend the gentleman from Delaware for his leadership on this issue and for sponsoring the corresponding House legislation.

Through community organizations nationwide, YouthBuild provides education and job training services, leadership training, counseling, and other support activities to at-risk youth, who—as part of their training—help construct or rehabilitate housing for low-income or homeless families in their communities.

The bill before us today simply would transfer operation and oversight of the program from the Department of Housing and Urban Development to the Department of Labor. President Bush proposed this change in his two most recent budgets, based on the recommendation of the White House Task Force for Disadvantaged Youth.

The YouthBuild program is, at its core, an employment and training program for disadvantaged youth. The Department of Labor is the Federal agency with primary responsibility for providing youth development and employment services, including the youth development program of the Workforce Investment Act and the Job Corps program. Therefore, moving this program to the Department of Labor will allow better coordination of services for at-risk youth, strengthen connections to the workforce investment system, and streamline program operations.

Mr. Speaker, by moving the program under the Workforce Investment Act, YouthBuild will make more efficient and effective use of Federal funds. The program will be able to maximize collaboration with partners in the One-Stop Career Centers and reduce duplication of efforts across funding streams. In addition, the program will emphasize training that leads to industry-recognized certifications, which will increase participants' access to high demand jobs. At the same time, the program will retain the dual purpose of providing affordable housing.

In short, this transfer will enhance the YouthBuild program and provide meaningful opportunities for at-risk youth to acquire the basic education and job skills they need to advance to higher education and productive employment, while at the same time helping rebuild communities. This is a sound, straightforward, and common sense proposal that I urge my colleagues to support.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to support S. 3534, a bill to amend the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 to provide for a YouthBuild program.

The YouthBuild Program enables disadvantaged youth to obtain the education and employment skills necessary to achieve economic self-sufficiency in occupations in demand and postsecondary education and training opportunities.

The program provides disadvantaged youth with opportunities for meaningful work and service to their communities. The goals of the program include fostering the development of employment and leadership skills and commitment to community development among youth in low-income communities, and expanding the supply of permanent affordable housing for homeless individuals and low-income families by utilizing the energies and talents of disadvantaged youth.

The program provides a crucial package of work experience and skills training, occupational skills training, internships and job shadowing, remedial education, language instruction educational programs for individuals with limited English proficiency, secondary education, counseling and assistance in obtaining postsecondary education and required financial aid, and job search assistance.

If you are between the ages of 16 and 24, and have dropped out of school, this is a way to pick up the pieces and learn a craft that can literally rebuild your life and rebuild your neighborhood.

The program is intended for individuals who are serious and committed, interested in learning construction, interested in helping to rehabilitate affordable housing, a low income School drop out, and member of a low-income family, a youth in foster care including youth aging out of foster care, a youth offender, a youth who is an individual with a disability, a child of incarcerated parents, or a migrant youth.

This is an excellent program; we are pleased to have it in my district in Houston. However, it is underfunded, and because of this, it struggles to find the direction it needs to achieve, its maximum benefit. Worthwhile programs like this must be fully funded and supported.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

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

Mr. CASTLE. Mr. Speaker, I urge support of what I think is a very good piece of legislation, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Delaware (Mr. CASTLE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the Senate bill, S. 3534.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the Senate bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

CONGRATULATING SPELMAN COLLEGE ON ITS 125TH ANNIVERSARY

Mr. PRICE of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 875) congratulating Spelman College on the occasion of its 125th anniversary, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. RES. 875

Whereas Spelman College was established by Sophia B. Packard and Harriet E. Giles, school teachers and Baptist missionaries, in 1881 in Atlanta, Georgia, for the purpose of educating African American women and girls;

Whereas as a result of the benevolence of John D. Rockefeller, Sr. and Laura Spelman Rockefeller, the name of the institution was changed from ''Atlanta Baptist Female Seminary'' to ''Spelman Seminary'' in honor of the Spelman family;

Whereas the curriculum expanded to include high school and college classes, and Spelman Seminary conferred its first high school diplomas in 1887, and its first college degrees in 1901;

Whereas in 1924, Spelman Seminary officially became Spelman College and grew to become a leading undergraduate institution for African American women;

Whereas Spelman College was ranked among the top 75 Best Liberal Arts Colleges according to U.S. News & World Report, 2007 edition;

Whereas Spelman College is one of six institutions designated by the National Science Foundation and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration as a Model Institution for Excellence in undergraduate science and math education;

Whereas the administration of Spelman College has initiated a strategic plan for Spelman (''Spelman ALIVE'') that includes five goals: Academic excellence, Leadership development, Improving the infrastructure, Visibility of accomplishments of the campus community, and Exemplary customer service, all designed to create a vision for Spelman of ''Nothing Less than the Best''; and

Whereas Spelman College has prepared more than six generations of African American women to reach the highest levels of academic, community, and professional achievement: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) congratulates Spelman College on the occasion of its 125th anniversary; and

(2) commends the administration, faculty, staff, students, and alumnae of Spelman College for their outstanding achievements, and contributions to African American education, history, and culture.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. PRICE) and the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Georgia.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. PRICE of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks on House Resolution 875.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. PRICE of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of House Resolution 875, which is a resolution to recognize the contributions of Spelman College on the occasion of its 125th anniversary. I sincerely want to thank the gentleman from Georgia, my good friend, Mr. LEWIS, for introducing this resolution and for his continuing recognition of the important role Spelman College plays in educating young women from all over the world.

Spelman College, located in Atlanta, Georgia, was originally founded in 1881 by two women with the intent of serving as an all-female seminary school. The school has since expanded its mission and ranks now as one of the leading liberal arts institutions offering a full range of degrees.

Today, Spelman educates over 2,000 young women and brings students from across the United States and around the globe to our community of Atlanta. As a Historically Black College and University, Spelman is one of a diverse community of institutions. Historically, black colleges and universities

include 2- and 4-year institutions, both public and private, as well as single sex and coed.

To be designated a Historically Black College or University, an institution must have been established prior to 1964, with a primary mission of educating African Americans.

Mr. Speaker, these schools have a long, proud and well-established heritage. These institutions have been educating students of this Nation for over 100 years. And while comprising less than 3 percent of the country's 2- and 4-year institutions, they are responsible for producing a significant number of all bachelors, masters and professional degrees earned by African Americans.

Congress has repeatedly recognized the importance of Historically Black Colleges and Universities. Between 1995 and 2006, congressional funding for strengthening the Historical Black Colleges and Universities program rose from $109 million to $238 million, a 118 percent increase.

Furthermore, funding for the graduate programs increased from $19.6 million to $57.9 million over that same period of time, an increase of nearly 200 percent.

Historically, Spelman College has been named as a college with the ''best environment.'' Spelman works with its fellow colleges and universities to advance the goals of educating African American students as part of the largest consortium of historically black higher education institutions in the world.

□ 1600

It does this by sharing cross-registration with its partner institutions, which include Clark Atlanta University, the Interdenominational Theological Center, Morehouse College and the Morehouse School of Medicine.

Mr. Speaker, for this reason and many more, I urge my colleagues to honor the 125th anniversary of Spelman College and support H. Res. 875.

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

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to yield such time as he might consume to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. LEWIS), the author of this legislation and the chief deputy whip of the Democratic Caucus.

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank my colleague and friend Mr. DAVIS for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure and delight that I rise with my colleague Mr. KINGSTON of Georgia to offer H. Res. 875, a resolution commemorating the 125th anniversary of Spelman College. I must also thank Mr. PRICE and Mr. GINGREY of Georgia for being here to participate in the passing of this resolution.

Mr. Speaker, not so long ago, 50 years ago, in many parts of the American south, black women had limited options when it came to furthering their education after high school. Just 50 years ago, black women were turned away from many colleges and universities throughout the south. They were turned away not because of a low GPA, not because of inferior SAT scores and not for submitting a poorly written essay with their application. So many of these students were turned away simply because of the color of their skin.

Mr. Speaker, fortunately, since 1881, Spelman College has been here to provide hope, opportunity and a bright future for women of color. Created for the purpose of educating African American women and girls, Spelman is part of the Atlanta University Center, which is the largest concentration of historic black universities and colleges in the Nation. Spelman College is located in Atlanta, Georgia, and I have the privilege of representing Spelman as part of my congressional district. Spelman has a very diverse student population from 41 States and 15 foreign countries. It has been ranked among the top 75 liberal arts colleges in the Nation by U.S. News and World Report.

Mr. Speaker, one of the many things that I admire about Spelman College is that its students are encouraged to pursue the study of fields where minorities and women are often underrepresented. This is evident in Spelman's continued emphasis on exposing black women to the fields of science and engineering. Spelman has established a partnership with NASA, and it is one of six institutions designated by the National Science Foundation and NASA as a model institution for excellence in undergraduate science and math education.

Mr. Speaker, last summer, Spelman College made history when six Spelman women qualified for the International Robo Cup 2005 Four-Legged Robot Soccer Competition in Japan. They were the first and only historically black college and university, the only all-women institution and the only United States undergraduate institution to qualify for this tournament.

Mr. Speaker, under the leadership of current Spelman's president, Dr. Beverly Daniel Tatum, I have every confidence that the institution will continue to excel. Dr. Tatum's extraordinary vision for the college will enable Spelman to make extraordinary contributions to our Nation for another 125 years and beyond. I want to congratulate President Tatum for creating and executing the Spelman ALIVE initiative that promotes the following ideas for Spelman: Academic excellence, Leadership development, Improving our environment, Visibility of our achievements and Exemplary customer service. I understand that this program is enjoying much success.

Mr. Speaker, for 125 years, Spelman College has empowered women to fully use their talents to succeed and to better the world. For many years, Spelman College served as a refuge for black women seeking to further their education when they were turned away by others. Fortunately, times have changed, and black women have virtually unlimited options when it comes to pursuing a college education today.

Nevertheless, Spelman's impact on our society remains as important as ever. As one of two historically black women's colleges in the Nation, Spelman College has a rich and historical legacy that we must continue to celebrate.

So, Mr. Speaker, I ask and urge all of my colleagues in the House to join me and Congressman KINGSTON in commemorating the 125th anniversary of Spelman College and in supporting this resolution.

Mr. PRICE of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to yield 2 minutes to my colleague from Georgia (Mr. KINGSTON).

Mr. KINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, I thank Mr. PRICE for his cosponsorship of this, and also, I wanted to acknowledge my friends Mr. SCOTT and Mr. GINGREY for their cosponsorship, but I also wanted to say, many thanks to my friend JOHN LEWIS, the lead sponsor of this.

When he asked me to cosponsor the resolution commemorating Spelman College for their 125th anniversary, it was an easy ''yes,'' Mr. Speaker, and it was easy because I had an employee who is a Spelman graduate. Her name is Karen Robenson Boggans. She is not working with me anymore and, indeed, has gone on to bigger and better things, but I hope that I helped her on the pathway to the top. She is doing great things.

When she was my legislative assistant, Karen handled many issues. She was smart, intelligent, capable, task-oriented, focused and got the job done, and only because she was moving out of town did she leave our office. In fact, when she moved back to Savannah, I was able to get her to come back to work for us for a short period of time, and then she got a bigger calling one more time.

But if she is an example, and she is, of a Spelman graduate, it is a great institution, and I know it to be a great institution.

As Mr. LEWIS pointed out: in 1881, when Spelman was started, it was a school for African American women because there were not many choices. Now there are lots and lots of choices, and yet Spelman still continues to show lots of leadership. It is still a great choice for women to go to this school because they learn how to be competitive, and they learn business, and they learn how to write, and they learn the basics of getting the job done. They are all over the world today. They are in 39 different countries and 42 different States. It is international in scope.

The funding for historically black colleges and institutions since 1995, under the leadership, I believe, of J.C. Watts, and as much as anybody, but good bipartisan leadership has increased 118 percent. Spelman College is

an investment not just in historically black colleges and institutions but in America, because you are investing in your own people who will go on to become great leaders in our country.

So I am proud to stand as a cosponsor of this, and I thank the gentleman.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to yield 6 minutes to another son of Georgia (Mr. SCOTT).

Mr. SCOTT of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, thank you very much to my distinguished colleague from Chicago, Congressman DAVIS; my distinguished colleague and Congressman from Georgia, JOHN LEWIS; to my distinguished colleagues from Georgia, Mr. KINGSTON, Dr. Price. I appreciate so much having this opportunity, and I am also pleased to join with my colleague Mr. GINGREY.

I am honored on this day to recognize one of our Nation's most prestigious institutions of higher learning, and that is indeed Spelman College. Singularly devoted to the education of women, Spelman College now celebrates its 125th anniversary this year.

What an extraordinary story this is, Mr. Speaker, because when you tell the story of Spelman, you are telling a truly genuine American story that represents the heart and soul of what America is all about.

Spelman College is a private and historically black college that opened its doors less than two full decades after the Emancipation Proclamation and the ratification of the 13th amendment, and out of necessity, and it was necessary to provide educational opportunities for black women in the south when none existed.

To get the proper perspective on this, Mr. Speaker, we must understand that it was not long, just a few years before this, when the law of the land was not to allow African Americans to even read a book. Just think of that: In this country, it was against the law for African Americans to even learn to read.

It is within this backdrop that Spelman College stepped forward.

Sophia B. Packard and Harriet E. Giles founded Spelman College in Atlanta, Georgia, naming it first the Atlanta Baptist Female Seminary. It began as a comprehensive academy that provided education for women from elementary school all the way through to college. It was renamed Spelman Seminary in 1884 and underwent one final change, becoming Spelman College in 1924.

Let me stop for a moment to give the importance of this name Spelman. It originated from a member of the distinguished Rockefeller family. For without John D. Rockefeller, it can arguably be said that there would have been no Spelman.

Reflecting on the early relationship forged by this institution's founders, it was a unique relationship with John D. Rockefeller himself who provided necessary resources that ensured the longevity of this college. So as we celebrate the 125th anniversary of Spelman College, let us pay direct homage to the Rockefeller family, without whom this college would not have been.

The academic achievements of its students and the rigor of its academic programs have brought numerous honors to this private college. Spelman was awarded a chapter of Phi Beta Kappa honor society in 1998, one of only four historically black colleges and universities to receive such an honor. In 2003, Spelman was named one of six institutions to receive a $4.2 million grant from the National Institutes of Health's National Center for Minority Health and Health Disparities to eliminate health disparities among racial and ethnic minorities.

They put together a health and wellness initiative that set the standard for academic institutions' outreach to the community to improve health care. Spelman College did that.

Throughout its history, Spelman's campus has grown, reflecting the addition of new programs and the strengthening of its renowned liberal arts program. A new academic center that houses several departments, a museum and the college archives resulted from a $20 million donation from Bill and Camille Cosby.

Indeed, an institution lives in the hearts and minds of the people who inhabit it, and Spelman's many accomplished graduates include the founder of the Children's Defense Fund, Marian Wright Edelman; actress Esther Rolle; Pulitzer Prize novelist Alice Walker; and writer, Pearl Cleage.

Many distinguished presidents have been at its helm, notably Dr. Johnetta Cole, the institution's first black female president and current president of Bennett College; Dr. Audrey Manley, former deputy Surgeon General; and current president, Dr. Beverly Tatum, administrator and clinical psychologist.

What a great day this is, Mr. Speaker, for us to be able to stand here in this wonderful country and pay homage to Spelman College on its 125th anniversary. What a distinguished institution, and we are proud of the great service that it has given to African Americans for sure, but most definitely to this great Nation of America and the world.

□ 1615

Mr. PRICE of Georgia. I am pleased to yield 3 minutes to my friend and colleague from Georgia (Mr. GINGREY).

Mr. GINGREY. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague for yielding, and I rise today to congratulate Spelman College on its 125th anniversary. This is a historic anniversary for a historic institution, and I am indeed proud to cosponsor the resolution of my good friend Mr. LEWIS and my other Georgia colleagues in honoring Spelman College.

In 1881, two female schoolteachers, Sophia Packard and Harriet Giles, established Spelman College in Atlanta for the purpose of educating African American women and girls. Over its 125-year history, there have been many individuals who have worked hard to bring excellence to this institution, a tradition that indeed continues today.

Spelman College today encompasses a student body of more than 2,100 students from more than 21 States and 15 foreign countries. In 2006, their excellence was noted nationally when U.S. News and World Report ranked Spelman College among the top 75 best liberal arts colleges in the country.

Mr. Speaker, in this resolution, just looking at a couple of points, Spelman College was ranked, as I say, among the top 75 best liberal arts colleges, according to U.S. News and World Report; also the Association of Medical Colleges ranked Spelman fifth among undergraduate programs for black students accepted to medical school; and Spelman is one of six institutions designated by the National Science Foundation and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration as a model institution for excellence in undergraduate science and math studies.

Mr. Speaker, I want to take this opportunity to commend Spelman College President Dr. Beverly Daniel Tatum, as well as the administration, the faculty, students, and alumni for contributing to the enormous success Spelman College has achieved over these past 125 years. With Dr. Tatum's vision for achieving excellence, I know the next 125-plus years will see the same quality education and the strong community support of Spelman College.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to join with Representatives PRICE, KINGSTON, GINGREY, SCOTT, and my good friend and the chief sponsor of this legislation, Mr. LEWIS from Georgia. I rise in strong support of H. Res. 875 congratulating Spelman College on the occasion of its 125th anniversary.

I am pleased to take this opportunity to recognize the achievements of this fine institution of higher education and to pay special tribute to the unique role it has played in the lives of students, especially African American women. Spelman College, founded in 1881, for the purposes of educating African American women, set a high standard early on for providing quality instruction and valuable experiences, especially at a time when opportunities were not plentiful for African Americans, let alone African American women.

As a Historically Black College, Spelman has focused on not only increasing opportunities for black women, but it is also their mission to ensure students think objectively, critically, and creatively within a moral framework. Founded by two Massachusetts teachers, Harriet Giles and Sophia Packard, the school was originally named the Atlanta Baptist Female Seminary. The school was started with 11 black women and $100 given to Miss Giles and Miss Packard

by a church congregation in Medford, Massachusetts. With the $100, the two teachers built more than a school, rather a foundation and a reason for women to believe in themselves and to aspire to do and be more.

The school eventually became Spelman College, named after John D. Rockefeller's in-laws. When funds ran out, Rockefeller settled the debt on the property and donated funds for what is currently the oldest building on campus, Rockefeller Hall. This institution produced many notable alumni, including Marian Wright Edelman, head of the Children's Defense Fund; novelist Alice Walker; as well as the mother of Martin Luther King, Jr., Ms. Alberta Williams King.

Spelman continues the tradition of excellence as one of the best liberal arts colleges in the Nation, according to the latest rankings of U.S. News and World Report. This prestige is coupled with the designation by the National Science Foundation and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration as a model institution for excellence in undergraduate science and math education. Spelman is one of six in the country with this designation.

In the Spelman tradition of seeing a need and filling the need, the school created the Spelman College Health and Wellness Initiative. This program is helping to create preventive strategies for the unique circumstances that apply to all African American women. These strategies are currently being developed and used to prevent cancer, cardiovascular diseases, diabetes, and HIV/AIDS in African American women.

To top this all off, last year Spelman College made history when six Spelman women qualified for the international RoboCup 2005 robot soccer competition in Osaka, Japan. They were the first and only Historically Black College and University, the only all-women institution, and the only United States undergraduate institution to qualify for this tournament. For those of you unfamiliar with the RoboCup, it is truly an amazing competition. Students from all over the world enter their robot into a competition to play soccer against humans.

Spelman is one of those schools that offers its students the opportunity to broaden their horizons and reach their fullest potential. Among African American women especially, and in black life, the young African American woman who gets an opportunity to go to Spelman considers herself to be not only honored but is often in awe. It is considered to be sui generis, fruit of the loom, in a class by itself, all alone. And there is nothing more delightful to a young African American woman growing up in this country than the opportunity to attend Spelman.

So I join with all of my colleagues in congratulating this fine and outstanding institution, and I urge support for this resolution.

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

Mr. PRICE of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased also to join Mr. DAVIS and my good friends from Georgia, Mr. SCOTT, and the author, Mr. LEWIS, in urging all of my colleagues to support H. Res. 875.

Mrs. JONES of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Spelman College on the occasion of their 125th anniversary. 125 years ago, two Baptist missionaries Sophia B. Packard and Harriet E. Giles traveled to Atlanta, Georgia for the purpose of educating African American women and girls. Founded as Atlanta Baptist Female Seminary on April 11, 1881, the first Bible class was held in the basement of the Friendship Baptist Church for 11 brave young women—who only years earlier had been enslaved.

Since that day, Spelman College has maintained a tradition of producing African American women of excellence who have gone on to serve in various capacities throughout the world and has empowered its daughters to make a difference in their communities while shattering stereotypes.

Spelman is an institution within the African American community and remains an intricate part of American history. In 1884, the college was renamed Spelman Seminary, and later Spelman College, in honor of Mrs. Laura Spelman Rockefeller and her parents Harvey Buel and Lucy Henry Spelman, who were longtime activists in the antislavery movement. In 1968, thousands came to mourn the loss of Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr., whose body was laid in state on Spelman's Campus in the historic Sisters Chapel. And in 1987, millions of viewers were introduced to Spelman's beautiful campus through the groundbreaking Cosby Show spin-off "A Different World."

Today, Spelman continues to be the leading institution for educating African American women and was ranked among the top 75 Best Liberal Arts Colleges according to U.S. News & World Report, 2005 edition.

I am proud to say that I am a friend of Spelman College. Dr. Johnnetta B. Cole, the first African American female to serve as president of Spelman is a good friend of mine. Additionally, Nicole Y. Williams, a class of 2000 Spelman graduate and the current president of the Washington, D.C. Chapter of the National Alumnae Association of Spelman College has been a member of my staff for over five years serving as my Communications Director.

Spelman's current President, Dr. Beverly Daniel Tatum continues to strengthen the Spelman legacy through her Spelman ALIVE strategic plan that includes five goals: Academic excellence, Leadership development, Improving the infrastructure, Visibility of accomplishments of the campus community, and Exemplary customer service, all designed to create a vision for Spelman of 'Nothing Less than the Best'.

So today, I join my colleagues in commending Spelman College on reaching this milestone and wish them continued success.

Mr. MARKEY. Mr. Speaker, I would like to add my congratulations to Spelman College for providing African American women with outstanding education and guidance for the last 125 years.

Spelman College was founded in 1881 as Atlanta Baptist Female Academy by two women commissioned by the Baptist church to provide educational opportunities for newly freed black women. Spelman began in a damp church basement with 11 pupils, mostly women, determined to learn to read the Bible and write well enough to send letters to their families in the North. The academy first offered postsecondary education in 1897. It adopted its present name in 1924.

Two years after its founding, the former barracks and drill grounds used for federal troops after the Civil War were purchased for the school for $15,000. To pay the enormous debt, the black community raised $4000, the Negro Baptists of Georgia raised $3000, and individuals donated $1300, which left an outstanding balance of $6700. John D. Rockefeller was so impressed with the school when he visited that before he left, he paid the outstanding balance, which resulted in a name change to Spelman Seminary, in honor of Rockefeller's mother-in-law, Harvey Spelman. Several years later, Rockefeller donated $40,000 toward the building of Rockefeller Hall, named in his honor.

Spelman continues to be blessed with friends dedicated to its mission to provide high-quality educational opportunities to black women. Spelman was the recipient of a $20 million gift from entertainer Bill Cosby and his wife Camille to build the Camille Olivia Hanks Cosby Academic Center. The school also receives $37 million from the DeWitt Wallace/Spelman College Fund, which was established by the founder of the Reader's Digest Association. The College has gained national recognition as a result of such philanthropic gifts and the fact that it was the basis for the fictional black college in the television show "A Different World."

Despite large-scale development, Spelman continues to place special emphasis on the cultural, social, and personal development of each student and sisterhood and individual discovery is encouraged and stressed. Spelman continues to prepare women to become successful in any field they choose while also instilling a sense of giving back to the community, with their motto of "Women Who Serve". The founder of the Children's Defense Fund, Marian Wright Edelman, Spelman '60, is perhaps this generation's most effective voice for the disadvantaged and forgotten in our society. The author Alice Walker, Spelman '63, who received the Pulitzer Prize in literature for The Color Purple is also a dedicated activist and social visionary.

I am particularly proud that a Massachusetts native and member of the Spelman class of 2006, Tulani Elisa, has chosen to serve the people of the 7th Congressional District of Massachusetts here in my Washington office.

Congratulations to a great American institution of higher learning and of commitment to service.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 875, Congratulating Spelman College on the occasion of its 125th anniversary.

Spelman College was established by Sophia B. Packard and Harriet E. Giles, school teachers and Baptist missionaries, in 1881 in Atlanta, Georgia, in order to educate African American women and girls.

The seminary conferred its first high school diplomas in 1887, and its first college degrees in 1901. In 1924, Spelman Seminary officially became Spelman College and grew to become a leading undergraduate institution for African American women.

Spelman College has prepared more than six generations of African American women to reach the highest levels of academic, community, and professional achievement.

Spelman College continues to pave the way for new generations of African American students. The college offers competitive and high quality academic programs in liberal arts, humanities, sciences, communications, and engineering, to name just a few.

The Association of Medical Colleges ranks Spelman College fifth among undergraduate programs for Black students accepted to medical school, and Spelman is one of six institutions designated by the National Science Foundation and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration as a Model Institution for Excellence in undergraduate science and math education.

I urge my colleagues to support the achievements of this institution, and support this resolution honoring the 125th anniversary of Spelman College.

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. PRICE) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 875, as amended.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds of those present have voted in the affirmative.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. 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 question will be postponed.

EXPRESSING CONDOLENCES TO FAMILIES, FRIENDS, AND LOVED ONES OF VICTIMS OF CRASH OF COMAIR FLIGHT 5191

Mr. MICA. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 980) expressing condolences to the families, friends, and loved ones of the victims of the crash of Comair Flight 5191, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. RES. 980

Whereas the people of Kentucky, including the citizens of the 6th Congressional District, have experienced a terrible tragedy with the loss of 49 lives in the crash of Comair Flight 5191 at Blue Grass Airport in Lexington, Kentucky, on August 27, 2006;

Whereas many of the victims of the crash were residents of Kentucky, particularly of the small, close-knit town of Lexington and other surrounding communities; and

Whereas Federal, State, and local officials have cooperated not only at the crash site but throughout Kentucky and the Nation to respond to the emergency, investigate the accident, and provide assistance to families devastated by the loss of loved ones: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) expresses condolences to the families, friends, and loved ones of the victims of the crash of Comair Flight 5191;

(2) honors the victims of the crash: Rebecca Adams, Christina Anderson, Lyle Anderson, Arnold Andrews, Anne Marie Bailey, Bobbie Benton, Jesse Clark Benton, Carole Bizzack, George Brunacini, Brian Byrd, Jeffrey Clay, Homer Combs, Diane Combs, Fenton Dawson, Thomas Fahey, Mike Finley, Clarence Wayne ''C.W.'' Fortney II, Wade Bartley ''Bart'' Frederick, Hollie Gilbert, Erik Harris, Kelly Heyer, Jonathan Hooker, Scarlett Parsley Hooker, Priscilla Johnson, Tetsuya Kono, Nahoko Kono, Charles Lykins, Dan Mallory, Steve McElravy, Lynda McKee, Bobby Meaux, Leslie Morris II, Kaye Craig Morris, Cecile Moscoe, Judy Ann Rains, Michael Ryan, Mary Jane Silas, Pat Smith, Tim Snoddy, Marcie Thomason, Greg Threet, Randy Towles, Larry Turner, Victoria Washington, Jeff Williams, Paige Winters, Bryan Woodward, JoAnn Wright, and Betty Young;

(3) expresses sympathies to the people of Lexington, the entire Commonwealth of Kentucky, and the Nation who grieve for the victims;

(4) commends the heroic actions of the rescue workers at the crash site who retrieved copilot James M. Polehinke from the wreckage; and

(5) commends the Federal, State, and local officials and the volunteers who worked together to respond to the tragedy with courage, determination, and skill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MICA) and the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. CHANDLER) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Florida.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. MICA. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on House Resolution 980.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in very strong support of this resolution today that is being introduced by my good friend and colleague from Kentucky (Mr. CHANDLER).

This resolution, H. Res. 980, expresses condolences to the families, friends, and loved ones of the victims of the August 27, 2006, aircraft accident of Flight 5191, which took place in Lexington, Kentucky. There were 50 people on board Flight 5191, including passengers and crew, with one individual surviving the crash, Copilot James Polehinke, who is currently recovering, and we wish him Godspeed in his recovery.

Mr. Speaker, I want to say that my heartfelt sympathy goes out to the victims and to each and every one of their families, friends, and loved ones. Losing a loved one is always very tragic, but I think it is compounded when such a loss is the result of an unfortunate and unforeseen situation. I am hopeful that this resolution will in some small way help to comfort the families and friends of all those who lost their lives on Flight 5191.

Mr. Speaker, as Chair of the House Aviation Subcommittee, I want to assure the traveling public and my colleagues that the National Transportation Safety Board is now and will continue to thoroughly investigate every aspect of this accident. Any presumption on the cause or causes of this accident at this stage are purely speculative, and at this time I think it should be definitely left to the professional investigative abilities of the NTSB. It is their responsibility in fact to determine the circumstances and cause, and they will report back to Congress.

I can also assure the families, the public, and Members of Congress that those charged with the investigation of this tragedy will not rest until the cause of this aviation crash has been finally determined.

While even the loss of one life in an aviation accident is unacceptable, the public should know, Members of Congress should know, and those who travel should know that our commercial airlines today are both safe and also reliable. Since 2001, more than 4 billion passengers have flown safely on U.S. commercial airliners with the lowest fatality accident rate in history.

Mr. Speaker, it is important to note that on a typical weekday, just one day like today, there are an average of some 33,000 commercial airline takeoffs and landings at airports of general aviation across the country, and almost all of them, again with large commercial aircraft since November 12, 2001, have done so safely. Despite this amazing safety record, I wish we all lived in a world where we could eliminate all accidents and all risks. While I do not believe that we can do that, I do sincerely believe that we can continue to work together to do everything humanly possible to avoid these types of accidents in the future.

Again, I want to express my heartfelt condolences to the families, friends, and loved ones of the victims on board Flight 5191, also to Mr. CHANDLER, a good friend and distinguished colleague from Kentucky, and his constituents. He told me he lost a number of personal friends and a large number of constituents in this unfortunate aviation tragedy. Again, my condolences to all affected.

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

□ 1630

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

Mr. Speaker, I would like to first thank my friend and colleague, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MICA) for his good wishes and for his efforts as chairman of the Aviation Subcommittee to help with promoting safety in the air throughout this country. I appreciate those efforts very much, and I appreciate his help with this resolution.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today with a heavy heart for Kentuckians who have

tragically lost their lives and for loved ones who have been left behind to pick up the pieces.

On August 27, 2006, Comair Flight 5191 crashed upon take off at Blue Grass Airport in Lexington, Kentucky, killing 49 of the 50 people aboard. Twenty-eight of the victims lived in the district I represent, and several other passengers were fellow Kentuckians. Fathers and mothers, daughters and sons, brothers and sisters, husbands and wives, all perished in the worst plane crash this country has seen since 2001.

The small, close-knit town of Lexington and the surrounding communities of Central Kentucky will forever be changed by the scenes from early that Sunday morning and by the sudden loss of family, friends, neighbors and community leaders. Almost everyone in central Kentucky knew someone on that plane. The loss is a community loss, but also a profoundly personal loss for those of us who remain.

I am here today to honor the victims of this horrible crash by urging this body to pass House Resolution 980, expressing the condolences of this body to all who grieve during this time and commending all of those who responded to this tragedy with courage and determination.

It is also important that today we remember copilot James Polehinke, who was the only person on board who survived the tragedy. He is currently recovering, and we certainly wish him the very best.

Mr. Speaker, I am sure there will come a day when this body will address the causes of this tragedy, particularly if there are measures to be taken to prevent future accidents. At this time, however, the thing we must do is memorialize those that we have lost.

All of Kentucky is still grieving as families continue to say goodbye to loved ones. The following are the victims whose lives were cut short by this horrible tragedy:

Rebecca Adams; Christina Anderson; Lyle Anderson; Arnold Andrews; Anne Marie Bailey; Bobbie Benton; Jesse Clark Benton; Carol Bizzack; George Brunacini; Brian Byrd; Jeffrey Clay; Homer Combs; Diane Combs; Fenton Dawson; Thomas Fahey; Mike Finley; Clarence Wayne ''C.W.'' Fortney, II; Wade Bartley ''Bart'' Frederick; Hollie Gilbert; Erik Harris; Kelly Heyer; Jonathan Hooker; Scarlett Parsley Hooker; Priscilla Johnson; Tetsuya Kono; Nahoko Kono; Charles Lykins; Dan Mallory; Steve McElravy; Linda McKee; Bobby Meaux; Leslie Morris, II; Kaye Craig Morris; Cecile Moscoe; Judy Ann Rains; Michael Ryan; Mary Jane Silas; Pat Smith; Tim Snoddy; Marcie Thomason; Greg Threet; Randy Towles; Larry Turner; Victoria Washington; Jeff Williams; Paige Winters; Bryan Woodward; JoAnn Wright; and Betty Young.

Mr. Speaker, I strongly urge this body to honor these victims by passing H. Res. 980.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, first of all, I want to extend my condolences to all the family, friends and loved ones of those who lost their loved ones on Flight 5191 in Lexington, Kentucky.

I also want to express my condolences to Mr. CHANDLER. Mr. CHANDLER is a member of the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee. I particularly want to again thank him for the way he has handled himself in this matter.

Mr. CHANDLER has been a spokesperson for those who have lost their loved ones in this tragedy. He has also yielded to appropriate manners of resolution to determine what caused this crash, and I appreciate his leadership on the committee and on this issue.

It is critical that we do find the cause of aviation crashes and incidents and that we take preventative measures, and that is something that has been very much my intention as chairman of the Aviation Subcommittee. In fact, we have changed some procedures to accomplish that goal.

One of the provisions of the law that we changed now requires NTSB to continue corrective measures. In the past the NTSB would investigate these accidents. A recommendation would be made, findings would be made, but they just sort of stayed on the shelf. That is no longer the case. Today recommendations from these accidents are not left on the shelf, where causes and risks would not be addressed. Recommendations now must be followed through and brought back to the Congress and measures taken to correct any of the errors or institute appropriate remedies that are recommended by the NTSB.

Again, I am pleased that Mr. CHANDLER comes before the House today to remember those lost in this incident and that he has also been supportive of having the NTSB thoroughly investigate this crash. We give assurances to the loved ones and others that due course and due process will be followed and a full review and determination of the cause of this horrible aviation accident and tragedy will be made so that we will know how to prevent similar accidents in the future, and we will be able to correct these deficiencies.

Again, to Mr. CHANDLER, to all those who suffered loss, we extend our condolences, and I ask the House to concur in adoption of House Resolution 980, sponsored by the gentleman.

Mr. OBERSTAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H. Res. 980, which formally expresses Congress' condolences to the families and friends of the 49 passengers who perished in the August 27, 2006 crash of Conair Flight 5191 at the Blue Grass Airport in Lexington, Kentucky.

H. Res. 980 not only expresses the condolences for the lives lost, but also honors those rescue workers and personnel at the crash site, as well as the Federal, State and local officials who worked together to respond to the unfolding tragedy.

While we will not know the probable cause of the Conair crash until the National Transportation Safety Board, NTSB, completes its investigation, serious questions have been raised regarding the Federal Aviation Administration's, FAA, air traffic control staffing policies. The FAA confirmed that the air traffic control tower at the Blue Grass Airport was understaffed at the time of the accident.

Mr. Speaker, air traffic controllers are essential to the safe operation of our nation's air traffic system, and the effectiveness of controllers requires proper staffing levels at each facility.

Inadequate staffing during periods of low traffic is not a new problem. It was reported that in November 2005, an overloaded controller at the Raleigh, North Carolina airport directed two planes too close to one another, and this close call prompted the FAA to issue guidance forbidding air traffic controllers with certain responsibilities from working alone.

After the Lexington accident, the FAA stated that some air traffic control towers responsible for surface traffic also separate airborne aircraft using radar equipment, contrary to FAA guidance to provide individual controllers for the radar and control tower functions. It is not clear whether this guidance is written or verbal. The FAA statement further indicates that this guidance was not followed at the Lexington tower where the manager decided to have one controller handle both functions during the overnight shift. Moreover, further investigation has revealed that the Lexington tower was not an anomaly; other tower managers across the country routinely chose not to staff their towers adequately, and the FAA was either unaware of these deviations or unwilling to crack down until after the Lexington tragedy.

The FAA's inconsistency in applying its own controller staffing policy is very troubling. That is why Representatives COSTELLO, CHANDLER and I have requested that the Department of Transportation's Inspector General, IG, investigate how widely the staffing experience at the Blue Grass Airport is practiced at other air traffic control facilities across the Nation and determine the extent to which the towers covered by the guidance are complying with it. Importantly, we have requested that the IG investigate the steps that FAA undertook after the Raleigh incident to review staffing at its facilities to determine if the facilities were complying with the guidance, and to require compliance if they were not.

While it will be some time before the NTSB completes its investigation into the probable causes of the Conair Flight 5191 crash, we should waste no time in ensuring that the FAA consistently applies its controller staffing policies across our Nation's air traffic control towers.

Finally, and most importantly, Mr. Speaker, I want to express my condolences to the families and friends of the Flight 5191 passengers, and I urge my colleagues to support this resolution.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to support this resolution expressing condolences to the families, friends, and loved ones of the victims of the crash of Comair Flight 5191.

It should come as a sobering fact that this is the worst aviation crash our country has

seen since 2001. The crash occurred on Comair Flight 5191 upon take-off at 6:07 am at Blue Grass Airport, in Lexington, KY. The flight was en route to Atlanta, GA.

All but one of the 50 people on board, including passengers and crew, died. The only individual who survived the crash, copilot James M. Polehinke, is recovering at Chandler Medical Center, in Lexington, Kentucky, and we wish him a speedy recovery.

Many individuals and entities who responded to the disaster acted nobly, cooperatively, and admirably. Federal, state, and local officials and volunteers were soon on the scene, and I applaud their efforts.

However, this was clearly a mistake, and an accident that should never have occurred. We desperately need adequate and rigorous oversight to ensure the operational safety of every commercial flight in this country. Air control towers across the country are currently short-staffed. Since September 2003, the number of air traffic controllers has plummeted from 15,386 to 14,305 in August 2006. Moreover, at the time of this tragic accident, there was only one air traffic controller present, which is a violation of FAA guidelines which mandate at least two air traffic controllers be present.

At the heart of every oversight issue is inevitably a funding issue Funds must be provided and managed effectively and efficiently in order to make sure that there exists a sufficient level of trained air traffic controllers ensuring the safety of air travel.

I offer my sympathy to the good citizens of Kentucky, and I join Mr. CHANDLER in mourning those lost and honoring their memory. I encourage my colleagues to support this resolution.

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 Florida (Mr. MICA) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 980.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until approximately 6:30 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 4 o'clock and 40 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess until approximately 6:30 p.m.

□ 1830

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. BONNER) at 6 o'clock and 30 minutes p.m.

SUPPORTING THE GOALS AND IDEALS OF NATIONAL LIFE INSURANCE AWARENESS MONTH

Mr. LEWIS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the ordering of the yeas and nays be vacated with respect to the motion to suspend the rules and adopt H. Res. 912 to the end that the Chair put the question de novo.

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

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. FOXX) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 912.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

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. 2808, by the yeas and nays;

H. Res. 605, by the yeas and nays;

H. Res. 875, by the yeas and nays.

The first and third electronic votes will be conducted as 15-minute votes. The second vote in this series will be a 5-minute vote.

ABRAHAM LINCOLN COMMEMORATIVE COIN ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The pending business is the question of suspending the rules and passing the bill, H.R. 2808, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Illinois (Mrs. BIGGERT) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2808, as amended, on which the yeas and nays are ordered.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 401, nays 0, not voting 31, as follows:

[Roll No. 427]

YEAS—401

Abercrombie
Ackerman
Aderholt
Akin
Alexander
Allen
Andrews
Baca
Bachus
Baird
Baker
Baldwin
Barrett (SC)
Barrow
Bartlett (MD)
Barton (TX)
Bass
Bean
Becerra
Berkley
Berman
Berry
Biggert
Bilbray
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (NY)
Bishop (UT)
Blackburn
Blumenauer
Blunt
Boehlert
Boehner
Bonilla
Bonner
Bono
Boozman
Boren
Boswell
Boustany
Boyd
Bradley (NH)
Brady (PA)
Brady (TX)
Brown (OH)
Brown (SC)
Brown, Corrine
Brown-Waite, Ginny
Burgess
Burton (IN)
Butterfield
Buyer
Calvert
Camp (MI)
Campbell (CA)
Cannon
Cantor
Capito
Capps
Capuano
Cardin
Cardoza
Carnahan
Carson
Carter
Case
Castle
Chabot
Chandler
Chocola
Clay
Cleaver
Clyburn
Coble
Cole (OK)
Conaway
Conyers
Cooper
Costa
Cramer
Crenshaw
Crowley
Cubin
Cuellar
Culberson
Cummings
Davis (AL)
Davis (CA)
Davis (IL)
Davis (TN)
Davis, Jo Ann
Davis, Tom
Deal (GA)
DeFazio
DeGette
Delahunt
DeLauro
Dent
Diaz-Balart, L.
Diaz-Balart, M.
Dicks
Dingell
Doggett
Doolittle
Dreier
Duncan
Edwards
Ehlers
Emanuel
Emerson
English (PA)
Eshoo
Etheridge
Everett
Farr
Fattah
Ferguson
Filner
Fitzpatrick (PA)
Flake
Foley
Forbes
Ford
Fortenberry
Fossella
Foxx
Frank (MA)
Franks (AZ)
Frelinghuysen
Garrett (NJ)
Gerlach
Gibbons
Gilchrest
Gillmor
Gingrey
Gohmert
Gonzalez
Goode
Goodlatte
Gordon
Granger
Graves
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Grijalva
Gutknecht
Hall
Harman
Hart
Hastings (FL)
Hastings (WA)
Hayes
Hayworth
Hefley
Hensarling
Herger
Herseth
Higgins
Hinchey
Hinojosa
Hobson
Hoekstra
Holden
Holt
Honda
Hooley
Hostettler
Hoyer
Hulshof
Hunter
Hyde
Inglis (SC)
Inslee
Israel
Issa
Jackson (IL)
Jackson-Lee (TX)
Jefferson
Jenkins
Jindal
Johnson (CT)
Johnson (IL)
Johnson, E. B.
Jones (NC)
Jones (OH)
Kanjorski
Kaptur
Keller
Kelly
Kennedy (MN)
Kennedy (RI)
Kildee
Kilpatrick (MI)
Kind
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kingston
Kirk
Kline
Knollenberg
Kolbe
Kucinich
Kuhl (NY)
LaHood
Langevin
Lantos
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Latham
LaTourette
Leach
Lee
Levin
Lewis (CA)
Lewis (GA)
Lewis (KY)
Linder
Lipinski
LoBiondo
Lofgren, Zoe
Lowey
Lucas
Lungren, Daniel E.
Lynch
Mack
Maloney
Manzullo
Marchant
Markey
Marshall
Matheson
Matsui
McCarthy
McCaul (TX)
McCollum (MN)
McCotter
McCrery
McDermott
McGovern
McHugh
McIntyre
McKeon
McMorris Rodgers
McNulty
Meehan
Meek (FL)
Melancon
Mica
Michaud
Millender-McDonald
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Miller (NC)
Miller, George
Mollohan
Moore (KS)
Moore (WI)
Moran (KS)
Moran (VA)
Murphy
Musgrave
Myrick
Napolitano
Neal (MA)
Neugebauer
Ney
Northup
Norwood
Oberstar
Obey
Olver
Ortiz
Osborne
Otter
Owens
Oxley
Pascrell
Pastor
Paul
Payne
Pearce
Pelosi
Pence
Peterson (MN)
Petri
Pickering
Pitts
Platts
Poe
Pombo
Pomeroy
Porter
Price (GA)
Price (NC)
Pryce (OH)
Putnam
Radanovich
Rahall
Ramstad
Rangel
Regula
Rehberg
Reichert
Renzi
Reyes
Reynolds
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rogers (MI)
Rohrabacher
Ros-Lehtinen
Ross
Rothman
Roybal-Allard
Royce
Ruppersberger
Ryan (OH)
Ryan (WI)
Ryun (KS)
Sabo
Salazar
Sanders
Saxton
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schmidt
Schwartz (PA)
Schwarz (MI)
Scott (GA)
Scott (VA)
Sensenbrenner
Serrano
Sessions
Shadegg
Shaw
Shays
Sherman
Sherwood
Shimkus
Shuster
Simmons
Simpson
Skelton
Slaughter
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Smith (WA)
Snyder
Sodrel
Solis
Souder
Spratt
Stark
Stearns
Strickland
Stupak
Sullivan
Sweeney
Tancredo

Tanner
Tauscher
Taylor (MS)
Taylor (NC)
Terry
Thomas
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Thornberry
Tiahrt
Tiberi
Tierney
Towns
Turner
Udall (CO)
Udall (NM)
Upton
Van Hollen
Velázquez
Visclosky
Walden (OR)
Walsh
Wamp
Wasserman Schultz
Waters
Watson
Watt
Waxman
Weiner
Weldon (FL)
Weldon (PA)
Weller
Westmoreland
Wexler
Whitfield
Wicker
Wilson (NM)
Wilson (SC)
Wolf
Woolsey
Wu
Wynn
Young (FL)

NOT VOTING—31

Beauprez
Bilirakis
Boucher
Costello
Davis (FL)
Davis (KY)
Doyle
Drake
Engel
Evans
Feeney
Gallegly
Green (WI)
Gutierrez
Harris
Istook
Johnson, Sam
McHenry
McKinney
Meeks (NY)
Miller, Gary
Murtha
Nadler
Nunes
Nussle
Pallone
Peterson (PA)
Rush
Sánchez, Linda T.
Sanchez, Loretta
Young (AK)

□ 1857

So (two-thirds of those voting having responded in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

RECOGNIZING THE LIFE AND CONTRIBUTIONS OF PRESTON ROBERT TISCH

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The pending business is the question of suspending the rules and agreeing to the resolution, H. Res. 605.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. FOXX) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 605, on which the yeas and nays are ordered.

This will be a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 399, nays 0, not voting 33, as follows:

[Roll No. 428]

YEAS—399

Abercrombie
Ackerman
Aderholt
Akin
Alexander
Allen
Andrews
Baca
Bachus
Baird
Baker
Baldwin
Barrett (SC)
Barrow
Bartlett (MD)
Barton (TX)
Bass
Bean
Becerra
Berkley
Berry
Biggert
Bilbray
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (NY)
Bishop (UT)
Blackburn
Blumenauer
Blunt
Boehlert
Boehner
Bonilla
Bonner
Bono
Boozman
Boren
Boswell
Boustany
Boyd
Bradley (NH)
Brady (PA)
Brady (TX)
Brown (OH)
Brown (SC)
Brown, Corrine
Brown-Waite, Ginny
Burgess
Burton (IN)
Butterfield
Buyer
Calvert
Camp (MI)
Campbell (CA)
Cannon
Cantor
Capito
Capps
Cardin
Cardoza
Carnahan
Carson
Carter
Case
Castle
Chabot
Chandler
Chocola
Clay
Cleaver
Clyburn
Coble
Cole (OK)
Conaway
Conyers
Cooper
Costa
Cramer
Crenshaw
Crowley
Cubin
Cuellar
Culberson
Cummings
Davis (AL)
Davis (CA)
Davis (IL)
Davis (TN)
Davis, Jo Ann
Davis, Tom
Deal (GA)
DeFazio
DeGette
Delahunt
DeLauro
Dent
Diaz-Balart, L.
Diaz-Balart, M.
Dicks
Dingell
Doggett
Doolittle
Dreier
Duncan
Edwards
Ehlers
Emanuel
Emerson
English (PA)
Eshoo
Etheridge
Everett
Farr
Fattah
Ferguson
Filner
Fitzpatrick (PA)
Flake
Foley
Forbes
Ford
Fortenberry
Fossella
Foxx
Frank (MA)
Franks (AZ)
Frelinghuysen
Garrett (NJ)
Gerlach
Gibbons
Gilchrest
Gillmor
Gingrey
Gohmert
Gonzalez
Goode
Goodlatte
Gordon
Granger
Graves
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Grijalva
Gutknecht
Hall
Harman
Hart
Hastings (FL)
Hastings (WA)
Hayes
Hayworth
Hefley
Hensarling
Herger
Herseth
Higgins
Hinchey
Hinojosa
Hobson
Hoekstra
Holden
Holt
Honda
Hooley
Hostettler
Hoyer
Hulshof
Hunter
Hyde
Inglis (SC)
Inslee
Israel
Issa
Jackson (IL)
Jackson-Lee (TX)
Jefferson
Jenkins
Jindal
Johnson (CT)
Johnson (IL)
Johnson, E. B.
Jones (NC)
Jones (OH)
Kanjorski
Kaptur
Keller
Kelly
Kennedy (MN)
Kennedy (RI)
Kildee
Kilpatrick (MI)
Kind
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kingston
Kirk
Kline
Knollenberg
Kolbe
Kucinich
Kuhl (NY)
LaHood
Langevin
Lantos
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Latham
LaTourette
Leach
Lee
Levin
Lewis (CA)
Lewis (GA)
Lewis (KY)
Linder
Lipinski
LoBiondo
Lofgren, Zoe
Lowey
Lucas
Lungren, Daniel E.
Lynch
Mack
Maloney
Manzullo
Marchant
Markey
Marshall
Matheson
Matsui
McCarthy
McCaul (TX)
McCollum (MN)
McCotter
McCrery
McDermott
McGovern
McHenry
McHugh
McIntyre
McKeon
McMorris Rodgers
McNulty
Meehan
Meek (FL)
Meeks (NY)
Melancon
Mica
Michaud
Millender-McDonald
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Miller (NC)
Miller, George
Mollohan
Moore (KS)
Moore (WI)
Moran (KS)
Moran (VA)
Murphy
Musgrave
Myrick
Napolitano
Neal (MA)
Neugebauer
Ney
Northup
Norwood
Oberstar
Obey
Olver
Ortiz
Osborne
Otter
Owens
Oxley
Pascrell
Pastor
Paul
Payne
Pearce
Pelosi
Pence
Peterson (MN)
Petri
Pickering
Pitts
Platts
Poe
Pombo
Pomeroy
Porter
Price (GA)
Price (NC)
Pryce (OH)
Putnam
Radanovich
Rahall
Rangel
Regula
Rehberg
Reichert
Renzi
Reyes
Reynolds
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rogers (MI)
Rohrabacher
Ros-Lehtinen
Ross
Rothman
Roybal-Allard
Royce
Ruppersberger
Ryan (OH)
Ryan (WI)
Ryun (KS)
Sabo
Salazar
Sanders
Saxton
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schmidt
Schwartz (PA)
Schwarz (MI)
Scott (GA)
Scott (VA)
Sensenbrenner
Serrano
Sessions
Shadegg
Shaw
Shays
Sherman
Sherwood
Shimkus
Shuster
Simmons
Simpson
Skelton
Slaughter
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Smith (WA)
Snyder
Sodrel
Solis
Souder
Spratt
Stark
Stearns
Strickland
Stupak
Sullivan
Sweeney
Tancredo
Tanner
Tauscher
Taylor (MS)
Taylor (NC)
Terry
Thomas
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Thornberry
Tiahrt
Tiberi
Tierney
Towns
Turner
Udall (CO)
Udall (NM)
Upton
Van Hollen
Velázquez
Visclosky
Walden (OR)
Walsh
Wamp
Wasserman Schultz
Waters
Watson
Watt
Waxman
Weiner
Weldon (FL)
Weldon (PA)
Weller
Westmoreland
Wexler
Whitfield
Wicker
Wilson (NM)
Wilson (SC)
Wolf
Woolsey
Wu
Young (FL)

NOT VOTING—33

Beauprez
Berman
Bilirakis
Boucher
Capuano
Costello
Davis (FL)
Davis (KY)
Doyle
Drake
Engel
Evans
Feeney
Gallegly
Green (WI)
Gutierrez
Harris
Istook
Johnson, Sam
McKinney
Miller, Gary
Murtha
Nadler
Nunes
Nussle
Pallone
Peterson (PA)
Ramstad
Rush
Sánchez, Linda T.
Sanchez, Loretta
Wynn
Young (AK)

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

□ 1905

So (two-thirds of those voting having responded 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.

CONGRATULATING SPELMAN COLLEGE ON ITS 125TH ANNIVERSARY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The pending business is the question of suspending the rules and agreeing to the resolution, H. Res. 875, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. PRICE) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 875, as amended, on which the yeas and nays are ordered.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 400, nays 0, not voting 32, as follows:

[Roll No. 429]

YEAS—400

Abercrombie
Ackerman
Aderholt
Akin
Alexander
Allen
Andrews
Baca
Bachus
Baird
Baker
Baldwin
Barrett (SC)
Barrow
Bartlett (MD)
Barton (TX)
Bass
Bean
Becerra
Berkley
Berman
Berry
Biggert
Bilbray
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (NY)
Bishop (UT)
Blackburn
Blumenauer
Blunt
Boehlert
Boehner
Bonilla
Bonner
Bono
Boozman
Boren
Boswell
Boustany
Boyd
Bradley (NH)
Brady (PA)
Brady (TX)
Brown (OH)
Brown (SC)
Brown, Corrine
Brown-Waite, Ginny
Burgess
Burton (IN)
Butterfield
Buyer
Calvert
Camp (MI)
Campbell (CA)
Cannon
Cantor
Capito
Capps
Capuano
Cardin
Cardoza
Carnahan
Carson
Carter
Case
Castle
Chabot
Chandler
Chocola
Clay
Cleaver
Clyburn
Coble
Cole (OK)
Conaway
Conyers
Cooper
Costa
Cramer
Crenshaw

Crowley
Cubin
Cuellar
Culberson
Cummings
Davis (AL)
Davis (CA)
Davis (IL)
Davis (TN)
Davis, Jo Ann
Davis, Tom
Deal (GA)
DeFazio
DeGette
Delahunt
DeLauro
Dent
Diaz-Balart, L.
Diaz-Balart, M.
Dicks
Dingell
Doggett
Doolittle
Dreier
Duncan
Edwards
Ehlers
Emanuel
Emerson
English (PA)
Eshoo
Etheridge
Everett
Farr
Fattah
Ferguson
Filner
Fitzpatrick (PA)
Flake
Foley
Forbes
Ford
Fortenberry
Fossella
Foxx
Frank (MA)
Franks (AZ)
Frelinghuysen
Garrett (NJ)
Gerlach
Gibbons
Gillmor
Gingrey
Gohmert
Gonzalez
Goode
Goodlatte
Gordon
Granger
Graves
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Grijalva
Gutknecht
Hall
Harman
Hart
Hastings (FL)
Hastings (WA)
Hayes
Hayworth
Hefley
Hensarling
Herger
Herseth
Higgins
Hinchey
Hinojosa
Hobson
Hoekstra
Holden
Holt
Honda
Hooley
Hostettler
Hoyer
Hulshof
Hunter
Hyde
Inglis (SC)
Inslee
Israel
Issa
Jackson (IL)
Jackson-Lee (TX)
Jefferson
Jenkins
Jindal
Johnson (CT)
Johnson (IL)
Johnson, E. B.
Jones (NC)
Jones (OH)
Kanjorski
Kaptur
Keller
Kelly
Kennedy (MN)
Kennedy (RI)
Kildee
Kilpatrick (MI)
Kind
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kingston
Kirk
Kline
Knollenberg
Kolbe
Kucinich
Kuhl (NY)
LaHood
Langevin
Lantos
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Latham
LaTourette
Leach
Lee
Levin
Lewis (CA)
Lewis (GA)
Lewis (KY)
Linder
Lipinski
LoBiondo
Lofgren, Zoe
Lowey
Lucas
Lungren, Daniel E.
Lynch
Maloney
Manzullo
Marchant
Markey
Marshall
Matheson
Matsui
McCarthy
McCaul (TX)
McCollum (MN)
McCotter
McCrery
McDermott
McGovern
McHenry
McHugh
McIntyre
McKeon
McMorris Rodgers
McNulty
Meehan
Meek (FL)
Meeks (NY)
Melancon
Mica
Michaud
Millender-McDonald
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Miller (NC)
Miller, George
Mollohan
Moore (KS)
Moore (WI)
Moran (KS)
Moran (VA)
Murphy
Musgrave
Myrick
Napolitano
Neal (MA)
Neugebauer
Ney
Northup
Norwood
Oberstar
Obey
Olver
Ortiz
Osborne
Otter
Owens
Oxley
Pascrell
Pastor
Paul
Payne
Pearce
Pelosi
Pence
Peterson (MN)
Petri
Pickering
Pitts
Platts
Poe
Pombo
Pomeroy
Porter
Price (GA)
Price (NC)
Pryce (OH)
Putnam
Radanovich
Rahall
Ramstad
Rangel
Regula
Rehberg
Reichert
Renzi
Reyes
Reynolds
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rogers (MI)
Rohrabacher
Ros-Lehtinen
Ross
Rothman
Roybal-Allard
Royce
Ruppersberger
Ryan (OH)
Ryan (WI)
Ryun (KS)
Sabo
Salazar
Sanders
Saxton
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schmidt
Schwartz (PA)
Schwarz (MI)
Scott (GA)
Scott (VA)
Sensenbrenner
Serrano
Sessions
Shadegg
Shaw
Shays
Sherman
Sherwood
Shimkus
Shuster
Simmons
Simpson
Skelton
Slaughter
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Smith (WA)
Snyder
Sodrel
Solis
Souder
Spratt
Stark
Stearns
Strickland
Stupak
Sullivan
Sweeney
Tancredo
Tanner
Tauscher
Taylor (MS)
Taylor (NC)
Terry
Thomas
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Thornberry
Tiahrt
Tiberi
Tierney
Towns
Turner
Udall (CO)
Udall (NM)
Upton
Van Hollen
Velázquez
Visclosky
Walden (OR)
Walsh
Wamp
Wasserman Schultz
Waters
Watson
Watt
Waxman
Weiner
Weldon (FL)
Weldon (PA)
Weller
Westmoreland
Wexler
Whitfield
Wicker
Wilson (NM)
Wilson (SC)
Wolf
Woolsey
Wu
Young (FL)

NOT VOTING—32

Beauprez
Bilirakis
Boucher
Costello
Davis (FL)
Davis (KY)
Doyle
Drake
Engel
Evans
Feeney
Gallegly
Gilchrest
Green (WI)
Gutierrez
Harris
Istook
Johnson, Sam
Mack
McKinney
Miller, Gary
Murtha
Nadler
Nunes
Nussle
Pallone
Peterson (PA)
Rush
Sánchez, Linda T.
Sanchez, Loretta
Wynn
Young (AK)

□ 1924

So (two-thirds of those voting having responded in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the resolution, as amended, 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. DAVIS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, on Wednesday, September 6, 2006 I was absent from the House to attend the visitation for a United States Marine from my district.

Had I been present I would have voted: Rollcall No. 427—"yea"; rollcall No. 428—"yea"; rollcall No. 429—"yea."

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. GUTIERREZ. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably absent from this chamber today. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall votes No.'s 427, 428, and 429.

MILITARY COMMISSIONS ACT OF 2006—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES (H. DOC. NO. 109–133)

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, without objection, referred to the Committee on Armed Services, Committee on the Judiciary, and Committee on International Relations and ordered to be printed:

To the Congress of the United States:

I transmit for the consideration of the Congress draft legislation entitled the ''Military Commissions Act of 2006.'' This draft legislation responds to the Supreme Court of the United States decision in Hamdan v. Rumsfeld, 126 S. Ct. 2749 (2006), by establishing for the first time in our Nation's history a comprehensive statutory structure for military commissions that would allow for the fair and effective prosecution of captured members of al Qaeda and other unlawful enemy combatants. The Act also addresses the Supreme Court's holding that Common Article 3 of the Geneva Conventions applies to the conflict with al Qaeda by providing definitions rooted in United States law for the standards of conduct prescribed by Common Article 3.

The military commission procedures contained in this draft legislation reflect the result of an extended deliberation both within the executive branch and between representatives of my Administration and Members of Congress. The draft legislation would establish a Code of Military Commissions that tracks the courts-martial procedures of the Uniform Code of Military Justice, but that departs from those procedures where they would be impracticable or inappropriate for the trial of unlawful enemy combatants captured in the midst of an ongoing armed conflict, under circumstances far different from those typically encountered by military prosecutors.

Five years after the mass murders of 9/11, it is time for the United States to begin to prosecute captured al Qaeda members for the serious crimes that many of them have committed against United States citizens and our allies abroad. As we provide terrorists the justice and due process that they denied their victims, we demonstrate that our Nation remains committed to the rule of law.

I ask that the Congress carefully consider this legislation and respectfully urge its speedy passage for enactment into law.

GEORGE W. BUSH.

THE WHITE HOUSE. *September 6, 2006.*

BANKS AND ILLEGALS

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

Mr. POE. Mr. Speaker, the battle for the border continues. Our recent terrorism hearings on the crimes inflicted on America by illegals brought forth almost universal testimony that illegals in this country contribute a vast over-percentage of violent crime and street crime, from theft to rape to murder.

Only one witness, a banker, said illegals do not affect crime rates in his border town of Laredo, Texas, this despite the overwhelming contradictory testimony of his own sheriff and numerous lawmen.

When the banker was questioned about his motives, that his bank makes money off deposits by illegals, and they are shipping their money south, he told the Wall Street Journal he felt attacked.

Well, it is American communities that are under attack, Mr. Speaker. The banks and the wire services that profit off illegals can and should charge a fee for each transaction. That money would be used to compensate crime victims and pay for health care and education costs of illegals. Americans are paying these costs of illegals. Now it is time illegals pay.

Mr. Speaker, that's just the way it is.

REMEMBERING THE FALLEN IN IRAQ

(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, I just want a moment in reflection of those that we lost on the front lines of Iraq and Afghanistan in the absence of this Congress. I believe we owe them not only a debt of gratitude, but also an apology.

It is time now for there to be a defined strategy by this administration to return our soldiers home, those who have been deployed once, two times, three times, and to have an orderly redeployment as soon as possible.

I will not accept the condemnation that Democrats do not understand the war on terror, nor will I accept the condemnation that we are not patriotic or respect our soldiers, for we know a civil war when we see it. We know bloodshed when we see it. We know a wrong policy when we see it. We know a failed Secretary of Defense when we see it.

Might I just say for those of us who traveled across the country on immigration hearings, there was much more testimony than undocuments create a criminal situation in America. Undocuments are families and children who are basically seeking an opportunity.

Democrats want border security. We want comprehensive immigration reform. We are not here to condemn and suggest that those children are the basis of crime in America.

□ 1930

NEED FOR EMPLOYER SANCTIONS

(Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in frustration with the Senate's delay in protecting Americans by taking up the House border security bill.

Employer verification and enforcement are vital to upholding our immigrant laws. Innocently hiring an illegal alien because there is no system in place is one thing. Knowingly violating our immigration laws for cheap labor is another. Not only does this hurt Americans by driving down wages, it invites an influx of illegal aliens that overwhelms our border security.

H.R. 4437 cracks down on those who compound our immigration problems by hiring illegals, fining them up to $25,000 per employee when they consistently violate the law.

To the Senate we need to say, listen up. Listen to what the American people are saying and pass H.R. 4437. This must become law this year so we can stop the massive illegal flow and secure our borders.

JUSTICE WILL PREVAIL IN THE WAR ON TERROR

(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, I had the opportunity today to join President George W. Bush at the White House, along with colleagues from the House and Senate and, most poignantly, with the families of victims of September 11 as President Bush gave a forceful and fact-based address about the war on terror.

The President declassified today a CIA program that over the last 5 years has resulted in securing vital information in the war on terror from some of the most nefarious characters that we captured, along with Khalid Shaikh Mohammed and others.

The President also announced today that those same individuals, including Khalid Shaikh Mohammed, who was the mastermind behind the attack on our country 5 years ago this Monday, will now be transferred to Guantanamo Bay, and the process will begin of facing a military tribunal. Five years hence, we have proven that justice will not sleep for the terrorists in this country.

America remembers 9/11, and today our Commander in Chief spoke truth to the world that justice will prevail.

THE PRESIDENT IS ON THE RIGHT TRACK

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

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, the President gave a major policy speech today outlining the future and the fate of those individuals who are detained at our base in Guantanamo, Cuba. Two months ago, I had the opportunity to travel to Guantanamo to evaluate for myself the treatment of the individuals who are housed there.

Mr. Speaker, I might remind us how these individuals held in that facility are not signatories of the Geneva Convention, nor are they citizens of the United States and, therefore, entitled to constitutional protections.

With these individuals, it is not a question of guilt or innocence. It is a question of capability and intent. Clearly, these are individuals who are capable of doing our country great harm. Clearly, the intent is there.

I think the President is on the right track with the announcement today of military tribunals. I look forward to us getting that legislation in the House and passing it forthwith.

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. WESTMORELAND). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 4, 2005, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

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

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

HONORING THE LIFE OF STAFF SERGEANT JEFF HANSON

Mr. OSBORNE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to assume the 5 minutes of the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. RAMSTAD) and address the House for 5 minutes.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the gentleman from Nebraska is recognized for 5 minutes.

There was no objection.

Mr. OSBORNE. Mr. Speaker, yesterday, I attended a funeral of the Staff Sergeant Jeff Hanson from my district in Nebraska who was killed in Iraq last week. His death was the 29th soldier from Nebraska and the 14th from my district. My district is largely rural. We find that people from small towns and farms tend to volunteer, enlist at a higher rate, tend to be rather patriotic. Therefore, districts like mine have assumed a disproportionate load of the war in the Middle East.

One of the things that struck me about the funeral was that I visited with his father, Robert, and also with his wife, Jennie. Robert had one request of me, and he said, please do not let them pull out prematurely. He said that his son saw progress in Iraq, and he felt that little of that progress was being translated to the American people.

Robert said this, and I think it is very true, he said, freedom is costly and always has been. Like the Civil War, we go back to World War I, World War II, there has always been a great price that has been exacted. He said that there was no doubt in his mind that we needed to stay the course and see things through.

But this is just the story of one soldier, one wife, and does it reflect the thinking of a lot of people? I guess, as I thought about Robert's comments, I reflected on the fact that I have talked to almost all of the parents and spouses of those 14 soldiers who have died in Iraq, and I cannot recall one of them saying, get us out of this.

I have seen time after time comments very similar to Robert's saying, we saw meaning, we saw purpose; we saw progress; we think we need to stay the course.

Jeff Hanson was a young person, well-educated, was an excellent leader. He served in Kosovo previously, was a Federal police officer. His wife, Jennie, indicated that Jeff was not only committed to fighting terrorism but also

giving everyone in the world, including Iraqis, a chance at freedom. He felt that was really an important part of his mission.

She, also like Robert, felt that we should continue until we had had some measure of finality to the struggle.

So I guess, as the funeral concluded, I was reminded of the words of a young captain that I met over in Kuwait in 2002. This captain had been in Iraq for a year, and he said this; he said, if we pull out prematurely, three things will happen: Number one, those who have died will have died in vain, and that is very true. I think that is one of the things that the family of Jeff were trying to get across.

Secondly, he said, we will have gone back on our word to the Iraqis, and you may recall that that happened in the first Gulf War. We cannot afford to do that.

Then, thirdly, we will have indicated to terrorists everywhere that terrorism works, it is effective, and if they hang in there long enough, eventually, we will back down, and terrorism will only multiply.

I believe that strongly, and I think the family of Jeff Hanson feels that very strongly. I know we are involved in a great debate. There are many people who do not agree with that point of view. So, before long, we will have 300,000 Iraqis trained and equipped sometime late this fall, and that has been the target. At some point, we obviously have to turn it over to them and say, it is your ball, you run with it, now let us see what you can get done with it.

So we do not know how it is going to end up, but I do feel that we need to honor the feelings of so many who have sacrificed so greatly and think this national debate through very carefully before we make any preemptive or presumptive move that may be contrary to the wishes of so many who have suffered.

I thank the Speaker for this opportunity to reflect on the life of Jeff Hanson and his family, and we hope that Jeff and his fellow soldiers can see this through to a successful solution.

NATIONAL INSTANT CRIMINAL BACKGROUND CHECK SYSTEM

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

Mrs. McCARTHY. Mr. Speaker, the clock is ticking on the 109th Congress. There is not much time left to pass commonsense gun legislation that will keep guns out of the hands of criminals without infringing on anyone's second amendment rights.

When it comes to commonsense gun laws, the Congress has a dismal record. Thus far, this Congress has given corrupt and incompetent gun dealers immunity from negligence lawsuits. This Congress will make it a crime for two police departments to share information from ATF's ballistics database. This Congress has tied the hands of law enforcement dealing with gun-wielding mobs during times of disaster, and it has made it possible for guns to be brought into hurricane shelters.

But now this Congress has a chance to redeem itself a little bit. Last spring, the Judiciary Committee's Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism and Homeland Security approved H.R. 1415, the NICS Improvement Act, and the full committee markup is scheduled for tomorrow.

This is a bill that would increase the effectiveness of the existing National Instant Criminal Background Check System, the database used to check firearms buyers for any criminal record or any disqualifying criteria.

Overall, NICS has been a success. Since 1994, more than 1.2 million individuals have been denied a gun because of a failed background check. NICS also provides the vast majority of honest gun sellers with peace of mind in knowing that they are selling their products to citizens who will use their guns legally.

However, the NICS system is only as good as the information that the States provide, and unfortunately, many States do not have the resources necessary to enter all of their disqualifying criteria into the NICS system.

The end result is that felons and others who are not permitted by existing law to buy guns are passing background checks and buying guns through legitimate means.

In fact, 28 States have automated less than 75 percent of their criminal record history. In 15 States, domestic violence restraining orders are not accessible through NICS. Those and other loopholes have cost countless people their lives. It is only a matter of time before the system's failings provoke more tragedies.

We must improve the NICS system and allow it to do what it was designed to do. The responsibility for accuracy and effectiveness of the NICS system ultimately belongs to the States. However, many State budgets are already overburdened.

This legislation would provide grants to States to update the NICS system. States would be able to update their system, their database, to include felons, domestic abusers and others not legally qualified to buy a gun.

The bill's goal is to have all 50 States enter at least 90 percent of their disqualifying information into the NICS system.

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States that don't comply or fall short of these goals will be penalized with a 5 percent reduction of their Federal Department of Justice grant allocations.

Also, the bill would provide grants for State courts to promptly enter information to the NICS system. For example, when someone is served with a restraining order stemming from domestic violence, an inefficient NICS system allows him or her to leave the courthouse and head right to the gun store. My bill would make sure all prevailing court records are entered into the NICS database before a crime of passion can be committed.

It is important to keep in mind this bill does not infringe on anyone's second amendment right, which I support. It creates no new gun laws. It simply gives States the resources to better enforce the current laws. If H.R. 1415 becomes law, law-abiding citizens who want to buy a gun legally will not experience any delay at the point of purchase. This bill poses no new burden on gun sellers or owners.

In fact, I first introduced this bill in 2002 with my friend and colleague Mr. DINGELL of Michigan, who is well-known for his strong support of gun rights. This legislation passed in 2002. Unfortunately, the other body didn't have time to take it up. This is something that we can actually get passed. This is something that we should be passing.

We see gun violence becoming more prevalent lately. I know. In my own Long Island district suburban area, over the weekend, we had many gun violence incidents. We are seeing more robberies with guns. These are illegal guns. We must enforce the laws that are on the books so we can save lives, and especially those that do survive these horrible tragedies so that we don't run up the medical costs of this country.

Mr. Speaker, the debate on guns has been going on for a long time, and I understand that this body is nervous about the National Rifle Association, but we have to do what we can to protect the citizens of this country by making sure that illegal guns don't get into the wrong hands. It may not be a perfect bill. We are not going to be perfect in anything we do here, but we can certainly do better, and we should be doing better.

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

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

H.R. 5866, A MEDICARE SOLUTION

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to go out of order.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the gentleman from Texas is recognized for 5 minutes.

There was no objection.

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I come to the floor tonight to talk about the way that this Congress and the Center for Medicaid and Medicare Services pays for patient access in the Medicare system and how they reimburse physicians.

Under the current formula, America's doctors participating in Medicare

can expect an annual pay cut of approximately 5 percent over the next decade. That translates to between a 30 and a 36 percent pay reduction for physicians in this country over the next 10 years. Now, Mr. Speaker, I do not know of many small businesses where the expectation of their overhead payments is going to fall by a third over the next 10 years. Indeed, it will be very hard for many of these individuals to remain in business if this issue is not fixed. Not addressing this impending crisis would be negligent at best and put frail and elderly Medicare beneficiaries at risk of losing their physician.

The current Medicare physician payment methodology is fundamentally flawed, and it must be reformed. It is not going to be fixed by the application of a Band-Aid. This requires major surgery. A recent bill introduced, 5856, the Medicare Physician Payment Reform and Quality Improvement Act of 2006, will attempt to accomplish this and two additional goals.

The three purposes of this bill are, one, ensure that physicians receive fair payment for the services that they provide; number two, create quality performance measures and improve the quality improvement organizations that exist to improve the quality of care available to Medicare patients; and, three, identify reasonable offsets to give Medicare physicians a more regular and predictable payment update year to year.

Without intervention, payment for physician services will be cut more than 5 percent next year. H.R. 5866 ends the application of what is known as the sustainable growth rate on January 1, 2007, and institutes a single conversion factor, the Medicare economic index minus 1 percent. This creates a more market-based approach to physician payment by placing more value on the actual costs of inputs and not on arbitrary volume of service targets each year.

In other words, doctors would be paid the same as hospitals are paid, the same as nursing homes are paid, the same as long-term care hospitals are paid, based upon the market cost of inputs for providing that care.

The bill also establishes a system of quality performance measures so that physicians can voluntarily, and let me stress the word voluntarily, report data to the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services. Patients can then assess the level of quality of their prospective doctors, the level those doctors are achieving, and decide which doctor they would prefer to use. These measures will be developed in collaboration with physician specialty organizations for core medical services to make certain that these measures are relevant and meaningful to that particular practice of that branch of medicine.

As an incentive to participate in reporting for performance measures, participating physicians will be permitted to balance bill certain high-income Medicare beneficiaries. Redirecting the stabilization fund from the Medicare Modernization Act provides an additional $10 billion for offsets. Eliminating the double payment from Medicare for indirect costs of medical education is another source of offsetting these costs.

Mr. Speaker, this August, the American Medical Association, in its publication the American Medical News, talked about this bill, 5866. Quoting now, it said that ''the bill would ensure positive annual updates by tying rates to the Medicare economic index. This index is an indicator of how much doctors' cost of caring for patients is increasing. If lawmakers and the White House can approve the measure before Congress adjourns for the year, physicians would start receiving yearly updates equal to an approximately 1.5 percent increase in Medicare rates.''

The bill drew endorsements, of course, from the American Medical Association. But also the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists and the American College of Clinical Endocrinologists are a few of the specialty organizations that have endorsed the concept of this legislation.

We need help to make real changes in this system. We need help from every Member on both sides of the aisle. We need to create solutions and stop simply talking about the Medicare problem. I am asking my colleagues to join me in cosponsoring H.R. 5866.

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.)

REPUBLICAN PARTY AFRAID OF LOSING POWER

Mr. MCDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to speak out of order.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the gentleman from Washington is recognized for 5 minutes.

There was no objection.

Mr. MCDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, we have not returned to Washington, D.C. to legislate on behalf of the American people. The Republican Party will spend the next 30 days trying to make us all afraid. They are afraid of losing power, and the only way they know how to govern is to play the fear game.

It is the Republican mid-term strategy that if you can make us afraid and keep us afraid, maybe they can cling to power. For the rest of September, until the moment the Republican leaders gavel the Congress into adjournment, Republican speakers will rise and implore the American people to be afraid.

Republicans will call it security. And every time they do, just remember they are speaking in code. Republicans really mean insecurity. During September, Republicans will wield the gavel, but they won't make America safer.

We will not consider, much less pass, legislation to protect our ports by inspecting the minimum number of cargo that it takes to stop a potential terrorist threat. We know what needs to be done, but the Republicans are hard on rhetoric and soft on action.

Republicans are going to use their insecure words so often I hope Lou Dobbs, John Stewart, and the others keep track and remind people daily of how often Republicans are willing to talk and how little they are willing to act.

After America was attacked on 9/11, the finest military in the world, the United States Armed Forces, was sent to Afghanistan to hunt down bin Laden and stop the Taliban. They did a magnificent job, until U.S. soldiers were ordered to leave before the job was done and go to Iraq. We don't have bin Laden and Afghanistan is now looking more like Iraq.

A Republican administration is responsible for diverting our military, draining our treasury, destroying our credibility, and making America less safe. The American people know that Iraq has nothing to do with 9/11, but the administration denies that intelligence. Instead, the President mechanically recites his standard PR line.

The American people know that we are off course and adrift in a sea of violence. U.S. soldiers are not fighting a war on terror in Iraq. They are targets in a civil war among Iraqis. When Republicans parade to the rostrum to outdo each other using their insecurity word, think of just how insecure our soldiers are.

Republicans keep saying things are getting better. This is disproved by their own Secretary of Defense, Mr. Rumsfeld, who ordered another 13,000 troops back into Iraq. There are now 140,000 targets. With 2,653 American lives lost and 19,600 wounded, the country deserves Democratic leadership that knows the Republican plan to stay the course is the most insecure plan for our soldiers, for our Nation, and for the Iraqi people.

But the Republicans are going to spend the next 30 days trying to stay in power. Nothing more. They will say their insecurity code word over and over and over again, but they won't pass the recommendations of the bipartisan Commission on 9/11. Republicans won't bring up immigration legislation intended to make our borders safer. Republicans won't address reforms to Social Security. Republicans won't bring up legislation to end taxpayer subsidies for Big Oil or launch a national campaign to end our addiction to oil.

Instead, the Republicans will tell you to be afraid unless you pay through the nose at the pump and Big Oil can drill in every part of the pristine environment on our planet. Republicans will tell you to be afraid for Social Security unless you give your money to Enron

through Wall Street. Republicans will tell you to be afraid unless we mortgage our future in the 22nd century by giving the rich tax breaks now.

Republicans have had their chance and used it to overwhelm the American people with monstrous debt so the rich can have more riches. The Republicans had their chance and used it to divert America away from the real problems of this country.

Americans are calling this Security September. Just remember to be afraid, afraid of what else the Republicans will do if they remain in power after November 8. Don't forget, there is an election coming.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 503, TO AMEND THE HORSE PROTECTION ACT

Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 109–642) on the resolution (H. Res. 981) providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 503) to amend the Horse Protection Act to prohibit the shipping, transporting, moving, delivering, receiving, possessing, purchasing, selling, or donation of horses and other equines to be slaughtered for human consumption, and for other purposes, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

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

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

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

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

PUBLIC SCHOOLS IN NEW ORLEANS AFTER KATRINA

Ms. MILLENDER-McDONALD. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to speak out of order.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the gentlewoman from California is recognized for 5 minutes.

There was no objection.

Ms. MILLENDER-McDONALD. Mr. Speaker, a year ago last week, Americans saw one of the most devastating natural disasters in our country's recent history. Hurricane Katrina ravaged the gulf coast and overwhelmed the levees of New Orleans, resulting in near total submersion of that city. A year later, the flood waters have receded, yet the devastation sadly remains.

One area where this devastation is most readily apparent is in the city's public schools, many of which were destroyed beyond repair in the storms. However, the system which has arisen in the wake of Katrina is fragmented and poorly organized. More than half of New Orleans' schools remain closed a year after the storm. Of those that are open, some are run by the city, others are run by the State, and others are run by private companies. As a result, area schools may have different application procedures, admission rules, and starting dates. That is no way to educate children.

□ 2000

Further complicating this problem is the fact that more students are returning than were ever previously expected, putting an additional strain on a system already stretched to the breaking point. Parents have expressed frustration at the difficulty of navigating this system, and many have been unable to enroll their children in school, despite their best efforts.

These barriers to education are intolerable, Mr. Speaker, anywhere in America. However, it is particularly egregious that we have allowed such barriers to exist for a population that is already so challenged. We must do better, especially for an area with a high minority population, high poverty levels and historically poor academic outcomes.

The consequences of the failure to improve the education system in New Orleans are all too real. Without drastic improvement, we will surely see higher dropout rates and substandard education for those who manage to remain in school.

Furthermore, the effects of this neglect will not rest solely with the young and vulnerable. A poorly educated population promises a bleak future for the entire City of New Orleans and for this country, one characterized by poverty, crime and broken families.

We cannot leave the victims of Hurricane Katrina to fend for themselves twice. President Bush has promised to stand with the victims of Hurricane Katrina until the job is done, yet the persistent problems with New Orleans schools are a disheartening sign that the job is far from done.

In Congress, we have approved four emergency spending bills that together provide more than $110 billion in Federal aid for rebuilding these areas. However, less than half of this money has actually been spent by Federal agencies, with hardly any accountability. Much needs to be done to help New Orleans recover from the disastrous effects of Hurricane Katrina. However, we must prioritize children in our efforts to rebuild this city, making them first priority.

Therefore, I call on the Bush administration, as well as relevant State and local agencies, to promise the children of New Orleans that they will have access to safe, high quality schools this year. As part of this, the administration must exercise the oversight and follow-through necessary to ensure that Federal funds are appropriately spent and schools are built.

Our children can wait no longer. While Hurricane Katrina resulted in much destruction along the Gulf Coast, it has also given us an unprecedented opportunity to completely remake underperforming schools. We must do that for the children of America. We must do that for New Orleans children. I demand that this administration and other relevant persons not let this opportunity slip through their fingers.

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

BRING OUR TROOPS HOME

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, Sergeant Christian Williams of Winter Haven, Florida; Staff Sergeant Tracy Melvin of Seattle, Washington; Lance Corporal Jeremy Long of Sun Valley, Nevada, only 18 years old; Private First Class Colin Wolfe, also an 18 year old, of Manassas, Virginia; and Staff Sergeant Michael Deason of Farmington, Missouri.

Mr. Speaker, these are just five of the Americans who have been killed in action in Iraq since this Chamber last convened. You see, Congress gets to close up shop for a month, the entire month of August, even if we haven't completed the Nation's business. But no such luxury for the 138,000 men and women who are stationed in Iraq. Their dangerous work goes on and on. No adjournment, no recess, no end to their mission in sight.

In fact, many who were scheduled to come home were told in August, no, they had to stay in Iraq. And why? Because their commander-in-chief says that people who want our troops to come home don't understand the world in which we live.

I submit, Mr. Speaker, that it is the President himself whose understanding of our world could use some real work.

Does he understand that his clumsy belligerence has contributed to more intense feelings of jihad and anti-American radicalism in the Muslim world?

Does he understand that the invasion and occupation of Iraq has created many more terrorists than it could possibly defeat?

Does he understand that his policy lit the match that engulfed Iraq in sectarian violence and civil war?

Does he understand that at least 40,000 and perhaps as many as 100,000 innocent Iraqi civilians have died for what he calls their liberation?

Does he understand that military force is one of the least effective ways of exercising American power?

Does he understand the concept of ''soft power,'' the idea that America can and must lead by example, by demonstrating compassion, by promoting our values, by maintaining global goodwill and credibility?

Does he understand that outside his window today at the National Mall, veterans and their families are launching Camp Democracy, a 16-day anti-war demonstration just like the one they held outside the President's Crawford ranch last August?

He must not understand that he has lost the confidence of the people of the United States of America; that in overwhelming numbers they believe he made a mistake in Iraq and want him to reverse course as soon as possible.

It is clear that he understands none of these things, and, as a result, our Nation is paying the price, all of us; all of us who want to live in a country that is admired around the world; all of us who want to be safe from terrorism; all of us who depend on public investment in education and health care, housing and more, investments that won't be possible because of the $1 trillion cost of the Iraq occupation.

But, of course, no one has sacrificed more than young Americans like Christian Williams, Tracy Melvin, Jeremy Long, Colin Wolfe and Michael Deason, who lost their lives. There is nothing more we can do for them other than honor their memories and take care of their families. But we can save hundreds and perhaps thousands of their fellow soldiers from a similar fate if this ruinous policy continues.

Mr. President, bring our troops home.

GOVERNMENT FAILED TO ADDRESS 9/11 PROPERLY

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

Mr. HINCHEY. Mr. Speaker, next Monday, 5 days from now, it will be 5 years since we experienced the attack of September 11, 2001. That was one of the most tragic circumstances ever to confront this country. More than 3,000 Americans lost their lives.

But it has developed into an additionally tragic circumstance for our Nation as a whole, because the administration and the Congress, the entire government of our country, the legislative and executive branches, failed to address the issue properly.

The administration called upon the Congress to give it the authority to conduct itself in a way that was entirely inappropriate, and on October 16, the majority of the Members of this Congress voted to give the President that authority. As a result of that, we have now been bogged down as a result of the attack in Iraq and the subsequent occupation for more than 3 years, and the administration and this Congress have no plan for relieving ourselves of that obligation and responsibility.

One of the tragic aspects of that, of course, is the fact that more than 2,600 American servicemen and women have now lost their lives. That number now is approaching the number of Americans who lost their lives as a result of the attack of September 11th by the al Qaeda network.

There are a great many issues that this Congress has failed to address. Let me begin by talking just for a minute or two about the circumstances that existed prior to that attack of September 11, 2001.

The intelligence agencies of our country had informed the administration beginning with the first meeting of the National Security Council of this administration in January of 2001 that the al Qaeda network offered the greatest threat to the safety and security of America and that it was likely that they were going to advance some form of attack against our country.

Now, we know that they had done other things in the past. They organized the initial attack against the World Trade Center in 1993. They organized the attack against the two United States embassies in East Africa. They organized the attack against the USS *Cole*. The President of the United States was informed from the first day this administration came into office and virtually every single day thereafter up to September 11, 2001, that there was a great danger from the al Qaeda network.

On August 6, 2001, the President's daily briefing said that al Qaeda was determined to attack the United States, and there were other instances where the intelligence community told the administration that al Qaeda was determined to attack the United States. Yet nothing was done about it. No action was taken. The President was on a very extended vacation in Crawford, Texas.

One of the things that this Congress has failed to do is to investigate the intelligence that was available prior to the attack of September 11th and why that intelligence was not used appropriately by this administration to prevent the attack of September 11th.

Why has this Congress failed to carry out its obligations and responsibilities under the Constitution to oversee actions of the administration in that regard? The Senate Select Intelligence Committee has conducted an investigation, but they have failed to release the information with regard to the intelligence that the administration had available to it prior to the attack. We need to ask ourselves why that is the case.

And why is it that the House Intelligence Committee has not carried out its obligations and responsibilities to conduct an investigation as to the quality and caliber of the intelligence information available to the administration prior to the attack of September 11th and why that information, which seems to have been so clear and so focused, was not used appropriately? Let's focus our attention on that.

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

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

TWO WARS—NOT ONE

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

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, Iraq. A good number of people are confused when the name of that country is mentioned.

Let's be clear. Our country is engaged in two wars. The first is the war against terrorism, which has its genesis in Afghanistan with tentacles reaching throughout the world.

The terrorist group known as al Qaeda, headed by a man named Osama bin Laden, originated in Afghanistan and was protected by the former Afghan Taliban government. After the September 11, 2001, attacks on our country, which were sponsored by bin Laden's al Qaeda, our military forces struck the Taliban government and the al Qaeda strongholds in Afghanistan. Our military forces, along with allied and NATO forces, remain fighting the remnants of al Qaeda and the Taliban with the assistance of the Afghan National Army.

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The attack by our military in the ongoing conflict was a war of necessity. The second war, our attack on Saddam Hussein's Iraq originated because of the alleged threat of weapons of mass destruction against America and our interests. This is a war of choice. After soundly defeating the military in open battle, our occupation of that troubled country came about without proper planning or resources.

Massive looting was allowed. The Iraqi Army was disbanded, without giving former soldiers paychecks and shovels, which caused many to turn against the American occupation. There were insufficient troop numbers to provide a successful military occupation and reconstruction.

Former Sunni Muslim Baathist regime elements formed the basis of a growing insurgency against the occupation forces. They were joined by foreign fighters, mainly al Qaeda, and numerous criminals who were recently released from prison by Saddam Hussein shortly before the conflict started.

In more recent days, a new source of violence has erupted in Iraq, sectarian religious violence with Shia and Sunni elements killing each other. According to a recent Pentagon report, sectarian bloodshed has pushed violence in Iraq to its highest level in more than 2 years. Preventing full-scale civil war is now the most urgent mission of the U.S. troops in that country.

Thus, this is the status of the Iraq war, which is a separate and distinct

war from that against the terrorists. The enemy in each conflict has different goals. The al Qaeda terrorist group wishes to establish a Muslim caliphate throughout the entire Middle East. The Iraqi insurgents' goal is to cause the existing Iraqi government to fail and to establish Sunni dominance in Iraq.

The Sunni Arab insurgency remains strong and viable. The sectarian violence overlays this initial struggle with the sectarian leaders such as Muqtada al-Sadr in the wings of the Shiite groups. On September 4, 2002, and again on March 18, 2003, before we invaded Iraq, I wrote the President warning of the instability in the months following the initial coalition victory.

Sadly, my warnings were of Cassandra-esque value. They were not heeded by the administration. So there we are, two conflicts, two wars, and the two should not be confused.

There are those who attempt to fuzz the two conflicts together as the war on terror, but the wars are truly separate and distinct. With the help of NATO troops, we made significant gains in Afghanistan, but these are in danger of being overturned if we relax our focus.

The picture is not so rosy in Iraq, which calls for a different policy and a different approach to bring about stability and representative government. The recent Pentagon report is not encouraging.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. DENT). Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. MALONEY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mrs. MALONEY addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

LABOR DAY 2006: TOUGH TIMES IN AMERICA'S HEARTLAND

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

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, the United States is spending $250 million a day in Iraq, over $11 million an hour. This week, as we celebrated Labor Day across this country, President Bush continued to proclaim the strength and health of the U.S. economy.

Treasury Secretary Henry Paulson, whom he appointed, said recently, the American people are clearly better off as a result of strong economic growth and job creation. Well, for the wealthiest 1 percent, that tiny slice that President Bush has called his core supporters, things might be looking up. But for everybody else, we are having to work harder for less.

As someone said to me, not only have we had the race to the bottom, we are now bouncing off the bottom. So as Congress left Washington for an entire month, the economic anxiety felt palpably by the American people increased. The debt piled up more, now over $5 trillion. Interest rates are up as a throttle on economic growth.

Unemployment is up, surely, in America's heartland. According to the Census Bureau, working families fell even farther behind in the past year as they have every single year since this president took office. President Bush's own Census Bureau reports that the median income of working age households fell by another half of a percent last year.

According to the University of Michigan, consumer confidence hit a 9-month low in August, and authors of a confidence report say the gap between rich and poor in the United States is quite different than anything else observed in the prior half century. Truly America is in uncharted economic waters.

According to The New York Times, for the first time since World War II, though productivity is up by our people, real wages have failed to increase for most workers at a time when the overall economy was even growing. Even though President Bush and Secretary Paulson might claim the American people are better off, working people know better. They trust their real life experiences, not White House press releases.

The reality for America's families is that high gasoline prices, higher natural gas prices, rising health care costs, credit card debt increasing and borrowing against home equity have topped out. They are eating away at disposable income, and everywhere they turn, many middle class families are getting squeezed.

Job losses due to more outsourcing and foreign competition have left working families wondering, what does the future hold? Does work have a value in America anymore?

The median hourly wage for American workers has declined 2 percent since 2003 despite their increased productivity. The Economic Policy Institute estimates that real median income for households headed by someone under age 65 has declined 5.4 percent since President Bush took office. Is anybody here in Washington paying attention?

The net result, according to the New York Times, is that wages and salaries now make up the lowest share of the Nation's gross domestic product since the government began recording the data in 1947. But yet corporate profits represent the larger share of gross domestic profit since the 1960s.

There is a little imbalance there. The Times quoted a report from economists at Goldman Sachs. The most important contributor to higher profit margins over the past 5 years has been a decline in labor's share of national income.

Our mother used to ask the question for the super wealthy and the super rich, did they ever fill up? When is enough? How many homes? How many cars? How many chauffeurs? How many trips? How much do you really need? How much? So the bottom line on Labor Day 2006 is this: The strong economy that President Bush and his Secretary of the Treasury keep talking about has benefitted big business, but it has clearly bypassed the vast majority of the American people. It is time we change this Congress.

It is time we have people here in Washington who again represent the vast majority of the people of the United States who believe in hard work, who want to follow the rules, and they have a right to live a better way of life for investing themselves in the beliefs of this country and for putting their lives on the line for it. Mr. Speaker, America, this Congress, and, frankly, this President simply have to do much better.

GAS PRICES

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

Mr. ETHERIDGE. Mr. Speaker, right now in my district in rural North Carolina, folks are very concerned about the high cost of fuel. I rise tonight to call on this Congress to take action now to help the people who are suffering from this very serious crisis, not only in my district and State, but really in this country.

Gas prices are higher than they have ever been in the history of our country, and rural Americans are getting hit particularly hard. Our farmers are watching most of the profits from the crops that they harvest go back into their fuel tanks or their tractors and their equipment.

Our school districts in rural North Carolina are having trouble keeping the buses on the road. Rural Americans as a whole feel a greater pinch from these outrageous fuel prices. They have longer commutes just to get to the grocery store, to the doctor's office and to their church on Sunday.

Yet, while Americans are struggling to make ends meet, big oil companies are making record profits.

I support legislation to crack down on price gouging of gasoline and fuel. I also believe that it is our duty in this body to find alternatives to what has become a dangerous reliance on foreign oil.

As the co-chairman of the Democratic Rural Working Group, we have introduced H.R. 5372, the Biofuels Act of 2006. This is legislation that will help bring Americans a step closer to energy independence.

Today, we have the technology to solve our energy crisis. Other countries are already making significant progress and are far ahead of the United States in their energy independence. Countries such as Brazil already use over 80 percent ethanol and biodiesel, and they are 100 percent energy independent.

The Biofuels Act would increase production of vehicles that are E85 compatible and provide the tax credits to service station owners who update their equipment. We have the ability to turn soybeans and cellulose into biodiesel and ethanol. What we don't have is the infrastructure to maximize our ability to use these fuels.

Instead of the same old giveaways to big oil companies, the Republican leadership in this Congress should allow a vote on the legislation that we have introduced, H.R. 5372. Other countries have accomplished their energy independence. Americans can, too. Now is the time. The answer to our crisis of energy is growing in our fields.

NATIONAL SECURITY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 4, 2005, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. CARTER) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. CARTER. Mr. Speaker, we have had a month here in August where we have gone back home and talked to folks back home and visited with them, and we are moving forward on issues that are vital to America. But nothing is more vital to the United States of America than its national security.

So I rise this evening to discuss with my colleagues and my neighbors the view that I am a little concerned about and want to talk about on the issue of national security. National security, the term itself, has a broad umbrella. It has an umbrella that we have a lot of historical experience to look at.

I am an old history buff. I like history. I study history. I think we learn lessons from history. I think when we forget history, we forget lessons we have learned, sometimes the hard way.

So, tonight, I want to talk a little bit about the national security of the United States today and compare that national security to a little bit of our history, and then also to discuss a little bit about what our response is, how we are now viewing our lives that we live in this country in light of national security. Now, national security means, are we secure as a Nation in the scope of our world, which means we have to think about our own common defense, promoting our own general welfare, the things that our founders talked about. That is part of it.

National security is securing our Nation's borders, and this debate has been ongoing now in this Congress for quite some time concerning our Nation's borders, and we may talk a little bit about that tonight.

□ 2030

But I think that anyone who establishes a nation, and of course I believe with my whole heart our Founders, when they established our Nation, had in mind securing our lives in the United States of America by protecting the life, liberty, and property of Americans.

And they had in mind when those who would do us harm would put the life, liberty, or property of Americans at risk, that we would have the resources with which to protect those citizens and their holdings.

In our recent memory, and I was actually born 1 month, I am going to show my age here, 1 month before the Japanese bombed Pearl Harbor on December 7, so I am a prewar human being by 1 month. Almost 1 month to a day. I want to look at that event and how our Nation responded to that event.

On December 7, 1941, the Imperial Navy of Japan attacked the United States of America basically from the air. They killed 2,402 Americans, 57 of them were civilians and 2,345 were Americans who were in the service. They attacked our military with their military all in uniform. It was a dastardly sneak attack. The American citizens were irate.

But what is kind of interesting, that particular day my dad tells the story, that was the first day under the way doctors looked at babies that people could visit the new baby. So on December 7, 1941, a group of friends came to my house to see me as a 1-month-old baby.

When this was announced on the radio, the first question they asked was, where is Pearl Harbor? When they found out American citizens were attacked, American soldiers, sailors, airmen and marines were attacked, the American public was irate. The next day we went to war with Japan by declaration of this Congress. We followed that by going to war with Germany and Italy, supporters, allies of Japan, people who had the same agenda.

The American public went wholeheartedly into that war. They suffered things on the homefront. A whole lot of women had to take men's jobs on the assembly line so men could go to war. They rationed gasoline and food. They rationed sugar. They rationed lots of things. The American public saved scrap iron and they got involved in selling war bonds. They supported our soldiers as our soldiers went to war.

On the 11th day of September, 9/11 as we call it, 2001, a group of people attacked the United States of America again. These people didn't wear uniforms. These people didn't attack a military target. Well, sort of. Their last attack was on the Pentagon, but their initial attack was a civilian target, a symbol of international freedom and economy. The total number of United States citizens killed that day was 3,025, the vast majority of whom were civilians, not military soldiers, sailors, airmen and marines; and they were not attacked by someone's army. They were totally and completely sneak attacked on 9/11 to kill innocent American civilians who had done absolutely no imaginable harm to the people who attacked them.

You know, this Congress gathered on the steps of the Capitol in a very touching moment and sang ''God Bless America,'' Republicans and Democrats alike. For 48 hours this country was united, and we sit there and say that is when it all started. Actually, that is not when it all started.

Actually, if you want to go back a little bit, you can look at this same ideology, if you will, related groups of people attacked the embassy in Baghdad in 1983, attacked the Marines barracks in Lebanon in 1983 killing an additional 242 and 120 in those two attacks; hijacked a TWA airplane, the Pan Am 103 bombing; the first World Trade Center bombing in 1993; attempted assassination of President George H.W. Bush; the Khobar Towers bombing in 1996; the embassy bombing in east Africa in 1998; and the USS Cole bombing in 2000, followed by an attack on our country for a total of American citizens killed of 4,037. And we were really upset about it. But who sacrificed? Where are we in the support of enemies who would bring down our Nation? That is something I find very curious.

Tonight I heard some of my colleagues, my Democrat colleagues over here, saying the Iraqi war is wrong. They had nothing to do with 9/11.

Well, the first people we whipped in the Second World War were the Italians. They had nothing to do with Pearl Harbor. And the second group of people we whipped in the Second World War was the Germans. They had nothing to do with Pearl Harbor by their definition, but they lent allied support to the country that attacked this country. How can they argue when Saddam Hussein paid $25,000 to every terrorist family that attacked the United States of America? How can they say they were not aiding and abetting our enemies?

The President of the United States said something I thought was right. He said: Folks, you are either with us or you are against us. If you are helping our enemies, you are our enemies.

Now, sort of like the Monday morning quarterback at a football game, and I know about that, it is fun to sit in the stands and watch everybody second-guess your kid, all of a sudden we have people who knew all along, even though President Clinton thought they had weapons of mass destruction and said so publicly, those in his administration said the same thing, all indications were that they did, and the British intelligence, along with others around the world confirmed that they thought that they had the potential to get to the hands of terrorists weapons of mass destruction. But in addition, they aided and abetted through at least a $25,000 reward to aid the terrorists who attacked us, our enemies.

The Germans didn't do that and neither did the Italians, and yet we had to take care of those who would bring down our Nation. This Congress, the government in 1941, recognized the threat to the United States and knew that national security required us to

get rid of the evil that was coming after our Nation.

Mr. Speaker, that evil is still out there in this war we are fighting right now. You know what, we have been successful, very successful in taking down an awful lot of evil people. And we have used tools that are constitutional and legal to maintain our national security.

Our intelligence network had been gutted in the 1980s and in the 1990s. And all of a sudden we are all very critical of our intelligence network. But if you go back and look at the history of our intelligence network, we basically took the on-the-ground resources out of the hands of our intelligence people. We have had to replace those. We have had to do a lot of hard work communicating. We have the best electronics in the world, but our human resources were lacking.

But that doesn't excuse the fact that we have an enemy who as recently as about 3 weeks ago was planning on blowing up, the estimate is nine or ten, airplanes headed to the United States with American citizens on board, with us the target, with our airline industry the target. And thank goodness for good British intelligence and information-gathering by the Brits that they were able to stop this from happening.

But it tells us something. I am not trying to scare anybody. It tells us commitment counts. Here tonight we have heard some of my Democrat colleagues say we need a new strategy in the Middle East. We need to pull our troops out of Iraq and do it today. A passionate plea to the President, Mr. President, pull back the troops.

You know, if you read about the battles, and I use as an example the Civil War, sometimes those people bashed each other for 3 or 4 days to a bloody pulp. But when one army left the field, the other side was the victor. The Battle of Gettysburg, which was probably the turning point in the war, when the Confederate Army left the field, the Union Army was the victor. That is the definition.

I would propose, we are talking about a battle in Iraq and Afghanistan. The war is worldwide, but the battles are in Afghanistan and Iraq. Hopefully, that is the only place we will have to fight.

Mr. Speaker, if we retire from the field, it is a victory for evil, evil that wishes to bring down the United States of America. It is the wrong thing to do.

I hesitate to talk about this, but it is something that concerns me. We are constantly examining ourselves and looking at our warts, but whenever evil is defined by our enemies, we say it is just too bad to talk about. Has anybody thought about the fact that American guys who were just working for a living trying to help rebuild Iraq got kidnapped and their heads sawed off with an 8-inch knife? Has anybody thought about that? Because it was so gruesome we didn't see it on television, thank God. That horrible incident alone ought to inflame Americans against our enemies. Don't we care any more about the safety of American citizens around the world? Aren't we willing to stand up and say we are not going to tolerate this?

We have some fine people in this country who are willing to do that. God bless each and every one of them. That is the American soldier, sailor, airman, marine and Coast Guard. It is unsafe right now. Because of kidnappings and decapitations and murder and terror around the world, it is unsafe for Americans. We have a bunch of people walking around Afghanistan and Iraq flying the American flag on their shoulders. They are not afraid. They are standing up for what it takes to win the war on terrorism, the war on Islamic fascism. And even a better definition, the war on evil. When you do what they did to these contractors, when you do something like that to a human being, the whole world, but especially the United States of America, ought to be fighting mad.

Mr. Speaker, I think that in our hearts we know that we have to confront evil where it is and we have to do hard jobs. You know, somebody said in 3 years there has been no progress. Once again I went back to my thoughts about history. I said, okay, we were bombed in 1941 and we landed on the beaches at Normandy on June 6, 1944. So that very argument could have been made in this House on the Second World War in the spring of 1944. We have been fighting 3 years, and we have made relatively no progress because we haven't gotten after the Germans where they are. We had to fight the Italians, we had to fight in North Africa, and we had to fight the Japanese. We were still fighting the Germans, and we have made no progress against the people who attacked us.

But that is not how our fathers and grandfathers and great grandfathers felt about this country. They were in it to get it done. That is why they are the Greatest Generation. That is why we talk about them as the Greatest Generation.

You can sit around and make excuses, and you can get in folks' faces on things, and you can put politics before country.

□ 2045

But, Mr. Speaker, this is not about politics. This is about the safety of this country.

I think we have got a lot to be proud of. I think we have done a lot of good. We have revitalized an intelligence group that is doing the job, accomplishing the mission, getting us good intelligence. It is substantially, substantially better than what we inherited and what we started with. But I think that there are some fuzzy thinking people out there that have got strange ideas about what entitles our enemy, for instance, to sue us in court. That is fuzzy thinking.

The American people know what is right and what is wrong. The American people do not need to be scared because they know whatever the United States of America sets its mind to it gets done. And I think that is really the message that we have got.

We have increased funding for our intelligence community. We have got all of our law enforcement communities talking to each other now and sharing information. We have poured $30 billion into our first responders so that we are ready to protect our homeland. This House has passed a bill to address the border, and hopefully, we will get that bill passed and written into law, and we will work out all of the issues that involve immigration and work them out in a way that they will be manageable and we can do what is right for all the people of the United States. But we first have got to defend our borders.

Mr. Speaker, this is national security. It is a big picture. And it is one we have to be concerned about. We have to realize that the only realistic thing for us to do is to continue to support our soldiers as they do a very tough job. I have the only two division posts in the entire world in my district. No one has more compassion for those young men and women that go to war, on their third rotation now. We are getting the 4th Infantry Division back early this fall, and we have got the 1st Cav going back again. And it is hard. But do you know what? Those soldiers know that they are doing their duty, and they are doing what they have to do and they are doing what it takes to keep our Nation secure.

I am confident, Mr. Speaker, that we will examine each and every day in light of protecting the American citizen wherever he may be, and that is what national security is all about. I am confident the American people will give us the resources. I am confident that this government will do the right thing to protect Americans.

I have got colleagues here that have joined me, and I am going to ask Mr. GINGREY from Georgia, one of my best friends in this Congress, to talk to us a little bit about this issue. I yield to the gentleman.

Mr. GINGREY. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding. And, indeed, it is a pleasure to be here tonight, Mr. Speaker, with my good friend Judge Carter. We are about the same age, and he was giving us a little bit of a history lesson, much better than I can, in regard to some of the things that went on with our Greatest Generation in defending this country in World War II, and I think that some of these statistics are so telling, the things that Judge Carter talked about in regard to, of course, that day that will live in infamy, December 7, 1941. And, of course, I am referencing again, as he did, Pearl Harbor. I think Judge Carter mentioned that something like 2,400 of our sailors and airmen and a lot of civilian workers were killed that Sunday morning, a day of rest, a day of worship. An unprovoked attack. And the very next day, as John Carter

pointed out, this Congress declared war against imperial Japan for this dastardly act, this unprovoked sneak attack on that early Sunday morning.

Here again we think back now, and next Monday, 5 days from now, will be the fifth anniversary of an attack that was just as unprovoked and just as dastardly as Pearl Harbor and resulted actually in the loss of a greater number of lives. Something above 3,000 innocent men and women were killed in the Twin Towers attacks of September 11, 2001.

And as I think about the numbers, and we are all very saddened when we read in the newspaper that another of our brave young soldiers has either been injured or killed in Iraq, maybe by one of these improvised explosive devices, and we are getting beyond the 3-year anniversary. We are more than 3 years engaged in that battle, and the number is something like 2,470 killed.

Mr. Speaker, I remind my colleagues on both sides of the aisle and the American people that in the battle of Iwo Jima, we lost 7,000 of our Greatest Generation in 30 days; 7,000 to secure that strategic island in the mid-Pacific. That was a tremendous price for our Greatest Generation to pay. But we didn't hear Members of Congress telling President Roosevelt, well, that is too high a price, and we need to bring the troops home. We need to come back and batten down the hatches and cut our losses. I could say the same thing to my colleagues about the Battle of the Bulge, as tough as that was. Representative CARTER referenced some Civil War battles, Antietam, Gettysburg. When the going gets tough, the tough don't leave. The tough fight back. And that was what happened in the Battle of the Bulge. That was what happened on the island of Iwo Jima where that famous flag was raised on Mount Suribachi. We cannot afford to cut and run. I am not saying that my colleagues on the other side of the aisle are necessarily advocating that, but certainly some of the rhetoric sounds a lot like that, Mr. Speaker, and I think the American people are hearing that. But even worse, our soldiers that are doing the fighting and the dying and the suffering on our behalf are hearing it.

One of our colleagues on the other side of the aisle a few minutes ago was talking about what things that President Bush should have known and how he should have responded even before 9/11. And as I listened, Mr. Speaker, I heard him talk about the United States embassies in East Africa; the attack on the USS *Cole*, where I think 17 of our soldiers were killed there; the first attack on the World Trade Center in the early 1990s; the Khobar Towers bombing. Well, I would remind my colleagues on the other side of the aisle that that was under the administration of one William Jefferson Clinton, a Democratic President, where basically the response was the bombing of an aspirin factory in Sudan, and I think maybe one janitor was injured a little bit in that bomb attack. That was the kind of response we got from them.

The bottom line is you cannot continue to dare and double-dog dare and triple-dog dare and draw lines in the sand that you ignore, and that was what led us to this situation and that culminated in 9/11.

This President responded. This President had the guts, if you will pardon my Georgia slang, to stand up and get permission from Congress, just as President Roosevelt did on December 8, 1941, and declared war on these people that were responsible for that attack.

And I will just take a couple of minutes more, and then I will turn it back over to my colleagues and the gentleman from Tennessee for his remarks. The President was just speaking to the Reserve Officers Association a couple days ago, and this is what he said and this is, so telling, Mr. Speaker. And I quote:

''The experience of September 11th made clear, in the long run, the only way to secure our Nation is to change the course of the Middle East. So America has committed its influence in the world to advancing freedom and liberty and democracy as the great alternatives to repression and radicalism. We're taking the side of democratic leaders and moderates and reformers across the Middle East. We strongly support the voices of tolerance and moderation in the Muslim world. We're standing with Afghanistan's elected government against al Qaeda and the Taliban remnants that are trying to restore tyranny in that country. We're also standing with Lebanon's young democracy against the foreign forces that are seeking to undermine the country's sovereignty and independence. And we're standing with the leaders of Iraq's unity government as they work to defeat the enemies of freedom and chart a more hopeful course for their people. This is why victory is so important in Iraq. By helping freedom succeed in Iraq, we will help America, and the Middle East, and the world become more secure.''

I cannot improve on that, Mr. Speaker. I think the President said it well.

I thank God that we have a President that has the moral character and the intestinal strength to fight when we need to fight, to lead us, as President Roosevelt did, in that war that our Greatest Generation fought.

So I am really proud to be here and share a little time with my colleagues. I thank Congressman JOHN CARTER for leading this hour and giving me an opportunity to discuss such a vital issue as this with my colleagues.

Mr. CARTER. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for his comments.

At this time I will yield to my colleague from Tennessee, Mr. ZACH WAMP.

Mr. WAMP. Thank you, Judge CARTER, for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I just want to, as I begin, stand, as I think virtually everyone in this Chamber would do, and thank the men and women in uniform who volunteered to serve because whatever that call is that our commander-in-chief deems in our national interest and the Congress supports the actions for, they are the ones standing in harm's way. They are the ones willing to make the sacrifice.

Over this August district work period, like many of my colleagues, I spent a lot of time with the men and women in uniform from my home State. The 196th Field Artillery Brigade just got back from a year in Afghanistan. I welcomed them home, and then I traveled to Nashville to spend several hours with them and their families, going through the slide slows and listening to the success of their mission there. And I am so very proud that they would volunteer to serve and that they would be willing to step up.

So I begin today just by honoring them, and I know the House stands behind them. But where we are seeing some confusion is the messages that are coming out across the country here in the middle of a very divisive election year that, frankly, are at best mixed messages to our troops in the field and, at the very worst, not helpful at all. And I really hate that because I know that the Greatest Generation who set the standard for sacrifice and courage in our country would want us to attempt to work through our sometimes petty division and right now political division to stand at the waters' edge united against this threat. And there are people in this country who, frankly, do not want to acknowledge it. The Wall Street Journal editorialized last week and called it an ''aversion to conflict,'' meaning that there are people in this country that just do not want to be bothered. They do not want to accept the fact that these threats are real.

I also spent all of August reading, and I would encourage people to read ''Londonistan,'' how the radical Islamists, the jihadists, the people who are literally waging war and believe that death is the only end, are spreading like wildfire through Great Britain and Europe, through the mosque, and radicalization is taking place so fast that we need to wake up as a Nation.

□ 2100

I have been here 12 years. But sometimes I feel like Paul Revere. When you know something in your heart, you better not be quiet about it. You better speak out about it. The gentleman from Texas and I serve on the Homeland Security Appropriations Subcommittee.

For 4 years, we have had the detailed briefings of some of these threats. And while we cannot speak of some things, we know that Hezbollah is the A Team in terrorism around the world. Al Qaeda has been seriously hit by us. We have dismantled a lot of their operations. We have killed Zarqawi. We have had a lot of success.

But Hezbollah now has reared its ugly head in a way that threatens the entire free world. And they want, by their own charter and definition, the destruction of Israel and Christians. That is the truth. That is in their charter.

I would encourage you to read ''While Europe Slept,'' about the rest of Europe and the radicalization that is taking place there, and be sensitive to what is happening in northern Africa where just this week we finally established a U.S. command. Why? Because Somalia is at risk. I was there last summer in eastern Africa. I came back and talked about the problems that we face with the potential of the terrorist networks and the jihadists looking for a vacuum in leadership, the Sudan, Somalia, Algeria, where they can go in and find another sovereign nation from which to operate like they had in Afghanistan.

That was one of the great successes of removing Saddam Hussein, as we took Iraq out of the picture of having a sovereign nation from which the terrorists could operate. But this war has not gone perfectly.

But as Senator MCCAIN said 2 weeks ago on ''Meet the Press,'' no war we have ever fought went perfectly. We have never entered a war and not made mistakes. Of course mistakes have been made. That is the essence of war.

But I am reminded of what John Stuart Mill said about war. This is where the veterans come in, our troops in the field. He said: ''War is an ugly thing. But it is not the ugliest of things. The decayed and degraded state of moral and patriotic feelings which thinks that nothing is worth war is much worse.''

He said: ''A person who has nothing for which they are willing to fight, nothing they care more about than their own personal safety, is a miserable creature, who has no chance of ever being free unless those very freedoms are made and kept by better persons than himself.''

And those better persons, men and women of the House, Mr. Speaker, are our Nation's veterans. Our sons and daughters and friends and relatives that are in harm's way today looking back asking, often to each other, does this country stand behind us? Does the elected leadership of the United States Congress believe in this mission? Will we be successful or will we go home early?

Those are serious questions of war and peace, of freedom or tyranny, whether or not there is ever going to be a hope of us instilling some democratic systems in a part of the world that frankly is breeding hate and destruction directed right at us.

The chronology that you have heard some of today was articulated well by a U.S. Navy captain in Pensacola, Florida. I want to read it into the RECORD, and then submit it for the RECORD. It takes a minute, but this really capsulizes the threats we face that some people are in denial of, and some people do not want to acknowledge that this is worse than it was on September 11 in terms of the global proportions of the terrorist networks, the jihadists working together.

Hamas, Hezbollah, al Qaeda, it is growing. But it did not just start. He writes: ''It was a cool fall day in November 1979 in a country going through a religious and political upheaval when a group of Iranian students attacked and seized the American embassy in Tehran.

''The seizure was an outright attack on American soil. It was an attack that held the world's most powerful country hostage and paralyzed a Presidency. The attack on the sovereign U.S. embassy set the stage for events to follow for the next 25 years.

''America was still reeling from the aftermath of the Vietnam experience and had a serious threat from the Soviet Union when then President Carter had to do something. He chose to conduct a clandestine raid in the desert. The ill-fated mission ended in ruin, but stood as a symbol of America's inability to deal with terrorism. America's military had been decimated and downsized or right-sized since the end of the Vietnam war.

''A poorly trained, poorly equipped, and poorly organized military was called on to execute a complex mission that was doomed from the start. Shortly after the Tehran Experience, Americans began to be kidnapped and killed throughout the Middle East. America could do little to protect her citizens living and working abroad. The attacks against U.S. soil continued.

''In April of 1983, a large vehicle packed with high explosives was driven into the U.S. embassy compound in Beirut. When it exploded, it killed 63 people. The alarm went off and America hit the snooze button once again.

''Then just 6 short months later, in 1983, a large truck heavily laden down with over 2,500 pounds of TNT smashed through the main gate of the U.S. Marine Corps headquarters in Beirut, and 241 U.S. servicemen were killed.

''America mourned her dead and hit the snooze button once more. Two months later, in December of 1983, another truck loaded with explosives was driven into the U.S. embassy in Kuwait, and America continued her slumber. The following year, in September of 1984, another van was driven into the gate of the U.S. embassy in Beirut, and America slept.

''Soon the terrorism spread to Europe. In April 1985, a bomb exploded in a restaurant frequented by U.S. soldiers in Madrid. Then in August of 1985, a Volkswagen loaded with explosives was driven into the main gate of the U.S. Air Force base Rhein-Main. Twenty-two were killed and the snooze alarm was buzzing louder and louder as U.S. interests were continually attacked.

''Fifty-nine days later, in 1985, a cruise ship, the *Achille Lauro*, was hijacked as we watched an American in a wheel chair singled out from the passenger list and executed.

''The terrorists then shifted their tactics to bombing civilian airlines when they bombed TWA Flight 840 in April of 1986 that killed four, and the most tragic bombing, Pam Am Flight 103 over Lockerbie, Scotland, in 1988, killing 259.

''President Clinton treated these terrorist acts as crimes. In fact, we are still trying to bring these people to trial. These were acts of war. The wake-up alarm was getting louder and louder. The terrorists decided to bring the fight to America. In January 1993, two CIA agents were shot and killed as they entered CIA headquarters in Langley, Virginia. The following month, February, 1993, a group of terrorists were arrested after a rented van, packed with explosives, was driven into the underground parking garage of the World Trade Center in New York City. Six people were killed and 1,000 injured.

''Still, this was a crime and not an act of war. The snooze alarm was depressed again. Then in November, 1995, a car bomb exploded at a U.S. military complex in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, killing seven servicemen and -women. A few months later, in June of 1996, another truck bomb exploded, only 35 yards from the U.S. military compound in Dhahran, Saudi Arabia. It destroyed the Khobar Towers, a U.S. Air Force barracks, killing 19 and injuring over 500.

''The terrorists were getting braver and smarter as they saw that America did not respond decisively. They moved to coordinate their attacks in a simultaneous attack on two U.S. embassies in Kenya and Tanzania, where I was. These attacks were planned with precision. They killed 224 people.

''America responded with cruise missile attacks and went back to sleep. The USS *Cole* was docked in a port in Yemen for refueling on October 12, 2000 when a small craft pulled alongside the ship and exploded, killing 17 U.S. Navy sailors. Attacking a U.S. warship is an act of war, but we sent the FBI to investigate the crime and went back to sleep.

''And of course you know the events of September 11, 2001. Most Americans think this was the first attack against U.S. soil or in America. How wrong they are. America has been under a constant attack since 1979 and we chose to hit the snooze alarm and roll over and go back to sleep.''

Now, this was written by a U.S. Navy captain currently serving. This was his speech to a group. I submit it for the RECORD. You can take issue with that. But that is a chronology of what has happened. These threats are real and they are building, they are growing.

Ladies and gentlemen, when Zarqawi wrote a letter to Zawahari before we killed him, he said, use the infidel's, us, presence in the Middle East, Iraq, to expand the califate from Morocco to

Indonesia. Morocco is in northern Africa. It is in northwest Africa. Indonesia is way over here, east of Saudi Arabia and the Middle East.

The califate is frankly jihadist rule, expanding their territory. This is an aggressive plan, documented by their own words. People can deny this if they want to, but I got to tell you, our generation has been called to many, many challenges. And since the Greatest Generation set the standard for sacrifice and commitment, we have had it really easy in this country.

But we need to be honest with the American people. It is not going to be easy in the coming years at all. We are very fortunate we have not been struck again. We are kidding ourselves if we do not think they are planning another attack. We are kidding ourselves if we think that this problem will go away if we pull out of Iraq.

What will happen is it will give them momentum. It will cause them to recruit more jihadists and more suicide bombers, because they will see us in retreat. That is the truth. This problem is not going away. This problem did not just start either. It has been building. We just did not get serious enough about it until they actually took the Towers down, which they tried to do 8 years earlier, but their engineering was flawed and it did not work. That is when they wanted them to come down.

Ladies and gentlemen of the House, Mr. Speaker, we have an obligation to try our best to meet at the water's edge. I want these volunteer troops and the Guard and Reserve and active duty to see us united around this issue.

This is our call. This is so important. Our way of life is worth defending. Everybody is going to have their role. They say, oh, well, you are not over there serving. Everybody has got a role to play. The Greatest Generation, ''Rosie the Riveter'' was the spouse who stayed and worked in the factories and raised the kids so the men could serve. And they were people on the floor of this House standing with those troops. We need to do it again.

I will be glad when the next 62 days are over so this is not as much about politics as it is about doing what is right for the men and women in uniform, and for global security because the world is looking to us for leadership. And I am also grateful that we have had consistent and decisive hard-nosed Texas-tough leadership in the White House.

Because this is not a time for wimps. This is a time for us to be consistent and be resolute. The President has got a big heart. I have been with him when he has talked about the families of these troops and there were tears rolling down his face. He understands the sacrifice. He would never, ever put any person in harm's way unless he knew deep in his soul that it is in our national interest and we have to do this. Freedom is not free. We hear that so much we think, oh, that is just what the politicians say.

The sacrifices of the generation before us hang in the balance today. Are we going to rise to meet this or not? We have got to keep talking about it too. Even though we are in an election, this is about the free world and our leadership, whether or not we are going to stand with our allies, whether or not the people in Europe and across the world look to us for leadership or put their hope in organizations like the United Nations that have proved ineffective and today grossly corrupt.

The coalition of the willing are the only people willing to do it today, us and our allies, and tyranny and terrorism is on the rise. Let's not bury our head in the sand.

WHEN WWIII STARTED—1979

It was a cool fall day in November 1979 in a country going through a religious and political upheaval when a group of Iranian students attacked and seized the American Embassy in Tehran. The seizure was an outright attack on American soil; it was an attack that held the world's most powerful country hostage and paralyzed a presidency. The attack on this sovereign U.S. embassy set the stage for events to follow for the next 25 years.

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America's military has been decimated and down sized/right sized since the end of the Viet Nam war. A poorly trained, poorly equipped and poorly organized military was called on to execute a complex mission that was doomed from the start.

Shortly after the Tehran experience, Americans began to be kidnapped and killed throughout the Middle East. America could do little to protect her citizens living and working abroad. The attacks against U.S. soil continued.

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The following year, in September 1984, another van was driven into the gate of the U.S. Embassy in Beirut and America slept.

Soon the terrorism spread to Europe. In April 1985 a bomb exploded in a restaurant frequented by U.S. soldiers in Madrid.

Then in August 1985 a Volkswagen loaded with explosives was driven into the main gate of the U.S. Air Force Base at Rhein-Main, 22 were killed and the snooze alarm was buzzing louder and louder as U.S. interests were continually attacked.

Fifty-nine days later in 1985 a cruise ship, the Achille Lauro, was hijacked and we watched as an American in a wheelchair was singled out of the passenger list and executed.

The terrorists then shifted their tactics to bombing civilian airlines when they bombed TWA Flight 840 in April of 1986 that killed 4, and the most tragic bombing, Pan Am Flight 103 over Lockerbie, Scotland in 1988, killing 259.

President Clinton treated these terrorist acts as crimes; in fact we are still trying to bring these people to trial. These were acts of war.

The wake up alarm was getting louder and louder.

The terrorists decided to bring the fight to America. In January 1993, two CIA agents were shot and killed as they entered CIA headquarters in Langley, Virginia.

The following month, February 1993, a group of terrorists were arrested after a rented van packed with explosives was driven into the underground parking garage of the World Trade Center in New York City. Six people were killed and over 1,000 injured. Still this was a crime and not an act of war? The snooze alarm was depressed again.

Then in November 1995 a car bomb exploded at a U.S. military complex in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia killing seven service men and women.

A few months later in June of 1996, another truck bomb exploded only 35 yards from the U.S. military compound in Dhahran, Saudi Arabia. It destroyed the Khobar Towers, a U.S. Air Force barracks, killing 19 and injuring over 500. The terrorists were getting braver and smarter as they saw that America did not respond decisively.

They moved to coordinate their attacks in a simultaneous attack on two U.S. embassies in Kenya and Tanzania. These attacks were planned with precision. They killed 224. America responded with cruise missile attacks and went back to sleep.

The USS *Cole* was docked in a port in Yemen for refueling on 12 October 2000, when a small craft pulled along side the ship and exploded killing 17 U.S. Navy sailors. Attacking a U.S. war ship is an act of war, but we sent the FBI to investigate the crime and went back to sleep.

And of course you know the events of 11 September 2001. Most Americans think this was the first attack against U.S. soil or in America. How wrong they are. America has been under a constant attack since 1979 and we chose to hit the snooze alarm and roll over and go back to sleep.

U.S. Navy Captain from Pensacola, Florida.

Mr. CARTER. Mr. Speaker, I thank Mr. WAMP, and I thank him for sharing that letter from that Navy captain. I think that was very well expressed by that captain in the Navy.

Mr. Speaker, there is a lot of rhetoric going on. What we really need is we need, as Mr. WAMP has so very accurately described, we need to meet on the water's edge. We are waiting to hear plans for solutions. Mr. Speaker, if we do not stay the course, as hard as it is, whether it is hard politically, whether it is hard socially, whatever, if we do not stay the course, Mr. Speaker, I honestly think, as Mr. WAMP said, all the investment in freedom that we have made in the past will pale to the surrender that follows.

I thank you for your time, Mr. Speaker, and I thank you for allowing us to share this concern and this little bit of history. I yield back.

□ 2115

THE WAR ON TERRORISM FIVE YEARS AFTER SEPTEMBER 11—HOW SAFE ARE WE?

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. DENT). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 4, 2005, the gentleman from California (Mr. SCHIFF) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, next Monday will mark the fifth anniversary of the most calamitous day in the modern history of this country. Not since the British torched Washington during the War of 1812 has the American homeland suffered such a devastating attack. For all of us, the terrible events of September 11th remain an all-too-fresh memory that still casts a pall over our national life.

For the families of the more than 2,900 people killed in New York, Washington and Pennsylvania, the 9/11 attacks remain an open wound. Many of them have sought to redirect their anger and grief into ensuring that we as a Nation are secure and safe from future attacks. In pursuing this goal, they have only asked that our Nation's leaders be honest in assessing the state of our Nation's security, willing to address shortfalls in our defense and that we act together as Americans and not as Republicans and Democrats.

Mr. Speaker, bipartisanship has been at the center of America's national security policy-making for most of our history. In standing behind our Armed Forces, in standing up for our diplomatic priorities, in supporting the intelligence community and in supporting the President in times of crisis, Congress has often spoken with one voice.

This unanimity was never stronger than in the aftermath of the September 11 attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon. When President Bush addressed the Congress and the Nation on September 20, this Nation was more united than at any time since the Second World War.

That unity extended around the world, to friends and foes alike. In the wake of the attacks, NATO invoked for the first time in its history Article 5 of the NATO Charter, declaring the attacks on the United States to be an attack on the alliance. As American military assets rushed toward Afghanistan in preparation for the invasion that would topple the Taliban regime, allied early-warning aircraft patrolled American skies to protect us.

Five years later, this national and international unity seems quaint. Here at home, the President and his fellow Republicans have made no secret that they intend to exploit the 9/11 attacks and the war on terror for political advantage in the upcoming midterm elections, and they have sought to smear as unpatriotic anybody who questions their conduct of our Nation's security policy, most recently, as Secretary of Defense Rumsfeld did, likening war critics to Nazi appeasers.

Overseas, we are isolated. Where America was seen as a victim in the wake of 9/11, it is wrongly viewed as an aggressor. American troops are fighting and dying in Iraq while our closest allies sit on the sidelines, many of them refusing to help.

President Bush and the Republicans have not only squandered domestic unity and international goodwill, they have poorly prosecuted the war on terror and failed to improve our security here at home. Even as we spend $1 billion a week in Iraq, basic security here at home has not been improved as it should have been. This failure has been most clearly demonstrated by the administration's woefully inadequate performance in implementing the recommendations of the independent and bipartisan 9/11 Commission.

In fact, in December of last year, the 9/11 Commission Public Discourse Project, made up of the members of the commission, issued a report card on the lack of progress in improving our Nation's security. The report card was filled with Cs, Ds and Fs. In a statement accompanying the report card, Chairman THOMAS Kean, a Republican, and Vice Chair Lee Hamilton, a Democrat, said, ''Many obvious steps that the American people assume have been completed have not been. Some of these failures are shocking.'' What we have seen over the last 4 years, Mr. Speaker, has been a failure of leadership and a failure of initiative.

My friends on the other side of the aisle, as we heard tonight, I guess have decided that their best response to the criticism of the 9/11 Commission is to blame Bill Clinton. I guess that is the new national security strategy of my friends in the GOP, blame Bill Clinton. I suppose that would be fine if Bill Clinton was the President of the United States, but the last time I checked, it was George W. Bush and had been for a great many years. The last time I checked, it was a Republican House and a Republican Senate.

If we step back 5 years to the immediate aftermath of September 11th and we ask ourselves, would we as a country choose a course that would lead us 5 years hence to a place where we were mired in civil war in Iraq, where Osama bin Laden was still at large, where he and al Zawahiri were issuing a dozen taped messages just in this year alone, where North Korea is testing missiles to carry nuclear bombs that it has manufactured, where Iran is thumbing its nose at the international community and going forward with its nuclear program, where we have become more dependent on foreign oil, not less, how many of us would choose that course for the United States of America? I submit none of us would. None of us would choose that course.

The administration, all they can say is, stay that course; stay a course that has made us more energy dependent on the Middle East than ever; stay that course where Afghanistan's opium production now exceeds what it did under the Taliban; stay that course where sectarian violence is increasing and it is now a civil war in Iraq; stay the course where we have not protected the homeland; stay the course where we have earned Cs, Ds and Fs from the bipartisan 9/11 Commission. Stay the course is the best they can come up with.

If anyone is hitting the snooze button that my colleagues on the other side of the aisle refer to, it is this administration and this Congress. The majority has dubbed this Security September. Well, that has a lovely ring to it, Security September. The problem with Security September is I suppose that in October it will be something else. It will not be security month anymore. Security September will be over. What will October be? October will be, what is a good old term for the political agenda on the floor?

The problem is the Nation's security is not a political agenda to be talked about in the September before a midterm election under the quaint title of Security September.

My colleagues on the other side of the aisle say that everyone has a role to play in the Nation's defense, and with that I wholeheartedly agree, but who has the administration asked among us, other than those brilliant and brave Americans wearing the uniform of this country and their families, who has been asked to be Rosie the Riveter? Who has been asked to make a sacrifice? Has the President asked the American people to sacrifice on the war on terror?

When he was interviewed recently by Brian Williams, who said, Mr. President, many have criticized that you have not asked the American people for a sacrifice; the President said, no, that is not true; the American people have sacrificed. They pay taxes.

That, I guess, was the extent of the sacrifice Americans have been asked to make in the war on terror. The President could have gone on to say he has asked the American people to sacrifice by paying less taxes, by ringing up large deficits on our children to pay for the war, to pay for our own security. That is not the kind of sacrifice, that is not the kind of role that we have to play in the Nation's security.

Now I would like to go through briefly some of the criticisms of the 9/11 Commission that have not been addressed. One of the core parts of the Democratic real security plan is, we will implement the recommendations of the 9/11 Commission. We will put them into effect, and when we go through some of those tonight, we will see just how important they are, just how derelict the majority has been and the administration has been in not implementing these recommendations.

I am joined tonight by CHRIS VAN HOLLEN of Maryland and by DAVID SCOTT of Georgia, two leaders on national security issues, and I want to turn to them after I go through some of the failing grades that we have

earned as an institution and this Congress, under majority GOP rule and that the administration has earned.

First, in its report, the 9/11 Commission talked about having a national strategy for transportation security. The commission said, ''Hard choices must be made in allocating limited resources. The U.S. government should identify and evaluate transportation assets that need to be protected, set risk-based priorities for defending them, select the most practical and cost-effective ways of doing so, and then develop a plan, budget and funding to implement the effort. The plan should assign roles and missions to the relevant authorities, Federal, State, regional and local, and to private stakeholders. In measuring effectiveness, perfection is unattainable. But terrorists should perceive that potential targets are defended. They may be deterred by a significant chance of failure.''

Well, that was what the 9/11 Commission recommended. Now let us see what the 9/11 Commission said about how this administration and the majority have done. The grade: C. ''DHS,'' the Department of Homeland Security, ''has transmitted its National Strategy for Transportation Security to the Congress. While the strategy reportedly outlines broad objectives, this first version lacks the necessary detail to make it an effective management tool.'' C on the National Strategy For Transportation Security.

Airline passenger prescreening: The 9/11 Commission urged that ''improved use of 'no-fly' and 'automatic selectee' lists should not be delayed while the argument about a successor to Computer Assisted Passenger Pre-Screening continues. This screening function should be performed by the TSA, and it should utilize the larger set of watch lists maintained by the Federal Government. Air carriers should be required to supply the information needed to test and implement this new system.''

What grade did the 9/11 Commission, the bipartisan commission, give this administration and Congress? An F, failure. ''Few improvements have been made to the existing passenger screening system since right after 9/11. The completion of the testing phase of TSA's prescreening program for airline passengers has been delayed. A new system, utilizing all names on the consolidated terrorist watch list, is therefore not yet in operation.'' Remarkable. We do not have a unified terrorist watch list in operation that is trustworthy, that we can rely on to keep dangerous people off our planes. F, failing grade by the bipartisan 9/11 Commission.

Checked bag and cargo screening. The 9/11 report stated that ''more attention and resources should be directed to reducing or mitigating the threat posed by explosives in vessels' cargo holds.''

Well, that has not happened either. The grade here: D. Now, we all know we have got to take our shoes off and we cannot carry fluids on the plane, but you can still ship a crate the size of a piano in the cargo hold of a passenger plane, and it will not be screened for explosives. This is a glaring hole. We have known about it for a long time. The 9/11 Commission has talked about it, written about it, cajoled about it, as have the Democrats in Congress. What has been done about it? Very, very little. Precious little. Dangerously little.

Airline passenger explosive screening, the grade given by the 9/11 Commission for the administration and Congress work in that area: C.

Critical infrastructure assessment, where we determine the risks and vulnerabilities that will guide the distribution of Homeland Security funds to the most threatened areas. You would expect that when we are identifying what the risks are to the country, that we would go about it in a logical way; we would identify these are the most vulnerable sites, these are the areas where terrorists could cause the most catastrophic damage and losses, and we will prioritize our resources, addressing the most significant risks first.

Well, if that is what you thought we were doing, then you were wrong. Grade by the 9/11 Commission: D. ''A draft National Infrastructure Protection Plan spells out a methodology and process for critical infrastructure assessments. No risk and vulnerability assessments actually made; no national priorities established; no recommendations made on allocation of scarce resources. All key decisions are at least a year away.'' That is negligence with the Nation's security.

Information sharing between government agencies. The grade the 9/11 commission gave: D. ''Designating individuals to be in charge of information sharing'' within the government ''is not enough. They need resources, active presidential backing, policies and procedures in place that compel sharing, and systems of performance evaluation that appraise personnel on how they carry out information sharing.''

Intelligence oversight reform, grade given by the 9/11 Commission: D.

International collaboration on borders, grade given by the commission to this administration and this Congress: D.

Let me just talk about border security for a minute. Again, my colleagues on the other side of the aisle blame Bill Clinton. Well, that is great. Let us blame Bill Clinton for everything, but border security? We have had a Republican President. We have a Republican House. We have a Republican Senate. If the GOP wanted to pass border security, it could have been done years ago. Positions that we appropriated in this House to fill border patrol positions have remained vacant. The administration has not followed through.

Well, okay, Security September, maybe October will be border Security October. Maybe they will get around to it in October because, after all, the midterms are in November. But one cannot help escape the conclusion that this is driven by the midterm elections and not the national security of the United States of America, and that is wrong.

Those brave people that protected this Capitol when that plane was over Pennsylvania headed our way, those brave people that protected this Capitol deserve better from the people working in this Capitol. They have the right to expect that those working in this Capitol will use their best efforts to protect the rest of the country and not just with the midterm coming up, a couple of months away.

Now, I am joined tonight by two great leaders on national security issues, and I would like to turn first to my colleague from Maryland, CHRIS VAN HOLLEN, who has joined me on several of these national security Special Order hours, in fact, when it was not Security September, and I thank Mr. VAN HOLLEN for his leadership and yield to the gentleman.

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague from California (Mr. SCHIFF) and thank you for your leadership on these very important national security issues, and as you have suggested, national security issues should not be devoted to just 1 month. We need to make sure that we are watching after the national security every day of this year.

I am pleased to join you and Mr. SCOTT here this evening to discuss these issues because the President has said he wants a national conversation on national security issues in Iraq, but in the same speech, he begins finger pointing; he begins name-calling. Secretary Rumsfeld and Vice President CHENEY are out around the country name-calling and pointing fingers and trying to malign anybody that disagrees with them. That is not a national conversation.

Let us have a national conversation. I say, bring it on when it comes to a national security discussion here in the Nation's Capital and throughout the country because, unfortunately, if you look at Iraq, if you look at our national security policy and the implications of that policy around the world, you can see we have created a mess and that in so many ways we have made ourselves less safe than we could be if we had been smart, smart and tough as we went about it.

□ 2130

And it is very difficult to listen to President Bush and Vice President CHENEY talk about how if we only stick with their plan, we would begin to see a way out of here. After all, we all remember President Bush when he was on the aircraft carrier USS *Lincoln* back in May 2003, with a big banner in front of him declaring ''mission accomplished.'' May 2003. Well, here we are today in Iraq and we just had a report come out a few days ago from the Pentagon saying things are worse than

ever before. Clearly, we are a long way from mission accomplished.

We had Vice President CHENEY say more than a year ago that the insurgency in Iraq was in its final throes, and yet the report that came out just a few days ago from the Pentagon, a report I must say was required by Congress, it wasn't volunteered by the administration, Democrats in Congress pushed for a little small measure of accountability. Not what we need, but we got this report. And while the Vice President said the insurgency was in its last throes more than a year ago, the report says the Sunni-based insurgency remains ''potent and viable.''

And Secretary Rumsfeld, from day one has looked at Iraq through these rose-colored glasses. I remember when he sort of referenced an estimate by people at the Office of Management and Budget regarding the costs of the war as just a few million dollars. I mean, the figure he gave was peanuts compared to what we already have spent in Iraq.

So I say to all those people who for all these years have said to us, trust us, we know what we are doing, just look at your record. Let us have that debate and let us have a real national conversation on these issues. Because the mantra ''stay the course'' is not a strategy.

Do we really want to keep doing exactly what we have been doing when just a few days ago the report that came out of the Pentagon said things are worse than they have been in Iraq? Is that a strategy for success? Is that the plan for victory that the President announced last November at the U.S. Naval Academy in Maryland?

I represent a congressional district in Maryland. The President went there and unveiled his plan for victory, he called it. Again, we have a report just a few days ago out of the Pentagon saying things are worse than ever. So I say we need a national conversation. We need to work together to find our way forward here.

Mr. SCHIFF. If I can interject for just a second, we had a nonclassified briefing, so I can raise this point, before we had the August recess with Secretary Rice, Secretary Rumsfeld, Director Negroponte, and General Pace, and I asked a question that is based on your comments. It was acknowledged at that time that the sectarian violence now exceeded the violence from the insurgency.

I asked them how are we changing our strategy, militarily or politically, because the strategy used in dealing with the counterinsurgency effort and the strategy you use in trying to bring a halt to a civil war are two very different animals. So I asked, how are we adjusting to these new conditions on the ground? And the long and short of it was, we are not adjusting to the conditions on the ground. We are doing the same thing, the same strategy, the one-size-fits-all, the stay-the-course.

That, I think, given the history you have outlined, where this congressionally compelled report indicates things have gotten worse across almost every metric, not better, that stay the course just doesn't cut it any more.

Mr. VAN HOLLEN.

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. It doesn't. And what is unfortunate is people on the one hand are saying let us have this national conversation and then finger-pointing at people who raise questions about what is happening in Iraq and elsewhere in our national security policy, when any sensible person looking at what is going on would have questions. So let us really get together and have a genuine national conversation about these very important issues.

Now, you mentioned, and others have mentioned, that we are coming up very shortly to the tragic fifth anniversary of the September 11 attacks on our country, and I do think it is important to take a moment to reflect again on where those attacks came from and the reaction of the international community, which you have outlined a little bit. Because we all know that those attacks were launched from Afghanistan. They were launched by al Qaeda. They were launched by Osama bin Laden as the head of al Qaeda, and they were launched from Afghanistan because the Taliban government gave al Qaeda sanctuary there in Afghanistan.

When we were attacked on September 11, this country, and in fact the international community, responded. You already referred to the action taken by the North Atlantic Treaty Organization. But in fact also the United Nations unanimously passed a resolution saying they were with the United States in its fight against terror and they were with us in going after al Qaeda and Osama bin Laden. And in fact, when we went into Afghanistan, we were united as a country and the world was united behind us.

You would think, given a lot of the recent talk and rhetoric out of the administration, until just a few days ago, that Osama bin Laden had kind of been forgotten. We weren't talking a lot about Osama bin Laden. But now, just the other day, as we approached September 11 and the anniversary of that tragic attack, the President again raised the words of Osama bin Laden and the very real threat that Osama bin Laden and al Qaeda and their virulent form of extremist Islamic ideology poses.

But I think we should ask the question, given the fact that the President has now reminded us again of where those attacks came from, what are we doing in Afghanistan and how much progress have we really made? If you look at the situation now and you look at the southern part of Afghanistan, we have seen, by all accounts, including from the testimony of the Defense Intelligence Agency, the head of that is General Maples, that you have seen a resurgence in Taliban activities in southern Afghanistan. That is the hotbed of the resistance in Afghanistan. Yet, while we are seeing that resistance grow, we have actually seen a reduction in U.S. military forces in that area. That is not the way you address a real threat.

Secondly, this administration disbanded the one unit, the one unit within the Central Intelligence Agency that was specifically dedicated to targeting al Qaeda and Osama bin Laden. They got rid of it.

We have also seen reports today that opium production in Afghanistan is now at a record high, the highest levels ever recorded in terms of opium production. And those are funds that are able to be used by al Qaeda to help arm themselves and help promote their ideology and help promote their efforts against the United States and others.

At the same time, we learned today that Pakistan, Pakistan, has now entered into a deal with the pro-Taliban militia in the Waziristan portion of Pakistan, that rugged mountain area along the Pakistan-Afghan border, where the Taliban have been assembling and using as a launching pad for their attacks into Afghanistan. We have heard that Pakistan apparently is no longer going to sort of prosecute the war against al Qaeda.

So if you look at the state of play today, and you ask yourself what have we done to eliminate the threat that attacked us on September 11, I would say the answer is pretty clear. We have a long way to go before we can hang up a banner of mission accomplished. And we need to redouble our efforts in Afghanistan.

Unfortunately, what has happened is we have, as a result of the war in Iraq, diverted our resources and gotten ourselves bogged down in a very messy situation with a huge amount of sectarian violence, a budding civil war, civil war, whatever you want to call it. We heard from the Pentagon it is the worst situation they have seen. We have gotten bogged down there and we haven't finished the job against al Qaeda.

Yet, at the same time, we have actually fueled the forces that support the extremists. We have added to their allies. We have provided a great recruiting tool for them. And the biggest beneficiary of all has been Iran. The biggest beneficiary of all has been Iran, which is right there next to Iraq. They fought a long war with Iraq. During most of the 1980s Iraq and Iran were engaged in a very bitter war. But now, with Iraq in chaos, Iran is extremely well positioned and is taking advantage of the situation. They are emboldened and they are trying to expand their influence in the region through Hezbollah and through other proxies.

So I think as we have this national conversation, it is very important that the American people, not just looking at some of this rhetoric out there, but they really try to figure out what is going on. Because one of the biggest consequences of the administration's mistakes, and many of them are coming home to roost now, is that they

refuse to listen. They refuse to listen to many generals regarding the best way to prosecute the war in Iraq. They refuse to listen to the experts at the Central Intelligence Agency about the possible consequences within Iraq of taking the lid off Pandora's box and unleashing the forces between the Sunnis, the Shiias, and the Kurds.

They have all the answers, the administration. We have got all the answers. Who are you to question us? And you know what this Republican Congress said? You are right, you have got all the answers, so we are not going to ask you the tough questions. This was a blank-check Congress. No tough questions. No accountability. And the result has been very clear: when you ignore failure, or when you reward failure, you are going to get more failure.

So what we are saying is, let us have a real national conversation. Let us have a Congress that will begin to ask the hard questions.

□ 2145

Let's hold people accountable when they make mistakes.

The finger pointing, you have got to scratch your head, as you pointed out. We have President Bush in the White House. We have Republicans controlling the Senate and the House. They really have no one to look around right now to blame. Yet they still are out there in the field trying to tell the American people that somehow it is the other guy's fault that we are in this mess now.

It is time to hold them accountable.

Mr. SCHIFF. On that point, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, we had one of the very few hearings, you were in attendance, on Iraq in committee, after years of asking the committee leadership in International Relations to hold a hearing on the Iraq war. You would think it wouldn't be so difficult. We finally had a hearing.

During that hearing, I asked the administration witnesses, who has been held accountable for some of the disastrous decision making that has been made? Who has been held accountable for the standing down of the Iraqi army? Who has been held accountable for the intelligence failures that led to the Iraq war? Who has been held accountable for any one of these innumerable errors?

There was this long, painful, prolonged silence. And the answer was clear: No one. No one has been held accountable.

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. We know what the consequence of that is. We know what the consequence is. When you don't hold people accountable for failure, you shouldn't be surprised when you get more of the same. But more of the same is not a good strategy in Iraq. More of the same is not a good strategy in terms of our national security. These are tough, difficult issues. Nobody has all the answers.

So, it is very important that the Bush administration and the Republican leadership stop pretending that they have all the answers, because their view of the world has gotten us to where we are now, and we can be doing a lot better.

I want to thank you and Mr. SCOTT for your very sensible leadership on these national security questions.

Mr. SCHIFF. I thank gentleman. You really put your finger on it. The reality is that ''stay the course'' is nothing but more of the same. That doesn't cut it anymore.

I yield to my good friend, a leader on national security issues, David Scott from the great State of Georgia.

Mr. SCOTT of Georgia. Thank you very much. It is good to be here with you and my good friend, Congressman VAN HOLLEN, always a pleasure, and I commend both of you on your expert comments and thought-provoking comments here today.

Accountability is the issue that we just left trippingly off our tongues. Accountability. The timing is right now for accountability. ''The buck stops here,'' as Harry Truman said. ''The buck stops here.'' And the buck is stopping within 9 or 10 weeks, for we are right around the corner from true accountability. That is accountability with our customers, our clients, the people who put us here. They want some accountability.

We have all just come back from our August recess. Paramount on their minds is security. The American people have lost faith with the direction in which we are headed. Every poll speaks that. I don't care if it is the Fox poll, the CNN poll, the Washington Post poll, the ABC poll, every poll that has been taken speaks clearly; 63 percent of the American people are dissatisfied with the direction this country is moving in, in Iraq, and half of the people in this country are finally getting the picture, the ability to separate the war in Iraq from the war on terror.

That is very fundamental. That is a sea change. That has been a very serious part of our problem, and it has really been the Achilles' heel of this administration, of the Bush administration. I think a serious mistake was made in trying to link the war on terror with the war in Iraq, and we have had a muddled policy ever since.

It is no wonder then that here we are on the eve of the fifth anniversary of 9/11. If you would have told me 5 years ago, right after 9/11, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, that 5 years from now we would not have been able to catch Osama bin Laden; if you had told me 5 years ago that we will have expended 2,600 precious lives of our American soldiers in the so-called war on terror, and yet and still al Qaeda is still running around stronger than ever before and Osama bin Laden is turning out more videotapes and CDs than Michael Jackson ever did, 25 at the last count that he has turned out.

And yet for this President to say that we are winning this, that we are succeeding, that we are safer? We are not safer, Mr. SCHIFF, when the butcher that masterminded that mass murder of our citizens and citizens of the world on 9/11 is still alive, and yet we know where he is. And, Mr. SCHIFF, he is not in Iraq. That was the mistake.

What have we done? We have wasted precious resources, not only just in the lives of our precious soldiers there, but to the tune of nearly $3 billion every week. But Osama bin Laden is alive. Al Qaeda is alive. Terrorist attacks have increased over 250 percent since 9/11.

No, we are not safer than where we were. And, yes, we have an accountability coming, and the American people are saying one important thing; they are saying we need a change. We don't need more of the same.

Yes, the Republicans will throw out to us, if you get up here and criticize the President here, you are being un-American or you are not being patriotic or you are talking about ''cutting and running.''

We are talking as Democrats about being courageous, being bold and being smart. We will win this war on terror, but we will never win the war on terror as long as Osama bin Laden is running around on the border of Pakistan and Afghanistan. We will never win this war on terror if we do not realize we are going to have to develop better intelligence.

Military might alone won't do it, not in this war. We are not fighting states or countries. We are fighting non-state actors. We are fighting rogues. We are fighting folks who, like rats in the night, are looking for holes to scurry in. Now they are secure in that hole over there on the border of Afghanistan and Pakistan. And you tell me how far we have come, when the government of Pakistan just last week condescended to them to give the terrorists safe haven in that section of Pakistan and Afghanistan.

No, no, no, that is not winning this war. That strategy is not right. There is something wrong with this picture.

They can talk and say all they want to say about Democrats, but the American people are very delighted and very pleased that Democrats are finally getting this Congress to stand up and be Congress. That is what they elected us for, to provide the oversight, to ask the questions.

We control the purse strings. And before we turn loose these purse strings, we have to ask the questions the American people want to know. They want to know when are we getting to get and cut off the head of bin Laden? They want to know when are we going to arrest and solve this worldwide terror problem?

Who would have thought, 5 years? On this anniversary, as we look, let us look at the landscape. Let's look at it clearly. Who would have thought that a terrorist group named Hezbollah would be basically running the nation of Lebanon? Who would have thought that a terrorist group, Hamas, would be running the Palestinians over in Palestine? Who would have thought that

Iran would be on the verge of nuclear weapons? Who would have thought that North Korea would have eight nuclear weapons as we speak and the capacity of producing at least six or seven in a year's cycle? Unstable regimes.

And who would have thought that China would be eating our lunch in two ways, two essential ways; not only in terms of the free market and the market economy that they are developing over there at the same time they have a planned socialist economy, but the fact that they are one of our largest creditors, and we are one of their largest debtors. We are borrowing $328 billion from China, a huge debt.

Are we safer? I don't think so. And this administration has some serious questions that they have got to answer, and the American people are expecting it.

I hope, Mr. SCHIFF, that each night that we can come on this floor, and we are going to take this national security, and we are going to show the American people that Democrats are stronger on national security. You know why? Because we are smarter.

We are going to find bin Laden, and we are going to destroy him. We are going to beef up our resources in intelligence and the State Department because we know that this war on terror cannot be won strictly with bullets and bombs. It cannot be, for we are not dealing with a standing target to bomb. Nations we can. But we need to make friends with these nations.

We have got the world's best military, but because we are in Iraq, our military is coming off at the wheels. I am not going to get into very direct specifics on that; I don't want the enemy to know. This is going over C–SPAN to the Nation. I don't want our enemies to know just what our situation is. But you know what it is, and I know what it is.

Without question, we are the superior force. But, by Jove, we have got to keep it that way. That is the greatest deterrent to these terrorists, to know that we have that military capacity.

But we won't be able to win the war on military alone. We have got to beef up the State Department. We have got to make sure we have the kinds of relationships with these countries that no nation would do what Pakistan has done. That is unconscionable. That is one of the great defeats that we have had.

Democrats can change that. No, we don't want the same course. We want to get smart. We want to fight this war on terror, and we want to win it. And in order to win it, we have got to be smart.

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. SCOTT, I thank you for those words. They are right on the mark. You pose the question, who would have thought, and it is a good one. Who would have thought, here we are, 5 years after 9/11, that the mastermind of the butcher of thousands of American lives would still be at large? Who would have imagined that the strongest nation on Earth would not have succeeded in hunting him down and killing him? That is an astounding, astounding fact.

But I think the important thing here tonight is this country cannot, must not, accept this as the best America can do. We can do better. We can do better in aggressively taking it to our enemy. We can do better defensively protecting America. We have to do better.

The fact that this crowd that runs this House, that runs this White House, can't capture and kill bin Laden doesn't mean he can't be captured and killed. He can. He must, but not on the course this crowd is on.

The fact that this crowd can't stop Iran from developing a nuclear bomb doesn't mean they can't be stopped. They can be stopped. They must be stopped.

The fact that this crowd in this House and in the White House can't stop North Korea from testing its missiles doesn't mean North Korea can't be stopped. But it does require a certain competence in an administration. It does require a certain diplomatic skill in an administration. It does mean that you cannot alienate the rest of the world and expect them to come to your assistance, to rally to your cause.

We seem to compartmentalize and think that we can spurn the rest of the world on other things, and then on the issues that we care about, that we can count on them.

□ 2200

It hasn't worked that way. But just because this crowd has failed, it doesn't mean that failure is inevitable. It isn't. I believe in this country, as I know you do. I believe there is a better way. I believe the Democrats have a better way. I believe part of that better way is to make this country energy independent so we are not relying on these Middle Eastern nations.

Do you know why Iran can thwart the international community, they can thumb their nose at us? Because they are a petroleum-rich state, and petroleum prices are through the roof.

It is the same reason Russia can thumb its nose at the United States now, because they are awash in oil money. And part of the reason they are awash in that oil money is because we have that addiction to oil that this oil-soaked administration isn't willing to confront.

Mr. SCOTT of Georgia. Well, I think you are absolutely right, and I think a part of that is those who are at the helm, President Bush and those in the White House, are good decent people, but they are oil people. I mean, they think like oil people.

That is it, when our future is not in that way. We have got to have a clean energy policy. We have got to invest in our own farms and our agriculture products like corn and soybeans and sugar cane so that we can develop ethanol as an alternative. We have got to have a robust economy in this country that is based upon our own self-sufficiency of oil.

We should be going down to Brazil by the planeloads, learning and seeing what they have done. If Brazil can take their own automotive industry, their main means of transportation, and run it 80 percent on ethanol made from sugar cane, what is keeping us from doing that? Why must we be so dependent on Middle Eastern oil? It is the way they think in the White House.

Now, I am telling you, it is not just me here. You have been around this country; all the polls are saying it. Americans want a difference. They want a change in direction. Quite honestly, that is why you have two parties. That is why you have parties here. That is why the Founding Fathers made it that way.

One party cannot have it all the time, and the American people deserve a change. I am convinced President Bush has stayed the course. America says, no, no, we want a new direction.

Well, you can't take a new direction with somebody who says stay the course, do what the job has done, we are here, this is the way we are going with the Republican-led Congress. We have got to have some changes. Democrats are aggressive. Democrats are smart. We have shown time and time in the history of this country, when this country was in a world war. This President was in the world, the business talks about Naziism, he talks about fascism and he talks about all of that about Hitler.

All that time, who stood up to Hitler? Who was it who said the only thing we have to fear is fear itself? A Democrat, Franklin Delano Roosevelt. When the communists were threatening in South Korea and North Korea, who was there? Harry S. Truman, who said, the buck stops here.

When we had that missile crisis down in Cuba, when we were on the throes, right on the edge of what many say meant the end of the world if that had happened, can you imagine? It was a Democrat with steely eyes who stood there and looked Khrushchev in the eyes and had the courage. It was John Fitzgerald Kennedy, a Democrat.

Now, the world can rest assured this Nation will be secure in the hands of Democrats. We are waiting on the chance to provide the change and direction. I am just proud of our national security review by myself and Mr. ISRAEL, who for the past 3 years have provided leadership on this very issue where we have had great leaders like Senator Nunn, Senator Sam Nunn, who has provided the way, my friend from Georgia all the way in; and Sandy Berger, we have had men and women at the helm of national security that have done a fine job and we are here to do that job. This is the way for us to go, strong and smart.

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. SCOTT, I think this is the key importance of our being here

week after week, as you and I and Mr. VAN HOLLEN and others have. The country recognizes we cannot go on with business as usual in our national security. We can't just have a policy that says more of the same. More of the same has put this Nation at inordinate risk.

And so the country is asking, all right, we don't like what this crowd is doing. We don't like what the crowd in the House is doing; we don't like what the crowd in the White House is doing. What are Democrats proposing? And for weeks now we have been laying that out, in the pillars of our own security plan, where we will rebuild our military, because that is what it really means at this point.

Our military is strained so thin, stretched so thin, we are now using professional recruiters to try to recruit. We are getting bonuses to recruit people in the Armed Forces. We are using involuntary recalls. These men and women in uniform, they deserve our undying gratitude, because, boy, are we asking a lot of them, not only them but their families.

But our military is at the breaking point. Our forces are stretched, our equipment is degrading in the conditions in Afghanistan and elsewhere. It needs an investment, it needs to be better managed than this administration has done, and we will build that 21st century military. We are committed to the war on terror and to going after the heart of that war, which is Osama bin Laden and al Qaeda. When I was in Afghanistan, Mr. SCOTT, do you know what one of our troops said to me?

He said, Mr. SCHIFF, you know, we here in Afghanistan, we feel like we are the third front in a two-front war, third front in a two-front war. This won't be the third front in a two-front war under Democratic leadership.

Homeland Security? We will implement those recommendations of the 9/11 Commission that the snooze alarm policy, the snooze button policy this administration has ignored. In Iraq, we will recognize the facts on the ground, which is now a civil war. We will adjust our strategy. We will reduce and redeploy our forces so the Iraqis have to take control of their own country.

If Shiite and Sunni are determined to murder each other in large numbers, it is not the job of American troops to stand in the way and catch the bullets. We ought to play a supporting role; we ought to do everything we can to reduce the conflagration there. But ultimately Iraqis have to decide they want to be one country.

Finally, we will achieve energy independence. That is a key part of our national security agenda. The fact that this administration has failed in so many of these respects doesn't mean failure is acceptable or inevitable. This country has always done better and can do better, will do better.

Mr. SCOTT of Georgia. You know, that certainly doesn't sound like cutting and running to me. It says sticking and staying, but sticking and staying smart. Nobody is running away from this war on terror. You cannot run away from it. We are simply talking about putting our resources where they need to be. We are talking about building a military and not dragging it down. Let me give you one example of where I am talking about where we will make choices. Democrats will not make this mistake. Right now we are facing our military. We are trying to make choices about air superiority versus ground superiority. It should not be one versus the other. We have got to have both.

But here we have got right now, in my home district in Atlanta, Georgia, in the Atlanta metro area, I represent CBO county, Marietta, which is the Lockheed Martin base where we make the F–22s. Right now there is debate, the Army, the Air Force wants 318 F–22s. Well, we have got 75 already moving off the line, but they cut down their request now to about 125.

If the Air Force says we need 318, we should make 318. That is what the military says we need in order to maintain the superiority. The F–22 fights in the air and on the ground. We need that, but here is the rub. The rub is the Defense Department right now is saying we cannot even afford the 125.

Why? Because the war in Iraq is making us choose between how we are going to fit our military. That need not be. We need not allow the war in Iraq to be a drag on the resources of our military operation. No wonder you have Iran doing what they are doing. No wonder you have Syria and North Korea, China, even Russia.

No wonder we can't get around and even talk with Russia and the Eastern European countries about gathering up those loose nukes. Sam Nunn brought that to our national security meeting and made it very clear that quite honestly that is a number one threat to the security of this country.

So when you look at the entire fix we are in, we are talking about a reallocation of resources. Democrats are talking about being smart, taking our resources and using it, stopping the drain on it, making sure that we don't have soldiers who are going over into Iraq for the third and fourth tour, or having soldiers, last we had about 30,000 marines called up, their retirement was cut short and having to go back to Iraq.

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. SCOTT, let's look at this, let's look at this through the prism of more of the same, or stay the course, as our majority is advocating, as opposed to what we have outlined in a new direction on each of these items.

What does it mean to stay the course? Well, what it means in terms of energy independence is that we continue and increase our reliance on Middle Eastern oil, and all of the national security risk that entails for that country. That is what stay the course means on energy independence that we remain dependent on Middle Eastern oil.

What does more of the same mean in Iraq? More of the same in Iraq means most costly, the continuing casualties, American troops losing their lives and becoming severely injured. But in addition to that, more of the same in Iraq means if you look at the course of Iraq, it means an increase in the civil war violence, because when you look at the curve of the Iraqi violence, it has been a steady increase in sectarian violence.

So what does stay the course mean? It means stay the increasing course of civil war violence. The insurgent violence, which has been on the increase, the number of incidents over the summer reaching all-time highs. What does stay the course wartime policy mean? It means more insurgent violence.

Is that the course we want to stay on? The only, and, boy, I have searched, I have searched high and low for some good news to report out of Iraq. The only positive news I have seen out of Iraq has been in terms of the political development in terms of the elections in Iraq, the unity government.

But, unfortunately, that government has not been able to solidify its control over Iraq. It doesn't have the confidence of the Iraqi people. Unfortunately, if we stay that course, that doesn't offer much hope either. Homeland security, what does stay the course, more of the same mean for America under homeland security?

It means more Cs, more Ds, and for more Fs for our failure to do more for airports, nuclear plants, chemical plants. More of the same on the war on terror, more of the same means more messages from Osama bin Laden, more of the same from Zarqawi, more of the same bombings in London, Madrid, Turkey, elsewhere, more sanctuary in Pakistan. That's what stay the course means in the war on terror.

More of the same in the military means people on their third deployment, fourth deployment, sixth deployment. That is what more of the same means in the military. That just is not right for America.

Mr. SCOTT of Georgia. No, it is not, and more of the same means this, Mr. SCHIFF: this is the latest report on terrorism, what the facts are. On 9/11, more than 5 years ago, there was an estimated number of al Qaeda numbers worldwide, and on 9/11/2001 it was 20,000. Now, the estimated number of al Qaeda numbers worldwide is 50,000. Then on 9/11/2001, the number of al Qaeda terrorist attacks in the 5 years before 9/11, three.

The number of al Qaeda attacks in the 5 years since 9/11, 30. The number of days Osama bin Laden has been at large since U.S. military operations commenced in Afghanistan, 1,784 days and counting. What do we have to show for that?

If we look again at the 2,600 American soldiers that we have loss in this war on terror, good brave soldiers, where we score the more of the same, no more of the same, no more of this

staying the course on this course. We have got to correct the course and stay and fight the war on terror, deal with the situation in Iraq, but do it smartly with the resources we have.

□ 2215

NATIONAL SECURITY

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. PRICE of Georgia). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 4, 2005, the gentleman from Iowa (Mr. KING) is recognized for half the remaining time before midnight.

Mr. KING of Iowa. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate the privilege and honor to address you here on the floor of the United States Congress. I am pleased to be back in Washington, D.C., where we can join together and work together to resolve the issues that are in front of us between now and the election and after the election.

As I awaited this opportunity to address you, Mr. Speaker, and I listened to the remarks made by my colleagues on the other side of the aisle, I have to say that it is a bit depressing to listen to that litany, but as I look back across these Presidents that have done such a fantastic job, I think in terms of who was in charge when we got into those wars that were ended when they were in charge, it is the same person.

I don't take a great issue with the way the Second World War was conducted by FDR. In fact, I am quite proud of the way Harry Truman had enough vision and courage to do what he did to end the Second World War. But as I listened through the rest of that, who was in charge when the war in Vietnam began, and the first troops were sent over there by John F. Kennedy, who was in charge at the Bay of Pigs when air power was taken off to protect the lives of the Cuban freedom fighters who were caught out in the open and slaughtered in the Bay of Pigs, that was John F. Kennedy who decided not to provide the air cover that he had guaranteed them. They went in there thinking they had air cover, they didn't have air cover, and Castro has been in power ever since down there in Cuba.

I would go further. Not only did Kennedy send the first troops into Vietnam, but Johnson accelerated the operations that were there. As I listened along throughout some of these Presidential candidates, and I am just simply giving the balance on the other side, Mr. Speaker. I didn't come here to make a case to denigrate any of our proud Presidents that we have, just to put some balance in this perspective that we have here and hopefully I can get that done and then move on to some other subjects that I came here to talk about.

But the Johnson administration got to the point where Lyndon Johnson would not run for a second term of office. Those of us that were here remember that. He knew he couldn't win. The streets were full of demonstrators. Things had melted down in Vietnam to the point and melted down in this country to the point that he had lost confidence, and he came to the American people and said I will not be a candidate for a second term for President.

So that some characterize as a failed Presidency, and I just point this out to bring some balance to the reality of it all.

I also recall what happened in the aftermath of the issue that nobody is proud of, and that is the Watergate break-in. That put political power in the hands of the people on the other side of the aisle. And what was the first thing that they did with it? They passed legislation that said there won't be a dollar spent in Vietnam helping anybody defend anybody from the North Vietnamese. There won't be a dollar spent for a meal or a bullet or a tank or a gallon of fuel for air cover to protect the people that we pledged to protect.

And in a matter of a few months, the North Vietnamese stormed through South Vietnam. And you wonder why they couldn't defend themselves. They didn't have munitions to work with. They didn't have air cover support which we had pledged them. And there were hundreds of thousands, in fact, millions that died in the aftermath because we made a commitment and didn't keep that commitment because of political fighting here in Congress. Not because of the lack of the will of the American soldier or the lack of the will of the South Vietnamese soldier, for that matter, at least during that era.

And as we move forward throughout history and we bring ourselves up to the Clinton era, I just have a little note in my pocket from a speech that I gave a couple of nights ago. In fact, it was last night. Someone remarked in that meeting that I was at that they knew what the meaning of the word ''is'' is. Well, all I have to do is say that, Mr. Speaker, and I think it brings back to mind all kinds of images of things that went on through the 8 years of the Clinton administration.

I didn't notice that there were some strong remarks there, but I do remember the remarks that were made with regard to Sandy Berger, the proud adviser to the Clinton administration, and how he had provided for a strong military.

Mr. Speaker, there is something about the image of Sandy Berger with his socks full of secret documents at the National Archives that just belies any kind of image of Sandy Berger contributing to a strong military. In fact, on his watch, and on the watch of Bill Clinton, we saw our military be reduced from 2.4 million military down to about 1.4, perhaps even 1.3 million in our military. Now, that is not what you call contributing to a stronger military. That is reducing the military. That is what they called the peace dividend.

If you remember when the Wall went down on November 9, 1989, most of the people in the mainstream media thought that had to do with a family reunion between East and West Berlin families. But what it was, when that wall went down, the Iron Curtain came crashing down at the same time and peace echoed across Europe almost bloodlessly in what I would consider to be nearly a historical miracle.

But in that period of time after a couple of years and that soaked in and we got around to the 1992 elections, people in Congress then coupled with the President decided, and that would be President Clinton, decided we have this great peace dividend. Now the Soviet Union is no more. There is no evil empire out there. Of course, they wouldn't have called it an evil empire. That was Ronald Reagan that defined our enemy there. But the evil empire had fallen apart and been separated into its parts. And, of course, it wasn't equal to the sum of its parts. Each part was separate. They didn't pull together anymore. And the threat from a superpower from without diminished substantially.

When that happened, the decision was made here, Mr. Speaker, in this Congress, to dramatically reduce our military and take the savings and spend them on growing government programs. That is what was going on during the reign of Sandy Berger. I don't know how he was the guide that propped up and beefed up our military.

There are compliments that we can lay into every administration and criticism that we can lay into every administration, but it is pretty difficult to lay out a clear perspective that is subjective because all of us have a different viewpoint. We have that different viewpoint. It has driven us to come here to help serve the American people.

But out of this Congress needs to come a consensus that can help direct the American people, Mr. Speaker. It doesn't serve us well to be tearing down our effort of our military when they are overseas, when their lives are on the line for our safety, for our freedom, to win this global battle and this war on terror and provide an opportunity for freedom for the Iraqi and the Afghani people.

And who knows what might be next. Who knows what people might be next. Who knows who might be attacked next. But we are on the eve of the fifth anniversary of September 11, 2001, and I am standing tonight on the floor of Congress listening to a lamentation of sadness and despair because the resolve to finish this appears to not be there with some of my esteemed colleagues on the other side of the aisle. I regret that, and it saddens me.

But I ask: if they say staying the course is not a plan, and I am looking for some direction that can resolve this thing more quickly myself, Mr. Speaker, but if they say staying the course is not a plan, I have to tell you, it is no

plan to tear down the effort. You had better have a positive message. You better have a way to resolve this issue. Or it works against the American people and it works against the American soldier to stand on the floor of this Congress and say, This is not a plan. We're going to take a new direction. We will fight the war wiser than President Bush fights the war. But we're not going to tell you how. We're going to keep that classified.

That would be one of the few things kept classified that had to do with military, but that is because there is nothing to uncover. There is not an idea. There is not a plan. They don't have a way to fight the war smarter than it is being fought now, or they would tell you. They would surely tell you between now and the elections in November. But that seems to be still a secret.

So I say to them, gentlemen, what is your plan? Please tell the American people what is your plan. How would you resolve the issue in Iraq? How would you resolve the issue across the world where about 1.3 million Muslims have within them, maybe 10 percent that are sympathetic to, or actively supporting, al Qaeda? How would you resolve this issue?

And if as some of the people on the other side of the aisle say, Mr. Speaker, and that would include the minority leader, that Iraq was a diversion, that it really didn't have anything to do with the global war on terror, that the terrorists weren't in Iraq, that they weren't operating in there. Saddam Hussein, they claim, was not harboring terrorists and he was not fomenting any kind of terror. He was essentially a benign dictator that just tortured and murdered, in mass fashion, with weapons of mass destruction, his own people. That is the argument, Mr. Speaker.

I would submit this, then: If Iraq was a diversion and didn't have anything to do with the global war on terror, why did you vote for military operations to go in there? Don't tell me that you were duped by the intelligence of the United States, that you were given misinformation. That was the intelligence that all the world had, that all the world concurred with. This was the intelligence of America and the United Nations and Great Britain and Israel, and probably the intelligence that Saddam Hussein had as well.

We made a decision based upon the very best information that was available, all of us together. And now you want to say, No, it was a diversion. It was a distraction. We should have been somewhere else. Where? Well, anywhere else.

If Iraq could have been taken off the map, and I would challenge you on this, as a nation that didn't threaten us and didn't foment terror and didn't have weapons of mass destruction, all these things we know did happen, they are true, but you want to argue that they are not. If you could have taken Iraq off the map and wouldn't have had to worry about Iraq, what other countries out there, gentlemen, would you name that are nice and safe and we can cozy up to and we can take them out of the equation as a nation that might harbor terrorists, breed terrorists, foment terror, fund them or sympathize with them or have the kind of habitat that breeds them? Who can we take off our list?

Could it be Syria? I don't think so.

Iran? No, I don't believe so.

Even Saudi Arabia? Well, there are a lot of Saudis that were here 5 years ago in the air, came in to blow up Americans. So I don't think so.

Pakistan? There are thousands of madrassas teaching hatred there. Even though Musharaf has been doing a very good balancing job within Pakistan and he is making progress there, but we can't turn our back and conclude that the Pakistanis are all our friends. A lot of them are. They have done a good job of working with us. But there are elements from within.

What about Great Britain, speaking of elements from within? Can we take them off the list? It would have been a foolish mistake to do so, Mr. Speaker, as we found out just a few weeks ago as a plan was foiled to blow up as many as 10 or more airliners across the Atlantic Ocean that would have flown out of Great Britain towards the United States. That plot was put together and led by, some of them, born citizens of the United Kingdom, second generation people, who were taught hatred in their home and in their schools that didn't assimilate into the society.

So the argument that Iraq was a diversion just simply does not hold up, Mr. Speaker, because you could not have taken Iraq out of that equation any more than you could take Syria or Iran out of the equation today.

It is a false and specious argument and the American people know it, Mr. Speaker. The more it gets repeated by the other side of the aisle, the broader the margins of victory are going to be for the Republicans in November, because at least we have a rational process of thinking. We are a reasonable people. Even though we disagree, we understand a logical and rational argument, and we understand when one is not logical and it is not rational. It is not rational to argue that we didn't have to worry about Iraq if you can't name a country that we don't have to worry about today. You didn't have the vision then, you don't have the vision now, and that is where it stands.

Moving along now, Mr. Speaker, as I listened to the argument that we need to go to Brazil to figure out what to do about our energy crisis here in the United States of America, I went down to Brazil to take a look at that. I wish the gentlemen over there would sit down and have a conversation about this or maybe just simply, Mr. Speaker, tune into C–SPAN and I will fill them in on what one can find out in a place like that. You can go to Brazil believing that they have replaced 100 percent of their gasoline with ethanol that is produced from sugar cane. But you can't go to Brazil and come home believing that, because it is simply not true. And it is obvious from your first moments within the country.

I can give you some real numbers that put this in perspective. Of all of the fuel that is burned on the roads in Brazil, only 15 percent of it is ethanol. Only 15 percent out of the 100 percent pie chart, 15 percent is ethanol, of all the fuel burned on the roads by all the vehicles in Brazil. When you take the trucks and the diesel fuel vehicles out of there so you are just dealing with the ethanol gas market, now the number goes up to 37 percent. Not 100 percent. Even when you take the diesel vehicles out of it. That is respectable, though, I have to say. But it is only a little bit more than a third of what most people think is the reality in Brazil.

But 37 percent of the gas-burning vehicles that have the option of gas and ethanol, 37 percent of the fuel burned is ethanol. Then they burn a blend. You can either go in, pull in and buy a 100 percent blend of ethanol, or you can buy the blend.

The blend is actually a 25 percent blend. While I was there, they reduced it down to 20 percent because they didn't have enough ethanol to fuel their own vehicles. So I don't think Brazil has got the answer for us all here. They want $8 billion to build the capital to invest in their ethanol production because they want to double this production that they have, but they don't have the sugar cane to make enough ethanol to even blend their fuel up to 25 percent.

□ 2230

I would rather have that capital invested in this country where we can build an infrastructure here that is going to produce the ethanol that will replace the gasoline from the Middle East.

So I would simply submit that there is $1 billion worth of private capital that is being invested in this construction year in my little congressional district to produce renewable fuels, between ethanol, biodiesel, and wind, $1 billion in that sliver, that western third of Iowa, and we are kicking up our ethanol production. And if you want to see how to do it, come out there where we are doing it in America.

I see my esteemed colleague on the floor this evening, and I am quite interested to hear what my friend and the chairman of the Armed Services Committee, DUNCAN HUNTER, might have to say, and I would be happy to yield to him.

Mr. HUNTER. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank my good colleague, Mr. KING, for yielding.

And I listened, as you probably did, to some of the Democrat Members who were decrying the state of the world and ''woe is me'' and things are going

terribly, according to them. And as the gentleman took the floor, as I watched him take the floor, and started talking about the Republican legacy in national security that they were complaining about and the Republican legacy of peace through strength, I was reminded about coming here in 1980 when a guy named Ronald Reagan was running for President. And we just finished with a President who was very, very similar to Jimmy Carter, the gentleman who had his tenure in office somewhat truncated by Ronald Reagan, and that was Bill Clinton. And I thought of the fact that the Democrats entered the Clinton administration with 15 Army divisions, combat divisions, and when they walked out of the White House and that administration left, they had cut the United States Army by about 40 percent. They were down to 10 divisions, and many of those divisions were undermanned, and then I was reminded that they were the same people that complained that we didn't have enough people on the ground when we went into Iraq. And then I was reminded that, as we are talking about Iraq, and today there is a big hue and cry to get rid of Secretary Rumsfeld among the Democrats, in the Democrat cloakroom, thankfully, 6,000 miles away that sentiment is not shared by the Americans who are reenlisting in the combat zone, in places like the Sunni triangle, where the 101st is well over 100 percent of their expected reenlistment rate. The First Marine Division out in the very dangerous Anbar Province is up well over 100 percent of their expected reenlistment rate. So the people that serve in combat under Don Rumsfeld seem to like him.

But I was reminded, as I listened to that ''woe is me'' discussion by the Democrats, that it is the Republican Party that is the party of peace through strength, and the American people rely on us to do that. And I think that is one reason they are trying to pull down Secretary Don Rumsfeld.

And I thought it was interesting today, as the President announced that Khalid Shaikh Mohammad, the mastermind of the attack that drove those planes into New York, into Washington, D.C., and into Pennsylvania, will soon be coming to a courtroom near us in the United States because he was captured and he was interrogated and others were interrogated in what the Democrats call inhumane methods, even though our lawyers and all of the people who scrutinized the methods of interrogation found that they were legal methods of interrogation, uncomfortable but legal and not torture, and that that person and others who joined him, his team of terrorists who joined him in masterminding the 9/11 attacks on America, will be coming to a courtroom near us, soon to be prosecuted, truly brought to justice because of the leadership of this administration and because of some of these methods of interrogation that have been associated with Secretary of Defense Don Rumsfeld. And the President laid out today how thousands of Americans had their lives spared, how we stopped attacks and we stopped plots to attack our country in mid course, including not only attacks that would include explosives but also attacks that would include things like anthrax, because we had a forward-leaning, tough, aggressive posture in this war against terror.

So as the Democrats sip their lattes and find themselves very comfortable in what they describe as a very uncomfortable world, the reason they are able to be here having enjoyed almost 5 years after the 9/11 attack with no further attacks on the United States is partly because we had a President with an aggressive, forward-leaning policy against terrorism; that he went out and took them on; that he hunted them down in places where they didn't think they would ever be found, with the leadership of Don Rumsfeld, and we kept them off balance. And because of that, because they were kept off balance, because we penetrated them, because we were able to get into their cells and we were able to discover who was masterminding these plots against the United States, we were able to keep our people safe.

And I am further reminded that when Don Rumsfeld's military, our military, led by General Tommy Franks, was driving that iron spearhead up toward Baghdad, you already had the Democrats complaining that there were not enough troops and that he would get bogged down. And as you saw them on talk shows, the talk shows in which Democrats were complaining that he would get bogged down were interrupted by news announcements that Tommy Franks had taken yet other stronghold of Saddam Hussein. And they would seem to be almost disappointed rather than joyous when they would hear that American troops had, in fact, mowed down another line of defense by Saddam Hussein; so they stopped criticizing for a while. Then after we took Baghdad, the criticism started again. And this time the criticism was what I called the ''both ways criticism.'' In the same discussion, a Democrat leader would say we need to have more troops on the ground and in the next sentence he would say we want to have an Iraqi face on the security apparatus. Well, how do you have an Iraqi face on a security apparatus if you stuff enough troops into that country to have a GI on every corner? The facts are you cannot have it both ways.

And then the other criticism was, we should have kept the Iraqi military intact.

The Iraqi military had over 10,000 Sunni generals. What do you do with 10,000 Sunni generals? You don't do anything. And that is what the army would have done to secure Iraq: nothing. The idea of having that army where corruption was the order of the day, where you had people who were simply following their own political agenda and making their own way and making their own profits and the idea that we would maintain that army as the new safeguard or security force in Iraq to protect this fledgling, newly elected, democratically elected government coming up makes no sense at all. The smartest thing we ever did was starting with scratch with that military and teaching the new army the chain of command; teaching them respect both up and down the chain of command; teaching them to take responsibility; teaching them to have a thing called NCOs, noncommissioned officers; teaching them to be decent to people; teaching them not to be corrupt. And that is why today the best force that we have in Iraq is not the police force, is not the security force. It is the military. And even people who have criticized this administration in the way they conducted the war concur that there is a strong core in this Iraqi army. That is because we built it from scratch, and we didn't start with 15,000 Sunni generals.

Now, the last thing, and I have mentioned it, that the administration was condemned for and that Don Rumsfeld became a lightning rod for was uncomfortable interrogation methods. Well, you know, the world is a tough place, and the people that we are dealing with are not made out of cotton candy. And the fact that we were able to get information from terrorists because they are the ones that have the information, not Americans, but because the terrorists are the ones that have the information, the fact that we were able to get that information from them and use that to stop other actions against the United States before they could mature, before they could result in American casualties accrued to the benefit of America's security.

So when I look at this ''woe is me'' and we have got the real security plan and if we had only taken the other road, you will notice that the road not taken is always the smoothest one, where we had all the Sunni generals, that we would have used those to somehow bring security to Iraq, or if we had stuffed enough GIs into Iraq that somehow there would not be any car bombings or would not be any violence, or if we would just ask people politely to give up the names of their co-terrorists, they would do that and we wouldn't have to be tough on them in interrogations. All those positions, I think, define why the American people, Democrats and Republicans, rely on Republicans for national security.

And I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. KING of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I thank the chairman for coming to the floor and speaking on behalf of our military men and women. And as I listened to his presentation, it was very welcomed from my perspective.

I wonder if the chairman would yield for a question.

Mr. HUNTER. Absolutely.

Mr. KING of Iowa. Chairman HUNTER, I would ask you, would you care to comment on the remarks on the position that Iraq is a diversion on this global war on terror and it didn't have anything to do with Osama bin Laden and al Qaeda?

Mr. HUNTER. I think that comment that somehow this is a neat, tidy package and if we just confined ourselves to Afghanistan, somehow we would win the war against terror and we wouldn't have to worry about Iraq is a naive position.

The facts are that we learned after 9/11 that if we didn't change the world, the world was going to change us. And having an Iraq that has a modicum of freedom, that is not an enemy of the United States and will not be a springboard to future terrorism accrues to the benefit of generations of Americans. It is not something you can put on a bumper sticker, but having some change in that part of the world.

And one manifestation of that change that was little noticed was when, during the conflict between Israel and Hezbollah, Hezbollah sought rearmaments from Iran, and Iran, according to reports, sent off a plane full of new missiles to throw at the defenseless civilian populations in Israeli cities, and Iraq would not let them fly over. So they said, okay, we will try to fly over Turkey. And Turkey said, You can come into our aerospace but only if you land and we can search your plane. And Iran then turned the plane around and took it back home and did not deliver the missiles.

Now, that is only a small thing. On the other hand, it could be a big thing for the people who might have felt the impact of those warheads in Israeli cities. But that was an Iraq whose government was not friendly to terrorists. That was an Iraq whose government was supportive of free people. And that was because of the American position in Iraq and the fact that we have changed the face of Iraq.

Now, there is something I think all American troops should see because they are hearing this constant drumbeat now from the Democrats that the casualties have been in vain, that their efforts have been in vain, that this is all a terrible fiasco. I think that every American who serves should be shown the excavations that are taking place in Iraq right now, those mass graves wherein if you watch the History Channel, you might have seen some of this about a month ago where American anthropologists and scientists are excavating the mass graves, where Saddam Hussein's people would herd hundreds and thousands of people and in many cases would shoot the mother holding her baby in the back of the head. And then when the scientists would examine the skull of the little baby, they would notice it too would have a pistol bullet hole in the back of its head. Double execution, mother and baby. I think all Americans that serve over there should see the photos of those Kurdish mothers whose bodies are strewn out across the hillsides still holding their babies, killed in mid stride by Chemical Ali.

And I am reminded of a Democrat President who stood on the west steps of this Capitol many years ago and said, Let the word go out, let friend and foe alike know that America will bear any burden to support the cause of freedom. And I am paraphrasing, of course, John Kennedy. What happened to those Democrats? What value do they place on those thousands of people who were pushed into mass graves?

In fact, I think one farmer testified about Saddam Hussein's executioners that they had an execution squad that would show up at about 9 o'clock on his farm. They had an excavation squad or team that would show up with construction equipment, and they would dig these big trenches on his farm in the morning, and then the execution squad would arrive, and then they would truck in the unfortunate villagers who were going to be executed. They would line them up and shoot them in the back of the head, push them into this big cut that they had made in the Earth, and then they would cover them up with bulldozers.

□ 2245

As I recall at one point, the farmer said that one day the execution squad, the logistics guy did not show up so they did not have any bullets. So he said, what the heck. They just pushed the people in alive and covered them up without shooting them. It did not make a lot of difference to them.

Those historical excavations, and that record of human suffering and human tragedy that was visited on those people, that should be shown. Because that is the work of Saddam Hussein. That should be shown to every GI, every marine, every navy corpsman that serves out there in that tough Fallujah area, and al Ramadi with the marines, every airman who flies those long lifts, bringing and keeping that logistical train going between American bases and that area of operation.

Every one of them ought to be shown the full story of what Saddam Hussein did and what he was. And the idea that we can turn that country where the ruler did that to those people, to a country who, when Iran says we want to fly these missiles over your air space so we can kill people in Israel says ''no, we are not going to let you do that. Go back''.

To me that is a remarkable thing. Now, you know, the freedom of the Iraqi people is not guaranteed by this operation in perpetuity. Nobody's freedom is guaranteed in perpetuity including our own. We are developing them, a freedom for that country. We are giving them a running start at freedom. I think it was Ben Franklin one time who said, we have our freedom, now if we can keep it. It will be up to them to keep it.

But we learned after 9/11 that if we did not change the world, the world was going to change us. This is far-reaching. This is visionary. This is going beyond Fortress America that somehow we must have said something wrong to these extremists to come after us and bomb us and do these things to us.

And you know, I have thought about this idea that somehow what did we do wrong to invite this strike against America? I thought about that. I thought about the last couple of wars we fought. Two wars ago it was the invasion of Kuwait by Saddam Hussein. Kuwait is a Muslim country. We saved it.

And then we went in and we saved hundreds of thousands of Muslims in the Balkans, in Bosnia. We had that record. And the reward that we got from the extremists was for them to attack the United States of America. So what more could we do? So this idea of this flagellation of America is something that is reviving in the Democratic party. I think you probably noticed that. It is coming to the fore. It is, we did something wrong. And it is not Khalid Sheikh Mohammad, the real devils in this operation, according to the Democrats, are not these people that we are going after who have tried to kill thousands of Americans, it is really our leaders.

Those are the people that they say are the bad people. And it is not the guys that our great intelligence agencies and military people manage to bring to justice that we will soon see in a court of justice being tried I believe for murder, among other things.

But it is the methods of these uncomfortable methods that were used to get them to tell about people that were planning to kill Americans and fly planes into our country loaded with explosives and do the other things that the President talked about today. This blame America first thing is reviving on the Democrat side of the aisle.

I do not think the American people are going to buy it.

Mr. KING of Iowa. I thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would take this to another level of this vision too. Before I do that, I would point out that I sometimes have some opportunities to sit down and talk to people who were raised in Iraq. Some of them are refugees that have found their way here. There is just a certain bond and affinity between Iraqi and Americans today because they understand and they appreciate the sacrifice and the commitment that has given them now an opportunity.

I recall a conversation with a young lady who was raised in the north up near Kirkuk. And she said that no one admitted that they had any boys in the family. The houses in that town all had hidden compartments in them. If they had a boy they had hidden compartments. So when Saddam's men came to town, those boys crawled into those hiding places within those homes to hide from the military recruiters.

They would pick those young men up and haul them off to the military and they would never know where they went and they would never see them again. The girls could go out and play, but the boys could not. They had to be kept in hiding, like young little Anne Frank hiding in their home and growing up and trying to make a happy life out of this.

But I would take this image, that we had Iowa Guard troops on the ground in Afghanistan helping to guard the routes to and those polling places that were there. The first time in the history of the world that those people had ever voted on that place in the planet.

And we have seen the Iraqi people go to the polls, and three times pull off a successful election, when the naysayers on the other side of the aisle said it cannot be done, there is too much violence, and the Iraqi people really cannot handle this Democratic process.

Think about what this means. The inspiration that Afghanistan is today, and the inspiration that Iraq is becoming. I see those two nations as the loadstar for the world of Islam. And if Islam can see that they can live in compatibility with freedom and prosper and turn their focus, as Benazir Bhutto, the former prime minister of Pakistan told me shortly after September 11, she came to Buena Vista University in Storm Lake, Iowa, and gave an outstanding speech.

And we sat down afterwards one on one and had a conversation. And I asked her a couple of questions, that I remember, at least. And one of them was, what percentage of the Muslims are really inclined to be supportive of or sympathetic to al-Qaeda? And her answer was, not very many, perhaps 10 percent. A very quick answer which told me that she had thought about it.

Daniel Pipes used the number 15 percent in his book Radical Islam, I think, Visits America or something very close to that. 15 percent. So when you think about what that means, I said how can we get to this point? How do we define victory, and how do we achieve victory?

And she said, you have got to give them freedom, you have got to give them a chance at democracy. And if you do that, they will turn their focus then from hatred and killing and jealousy, and the kind of things that motivate people to evil, their focus will be to good.

It will be to build their families and build their communities and build their countries and make that stronger. Take those goals, and now they have an opportunity to reach for. But today, their energy is being used in hatred and being taught in madrassas to hate people that are not like them.

So when you think about it in terms of Iraq and Afghanistan becoming the lodestar nations, they are the inspiration for the world of Islam. I want to say to the Arab world, but then we have got countries like Iran that are really not Arab they are Persian. But the inspiration for those countries to know that they can become free, and then index that to that historical miracle that I referenced a little earlier about how freedom echoed across eastern Europe when the Berlin Wall and the Iran Curtain came crashing down, that historical

miracle can be replicated in the Middle East, probably not as fast, certainly not as easy, maybe it takes a lot longer, maybe it is not as pretty when it is done, but there is an opportunity there to find a way to finally win.

Our alternatives become, promote freedom as the President has done, that is the Bush doctrine. And in that freedom, change the habitat that breeds terror. And if we go the other route, if we go the route to the poor me's, the lamentations, the everything is wrong and we would have been smarter, we just cannot tell you even in hindsight how, and we certainly are not going to give you any foresight as to how to be smarter, if we go that route, then our alternative, and there only being two, the first one is the road to freedom, to change the habitat that breeds terror.

The other road is for the United States of America to curl up in a fetal position and guard every bus stop and every school and every hospital and every football stadium, and still be attacked and still see our families blown to bits by people that hate us. We cannot prevail in this war, this clash of these two civilizations by simply playing defense and thinking it is a law enforcement mission. It is a matter of defending ourselves militarily, putting our resources at the tip of the spear, but it is also a matter of changing that habitat, so that freedom can grow and prosper.

When that day comes, and I believe that freedom burns in the heart of every person, and I believe it is in the future of everyone on this earth. When that day comes, we will be a lot closer to freedom than we are today. Free people never go to war against other free people.

I particularly appreciate the chairman and ask him if he has any other remarks to make.

Mr HUNTER. Mr. Speaker, I think the last thing the gentleman said, and I appreciate you letting me come in and butt in here and talk a little bit. But you know Great Britain has nuclear weapons. But we do not fear Great Britain because Great Britain is free. France has nuclear weapons. We do not fear France because France is free.

The Soviet Union, former Soviet Union, now Russia has nuclear weapons, residual from their days as the center of the Soviet Empire. But they are becoming free. They are still a fragile country that is trying to move in that direction. Still with lots of problems. We have less worry about them today because they have more freedom than they had before.

So clearly bringing freedom to the world is an important part of America's own future, and an important part of our own security. And for those who think we can hold back in Fortress America and not change the world, and not worry about what the rest of the world is doing, that is a naive position.

It is one that politicians had a number of occasions in the last century, in which 619,000 Americans died on battlefields around the world. In many places and cases where we had forgotten that we achieved peace through strength, where we let our guard down, where we thought we could pull back into the United States and not worry about what was going on around the world.

This president is aggressive. He has been tough in the war against terror. He has been determined. That is probably his best quality. He does not read the polls every day. He does not check the wind every day to see which direction it is blowing. But his aggressive stance against the terrorists, running them down in places where they never thought that our forces could get to them, killing them at 10,000-foot elevation mountains in Afghanistan, taking them out in safe houses where they had no idea that we were on to them, going after them and taking them out and keeping them off balance is one reason that we have had 5 years without attacks on this United States.

So I thank the gentleman for talking about the Republican position on national security. It is too bad. I think it is too bad when we have to politicize or put a partisan face on national security. But I think it is appropriate when the Democratic leadership gets up and talks about the Republican position on security.

I think it is appropriate to remind them that we rebuilt our national security after we had the hollow army of the 1970s, we had 1,500 petty officers a month leaving the navy because they could not make enough money to feed their families. We had about 35 percent of our ships that could not sail, about 50 percent of our combat aircraft that were not fully mission capable.

And we rebuilt America from those days. We stood up to the Soviet Union and we disassembled the Soviet Union and we made the world a lot safer because we did that. We stood up to the Communist intrusion in Central America. When on this side of the aisle, the Democrats were writing Dear Commandante letters and talking about appeasement in Central America.

Because of that, those countries that were dictatorships when Ronald Reagan came into office are now fragile democracies where people get to vote, where they settle things with ballots not bullets. That is the legacy of the Republican Party. And it is the Republican party that rebuilt national security.

You know, we put $40 billion extra into the defense budgets during the Clinton years because President Clinton took our defenses down like a rock falling off a cliff. As I said, we had over 15-plus Army divisions when he came

into office. When he left we only had 10. When he needed money for other things in the budget, he just cut the military. We had to rebuild that force after that gentleman left office. We did it.

Today we are spending more than $100 billion more, not counting the operations in Afghanistan and Iraq than we did under the Clinton administration.

□ 2300

We still need to spend more. We are spending about 4 percent of GDP on defense today. Under John Kennedy, a conservative Democrat who believed in peace through strength, we were spending 9 percent of GDP on defense, and under Ronald Reagan, we were spending 6 percent. Probably, we are going to need to go up to about 4½ or 5 percent of GDP being spent on defense to make sure that we ensure security for the coming decades.

I thank the gentleman for his allowing me to come down and say a word or two this evening.

Mr. KING of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I thank the chairman. It is for a good cause, and as I recall, I believe that the percentage of our GDP during the Second World War was perhaps up to 26 percent for a period of time there. There was a real, real commitment, and as those numbers go down and you see the numbers in the military shrink, our commitment to our military has not been as strong as it might have been and needs to be stronger again.

We do not have a real handle on how broad and how deep this is going to have to be, but we must be ready at every quarter, and especially, this homeland security side has been for these 5 years, it has outstripped the expectations and the aspirations I think. I did not hear anybody say back on September 11, 2001, we can go a half a decade without an attack in this country. Everyone believed that there would be another attack. Now, heaven forbid it happens at this point or beyond, but I am grateful for work that has been done that has kept us safe to this point.

I would take us to another aspect of this issue, too. One of the things that this administration decided to do was we are not going to touch the oil in Iraq, and we set that aside for the Iraqi people. Now, that system over there is not shaping up the way it might be. There is a lot of oil in Iraq. It seeps to the top of the ground, and the wells they have drilled, there have not been new ones in years and years, and a lot of the infrastructure has not been rebuilt. That needs to all happen and get that oil online.

One of the first things I would do, if I were the prime minister of Iraq, would be to hold a bidding conference and bring in the oil companies and get them to inject international capital into the development of the fields and the development of the infrastructure so they can get that cash flow running, and if the cash flow runs, capitalism will take over.

I gave a speech in Baghdad a while back to the Baghdad Chamber of Commerce in the Al Rasheed hotel. As I walked in there, they started to introduce me. I said, just a moment, I would like to know who my interpreter is before you introduce me. They said, no, you do not have an interpreter. I said, but I do not speak Arabic. They said, you do not need to; these businesspeople speak English. There were 57 members there of the Iraqi Chamber of Commerce, and you could tell by the way they laughed and smiled and applauded, it was all timed just right. They understood English.

Afterwards we had a great gathering over on the side of the room, handing out business cards like frantic businessmen in a way. They wanted to exchange information and ideas. They are ready to do business in that country, and they are doing business in that country. The more dollars can come in and the faster that can get turned over, the closer they are to their own solution in Iraq. So I am optimistic that we get a solution out of there that bodes well when judged by history.

Sometimes we lose confidence in who we are as a Nation. I would take us back to a little over 100 years ago, and actually in 1898, we sent the military over to the Philippines. I recall being in this city about 3 years ago in a hotel when the President of the Philippines, President Arroyo gave a speech. She was not speaking to Members of Congress. I was kind of a random dinner guest, but she said, speaking of this random crowd in a hotel here in Washington, she said, Thank you America. Thank you for sending the Marine Corps to the Philippines in 1898. Thank you for freeing us. Thank you for liberating us. Thank you for sending the priests and the pastors there. Thank you for sending 10,000 teachers that taught in our schools and you taught your language to us and we learned your language. We learned your culture, and today, there are 1.6 million Filipinos that go anywhere in the world to work and send their money back to the Philippines because they have the language skills and they have the cultural skills that came because of the liberation that came from the American military.

How often do we read that in our history books, Mr. Speaker, that kind of an impact that, a century later, the expressions of gratitude that come from a national leader? That was an insurgency. That was an insurgency we fought in the Philippines and defeated at insurgency in the Philippines. That does not seem to be part of our national memory.

We can often learn from history, and we need to understand the economics and the sociology and the military tactics and put this all together, but we must have faith in who we are as a people. We must have faith in what has made us great. We must hang on to those things that are going to enhance that greatness and move America to the next level of our destiny. Once in a while we have got to discard some of those things that are not assets to us.

We have got to move into the future with technology. We have got to hang on to those core things that give us strength, and those things I believe are free enterprise capitalism, Western civilization and our biblical values, tied together as the three pillars that make America great.

So, Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the privilege to address this chamber and address you tonight. I especially appreciate the chairman coming down to stand up for American fighting men and women, and the job that you have done to lead us through these difficult years from September 11 and on into the future, and I will stand with you and our military men and women when one day hopefully it will be us, and if it will not, it will be our children and grandchildren that realize there has been a victory in this global war on terror and the face of the world will have changed and the world will be a freer place. A freer place is a safer place, and that is the goal and that is the call of the trumpet for us in this country.

OMISSION FROM THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD OF THURSDAY, JULY 27, 2006, AT PAGE H6010

BILLS PRESENTED TO THE PRESIDENT

Karen L. Haas, Clerk of the House reports that on July 27, 2006, she presented to the President of the United States, for his approval, the following bills.

H.J. Res 86. Approving the renewal of import restrictions contained in the Burmese Freedom and Democracy Act of 2003, and for other purposes.

H.R. 4019. To amend title 4 of the United States Code to clarify the treatment of self-employment for purposes of the limitation on State taxation of retirement income.

H.R. 5865. To amend section 1113 of the Social Security Act to temporarily increase funding for the program of temporary assistance for United States citizens returned from foreign countries, and for other purposes.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. DOYLE (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today and September 7 on account of personal matters.

Mr. GARY G. MILLER of California (at the request of Mr. BOEHNER) for today and September 7 on account of illness.

Mr. NUNES (at the request of Mr. BOEHNER) for today and the balance of the week on account of attending the funeral of former Representative Bob Mathias.

Mr. BILIRAKIS (at the request of Mr. BOEHNER) for today and September 7 on account of illness.

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:)

Mrs. MCCARTHY, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. DEFAZIO, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. PALLONE, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. MCDERMOTT, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. MILLENDER-MCDONALD, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. WOOLSEY, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. HINCHEY, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. EMANUEL, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. SKELTON, for 5 minutes, today.

Mrs. MALONEY, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. KAPTUR, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. ETHERIDGE, for 5 minutes, today.

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. BURGESS) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. RAMSTAD, for 5 minutes, today and September 7.

Mr. OSBORNE, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. POE, for 5 minutes, today and September 12 and 13.

Mr. FLAKE, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. BURTON of Indiana, for 5 minutes, today and September 7.

Mr. BURGESS, for 5 minutes, today.

SENATE BILLS REFERRED

Bills of the Senate of the following titles were taken from the Speaker's table and, under the rule, referred as follows:

S. 466. An act to deauthorize a certain portion of the project for navigation, Rockland Harbor, Maine; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

S. 843. An act to amend the Public Health Service Act to combat autism through research, screening, intervention and education; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

S. 1899. An act to amend the Indian Child Protection and Family Violence Prevention Act to identify and remove barriers to reducing child abuse, to provide for examinations of certain children, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Resources, 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.

S. 2068. An act to preserve existing judgeships on the Superior Court of the District of Columbia; to the Committee on Government Reform.

S. 2694. An act to amend title 38, United States Code, to remove certain limitations on attorney representation of claimants for veterans benefits in administrative proceedings before the Department of Veterans Affairs, to make certain improvements in the area of memorial affairs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, in addition to the Committee on Financial 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.

S. 3613. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 2951 New York Highway 43 in Averill Park, New York, as the ''Major George Quamo Post Office Building''; to the Committee on Government Reform.

S. 3836. An act to reauthorize the United States Advisory Commission on Public Diplomacy; to the Committee on International Relations.

ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

Mrs. Haas, Clerk of the House, reported and found truly enrolled bills of the House of the following titles, which were thereupon signed by the Speaker pro tempore, Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia.

H.R. 4. An act to provide economic security for all Americans, and for other purposes.

H.R. 4646. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 7320 Reseda Boulevard in Reseda, California, as the ''Coach John Wooden Post Office Building''.

H.R. 4811. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 215 West Industrial Park Road in Harrison, Arkansas, as the ''John Paul Hammerschmidt Post Office Building''.

H.R. 4962. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 100 Pitcher Street in Utica, New York, as the ''Captain George A. Wood Post Office Building''.

H.R. 5104. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1750 16th Street South in St. Petersburg, Florida, as the ''Morris W. Milton Post Office''.

H.R. 5107. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1400 West Jordan Street in Pensacola, Florida, as the ''Earl D. Hutto Post Office Building''.

H.R. 5169. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1310 Highway 64 NW. in Ramsey, Indiana, as the ''Wilfred Edward 'Cousin Willie' Sieg, Sr. Post Office''.

H.R. 5440. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 217 Southeast 2nd Street in Dimmit, Texas, as the ''Sergeant Jacob Dan Dones Post Office''.

BILLS PRESENTED TO THE PRESIDENT

Karen L. Haas, Clerk of the House, reports that on July 26, 2006, she presented to the President of the United States, for his approval, the following bills.

H.R. 3549. To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 210 West 3rd Avenue in Warren, Pennsylvania, as the ''William F. Clinger, Jr. Post Office Building''.

Karen L. Haas, Clerk of the House, also reports that on August 2, 2006, she presented to the President of the United States, for his approval, the following bills.

H.R. 3682. To redesignate the Mason Neck National Wildlife Refuge in Virginia as the Elizabeth Hartwell Mason Neck National Wildlife Refuge.

H.R. 5683. To preserve the Mt. Soledad Veterans Memorial in San Diego, California, by providing for the immediate acquisition of the memorial by the United States.

H.R. 5877. To amend the Iran and Libya Sanctions Act of 1996 to extend the authorities provided in such Act until September 29, 2006.

Karen L. Haas, Clerk of the House, also reports that on August 14, 2006, she presented to the President of the United States, for his approval, the following bills.

H.R. 4. To provide economic security for all Americans, and for other purposes.

H.R. 4646. To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 7320 Reseda Boulevard in Reseda, California, as the ''Coach John Wooden Post Office Building''.

H.R. 4811. To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 215 West Industrial Park Road in Harrison, Arkansas, as the ''John Paul Hammerschmidt Post Office Building''.

H.R. 4962. To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 100 Pitcher Street in Utica, New York, as the ''Captain George A. Wood Post Office Building''.

H.R. 5104. To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1750 16th Street South in St. Petersburg, Florida, as the ''Morris W. Milton Post Office''.

H.R. 5107. To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1400 West Jordan Street in Pensacola, Florida, as the ''Earl D. Hutto Post Office Building''.

H.R. 5169. To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1310 Highway 64 NW. in Ramsey, Indiana, as the ''Wilfred Edward 'Cousin Willie' Sieg, Sr. Post Office''.

H.R. 5540. To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 217 Southeast 2nd Street in Dimmitt, Texas, as the ''Sergeant Jacob Dan Dones Post Office''.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. KING of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 11 o'clock and 7 minutes p.m.), the House adjourned until tomorrow, Thursday, September 7, 2006, at 10 a.m.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 8 of rule XII, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

9085. A letter from the Director, Office of Energy Policy and New Uses, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule — Office of Energy Policy and New Uses; Designation of Biobased Items for Federal Procurement (RIN: 0503-AA26) received August 24, 2006, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

9086. A letter from the Chairman and CEO, Farm Credit Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Organization; Termination of System Institution Status (RIN: 3052-AC29) received August 14, 2006, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

9087. A letter from the Assistant Administrator, Bureau for Legislative and Public Affairs, United States Agency for International Development, transmitting the Agency's report as required by Pub. L. 109-113; to the Committee on Appropriations.

9088. A letter from the Director, International Cooperation, Department of Defense, transmitting Pursuant to Section 27(f)

of the Arms Export Control Act and Section 1(f) of Executive Order 11958, Transmittal No. 19-06 informing of an intent to sign the Joint U.S./U.K. Studies on Ballistic Missile Defense Lethality Project Arrangement between the United States and the United Kingdom, pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 2767(f); to the Committee on Armed Services.

9089. A letter from the Under Secretary for Acquisition, Technology and Logistics, Department of Defense, transmitting the National Defense Stockpile Annual Materials Plan (AMP) for fiscal year 2007, pursuant to 50 U.S.C. 98h-5; to the Committee on Armed Services.

9090. A letter from the Under Secretary for Acquisition, Technology and Logistics, Department of Defense, transmitting the Department's report on the feasibility and desirability of capital budgeting for major defense acquisition programs, pursuant to Section 1004 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2006; to the Committee on Armed Services.

9091. A letter from the Under Secretary for Personnel and Readiness, Department of Defense, transmitting the Department's report on the implementation plan for accession of persons with specialized skills, pursuant to Public Law 108-375; to the Committee on Armed Services.

9092. A letter from the Under Secretary for Acquisitions, Technology and Logistics, Department of Defense, transmitting the Department's report on the amount of purchases from foreign entities in fiscal year 2005, pursuant to Public Law 108-287, section 8032(b); to the Committee on Armed Services.

9093. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Energy, transmitting a report concerning plutonium storage at the Savannah River Site, located near Aiken, South Carolina, pursuant to Public Law 107-314, section 3183; to the Committee on Armed Services.

9094. A letter from the General Counsel, FEMA, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP); Appeal of Decisions Relating to Flood Insurance Claims [FEMA-2005-0057] (RIN: 1660-AA41) received August 14, 2006, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

9095. A letter from the Acting Chairman and President, Export-Import Bank, transmitting a report on transactions involving U.S. exports to Mexico pursuant to Section 2(b)(3) of the Export-Import Bank Act of 1945, as amended; to the Committee on Financial Services.

9096. A letter from the Secretary and Chairman, Federal Trade Commission and Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, transmitting a copy of the Commission's and the Board's Report to Congress Under Sections 313(b) of the Fair and Accurate Credit Transactions Act of 2003; to the Committee on Financial Services.

9097. A letter from the Secretary, Securities and Exchange Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — Amendments to the Informal and Other Procedures; Public Company Accounting Oversight Board Budget Approval Process [Release Nos. 33-8724; 34-54168] received August 19, 2006, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

9098. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Division of Corporation Finance, Securities and Exchange Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — Executive Compensation and Related Person Disclosure [Release Nos. 33-8732; 34-54302; IC-27444; File No. S7-03-06] (RIN: 3235-AI80) received August 14, 2006, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

9099. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Education, transmitting the Department's final rule — Assistance to States for the Education of Children with Disabilities and Preschool Grants for Children with Disabilities (RIN: 1820-AB57) received August 9, 2006, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

9100. A letter from the Assistant General Counsel for Regulations, Office of General Counsel, Department of Education, transmitting the Department's ''Major'' final rule — Assistance to States for the Education of Children with Disabilities and Preschool Grants for Children with Disabilities (RIN: 1820-AB57) received August 16, 2006, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

9101. A letter from the Assistant General Counsel, Division of Regulatory Services, Department of Education, transmitting the Department's final rule — Federal Student Aid Programs (RIN: 1840-AC87) received August 24, 2006, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

9102. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Education, transmitting the Department's follow-up report on the September 2005 report entitled, ''The Mission Continues, Annual Report to the President on the Results of Participation of Historically Black Colleges and Universities in Federal Programs 2002-03''; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

9103. A letter from the Acting Director, OSHA Standards and Guidance, Department of Labor, transmitting the Department's final rule — Assigned Protection Factors [Docket No. H049C] (RIN: 1218-AA05) received August 24, 2006, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

9104. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, EBSA, Department of Labor, transmitting the Department's final rule — Mental Health Parity (RIN: 1210-AA62) received August 28, 2006, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

9105. A letter from the Chair, Board of Directors, Corporation for Public Broadcasting, transmitting the semiannual report of the Office of the Inspector General for the period ending March 31, 2006, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. app. (Insp. Gen. Act) section 5(b); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

9106. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, Department of Energy, transmitting the Department's first semi-annual Implementation Report on Energy Conservation Standards Activities, pursuant to Section 141 of the Energy Policy Act of 2005; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

9107. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Energy, transmitting the Department's report entitled, ''Used Oil Re-refining Study to Address Energy Policy Act section 1838''; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

9108. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Energy, transmitting the Department's report entitled, ''Benefits of Using Mobile Transformers and Mobile Substations for Rapidly Restoring Electric Service,'' pursuant to Section 1816 of the Energy Policy Act of 2005; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

9109. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Energy, transmitting the Department's report on the National Electric Transmission Congestion Study, pursuant to Section 1221 of the Energy Policy Act of 2005; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

9110. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Energy, transmitting the Department's report outlining the status of Exxon and Stripper Well Oil Overcharge Funds as of September 30, 2005, satisfying the request set forth in the Conference Report accompanying the Department of Interior and Related Agencies Appropriations Act of 1988, Pub. L. 100-202; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

9111. A letter from the Attorney, Office of Assistant General Counsel for Legislation and Regulatory Law, Department of Energy, transmitting the Department's final rule — Standby Support for Certain Nuclear Plant Delays (RIN: 1901-AB17) received August 16, 2006, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

9112. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the third annual financial report to Congress required by the Medical Device User Fee and Modernization Act of 2002 (MDUFMA), covering FY 2005; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

9113. A letter from the Deputy Chief, Pricing Policy Division, Wireless Competition Bureau, Federal Communication Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — Regulation of Prepaid Calling Card Services [WC Docket No. 05-68] received August 2, 2006, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

9114. A letter from the Legal Advisor to the Bureau Chief, Media Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — Amendment of Section 73.202(b) Table of Allotments, FM Broadcast Stations. (Savanna, Oklahoma) [MB Docket No. 05-297; RM-11290] received August 14, 2006, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

9115. A letter from the Associate Managing Director, PERM, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — Assessment and Collection of Regulatory Fees for Fiscal Year 2006 [MD Docket No. 06-68] received August 2, 2006, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

9116. A letter from the Associate Bureau Chief, Media Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — Amendment of Section 73.202(b), Table of Allotments, FM Broadcast Stations. (Altamont and Odin, Illinois) [MB Docket No. 05-86; RM-11165; RM-11297] received August 2, 2006, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

9117. A letter from the Legal Advisor to the Chief, Media Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — Amendment of Section 73.202(b), Table of Allotments, FM Broadcast Stations. (Americus and Emporia, Kansas) [MB Docket No. 05-139; RM-11218] received August 2, 2006, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

9118. A letter from the Legal Advisor to the Chief, Media Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — Improving Pub. Sfty. Comms. in the 800 MHz Band [WT Dckt 02-55]; Consolidating the 800 & 900 MHz Ind./Land Trans. & Bus. Pool Chs.; Amdt. of Pt. 2 of the Commission's Rules to Allocate Spect. Below 3 GHz for Mobile & Fixed Serv. to Supp. the Intro. of New Adv. Wireless Servs., Inc. 3rd Gen. Wireless Systs. [ET Dckt No 00-258] Pet. for Rule Making of the Wireless Info. Networks Forum Concerning the Unlicensed Pers. Comms. Serv. [RM-9498]; Pet. for Rule Making of UT Starcom, Inc. Concerning the Unlicensed Pers. Conns. Serv. [RM-10024]; Amdt. of Sec. 2.106, Commission's Rls. to Allocate Spec. at 2 GHz for Use by the Mobile to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

9119. A letter from the Legal Advisor to the Chief, Media Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — Amendment of Section

73.202(b) Table of Allotments, FM Broadcast Stations. (Austwell, Refugio, and Victoria, Texas) [MB Docket No. 05-154; RM-11224; RM-11250] received August 2, 2006, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

9120. A letter from the Legal Advisor to the Chief, Media Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — Amendment of Section 73.202(b); Table of Allotments, FM Broadcast Stations. (Aspen and Leadville, Colorado) [MB Docket No. 05-184] received August 2, 2006, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

9121. A letter from the Legal Advisor to the Chief, Media Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — Amendment of Section 73.202(b), FM Table of Allotments, FM Broadcast Stations. (Lometa and Richland Springs, Texas) [MB Docket No. 05-305; RM-11137; RM-11248]; Reclassification of License of Station KELI(FM), San Angelo, Texas, and Station KAMX(FM), Luling, Texas. received August 6, 2006, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

9122. A letter from the Acting Chief, Telecom. Access Policy Div., Federal Communications Commission, transmitting the Comm's final rule — Univ. Serv. Contrib. Meth.[WC Dkt 06-122]; Fed-State Jnt. Brd. on Univ. Serv.[CC Dkt 96-45]; 1998 Bien. Reg. Rev. — Strmlne. Contrib. Rprt. Reqs. Assoc. w/Admin. of Telecomms. Relay Serv., N. Amer. Num. Plan, Loc. Num. Port., and Univ. Serv. Supp. Mechs.[CC Dkt 98-171]; Telecomms. Servs. for Indivs. w/Hearing & Speech Disab., & the Amers. with Disab. Act of 1990[CC Dkt 90-571]; Admin. of the N. Amer. Num. Plan & N. Amer. Num. Plan Cost Rec. Contrib. Fact. & Fund Size[CC Dkt 92-237; NSD File No L-00-72]; Num. Res. Opt.[CC Dkt 99-200]; Tele. Num. Port. [CC Dkt 95-116]; Truth in Billing [CC Dkt 98-170]; IP-Enabled to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

9123. A letter from the General Counsel, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — Long-Term Firm Transmission Rights in Organized Electricity Markets [Docket No. RM06-8-000; Order No. 681) received July 24, 2006, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

9124. A letter from the Secretary, Federal Trade Commisison, transmitting the Commission's annual report of the operation of the National Do Not Call Registry for Fiscal Year 2005, from October 1, 2004 through September 30, 2005; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

9125. A letter from the Chairman, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting the Commission's report on the efforts of the Radiation Source Protection and Security Task Force, in accordance with Section 651(d) of the Energy Policy Act of 2005; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

9126. A letter from the Chairman, Nuclear Waste Technical Review Board, transmitting the first report of 2006, as required by the Nuclear Waste Policy Amendments Act of 1987, Public Law 100-203, pursuant to 42 U.S.C. 10268; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

9127. A letter from the Secretary, Department of the Treasury, transmitting a six month periodic report on the national emergency with respect to Cote d'Ivoire that was declared in Executive Order 13396 of February 7, 2006, pursuant to 50 U.S.C. 1641(c) 50 U.S.C. 1703(c); to the Committee on International Relations.

9128. A letter from the Assistant Legal Adviser for Treaty Affairs, Department of State, transmitting copies of international agreements, other than treaties, entered into by the United States, pursuant to 1 U.S.C. 112b; to the Committee on International Relations.

9129. A letter from the Deputy Director, Defense Security Cooperation Agency, transmitting pursuant to Section 62(a) of the Arms Export Control Act (AECA), notification concerning the Department of the Army's proposed lease of defense articles to the Government of United Kingdom (Transmittal No. 06-07); to the Committee on International Relations.

9130. A letter from the Director, Defense Security Cooperation Agency, transmitting the Department's notification of Presidential Determination No. 2006-20, pursuant to section 36(b) of the Arms Export Control Act; to the Committee on International Relations.

9131. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for International Security Policy, Department of Defense, transmitting the Department's notification of the intention to obligate up to $44.5 million in FY 2006 funds for the Cooperative Threat Reduction Program, pursuant to Public Law 104-106, section 1205; to the Committee on International Relations.

9132. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting the Fifty-Fourth report on the extent and disposition of United States contributions to international organizations for fiscal year 2005, pursuant to Public Law 107-228, section 405(b); to the Committee on International Relations.

9133. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting the quarterly report of obligations and outlays of FY 2004, FY 2005 and FY 2006 funds under the Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief through December 31, 2005 pursuant to Division D, Pub. L. 108-199; to the Committee on International Relations.

9134. A letter from the Secretary, Department of State, transmitting the Department's report consistant with the United States Policy in Iraq Act, section 1227 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2006, Pub. L. 109-163; to the Committee on International Relations.

9135. A communication from the President of the United States, transmitting a notice of continuation of national emergency beyond August 17, 2006 declared by Executive Order 13222 of August 17, 2001, to deal with the threat to the national security, foreign policy, and economy of the United States caused by the lapse of the Export Administration Act of 1979, pursuant to 50 U.S.C. 1622(d); (H. Doc. No. 109—130); to the Committee on International Relations and ordered to be printed.

9136. A letter from the White House Liaison and Executive Director, White House Commission on the National Monument of Remembrance, transmitting the Fourth Annual Report of the White House Commission on the National Moment of Remembrance for fiscal year 2005, pursuant to 36 U.S.C.116 note Public Law 106-579, section 6 (b)(1); to the Committee on Government Reform.

9137. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting a copy of D.C. ACT 16-474, ''Emerging Technology Opportunity Development Task Force Act of 2006,'' pursuant to D.C. Code section 1-233(c)(1); to the Committee on Government Reform.

9138. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting a copy of D.C. ACT 16-473, ''Targeted Historic Preservation Assistance Amendment Act of 2006,'' pursuant to D.C. Code section 1-233(c)(1); to the Committee on Government Reform.

9139. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting a copy of D.C. ACT 16-475, ''Technical Amendment Act of 2006,'' pursuant to D.C. Code section 1-233(c)(1); to the Committee on Government Reform.

9140. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting a copy of D.C. ACT 16-476, ''Fiscal Year 2007 Budget Support Act of 2006,'' pursuant to D.C. Code section 1-233(c)(1); to the Committee on Government Reform.

9141. A letter from the White House Liaison, Department of Commerce, transmitting a report pursuant to the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998; to the Committee on Government Reform.

9142. A letter from the White House Liaison, Department of Commerce, transmitting a report pursuant to the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998; to the Committee on Government Reform.

9143. A letter from the White House Liaison, Department of Education, transmitting a report pursuant to the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998; to the Committee on Government Reform.

9144. A letter from the White House Liaison, Department of Education, transmitting a report pursuant to the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998; to the Committee on Government Reform.

9145. A letter from the White House Liaison, Department of Education, transmitting a report pursuant to the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998; to the Committee on Government Reform.

9146. A letter from the White House Liaison, Department of Education, transmitting a report pursuant to the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998; to the Committee on Government Reform.

9147. A letter from the White House Liaison, Department of Education, transmitting a report pursuant to the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998; to the Committee on Government Reform.

9148. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Administration and Management, Department of Labor, transmitting a report pursuant to the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998; to the Committee on Government Reform.

9149. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Administration and Management, Department of Labor, transmitting a report pursuant to the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998; to the Committee on Government Reform.

9150. A letter from the Attorney Advisor, Department of Transportation, transmitting a report pursuant to the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998; to the Committee on Government Reform.

9151. A letter from the Attorney Advisor, Department of Transportation, transmitting a report pursuant to the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998; to the Committee on Government Reform.

9152. A letter from the Attorney Advisor, Department of Transportation, transmitting a report pursuant to the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998; to the Committee on Government Reform.

9153. A letter from the Attorney Advisor, Department of Transportation, transmitting a report pursuant to the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998; to the Committee on Government Reform.

9154. A letter from the Special Assistant to the Secretary, White House Liaison, Department of Veterans Affairs, transmitting a report pursuant to the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998; to the Committee on Government Reform.

9155. A letter from the President, Federal Financing Bank, transmitting the Annual Management Report of the Federal Financing Bank for fiscal years 2004 and 2005, pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 9106; to the Committee on Government Reform.

9156. A letter from the President and Chief Executive Officer, Federal Home Loan Bank of Topeka, transmitting the 2005 Statements on System of Internal Controls of the Federal Home Loan Bank of Topeka, pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 9106; to the Committee on Government Reform.

9157. A letter from the Executive Director, Interstate Commission on the Potomac River Basin, transmitting the audited Sixty-Fifth Financial Statement for the period October 1, 2004 to September 30, 2005, pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 3512(c)(3); to the Committee on Government Reform.

9158. A letter from the Acting Senior Procurement Executive, (OCAO), GSA, National Aeronautics and Space Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Federal Acquisition Regulation; Federal Acquisition Circular 2005-12; Introduction [Docket FAR-2006-0023] received August 15, 2006, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Government Reform.

9159. A letter from the Director, Office of National Drug Control Policy, transmitting a report on the ''Fiscal Year 2005 Accounting of Drug Control Funds,'' pursuant to Public Law 105-277, section 705(d)(Div. C-Title VII); to the Committee on Government Reform.

9160. A letter from the Director, Office of Personnel Management, transmitting the semiannual report of the Inspector General and the Management Response for the period of October 1, 2005 to March 31, 2006, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. app. (Insp. Gen. Act) section 5(b); to the Committee on Government Reform.

9161. A letter from the Director, Office of Personnel Management, transmitting the Office's final rule — Absence and Leave (RIN: 3206-AK61) received August 24, 2006, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Government Reform.

9162. A letter from the Secretary, Postal Rate Commission, transmitting a report pursuant to the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998; to the Committee on Government Reform.

9163. A letter from the Board Members, Railroad Retirement Board, transmitting the Board's 2006 report for the fiscal year ended September 30, 2005, pursuant to the provisions of section 7(b)(6) of the Railroad Retirement Act and section 12(l) of the Railroad Unemployment Insurance Act; to the Committee on Government Reform.

9164. A letter from the Executive Secretary/Chief of Staff, U.S. Agency for International Development, transmitting a report pursuant to the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998; to the Committee on Government Reform.

9165. A letter from the Director, Minerals Management Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting the Department's report entitled, ''Bringing Gas Hydrates — A Potential New Source of Natural Gas — to Market,'' pursuant to Section 353(e) of the Energy Policy Act of 2005; to the Committee on Resources.

9166. A letter from the Acting Director, Office of Surface Mining, Department of the Interior, transmitting the Department's final rule — Wyoming Regulatory Program [WY-034-FOR] received August 24, 2006, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Resources.

9167. A letter from the Acting Director, Office of Surface Mining, Department of the Interior, transmitting the Department's final rule — West Virginia Regulatory Program [WV-109-FOR] received August 24, 2006, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Resources.

9168. A letter from the Acting Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks, Department of the Interior, transmitting the Department's final rule — Migratory Bird Hunting and Permits; Regulations for Managing Resident Canada Goose Populations (RIN: 1018-AI32) received August 14, 2006, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Resources.

9169. A letter from the Staff Director, Commission on Civil Rights, transmitting notification that the Commission recently appointed members to the North Carolina advisory committee; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

9170. A letter from the Staff Director, Commission on Civil Rights, transmitting notification that the Commission recently appointed members to the Connecticut advisory committee; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

9171. A letter from the Under Secretary and Director, Patent and Trademark Office, Department of Commerce, transmitting the Department's final rule — Clarification of Filing Date Requirements for Ex Parte and Inter Partes Reexamination Proceedings [Docket No.: PTO-P-2006-0007] (RIN: 0651-AC02) received August 9, 2006, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on the Judiciary.

9172. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's determination on a petition on behalf of a class of workers from the Y-12 Plant in Oakridge, Tennessee to be added to the Special Exposure Cohort (SEC), pursuant to the Energy Employees Occupational Illness Compensation Program Act of 2000 (EEOICPA); to the Committee on the Judiciary.

9173. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's determination on a petition on behalf of a class of workers from the Ames Laboratory in Iowa to be added to the Special Exposure Cohort (SEC), pursuant to the Energy Employees Occupational Illness Compensation Program Act of 2000 (EEOICPA); to the Committee on the Judiciary.

9174. A letter from the Deputy Assistant Administrator, Office of Diversion Control, Drug Enforcement Administration, Department of Justice, transmitting the Department's final rule — Controlled Substances and List I Chemical Registration and Reregistration Application Fees [Docket No. DEA-266F] (RIN: 1117-AA96) received August 25, 2006, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on the Judiciary.

9175. A letter from the Secretary, Judicial Conference of the United States, transmitting the Executive Committee's status report on Judicial Conference action on judicial ethics and accountability; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

9176. A letter from the General Counsel, National Tropical Botanical Garden, transmitting the annual audit report of the National Tropical Botanical Garden for the period from January 1, 2005 through December 31, 2005, pursuant to 36 U.S.C. 1535 Public Law 88-449, section 10(b); to the Committee on the Judiciary.

9177. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's report on the recomendations of the Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS) Program Advisory Committee, pursuant to 23 U.S.C. 512 note Public Law 109-59, section 5305(h)(4); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

9178. A letter from the Acting Secretary, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's report on the Transportaton Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act of 1998 (TIFIA); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

9179. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Energy, transmitting the Department's report entitled, ''Technical Milestones for 2020 Goals and Project Status for the Clean Coal Power Initiative,'' pursuant to Section 403 of the Energy Policy Act; to the Committee on Science.

9180. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Energy, transmitting the Department's reserach development and demonstration program to ensure the reliability, efficiency, and environmental integrity of the electric transmission and distribution system, in accordance with Section 925 of the Energy Policy Act; to the Committee on Science.

9181. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Energy, transmitting the Department's report entitled, ''Hydrogen Program Goal-Setting Methodologies Report to Congress,'' pursuant to section 1819 of the Energy Policy Act of 2005; to the Committee on Science.

9182. A letter from the Chief, Trade and Commercial Regulations Branch, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Implementation of the Andean Trade Promotion and Drug Eradication Act [CBP Dec. 0621] (RIN: 1505-AB37) received August 3, 2006, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

9183. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule — Stock Transfer Rules; Carryover of Earnings and Taxes [TD 9273] (RIN: 1545-AX65) received August 9, 2006, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

9184. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule — Flat Rate Supplemental Wage Withholding [TD 9276] (RIN: 1545-BD96) received August 9, 2006, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

9185. A letter from the Regulations Director, Social Security Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Changes to the Income and Resources Provisions for Supplemental Secuirty Income (SSI) Based on Sections 430, 435, and 436 of the Social Security Protection Act (SSPA) of 2004 (RIN: 0960-AG13) received August 16, 2006, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

9186. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Energy, transmitting the Department's report on Alternatives to Industrial Radioactive Sources, pursuant to Section 957 of the Energy Policy Act of 2005; jointly to the Committees on Energy and Commerce and Science.

9187. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's final report and strategic and implementing plan required under Section 5006 of the Deficit Reducation Act of 2005; jointly to the Committees on Energy and Commerce and Ways and Means.

9188. A letter from the Secretary and Attorney General, Departments of Health and Human Services and Justice, transmitting the ninth Annual Report on the Health Care Fraud and Abuse Control (HCFAC) Program for Fiscal Year 2005, pursuant to 42 U.S.C. 1395i; jointly to the Committees on Energy and Commerce and Ways and Means.

9189. A letter from the Director, Defense Security Cooperation Agency, transmitting pursuant to Section 634A of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961, as amended,and Division D, Title V, Section 515 of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2005, as enacted in Pub. L. 109-102, notification that implementation of the FY 2006 International Military Education and Training (IMET) program, as approved by the Department of State, requires revisions to the levels justified in the FY

2006 Congressional Budget Justification for Foreign Operations for the enclosed list of countries; jointly to the Committees on International Relations and Appropriations.

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. HOEKSTRA: Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence. Report entitled ''al-Qaeda: The Many Faces of an Islamic Extremist Threat'' (Rept. 109–615). Referred to the Committee on the Whole House on the State of the Union.

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia: Committee on Government Reform. Brownfields: What Will It Take To Turn Lost Opportunities Into America's Gain? (Rept. 109–616). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union.

Mr. GOODLATTE: Committee on Agriculture. H.R. 503. A bill to amend the Horse Protection Act to prohibit the shipping, transporting, moving, delivering, receiving, possessing, purchasing, selling, or donation of horses and other equines to be slaughtered for human consumption, and for other purposes, with an amendment; adversely (Rept. 109–617 Pt. 1). Ordered to be printed.

Mr. POMBO: Committee on Resources. H.R. 138. A bill to revise the boundaries of John H. Chafee Coastal Barrier Resources System Jekyll Island Unit GA–06P; with an amendment (Rept. 109–618). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union.

Mr. POMBO: Committee on Resources. H.R. 383. A bill to designate the Ice Age Floods National Geologic Trail, and for other purposes; with amendments (Rept. 109–619). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union.

Mr. POMBO: Committee on Resources. H.R. 479. A bill to replace a Coastal Barrier Resources System Grayson Beach Unit FL–95P in Walton County, Florida; with an amendment (Rept. 109–620). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union.

Mr. POMBO: Committee on Resources. H.R. 631. A bill to provide for acquisition of subsurface mineral rights to land owned by the Pascua Yaqui Tribe and land held in trust for the Tribe, and for other purposes (Rept. 109–621). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union.

Mr. POMBO: Committee on Resources. H.R. 1796. A bill to amend the National Trails System Act to designate the route of the Mississippi River from its headwaters in the State of Minnesota to the Gulf of Mexico for study for potential addition to the National Trails System as a national scenic trail, national historic trail, or both, and for other purposes (Rept. 109–622). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union.

Mr. POMBO: Committee on Resources. H.R. 2069. A bill to authorize the exchange of certain land in Grand and Uintah Counties, Utah, and for other purposes (Rept. 109–623). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union.

Mr. POMBO: Committee on Resources. H.R. 2110. A bill to provide for a study of options for protecting the open space characteristics of certain lands in and adjacent to the Arapaho and Roosevelt National Forests in Colorado, and for other purposes, with an amendment (Rept. 109–624). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union.

Mr. POMBO: Committee on Resources. H.R. 2334. A bill to amend the Reclamation Wastewater and Groundwater Study and Facilities Act to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to participate in the design, planning, and construction of permanent facilities for the GREAT project to reclaim, reuse, and treat impaired waters water in the area of Oxnard, California; with an amendment (Rept. 109–625). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union.

Mr. POMBO: Committee on Resources. H.R. 3350. A bill to amend the Native American Business Development, Trade Promotion, and Tourism Act of 2000 to establish the Tribal Development Corporation Feasibility Study Group (Rept. 109–626). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union.

Mr. POMBO: Committee on Resources. H.R. 3534. A bill to designate the Piedras Blancas Light Station and the surrounding public land as an Outstanding Natural Area to be administered as a part of the National Landscape Conservation System, and for other purposes (Rept. 109–627). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union.

Mr. POMBO. Committee on Resources. H.R. 3961. A bill to authorize the National Park Service to pay for services rendered by subcontractors under a General Services Administration Indefinite Deliver/Indefinite Quantity Contract issued for work to be completed at the Grand Canyon National Park (Rept. 109–628). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union.

Mr. POMBO. Committee on Resources. H.R. 4382. A bill to provide for the conveyance of certain land in Clark County, Nevada, for use by the Nevada National Guard (Rept. 109–629). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union.

Mr. POMBO. Committee on Resources. H.R. 4588. A bill to reauthorize grants for and require applied water supply research regarding the water resources research and technology institutes established under the Water Resources Research Act of 1984; with an amendment (Rept. 109–630). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union.

Mr. POMBO. Committee on Resources. H.R. 4612. A bill to redesignate Dayton Aviation Heritage National Historic Park in the State of Ohio as ''Wright Brothers-Dunbar National Historic Park,'' and for other purposes; with amendments (Rept. 109–631). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union.

Mr. POMBO. Committee on Resources. H.R. 4750. A bill to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a study to determine the feasibility of implementing a water supply and conservation project to improve water supply reliability, increase the capacity of water storage, and improve water management efficiency in the Republican River Basin between Harlan County Lake in Nebraska and Milford Lake in Kansas; with an amendment (Rept. 109–632). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union.

Mr. POMBO. Committee on Resources. S. 1773. An act to resolve certain Native American claims in New Mexico, and for other purposes (Rept. 109–633). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union.

Mr. POMBO. Committee on Resources. H.R. 4789. A bill to require the Secretary of the Interior to convey certain public land located wholly or partially within the boundaries of the Wells Hydroelectric Project of Public Utility District No. 1 of Douglas County, Washington, to the utility district; with an amendment (Rept. 109–634). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union.

Mr. POMBO. Committee on Resources. H.R. 5016. A bill to provide for the exchange of certain Bureau of Land Management land in Pima County, Arizona, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 109–635). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union.

Mr. POMBO. Committee on Resources. H.R. 5079. A bill to provide for the modification of an amendatory repayment contract between the Secretary of the Interior and the North Unit Irrigation District, and for other purposes; with amendments (Rept. 109–636). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union.

Mr. POMBO: Committee on Resources. H.R. 5132. A bill to direct the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a special resource study to determine the suitability and feasibility of including in the National Park System certain sites in Monroe County, Michigan, relating to the Battles of the River Raisin during the War of 1812; with an amendment (Rept. 109–637). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union.

Mr. POMBO: Committee on Resources. H.R. 5381. A bill to establish a volunteer program and promote community partnerships for the benefit of national fish hatcheries and fisheries program offices (Rept. 109–638). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union.

Mr. POMBO: Committee on Resources. H.R. 5539. A bill to reauthorize the North American Wetlands Conservation Reauthorization Act; with an amendments (Rept. 109–639). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union.

Mr. POMBO: Committee on Resources. H.R. 5802. A bill to amend the National Park Service Concessions Management Improvement Act of 1998, to extend to additional small businesses the preferential right to renew a consessions contract entered into under such Act, to facilitate the renewal of a commercial use authorization granted under such Act, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 109–640). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union.

Mr. POMBO: Committee on Resources. H.R. 5861. A bill to amend the National Historic Preservation Act, and for other purposes; with amendment (Rept. 109–641). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union.

Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida: Committee on Rules. House Resolution 981. Resolution providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 503) to amend the Horse Protection Act to prohibit the shipping, transporting, moving, delivering, possessing, purchasing, selling, or donation of horses and other equines to be slaughtered for human consumption, and for other purposes (Rept. 109–642). Referred to the House Calendar.

DISCHARGE OF COMMITTEE

Pursuant to clause 2 of rule XII the Committee on Energy and Commerce discharged from further consideration. H.R. 503 referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union.

PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XII, public bills and resolutions were introduced and severally referred, as follows:

By Mr. OWENS:

H.R. 6028. A bill to amend the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 to provide grants to improve the infrastructure of

elementary and secondary schools; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. RADANOVICH (for himself, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, and Mrs MCMORRIS RODGERS):

H.R. 6029. A bill to amend the Reclamation Safety of Dams Act of 1978 to authorize improvements for the security of dams and other facilities, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Resources.

By Mr. WALDEN of Oregon (for himself, Mr. POMEROY, Mrs. EMERSON, Mr. MCINTYRE, Mr. MARSHALL, Mr. PAUL, Mr. MCNULTY, Mr. GOODE, Mr. GRAVES, Ms. HERSETH, Mr. PETERSON of Minnesota, Mr. DAVIS of Tennessee, Mrs. JO ANN DAVIS of Virginia, Mr. MCHUGH, Mr. JONES of North Carolina, Mr. ROSS, Mrs. MCMORRIS RODGERS, Mr. TANNER, Mr. PETERSON of Pennsylvania, Mr. BERRY, Mr. NUSSLE, Mr. MATHESON, Mr. BOYD, Mr. MORAN of Kansas, Mr. KIND, Mr. SWEENEY, Mr. DEFAZIO, Mr. LEACH, Mr. ETHERIDGE, Mr. SHERWOOD, Mr. BOUCHER, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Mr. OBERSTAR, Mr. SALAZAR, Mr. ROGERS of Alabama, Mr. NEY, Mr. STUPAK, Mr. THOMPSON of California, Mr. HINOJOSA, Mr. BASS, Mr. LUCAS, Mr. HASTINGS of Washington, Mr. OTTER, Mr. EDWARDS, Mrs. CUBIN, Mr. LATHAM, Mr. KENNEDY of Minnesota, Mr. RAHALL, Mr. HINCHEY, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. MICHAUD, Mr. STRICKLAND, Mr. SIMPSON, Mr. HOEKSTRA, Mr. ALLEN, Mr. UDALL of New Mexico, Mr. PICKERING, Mr. KILDEE, Mr. MELANCON, and Mr. RENZI):

H.R. 6030. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to protect and preserve access of Medicare beneficiaries in rural areas to health care providers under the Medicare Program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, 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 Mrs. MCCARTHY:

H.R. 6031. A bill to provide student loan forgiveness to the survivors of victims of the terrorist attack on September 11, 2001; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. HAYES:

H.R. 6032. A bill to redesignate the Special Textile Negotiator of the United States Trade Representative as the Chief Textiles Negotiator and confer the rank of Ambassador upon that position, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. CROWLEY (for himself, Mr. ACKERMAN, Mr. KING of New York, Mr. WAXMAN, Mr. BARTON of Texas, Mr. DINGELL, Mrs. MCCARTHY, Mr. MCNULTY, Mr. HIGGINS, Mr. SERRANO, Mr. WEINER, Mr. KUHL of New York, Mr. NADLER, Mrs. MALONEY, Mr. RANGEL, Mr. HINCHEY, Mr. ISRAEL, Mr. ENGEL, Mr. WALSH, Mrs. LOWEY, Mr. MCHUGH, Mr. SWEENEY, Mr. FOSSELLA, Mr. BOEHLERT, Mr. TOWNS, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Mr. BISHOP of New York, Mr. OWENS, Ms. SLAUGHTER, Mr. REYNOLDS, Mrs. KELLY, Mr. MEEKS of New York, Mr. MARSHALL, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. GORDON, Mr. PALLONE, Mr. BROWN of Ohio, Ms. KILPATRICK of Michigan, Mrs. TAUSCHER, Mr. BUTTERFIELD, Mr. SHERMAN, Mr. LANTOS, Ms. SCHWARTZ of Pennsylvania, Mr. NEAL of Massachusetts, Mr. STARK, Mr. RUSH, Mr. MOORE of Kansas, Mr. SKELTON, and Ms. ESHOO):

H.R. 6033. A bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 39-25 61st Street in Woodside, New York, as the ''Thomas J. Manton Post Office Building''; to the Committee on Government Reform.

By Mr. ENGLISH of Pennsylvania:

H.R. 6034. A bill to provide demonstration grants to States for the purpose of extending the length of the academic year at elementary and secondary schools within the State; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. LARSEN of Washington:

H.R. 6035. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to provide enhanced travel benefits for veterans traveling to facilities of the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. PEARCE:

H.R. 6036. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to enter into contracts with community health care providers to improve access to health care for veterans in highly rural areas, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. PEARCE:

H.R. 6037. A bill to direct the Secretary of Agriculture to convey to the village of Santa Clara, the city of Bayard, or the county of Grant, in the State of New Mexico, in tracts of not less than 40 acres, at market price at its present state of use as agricultural grazing lands as determined by the Secretary, for business and community development, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, and in addition to the Committee on Resources, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. WATERS:

H.R. 6038. A bill to provide for an effective HIV/AIDS program in Federal prisons; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. WATERS:

H. Con. Res. 468. Concurrent resolution expressing the sense of Congress that the United States should encourage and support the Government of Iraq to pursue a policy that would realign the provinces of Iraq to reflect ethnic boundaries among Shiites, Sunnis, and Kurds and provide opportunity for those groups to exercise control over designated areas; to the Committee on International Relations.

By Mr. CHANDLER (for himself, Mr. WHITFIELD, Mrs. NORTHUP, Mr. DAVIS of Kentucky, Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky, Mr. LEWIS of Kentucky, and Mr. SODREL):

H. Res. 980. A resolution expressing condolences to the families, friends, and loved ones of the victims of the crash of Comair Flight 5191, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure. considered and agreed to.

By Mrs. CAPPS (for herself and Mr. FOLEY):

H. Res. 982. A resolution supporting the goals and ideals of National Peripheral Arterial Disease Awareness Week; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. DOYLE (for himself, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania, Mr. PETERSON of Pennsylvania, Mr. ENGLISH of Pennsylvania, Mr. MURTHA, Ms. HART, Mr. SHUSTER, Mr. GERLACH, Ms. SCHWARTZ of Pennsylvania, Mr. SHERWOOD, Mr. HOLDEN, and Mr. PLATTS):

H. Res. 983. A resolution honoring the life and accomplishments of the late Robert E. O'Connor, Jr; to the Committee on Government Reform.

By Ms. WATERS:

H. Res. 984. A resolution expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that Iraq is in the midst of a civil war since the February 22, 2006, bombing of the Golden Mosque in Samarra, Iraq, one of the holiest places for Shiite Muslims; to the Committee on International Relations.

MEMORIALS

Under clause 3 of rule XII,

435. The SPEAKER presented a memorial of the Legislature of the State of Hawaii, relative to House Concurrent Resolution No. 34 commemorating the Fifty-Second anniversary of the detonation of the Bravo Hydrogen Bomb over Bikini Atoll, declaring March 1st as a day of rememberance, and requesting the Congress of the United States to enact appropriate measures to provide for the full health needs of the hydrogen bomb tests survivors and their progeny; to the Committee on International Relations.

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions as follows:

H.R. 25: Mr. PENCE and Mr. BOREN.
H.R. 97: Mr. CUMMINGS and Mr. REHBERG.
H.R. 98: Mr. WAMP and Mr. KUHL of New York.
H.R. 224: Mr. MICHAUD and Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin.
H.R. 284: Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts and Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin.
H.R. 303: Mr. DENT.
H.R. 332: Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN.
H.R. 354: Mr. FORD.
H.R. 363: Mr. AL GREEN of Texas and Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin.
H.R. 389: Mr. GERLACH.
H.R. 550: Mr. COSTA, Mr. COSTELLO, Ms. HERSETH, Mr. CASTLE, and Mr. BOREN.
H.R. 552: Mr. KELLER.
H.R. 561: Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California.
H.R. 583: Mr. WELDON of Pennsylvania, Mr. BURTON of Indiana, Mr. REICHERT, Mrs. KELLY, Mr. ISSA, Mrs. SCHMIDT, and Mr. FITZPATRICK of Pennsylvania.
H.R. 602: Mr. FORD.
H.R. 615: Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD and Mr. DAVIS of Tennessee.
H.R. 634: Ms. SCHAKOWSKY.
H.R. 668: Mr. STARK.
H.R. 699: Ms. KAPTUR and Mr. SMITH of Washington.
H.R. 769: Mr. NADLER.
H.R. 791: Mr. FORD.
H.R. 807: Ms. SCHWARTZ of Pennsylvania and Mr. RUPPERSBERGER.
H.R. 808: Mrs. CUBIN and Mr. CLYBURN.
H.R. 817: Mrs. EMERSON, Mr. SALAZAR, and Mr. KANJORSKI.
H.R. 823: Mr. MILLER of North Carolina.
H.R. 865: Mr. CROWLEY.
H.R. 874: Mr. SMITH of Texas.
H.R. 896: Mr. FERGUSON, Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas, Mr. STRICKLAND, and Mr. MURPHY.
H.R. 898: Mr. GOODE.
H.R. 910: Mr. STRICKLAND.
H.R. 916: Mr. GOHMERT.
H.R. 947: Mr. PRICE of North Carolina.
H.R. 1040: Mr. PENCE.
H.R. 1120: Mr. DOGGETT and Mr. NADLER.
H.R. 1124: Mr. MCCOTTER.
H.R. 1177: Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin.
H.R. 1214: Mr. SCOTT of Georgia.
H.R. 1226: Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey.
H.R. 1227: Mr. GOHMERT and Mr. TOWNS.
H.R. 1245: Mr. SWEENEY, Mr. LATHAM, Mr. MURTHA, and Mr. GILCHREST.

H.R. 1262: Mr. NADLER.
H.R. 1298: Mrs. KELLY, Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia, and Mr. HAYWORTH.
H.R. 1329: Mr. LOBIONDO.
H.R. 1333: Mr. MORAN of Kansas, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. WELDON of Pennsylvania, and Mr. DOYLE.
H.R. 1356: Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California, Mr. SCHWARZ of Michigan, and Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida.
H.R. 1357: Mr. KUHL of New York.
H.R. 1376: Mr. OSBORNE, Mr. NADLER, and Mr. CARDIN.
H.R. 1384: Mrs. CUBIN and Mr. TERRY.
H.R. 1426: Mr. ETHERIDGE, Mr. MCHENRY, and Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas.
H.R. 1498: Mr. NORWOOD and Mr. ETHERIDGE.
H.R. 1554: Mr. OWENS, Mr. BOEHLERT, Mr. RAMSTAD, and Mr. JENKINS.
H.R. 1558: Mr. BOSWELL.
H.R. 1632: Ms. BORDALLO, Mr. ETHERIDGE, and Mr. DAVIS of Illinois.
H.R. 1652: Mr. SCOTT of Georgia.
H.R. 1668: Mr. UDALL of Colorado.
H.R. 1671: Mr. HERGER and Mr. DOGGETT.
H.R. 1688: Mr. SERRANO.
H.R. 1707: Mr. MARKEY.
H.R. 1732: Mr. DAVIS of Tennessee.
H.R. 1733: Mr. DAVIS of Tennessee.
H.R. 1734: Mr. DAVIS of Tennessee.
H.R. 1836: Mr. MICA.
H.R. 1898: Mr. SAXTON.
H.R. 1951: Mr. FATTAH, Mr. HAYES, and Mr. SANDERS.
H.R. 2034: Mr. LUCAS.
H.R. 2051: Mr. FILNER, Mr. HINCHEY, and Mr. PLATTS.
H.R. 2356: Mr. HOLT and Ms. HARRIS.
H.R. 2378: Mrs. CHRISTENSEN.
H.R. 2488: Mr. FOSSELLA.
H.R. 2665: Mr. FORD.
H.R. 2669: Mr. MEEHAN.
H.R. 2671: Ms. DEGETTE.
H.R. 2739: Mr. NADLER.
H.R. 2793: Mr. ROSS.
H.R. 2835: Mr. NEAL of Massachusetts and Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin.
H.R. 2869: Mr. CUMMINGS.
H.R. 2928: Mr. SERRANO and Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California.
H.R. 2962: Mr. RAHALL.
H.R. 3004: Mr. BARROW.
H.R. 3006: Mr. DEFAZIO.
H.R. 3019: Mr. WELLER.
H.R. 3151: Mr. NADLER.
H.R. 3159: Mr. FOSSELLA.
H.R. 3318: Mr. WELDON of Pennsylvania.
H.R. 3326: Mr. SCOTT of Georgia.
H.R. 3352: Mr. WOLF.
H.R. 3361: Mr. AL GREEN of Texas, Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California, Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota, Mr. STARK, Mr. PORTER, and Mr. LOBIONDO.
H.R. 3380: Mr. OBERSTAR.
H.R. 3427: Mr. WYNN and Ms. ESHOO.
H.R. 3438: Mrs. MUSGRAVE.
H.R. 3471: Ms. SCHAKOWSKY.
H.R. 3476: Mr. BARTON of Texas.
H.R. 3502: Mr. PAYNE.
H.R. 3532: Ms. KILPATRICK of Michigan.
H.R. 3628: Mr. HULSHOF, Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California, and Mr. EHLERS.
H.R. 3630: Mr. ANDREWS.
H.R. 3641: Mr. WATT.
H.R. 3689: Mr. MICHAUD.
H.R. 3762: Mr. WALSH, Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas, and Ms. WATSON.
H.R. 3776: Mr. SPRATT.
H.R. 3779: Mr. HASTINGS of Florida.
H.R. 3954: Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Mr. RUPPERSBERGER, Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts, Mr. STARK, and Mr. LYNCH.
H.R. 3968: Mr. WAXMAN.
H.R. 4033: Mr. BROWN of South Carolina, Mr. BUTTERFIELD, Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota, and Mr. SMITH of Washington.
H.R. 4045: Mr. CROWLEY and Mr. SHAYS.
H.R. 4098: Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida, Mr. JINDAL, Mr. HAYWORTH, and Mr. HOLT.
H.R. 4188: Mr. WYNN.
H.R. 4197: Ms. BALDWIN.
H.R. 4215: Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas.
H.R. 4239: Mr. ANDREWS and Mr. STARK.
H.R. 4259: Mr. WAXMAN and Ms. MATSUI.
H.R. 4264: Mr. SANDERS and Mr. BROWN of Ohio.
H.R. 4293: Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas, Ms. BORDALLO, Mr. NADLER, Ms. SLAUGHTER, and Mr. BOUCHER.
H.R. 4341: Mr. BARRETT of South Carolina.
H.R. 4398: Mr. ROSS.
H.R. 4474: Ms. DELAURO.
H.R. 4517 Mr. PRICE of North Carolina, Mr. MACK, Mr. NADLER, and Mr. MICA.
H.R. 4562: Mr. GOODLATTE, Mr. MCHUGH, and Mr. SHADEGG.
H.R. 4597: Mr. DEFAZIO, Mr. ROSS, Mr. WAXMAN, Mr. HOLT, Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, and Mr. BROWN of South Carolina.
H.R. 4604: Ms. BERKLEY.
H.R. 4736: Mr. HOLT.
H.R. 4740: Mr. GERLACH, Mr. MEEHAN, and Mr. BEAUPREZ.
H.R. 4747: Mr. WU, Mr. LARSEN of Washington, Mr. FILNER, Mr. ROTHMAN, Mr. HINCHEY, and Ms. SLAUGHTER.
H.R. 4767: Mr. WAXMAN.
H.R. 4769: Mr. LIPINSKI.
H.R. 4771: Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas.
H.R. 4776: Mr. LINDER.
H.R. 4791: Mr. MCCOTTER.
H.R. 4824: Mr. PITTS, Mr. BOUCHER, and Mrs. CAPPS.
H.R. 4829: Mr. SHAYS.
H.R. 4838: Mr. PUTNAM and Mr. FOLEY.
H.R. 4844: Mr. SESSIONS.
H.R. 4870: Mr. LOBIONDO.
H.R. 4873: Mr. BRADLEY of New Hampshire, Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, Mr. OTTER, Ms. MATSUI, and Mr. BAKER.
H.R. 4903: Ms. ESHOO and Mr. SHAYS.
H.R. 4904: Mr. WAXMAN, Ms. ESHOO, Mr. ANDREWS, and Mr. SHAYS.
H.R. 4922: Mr. MEEKS of New York.
H.R. 4949: Mr. HOLT.
H.R. 4992: Mr. SOUDER.
H.R. 4993: Mr. WEXLER, Ms. WOOLSEY, Mr. RAMSTAD, Mr. BROWN of Ohio, and Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin.
H.R. 4994: Mr. TIERNEY.
H.R. 5005: Mrs. MYRICK.
H.R. 5053: Mr. JENKINS.
H.R. 5092: Mr. SHERWOOD, Mrs. MYRICK, Mr. TANNER, Mr. MOLLOHAN, Mrs. CUBIN, Mrs. JO ANN DAVIS of Virginia, and Mr. CARDOZA.
H.R. 5103: Mr. GOODE.
H.R. 5113: Mr. TIERNEY.
H.R. 5120: Mr. HENSARLING and Mr. CANNON.
H.R. 5139: Mr. RYAN of Ohio, Mr. NORWOOD, Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. TIERNEY, and Ms. ESHOO.
H.R. 5140: Mr. TIERNEY.
H.R. 5150: Mr. SANDERS.
H.R. 5171: Mr. TIBERI, Mr. PLATTS, AND MR. PRICE of North Carolina.
H.R. 5177: Mr. DOYLE.
H.R. 5201: Mr. HOLT.
H.R. 5204: Mr. ANDREWS.
H.R. 5225: Mr. ETHERIDGE, Ms. MILLENDER-MCDONALD, and Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas.
H.R. 5246: Mr. GUTKNECHT, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. BURGESS, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. FRANKS of Arizona, Mr. KIRK, Mr. KLINE, Mr. ROGERS of Alabama, and Mr. WAMP.
H.R. 5250: Mr. ROTHMAN.
H.R. 5268: Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts, Mr. STARK, and Ms. WOOLSEY.
H.R. 5269: Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts, Mr. STARK, and Ms. ESHOO.
H.R. 5278: Mr. FOSSELLA.
H.R. 5291: Mr. BOOZMAN and Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN.
H.R. 5309: Mr. REYNOLDS.
H.R. 5312: Ms. HERSETH and Mr. INSLEE.
H.R. 5324: Mr. ROTHMAN, Mr. GILLMOR, and Mrs. SCHMIDT.
H.R. 5332: Ms. ESHOO.
H.R. 5348: Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. CARDOZA, Mr. LARSEN of Washington, and Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota.
H.R. 5372: Mr. HIGGINS.
H.R. 5400: Mr. JINDAL and Mr. PRICE of North Carolina.
H.R. 5409: Mr. MCHENRY.
H.R. 5444: Mr. GORDON.
H.R. 5452: Mr. LOBIONDO, Mr. FORTUÑO, Mr. MICHAUD, and Mr. FORD.
H.R. 5455: Mr. TAYLOR of Mississippi.
H.R. 5457: Mrs. DRAKE.
H.R. 5465: Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. JINDAL, and Mr. BOUCHER.
H.R. 5476: Mr. HYDE.
H.R. 5482: Mr. PAYNE.
H.R. 5493: Mr. JEFFERSON and Ms. BORDALLO.
H.R. 5499: Mr. ANDREWS and Mr. GOODLATTE.
H.R. 5506: Mr. SPRATT.
H.R. 5507: Mr. MCHENRY.
H.R. 5513: Ms. HERSETH, Mr. CUMMINGS, Mr. TIERNEY, Mr. DOGGETT, Mr. COBLE, Mr. MICHAUD, Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Mr. JEFFERSON, Mr. SIMMONS, and Mr. BRADLEY of New Hampshire.
H.R. 5533: Mr. SHIMKUS and Mr. FERGUSON.
H.R. 5539: Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas.
H.R. 5555: Ms. BORDALLO and Mr. SESSIONS.
H.R. 5583: Mr. BARROW and Mr. BOREN.
H.R. 5598: Mr. LYNCH.
H.R. 5642: Mr. LANGEVIN, Mr. ISRAEL, Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin, Mr. FILNER, Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, Mr. JACKSON of Illinois, Mr. WELDON of Pennsylvania, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Mr. KIND, Mr. FITZPATRICK of Pennsylvania, Mrs. TAUSCHER, Mr. ANDREWS, Mr. CONYERS, Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California, Ms. WATSON, Mr. CHANDLER, and Mr. PAYNE.
H.R. 5674: Mr. ABERCROMBIE, Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California, Mr. MOORE of Kansas, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. NEAL of Massachusetts, Mr. CLAY, and Mr. SMITH of Washington.
H.R. 5688: Mr. KUHL of New York, and Mr. SWEENEY.
H.R. 5693: Mr. WELDON of Pennsylvania, and Mr. CONAWAY.
H.R. 5697: Mr. YOUNG of Alaska.
H.R. 5700: Mr. MCCOTTER.
H.R. 5702: Mr. GINGREY, Mr. WESTMORELAND, and Mr. SESSIONS.
H.R. 5704: Mr. CUMMINGS, Mr. DUNCAN, Mr. GOODE, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. TAYLOR of North Carolina, Mr. PAUL, Mr. DAVIS of Tennessee, Mr. GORDON, Mrs. MALONEY, Mr. MCCOTTER, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. SULLIVAN, Mr. RADANOVICH, Mrs. CUBIN, Mr. HERGER, Ms. GRANGER, Mr. SIMMONS, and Mr. AL GREEN of Texas.
H.R. 5707: Ms. MATSUI and Mr. MOLLOHAN.
H.R. 5744: Mrs. DRAKE.
H.R. 5752: Mr. SCHIFF and Mr. PLATTS.
H.R. 5755: Mr. LOBIONDO, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. EVERETT, Mr. ENGLISH of Pennsylvania, Mr. GORDON, Mr. FITZPATRICK of Pennsylvania, Mr. SMITH of Washington, Mrs. MCCARTHY, Mr. MARSHALL, Mr. HERGER, Mr. KING of New York, and Ms. BERKLEY.
H.R. 5767: Mr. ENGLISH of Pennsylvania.
H.R. 5770: Ms. SOLIS and Mr. GRIJALVA.
H.R. 5772: Mr. EHLERS, Mr. MCCAUL of Texas, Mr. PLATTS, Mrs. MCMORRIS RODGERS, Mrs. KELLY, Mr. WOLF, Mr. HERGER, and Mr. RAMSTAD.
H.R. 5784: Mr. KUCINICH.
H.R. 5790: Mr. SHAW.
H.R. 5791: Mr. GORDON, Mr. PAUL, Mr. TIERNEY, and Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts.
H.R. 5803: Mr. MILLER of North Carolina.
H.R. 5819: Ms. SCHAKOWSKY.
H.R. 5823: Mr. BOEHLERT.

H.R. 5824: Mr. ENGLISH of Pennsylvania and Mr. EHLERS.

H.R. 5830: Mr. PASTOR, Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California, and Mr. TIBERI.

H.R. 5834: Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, Mr. SCHIFF, Ms. MATSUI, Mr. PASTOR, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. BOUCHER, Mrs. TAUSCHER, Mr. LAHOOD, Mr. SANDERS, and Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts.

H.R. 5835: Mr. BARROW, Mrs. DAVIS of California, Mr. BARTLETT of Maryland, Mr. PASTOR, and Mrs. BLACKBURN.

H.R. 5840: Mrs. TAUSCHER.

H.R. 5859: Mr. WAMP, Mr. PENCE, Mr. HENSARLING, Mr. BARRETT of South Carolina, and Mrs. MYRICK.

H.R. 5862: Mr. SOUDER.

H.R. 5866: Mr. WHITFIELD.

H.R. 5886: Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. CUMMINGS, and Ms. SLAUGHTER.

H.R. 5888: Mr. MARSHALL, Mr. BARROW, Mr. KELLER, Mr. ADERHOLT, Mr. GORDON, Mr. RAMSTAD, Mr. DEAL of Georgia, Mr. HERGER, Mr. MCCOTTER, Mr. DAVIS of Tennessee, Mr. NEUGEBAUER, Mr. DEFAZIO, Mr. ROTHMAN, Mr. Fortuño, Mr. SNYDER, Mr. HYDE, Mr. WOLF, and Mr. PLATTS.

H.R. 5890: Mr. RENZI, Mr. SHUSTER, and Mr. MCCOTTER.

H.R. 5891: Mr. HINOJOSA and Mr. WEXLER.

H.R. 5894: Mr. FILNER.

H.R. 5902: Mr. CONYERS.

H.R. 5906: Mr. GOODE and Mr. BOEHLERT.

H.R. 5917: Mr. FOLEY, Mr. KING of New York, and Mr. ROGERS of Alabama.

H.R. 5918: Mr. CONYERS, Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas, Mr. EHLERS, and Mr. Rothman.

H.R. 5928: Mr. WEXLER, Mr. MELANCON, Mr. MICHAUD, Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas, and Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin.

H.R. 5932: Mr. CRAMER and Mr. ENGLISH of Pennsylvania.

H.R. 5940: Mr. FILNER, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. PAUL, Ms. BORDALLO, Mr. ROTHMAN, Mr. GORDON, and Mr. BARROW.

H.R. 5944: Mr. SANDERS.

H.R. 5948: Mr. WEXLER, Mr. MCINTYRE, and Mr. WOLF.

H.R. 5965: Mr. MCNULTY, Mrs. MCCARTHY, Mr. DOYLE, Mr. WYNN, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. HINCHEY, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. FORD, Mr. HIGGINS, Ms. WASSERMAN Schultz, and Mr. LEWIS of Georgia.

H.R. 5996: Mr. PALLONE.

H.R. 6014: Mr. CARDOZA.

H.R. 6020: Mr. FATTAH.

H.R. 6027: Mr. GOODE.

H. J. Res. 23: Mr. ANDREWS.

H. Con. Res. 138: Mr. TOWNS and Mrs. MCCARTHY.

H. Con. Res. 158: Mr. SERRANO.

H. Con. Res. 197: Mr. LEACH.

H. Con. Res. 222: Mr. MARSHALL.

H. Con. Res. 231: Mr. WYNN.

H. Con. Res. 343: Mrs. MALONEY and Mr. RANGEL.

H. Con. Res. 348: Ms. LEE.

H. Con. Res. 415: Mr. SHAYS.

H. Con. Res. 419: Mr. WALSH, Mr. ACKERMAN, Mr. MCNULTY, Mr. HIGGINS, Ms. SLAUGHTER, Mr. MEEKS of New York, Mr. REYNOLDS, and Mr. CROWLEY.

H. Con. Res. 434: Mr. HINCHEY.

H. Con. Res. 444: Mr. ABERCROMBIE, Mr. RYAN of Ohio, Mr. GIBBONS, Mr. HAYES, Mrs. MCMORRIS RODGERS, Mr. BARTLETT of Maryland, Mr. JONES of North Carolina, Mr. REYES, Mr. SNYDER, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Mr. BURTON of Indiana, Ms. HARRIS, and Mr. KING of New York.

H. Con. Res. 450: Mr. OLVER.

H. Con. Res. 453: Mr. INSLEE, Mr. ROTHMAN, Mr. CASE, Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas, and Mr. FARR.

H. Con. Res. 464: Mr. CUELLAR.

H. Res. 295: Mr. MCINTYRE, Ms. LEE, Ms. MATSUI, Mr. MARSHALL, Mr. BLUMENAUER, and Mr. BOUCHER.

H. Res. 316: Mr. GONZALEZ.

H. Res. 526: Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. SWEENEY, Ms. CARSON, Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida, Mr. ETHERIDGE, Mr. RUPPERSBERGER, Mr. KILDEE, and Mr. SHAYS.

H. Res. 635: Mr. ROTHMAN.

H. Res. 636: Mr. ROTHMAN.

H. Res. 637: Mr. ROTHMAN.

H. Res. 745: Mr. DAVIS of Tennessee, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. MCCRERY, Mr. PRICE of North Carolina, Mr. SHAYS, and Mr. CLEAVER.

H. Res. 790: Mr. RUSH and Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi.

H. Res. 822: Ms. WATSON.

H. Res. 838: Mr. GOODLATTE and Mr. DAVIS of Kentucky.

H. Res. 888: Mr. MCDERMOTT, Ms. HOOLEY, Mr. DEFAZIO, and Mr. ROTHMAN.

H. Res. 912: Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ.

H. Res. 931: Mr. CONYERS, Mr. SERRANO, Mr. BECERRA, Ms. WOOLSEY, Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. BOYD, Mr. HINOJOSA, Mr. ANDREWS, Mr. MELANCON, Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California, Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts, Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, Mr. DOYLE, Mr. ETHERIDGE, Mr. WYNN, Mr. GONZALEZ, Mr. ISRAEL, Mr. CUMMINGS, Mr. PETERSON of Minnesota, Mr. SPRATT, Mr. BERMAN, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. SABO, Mr. PASTOR, Mr. ROTHMAN, and Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ.

H. Res. 940: Mr. ENGEL, Mr. MEEKS of New York, Ms. LEE, Mr. PASCRELL, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. HINOJOSA, and Mr. SOUDER.

H. Res. 945: Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin.

H. Res. 959: Ms. BORDALLO, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. RUPPERSBERGER, Mr. FORTUÑO, and Mr. GORDON.

H. Res. 960: Mr. FORTUÑO, Mr. SENSENBRENNER, and Mr. COOPER.

H. Res. 961: Mr. PRICE of North Carolina.

H. Res. 962: Mr. SULLIVAN, Mr. MCDERMOTT, and Mr. SENSENBRENNER.

H. Res. 964: Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas, Mr. RAMSTAD, Mr. BROWN of South Carolina, Mr. MATHESON, Ms. BORDALLO, Mr. WALSH, Mr. SALAZAR, Mrs. CAPPS, Mr. CUMMINGS, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. BILIRAKIS, and Mr. LARSEN of Washington.

H. Res. 967: Mr. KUCINICH, Mr. WEXLER, and Mr. MCDERMOTT.

H. Res. 970: Mr. RUPPERSBERGER, Mr. STARK, Mr. LEWIS of Georgia, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. BACA, and Mr. GRIJALVA.

H. Res. 972: Mr. WOLF.

H. Res. 973: Ms. CARSON, Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts, Mr. KANJORSKI, Mrs. MALONEY, Mr. OXLEY, Mr. BACHUS, Ms. BEAN, Mr. GUTIERREZ, Mr. FORD, Mr. CLAY, Mr. MOORE of Kansas, Mrs. MCCARTHY, Mr. SCOTT of Georgia, Mr. CLEAVER, Mr. AL GREEN of Texas, Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas, Mr. LEWIS of Georgia, Mr. JONES of North Carolina, Ms. WATERS, Mr. ORTIZ, Mr. CROWLEY, Mr. COOPER, Mr. MEEKS of New York, Mr. DREIER, Mr. BACA, Mr. BUTTERFIELD, Ms. MILLENDER-MCDONALD, Mr. PLATTS, Mr. SHAYS, Ms. LEE, Ms. HOOLEY, Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California, Mr. MURPHY, Ms. MATSUI, Mr. PEARCE, Mrs. JOHNSON of Connecticut, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. JOHNSON of Illinois, Mr. CAPUANO, Mr. KIRK, Mr. DAVIS of Alabama, Mr. BOSWELL, Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. GONZALEZ, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. FITZPATRICK of Pennsylvania, Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California, Mr. CAMPBELL OF CALIFORNIA, MR. GARRETT of New Jersey, Mr. CUMMINGS, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Mr. HIGGINS, Mr. LARSEN of Washington, Mr. SHIMKUS, and Mr. BAKER.

H. Res. 974: Mr. TANNER, Mr. WU, Mr. SIMMONS, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. MCNULTY, Mr. WEXLER, Mr. MURTHA, Mr. HINCHEY, Mr. UPTON, Mr. WOLF, Mrs. JO ANN DAVIS of Virginia, Mr. ETHERIDGE, Mr. CROWLEY, Mr. HOLT, Mr. BERMAN, Mr. OLVER, Mr. FITZPATRICK of Pennsylvania, Mr. CONYERS, Mr. RAMSTAD, Mr. HIGGINS, Mr. CARDIN, and Mr. MARKEY.

H. Res. 977: Mr. KUCINICH.